At the 2003 Summit in Evian the G8 launched the Evian Water Action Plan to tackle water and sanitation issues for the achievement of the MDGs. The African Water Facility, agreed at the Summit, is an initiative led by the African Ministers' Council on Water to mobilize resources to finance water activities in Africa. Hosted by the African Development Bank, the Facility has approved more than 70 projects amounting to 90 Million Euros. These funds have garnered 420 Million Euros of additional investments. France has contributed 12 Million Euros as well as a technical assistance.

At the same Summit, France also committed to doubling its foreign aid to water and sanitation: today, with 600 Million Euros per year for 2010-2015, France is the 3rd largest bilateral donor for water and sanitation. The French Development Agency (AFD) provides access to safe drinking water for 800 000 people per year and to sanitation for 500 000 people per year; also improving access to safe drinking water for 2.5 million people per year and to sanitation for 1.5 million people per year. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the priority for France with 60 % of the part of ODA dedicated to water and sanitation.

France supported the launch in 2003 of a trust fund in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), aiming at accelerating sustainable access to improved rural water supply and sanitation facilities in Africa. France has announced an additional 40 Million Euros contribution to RWSSI. This political and financial commitment was the starting point of the process of the replenishment of this trust fund. 82 Million Euros have been so far raised.