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ISOKO Y'UBUZIMA

Is a 5-year USAID-funded project implemented from July 2021 through July 2026 by a consortium led by Water For People to improve Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services in rural areas in Rwanda



water for people



WHO WE ARE

Isoko y'Ubuzima is a 5-year USAID-funded project implemented from July 2021 through July 2026 by a consortium led by Water For People to improve WASH service delivery. Other members of the consortium are IRC, Vitens Evides International (VEI), CARE International, and African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE).

Isoko y'Ubuzima has a budget of \$21,000,000 to channel the consortium experience in working closely with national and district governments, the private sector, communities, to realize improved water and basic sanitation services access for respectively 120,000 and 96,000 Rwandans.

The implementation follows the District Wide Approach that was approved by the Ministry of Infrastructure and piloted in 5 districts, to ensure sustainable access to clean water for everyone.

Currently, the approach is being rolled out to sustain major achievements under Isuku Iwacu, a USAID-funded program that was implemented by Water For People and SNV from 2016-2020.

Isoko y'Ubuzima will provide technical and financial support for the Government of Rwanda through 3 major strategic objectives which are:

- *Improve WASH governance*
- *Improve drinking water services*
- *Improve sanitation and handwashing services and products*

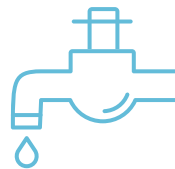
The overall Isoko y'Ubuzima goal is to increase and sustain equitable access to and use of safe drinking water and sanitation services. This will reduce families' health, economic, and social burdens due to the lack of WASH services.

CURRENT WASH SITUATION



24.9%

Of households lack access to basic sanitation services¹



42.1%

Of households have access to basic water supply services⁴



27.8%

Of households lack improved sanitation at the national level²



56.8%

Of households are using an improved water source that is within 500m in rural settings⁵



24.3%

Only on average are households with access to basic hygiene services³



23.7%

Of households have no access at all to water supply services⁶

The facts above are due in part to:

- Low access and willingness to invest in improvements of WASH facilities
- Low demand for improved sanitation and willingness to pay
- Lack of WASH coordination between central and local governments, absence of District WASH Investment Plans, and skilled WASH staff

1. Ministry of Infrastructure. (2021). WASH Management Information System Report 2021. Page ii. Government of Rwanda
2. National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. (2020). Rwanda Household Survey 2019/2020. Page 6. Government of Rwanda
3. Ministry of Infrastructure. (2021). WASH Management Information System Report 2021. Page iii. Government of Rwanda
4. Ministry of Infrastructure. (2021). WASH Management Information System Report 2021. Page ii. Government of Rwanda
5. National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. (2020). Rwanda Household Survey 2019/2020. Page 6. Government of Rwanda
6. Ministry of Infrastructure. (2021). WASH Management Information System Report 2021. Page iv. Government of Rwanda

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

- With proper management, a water scheme can last an average of 20 years
- When water infrastructure needs to be repaired, the average cost is **30%** of its original cost



OUR AIM

Strategic Objective 1
Strengthening the capacity of government and private sector to sustain water systems for 20 years, even 40 years

- Non-Revenue Water is 42.2%. Water losses in the distribution networks are caused by leakages in the pipe networks, water theft, improper metering, and billing errors⁷
- There was a loss of RWF 17.6 billion⁸, which in turn could fund more than 704.9 km of new systems



Strategic Objective 2
Build the capacity of Private Operators to identify water losses and stop them and contribute to Non-Revenue Water reduction of 25 % over the next 5 years

- Low demand of WASH services is linked to an increase of health challenges, a special mention going to COVID-19 and diarrhea
- Going from **75.1%** sanitation coverage to universal coverage needs a multisectoral collaboration



Strategic Objective 3
More Rwandans will have improved sanitation and hygiene, and therefore greater protection against water borne diseases, improved nutritional status, improved household economy (fewer days lost from work and less spent on hospitals), improved school attendance, etc.

