

8
PARTNER UTILITIES

5
COUNTRIES ACROSS AFRICA

22M+
URBAN RESIDENTS SERVED

2.6M
ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WITH PIPED WATER

ROCKBlue works alongside water utilities across Africa to strengthen leadership, improve operations and help more people access reliable water. Today, eight partner utilities across five countries serve more than 22 million urban residents, with 2.6 million additional people now receiving piped water since our partnerships began.

In this edition, we explore how the Online Lecture Series, PAWS and ACORN address practical challenges facing utilities, how WULUW develops women leaders in the water and sanitation sector, and how ROCKBlue Partners Africa strengthens local leadership and delivery. We also look at opportunities to expand our sanitation work through potential new partnerships.

As we look ahead, we share plans for our year-end campaign, upcoming learning opportunities and a potential ninth utility partnership in Kenya. These highlights reflect both the progress made over the past decade and the work still needed to help more communities access reliable water and sanitation services.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Decade of Impact: The Journey So Far
Online Lecture Series (OLS)
PAWS: Peer Learning for Utility Leaders
A Note from Lusaka, Zambia
ROCKBlue Partners Africa
ACORN: The Infrastructure Behind Water
WULUW: Women Leaders in WASH
ROCKBlue Voices Making an Impact
Broadening Our Impact Across Africa
Looking Ahead

A DECADE OF IMPACT: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

What does it take to strengthen water utilities and help them serve more people? As ROCKBlue marks ten years of working alongside utilities, Peter Macy and Satish Menon reflect on the journey, the partnerships that have shaped our work, and the opportunities ahead to improve water and sanitation services across Africa.



→ Watch the conversation

ONLINE LECTURE SERIES

TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

How can water utilities reduce water losses and get more from the water they produce?

In September, our Online Lecture Series (OLS) brought utility professionals together to explore low-cost solutions for reducing non-revenue water (NRW), featuring the case of the City of Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

Led by Isau Nyengera (Internal Auditor at Masvingo City Council), the session focused on practical approaches utilities can apply to identify losses, improve maintenance and strengthen service delivery. Every drop saved helps utilities make better use of the water available to them.

→ Watch the recorded webinar



PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

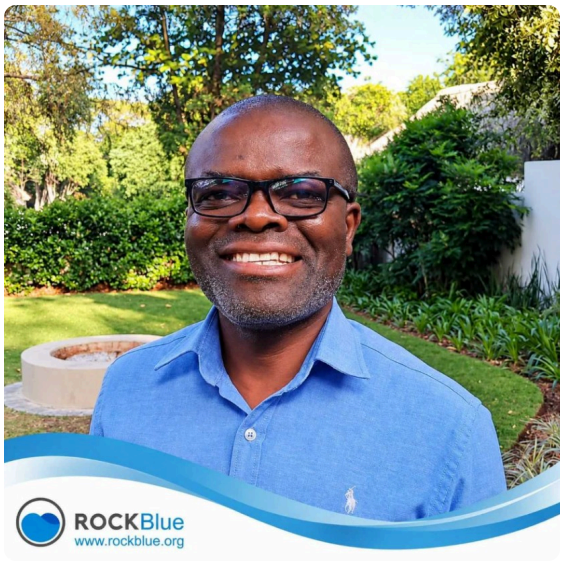
STRENGTHENING UTILITY LEADERSHIP THROUGH PEER LEARNING

Water utilities face complex operational and financial challenges. Through our **Performance Achievement Workshop Series (PAWS)**, ROCKBlue brings utility professionals together to share experiences, exchange practical solutions and learn from one another.

During Q3, our virtual PAWS session continued this work, creating opportunities for utility professionals to learn collaboratively and strengthen their approach to delivering reliable water and sanitation services.



A NOTE FROM OUR UTILITY PARTNER IN ZAMBIA



I would like to express my great appreciation to ROCKBlue for a decade of impact. Your support has really made a great change in our utility — we've successfully pushed up water and sanitation coverage across our city. Thankfully, last year we even got an award from the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council as the most improved utility in terms of water supply coverage.

