



RWB
Rwanda Water
Resources Board

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2026-2027



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FOREWORD

are reporting higher yields, new jobs, and new small businesses. In Nyamasheke and Nyaruguru Districts, we are facilitating Village Land Use Action Plans in partnership with the Rwanda Green Fund. In Musanze, our leadership and staff joined residents in Umuganda to reinforce the Rwebeya gully against flooding.

Partnership and knowledge-sharing remain at the heart of our approach. Together with UNESCO and the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative, we convened a high-level workshop that brought together government, development partners, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Its recommendations will form the foundation of Rwanda's National SDG 6 Capacity Development Plan.

These achievements would not have been possible without the continued collaboration of our partners, stakeholders, and communities. Your support remains vital as we work together to ensure the sustainable management of Rwanda's water resources.

As we move forward, we remain committed to turning infrastructure into lasting benefits, restoring our catchments, and protecting communities from water-related risks, in support of national development and climate adaptation.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership.

RICHARD NYIRISHEMA
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

Dear readers,

I am pleased to present this edition of our quarterly newsletter, highlighting key milestones and achievements recorded during the first quarter of 2026-2027 fiscal year.

This quarter reflects our continued commitment to delivering tangible results for communities through major infrastructure, sustainable land management, and strong partnerships. Notably, the Prime Minister, Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva, visited the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam construction site in Nyagatare District. Construction had reached 61.5% completion, and the catch-up measures now under way will help us deliver the dam by March 2027. Alongside the dam, we launched the Additional Financing for the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program with the African Development Bank Group. This investment will develop a climate-resilient irrigation system covering 3,073 hectares, so that the dam's water reaches farmers and communities.

Our efforts to restore landscapes and build community resilience also advanced. Through the Congo Nile Divide Project, residents of Karongi and Rutsiro Districts



PRIME MINISTER VISITS MUVUMBA MULTIPURPOSE DAM CONSTRUCTION SITE

July 11, 2026 – The Prime Minister of Rwanda, Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva, visited the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam construction site in Nyagatare District to assess the progress of the project and provide strategic guidance toward its timely completion.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Cabinet members, local government leaders, and representatives of government institutions involved in the implementation of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program (MMWRDP).

The visit began with a comprehensive briefing on the project's implementation,

highlighting its objectives, current construction status, key challenges, and the mitigation measures being implemented to recover the project schedule. Following the presentation, the delegation toured the project's major components to observe the ongoing construction works.

According to the June 2026 progress report, the overall construction had reached 61.5% completion. The project is currently 6.8 percentage points behind the original implementation schedule, primarily due to prolonged heavy rainfall that disrupted construction activities during the rainy season.



To recover the lost time and ensure completion by March 2027, the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in collaboration with the contractor, has implemented a series of catch-up measures. These include increasing the workforce, deploying additional construction equipment, and accelerating activities across critical work fronts.

Addressing project stakeholders, Prime Minister Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva emphasized the importance of maximizing the current dry season to speed up construction works.

He urged both RWB and the contractor to maintain close coordination, enhance efficiency, and ensure that the project is delivered within the planned timeline.

Once completed, the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam will significantly strengthen water security and support sustainable socio-economic development in Nyagatare District. The project will store approximately 55 million cubic metres of water, irrigate about 11,000 hectares of farmland, supply 50,000 cubic metres of potable water per day, and generate 1 MW of hydropower.





RWB AND AFDB LAUNCH ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR MUVUMBA MULTIPURPOSE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in collaboration with the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), hosted the launching workshop for the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program – Additional Financing, an investment that will support the development of a climate-resilient irrigation system covering 3,073 hectares of farmland in Nyagatare District.

The project, to be implemented in partnership with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), represents a key downstream investment linked to the ongoing Muvumba Multipurpose Dam. The Government of Rwanda secured the Additional Financing following the signing of financing

agreements with the African Development Bank and African Development Fund (AfDB/ADF) on 12 May 2026. Speaking at the workshop, the Executive Chairperson of RWB, Eng. Richard Nyirishema, described the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program as a strategic national investment aimed at strengthening water, food and energy security, while contributing to Rwanda's NST2 and Vision 2050.