TARGETS

120,000 PEOPLE

Will gain access to basic drinking water services

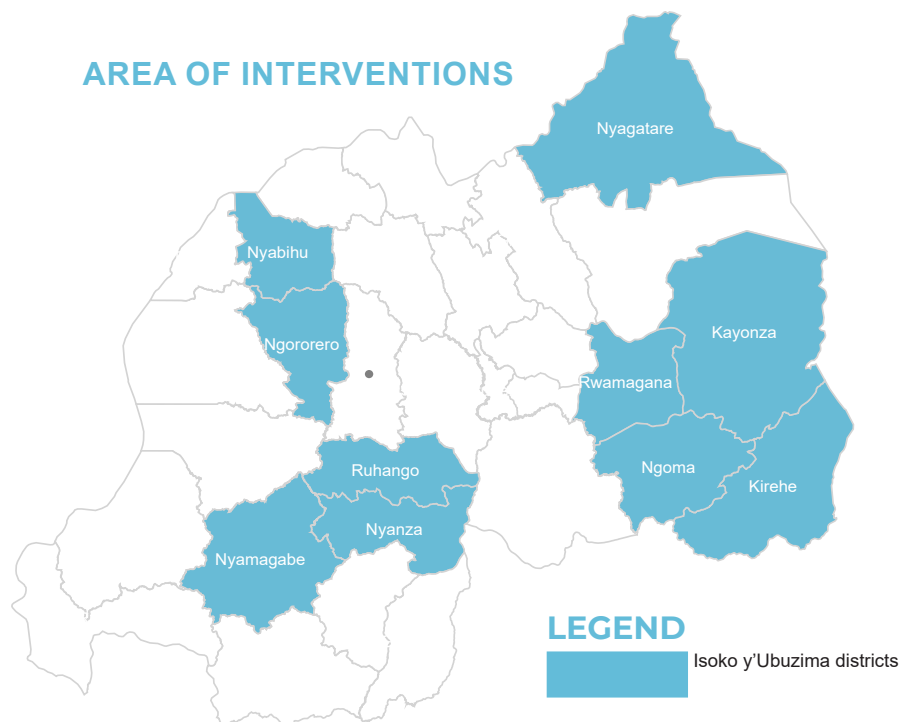
100,000 PEOPLE

Will gain access to basic sanitation services

96,000 PEOPLE

Will receive improved service quality from an existing basic or safely managed drinking water service

AREA OF INTERVENTIONS



7. Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority. (2021). Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority Annual Report 2020-2021. Page 64. Government of Rwanda
 8. In 2021, the average applicable water tariff (T) was RWF 701.625/m³ (<https://rura.rw/index.php?id=78>); the total water production (P) was 59,524,525 m³ according to the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority Annual Report 2020-2021, page 63; Non-Revenue Water (NRW) was 42.2%. Thus, NRW value in RWF = T*P*NRW % = RWF 17.6 billion



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GENDER, EQUITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)

The Government of Rwanda's GESI policy increased women's participation in national decision-making, yet, this is not mirrored in district and community levels, where women-led structures could assist to realize improved WASH access for women.

Jointly with districts, Isoko y'Ubuzima will:

- Integrate strategies to cultivate political leaders as WASH champions and mainstream GESI
- Engage the National WASH Working Group to include the updated assessment's GESI-related findings for an action plan on the GESI barrier, report progress, and actions annually, and convene the Chamber of

Women's Entrepreneurs to share findings for an action plan

- Raise awareness of Private Operators in the WASH sector on GESI issues to adapt and market their services to fit the needs
- Support women's participation in the Forum des Exploitants Privés des Systemes d'Eau et Assainissement au Rwanda (FEPEAR)
- Using dialogue to address GESI norms that may undermine women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups' participation
- Provide capacity building and facilitate access to networks for women private operators through the Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs.

Want to learn more about Isoko y'Ubuzima? Please contact us:

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