



صندوق الودائع و الأمانات
CAISSE DES DÉPÔTS ET CONSIGNATIONS

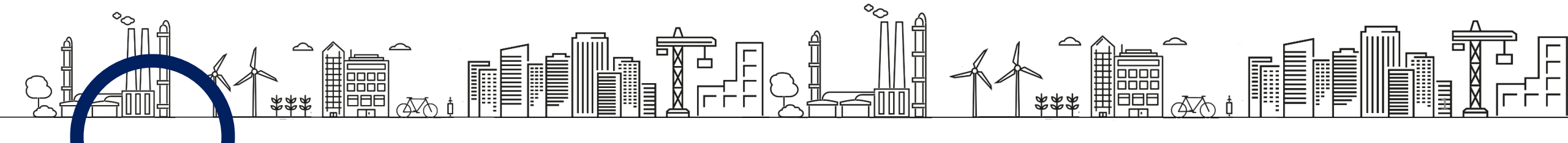
6th Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment
Water finance: regional priorities and the role of banks
Session 4 : engaging national public development banks in
financing wash and WEF E NEXUS projects

**WHAT IS THE CDC'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING INVESTMENT IN
THE WATER SECTOR?**

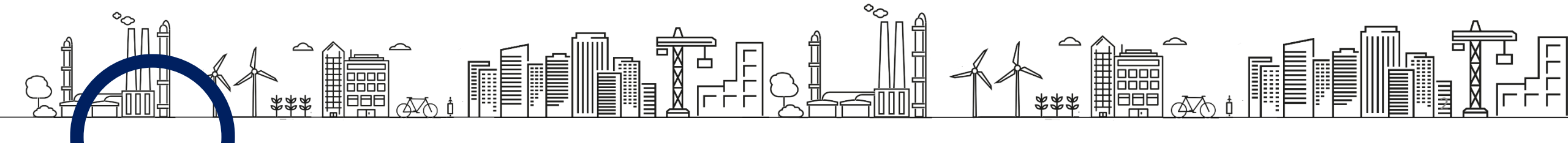
Cairo, 13th October 2025

Nejia Gharbi

General Director, CDC Tunisia



- Why is the CDC interested in the water sector and how is it integrated into its priorities ?
- Concretely... How is Water integrated into CDC's activities ?
- Key success factors and challenges



Why is the CDC interested in the water sector and how is it integrated into its priorities ?

Tunisian context



Tunisia is the **5th most vulnerable country to drought** globally

Source : ITCEQ 2024

Tunisia **is below the water poverty line**, with less than **500 m³** per capita per year

Source : ITCEQ 2024

Demand outstripping supply by 28%

Source : Word Bank 2023

Failure to act would result :



Agricultural production drop by **33.1 %**

Source : Word Bank 2023



4.6 billion TD
3.2 % of GDP

Source : Word Bank 2023

Tunisian context



The national challenge

The water scarcity situation will deteriorate as climate change progresses, leading to an effect for **ecosystems** and **across all sectors** of the economy, especially in **agriculture**, with consequences for **food security**.

→ The objective is to secure sufficient water resources

→ This is why the CDC considers the water issue as a priority

CDC in a glance

Purpose

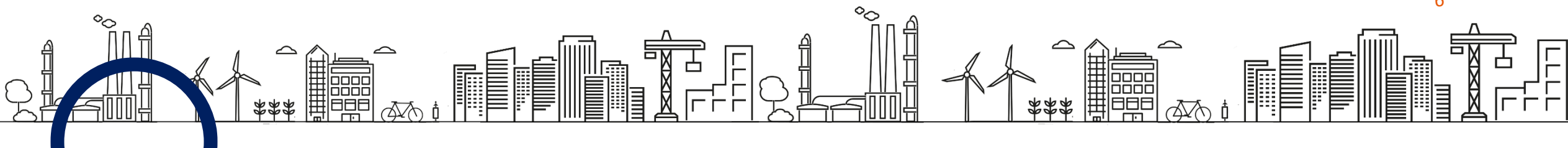
The **financial arm of the government** to support sustainable development

Mission

securing and **leveraging** the resources at our disposal and provide **long-term investment** at the service of Tunisia's sustainable development.

