



# MALI

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	12.7 million <sup>a</sup>
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	32% <sup>a</sup>
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2007)	4.6 / 2.1% <sup>a</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	196/1000 live births <sup>b</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	18.0% <sup>b</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>a</sup> World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database.  <sup>b</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

### WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 178 out of 182 countries listed on the Human Development Index (HDI).<sup>1</sup> Located in West Africa, Mali is land-locked with 57 percent of its area in the Sahara Desert. Access to clean water is difficult due to the country's uneven geographic distribution of water resources. The climate is unpredictable, with variations between heavy rainfall and extreme drought. Because 80 percent of the population works in agriculture, this variability of precipitation makes subsistence increasingly difficult.<sup>2</sup> Annual per capita income, which ranks as one of the lowest in the world, is \$380.<sup>3</sup> This extreme poverty has a direct impact on the population's sanitation and hygiene practices. Of all deaths in Mali, over 20 percent can be attributed to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene.<sup>4</sup>

Mali faces difficult challenges to improving the coverage and performance of its water supply and

<sup>1</sup> United Nations (UN) Human Development Report 2009, HDI Rankings.  
<sup>2</sup> UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/World Water Assessment Program. Second UN Water Development Report: Water, a Shared Responsibility (2006).  
<sup>3</sup> AfDB. *AfDB and Mali, 37 years of Partnership* (2007).  
<sup>4</sup> Prüss-Üstün, A., et.al. *Safer Water, Better Health*, WHO (2008).

sanitation (WSS) sector. Although the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target has been met for urban drinking water; Mali has for the most part fallen behind on meeting its MDGs.<sup>5</sup> In particular, Mali's record of accomplishment in expanding sustainable sanitation coverage is poor. WSS sector data must be considered with caution due to consistently conflicting estimates on coverage.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN MALI	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2008)	4,722 <sup>c</sup>
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2002)	595 <sup>c</sup>
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	3,894 <sup>d</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>c</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i>. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries.  <sup>d</sup> 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 <i>World Bank WDI Database</i> (population) and <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i> (water resources).</small>	

### WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Since the early 1990's, Mali has managed its water resources through a Water Resources Development Framework, which has decentralized government control of WSS services among approximately 700 administrative districts, or communal councils. Around 19 of these communes are in urban areas including six in Bamako. A private sector company, *Energie de Malian SA* (EDM), provides WSS service in 16 urban areas, with the remaining areas receiving service from local commune authorities and private sector operators. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Water (MMEE) has overall responsibility for the WSS sector at the national level. Within MMEE, the *Direction Nationale de l'Hydraulique* (DNH, National

<sup>5</sup> WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

## KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
AMEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New agency that is taking over the functions of DNH.</li> </ul>	
ANICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disburses and manages earmarks, subsidies and budgetary allocations to rural WSS sector.</li> </ul>	
Communal Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural WSS service providers;</li> <li>May subcontract operations and maintenance to private sector.</li> </ul>	Varies.
CREE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent water and electricity regulator;</li> <li>Mandate is much stronger than agency is willing to incorporate into its practices.</li> </ul>	Ibrahim Ouologuem, iouologuem@edmsa.net
DNACPN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the ME that creates national policy for controlling pollution;</li> <li>Ensures policy implementation.</li> </ul>	
DNH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shares responsibility for policy and development for sanitation with ME and Health;</li> <li>Oversees rural WSS services.</li> <li>Nine regional offices.</li> </ul>	
EDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban WSS provider;</li> <li>Concession management contract with DNH/MMEE;</li> <li>Serves urban areas over 10,000 people.</li> </ul>	Kane Boubacar, Central Water Director bkane@edmsa.net 223-223-7600
ME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shares responsibility for policy and development for sanitation with Ministry of Health and DNH.</li> </ul>	
MMEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall responsibility for the WSS sector;</li> <li>Policy and national strategy development.</li> </ul>	
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shares responsibility for policy and development for sanitation with Ministry of Environment and DNH.</li> </ul>	

Water Directorate) is tasked with providing executive, regulation, financial, and technical support to communal WSS service providers. The DNH functions primarily through its regional and sub-regional offices.<sup>6</sup>

In 2005, Mali's government formed the Agency for Water Supply and Sanitation (AMEPA) to oversee

<sup>6</sup> UNESCO/World Water Assessment Program. *Second UN Water Development Report: Water, a Shared Responsibility* (2006).

WSS sector project execution. This new agency is tasked with taking over many functions previously held by DNH. AMEPA was designed to simplify and accelerate project implementation procedures while allowing individual municipalities to retain their role as service promoter.<sup>7</sup>

The Regulatory Commission of Water and Energy (CREE) regulates the urban WSS sector. The CREE is vested with robust regulatory powers that it rarely uses. The CREE consults on projects and is able to participate in WSS sector planning. As a regulator, it is responsible for protecting consumer interests, but it also is responsible for promoting and coordinating private sector participation.

