



BURUNDI

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2006)	8 million
Proportion of population living in urban areas	10%
Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)	6.0 / 2.2%
Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)	8,200
Under age 5 mortality rate	190/1000 live births
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000)	18.2%

SECTOR OVERVIEW

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 (1993-1999). As Burundi's WSS sector recovers from these events, new challenges are emerging as the sector moves from reconstruction to development. Coverage ratios declined during and after the civil war as many of Burundi's urban areas, and particularly peri-urban areas of Bujumbura, experienced rampant growth stemming from the return of exiled and internally displaced peoples to cities. Between 68 percent (1999) and 76 percent of all reported illnesses in Burundi are the result of limited safe drinking water and sanitation. Households have resorted to unprotected water in rivers, lakes, water haulers, shallow wells, and unmanaged public standpipes.

The WSS sector is poised to experience growth as donors resume activities suspended during the years of instability. After presidential elections in 2004, a national water sector policy development process began and has continued with donor support. The government is also working to better manage its watersheds in order to protect water sources and

increase available supply for domestic purposes through the National Water Master Plan.

SECTOR FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines (MWEM), through its Directorate General for Water and Energy (DGEE), heads up policy formulation and the administrative functions of the central government as they relate to the WSS sector. In the rural areas the Directorate General of Rural Water and Electricity (DGHER), an entity under MWEM, oversees and coordinates drinking water and sanitation.

The Water and Electric Authority (REGIDESO), a public utility with autonomous legal and financial status that operates under the supervision of the MWEM, and 34 Communal Water Authorities (RCEs) undertake actual service provision. REGIDESO is responsible for catchment, treatment, and distribution of drinking water in the urban or urbanizing centers. The RCEs supply drinking water to the rural areas.

SETEMU (Services Techniques Municipaux) is responsible for sewerage and wastewater treatment services but only covers 38 percent of the Bujumbura's needs. Other cities and towns do not

WATER AVAILABILITY IN BURUNDI	
Renewable water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (1960-2007)	442
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2000)	44
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	268
Note: 2015 projected water resources per capita is a straight-line regression calculation based on population growth rates with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes	

KEY AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines (MWEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water policy and strategy development Oversees WSS sector Supports RCEs with technical issues 	
REGIDESO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and electricity service provider 	Liberat Nsabimana nsablib@yahoo.fr Tel: 257-22253078
Communal Water Authorities (RCEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water service provider in rural areas Not-for-profit associations 	
Directorate General of Rural Water and Electricity (DGHER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates and manages municipal water services in the rural WSS sector 	
Services Techniques Municipaux (SETEMU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban sanitation service provider 	

have a sewerage system or wastewater treatment facilities. Sanitation services in rural areas are limited: only 23 percent of the population use functional facilities.

The Government has been working to reform WSS institutions in order to improve service quality and financial sustainability. In 2000, the Government adopted a law that both liberalized the sector and created a new regulatory framework. The law defines the conditions for private sector participation in the sector 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 new Water Sector Policy (2005-2007) is being implemented by MWEM, which aims to increase coverage through better coordination. The sector policy for urban sanitation is currently being updated by MEM with the support of the German Development Bank, KfW.

The government of Burundi remains the principal financier of the WSS sector in spite of its meager budgetary resources. Donor contributions are

increasing, but private sector investment remains absent.

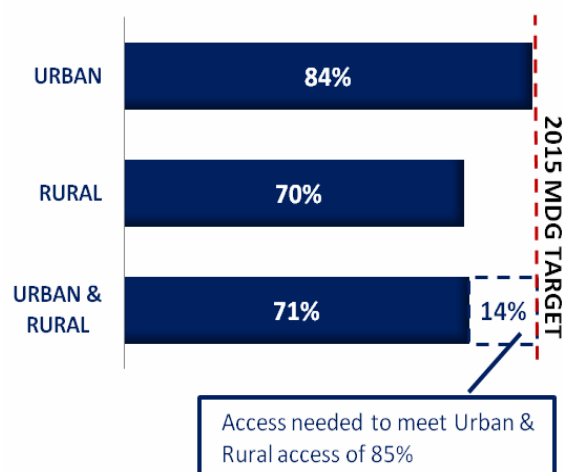
THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

