

Water&Africa



HPA

NEWSLETTER



Hydropolitics Association –Türkiye

October 2025 Issue



Water for peace and
prosperity
in Africa

African Desk
HPA Center Türkiye

Ethiopia's Controversial Dam (GERD) Completed: What Happens Next?

(By Dursun Yıldız)



Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), on the Blue Nile River. Ethiopia completed construction of the US\$4 billion-plus project in July 2025, mainly with funds sourced from Ethiopians at home and in the diaspora, with an official launch on 9 September 2025.

On September 9, 2025, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) was officially inaugurated. The completion of the dam marks a new phase in the upstream–downstream dynamics of the Nile Basin. For Ethiopia, GERD is more than electricity production: it is a symbol of economic development, regional power, and national unity.

Egypt's Vulnerability and the Collapse of Negotiations

Nearly 90% of its population lives along the Nile; more than 90% of its freshwater comes from the river. Under the 1959 Agreement, Egypt was allocated 55.5 bcm annually, yet its current needs

In April 2011, Ethiopia began construction of Africa's largest hydroelectric dam, the Grand

are about 114 bcm. The absence of guaranteed releases during drought years is perceived as an existential threat. Ethiopia’s Strategy: With a full capacity of 5,150 MW, GERD will double the country’s power generation. Through electricity exports to Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, and Djibouti, Ethiopia seeks to expand its regional influence. Talks since 2010 have failed. Ethiopia rejected the 2020 Washington draft agreement that included minimum release rules. The U.S. has lost credibility as a neutral mediator.



Negotiations have failed. How will the dam be operated?

Negotiations conducted by the African Union, the EU, and the US over the past 10 years have failed to yield results. A critical crisis in this regard has been how the dam will be operated during droughts. A draft prepared in Washington in 2020 during the negotiations included minimum water release rates. This proposal, accepted by Egypt and Sudan, was rejected by the latter. The draft was argued to be “too restrictive.” Cairo, however, insisted on a “fair balance.” This failure led to erosion of trust in subsequent negotiations. In 2023, Egypt declared the negotiation process

“impassed,” and in 2025, US President Donald Trump's statement that “the dam was built largely with US money” sparked outrage in Ethiopia. This situation led to the loss of confidence in the US as a mediator.

For credible third-party mediation, countries with stronger regional ties and economic clout, such as Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, appear to be more effective in re-enabling the diplomatic channel.

Hydro-Diplomacy Canals Must Be Activated

With the completion of the dam, the opening and operation of hydro-diplomacy canals has become a necessity. In this context, multilateral diplomatic efforts and trust-building will become increasingly important.

The door to diplomacy must be kept open, and efforts must be increased to ensure coordination, instant data sharing, and limit unilateral actions during dry years.

Because unilateral dam operation during dry periods will threaten agricultural production and drinking water security in Egypt and Sudan. Furthermore, a diplomatic vacuum will increase the risk of escalating regional tensions. In the new situation created by the dam's completion, the only way out for both parties is to take confidence-building steps through hydro-diplomacy.

A shared regional development perspective can play an important role in activating hydro-diplomacy channels. Electricity exports and regional energy integration could transform the Nile waters from a source of conflict into a source of cooperation. Innovative hydropolitics is needed. Otherwise, the Nile basin will become the scene of increasingly fierce geopolitical competition.

About the Contributors:

Dursun Yıldız, Director at
Hydropolitics Academy Center,
Türkiye

The Energy-Water-Food Nexus in East Africa: Balancing Sustainability and Development

(By Abdulla Abdulrahman Alkhaja)

The climate crisis in 2025 continues to worsen, posing significant and widespread threats to both public health and the environment. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in its “State of the Global Climate 2024” report, emphasizes that anthropogenic climate change has reached unprecedented levels, with 2024 being the warmest year within the 175-year observational record. Global temperatures have surpassed the pre-industrial period by more than 1.5°C, averaging $1.55 \pm 0.13^\circ\text{C}$, surpassing the previous warmest year, 2023, at $1.45^\circ\text{C} \pm 0.12^\circ\text{C}$ above the 1850-1900 baseline. Within Africa, ongoing warming trends correspond with the worldwide rise in average temperatures, with the continent experiencing the warmest decade on record in 2024. The WMO report highlights that these temperature anomalies have amplified existing challenges, such as water scarcity, food insecurity, and energy systems, which require new opportunities and tools to meet these challenges.