Modalities

Investing directly and **indirectly** in partnerships with the **public** and **private** sector in all strategic economic areas



CDC in a glance

Vision 2025

To be the referenced, innovative, value-creating public investor supporting the post-COVID recovery

**5
Axis**



Supporting economic recovery and business development



Contributing to the development of the financial market



Supporting infrastructure development



Supporting the energy and ecological transition and carbon sobriety

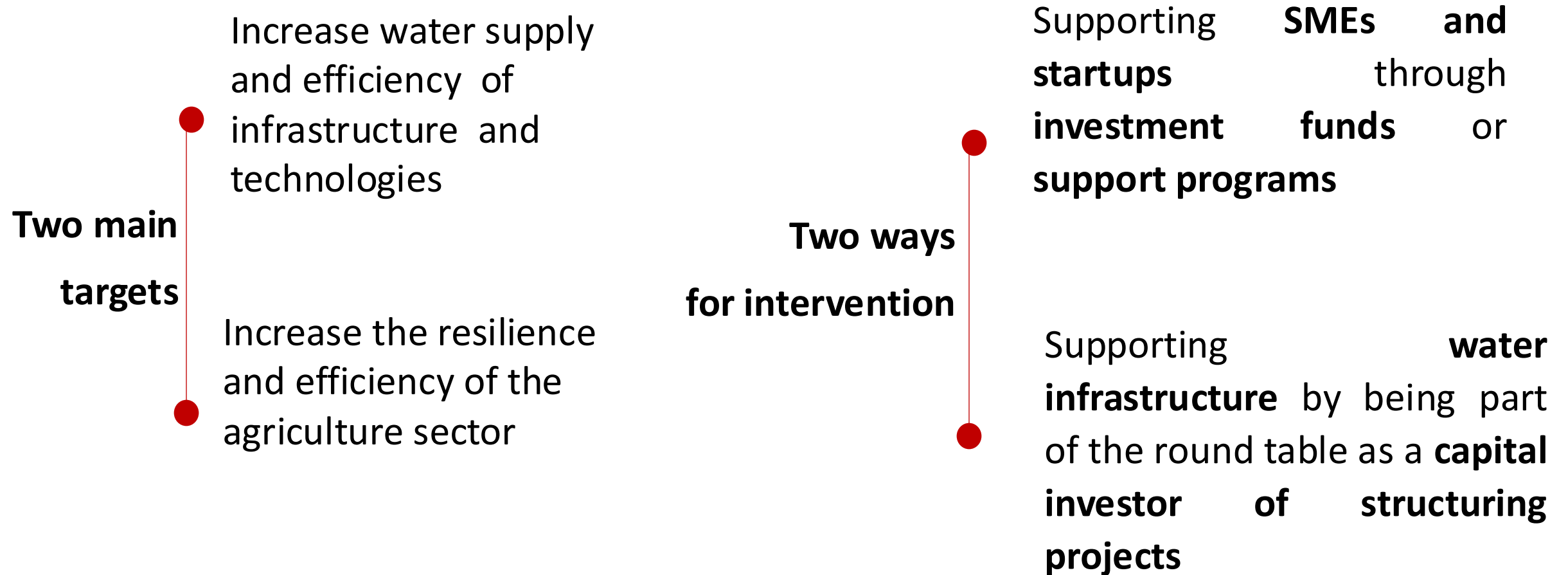


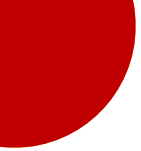
Supporting digital and technological transformation

**14
SDG**



How can CDC support the water sector?





**Concretely... How is Water integrated
into CDC's activities ?**

Project Title	Development and Urban Planning of Sebkha Ben Ghadaya (Mahdia)
Sector	Urban Infrastructure, Tourism, and Environmental Rehabilitation.
Project Type	Institutional Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
Contracting Authority	Société d'Études et d'Aménagement de la Sebkha Ben Ghayadha.

Key Action	Water Impact & Benefit
Environmental Cleanup	Clean and rehabilitate the stagnant brackish water lagoon (Sebkha), eliminating a major source of pollution and health nuisance for the Mahdia coastline.
Urban Development Preparation	Installing necessary public utility infrastructures, including comprehensive water and sanitation networks , to support the future urban development sustainably and prevent future contamination.
Economic Stimulus & Valorization	Create a new integrated tourist district centered around a 26-hectare landscaped lagoon , transforming a degraded water body into a high-value coastal amenity.
Sanitation & Public Health	Improve sanitation and public health in the Mahdia area through the complete rehabilitation and proper environmental management of the former Sebkha.

PPP SANITATION PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Project	Project status	Estimated Cost (Million USD)
Construction of wastewater treatment plant “El Hessiane” in Tunis-east (capacity: 70.000 m ³ /d) with 20 years of exploitation	- Feasibility and preliminary studies are finished. - Launch of RFQ: January 2020	CAPEX: 160 OPEX: 150
Concession operating service	Bidding phase (already 6 candidates are short listed)	CAPEX: 100 OPEX: 275
Construction of wastewater treatment -complex of the region of greater Gabès-	Feasibility and preliminary studies of the project started 2023	CAPEX: 75 OPEX: 90

Project Title

Partnership Contract for the Financing, Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Renewal of the El Hessiane WWTP.

Public Partner

Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS - National Sanitation Office).

Capacity

60,000 m³/day (with a projected capacity of 70,000 m³/day).

Service Area

Raoued, Kalâat El Andalous, and parts of El Mnihla (North Greater Tunis).

