



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Burundi

Budget Analysis 2022-2023

Key messages

- 1.** In the 2022-2023 state budget, the amount allocated to water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) is **36.3 billion Burundian francs (BIF)**, or 17.9 million US dollars (USD). It represents 1.7% of the total budget, compared to 2.1% in 2021-2022¹.
- 2.** The WASH sector is covered by various ministries and institutions, coordinated by the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines. This organization creates difficulties in terms of budget monitoring and programming.
- 3.** In Burundi, despite some progress in access to safe drinking water (**60% of the population have access to an improved water source within 30 minutes**), there is still a lag compared to other countries in sanitation (46% of households) and hygiene (only 6% of households) according to JMP 2021. This increases the arduousness for women and children.
- 4.** WASH sector continues to have a very good budget utilization capacity, with **over 95% implementation** since fiscal year 2017.

Recommendations

- To provide access to water for all people, with hygiene and sanitation as set out in the SDGs, and to better respond to health shocks, it is crucial **to increase budget allocations** for the WASH sector. These budgets could help **improve the rate of access and management of water and sanitation infrastructure for the beneficiary population**. This budget increase can come from internal or external resources. It should focus on the capital expenditures needed to develop the infrastructures in the sector.
- Conduct a comprehensive study of public spending in the sector, in order to reconsider the models to frame expenditures and strategic inter-sectoral allocations, considering that the WASH sector is multi-sectoral.
- Closely examine the current level of investment and operating costs, in relation to the current level of other expenses, to ensure their adequacy and sustainability. It is essential to consider **maintenance costs** in this context, to ensure the full functionality and sustainability of the investments.
- Revise sectoral policies and strategies to establish a single framework for improved **sectoral coordination and budget monitoring**.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation



Introduction

■ With an estimated population of 12,837,739 in 2022, Burundi has one of the highest population densities in Africa and in the world, reaching 374 people per square kilometer. Young people under the age of 15 account for nearly half of the total population (48%)², and **62% are under the age of 25** and 35% of youth are between the ages of 15 and 35 (Burundi National Development Plan - PND Burundi 2018-2027). These figures clearly show that special attention should be given to this young population, especially in terms of water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH). Indeed, to address these challenges, several initiatives have been developed.

■ At the international level,

we can mention among others:

- the Sustainable Development Goals³,
- the African Water Vision 2025⁴,
- the African Union's Agenda 2063,
- the 2018 Sharm El Sheikh Declaration of Heads of State⁵.

In addition, several resolutions have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on access to drinking water and sanitation⁶.

■ At the operational level,

responsibilities in this sector are spread between 5 ministries:

- the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines (in charge of drinking water and basic sanitation),
- the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (in charge of water resource management and environmental sanitation, including water sanitation, air, waste, toxic products, etc.),

- the Ministry of Public Health (in charge of water and sanitation),
- the Ministry of Health (in charge of health and education),
- the Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control (in charge of hygiene promotion and sanitation),
- the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security (in charge of community development),
- the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing (in charge of urban sanitation).

■ Through the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027, Burundi), Burundi has raised the development of "human capital" one of its main pillars (axis 4)⁷.

The contribution of the WASH sector to **the development of human capital** is essential. Thus, this sector is one of the Burundian government's priorities, particularly through the axis 10 of the PND Burundi 2018-2027⁸.

■ One of the objectives of this axis is **to provide water in sufficient quantity and quality** for an efficient and equitable use, without compromising the environment.

■ Similarly, reducing the arduousness of women's work and saving time by facilitating **access to basic needs** (drinking water, clean energy, health centers, basic sanitation, etc.) are among the priorities of the National Peacebuilding Program (PNCP)⁹.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

■ **At the sectoral level**, Burundi has a political, strategic and legal framework including the National Water Policy and its implementation strategy¹⁰, the National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy and its operational strategy for 2025¹¹, the National Water Strategy¹² and the water code.

■ In general, **access to drinking water** is improving in Burundi: **86.8% of Burundian households have access to an improved water source for drinking**. This rate at the national level conceals disparities between urban (90%) and rural populations, and between provinces. For example, one notices **inequalities between provinces**, ranging from 68.6% in Kirundo to 99.1% in Bujumbura Mairie (ISTEEBU et al., 2020)¹³.

Approximately 40% of households get their drinking water **more than 30 minutes** away from their home¹⁴. Thus, the inequalities between those who take less than 30 minutes and those who take more than 30 minutes to get water are significant, especially in rural areas. In urban areas, 42.6% of households have access to water at home compared to 1.2% of rural households¹⁵.

Almost all urban households (98%) obtain their drinking water from an improved source, compared to only 81% of rural households (ISTEEBU et al, op cit).

76.6% of the richest households take less than 30 minutes to get water, compared to 48.8% of the poorest households (ISTEEBU et al., op cit).