The Energy-Water-Food (EWF) nexus is considered the conceptual framework that sheds light on the interconnectivity and interdependence between water, energy, and food systems. These core systems form the pillars of human well-being, economic development, and environmental sustainability. They do not function in isolation; instead, they impact and depend on one another in multifaceted ways. For example, water is a requisite for both energy production and agricultural irrigation. Conversely, energy is required for water extraction, purification, distribution and for powering farming equipment and food processing. Similarly, food production patterns shape both energy and water demand. Demographic pressure further intensifies these challenges.

While the threat of climate change constitutes a global crisis transcending national borders, this insight centers on East Africa, where climate change intensifies systemic vulnerabilities across the nexus. East Africa refers to a region comprising states such as Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Burundi, among others, that have faced severe interlinked challenges related to resource scarcity. The region is categorized by rapid population growth, climate variability, and urban expansion, all of which strain the water, energy, and food systems. Utilizing the EWF nexus framework, this article seeks to bridge the divide between theoretical understanding and practical policy implementation, offering insights into

both the core opportunities and the risks associated with persistent disjointed development.

Water Security Under a Changing Climate

In East Africa, water stress and scarcity persist as significant challenges influencing the EWF nexus. Throughout Africa, it is estimated that approximately 250 million people are affected by high water stress, with projections indicating that this situation may displace up to 700 million people by the year 2030. Extreme weather phenomena pose escalating threats to the region, as heavy rainfall leads to flooding and prolonged droughts result in water shortages. According to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), through its Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), it was stated at a press conference in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi in 2022 that the East African region experienced higher temperatures and below-normal rainfall that year. According to IGAD, between 15.5 and 16 million people in East Africa require urgent food aid due to the ongoing drought. Specifically, it is reported that approximately 6 to 6.5 million people in Ethiopia, 3.5 million in Kenya, and 6 million in Somalia are experiencing severe water and pasture shortages. These shortages are resulting in reduced food production, substantial losses of livestock and wildlife, and an increase in resource-related conflicts.

Among the East African nations, Kenya is classified as one of the water-scarce countries globally, with an annual per capita water availability of less than 1000 m³. It is important to note that a country is considered water-stressed if its per capita water availability falls below 1,700 cubic meters (m³) annually. The water scarcity situation has deteriorated in most developing countries due to rapid population growth, economic development, and urbanization, making it challenging to address the issue and provide adequate sanitation services. Tanzania, by comparison, is considered water-abundant; however, its diverse climate and geological conditions lead to substantial seasonal, interannual, and spatial fluctuations in water availability, as well as challenges related to water quality. Water stress in Tanzania is deemed moderate, according to the Falkenmark Water Stress Index, as the total annual renewable water per capita amounts to 1,680 cubic meters. Across the region, weak infrastructure remains a critical factor, limiting the ability to store, distribute, and manage available resources effectively.

According to the World Bank, irrigation accounts for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, despite covering only 20% of agricultural land. Nonetheless, it is responsible for 40% of global food and fodder production and 55% of the total value of agricultural output. Irrigation pumping also accounts for 6% of

global electricity consumption and significantly contributes to methane emissions, especially from irrigated rice. These figures underscore the severity of sustainable resource management and the considerable pressure exerted on water and energy systems by agricultural demands.

