



BURUNDI

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	8.1 million ^a
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	10% ^a
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	4.8 / 1.7% ^a
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	180/1000 live births ^b
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	22.1% ^b
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided. ^a World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database. ^b World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Burundi is a small landlocked country with relatively abundant water resources. Despite this abundance, the demand for potable water is not met and sanitation services are even more limited.

Burundi has one of the highest population densities in Africa and one of the world's lowest per capita incomes. Burundi has also experienced four wars since 1962; the most recent war led to over 300,000 deaths and displaced 1.2 million people. The wars devastated the economy and caused poverty to nearly double.¹ In addition, Burundi's water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector endured years of destruction brought on by sabotage and neglect during the civil war and its aftermath. For example, several kilometers of water pipes, connections and 80 percent of installed meters were destroyed.²

As Burundi continues to recover, new challenges are emerging as the WSS sector moves from reconstruction to development. Drinking water and sanitation coverage declined as many of Burundi's

¹ World Bank. Country Brief – Burundi (2009).

² World Bank. Project Appraisal Document: Burundi, Public Works and Urban Management Project (2009).

urban centers, and particularly peri-urban areas of Bujumbura, experienced rapid growth stemming from the return of exiled and internally displaced peoples. Households have resorted to obtaining untreated water in rivers, lakes, shallow wells, and from water haulers and unmanaged standpipes. As a result, there is a persistence of waterborne diseases, leading to high mortality rates.

Burundi is close to meeting its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for improved drinking water access but is not likely to reach the MDG for improved sanitation by 2015. However, the country has made notable progress in sanitation, with 1.2 million people gaining access to improved sanitation since 1990.³ Development in the WSS sector is expected to continue as donors resume activities suspended during the years of instability.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN BURUNDI	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (2008)	1,246 ^c
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2002)	43 ^c
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	1,086 ^d
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided. ^c UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO Aquastat Database. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries. ^d Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from World Bank WDI Database (population) and FAO Aquastat Database (water resources).</small>	

WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Several national institutions, including nine government ministries, are involved in the management of water resources. This has resulted in poor coordination, planning, and exploitation of water

³ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update.

resources, creating competition in the allocation of water among sectors. The Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines (MWEM), through its Directorate General for Water and Energy (DGEE), is responsible for leading the overall policy formulation and administrative functions of the central government as they relate to the WSS sector. The Directorate of Water Resources (DRH) within DGEE is responsible for developing strategies for sustainable development of the country's water resources, developing and maintaining the country's National Water Master Plan, and maintaining the water tariff policy for rural and urban areas. In the rural areas the Directorate General of Rural Water and Electricity (DGHER) oversees and coordinates drinking water and sanitation.

The Water and Electric Authority (REGIDESO), an autonomous public utility operating under the supervision of MWEM, and 34 Communal Water Authorities (RCEs) undertake actual service provision. REGIDESO is responsible for catchment, treatment, and distribution of drinking water in urban areas while RCEs supply drinking water to the rural areas. Municipal Engineering Services (SETEMU) is responsible for sewerage and wastewater treatment services but currently Bujumbura is the only city being serviced.⁴ Other cities and towns do not have sewerage systems, and sanitation facilities in rural areas are very limited.

The Government of Burundi (GOB) has been working to reform WSS institutions in order to extend service, improve quality, and improve financial sustainability. In 2000, Burundi adopted a law that both liberalized the sector and created a new regulatory framework. The law defines the conditions for private sector participation and allows for establishment of a regulatory entity for water supply and energy and a development fund for the sector. It stated that REGIDESO no longer had a monopoly over public drinking water and electricity supply. The provisions of the law, including establishment of a regulator, have yet to be fully implemented.

A national water sector policy development process has begun, which includes the implementation of the

⁴ World Bank. *Project Appraisal Document: Burundi, Multi-sector Water and Electricity Project* (2008).

KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

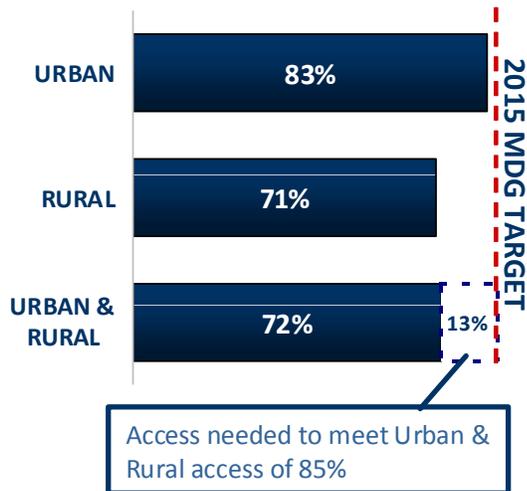
Agency	Description	Contact Information
MWEM, DGEE, DRH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water policy and strategy development; Oversees WSS sector; Supports RCEs with technical issues. 	Pascal Barutwanayo 225282
DGHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates and manages rural municipal water services. 	
RCEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural drinking water service providers; not-for-profit associations. 	Varies.
REGIDESO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and electricity service provider, primarily responsible for urban areas. 	Liberat Nsabimana nsablib@yahoo.fr Tel: 257-22253078
SETEMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban sanitation service provider. 	

National Water Master Plan (PDNE). The new policies aim to increase coverage through improved coordination. Specifically, Burundi has defined its current priorities as follows: (i) rehabilitation of drinking water supply systems which could considerably increase access to this commodity; (ii) construction of new systems in areas with the most significant shortage so as to reduce regional disparities; (iii) integrated management of the country's water resources through integrated multi-purpose information systems; (iv) improved hygiene and sanitation; and (v) encouraging the private sector to invest in the sector to ensure its sustainability. The GOB is also working to better manage its watersheds in order to protect water sources and increase available supply for domestic purposes, through the development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan.