— Philemon Masangula
Lusaka Water Supply and Sanitation Company (LWSC)

TEN YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

STRONGER UTILITIES. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

BUILDING STRONGER ROOTS IN AFRICA

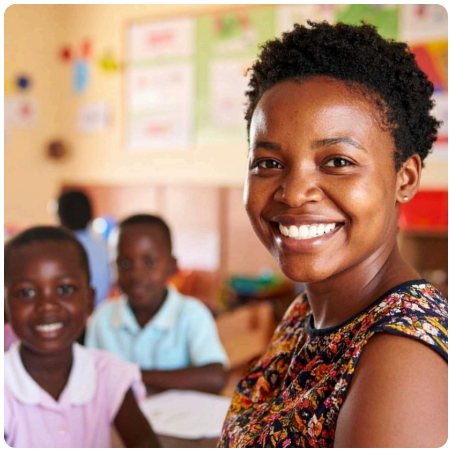
Since beginning our work with water utilities in Africa in 2016, ROCKBlue has continued to build its presence and partnerships across the continent. **ROCKBlue Partners Africa (RPA)** is a South African-registered nonprofit organisation with an Africa-based team that leads utility support and programme delivery on the ground.

ROCKBlue and RPA are distinct organisations working collaboratively, combining RPA's local leadership and implementation with ROCKBlue's fundraising, grant management and support.

ROCKBlue Partners Africa reflects our commitment to strengthening African leadership and building a stronger, locally based presence to support water utilities. By deepening our roots on the continent, we aim to build relationships grounded in local knowledge and understanding, while creating opportunities to extend our work and impact.







ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BEHIND WATER SERVICES

ACCESS TO CAPITAL, OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING NEXUS (ACORN)

Reliable water services depend on infrastructure that can operate consistently, from pumping and treating water to delivering it through distribution networks.

Energy plays a critical role in keeping these systems running, while energy costs can place additional pressure on utility finances and operational performance.



Through our **ACORN** initiative, we are coordinating with partner utilities on energy-related infrastructure projects. This work recognises the close connection between energy, utility operations and the reliable delivery of water. By working with utilities to explore infrastructure needs and opportunities, we are helping bring greater attention to the systems that underpin effective service delivery.

Strengthening these systems is an important part of supporting utilities to operate more effectively and sustain the services that communities depend on.

WULUW: DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

WOMEN'S URBAN LEADERSHIP IN UTILITY WASH (WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE)

Strong water and sanitation services need capable leaders at every level. Creating opportunities for women to develop their leadership skills, contribute to decisions and grow professionally helps build a stronger, more inclusive workforce for the sector.

Through our **WULUW** programme, we support women in the WASH sector through mentorship, professional development and networking.

Feedback from Cohort E highlighted the value of practical learning, relatable mentor experiences and skills that participants could apply in their workplaces. Mentees also reported greater confidence and a stronger leadership mindset.



By investing in women's leadership, WULUW helps develop the people and skills needed to strengthen water and sanitation utilities for the future.

THIS IS HOW LEADERSHIP GROWS

ONE LEADER. ONE UTILITY. THOUSANDS OF LIVES.

A NOTE FROM OUR WULUW MENTEES



“Being part of the WULUW mentorship organized by ROCKBlue allowed me to learn so much about leadership, financial stewardship, negotiation, and key skills to build my career positively. Thank you, ROCKBlue, for this opportunity — I look forward to more mentorships in the future!”

— Lusie Wanga

Zambia



“I was nominated by ROCKBlue to participate in the mentorship program. I am so grateful for this experience; today, I am confident, have high self-esteem, and feel empowered to move forward in my career and business.”

— Julia Shongwe

South Africa



“When I joined WULUW in 2022 while pursuing my PhD in a water-related field, the mentorship I received made it easier to complete my degree. Since then, I’ve secured water-related grants, and joining the program opened exciting opportunities for which I’m truly grateful.”