Energy Systems Under Climate Stress

Transitioning over to energy, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reports that in Sub-Saharan Africa, 35 million people gained access to electricity in 2023. However, population growth during the same period added nearly 30 million people, resulting in a net gain of only about 5 million people with access. Despite such progress, the region now accounts for 85% of the global population without electricity, up from 50% in 2010. According to 2023 data, 18 of the 20 countries with the largest electricity access deficits are located in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nigeria (86.6 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (79.6 million), and Ethiopia (56.4 million) together represent more than one-third of the world’s population without access to electricity. In rural areas, electricity access rates are 35% in Ethiopia, 19% in Tanzania, 13% in Uganda, and 69% in Kenya, indicating a significant gap between urban and rural areas regarding electricity access.

However, this has not halted efforts toward renewable energy projects in East Africa. For example, the hydropower potential of Ethiopia is estimated to reach upwards of 4500 MW, considered the highest in Africa. In terms of geothermal energy, Kenya holds the title of leader in the region, as it produces over 863 MW of geothermal energy. However, the full potential of hydropower and geothermal energy is not utilized to the fullest by the two countries, respectively. While hydropower is becoming a reliable source of electricity in Ethiopia, climate variability poses a significant risk to its sustainability. The region has faced severe droughts in past decades, which reduced water flow in the reservoir and brought a heavy impact on power generation. Due to low reservoir levels, Kenya was compelled to cut hydroelectric generation and depended largely on costly diesel generators and imports. It highlights water-energy interdependence in the region.

Agriculture, Food Security, and Climate Challenges

Within East Africa, food systems remain highly vulnerable to climate variability, land degradation, socio-economic pressures, and inadequate infrastructure. According to the United Nations, 685 million individuals, with over 80% residing in Sub-Saharan Africa, continue to lack access to electricity. Simultaneously, over 400 million Africans lack access to basic drinking water, and more than 250

million suffer from food insecurity. These statistics underscore the imperative to formulate nexus-informed strategies that concurrently address multiple resource systems. Food insecurity remains a persistent challenge across the region, with millions of people facing recurring shortages of nutritious food and disruptions to agricultural production. According to the “Global Report on Food Crises for East Africa 2024” by ICPAC, 64.2 million people, or 24% of the analyzed population, faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 across eight East African countries. Similarly, according to the 2025 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, between 638 and 720 million people experienced hunger in 2024, reflecting a reduction of 15 million people compared to 2023 and a decrease of 22 million compared to 2022. However, this trend contrasts with the reality in Africa, where hunger has steadily risen across the region; the proportion of the population facing hunger in Africa surpassed 20% in 2024, affecting 307 million people. It is projected that 512 million people could be chronically undernourished by 2030. Nearly 60% of these individuals will reside in Africa.



Figure 1: Analyzed population according to the phase of acute food insecurity in East Africa in 2023

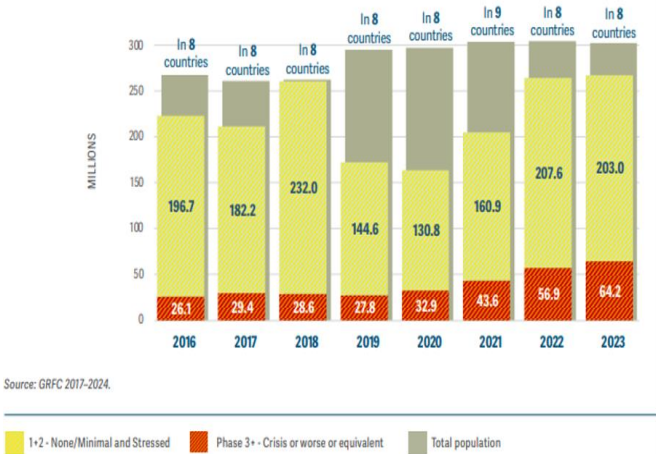


Figure 2: Number of people suffering from acute food insecurity in East Africa up to 2023