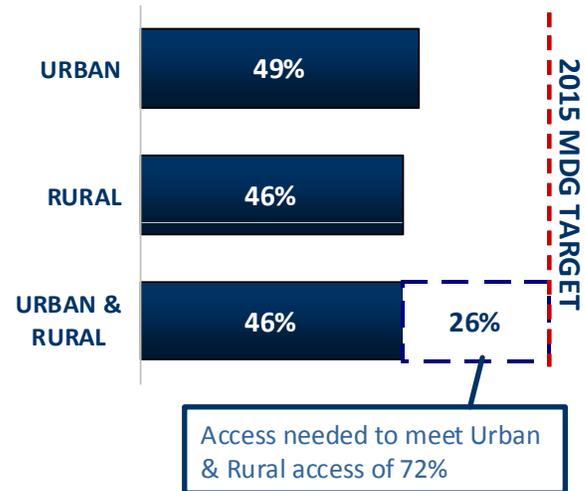
THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

The overall performance of REGIDESO is inadequate due to the deterioration of existing facilities, high water losses (due to physical losses and theft), and substandard pumping and storage capacity to satisfy demand. REGIDESO is also extremely weak financially. Much of REGIDESO's financial weakness is due to non-payment of water bills, principally by public sector users. It has been determined that REGIDESO's insolvency can only be resolved with major financial restructuring. To this end, the GOB and donors are converting REGIDESO's relationship

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2008



Data Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.
 Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

with the government to performance-based contracts and assisting it with the necessary reforms and capacity building.

REGIDESO serves Bujumbura through 29,700 water connections and 49 standpipes, many of which are out of service. The demand for new connections is high, but REGIDESO lacks the means to satisfy it, installing only about 1,500 new connections per year. Service coverage has not kept up with the rapidly growing urban population in the greater Bujumbura area. There are approximately 150,000 inhabitants living in the city's neighborhoods of Musaga, Kanyosha, Buterere, Kinama, Kamenge, and Gihosha, only 4 percent of which have a household connection with water service.⁵

SETEMU is responsible for sewerage and wastewater treatment services in urban areas, but it is estimated that it only covers approximately 40 percent of Bujumbura's needs. In peri-urban areas, approximately 90 percent of the population is without sanitation facilities. Most wastewater is disposed of in storm drains and channeled untreated to Lake Tanganyika. Other cities do not have a sewerage system or wastewater treatment facilities.⁶

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

The GOB has laid out objectives for providing WSS services in the rural sector: to provide at least one potable water source within a 500 meter radius of each household; and for sanitation, to provide one covered indoor latrine in every household and one public latrine in each public establishment.⁷

During the civil war, many of the existing WSS infrastructure and facilities fell into very poor condition. The DGHER hopes to help address drinking water needs in the rural areas through RCEs. District User Committees manage the RCEs, while the DGHER provides central government support of the RCEs. As of 2005, only 16 of the country's 34 administrative districts (called communes in Burundi) had functioning RCEs.⁸ Of these RCEs, only half collected household water fees. The others relied on income from fixed sales of water for private connections. Significant amounts of financial, managerial, and technical assistance are needed to scale-up the RCEs' ability to manage their systems and promote better hygiene in rural areas.

⁵ World Bank. *Project Appraisal Document: Burundi, Multi-sector Water and Electricity Project* (2008).

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ African Development Fund. *Burundi – Rural Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Extension Project, Appraisal Report* (2005).

⁸ *Ibid.*

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Since democratic elections in 2005, donor contributions to the WSS sector are increasing. The African Development Bank (AfDB) recently launched an \$18 million project to assess water and sanitation resources throughout the country and the financing needed to meet MDGs. The project will also support decentralization. The German Government has launched a four year \$12.8 project to increase water access in three provinces. Four additional provinces will be supported by a \$21 million disbursement from the African Development Fund. The World Bank has

launched two major projects: the Public Works and Urban Management Project (US\$45 million) and Multi-Sectoral Water and Electricity Infrastructure Project (US\$50 million). Other donors active in Burundi's WSS sector include the Belgian government, European Union, Austrian Cooperation, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Barriers to further donor involvement primarily rest on the Government's inability to absorb more donor assistance, implement projects, or monitor and evaluate (M&E) progress.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION ^e
AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and development; Rural WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and extension. 	I. A. Traore
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and development; Multi-Sectoral Water and Electricity Infrastructure Project, including institutional and financial strengthening of service providers; Public Works and Urban Management Project (with approximately 21% going to water supply activities). 	Ventura Bengoechea
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural and peri-urban water infrastructure development and capacity building. 	
German development partners (GTZ), German Development Bank (KfW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources management; Urban WSS infrastructure rehabilitation. 	Helga Fink helga.fink@gtz.de Tel: 257-22-21-59-73
Austrian Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources management and planning. 	
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene and sanitation awareness and promotion of low-tech management practices; Construction and capacity building of rural drinking water and sanitation systems/facilities; Rural WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and development; Training programs in water and sanitation assessments for local water authority management teams. 	Bujumbura@unicef.org
^e Contact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.		

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Additional references that aided in the completion of this report include: UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Burundi, Humanitarian Action Reports (2008 and 2009); World Health Organization(WHO)/UNICEF, *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation* (2008); UN-HABITAT and GoB, Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, *Report on Mission to Burundi, Joint Technical Mission Report* (2007); Republic of Burundi, *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper* (2006); African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), et al., *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation* (2006); African Development Fund, *Burundi – Rural Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Extension Project, Appraisal Report* (2005); and International Rescue Committee: *Burundi, Water Sanitation and Reintegration Program* (2000).

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