



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Budget Brief 2016

Burundi

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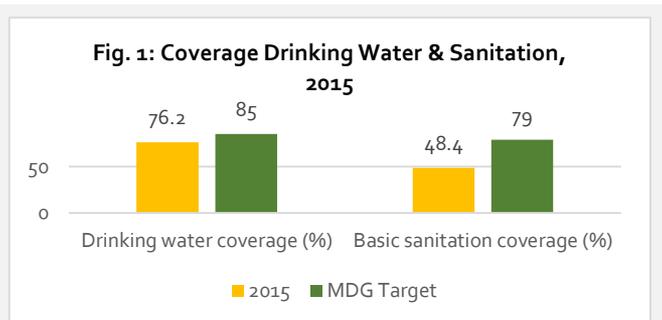
IN SHORT:

- **Limited access to drinking water:** though data varies, it is clear that roughly 1 in 3 Burundians still does not have access to drinking water. In addition, only approximately 1 out of 5 people has access to basic sanitation services, and only a meager 7% of Burundians have a basin to wash their hands with soap at home.
- **Strong link between child mortality and illness and access to water and hygiene:** in Burundi, diarrhea, which is easily preventable with good access to clean water and hygiene, remains a leading cause of deaths of children (diarrhea is responsible for almost 12% of deaths of children under 5).
- **Vulnerability of the water and sanitation sector to fluctuations in aid support:** in 2016, external resources to the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Water, Environment, Spatial and Urban Planning were cut by 84.6% and 100%, respectively.

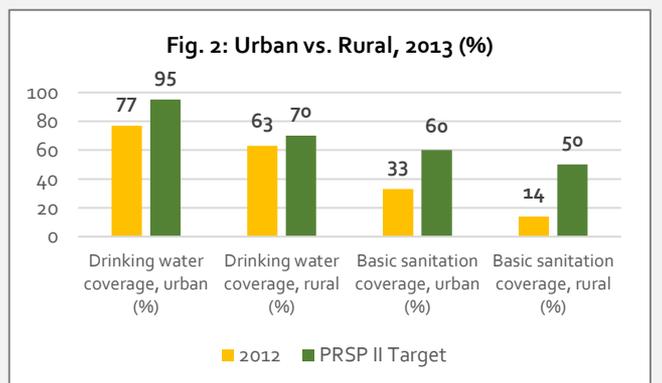
(1) Access to drinking water and sanitation, a reality in Burundi?

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world and 6 out of 10 people live below the national poverty line (64.6%, ECVMB 2014). Since April 2015, Burundi has been plunged into a socio-economic crisis which threatens to void previously achieved results for children and women in the country. Since the on-set of the crisis, key economic indicators have sharply deteriorated; according to projections of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the Burundian economy shrunk by -7.2% in 2015.

In this context, access to water, hygiene and basic sanitation (WASH) remains a major challenge. According to the national report on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), only 76.2% of the Burundian population had access to drinking water in 2015, while 48.4% (more than 30% below the target value) benefitted from basic sanitation (see Fig. 1). Other national sources indicate even lower sanitation coverage numbers: 17% according to a national survey on hygiene and basic sanitation (ENHAB 2014). The WASH targets set in the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II; 2012-2016) are even more ambitious: 95% and 70% drinking water coverage in urban and rural areas, respectively and 60% and 50% coverage in basic sanitation in urban and rural areas (see Fig. 2). Furthermore, open defecation in Burundi is still a habit of 7% of the Burundian population. Also, only 7% of the Burundian population has a basin to wash their hands with soap in their homes (ENHAB 2014).



