

Achieving the SDGs targets for water, sanitation and hygiene

Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations Working Together to Accelerate Progress Towards Sustainable Sanitation Paper presented to International WASH Conference, Tamale—Ghana, 17-18 January 2018

Summary

Rwanda has a vision of achieving 100% coverage of basic water supply and basic sanitation services by 2020 and safely managed services by 2030. To achieve these targets, Rwanda will require US \$134 million to build and maintain universal basic coverage and an additional \$286 million to build and maintain safely managed services each year up to 2030. The ambition is highest for rural water where coverage to basic level services is at 48% as well as on effective management of liquid and solid waste.

Five major actions to ensure an aggressive approach to progress include:

1. Bridge the funding gaps by increasing public sector allocation, advocacy for increased support from development partners, and promotion and facilitation of private sector and household investments
2. Roll-out the National Water and Sanitation Fund as a harmonized financing mechanism for WASH sector
3. Strengthen sector regulation in urban and rural areas to improve service delivery, sustainability and achieve the new standards for safely managed services

Overview of the Rwanda's vision and targets for the SDGs

The water, sanitation and hygiene sector in Rwanda is guided by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policies and Strategies which were reviewed and approved by the Cabinet in December 2016. The policies and strategies aim at achieving universal access to basic water and sanitation services by 2020.

Rwanda has met MDGs targets for water and sanitation with coverage of improved water supply and sanitation estimated at 85 per cent and 83 per cent, respectively, in 2014. The more ambitious WASH targets and standards under the SDGs, however, significantly raise the bar for what is required. Rwanda will aim to achieve 100% access to basic water supply and sanitation and 100% access to safely managed water and sanitation services by the years 2020 and 2030, respectively. The main challenge is funding gaps for increasing access to WASH services, particularly in scattered settlements in difficult, hilly terrain.

The critical bottlenecks to overcome include: funding gaps, human resource constraints at all levels; limited regulation of service providers; and lack of a comprehensive sector management information system. If these are not resolved, progress will remain slow and the SDGs may be missed.

Fig. 1 Fifty-seven per cent of the population in Rwanda has access to basic water supply.

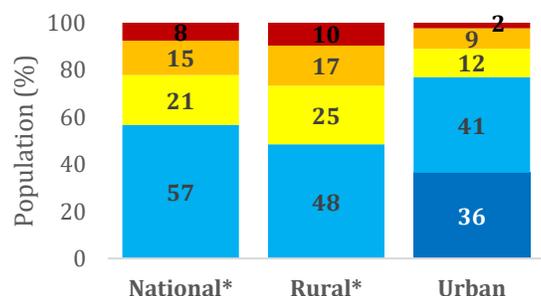


Fig. 2: Sixty-two per cent of the population in Rwanda has access to basic sanitation services



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2. Review of the sector – State of the Sector Building Blocks and Collaborative Behaviors

Rwanda is improving the foundations of a well-functioning sector. The stand-alone policies and strategies for water as well as sanitation sector adopted in December 2016 have helped to clarify the vision for the SDGs. There are some gaps which need to be addressed in a number of building blocks.

Policy and strategy: The water and sanitation policies and strategies approved in 2016 provide a robust framework for achieving universal access to WASH services. Effective mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure coordinated implementation and monitoring of these policies and strategies. Moreover, water and sanitation sector legislation needs to be updated to fully address the legal implications of the policy directions proposed in new sector policies.

Institutional arrangements: The roles and responsibilities of key institutions for all subsectors—especially rural and urban sanitation—including for governance, regulation, ownership and operations need to be further clarified.

Sector financing: Public funding to the sector generally increased during the MDG period, the funding gaps remain huge. The levels of disbursement and expenditure needs to be improved to make the most of increased sector allocations.

Planning, Monitoring and review: Joint multi-stakeholder sector reviews are being held on a regular basis to review the sector performance. A comprehensive sector monitoring framework supported by an information system, however, does not exist. Plans are afoot to develop such a system.