The overall performance of REGIDESO is inadequate due to the deterioration of existing facilities, high technical and non-technical losses, and lack of capacity to satisfy demand. Urban WSS systems suffer from a myriad of problems, but the following three problems stand out: 40 percent of water is unaccounted for due to physical and particularly commercial losses; substandard pumping and storage capacity; and inoperable standpipes and household connections. REGIDESO is extremely weak financially and carries high amounts. Much of REGIDESO's debt is due to non-payment of water bills, principally by public sector users. Consequently, REGIDESO's insolvency can only be resolved with major financial restructuring. To this end, the government and donors are converting REGIDESO's relationship with the government to a performance-based contract and assisting it with the necessary reforms and capacity building.

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

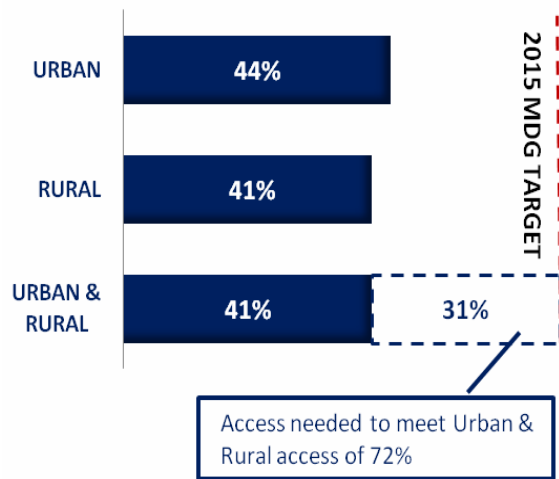
During the civil war, many of the existing WSS infrastructure and facilities fell into very poor condition. The DGHER plans to help address drinking water needs in the rural areas by creating RCEs that are more functional. District User Committees (DUCs) manage the RCEs, while the DGHER provides

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

central government support of the RCEs. In mid-2005, only 16 of the country's 34 administrative districts (called communes in Burundi) had functioning RCEs. Only half of these RCEs collected household fees. Significant amounts of financial, managerial, and technical assistance are needed to scale-up the RCEs' ability to manage their systems and promote better hygiene.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Several donors are active in Burundi's WSS sector, most notably, the World Bank, the European Union, Germany's KfW, Austrian Cooperation, and UNICEF. Barriers to further donor involvement primarily rest on the government's inability to absorb more donor contributions, implement projects, or monitor and evaluate (M&E) progress. Donor activities are minimally coordinated through Burundi's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. To improve, current projects are trying to address M&E deficiencies and strengthen donor coordination.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
African Development Bank (AfDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and development 	I. A. Traore
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and development 	Ventura Bengoechea
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural and peri-urban water infrastructure development and capacity building 	
GTZ/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 ▪ Capacity building of rural drinking water and sanitation systems/facilities ▪ Rural WSS infrastructure rehabilitation and development 	Bujumbura@unicef.org

Additional information and sources: Statistics were compiled from the WHOSIS database, WRI-Earthrends Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems database, and the UN MDG Indicators database. Other sources included the World Bank – Burundi Multi-Sectoral Water and Electricity Infrastructure Project Appraisal Document (2008), and the African Development Bank – Burundi Rural Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Extension Project Appraisal Report (2005).

This Water and Sanitation Profile was prepared under the **Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI)**. ABRI is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and addresses some of the most challenging water issues in the Middle East and Africa, including the lack of access by the poor to improved water and sanitation services, inefficient and nonproductive water use, and transboundary river basin management. ABRI works closely with host country governments, actively pursues co-investment from the private sector, reaches out to like-minded foundations, and partners with regional institutions.