

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Finance Law 2020 | 2021

KEY MESSAGES

- 1 In the state budget for 2020/2021, the amount allocated to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is BIF 15.6 billion, or US\$8.1 million. This represents 0.9% of the budget,¹ compared with 1% in 2019/2020.
- 2 The state budget allocated to this sector saw a significant fall of 42.2% between 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. This situation has continued for 2020/2021 and is the result of the closure of a project (on the provision of drinking water to the south of the capital, Bujumbura) worth BIF 21 billion financed by external resources in 2017/2018, and to the withdrawal of certain financing partners.
- 3 Several ministries and institutions cover the sector, with coordination led by the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines. This situation creates difficulties in terms of monitoring and budget programming.
- 4 Since 2000, progress made by Burundi on WASH has been slow, with the expansion of services barely keeping up with demographic growth. It is very likely that Burundi will not achieve the WASH Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in households, schools and health facilities).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To enable access for all to WASH, as outlined in the SDGs, and to ensure a better response to health shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital to increase budget allocations to the WASH sector. This will make it possible to increase access and improve water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as to facilitate behaviour change among the population. Such an increase could come from domestic or external resources and should be oriented around investments.
- It will be crucial to design a sector plan and to put in place a single framework to improve sectoral coordination as well as budget monitoring, given that the sector is covered by several ministries/institutions.



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INTRODUCTION

Burundi's National Development Plan (PND) 2018–2027 and the National Report on SDG Prioritization in Burundi 2017 highlight strategic directions and targets in ensuring the right to water, as recognized by Burundi through international conventions. Coverage of drinking water went from 51% to 61% between 2010 and 2017 and varies according to the area. In urban areas, the rate is improving significantly, having gone up from 82% to 90% between the two years – a rise of 8 percentage points. At the same time, the rate went up in rural areas as well, from 48% to 57% – an increase of 9 percentage points. In terms of basic sanitation, the rate of access to adequate installations went from 45% to 46% between 2010 and 2017.²



The UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) has presented evidence that 80% of households at national level have access to an improved drinking water source but only 61% of these households benefit from such a source within 30 minutes. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2016/2017 shows that inequalities between those less than 30 minutes and those more than 30 minutes from a water source are significant, in particular in rural areas. The DHS also reveals that, in urban areas, 42.6% of households have access to water at home, as against 1.2% of rural households, which explains the shorter time required to access such water. The same survey also demonstrates that 76.6% of the richest households require less than 30 minutes to access water, compared with 48.8% of the poorest households. It also shows significant inequalities between provinces, with percentages ranging from 33.8% for Muyinga to 91% for Bujumbura.

Access to water remains difficult for many, depending on their province or household economic conditions.

In terms of basic sanitation, according to the estimates of the JMP 2019, 46% of households at national level use improved toilets. This means that 54% of households use unimproved toilets, including shared toilets, and open defecation remains a reality. The differences between urban and rural are slight (at 42% and 46% access, respectively), which may be explained by the fact that only non-shared toilets are taken into account; 44% of urban households compared with 7% of rural households use shared toilets. In relation to latrines in schools, the situation is alarming. In total, 78.6% of schools have unhygienic toilets – and thus 21.44% have hygienic toilets – according to a report from February 2018 of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research.

Generally speaking, adequate sanitation presents challenges, as the national rate of access is 16% (27% in urban areas). Nevertheless, advances have been made in terms of policies and strategies, through the National Water Policy, the institutional water framework and the National Sanitation Policy and its Plan of Action. Meanwhile, many programmes are underway, such as the Sectoral Water Programme (PROSECEAU) and projects implemented by the Agency for Hydraulics and Sanitation in Rural Areas (AHAMR) and the Water and Electricity Distribution Board (REGIDESO).

By the means of national targets put forward in the National Report on SDG Prioritization in Burundi, Burundi has chosen two major SDG 6 targets to make water and sanitation more accessible:

- Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Major obstacles exist to achieving this objective, linked to, among other things, insufficient financial means to enable the expansion and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure to cover the whole national territory.

Despite these difficulties, the government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, charged with the coordination of interventions in the sector, is currently putting in place programmes to improve the rate of access to drinking water and to sanitation and hygiene. These include regular provision of drinking water in urban areas, regular provision of water in rural areas, programming to promote basic sanitation in urban areas, etc.