Overlapping roles and responsibilities of key agencies may have slowed improvements in the sanitation sub-sector. Additionally, Mali classifies sanitation primarily as a household responsibility rather than one in which the state plays a constructive role. In 1998, the *Dirección Nationale de l'Assainissement et du Contrôle des Nuisances* (DNACPN, National Directorate for Sanitation and Environmental Nuisance Control) of the Ministry of Environment (ME) was created to shape national policy for controlling pollution and other environmental problems and to ensure implementation of these policies. The achievement of agency objectives is hampered by a lack of funding.<sup>8</sup>

## THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Approximately 30 percent of Mali's population lives in urban centers. Mali's urban WSS sector has experienced a significant improvement in access to clean water from 54 percent in 1990 to 81 percent in 2008; a smaller increase was reported for access to improved sanitation, from 36 percent in 1990 to 45 percent in 2008.<sup>9</sup>

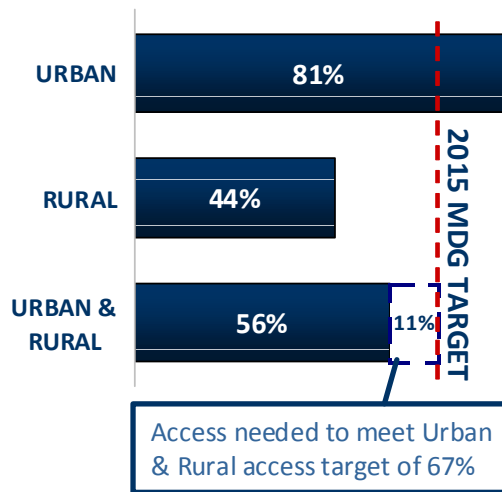
EDM holds a concession contract with the government to provide water services to 16 urban communes. EDM is also required to contribute to new investments in order to catalyze expansion of water service coverage. EDM appears to operate relatively

<sup>7</sup> AFDB/ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). *African Economic Outlook, Mali* (2007).

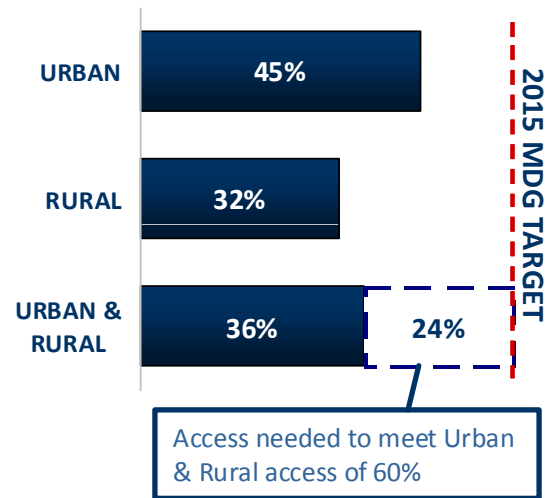
<sup>8</sup> African Development Fund. *Republic of Mali Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Appraisal Report* (2003).

<sup>9</sup> WHO/UNICEF JMP. *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water*, 2010 Update.

### 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.

efficiently compared with other utilities in West Africa.

Sanitation services are slowly improving. Financing for “mini-sewerage systems” is available through the Malian Office of Habitat, which operates under the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Urbanization. Cost recovery remains elusive with mini-sewerage systems only recouping 20 percent of the required revenue to pay for operation and maintenance costs, but to date several urban areas have received or are currently receiving funding for these types of systems. These urban areas include Bankoni, Baco Djicoroni, Djenné, and Timbuktu.

#### THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

Access to drinking water has significantly improved in rural areas, increasing by 22 percent since 1990. Sanitation coverage has improved at a slower pace, increasing by only 9 percent since 1990.<sup>10</sup> While expanding WSS services to the rural sub-sector is the responsibility of the DNH and its regional and sub-regional offices, many sub-regional offices are not operational. Providing WSS services in rural areas falls to the communal councils. These councils are responsible for the planning, construction, and operation of water infrastructure within their individual jurisdictions. The DNH supports these operations with

technical assistance. Rural areas receive funding for planning and infrastructure projects through the National Agency of Collective Territory Investment (ANICT). However, to receive funding, the communes must put forth a 20 percent match from their own revenues.

Although roles and responsibilities are defined, communal water service providers face many challenges. Cost recovery mechanisms are limited, creating chronic maintenance problems. Very few communes have established maintenance funds in order to retain mechanics for pump servicing and repairs, and opportunities to build the capacity of communes to operate and maintain their systems exist. Additionally, greater market development could enhance Mali’s private sector participation in operation and maintenance functions.

<sup>10</sup> WHO/UNICEF JMP. *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

## DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Approximately 85 percent of Mali's water sector investments come from bi-lateral or multi-lateral donors. An inter-ministerial water and sanitation committee heads sector coordination and project fund dispersal. The DNH serves in the capacity of technical adviser while the water resources management

commission and the environment commission often hold additional joint monthly meetings. The sector hosts more than 20 bilateral and multi-lateral technical and financial partners. Chief among these organizations are the African Development Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), France, Germany, and the World Bank.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
AFD (French Development Agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-urban WSS infrastructure development and financing.</li> </ul>	
African Development Bank (AfDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural WSS infrastructure development;</li> <li>Capacity building at commune level to operate and manage small water and sanitation systems.</li> </ul>	Moulay Lahcen ENNAHLI MLFO@afdb.org Tel: 223-222-28-85
DANIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National WSS reforms and institutional capacity building and national water sector framework development;</li> <li>Local capacity building for decentralized WSS services;</li> <li>Integrated water resource management.</li> </ul>	
GTZ/KfW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated water resources management capacity building.</li> <li>Water scarcity awareness.</li> </ul>	Norbert Hagen norbert.hagen@gtz.de
Water Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helped with access to water and sanitation</li> <li>Raised the profile of the water and sanitation sector through influencing national policies</li> <li>Built capacity of local government capacity building</li> <li>Set up centers selling spare parts so that local communities can repair their own water and sanitation facilities</li> </ul>	
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural water supply infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Mr. McDonald Benjamin Acting Country Director mbenjamin1@worldbank.org
<p>*Contact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.</p>		

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Additional references that aided in the development of this report include: Water Operators Partnership (WOP), *Africa Utility Performance Assessment* (2008); WaterAid, *National Water Sector Assessment and Country Information Sheet - Mali* (2006); and National Department of Hydraulics webpage, <http://www.dnh-mali.org>.

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