Source: National MDG Report, Mai 2015



Source: Global Analysis & Assessment of Sanitation & Drinking-Water, 2013

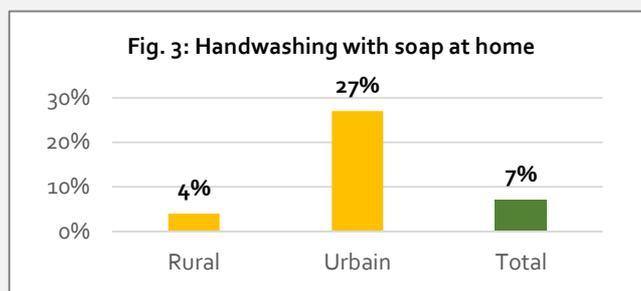
The respect of hygiene and sanitation habits directly affects the prevalence of diseases causing diarrhea. According to the WHO 2014 report on the impact of adequate WASH services on the life of people living in poor countries, more than 840,000 deaths could be prevented. In Burundi, 11.7% of deaths of children under 5 are due to diarrheal diseases and while 19% of cases are due to acute respiratory infections. **Every year, 76,000 children under 5 die of diseases linked to bad sanitation, hygiene and water.** Moreover, Burundi has one of the highest rates worldwide of chronic malnutrition among children under 5 (58%, DHS 2010), which makes them even more vulnerable to other illnesses.

WASH in schools. The prevalence of waterborne or sanitation and hygiene-related diseases impacts school attendance and performance of children. Ensuring basic sanitation through construction of latrines in schools remains a challenge in Burundi. Only 4% of schools have the necessary sanitation infrastructure (see Tab. 1). The complete absence of toilets or their bad maintenance is also linked to school drop-out, especially for girls. Evidence suggests that the lack of separate and decent sanitation and washing facilities discourages girls who are menstruating from attending full time, often adding up to a significant proportion of school days missed.

(2) Recent Budget trends in the WASH sector

In Burundi, the WASH sector is covered by three Ministries: the Ministry of Energy and Mines (*Ministère de l'Énergie et des Mines*, MEM), the Ministry of Water, Environment, Spatial and Urban Planning (*Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Urbanisme*, MEEATU) and the Ministry of Public Health – the latter most notably for activities related to hygiene promotion. Although not all allocations and expenditures of the first two Ministries are directed towards the WASH sector, it should in addition be noted that the budgets of the first two Ministries represent a minimal portion of the total state budget (3.5% in 2016, compared to 9.9% in 2015; see Fig. 4).

At the same time, declared allocations increased progressively since 2008, with a peak in 2012, due to the constant inflow of external resources. After this peak in 2012, there is a decreasing allocation trend (see Fig. 5). This trend is reaffirmed in 2016: declared allocations to both Ministries (MEM and MEEATU) drop by 66.7% and 85.4% respectively (see Fig. 6a & 6b). Again, it needs to be signaled that not all resources to these two Ministries are directed towards WASH activities. Furthermore, the WASH sector in Burundi is heavily aid-dependent, making it particularly fragile in a context of donor pullout. In 2015, 73.8% of the allocated resources to both Ministries were foreign aid, compared to only 49.5% aid-dependency of the overall 2015 budget allocations. However, in 2016, the share of foreign resources within the declared budgets of the two Ministries decreased to 29.4% (see Fig. 5. & 6). According to the 2016 Financial Law, the majority of project grants financed by donors in 2015 have not been renewed for 2016. This may be due to (i) a general suspension of aid resulting from the current political crisis (e.g. Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland), or (ii) the perturbed budget preparation process and the limits of the Financial Law to trace foreign support channeled into the country via alternative mechanisms (e.g. UNICEF, UNDP, WB, AfDB; see Tab. 2).



