

 Early Warning System

WB-P513113

The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project



Quick Facts

Countries	Gambia
Specific Location	Greater Banjul Area (GBA) region (Banjul, Kanifing, and Brikama)
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2026-09-25
Borrower	Government of Gambia - National Water and Electricity Company Limited (NAWEC)
Sectors	Construction, Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation
Investment Type(s)	Grant
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 30.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 40.00 million



Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve access to water and sanitation services in selected regions of The Gambia and strengthen the operational and financial performance of the Water Company.

The water supply and sanitation services in The Gambia are currently facing a significant crisis due to ongoing challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the 2023 Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report, only 48% of the population has access to safely managed water services, with 68% access in urban areas compared to just 12% in rural areas. Access to basic sanitation services is also a major concern, as only 28% of the population has access to safely managed sanitation, while 15% still practice open defecation, particularly in rural regions. Additionally, the country lacks adequate wastewater treatment, with about 80% of wastewater improperly managed, leading to groundwater contamination and posing significant public health risks.

Three key localities in the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) - Banjul, Kanifing, and Brikama - are home to approximately 63% of the country's population. The National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) currently produces 139,000 cubic meters of water daily, which is insufficient to meet the demand. The GBA mainly relies on boreholes that draw water from a sub-shallow aquifer; however, this water source is vulnerable to contamination from untreated sewage and saltwater intrusion caused by rising sea levels related to climate change.

The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project (WASAP) aims to support the government's efforts to address the crisis in water and sanitation services in the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) region. This operation includes a series of activities organized into four mutually reinforcing components, which are summarized below:

- Component 1: Improving Access to Urban Drinking Water Services (US\$14 million)

- Component 2: Improving Access to Sanitation Services (\$18.0 million)

- Component 2.1: Urban Sanitation (16.5 million)

- * Emergency wastewater management (\$5.0 million)

- * Expansion of Kotu Wastewater System (US\$3.2 million)

- * Construction of a Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (\$8.3 million)

- Component 2.2: Rural Sanitation Development (\$1.5 million)

- * Construction of Safely Managed Latrines in Targeted Rural Areas (\$0.9 million)

- * Development of a National Sanitation Master Plan (US\$0.6 M)

- Component 3. Institutional Reform and Capacity Building for Sustainable Water Services (\$6.0 million)

- * Support to sector reform and NAWEC operational and financial efficacy improvement (\$3.0 million)

- * Supporting transboundary cooperation on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (\$0.5 million)

- * Enhancing water resources monitoring and conservation (\$2.5 million)

- Component 4. Project management: (\$2 million)

- Component 5. Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) * Component 5 CERC \$0 million

TOTAL: \$30 million



Early Warning System Project Analysis

The project's environmental risk rating is **Substantial**. Key identified environmental risks and potential adverse impacts include vegetation clearing, habitat disturbance, biodiversity impacts, noise and dust emissions, soil and water contamination from wastewater, sludge, chemicals. Construction activities may also lead to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks—such as injuries and accidents during construction and equipment installation— alongside community health and safety concerns as well as operational risks related to sludge management, chemicals handling, and accidental releases.

The project social risk rating is **Substantial**. Component 2 involves enhancements to sanitation services, including urban efforts like Emergency Wastewater Management and a Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant, as well as rural sanitation development. Component 3 aims to improve urban access to drinking water through projects centered on water supply infrastructure. Primary risks and adverse impacts are expected to include land acquisition, land use restrictions, involuntary resettlement. There is also a potential for opposition to component 2, particularly concerning the fecal sludge treatment plant, due to perceptions of fecal waste and concerns regarding proximity to communities. To a large extent, the risk of conflict may increase if community engagement is not ensured in managing site selection, incidents or accidents, community and worker grievances, and issues related to abuse, exploitation, and sexual harassment.



Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US\$ 40.00 million

IDA Grant: US\$ 30.00 million



Private Actors Description

The *National Water and Electricity Corporation (NAWEC)* is the primary state-owned utility company in The Gambia responsible for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, water, and sewerage services.



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Private Actor 1	Private Actor 1 Role	Private Actor 1 Sector	Relation	Private Actor 2	Private Actor 2 Role	Private Actor 2 Sector
-	-	-	-	NATIONAL WATER AND ELECTRICITY COMPANY LTD (NAWEC)	Client	-



Contact Information

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

To submit an information request for project information, you will have to create an account to access the Access to Information request form. You can learn more about this process at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/access-to-information/request-submission>

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank Inspection Panel is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by a World Bank-financed project. If you submit a complaint to the Inspection Panel, they may investigate to assess whether the World Bank is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. You can contact the Inspection Panel or submit a complaint by emailing ipanel@worldbank.org. Information on how to file a complaint and a complaint request form are available at: <https://www.inspectionpanel.org/how-to-file-complaint>



Bank Documents

- [Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project -](#)
- [Appraisal Project Information Document \(PID\) \(English\)](#)
- [Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project - P](#)
- [Concept Project Information Document \(PID\)](#)
- [Environmental and Social Commitment Plan \(ESCP\) - The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project - P513113](#)
- [Environmental and Social Commitment Plan \(ESCP\) The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project \(P513113\) \(E](#)
- [Gambia, The - Water and Sanitation Project \(English\)](#)
- [Official Documents- Amendment to the Loan Agreement for Loan 9678-BR.pdf](#)
- [Official Documents- Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for GEPP Grant E5450-GM.pdf](#)
- [Official Documents- Letter Agreement for GFPP Grant E5450-GM.pdf](#)
- [Resettlement Framework The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project \(P513113\) \(English\)](#)
- [Revised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project \(P513113\)](#)
- [Revised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project \(P513113\)](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement Plan \(SEP\) - The Gambia Water and Sanitation Project - P513113 \(English\)](#)