



BENIN

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2006)	8.8 million
Proportion of population living in urban areas	40%
Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)	5.0 / 7.7%
Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)	6,500
Under age 5 mortality rate	152/1000 live births
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000)	17.1%

SECTOR OVERVIEW

Benin has made slow, but steady progress developing its water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector since the 1990s. Particularly in rural areas, international donors and the government have succeeded in significantly expanding coverage under a clear development framework. The national utility responsible for urban areas, however, has not defined strategies to improve and expand coverage and as a result has been slow to improve its performance and WSS coverage in urban and peri-urban areas.

Benin's WSS sector will need to develop clear national strategies related to WSS management capacity in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The most prominent areas requiring improvement include: 1) improving the management capacity of both the newly created municipalities with authority over WSS service and the National Water Society of Benin (SONEB); 2) improved planning and management of service provider finances; and 3) strengthening WSS monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Most importantly, the MDG goals are reachable if sector financing and management capacity continue to follow current trends. Stronger M&E processes will better link WSS sector improvements to poverty reduction strategies,

especially as better linkages between sanitation and health are embedded within broader poverty reduction strategies.

SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Efforts to decentralize authority over WSS functions to the newly created municipalities continues successfully in Benin's rural areas. In contrast, Benin's urban areas receive WSS service from one semi-autonomous public utility known as SONEB. Sanitation services differ markedly from water supply services in both institutional arrangements and coverage of services. The Hygiene and Basic Sanitation Authority (DHAB) provides sanitation services directly to institutions such as schools, hospitals, SONEB, and the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urbanism. Consequently, support for better management of sanitation and hygiene functions requires substantial attention at all levels of government, particularly to establish clear lines of authority and define institutional roles and responsibilities as decentralization processes progress.

Benin is currently revising its national water policy, which includes a strategy for sanitation and hygiene, promotes integrated water resources management (IWRM) and creates a regulatory agency with oversight over WSS service provider delivery standards. Estimates for sector financial planning

WATER AVAILABILITY IN BENIN	
Renewable water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (1960-2007)	2,765
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2000)	18
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	2,133
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	

indicate more than sufficient investments for water

supply improvements will be available, but significant donor assistance is needed in the sanitation sub-sector.

KEY AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
Ministère des Mines, de l'Energie et de l'Eau (MMEE) or Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets national water policies Supervises the implementation of policies in urban and rural areas. 	
Société Nationale des Eaux du Bénin (SONEB) or the National Water Society of Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National, semi-autonomous public WSS service provider for all urban areas Provides WSS service to approximately 69 urban districts 	Jean-Michel Klican (Assistant General Director) jmklican@yahoo.fr 229-21312272
Direction Hygiène et assainissement de base (DHAB) or Hygiene and Basic Sanitation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency within the Ministry of Health DHAB defines national sanitation policy 	
Direction Générale de l'Hydraulique (DGH) or General Water Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps implement rural and semi-urban WSS policies Coordinates IWRM in rural and semi-urban areas via 11 water service divisions 	
Direction Générale de l'Eau (DG Eau) or General Directorate of Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically responsible for WSS services in rural areas and small towns Planning and implementing capital improvement projects 	
Rural Municipalities and User Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through decentralization, rural municipalities and user associations are assuming WSS service responsibilities Co-financing of capital costs and recovery of operation and maintenance costs 	

THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

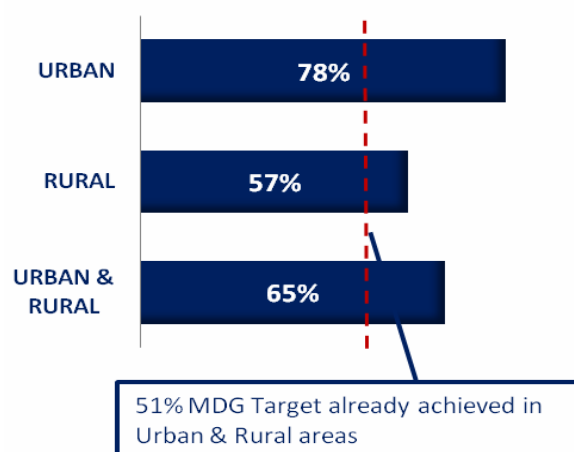
To improve and expand Benin's urban WSS service (especially in peri-urban areas) a cohesive strategy is needed to integrate the expansion of sanitation coverage with water supply services. SONEB needs support to improve management given their poor capacity. Overall operations and management reforms in areas such as billing and financial planning are necessary preconditions for the utility to work toward expanding coverage. If SONEB can successfully transition from its reliance on government subsidies, it will be in a better position to more sustainably expand services to poorer urban and peri-urban areas.

