



EU—WOP PROGRAMME

PHASE II

Building on a promising first phase, the EU-WOP Programme is being extended until 2030 and expanded with an additional €14 million. The upcoming phase will support the development of 15-20 new Water Operators' Partnerships, while expanding or scaling up successful partnerships from Phase I.

In Phase II, the EU-WOP Programme will continue to support utilities to develop, anchor and apply capacity for sustainable performance improvements. The new phase will emphasize the potential of digitalization, investment and human rights frameworks to further leverage capacity improvements for sustainable services.

Utilities in eligible countries that are committed to making transformative improvements towards the SDGs with the support of their peers are encouraged to seize the opportunity presented by the new phase of the programme.

For information on the 2025 call for proposals to the EU-WOP Programme, please stay updated with GWOPA's social media and website.



STAY UPDATED ON EU-WOP

gwopa.unhabitat.org

[f](#) [in](#) [X](#) [@gwopa](#)



CONTACT PERSON

Julie Perkins

Programme Management Officer

julie.perkins@un.org

EU—WOP PROGRAMME

HARNESSING UTILITIES' POWER TO SUPPORT ONE OTHER IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



© Elorm Noel Kwamivi



© Luopula Water Supply and Sanitation Company Ltd

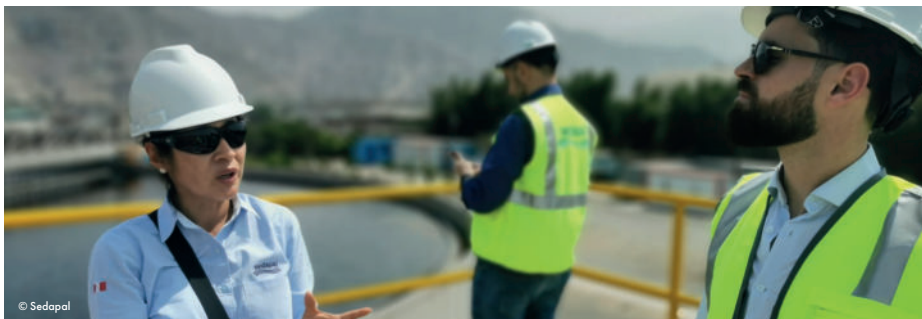
EU—WOP PROGRAMME

PHASE I

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 requires empowered water and sanitation service providers. By fostering the learning of utility staff, Water and Sanitation Operators’ Partnerships, known as WOPs and SWOPs, strengthen the institutional capacity of utilities, helping them to provide more sustainable water and sanitation services for all. The skills and systems built through WOPs make utilities more efficiency and transparent, enhancing their financial sustainability and ability to manage potential investments for more inclusive and resilient services.

The Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) reports that 2.2 billion people do not have access to safely managed water services, while up to 3.5 billion lack safely managed sanitation services (WHO and UNICEF 2023). In this way, the EU Water Operators’ Partnerships Programme (EU-WOP) plays a vital role in harnessing utilities’ capacity, with estimates suggesting that to close this access gap, spending must increase threefold from current expenditures, reaching \$141 billion per year, according to the World Bank Group (Joseph et al., 2024).

The EU-WOP Programme is dedicated to strengthening the capacity and improving the operational performance of water and sanitation operators in countries, driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.



© Sedapal

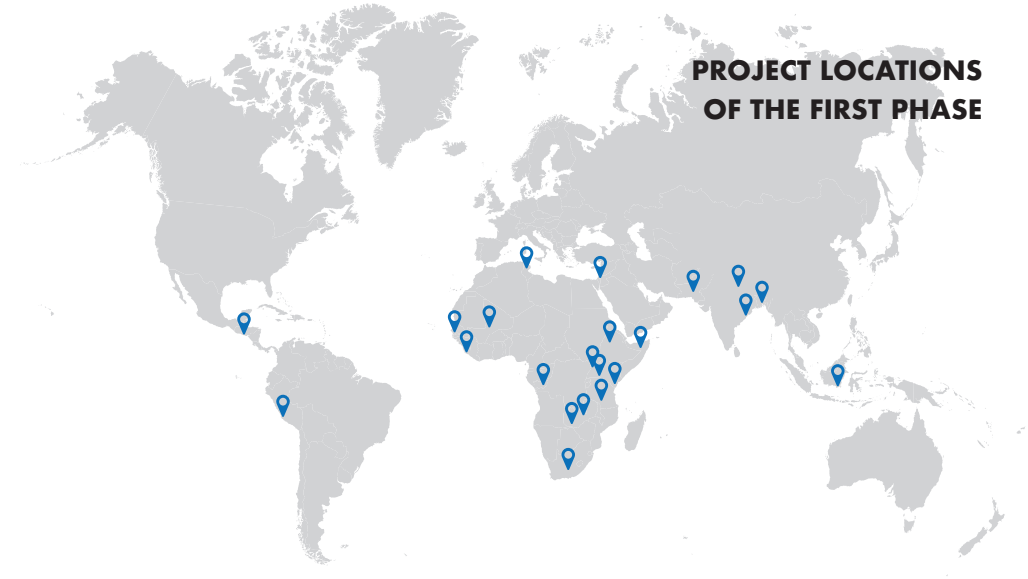
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST PHASE

22 peer utility partnerships supporting 35 utilities across Africa, the Arab Region, Asia and Latin America, serving up to 53 million people.

The WOPs are supporting utilities to achieve various SDGs, for example, by raising water and sanitation service levels for low-income customers, improving energy and water use efficiency, supporting wastewater monitoring and treatment, and building climate resilience.

WOPs are helping utilities strengthen their financial management and leverage investments, contributing to the wise use and sustainability of resources.

Over 400 utility staff so far have boosted job skills, safety and satisfaction by collaborating with peers to gain new knowledge and implement fresh solutions.



PROJECT LOCATIONS
OF THE FIRST PHASE