Figure 3: The highest food inflation in East Africa in 2023

The persistence of this food consumption gap is linked to extreme weather patterns affecting countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Burundi, and others. Below-average rainfall from 2020 to 2023 led to the most severe drought in the Horn of Africa in nearly four decades, significantly impacting livestock production and crop yields. Additionally, this period saw sudden increases in food prices, thereby straining household purchasing power. Soil becomes incapable of absorbing heavy rainfall, leading to livestock losses. In Ethiopia, over 40% of agricultural land suffers from nutrient depletion and soil erosion, which reduces productivity and creates significant shocks and vulnerabilities within the food system. Underdeveloped infrastructure impedes food access in East Africa, thereby impacting food import and export activities. The African continent heavily depends on cereal imports, a reliance significantly influenced by infrastructural deficiencies. For instance, Kenya relies on importing 80% of its wheat requirements, all of which are affected by inadequate road infrastructure in the region. This necessitates inclusive, climate-resilient, and integrated policies to develop sustainable agriculture. Despite ongoing national initiatives, policymaking in East Africa often remains trapped in isolated sectoral silos. For example, water ministries typically operate independently of energy or agriculture departments, leading to fragmented investments and inefficiencies. In this context, integrated planning emerges not only as a technical requirement but also as a critical socio-political imperative for addressing the nexus of water, energy, and food.

Urbanization and Population Pressure

On the Energy-Water-Food nexus, rapid population growth and urbanization are posing significant pressure. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as of 2024, population growth in East Africa remains the highest, with Kenya's population surpassing 55 million, Ethiopia's exceeding 130 million, and Uganda's population exceeding 48 million. At the same time, many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including some in East Africa, report among the lowest life expectancy rates globally, though they are predicted to see significant improvements over the course of the century. Excessive urbanization is exerting substantial pressure on infrastructure, residential accommodation, and public services. The demand for essential resources such as clean water, electricity, food, and sanitation is projected to rise significantly, thereby impeding their supply. Overloading of electrical grids may lead to frequent power outages. Vulnerabilities in the supply chain, along with demand-supply fluctuations, place considerable strain on the urban food system. The pressure brought about by urbanization threatens the loss of peri-urban agricultural land and exacerbates concerns related to food and water security. According to the UN, by 2050, Africa's population is expected to reach 2.5 billion. Generally, population growth has been identified as the primary factor hindering the achievement of sustainable goals in energy, water, and food systems that can support an entire nation without compromise. Adding to the ever-growing population of the African continent, the increasing trendlines of climate change, with hotter weather expected every year, will surely exacerbate challenges for this region, one characterized by water scarcity, dry seasons, and infrastructural challenges in predicting unexpected climate hazards (e.g., downpours that cause floods).

Nexus Interdependencies and Systemic Pressures

The EWF nexus in East Africa involves profound intersectoral dependencies, leading to critical trade-offs, particularly between agriculture and hydropower, as well as between domestic water requirements and irrigation. Both opportunities and challenges stem from these interconnections, which have enduring implications for the region's sustainable development. For the EWF nexus, climate change poses a significant threat and shakes the stability of the nexus. It creates cascading shocks for all three sectors simultaneously. Extreme weather events are posing a continuous threat to East Africa. Erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, and spikes in the temperature are posing significant threats to the nexus. It has simultaneously disrupted water availability, food production, and energy generation. The overall issue is amplifying social and economic vulnerabilities.

The EWF nexus not only faces environmental and technical challenges, but also deeply embedded issues related to social structures. Rural populations, pastoralists, women, and other marginalized populations are excluded from decision-making processes that affect their vital access to critical resources. It further perpetuates social exclusion and embeds inequalities in the social structure. Continuation of such discrimination can undermine long-term equity and the effectiveness of the EWF nexus. In the nexus, a major social dimension is gender disparities. In food preparation, water collection, small-scale agriculture, and energy generation, the women's labor force plays a significant role. Still, they face systemic barriers in accessing credit, land, and energy technologies, among others. Women laborers spend a significant number of hours collecting water and firewood, but their opportunities for income and education are lacking. In biomass use, they are disproportionately affected and exposed to indoor air pollution. It highlights the physical impact of fuel collection. Participatory governance frameworks are required to address these social dimensions.

