



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### African Water Facility grant to improve sanitation in EC schools



A girl learner about to use one of the unhealthy sanitation facilities in the Eastern Cape

**23 February 2015**

*The African Water Facility (AWF) is providing a €1.2 million – R15 888 million - grant to help improve school sanitation facilities in Eastern Cape (EC) Province.*

*According to the Infrastructure News, over 100 000 students will directly benefit from this project, which will also create business opportunities for entrepreneurs as well as employment for local youth.*

*The project will support local social franchise businesses to provide affordable and sustainable on-site sanitation services to about 300 schools in the Amathole and Buffalo City Municipalities in East London District.*

*This innovative business model will help build sanitation sector capacities through close partnership arrangements with both the municipal level partners and the local community.*

*The social franchise model has gained the interest and endorsement of local government partners as a viable model for sanitation services.*

*In addition to improved sanitation facilities in schools, the project will help raise awareness of sanitation practices amongst the students, paying particular attention to the needs of girls. This process is also viewed as improving school attendance for girls.*

*A menstrual hygiene management plan will be piloted in 10 of the targeted schools, where sanitary disposal bins will also be provided.*

*The project is poised to improve school attendance and the health of school boys and girls by setting up sanitation services and facilities tailored to their specific needs.*



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*The hygiene education and promotion for pupils and teachers included in the project has the potential to reduce cases of diarrhea by 45% in areas where there is a lack of sanitation hygiene awareness.*

*The safe re-use of faecal sludge for urban agriculture will be piloted through a locally developed process to address the complete sanitation service chain and improve the local environment.*

*Eastern Cape has one of the lowest levels of girls completing school in the country. According to a 2014 United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) report, one in 10 school-age African girls stays home for about four days every four weeks or drops out entirely due to the onset of menstrual cycles.*

*The Water Research Commission (WRC) will be the grant recipient and executing agency and will collaborate with the Eastern Cape Department of Education on the project.*

**Ike Motsapi & Infrastructure News**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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