■ Considering the average size of households (5.3 inhabitants) and the basic need for water of **20 liters per person per day**, it should be considered that the average time spent on water collection by an adult carrying a 20-liter canister per trip is about **2.5 hours per day**, for a household within **a 30-minute round trip**, and this chore time reaches 10 hours for a child carrying a 5-liter canister.

It should be noted that **32% of the rural population** is in this situation, at more than 30 minutes per round trip¹⁶.

It should also be noted that in Burundi, the chore of collecting water is basically done by women and children. Geographically, the North-Eastern provinces of the country are in the most unfavorable situation in terms of the duration of water collection. It should be noted that most people do not treat their drinking water at home (88% in urban areas and 96% in rural areas)¹⁷.

■ Concerning **basic sanitation, 54% of Burundian households use unimproved toilets** at the national level (JMP, op cit). It should also be noted that 44% of urban households use shared toilets, compared to 7% of rural households.

This study shows that 39% of Burundian households use improved toilets, 10% use shared toilets, 47% use unimproved toilets, and 3% have no toilet.

In terms of hygienic latrines in schools, the situation is still alarming: 78.56% of schools have unhygienic latrines compared to 21.44% of schools having hygienic latrines (Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, 2018).

■ **Basic hygiene covers only 6% of the population** (access to handwashing with soap and water). The context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the barrier measures advocated to contain the spread of the disease have put a greater pressure on the need to expand this service, to avoid increasing the risks of its spread in the country.

■ Basic hygiene coverage in Burundi is well below the average for the Sub-Saharan region. Indeed, only 6% of the population had access to handwashing with soap and water in 2019 compared to 25% for Sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, the **lack of handwashing facilities is only 1% in Burundi** compared to 41% in Sub-Saharan Africa¹⁸.

Some indicators of the WASH sector in Burundi

Population having access to an improved water source within 30 minutes (JMP 2021)	61%
<i>in urban areas</i>	90%
<i>in rural areas</i>	57%
Population having access to basic sanitation (improved and non-shared latrines) (JMP 2021)	46%
Households having basic hygiene services (JMP 2021)	6%

Source: JMP 2021



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation



Trend budget allocations in WASH sector (in BIF)

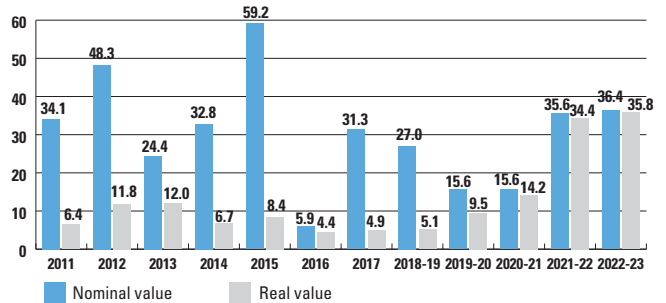
Budget allocations to the WASH sector between 2011 and 2022/2023 are increasing from BIF 34.1 billion in 2011 to BIF 36.4 billion in 2022-2023. However, a low budget allocation was observed in 2016, with an amount of BIF 5.9 billion, before rising again to BIF 31.3 billion in 2017. This situation is explained by the targeted intervention of development partners according to the projects carried out in this sector over a given period. Since the 2021-2022 budget year, allocations to the WASH sector have included the REGIDESO budget, with a significant share of 47.8%.

Analysis presented of this graph reveals the same trend in budget allocations in nominal and constant values, over the period. The share of the state budget allocated to the WASH sector is **1.5% in 2022-2023**, compared to 2.1% in 2021-2022.

In relation to the national economy, the share of the government budget allocated to the WASH sector represents 0.4% of GDP in 2022-2023. For the period 2011-2022/2023, the annual budget allocated to the provision of drinking water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) and water resources management (WRM) is estimated at approximately US\$10 million, or **US\$0.80 per year per capita**.



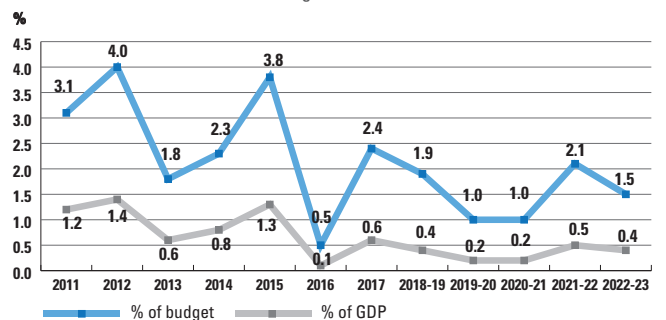
Fig. 1 : trend in budgetary allocations to the WASH sector in nominal and real terms, in billions of BIF



Sources: Budget Acts 2011-2022/2023
Budget allocations in nominal terms are those that are reported relative to a given period. Budget allocations in real terms are those that are adjusted for price increases relative to a baseline or reference.