Incorporate Nexus Thinking into National Development Plans

Adequate identification and addressing of the multifaceted challenges of the Energy-Water-Food Nexus in East Africa requires coordinated, inclusive, and forward-thinking policy actions. The interdependence character of such industries mandates that decision-makers move beyond siloed planning and adopt a well-rounded, nexus-oriented governance model. This study provides some actionable recommendations, centered on strategic directions to national and regional actors, to improve sustainability, socio-economic development, and resilience throughout East Africa.

The governments in East Africa should place nexus thinking at the center of national development strategies. Conventional planning methods tend to segregate resource sectors, which leads to inefficiency, redundancy of efforts, and lost synergies. Through an approach based on nexus, the governments will be able to give preference to projects that create benefits within the water, energy, and food systems. The integration of nexus frameworks can also support countries in achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) simultaneously, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

While national development plans are crucial, the integration of the EWF nexus should encompass the

entire continent, with the African Union (AU) serving as the central entity in this implementation framework. As previously noted, population growth, climate change, and economic shifts are occurring within the region, with infrastructural development remaining a primary objective of governments, regional development organizations, and continental institutions. At the continental level, the African Union's Agenda 2063 strategy framework outlines the continent's socioeconomic development goals for the next 50 years. Agenda 2063 aims to create a "continent with free movement of people, goods, capital, and services and infrastructure connections." Under Agenda 2063, improved water, energy, and food security are at the core of Africa's development agenda and serve as prerequisites to unlocking economic development on the continent, ensuring a brighter future for member states.

Conclusion

As climate stress intensifies and regional populations increase, the interdependence of these crucial sectors becomes increasingly apparent. In this broader context, it is noteworthy to state that isolated growth in one field, whether it be water access, agriculture, or energy supply, can be destabilized if not associated with the others.

The development of the East African Energy-Water-Food (EWF) nexus is also a daunting but exceptional prospect. For the economic transformation, rapid population growth and urbanization, climate change, and the interlinkages of water, energy, and food in East Africa, it is becoming increasingly inescapable that these systems are tightly linked to one another. A classic method for treating these sectors in isolation is no longer tenable in an era of climate-induced water scarcity that prevents agricultural productivity, blocks the flow of energy to drive irrigation and food processing, and hinders hydropower potential due to agricultural pollution of water.

East African countries that integrate their governance to acknowledge the circular nature of water, energy, and food systems will not only enable the efficient utilization of resources but also increase resilience and promote equitable development. Such a strategy involves transitioning from sectoral silos to inter-sectoral coordination through integrated policies and investments in agriculture, energy, and water management that link toward a common target of sustainability.

Note: This article is published in "TRENDS Research & Advisory" and is available [here](#).

About the Contributors:
Abdulla Abdulrahman Alkhaja,
Researcher at the TRENDS Dubai
Office, UAE

Link nature, data and people for a water-secure MENA

(By Louise Sarant)

At the annual event in Egypt, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and partners explored how to turn climate research into real-world water resilience across the Middle East and North Africa.

At Cairo Water Week (CWW) 2025, held from October 12-16, science, policy and innovation came together to confront one of the Middle East and North Africa's (MENA) most pressing challenges: water scarcity.

This year's theme — *Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience and Water Sustainability* — carried particular weight in the world's most water-scarce region. Leading ten sessions at CWW, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) demonstrated how data, ecosystems and communities must be connected to build lasting resilience. "Resilience begins where knowledge and cooperation meet," said IWMI Regional Representative for MENA, Youssef Brouziyne. "At Cairo Water Week, we're aligning research with the people, institutions and ecosystems that can turn it into impact."

Inclusive and nature-based solutions at scale

Ecosystem restoration and gender equity must advance together if adaptation is to last. That principle anchors Al Murunah+, a regional initiative led by IWMI in partnership with IUCN, Social Development Direct and national implementing partners, linking social inclusion with nature-based solutions (NbS) to make them more equitable and sustainable across the MENA region.

In the village of Izbat Al-Hamra, in Egypt's northwestern Delta, Al Murunah is launching a new phase that offers guided mentoring for couples to make household financial decisions. Thereby, ensuring financial planning is made more equitable and the work done by women is recognized and valued.