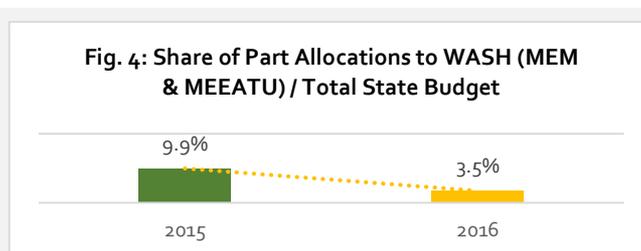
Source: ENHAB Burundi 2014

Tab.1: Basic Sanitation and Drinking Water Coverage in Schools

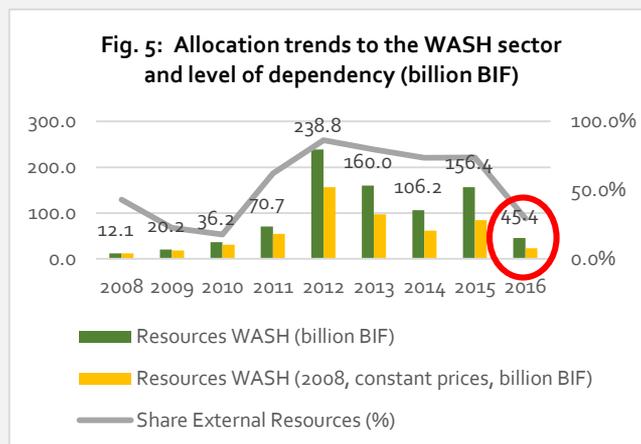
Indicators, 2012	Urban	Rural
Basic Sanitation Coverage in Schools	4%	4%
Drinking Water Coverage in Schools	60%	34%

Source: Joint Annual Review 2013, July 2014

Putting children at the heart of development is one of the most important investments a country can make, with long-term gains for the socioeconomic development of the country as a whole.



Source: Financial Laws 2015 & 2016, Ministry of Finance



Source: Financial Laws 2008 - 2016, Ministry of Finance

Tab. 2: Project Grants 2015 vs. 2016 (billion BIF)

Technical and Financial Partners	2015	2016
Germany	42.8	0
World Bank	28.0	0
African Development Bank	12.1	0
UNICEF	5.6	0
The Netherlands	4.5	0
Switzerland	2.2	0
UNDP	1.2	0
Total	97.0	0

Source: Financial Laws 2015 & 2016, Ministry of Finance

Total resources envisaged for 2016, most notably external resources, significantly increased compared to 2015. According to the 2016 Financial Law, the Ministry of Energy and Mines as well as the Ministry of Water, Environment, Spatial and Urban Planning are subject to a reduction of credited foreign resources of 84.6% and 100%, respectively. Moreover, the remaining foreign resources allocated to the Ministry of Energy and Mines are not project grants but loans for hydroelectric projects to be reimbursed (Fig. 7a & 7b).

There are two more actors that invest in the WASH sector: the national water board (REGIDESO, *Régie des eaux*) and the municipal technical service (SETEMU, *Services Techniques Municipaux*). According to the latest Joint Annual Review report on the WASH sector (RAC 2013), the contributions of these two organs remain modest and do not impact the structure of the sector largely (see Fig. 8).

Public expenditures within the sector are principally directed towards drinking water infrastructure in rural areas (51%; see Fig. 9). This **priority seems just and equitable**, considering that a majority of Burundians live in the rural areas of the country (90%, RGPH 2008) and there is high demand for accessible drinking water. This priority partly explains the minimal difference in water coverage in urban and rural areas (77% and 63% respectively, see Fig. 3).

The situation of basic sanitation, however, is different, and the same amount of resources are channeled towards improving sanitation services in urban and rural areas, despite the country being overwhelmingly rural. This inequitable distribution of resources may explain low coverage in rural areas and the significant difference in coverage rates (33% in urban areas, and 14% in rural areas).

Significant share of resources used for investments in the Ministry of Energy and Mines. The analysis of repartition of allocated national resources by economic function show that 89% of available national resources at the level of the Ministry of Energy and Mines is used for investments. On the other hand, only 43% of national resources allocated to the MEEATU are investments (see Fig. 10a & 10b). If both Ministries are taken together, investments represent 82% despite the decrease of allocated national resources (see Fig. 11). Nonetheless, if 2015-2016 variations in national resource allocation are examined, the significant reduction of allocations to the WASH sector compared to other sectors is cause for concern. While declared national resources to the MEM and the MEEATU were cut by respectively 22.9% and 14.6%, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of National Defense were subject to a 3.3% / 5.6% cut only.