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TABLE 1. Key WASH statistics

Indicators	Value (%)
Share of population with access to drinking water (JMP)	61 (urban 90; rural 57)
Share of population with access to improved water source in under 30 minutes (JMP)	61
Share of population with access to improved health infrastructure (JMP)	46
Share of households with adequate sanitation (JMP)	16

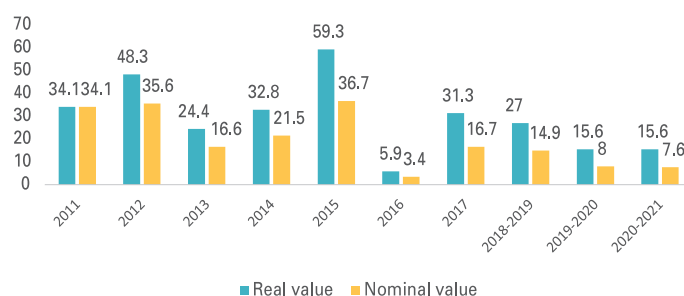
Source: ISTEERU Demographic Projections 2010–2050 and DHS 2016/2017



TRENDS IN BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO WASH

The budget allocated to WASH between 2011 and 2020/2021 has seen a significant fall, going from BIF 34.1 billion to BIF 15.6 billion. The lowest budget allocation was observed in 2016, amounting to BIF 5.9 billion; this then rose to BIF 31.3 billion in 2017. This situation is explained by interventions targeted by development partners towards projects in the sector in the period. It is noteworthy that domestic resources allocated to the sector remain limited. The share of the state budget allocated to WASH in 2020/2021 is 0.9%, compared with 1% in 2019/2020.

Figure 1. Trends in budget allocations to WASH in nominal and real terms, 2011–2020/2021 (BIF billion)³

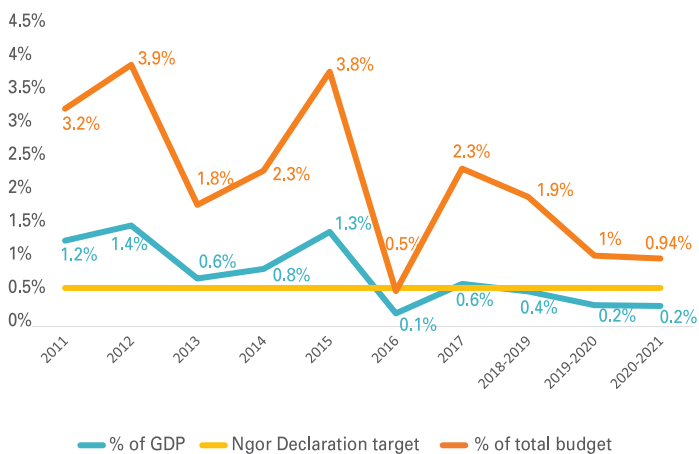


Source: Finance Laws 2011–2020/2021

With respect to the national economy the share of the state budget allocated to the sector represents 0.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020/2021. As such, the global target of 0.5% has not yet been achieved. Additional efforts will be needed on the part of the government to reach this target.

Burundi

FIGURE 2. Evolution of budget allocations to WASH 2011–2020/2021



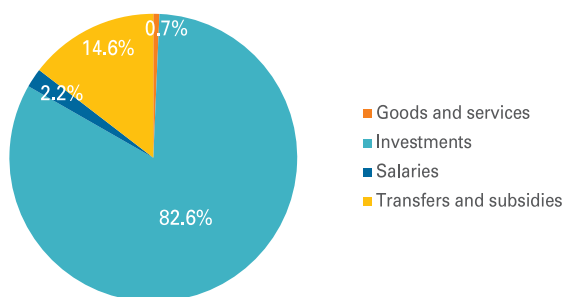
Source: Finance Laws 2011–2020/2021



COMPOSITION OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO WASH

Budget allocations to WASH are oriented mainly towards investments (82.6%), with salaries at 2.2%, transfers and subsidies at 14.6% and goods and services at only 0.7%.

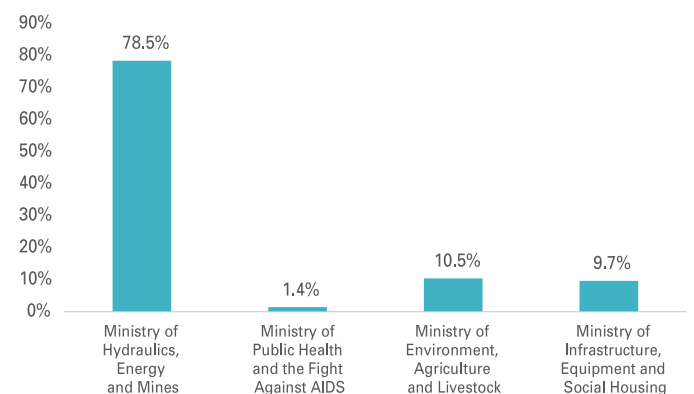
FIGURE 3. Distribution of WASH sector expenditure by economic nature in 2020/2021



Source: Finance Law 2020/2021

In terms of distribution by ministry, most budget allocations in the sector are towards the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines (78.5%). The remainder is allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (10.5%), the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing (9.7%) and the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS (1.4%).

FIGURE 4. Distribution of WASH by institution in 2020/2021



Source: Finance Law 2020/2021



BUDGET FORECASTS AND EXECUTION IN THE WASH SECTOR

Public expenditure for 2017–2019/2020 in the WASH sector did not see large gaps in terms of execution against forecast, with an execution rate above 90%. This translates into a relatively high capacity in the sector to absorb credits made available to it.