Highlighting the importance of translating the dam infrastructure into tangible benefits for communities, Eng. Nyirishema said:

“We can have the infrastructure, but as long as the water is not reaching the population either through water supply or irrigation, the full potential of the dam will not be realized.”

25th-27th August, 2026, Kigali



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“We can have the infrastructure, but as long as the water is not reaching the population either through water supply or irrigation, the full potential of the dam will not be realized.”

He also emphasized that the irrigation investment should go beyond providing water and land, with attention given to appropriate crops, access to markets and ultimately improving the livelihoods of farmers.

The €45.4 million Additional Financing will scale up the Muvumba program by developing the 3,073-hectare irrigation system to increase agricultural productivity and strengthen food and nutritional security.

Ms. Aissa Touré Sarr, African Development Bank Country Manager for Rwanda, welcomed the progress being made on the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam and highlighted the importance of advancing downstream investments to ensure that the dam's water resources are put to productive use.

“It is pleasing to note that the construction of the multi-purpose dam to store 55 million meters of water is making significant progress given an assurance of its completion in 2027 and the need to commence the development of an irrigation scheme,” she said.

Dr. Florence Uwamahoro, Acting Director General of RAB, expressed the institution's commitment to working closely with RWB and other partners, noting the expectations of farmers in Nyagatare.

“Farmers in Nyagatare are awaiting this project. Our commitment is to work jointly, shorten the implementation time as much as possible, and ensure that the project becomes operational and starts benefiting farmers while contributing to the country's food security,” she said.

The irrigation component is particularly significant as construction of the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam advances towards completion, expected in early 2027. Once completed, the dam will store approximately 55 million m³ of water, with capacity to support irrigation of 11,000 hectares, supply 50,000 m³ of domestic water per day, and generate 1 MW of hydropower. [WATCH VIDEO](#)



CND PROJECT BOOSTS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND LIVELIHOODS IN KARONGI AND RUTSIRO

Residents in Karongi and Rutsiro districts say the Congo Nile Divide (CND) Project has transformed their livelihoods by boosting agricultural productivity and creating new job opportunities.

Spanning 444,600 hectares, the CND project is a strategic initiative to mitigate climate change through extensive land and forest restoration across the region.

Beyond environmental restoration, local testimonies highlight how the project has significantly upgraded economic well-being through sustainable land management and direct job creation.

Leopold Ishyaka, a resident of Rutsiro District, noted that soil stabilization has immediately translated into food security. “Before the project, our biggest challenge was severe erosion sweeping away the topsoil,” Ishyaka shared. “On land where I previously harvested just 70 kilograms, I am now getting 100 kilograms. Since this is only our first season and the soil is still recovering, it is clear our yields will easily double in the future.”

Similarly, Nyirabukara Nyirakama emphasized how modern terracing directly prevents crop loss. “Before these terraces were built, our crops and soil were regularly washed away. My seasonal harvest has now climbed from a mere 100 kilograms to 200 kilograms,” she stated.





This agricultural shift is equally visible in Karongi District, where resident Theogene Basangira reported a massive leap in productivity. “After the terraces were constructed, our efficiency tripled. Previously, planting one ton of seed would only yield about three tons of harvest. On the newly terraced land, that same one ton of seed now yields five tons,” Basangira explained.

In addition to transforming farming landscapes, the CND project serves as a crucial engine for employment. For many residents, the regular wages earned from terracing works have been converted into long-term assets and small-business capital. Local workers Diane Niyodusenga and Theogene Nzarerwanima both utilized their earnings to invest in livestock, purchasing cows to secure a sustainable income source for their families.

For Emmanuel Bazirake, a resident of Karongi District, the financial breakthrough provided a pathway to home improvement and entrepreneurship. “The wages I earned from the terracing work allowed me to pipe clean water directly into my compound,” Bazirake proudly stated. “It also provided the exact capital I needed to open a small boutique shop, which I now successfully run alongside project duties.”