Fig. 6a: External vs. National resources, MEM & MEEATU, 2015

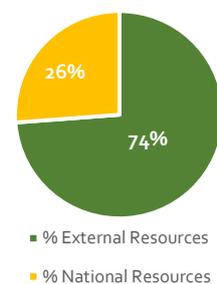
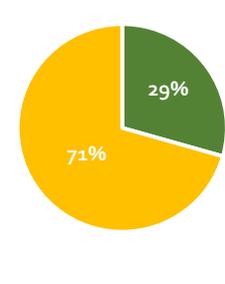


Fig. 6b: External vs. National Resources, MEM & MEEATU, 2016



Source: Financial Laws 2015 & 2016, Ministry of Finance

Fig. 7a: MEM (billion BIF)

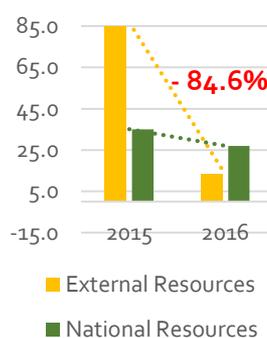
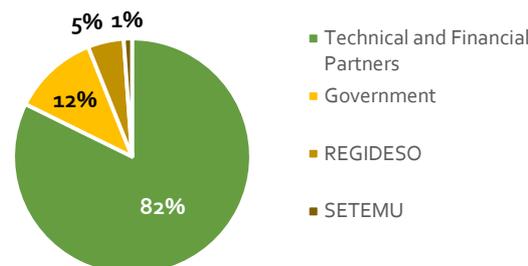


Fig. 7b: MEEATU (billion BIF)



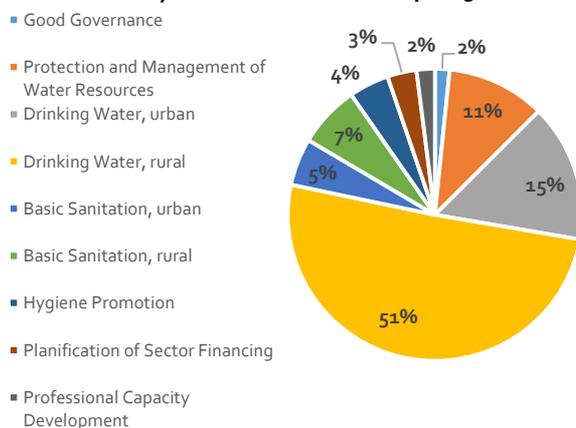
Source: Financial Laws 2015 & 2016, Ministry of Finance

Fig. 8: Repartition of expenditures by financing source (%), Water and Sanitation, 2013



Source: Joint Annual Review 2013, July 2014

Fig. 9: Repartition of Expenditures of Technical and Financial Partners & the Government, by domain of intervention, 2013



Source: Joint Annual Review 2013, July 2014

Fig. 10a: Repartition of funds, MEM 2016

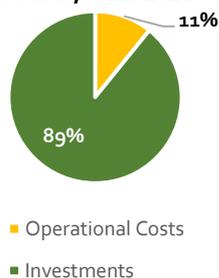
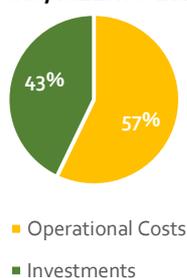


Fig. Repartition of Funds, MEEATU 2016



Source: Financial Law 2016, Ministry of Finance

Impact of aid suspension on WASH services for children.