Capacity development: To enable districts to fully assume their part of the implementation and management of WASH interventions, it is necessary to strengthen decentralized capacities and to provide complementary support and monitoring. Moreover, the capacity of the national level institutions involved in management and regulation of WASH sector as well as the private sector needs to be strengthened.

In terms of the SWA **Collaborative Behaviours**, government and development partners work together under the auspices of the Sector Working Group to improve the ways of working in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. The government has led the process of developing the water and sanitation policies and strategies, which is focussed on achieving universal access of basic services by 2020 and safely managed services by 2030. Several development partners have orientated their programs and funding to the achievement of this government-led strategy. More can be achieved if similar levels of alignment were achieved on the use of country systems by all the partners.

Priority actions to be taken to ensure the readiness of the sector for the SDGs

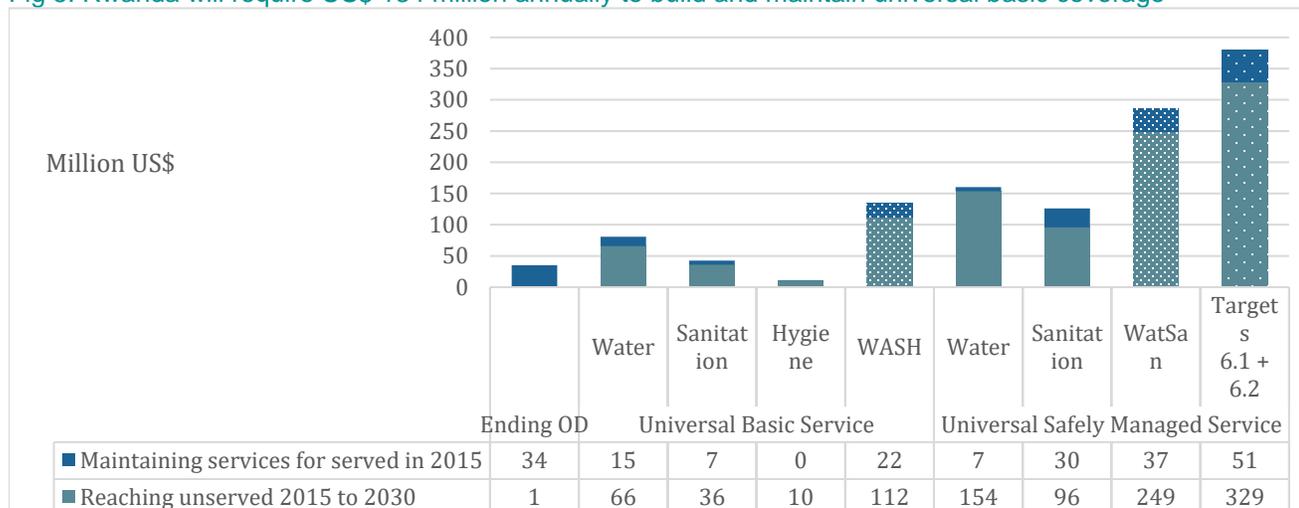
- Undertake specific studies to generate baselines estimates safely managed water, safely managed sanitation and institutional WASH
- Put in place effective mechanism for coordinated monitoring of the implementation of the national water and sanitation policies and strategies
- Develop district-level plans for achieving universal access to WASH services
- Increase the share of public resources allocated for improving access to WASH services in rural areas
- Advocate with development partners for increasing the amount of development financing for WASH on national budget
- Work with the development partners on the progressive increase in the use of the national systems for procurement, financial management and reporting.

3. Sector investment needs, the financing gaps and areas for improving efficiency

Investment needs and funding gap

Rwanda will require \$134 million to build and maintain universal basic coverage and an additional \$286 million to build and maintain safely managed services each year up to 2030. The largest share of the investments will be targeted at capital expenditures in the medium-term and mostly dominated by investment needs in water and sanitation. These costs are driven mostly by population growth due to migration in urban areas, rehabilitation to maintain services, new construction to expand services. Currently, the financing gap to provide universal basic services is US \$ 82 million annually ..

