

EU funds water and sanitation projects in ACP countries to support progress towards the MDGs

Today, the European Commission presented the second ACP-EU Water Facility, replenished with € 200 million under the 10th European Development Fund for the period 2009-2013. The new Facility builds on the successes achieved during the first implementation phase, continuing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on water and sanitation as well as improving water governance and management of water resources in ACP countries.

Commenting on the additional funding of € 200 million, Carla Osorio, European Commission Head of Unit *Water and Energy Facility* said: *"The allocation is coming at a time of economic and financial hardship, reinforcing our solidarity with the people in ACP countries. Clean water and sanitation are basic needs and vital for good health. We hope to make a significant improvement in the lives of millions of needy people."*

About 14.5 million people benefitted from access to safe water thanks to projects funded under the previous Water Facility. Of these, some 3.5 million also benefitted from access to improved sanitation and 10.5 million from hygiene promotion programmes.

Most of the new funding of € 200 million will be spent on projects delivering water, sanitation and hygiene promotion directly to poor people. Potential applicants for project funding include non-state actors, international organisations, local authorities and water and sanitation utilities. Projects will be selected via a call for proposals to be published shortly.

The ACP-EU Water Facility was set up in 2004 with the principal objective of providing water and basic sanitation to the poor and improving water management governance in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Under the 9th European Development Fund, € 497 million was allocated to the ACP-EU Water Facility.

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