"It is vital to bridge the gap between women's real contributions and the recognition they receive,"

said Sawsan Gharaibeh, IWMI regional researcher on gender and social inclusion and Al Murunah+ project lead. "Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's unpaid care work is fundamental to achieving both gender equality and more resilient livelihoods."

Galal Moawad, regional participatory development expert at the Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) — the project's implementing partner in Egypt — explained that the original artichoke-processing facility posed challenges in the conservative Bedouin farming community. "The issue wasn't women's willingness to work – it was access and time poverty. The large processing facility, far from their homes, didn't fit their needs or the community's norms," explained Moawad.

To overcome these barriers, the project set up three small artichoke-processing units within the neighborhoods of Izbat Al-Hamra, enabling women to work near their homes and their children, while having access to washing facilities. Each unit, equipped for safe food handling and connected to local markets, is fully managed by women who source, clean and process artichokes – quadrupling their income while reducing time poverty and moving up the value chain.

Discussing the importance of scaling pilots like the one in Izbat Al-Hamra, Al Murunah's project lead, Stephen Fragaszy, led a session on scaling NbS across MENA. The session brought together researchers, practitioners and financiers on the business case for NbS, even when returns take time. "Scaling resilient, nature-based water solutions is about shifting attitudes, policies, institutions and then practices. The key is building strong, collaborative partnerships," explained Fragaszy.

Data that informs real world water management

Water Accounting Plus (WA+), developed by IWMI and IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education, combines hydrological models and open-source satellite data to track water use — even where monitoring is limited, like in much of the Middle East and North Africa.

In his keynote address, Hussein El-Atfy, Secretary-General of the Arab Water Council,

explained that “WA+ gives us a common and verifiable language to answer key questions — how much water is there, where does it go, how much do we use and what value does it create?”

In Morocco’s Souss-Massa basin, IWMI’s water accounting dashboard has become a key tool for transparent management. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) applied it in the Berrechid plains, 40 km from Casablanca, to investigate why the local aquifer was rapidly depleting. The analysis revealed that carrot farmers, lacking a cold-storage unit, kept part of their harvest in the soil after maturity – irrigating with groundwater for months for preservation.

This practice accounted for roughly one-quarter of the aquifer’s 32 million cubic meter deficit — a calculation led by Ehssan El Meknassi, coordination and implementation support specialist at FAO Morocco. “Once farmers saw the data visualized on the dashboard, it clicked,” she said – prompting authorities to build a cold storage unit, a direct policy response informed by the dashboard.

“Since CGIAR has recognized IWMI’s water accounting dashboards’ high scalability potential,” explained Muhammad Khalifa, integrated modeling and assessment researcher at IWMI, “we are scaling to Morocco’s Tensift basin, Egypt and Uzbekistan to bridge the gap between research and real-world water management.”

For Fayrouz Eldabbagh, political science researcher at IWMI, the value of water accounting data lies in what it enables: transparency, trust and negotiation among sectors competing for the same scarce resource. “Water accounting isn’t only about numbers,” she said. “It’s about using shared evidence to balance competing demands for food, growth and equity.”

IWMI’s ReWater+ project brings this philosophy into wastewater reuse. Led by Javier Mateo-Sagasta, it spans all 22 League of Arab States nations, with research underway in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. Using artificial intelligence and remote sensing, the team is identifying wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) to help governments assess the amount of treated water that can be safely reused.

“Not all treatment plants appear in government inventories,” said Mateo-Sagasta. “Many are privately managed by industries, residential compounds, or the tourism sector. To unlock the region’s reuse potential, we need a complete picture.” The AI model — trained to distinguish WWTPs from other similar-looking industrial facilities — helps quantify treatment capacity and pinpoint where investment is most needed. The project also examines irrigation water quality from aquifers, rivers and treatment plants to challenge the idea that treated wastewater is unsafe. “In many cases, treated water meets irrigation standards while fresh sources do not,” Mateo-Sagasta added.