TABLE 2. Budget forecasts and execution in WASH, 2017–2019/2020

	Forecast (BIF)	Execution (BIF)	Execution rate
2017	31,300,273,688	30,218,541,963	96.5%
2018-2019	26,961,807,706	25,945,215,214	96.2%
2019-2020	15,559,761,057	14,819,231,057	95.2%

Source: Finance Law 2017–2019/2020, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning

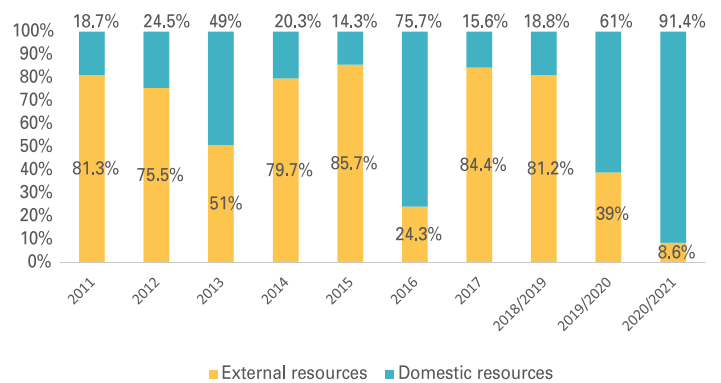
FUNDING SOURCES IN THE WASH SECTOR

The WASH sector has been supported in the main by external resources, except in 2016, when domestic resources made up 75.7% of the total budget.

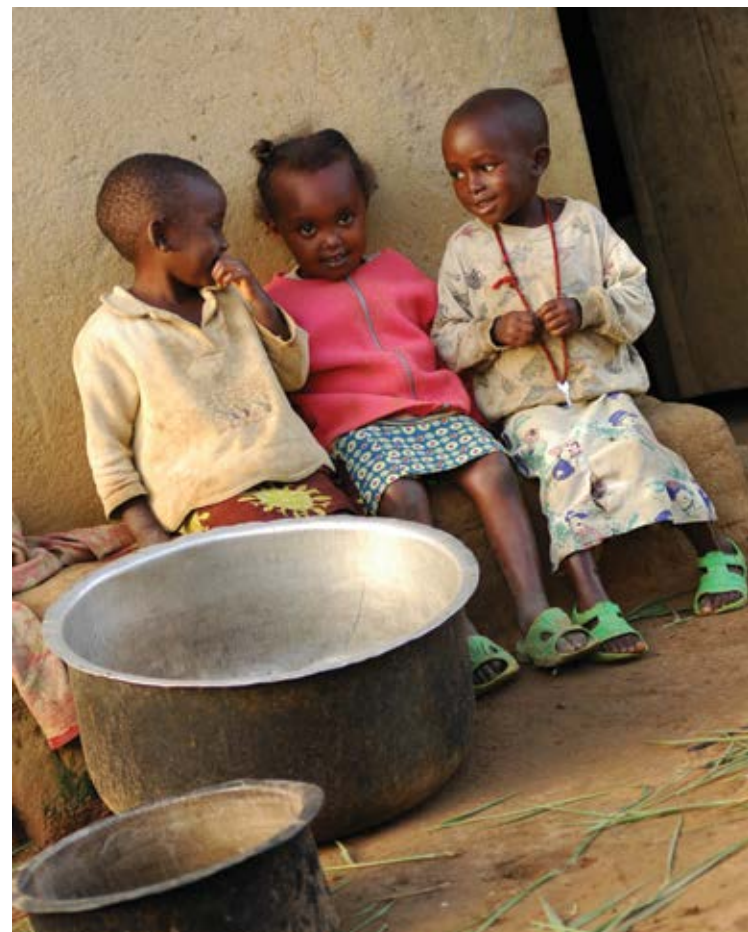
In real terms, during the period 2011–2020/2021, a high level of budget allocation to WASH was observed in 2015. However, this level has fallen since 2016. This situation is explained by a fall in external resources since 2016 at the same time as domestic resources allocated to the sector, while growing, remain insufficient. The result could be the non-achievement of the SDG objectives. To address this situation, the government should allocate additional financial resources (external or domestic) to the implementation of activities in the sector in order to be able to achieve the SDGs.

Analysis of financing of the WASH sector in the period under review shows that this has come mainly from external resources, except for in 2016 and in the past two years (2019/2020 and 2020/2021).

FIGURE 5. WASH sector funding sources, 2011–2020/2021



Source: Finance Laws 2011–2020/2021



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This budget brief is part of a series of analyses on social sectors for fiscal year 2020/2021. It is the result of a collaboration between the University Research Centre for Economic and Social development (CURDES), the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning and the sectoral ministries.

¹ This budget allocation represents 0.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) and is under the regional target expressed in the Ngor Declaration of 2015, which is for the allocation of 0.5% of GDP to WASH.

² UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), 2019. ³ Budget allocations in nominal terms are those presented with respect to a given period.

Those in real terms are corrected for price rises with respect to a base or reference period (here, the base period is 2011).