



## Quarterly Newsletter

January - March 2026

*Strengthening Utilities.  
Strengthening Communities Across Africa.*



This edition reflects both legacy and momentum. As we honor the leadership that has shaped our mission, we continue to advance practical solutions that strengthen water utilities and the communities they serve. From global engagement to targeted initiatives, our focus remains clear: building systems that work.

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### Q1 2026 Highlights

In the first quarter of 2026, [ROCKBlue](#) continued its focus on strengthening utility performance from within. Monthly engagements with partner utilities ensured that priorities are actively tracked and implemented, supported through initiatives such as the [Performance Achievement Workshop Series \(PAWS\)](#), with the 24th PAWS event held this quarter.

ROCKBlue also contributed to the [300 Water Leaders webinar](#), convened by [Global Water Intelligence](#), and is set to be featured in the [H2O Global News Magazine](#), issue 17, highlighting the role of leadership and

institutional performance in addressing non-revenue water. As momentum built toward World Water Day, efforts remained focused on reducing water losses, strengthening revenue and improving service reliability for the communities utilities serve.

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## World Water Day



As part of World Water Day, ROCKBlue continued its efforts to raise awareness and support for the work taking place inside partner utilities.

The campaign reinforced the connection between utility performance and community wellbeing, while mobilizing support to place expert capacity where it is needed most.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this effort and welcome continued support as this work progresses.

[Donate Today](#)

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## Why This Work Matters Now

The importance of this work is becoming increasingly clear.

Cholera is resurging across parts of Africa in 2026, with nearly 10,000 new cases and over 180 deaths reported in January alone. In Southern Africa, cases have increased more than sevenfold in the first six weeks of the year.

This is not only a health crisis. It is a systems failure. Where water utilities are weak, cholera follows. Intermittent supply, poor sanitation, and limited utility capacity create the conditions for contamination and rapid transmission.



This is exactly where ROCKBlue's work has been focused, strengthening utility performance and building the systems needed to prevent crises before they escalate.

Source: [World Health Organisation](#)

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## Utilities on the Frontline

Across multiple African cities where ROCKBlue operates, independent assessments from the [World Bank](#), [World Health Organization](#), and other global bodies point to a consistent pattern. Urban water systems are under stress in ways that directly align with the drivers of cholera transmission.

In Lesotho, the Maseru system is losing more than half of its water through non-revenue water, creating instability in supply and pressure. In Lusaka, water scarcity and intermittent supply, combined with incomplete sanitation, have already contributed to major outbreaks in recent years.

In Lilongwe, intermittent supply, low pressure, and limited sewerage coverage continue to create conditions associated with contamination and public health risk. Across cities in Zimbabwe, aging infrastructure, service interruptions, and limited wastewater treatment capacity reinforce similar vulnerabilities.



These are systemic conditions that increase the risk of contamination and disease transmission.

Utility teams are working within these constraints every day to stabilize systems, improve performance, and strengthen response. ROCKBlue's role is to support this work from within, bringing structure, accountability and sustained focus to ensure these efforts translate into measurable improvements over time.

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## How the Work Happens

Behind the scenes at ROCKBlue, the steady work continues.

Every month, our experts meet with partner utilities to review progress against their Performance Tracking Forms (PTFs). These are the priorities utilities set at the start of the year.

These engagements keep momentum on improvements strong and ensure that what was planned is carried through during the year. They are practical, focused sessions that strengthen accountability and execution.



This discipline is reinforced through initiatives such as the [Performance Achievement Workshop Series](#) (PAWS). On 13-14 April 2026, ROCKBlue will convene its next PAWS assembly in Lilongwe, Malawi, bringing together utility leaders, technical specialists, and partners to focus on non-revenue water, financial sustainability, and climate resilience.

Through peer-to-peer exchange and practical alignment, PAWS supports utilities in identifying immediate actions and strengthening performance where it matters most. It is a simple approach, grounded in data and consistency, and it is quietly driving better utility performance.

## Purpose Driven Work

In the first quarter of 2026, ROCKBlue continued its support to partner utilities with a clear focus on strengthening the systems that underpin public health.

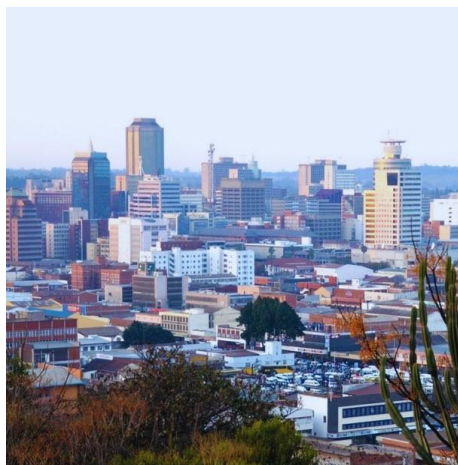


Across these utilities, efforts have remained centered on improving operational performance, reducing non-revenue water, and stabilizing supply, all of which are critical in addressing the conditions linked to cholera risk. In the context of rising public health pressures, this work is not only about efficiency. It is about reducing risk, strengthening resilience, and ensuring that utility systems are able to respond effectively before crises take hold.