Fig 5. Rwanda will require US\$ 134 million annually to build and maintain universal basic coverage



Strategies to close the financing gap

Projections of available finances indicate higher public sector allocations, funding from the development partners and more predictable funding streams from tariffs. However, these funding sources will be insufficient to guarantee the aggressive nature of progress which is required to achieve the SDGs. A combination of domestic financing, ODA, public-private partnerships, more efficient allocations and use of available financing as well as accessing commercial revenue is needed. In addition, inefficiencies needs be curtailed particularly those emanating from poor revenue collection, high levels of non-revenue water, poor functionality and high operating costs. These make the water and sanitation service providers an unattractive investment for commercial finance which is needed to expand coverage and sustain services.

The current contribution of tariffs to operations and maintenance can be further improved if quality of services is high and regulation of services is further strengthened. To achieve the SDGs and particularly to mobilize additional funding, an aggressive resource mobilization strategy, which combines higher household and public contributions as well as access to commercial financing is needed. In addition, cost saving measures will be needed particularly by using alternative energy sources, particularly for water supply systems.

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4. Planned actions to catalyze progress towards the SDGs –where possible be specific about the lead agency for each action

Steps the government and partners are prepared to take to make the sector fit for purpose

- a. The Ministry of Infrastructure will support districts to develop plans for achieving universal access by 30 June 2018
- b. All the districts will have gradually increased the number of personnel needed to oversee effective delivery and regulation of service provision to reach the optimum staffing by 30 June 2020

Plans and strategies to reduce the financing gap

- c. Plans to use existing resources more effectively:
 - i. Rwanda Water and Sanitation Corporation, Service providers and Districts will gradually improve cost saving measures, particularly in energy use;
 - ii. Resource allocation strategies will be improved to better target 100% of the vulnerable groups;
 - iii. To assure transparent management, service providers will be closely monitored to assess their performance.
- d. Plans to access more financing:
 - i. Public sector allocation for WASH sector will be increased by at least 15% per year.
 - ii. Additional resources will be mobilized through advocacy for increased support from development partners, promotion and facilitation of private sector and household investments and commercial financing

5. Civil Society and private sector partnerships towards Sustainable Sanitation

Civil Society Organizations are great game changers! Water For People experience towards sustainable sanitation

Water For People is a non-profit organization that exists to build a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and no one suffers or dies from a water- or sanitation-related disease. Our mission is to partner with communities in the developing world in creating permanent solutions to the water and sanitation poverty they face. In Rwanda, sanitation has been lagging behind compared to water supply. This is mainly due to lack of an enabling environment for sanitation services, including lack of harmonized approaches for sanitation, law governing sanitation services, sanitation policy and implementation strategy, inadequate skills, affordable and appropriate technologies, to name a few. Through partnership with private companies, and government institutions, Water For People managed to support local entrepreneurs who are now running viable sanitation businesses and providing sanitation services to households and organizations in need of these services in three (3) out of the thirty (30) districts in Rwanda. Lessons from our experiences with sanitation entrepreneurs providing different sanitation services were drawn out and will help inform the process of systemic change national wide, why not in neighboring countries! The goal is to demonstrate that sustainable sanitation can be achieved through partnerships, strengthening national systems to develop policies, regulatory frameworks, financing strategies, and creating a whole service environment for the private sector to keep engaged in service delivery.

Three sanitation business models tested successfully with different service providers

1. Latrine construction by local masons 'cooperatives who provide services to households and organizations in need of the services
2. Latrine upgrading using Safe Toilet (SaTo) Pans supplied by a local company;
3. Emptying services by trained and regulated local emptiers.

It's all about creating an enabling environment for sanitation businesses, capacity development, creation of a sustainable supply chain of sanitation products/services, defining and facilitating access to finance through the creation of linkages between customers, service providers and finance institutions.