Key Action	Water Impact & Benefit
New Treatment Capacity	Creation of a major new WWTP (60,000 m ³ /day) to address the deficit in sanitation capacity for the rapidly growing North Greater Tunis area.
Pollution Control	Direct action against water pollution (hydric pollution), ensuring that the wastewater from rapidly expanding residential and industrial zones is treated according to environmental standards before discharge.
Service Extension	Construction of associated sewerage and transfer pipelines , extending sanitation services to thousands of residents in areas like Raoued and Kalâat El Andalous.
Long-Term PPP Contract	The contract includes Financing, Conception, Realization, Operation, and Maintenance for 20+ years, guaranteeing sustained quality, efficiency, and compliance of the treated water over the long term.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- This project involves the construction of two wastewater treatment poles for Greater Gabès **which groups 9 cities** of total population 195,000 inhabitants .
- These wastewater treatment poles will replace the existing station built in 1995, which has become obsolete and does not meet environmental requirements.
- The actual hydraulic capacity treatment of existing station is **17.800 m³/d** and the projected hydraulic capacity treatment for the two stations (northern Gabès + southern Gabès) **will be 36.340 m³/d on the horizon 2036.**



Location:
Gabès



Company:
ONAS



Mission:
Establishing Gabès
wastewater
treatment plants



Cost:
TND 175 million

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aims to:

- meet the needs of the region of gabes in **processing capacity**;
- provide the possibility of **connecting the currently unserved areas** to urban sewerage networks;
- improve the **quality of the treated water**;
- improve the **living conditions of the inhabitants** bordering on the existing wastewater treatment plant; and
- protect the receiving area (the sea) against pollution and **encourage the reuse of treated water.**



INVESTMENT PLAN

- The total cost of the project is estimated at **\$75 million** distributed as follows (see illustration)
- Capex does not include the following supplemental costs:
 - Cost of studies and supervision of works: **8%** of net investments.
 - Physical contingencies: **10%** of net investments.
 - Financial risks: **2%** of net investments

Operating Costs: \$90 million for 20 years

Plant	Phase / Milestone	Estimated investment Cost (million TND)
North Wastewater treatment plant	North Wastewater treatment plants	70
	North network and Pumping stations and Transfer networks	20
South Wastewater treatment plant	South Wastewater treatment plants	55
	South network and Pumping stations and Transfer networks	18
	Rejection pump at sea	12
Total		175

Table: EBRD

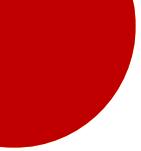
OVERVIEW OF KEY FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, MARKET, REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The pre-feasibility study didn't identify any obstacles or constraints to the development of the project

A feasibility study of the project started in 2023 with the EBRD as a potential main lender.

This preliminary study concerns:

- ✓ Regulatory studies (due diligence)
- ✓ Environmental and social studies
- ✓ Commercial studies
- ✓ Technical studies especially those related to the site



Mediterranean Deposit Institutions Dialogue (DialMed)

A Joint Commitment for Regional and Sustainable Development

- The Deposit Institutions of **Italy, Tunisia, France, and Morocco** have launched **DialMed**, a **Permanent Consultation Framework (PCF)** to foster cooperation and exchange.
- Goal:** Strengthen regional dialogue and *“do better together.”*
- Key Focus Areas:**
 - **Investing in the Mediterranean** – closing the investment gap and boosting integration.
 - **Acting for Climate & Biodiversity** – addressing urgent ecological challenges.
 - **Financial Innovation for Human Potential** – leveraging finance for inclusive growth.
- Shared convictions:**
 - No ecological transition without **social inclusion**.
 - The **cost of action** is far lower than the cost of inaction.

A Shared Urgency and Common Vision

Facing Climate, Economic, and Social Challenges Together

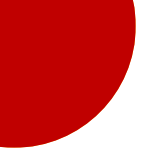
The **Euro-Mediterranean region** faces multiple crises: **climate change, migration, food insecurity, and economic fragmentation**.

The region is a **climate and biodiversity hotspot**—warming **20% faster** than the global average, with growing droughts, floods, and ecosystem loss.

Common priorities:

- Pool financial and technical resources to scale up **sustainable investments**.
- Combine infrastructure, private sector, and environmental financing for **measurable impact**.
- Share **tools, metrics, and knowledge** to accelerate green transition.
- Promote **cross-learning and capacity building** among CDCs.

Vision: A resilient, connected, and inclusive Mediterranean built through **collective action** and **sustainable investment**.



Key success factors and challenges

Key success factors and challenges



Key success factors

- Anchoring at the strategic and organizational level
- Commitment to target water solution projects
- Dedicated tools
- Benchmarking and exchanges



Challenges

- Multi-stakeholders intervention
- Mobilizing of the private sector
- Strengthening D&R
- Strengthening the technical capacity of institutions



Thank you for your attention