The 2008 – 2016 Financial Laws highlight the significant aid-dependency of Burundi's WASH sector. Since 2011, declared allocations of external resources constantly represented more than 60% of the WASH-relevant Ministries' budgets (see Fig. 12). Taking into account the considerable reduction of external support in 2016, there is a real risk that already made gains are lost and that progress towards the attainment of the objectives indicated in the PRSP II is significantly hampered. Services guaranteeing functionality and maintenance of WASH infrastructure as well as hygiene promotion activities risk being weakened, **entailing heightened risk of exposure of vulnerable children to hygiene-related diseases and malnutrition.**

According to the 2016 Financial Law, no external resources are provided to the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and foreign resources made available to the Ministry of Water, Environment, Spatial and Urban Planning are loans for running projects not affected by the crisis. Taking into account that the share of expenditures on investments is rather large, which is especially true for the Ministry of Energy and Mines, **the reduction of foreign support is feared to decrease investment within the WASH sector.** In 2015, according to the Financial Law, particularly Germany, WASH-sector lead, and the World Bank were key partners to the sector (see Fig. 13). Nonetheless, it is crucial to note that it is very probable that certain donor support to the country for 2016 is not captured in the Government's Financial Law. The last joint annual review of the sector highlights the most important donors to the sector, showing a similar (and complementary) picture of donors. Germany is the most important partner to the WASH sector, followed by UNICEF, IFAD and the World Bank (see Fig. 14).

The respect of children's rights is prominent in times of crisis, but is shared responsibility at all times. Making children's best interest the primary consideration implies that investment decisions during times of crisis must continue to give priority attention to children's socio-economic needs.

Key indicators		
Total population (in billion inhabitants)	10.5	UNSD 2015
Population under the age of 18 years	5.2	UNDS 2014
Life expectancy at birth	54	SOWC 2015
U5 - Mortality Rate	82	IGME 2015
Average number of children / woman	6.1	UNFPA 2014
HIV/Aids Prevalence Rate, 15-49 years	1.3%	UNAIDS 2013
Chronic malnutrition, children < 5 years	58%	DHS 2010
Population with access to sanitation (*)	47%	JMP 2014
Population with access to drinking water (*)	75%	JMP 2014

(*) Indicators vary significantly depending on source.

Government of Burundi
<http://www.burundi.gov.bi/>



UNICEF Burundi Country Office
<http://www.facebook.com/UNICEFBurundi>





Fig. 11: National Resources WASH 2015/2016 Operational Costs vs. Investments (billion BIF)



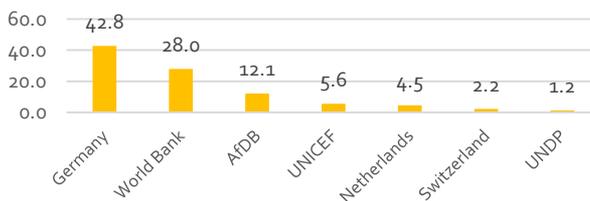
Source: Financial Laws 2015 & 2016, Ministry of Finance

Fig. 12: Share of External Resources (%), MEM & MEEATU, 2008-2015



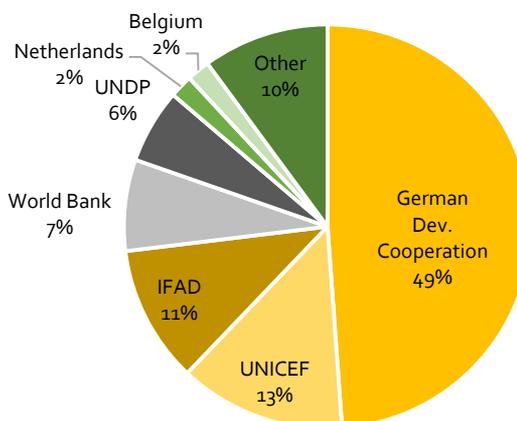
Source: Financial Laws 2008 - 2016, Ministry of Finance

Fig. 13: Declared allocations of external resources by donor (billion BIF), 2015



Source: Financial Law 2016, Ministry of Finance

Fig. 14: Key Technical and Financial Partners, Water and Sanitation, 2013



Source: Joint Annual Review 2013, July 2014

Right to Water – Right of every Child!

Two principal human rights instruments explicitly recognize the human right to water. These are the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, ratified by Burundi in 1990, and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*. The later also recognizes the importance of sanitation.