Fig. 2 : Evolution of WASH sector spending, as % of GDP and as a % of total budget



Sources: Budget Acts 2011 to 2022-2023

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

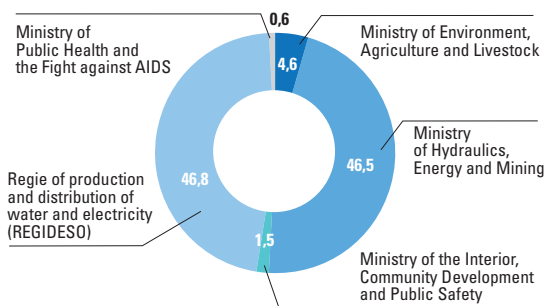
Composition of WASH budget allocations (in %)

The various interventions in the WASH sector are carried out by several ministries and institutions, including the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines (MHEM, lead), the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (MEAE), the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing (MEILS), the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSPLS) and REGIDESO.

An analysis of allocations by economic type shows that investment takes a larger share (94.2%) than operating expenditure. These investments mainly concern hydraulic infrastructure such as drinking water supply networks and latrine construction.

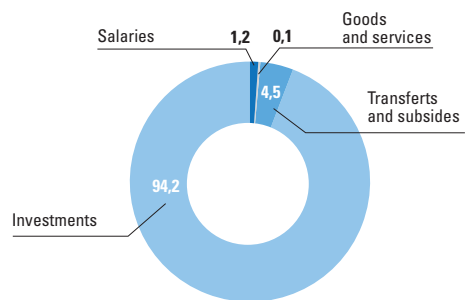


Fig. 3 : Composition of WASH sector expenditures, in %



Sources: Budget Acts 2022-2023

Fig. 4 : Distribution of WASH budget allocations by economic nature in 2022-2023, in %



Sources: Budget Acts 2022-2023



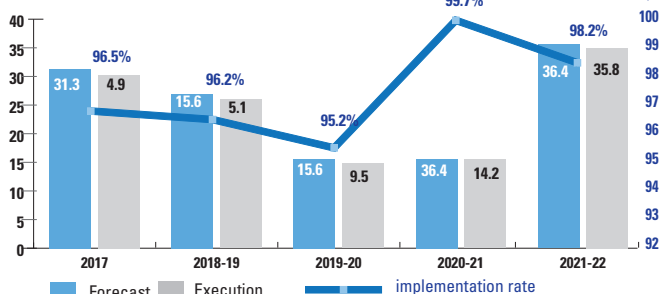
Water, Hygiene and Sanitation



Credibility and budget execution

The WASH sector expenditure execution rate from 2017 to 2021-2022 **exceeds 95%**, showing a good capacity to use the budgets allocated to this sector and a good budget planning in line with activities.

Fig. 5 : WASH Sector Budget Forecast and Implementation, in billions of BIF and %



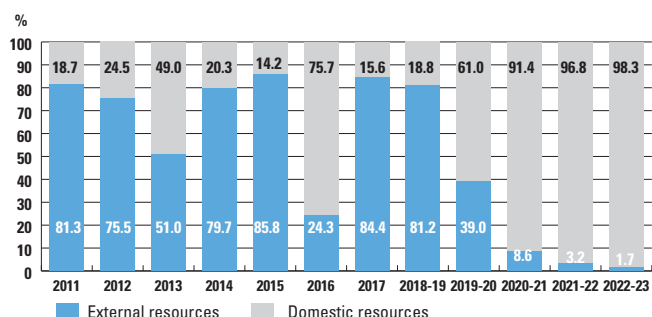
Sources: MFBPE, Budget Acts 2017 to 2021-2022



Funding Sources

Analysis of WASH sector financing during the studied period shows that it comes mainly from **external resources**, except for fiscal year 2016 and the last three years 2020-2021- 2022-2023 (Figure 5).

Fig. 6 : WASH budget shares by resource in total budget, en %



Sources: Budget Acts 2011 to 2022-2023

1. The budget allocated to water, hygiene and sanitation in 2021/2022 was BIF 35.5 billion, equivalent to USD 18 million
2. PASEC (2016) performance of the Burundian education system skills and success factors in primary school
3. Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation)
4. Equitable and sustainable use of water for socio-economic development
5. Investing in biodiversity for the planet and its people
6. Resolution 64/292 recognizes that the right to drinking water and sanitation is a human right, essential for the full enjoyment of life and the exercise of all human rights
7. Improved performance and collaboration in the health care field
8. Water resources and global sanitation
9. Nibizi (2021)
10. Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Use and Urban Planning, 2009
11. Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Use and Urban Planning, 2009, 2013
12. Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Use and Urban Planning, 2012
13. Integrated Survey on the living conditions of households in Burundi (2019-2020)
14. Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) (2019)
15. Demographic and Health Survey (2017)
16. African Development Bank Group (2021)
17. (GIZ, 2013, 2020) quoted by African Development Bank Group (Op.cit)
18. African Development Bank Group (Op.cit)



Acknowledgment

This budget analysis is part of a series of analyses on the social sectors for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This budget analysis is the result of a frank collaboration between the University Research Center for Economic and Social Development (CURDES), the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning and the sectoral ministries.