Investing in the human side of resilience

Across MENA, people remain central to IWMI’s mission — sustaining resilience from the ground up. A national study by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in collaboration with IWMI mapped soil salinity across Egypt and found that 30-40% of the Delta’s soil is affected. Yet productivity has continued to rise — thanks to farmers’ ingenuity. They have flushed fields, applied gypsum, cleaned canals and cultivated rice, leaching salt from the soil.

Still, as agri-food systems transformation expert Nisreen Al-Lahham of Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) explained, “Farmers bear the cost. Yields are lower in salt-affected lands, and there are no incentives to grow salt-tolerant crops.” Sustained support must come through coherent public policies — combining affordable credit, fair market access and the rehabilitation of old drainage systems.

“IWMI’s strength lies in linking evidence with ecosystems and equity,” said Brouziyne, IWMI’s regional representative for MENA as the conference wrapped up. “That’s how we chart a path toward a more resilient, water-secure MENA.”

Note: This article is published in the “International Water Management Institute” and is available [here](#).

About the Contributors:
Louise Sarant, a freelance
environmental and science journalist,
coordinator of the Cairo Climate
Talks, Egypt

The Africa Water Vision for 2025: Equitable and Sustainable Use of Water for Socioeconomic Development

(Part VI)

11. Milestones and Targets

The framework for action defines what needs to be achieved if Africa is to move from where it is today to where it envisions being by 2025. However, these ends cannot be achieved overnight in one giant step. The milestones and targets define intermediate goals to be reached at different levels (local, national, sub regional and regional) at stated times in progressing towards the goals. Examples of milestones and targets are presented in Table 3. They need to be accompanied by indicators and criteria for monitoring their successful attainment.

Table 3: Milestones and Targets

Actions	Targets		
	2005	2015	2025
Improving Governance of Water Resources			
1. Development of national policies and comprehensive institutional reform. • In process of development • Full implementation	100% of countries	100% of countries	100% of countries
2. Enabling environment for regional cooperation on shared water. • Initiated in existing river-basin organizations • Implemented in existing river-basin organizations • Initiated in new river-basin organizations • Implemented in new river-basin organization	100% of organizations 50% of organizations	100% of organizations 100% of organizations 50% of organizations	100% of organizations
Improving Water Wisdom			
1. Systems for information generation, assessment and dissemination • Established at national level • Established for international river basins • Established at Africa-wide level	50% of countries 30% of basins	100% of countries 100% of basins	100% complete
2. Sustainable financing for information generation and management • Review of global experience • Implementation at national level • Implementation at river-basin level • Implementation at Africa-wide level	100% complete 50% complete 30% complete	100% complete 100% complete 30% complete	100% complete 90% of countries Three established
3. IIFRM Capacity Building • Create public awareness and consensus • Knowledge gaps identified • Partnerships for strategic assistance • National research institutes established • Regional research institution established • Gender/youth concerns mainstreamed	100% of countries 100% of countries 20% of countries One established 30% of countries	60% of countries Two established 100% countries-basins	

Actions	Targets		
	2005	2015	2025
Meeting Urgent Water Needs			
1. Proportion of people without access • to safe and adequate water supply • to safe and adequate sanitation	Reduce by 25% Reduce by 25%	Reduce by 75% Reduce by 70%	Reduce by 95% Reduce by 95%
2. Water for achieving food security • Water productivity of rain-fed agri. and irrigation • Size of irrigated area	Increase by 10% Increase by 25%	Increase by 30% Increase by 50%	Increase by 60% Increase by 100%
3. Development of water for agriculture, hydropower, industry, tourism & transportation at national level	5% of potential	10% of potential	25% of potential
4. Conservation and restoration of environment, in biodiversity, and life-supporting ecosystems • Allocation of sufficient water for environmental sustainability. • Conserving and restoring watershed ecosystem	Implemented in 30% of countries Under development	Implemented in 100% of countries Implemented in 100% of countries	Implemented in 100% of river basins
5. Effective management of drought, floods and desertification	Under development	Operational in 50% of countries	Operational in 100% of countries
Strengthening Financial base for desired water future			
1. Sustainable financing for policy and institutional reform and capacity building	Operational in 60% of countries		
2. Sustainable financing for information generation and management	Secured in 100% of countries		
3. Financing urgent water needs • Implementation of pricing and full cost recovery • Increasing private sector participation • Mobilizing finance from national and international sources	Operational in 50% of countries Operational in 30% of countries Secured for 50% of countries	Operational in 100% of countries Operational in 100% of countries Secured for 100% of countries	

