



# RWANDA

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2006)	9.5 million
Proportion of population living in urban areas	20%
Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)	3.4 / 1.9%
Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)	11,700
Under age 5 mortality rate	203/1000 live births
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000)	18.5%

### SECTOR OVERVIEW

Rwanda's water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector has experienced dramatic improvements in service, sustainability, and coverage, since sector reforms began in 2000. A revised National Water Policy was adopted in 2004. Programs have been developed and prioritized within the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, (EDPRS), and targets developed for the MDGs by 2015. The government seeks to increase the rate of access to drinking water to 85 percent by 2015, and 100 percent by 2020. Goals for sanitation access are just as bold, with a 2015 target of 65 percent and universal access by 2020. The 2007 cost estimated to achieve these 2020 targets is \$820 million. The government and the WSS sector have engaged the donor community with the goal of leveraging approximately 81 percent of the total financing needed from donors.

Decentralization is a major policy thrust of the Government of Rwanda. The government is currently delegating all WSS service responsibilities to communities and districts with the exception of planning, regulation, hygiene promotion, monitoring, and oversight. It is expected that a new "National Water Agency" will be created in order to catalyze the

decentralization process through increased technical assistance, thereby strengthening local level efforts and ensure self-sufficiency. To complement these plans, the National Investment Strategy (NIS) aims to promote increased private sector participation to attract investment and operate and maintain WSS infrastructure. The government is also cognizant that current water rates do not generate the required revenue to offset costs. Income surveys have demonstrated that urban ratepayers can afford more, and policies are being promulgated to secure access for all through pro-poor arrangements.

### SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Functionally, the Ministry of Lands, Environments, Forests, Water and Mines (MINITER) is responsible for (1) developing national water and sanitation policies and strategies and (2) funding urban and rural water supply and sanitation through leveraging of donor and NGO funds. The Water and Sanitation Directorate (DEA) of MINITER is responsible for implementation of government policies in the sector; supervision of existing infrastructure and facilities; planning and financing of water and sanitation projects, and training of staff. The unit is also responsible for water resources. Rwanda has 30 districts that own, plan, develop, operate, and maintain their WSS infrastructure. To some degree,

WATER AVAILABILITY IN RWANDA	
Renewable water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (1960-2007)	551
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2000)	19
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	421
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 Lands, Environment, Forests, Water and Mines (MINITER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National policy and strategy development</li> </ul>	
Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulate WSS service standards and rates</li> <li>Promote fair competition</li> <li>Environmental protection through waste disposal and by-product treatment enforcement</li> </ul>	Mr. Gju, Director of Water and Sanitation gaju@rura.gov.rw
ELECTROGAZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides WSS service to 10 cities and Kigali</li> </ul>	Jean Bosco, Water Dept. Director <a href="mailto:jbkanyesheja@electrogaz.co.rw">jbkanyesheja@electrogaz.co.rw</a> 250-830-6903
Community Development Fund (CDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receives and redistributes WSS sector funding from government and donors</li> </ul>	
Directorate of Water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Minister</li> <li>Implements all technical assistance and administrative support functions</li> <li>Provides WSS service in areas that a district provider does not already exist</li> </ul>	
District Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSS service providers in rural areas</li> <li>~25 % are PPPs</li> <li>~60 are privately owned</li> </ul>	

since 2002, Rwanda has followed neighboring Uganda's lead by contracting out operations and management of their systems via public-private partnerships (PPPs). Districts may delegate responsibility for simpler schemes to community level management.

The Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA), created in 2001, is a multi-sector economic regulator. While RURA has a mandate over the whole sector to ensure fair pricing and efficient use of resources and to promote competition, it has focused much of its

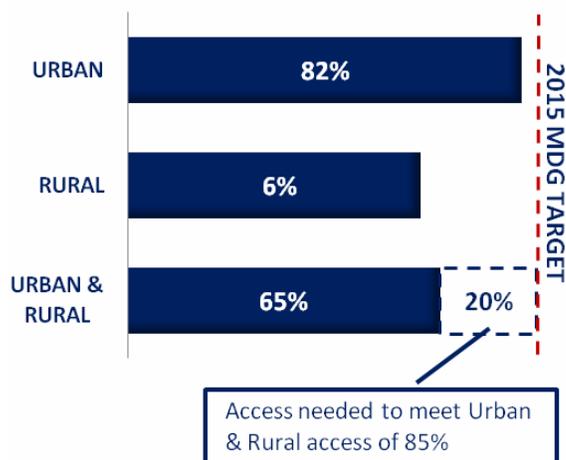
attention on the urban areas and ELECTROGAZ. ELECTROGAZ is a public enterprise in charge of urban and semi-urban water supply (as well as electricity and gas supply) in the capital, Kigali, and ten other towns. It was a monopoly until 1999.