RWB AND PARTNERS CONVENE HIGH-LEVEL WORKSHOP TO ACCELERATE SDG 6 PROGRESS IN RWANDA.

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in collaboration with UNESCO and the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI), has convened a three-day high-level workshop to identify critical capacity gaps and accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6).

Held from 23–25 September 2026, the forum brought together government entities, UN agencies, development partners, academia, civil society, and private sector stakeholders to devise practical, actionable pathways ensuring sustainable access to water and sanitation by 2030.

Opening the workshop, RWB Executive Chairperson Eng. Richard Nyirishema commended the country's strides in water supply, sanitation, and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), driven by sustained investment and policy coordination.

However, he stressed that meeting upcoming global deadlines requires translating high-level frameworks into localized, operational execution. "As we move closer to 2030, there is an urgent need to accelerate progress," Eng.

Nyirishema stated. "Strengthening capacity at national, institutional, and local levels is therefore critical. Our objective is not only to identify challenges, but to propose clear, implementable solutions."

Throughout the technical sessions, participants evaluated institutional bottlenecks and strategic opportunities across governance, data monitoring, sustainable financing, and climate resilience. Discussions centered on mobilizing partnerships and scaling up technology to address frontline implementation barriers.

To ground the theoretical frameworks in real-world application, the workshop concluded with technical visits to the Nyandungu Eco-Park and the Gikondo Urban Wetland Restoration site. The visits demonstrated Rwanda's active deployment of nature-based solutions, urban wetland rehabilitation, flood control, and water quality enhancement.

The recommendations and resolutions generated from the three-day engagement will form the foundational roadmap for Rwanda's National SDG 6 Capacity Development Plan, setting strategic priorities for future water resource investments and institutional support.



RWB JOINS MUSANZE RESIDENTS TO STRENGTHEN FLOOD PROTECTION ALONG RWEBEYA GULLY

Musanze, 26 August 2026 – Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) leadership and staff joined residents of Musanze District and local partners in a community work exercise (Umuganda) aimed at strengthening flood protection measures along the Rwebeya gully.

The activity, held in Kabaya Village, Ruhengeri Cell, Muhoza Sector, focused on reinforcing the gully banks to reduce flood risks ahead of anticipated heavy rainfall. The Rwebeya gully is prone to overflowing during heavy rains, posing risks to nearby homes, farmland and surrounding communities.

As part of the intervention, RWB provided 2,780 sandbags which were filled with soil and placed along the gully banks to form temporary barriers against overflowing water and help protect nearby properties and agricultural land.

Beyond the flood prevention activities, residents received awareness messages on public health and safety, including the dangers associated with consuming illicit and substandard alcoholic beverages.

RWB's participation in the community exercise reflects its continued commitment to flood risk reduction, sustainable water resources management and protecting communities against water-related disasters.





RWB FACILITATES DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE LAND USE ACTION PLANS IN NYAMASHEKE AND NYARUGURU DISTRICT

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) is facilitating the development of Village Land Use Action Plans (VLUAPs) in Nyamasheke and Nyaruguru Districts under the Rwanda Green Fund-supported INTEGO Facility Project.

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Partnership Framework Agreement signed between RWB and the Rwanda Green Fund (RGF), the partnership targets the development of 100 Village Land Use Action Plans.

The current activity covers 28 villages, including 20 villages in the Karundura sub-catchment of Nyamasheke District and eight villages in the Agatobwe sub-catchment of Nyaruguru District. Village Land Use Action Plans are a community-based approach that helps communities identify land management challenges, prioritize restoration interventions, and guide their implementation. The plans provide a framework for interventions such as erosion control structures, soil and water conservation practices, and appropriate agroforestry models.

Through this initiative, RWB and RGF aim to strengthen community participation in catchment restoration and promote sustainable land management practices that reduce soil erosion, protect water resources, and enhance the resilience of local communities.





RWB

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Nyarugenge Pension Plaza

Toll Free: 9977 | www.rwb.rw | info@rwb.rw X: @RwandaWater