



# IDEV

Independent Development Evaluation  
African Development Bank



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Learning Event on  
Improving the sustainability of development interventions: What will it take?

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## Striving for Lasting Impact: Key Evaluative knowledge to Sustainable Development Interventions



Presenter

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[idev.afdb.org](http://idev.afdb.org)

# Presentation Outline

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.”  
— *Thomas Fuller*;  
1608-1661



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**A Gloomy Picture: Infrastructure Gap**

2

**The Quest for Increased Infrastructure Financing**

3

**Something is Adding Fuel to the Fire**

# A Gloomy Picture: Infrastructure Gap

## The Well is Dry!

**69%**  
Basic drinking  
water  
coverage in  
Africa (2020)

**46%**  
Basic drinking  
water coverage  
in Rural Sub-  
Saharan Africa



## The sanitation landscape is overcast!

**31%**  
Basic  
sanitation  
coverage in  
Sub-Saharan  
Africa

**22%**  
Basic  
sanitation  
coverage in  
Africa

# A Gloomy Picture: Infrastructure Gap

## Heart of Darkness!

**45%**  
Electricity  
coverage in Sub-  
Saharan Africa



# A Gloomy Picture: Infrastructure Gap

## The Road to Nowhere!

**25%**  
of Africa's road  
network is paved  
compared to the  
world's average of  
more than 50  
percent.



# The quest for increased financing

**USD 100 billion**  
Per year  
required in the  
power sector  
over 2020-2040 .

**USD 43.8 billion**  
the record  
investment in  
2018.

**\$39.7 billion per year**  
the annual capital costs of  
meeting **SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2**  
in Africa

**\$12.7 billion**  
the average annual  
sector funding for  
**water and sanitation in**  
Africa between 2012  
and 2017



**And Something is  
Adding Fuel to the Fire !**

**Limited Sustainability of  
Development Interventions  
Outcomes**

# Evaluative Knowledge on Fostering Sustainability

## Enabling and hindering factors to the sustainability of development interventions outcomes

- ➔ Choosing appropriate infrastructure technologies
- ➔ Strengthening infrastructure maintenance.
- ➔ Fostering stakeholder ownership and engagement.
- ➔ Striving for the environment and social viability.
- ➔ Addressing economic and financial sustainability.
- ➔ Strengthening institutional capacity for better governance.





# Choosing Appropriate Infrastructure Technologies

## Findings:

- AfDB's infrastructure interventions use state-of-the-art technologies (Urban Water, Energy).
- For RWSS, technical viability was sound for water supply infrastructures, but less so for sanitation facilities.
- However, the use of “state-of-the-art” technologies in infrastructure is only relevant if they meet needed technology requirements and there is adequate availability of spare parts and relevant expertise.
- Project designs are mainly driven by the selected technology rather than considerations for technical and financial appropriateness.

## Lesson:

- ➔ Appropriate technologies in infrastructure facilitates the feasibility and operation and maintenance.



# Strengthening infrastructure maintenance

## Findings:

- Evaluations found shortcomings in infrastructure maintenance. Example of hydropower power plant in DRC (Inga Project), and in Uganda.
- African water utilities are plagued with levels of NRW as high as 50%, with an average of 30.3% against a benchmark of 20%.
- In rural areas, on average, about 1/3 of the rural water supply facilities are non-functional.
- 49% of the paved roads are in good condition and 85% of rural feeder roads remain in poor condition depriving many people from access to basic services..
- Failure to perform routine maintenance in African water utilities increases overall capital replacement costs by at least 60%.

## Lessons:

- ➔ Inadequate maintenance increases lifetime costs and decreases benefits.



# Fostering stakeholder ownership and engagement

## Findings:

- Efforts made in infrastructure interventions to involve stakeholders.
- An effective participatory process during project design allows better identification of needs and selection of the most appropriate technologies for local conditions to ensure better facilities management.
- There are different levels of participation. Empowering program beneficiaries is the most powerful approach

## Lessons:

- ➔ An effective participatory process during project design is essential to enhanced ownership. The extent and quality of collaboration with stakeholders matters.



# Striving for environment and social viability

## Findings:

- Systematic assessment of environmental and social risks and incorporation of mitigation measures.
- Some unintended, underestimated, or unresolved environmental and social issues.
- Development of an ESS policy is not an end in itself: Organization needs to show how potential and environmental impacts are managed on a project/program level.

## Lessons:

- ➔ Monitoring environmental and social issues during project lifetime helps appropriate management of potential environmental and social impacts.



# Addressing economic and financial sustainability

## Findings:

- ➔ Economic and financial sustainability threatened by financial stress of utilities (water and power).
- ➔ The main challenge compromising the sustainability of the benefits of Urban Water Supply projects relates to an inadequate and unaddressed performance of utilities.
- ➔ The tariffs of the electricity markets in 36 of 54 RMCs (67%) do not reflect the true cost of providing electricity.
- ➔ Financial sustainability of road project results remains weak as reforms of road funds and road agencies are yet to deliver results.
- ➔ When using PPP in infrastructure, financial sustainability is challenged by the lack of measuring and monitoring the fiscal impact of PPPs by the Bank, especially contingent liabilities.

## Lesson:

- ➔ Improving the creditworthiness of utilities helps closing the large infrastructure financing gap.



# Strengthening institutional capacity for better governance

## Findings:

- ➔ Weak institutional environment is recurring theme in RMCs. However, Rwanda is a good example.
- ➔ In Transition States, at the level of reforms, high mobility of qualified staff and lack of political will threatened sustainability.
- ➔ The AfDB's contribution to strengthening institutional capacity in countries' infrastructure sectors was found to be limited.
- ➔ Insufficient human capacity – in both local governments and communities – to manage and operate rural water infrastructure could adversely affects service delivery.

## Lesson:

- ➔ Strengthening institutional capacity enhances infrastructure sectoral governance.



# Independent Development Evaluation

at the African Development Bank



# Thank you



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