Rwanda's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) is rooted in the EDPRS, and the alignment of donor and government allocations is designed to compliment one another and the EDPRS. To meet cost-recovery challenges, resources are needed to expand coverage since revenues will only be sufficient for the operation and maintenance of existing systems. In addition, the devolution of WSS services to the districts did not bring with it fiscal decentralization. This constraint severely limits district service providers from having control over future infrastructure and management developments because budget allocations and disbursements lack certainty. As such, districts are limited in their ability to attract, train, and retain competent staff to implement the WSS service functions required of them.

### THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

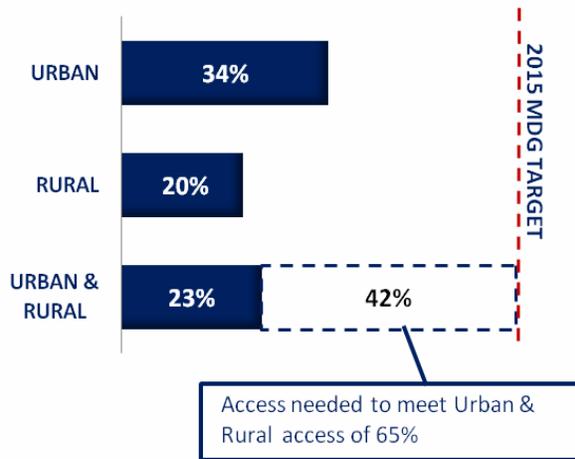
Beginning in 2002, the government has implemented as many PPPs as possible. Within the City of Kigali and other main urban centers in Rwanda, water services are currently provided by ELECTROGAZ. In August 2003, the government of Rwanda tried to improve ELECTROGAZ's performance by entering into a five-year performance based management contract with a consortium led by Lahmayer

#### 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

International (in collaboration with Hamburg Water Works). The management contract failed to produce results and by 2006 was terminated.

ELECTROGAZ is struggling to produce and distribute enough water to satisfy urban demand due to commercial and technical constraints. This was exacerbated by a severe drought that drastically reduced the amount of water in the country's reservoir lakes, thereby affecting the amount of electricity and water that could be tapped from them. In 2008, it signed a three-year agreement with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) of Uganda for performance improvement and to promote commercial service delivery. The contract promotes information transfer, commercial collaboration, staff development, capacity building, and training.

In the sanitation sub sector, there are only limited policy measures focused on the urban areas. There is no piped wastewater. While the overall MDG target for water has been achieved, access to sanitation remains low in both urban and rural areas. Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for sanitation will be a greater challenge. Concerning sanitation, very few wastewater systems exist. Most sanitation access is provided in the form of latrines. For example, in 2006, Kigali's access to sanitation facilities was comprised of 80 percent enclosed pit latrines and only six percent flush toilets.

**THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR**

Rwanda's rural water supply has traditionally faced such issues as top-down programming of investments, poor cost recovery, limited private sector participation, and high per-capita investment costs for system construction. Early attempts by the World Bank to introduce community participation and ownership of facilities failed in the absence of strong government commitment to decentralization. However, more recent rural projects have begun to yield results.

Some of these systems are quite large by comparison to other rural systems in sub-Saharan Africa. The largest one serves 120,000 users in villages several miles apart. Although these systems are "piped," this typically means that water is distributed to water points in the village where users must go to retrieve water. Income-qualified users are able to get water free. The proportion of the rural population benefiting from main household supply and tap water is negligible. PPPs are growing in number throughout Rwanda's rural areas. By 2004, the government had abandoned the community management concept in favor of PPPs. As of December 2006, more than 12 percent of the 830 piped-water systems existing in the country were privately managed. By 2007, approximately 25 percent – 140 systems – were managed by PPPs, with the remainder managed by their communities.

**DONOR INVOLVEMENT**

Donor contributions and government funding are passed through the Community Development Fund (CDF) before being dispersed to the districts for WSS activities. Rwanda's WSS sector monitoring and evaluation (M&E) remains weak since M&E management was devolved to local providers with limited capacity. It is expected that DEA will significantly improve M&E through technical assistance to local providers and through a national database of performance measures.

To help coordinate donor contributions, a joint task force has been created. The strongest donor support has been from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, DFID, and the governments of the Netherlands and Germany.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
The World Bank/IDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural water supply and sanitation development</li> <li>▪ Donor coordination</li> </ul>	Victoria Kwakwa <a href="mailto:vkwakwa@worldbank.org">vkwakwa@worldbank.org</a> Tel: 250-591-301 Sylvie Debomy Prevost, Christophe
DFID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poverty reduction budget support of which water and sanitation spending is a key component</li> </ul>	
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic WSS infrastructure funding</li> </ul>	Françoise DONNAY Tel: 250-57-67-67
KfW/GTZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural development through micro-hydro supply support</li> </ul>	Maurice Pigaht <a href="mailto:maurice.pigaht@gtz.de">maurice.pigaht@gtz.de</a>

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 include the 2006 African Development Bank's "Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs in Water Supply and Sanitation," 2007 OECD-Rwanda Annual Economic Outlook Report, Rwanda Development Gateway, <http://www.rwandagateway.org/index.php3> (accessed October 28, 2008).

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.