— Nyaradzayi (Mary) Chikuruwo

Zimbabwe

Congratulations to every WULUW mentee — women leaders shaping the future of water and sanitation across Africa.

ROCKBLUE VOICES MAKING AN IMPACT

ROCKBlue team members continue to make valuable contributions across the water, sanitation and sustainable development sectors.

We also celebrate the connections, expertise and leadership that our people bring to wider industry conversations and initiatives supporting sustainable development and climate resilience.



Margaret Maina

At the 2026 United Nations High-Level Political Forum in New York, ROCKBlue Utility Specialist Margaret Maina represented the Women's Major Group as Lead Discussant on SDG 6, highlighting the vital role of safe water and sanitation in achieving broader development goals.



Shamiso Masuka

Congratulations to Shamiso Masuka, Assistant Deputy Director in ROCKBlue's Utility Partnership Division, on participating in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Forum on U.S.-Africa Commercial Partnerships in Nairobi, Kenya.



Primrose Gura

Congratulations to Primrose Gura, ROCKBlue's Donor Relations & Engagement Manager, on her involvement in the Climate Entrepreneurship School, hosted by the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Edinburgh.

BROADENING OUR IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA

Reliable water services are essential, but sanitation is equally important to the health and wellbeing of communities.



We are exploring opportunities to expand our sanitation work and develop potential partnerships in **Mozambique** and **Rwanda**.

These opportunities are still under development and represent a step towards broadening our engagement with utilities in Africa.

We will explore how our experience and expertise in strengthening leadership, operational capacity and financial sustainability can support improved water and sanitation services.

LOOKING AHEAD: BUILDING ON A DECADE OF IMPACT

The final quarter of 2026 brings new opportunities to build on our work with water utilities across Africa and extend the reach of our support.

- Following our PAWS workshop in Johannesburg in October, our Online Lecture Series (OLS) will continue creating opportunities for utility professionals to share practical knowledge and learn from one another. Planning is also underway for the 2027 Performance Achievement Workshop Series, with two virtual and two in-person workshops planned. We are exploring ways to open these workshops to utilities beyond our existing partners.
- We are also refining a knowledge and rapid-response service that combines AI with human expertise to provide utility leaders with faster, affordable guidance on leadership, finance and operations.
- Building on the success of the Women's Urban Leadership in Utility WASH (WULUW) programme, we are exploring further professional development and practical placement opportunities to help graduates apply their learning and progress towards leadership roles.
- Our year-end campaign, **A Decade of Impact | A Future That Flows**, will celebrate the progress made over the past ten years while highlighting the work still needed to help more people access reliable water and sanitation.
- As part of our journey, we are strengthening our financial sustainability by moving towards becoming an "enterprise NGO" - a nonprofit that combines donor support with income from our services that advance our mission. A new External Services unit will make selected learning and professional development offerings available more widely, supporting the urban water and sanitation sector while strengthening our financial sustainability.
- We are also exploring a potential ninth utility partnership in Kenya, which could extend ROCKBlue's reach and support more utilities to improve service delivery and people's access to water and sanitation.

As we reflect on a decade of impact, we will place greater emphasis on recognising the substantial contributions our utility partners make to this work. While ROCKBlue provides expertise and ongoing support, utilities invest their own leadership, staff time, data, implementation capacity and resources. By sharing practical results and the voices of our utility partners, we aim to demonstrate how this shared investment turns knowledge and advice into lasting improvements in utility performance and service delivery.



A DECADE BEHIND US. A FUTURE AHEAD.

As we look towards our next decade, we are grateful to you, the donors, partners and supporters who have been part of our journey.

Your support helps us work alongside water utilities to strengthen their capacity and improve services for the millions of people who depend on them.

Thank you for believing in our work and helping us build a future where more communities have access to reliable water and sanitation.

Together, we can keep the future flowing.

The ROCKBlue Team

DONATE TODAY

CONNECT WITH US

info@rockblue.org

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