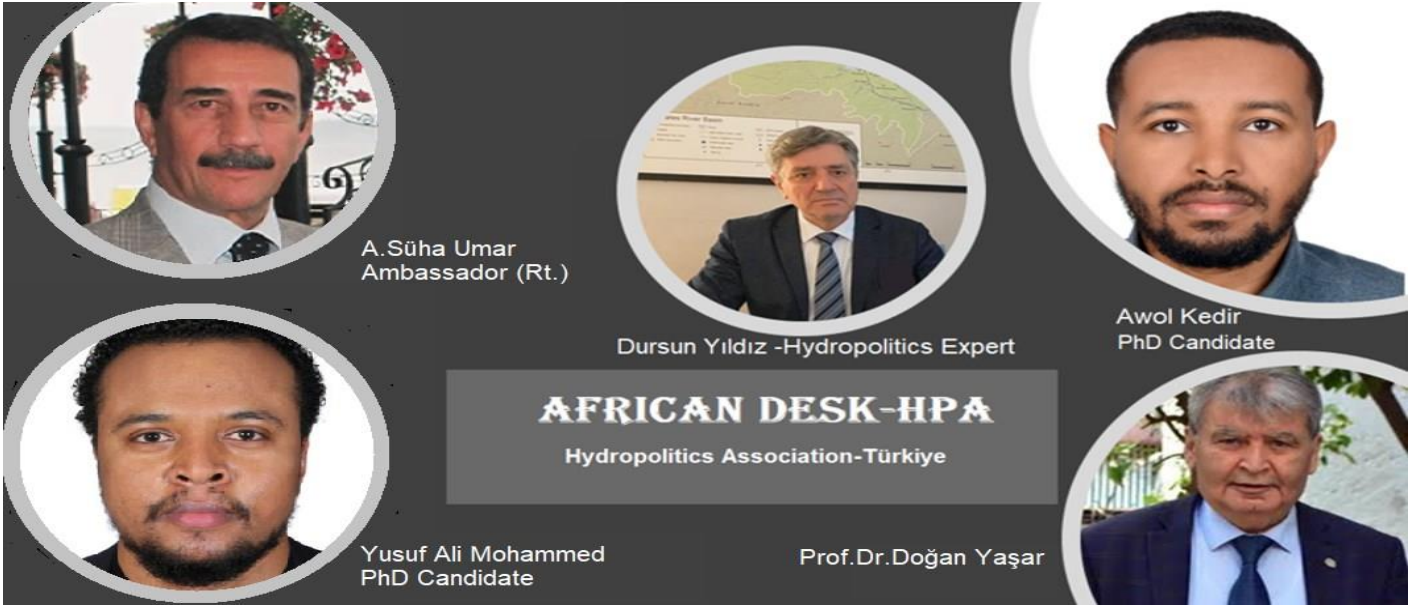
* * * * *

Note: The following part/s will be presented in our next issue/s. Stay tuned!

Source: African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

* * * * *

* * * * *



October 2025

News Coordinator and Co-Editor: Yusuf Ali Mohammed
Content: HPA Technical Unit – www.hidropolitikakademi.org
Editor: Dursun Yıldız

The contents of the articles in this document is the sole responsibility of writers and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the HPA

<http://hidropolitikakademi.org>
www.hpacenter.org
www.africadesk.hpa.org



We need to built a future,
Where people live in harmony with nature

HPA

Think Forward . Lead Forward