Another concern is that funding to train and retain staff has been historically weak due to poor systems of accountability and the practice of limiting skilled personnel to short-term contracts. As a result, SONEB does not have the human resources necessary to fully implement SONEB's commercial plan and financing strategy.

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

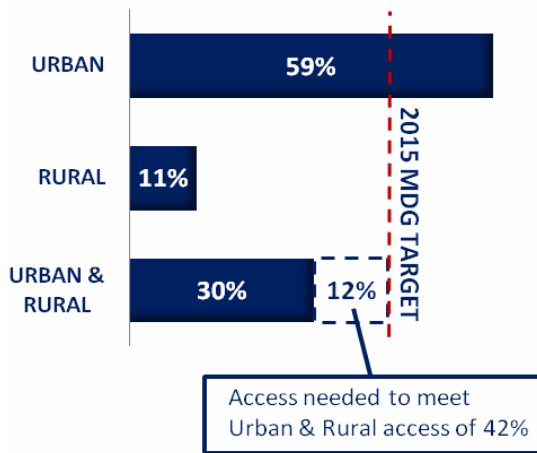
In contrast to the limited successes in the urban WSS sub-sector, Benin's rural sub-sector is making great strides through the Assistance Program for the Development of the Water Supply and Sanitation framework (PADEAR) and its transparent M&E system used on both government and donor assisted projects. Consequently, development of rural water supply institutions and service is gaining momentum

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

through effective performance and the inclusion of the private sector in water supply development such as borehole drilling. Furthermore, the government has adopted a medium-term goal-oriented water budgeting approach that has donors aligning their own contributions with government projects. However, continued improvements may not be sustainable as new municipalities, created through Benin's decentralization policies, begin to come to grips with the requirement to co-finance capital improvement projects, and operate and maintain systems without the ability to train and retain the necessary technical staff. Sanitation coverage still remains low in rural areas, but may improve as budgetary reforms increase the timeliness of WSS budgetary allocations from the national government to the rural service providers.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Monitoring and evaluation capacity is especially lacking in urban area activities. Institutional and service management capacity may be a greater need than financing, but progress is expected as the process of decentralization empowers local municipalities to manage and monitor their systems. Key donors in these efforts include the French Development Agency (AFD), the World Bank/Water and Sanitation Program, the German development partners - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the German Development Bank (KfW), and the Netherlands.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
AFD (French Development Agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces poverty by assuring access to WSS service as a part of the city management decentralization process • Supports the development of sustainable administration of rural water supply schemes in cooperation with Dutch and German efforts • Supports further decentralization of WSS services through privatization or creation of autonomous public utilities 	Robert Didier afdcotonou@groupe-afd.org Tel: 229-31-34-53
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional reform and capacity building at the national level, and for WSS service provider • Development of regulatory agency • IWRM • Sustainable operations of PWSUs 	Joseph Baah-Dwomoh Tel: 229-21-31-35-64
WSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and capacity building for WSS regional institutions • Support for non-state utilities • Biodiversity management • Some infrastructure development in urban, peri-urban and rural areas 	Tel: 229-21-30-58-57
GTZ/KfW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment/Conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in rural regions • Decentralization and municipal development • Integrated water resource management and potable water supply 	Petra Windisch-Stumpf petra.windisch-stumpf@gtz.de Tel: 229-21-31-03-95 Ina Joachim kfw.cotonou@kfw.de Tel: 229 21 31 01 67
The Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve hygiene through hand-washing campaign • Increase access to sanitation through latrines, and water supply access through wells • Increase WSS service management through capacity building, especially at local provider level 	C. Dansou Tel: 229-21-30-41-53

Additional information and sources: Statistics were compiled from the WHOSIS database, WRI-Earthtrends Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems database, and the UN MDG Indicators database. Other sources included the AfDB Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation Report (2006), Government of Benin, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water websites and the SONEB website.

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-investments from the private sector, reaches out to like-minded foundations, and partners with regional institutions.