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## The Turnaround in Ruwa: From Infrastructure Strain to Sustainable Flow

For years, Ruwa's water system was defined by intermittent supply and mechanical exhaustion, forcing the utility into a cycle of constant repair. This quarter marks a definitive turning point as ROCKBlue, and local leadership moved the town from a state of crisis to one of resilience.



The transformation began at the source with the refurbishment of the raw water transmission line from Nora to Greensykes Dam, supported by a complete overhaul of the energy backbone. By installing a new electricity transformer and state-of-the-art Variable Speed Drives (VSDs), we have stabilized the power and pressure, eliminating the "hydraulic shock" that previously caused frequent, costly pipe bursts.

Complementing these structural wins is a leap forward in treatment precision and storage capacity. Ruwa has officially transitioned from manual to mechanical water treatment dosing, ensuring consistent water quality and significantly reducing chemical waste.

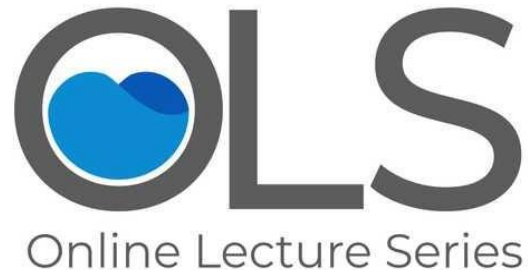
The crowning achievement of Q1 2026 is the completion of the 3ML Springvale Reservoir, a three-million-liter milestone that now provides a vital storage buffer for the community. This infrastructure doesn't just move water - it provides a sustainable blueprint for urban utility success across the region.

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## Fueling the Future: The OLS Sponsorship Drive

As we look toward the remainder of 2026, our [Online Learning Series](#) (OLS) remains the heartbeat of our knowledge-sharing mission, connecting utility professionals across the globe with world-class expertise. This quarter, we are officially launching our 2026 OLS Sponsorship Drive, seeking partners who believe that empowered leadership is the key to solving the global water crisis.

By sponsoring a session or a full series, your organization directly funds the high-level technical training and peer-to-peer workshops that allow utilities in emerging markets to modernize their operations.



From non-revenue water strategies to climate-resilient planning, the OLS is where the next generation of water leaders is forged and we invite you to be a part of that legacy.

[Download the Brochure](#)

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## ROCKBlue's 2025 Annual Report

We are pleased to share our 2025 Annual Report, highlighting progress across our programs, partnerships, and operational impact.

Over the past year, we have helped strengthen utility leadership, improved governance practices, and supported



measurable performance improvements across multiple cities in Africa.

Our work focuses on building long-term institutional capacity that enables water utilities to operate more effectively and sustainably.

[Download the Annual Report](#)

## Important Update: Mailing Address

We have updated our mailing address in Washington DC, USA, to support our growing engagement with partners and institutions in the United States.

Please direct all future postal donations and correspondence to our new PO Box.



## Looking Ahead: ROCKBlue on the Global and Continental Stage

### The Global Stage: Peter Macy at the 2026 Skoll World Forum

As we move into the second quarter of 2026, ROCKBlue is stepping onto the world's most influential stages to advocate for sustainable water systems. This April, Peter Macy will represent our mission at the [Skoll World Forum](#) in Oxford, UK. This prestigious invitation allows us to showcase our "Utility Partnership" model to global innovators and social entrepreneurs, building the high-level alliances necessary to scale our impact. Peter's presence at Skoll is more than an attendance; it is a strategic platform to secure the bridge financing and technical support that our partners rely on to thrive.

### The Year of Water: Aligning with the African Union's 2026 Vision

This global momentum aligns perfectly with a historic shift across the continent: the [African Union](#) has officially designated 2026 as the Year of Sustainable Water and Sanitation. By anchoring our Q2 goals within the AU's Agenda 2063, ROCKBlue is ensuring that our local successes in places like

Ruwa and Malawi contribute to a broader, continental transformation. From the halls of Oxford to the utility offices of Lilongwe, the next few months will be defined by our commitment to turning this "Year of Water" into a lasting legacy of resilience and access.

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## Honoring Sir Richard Hawkins

In recent days, we have reflected on the life and contribution of Sir Richard Hawkins, whose passing marks the loss of a deeply respected leader and valued supporter of ROCKBlue.



Sir Richard brought wisdom, integrity, and a strong sense of public purpose to the work of strengthening water and sanitation utilities. His guidance, thoughtful counsel, and belief in practical leadership helped shape important parts of ROCKBlue's journey.

His contribution extended beyond formal roles. He believed in the importance of strong institutions, responsible leadership, and service that improves lives in meaningful ways.

We remain grateful for the time, insight, and commitment he gave to our mission. His legacy will continue to be remembered with respect and appreciation.

Our thoughts remain with his family and all who knew him.



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