



# BURKINA FASO

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	15.2 million <sup>a</sup>
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	20%
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	4.9 / 2.6% <sup>a</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	191/1000 live births <sup>b</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	19.4% <sup>b</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>a</sup> World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database.  <sup>b</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

### WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Burkina Faso remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 177<sup>th</sup> out of 182 countries in the 2009 United Nations (UN) Human Development Index (HDI).<sup>1</sup> As a water-scarce country, access to safe drinking water and sanitation is very limited in Burkina Faso, and this contributes to a persistence of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea.

To further compound these problems, much of the country lies within the expanding Sahel, where a trend of diminishing rainfall has meant longer, more intense droughts and flooding during large rain events. The slow demise of rainfall-dependent agricultural livelihoods in rural areas has caused a steady rise in rural migration to urban and peri-urban areas, including Ouagadougou. Population growth in peri-urban settlements will continue to place pressure on existing water supply and sanitation (WSS) systems, as investments and the capacity to manage the systems fall behind.

<sup>1</sup> UN. Human Development Report 2009, HDI Rankings.

Major challenges that the WSS sector faces include the need to expand water supply and, especially, sanitation services to rural and rapidly growing peri-urban areas. In addition, WSS service providers require significant investments in human resources, financial management, and procurement systems.

Despite these challenges, Burkina Faso has made progress and is on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets for overall drinking water and urban sanitation, if WSS sector investments continue as they have over the last few years.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN BURKINA FASO	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2008)	821 <sup>c</sup>
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2002)	64 <sup>c</sup>
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	668 <sup>d</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>c</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO Aquastat Database. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries.  <sup>d</sup> Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from World Bank WDI Database (population) and FAO Aquastat Database (water resources).</small>	

### WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Government ministries and directorates, the public water utility, and municipal/local communities each play a role in managing the sector. The *Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Hydraulique et des Ressources Halieutiques* (MAHRH, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulics, and Fishery Resources) has overall responsibility for the WSS sector.

The water management department within MAHRH, *Direction Générale des Ressources en Eau* (DGRE, General Directorate of Water Resources), and the

water and sanitation utility ONEA (*L'Office National de l'Eau et l'Assainissement*, or National Office of Water and Sanitation) share responsibility for infrastructure and WSS projects. Lastly, there are a total of 49 urban municipalities and 302 rural towns, to which the government is transferring authority for the management of WSS services, as part of a broad decentralization strategy.<sup>2</sup>

In 2003, Burkina Faso adopted an action plan (PAGIRE) for integrated water resources management (IWRM) through 2015. The action plan laid out the decentralization of the WSS sector and established a distinction between urban centers, semi-urban zones, and rural areas.

In 2004, the Government adopted the *Charte Générale des Collectivités Territoriales* (CGCT, General Charter of Territorial Collectives) which dictated that water supply service in rural areas would become the responsibility of local communities beginning in 2009. However, the legal framework and technical plan to transfer authority are still under development, which has slowed CGCT implementation. In 2006, Burkina Faso adopted a National Water Supply and Sanitation Program (PN-AEPA), which includes a comprehensive set of WSS policies and strategies for the sector as a whole. Sanitation Strategic Plans have been adopted in the major towns of Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso and four secondary centers. While sanitation planning is occurring, defining the institutional roles of key agencies in regard to sanitation remains to be completed.

The relationship between Burkina Faso's poverty reduction strategy and the WSS sector, especially sanitation, remains weak. Much of the budget allocation for the sector has gone to increase water supply through reservoir construction rather than WSS service delivery. It was not until specific WSS targets were adopted under Burkina Faso's MDG roadmap that greater access to sanitation facilities was included in national WSS policies. Even with the MDG roadmap, Burkina Faso's investment in

## KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
DGRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, coordination, and implementation of WSS initiatives in urban and rural areas;</li> <li>Rural WSS service provider for towns under 10,000 through 13 regional centers.</li> </ul>	
MAHRH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functional and budgetary control and oversight of entire WSS sector.</li> </ul>	
ONEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSS public service provider for urban and peri-urban areas over 10,000 people.</li> </ul>	Dieudonne Sawadogo Secretary- General dieudsaw@liptinfor.bf 226-50-431900/09

sanitation is relatively low in comparison to drinking water development.

Overall WSS service to urban areas has been well-managed by ONEA, but many challenges remain in expanding access to sanitation facilities and comprehensive WSS services in rural areas.

## THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

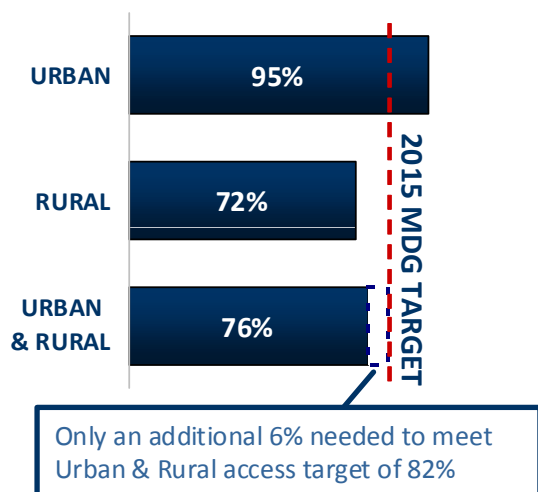
Burkina Faso's urban population has grown rapidly, averaging 5 percent growth per year for much of the last two decades, largely resulting from the growth of peri-urban informal settlements. For example, Ouagadougou's population more than doubled between 1985 and 2000.<sup>3</sup>

Currently 43 cities and towns throughout the country are served by ONEA. ONEA has been one of the best-managed African water utilities, benefitting from a 5 year service contract with Veolia (2001-2006) and support from GTZ. Through these activities and internal reforms, the utility was able to achieve operating cost-recovery. In 2010, the Government decided not to pursue further privatization for ONEA. The World Bank Urban Water Sector Project, approved in 2009, emphasizes expansion of facilities and infrastructure for both sanitation and drinking water services. In addition, ONEA has begun to pilot

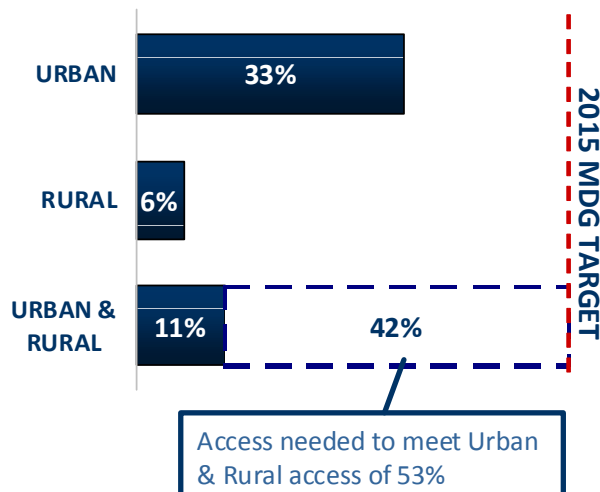
<sup>2</sup> WSP. *Water Utilities in Africa: Case Studies of Transformation and Market Access* (July 2007, revised 2009).

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. International Development Agency (IDA) at Work/Project Profile (Ouagadougou Water Supply Project), *Burkina Faso: Turning the Water On in Burkina Faso's Capital* (2009).

### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2008



**Data Source:** WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.  
 Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

projects with ecological sanitation (ecosan) toilets in the peri-urban areas of Ouagadougou.<sup>4</sup>

Other recent projects include the World Bank’s Ouagadougou Water Supply Project which produced significant improvements in access by tripling the number of residents with household connections to piped water in six years, from 300,000 people in 2001 to 1,040,000 in 2007.<sup>5</sup>

#### THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

There is a substantial difference in terms of access to water, sanitation and hygiene between rural and urban areas. Rural areas will benefit the most from national reforms in WSS policies, decentralization, and expansion priorities. Local control over WSS service is provided by water committees and user associations. These community providers require a significant amount of capacity building in all areas of operations and management if the decentralization of WSS functions from the central government to the municipalities is to succeed. With limited support from the Government, community service providers have relied upon support from international donors and

local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in addition to a growing number of private WSS service providers.

Recently initiated projects in the rural sector include the African Development Bank’s (AfDB) Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project for four targeted regions in Burkina Faso: the Cascades, West Central, South Central, and Sahel regions.

#### DONOR INVOLVEMENT

A joint aid strategy for Burkina Faso is being developed following the establishment of a technical secretariat by donor institutions. The strategy, along with the development of Burkina Faso’s National Action Plan for Development Aid Effectiveness (PANEA) in 2007, is designed to enable coordination of aid to Burkina Faso and will likely improve the country’s relatively poor monitoring and evaluation system in the WSS sector. Major donors include the World Bank, the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) for Africa, the AfDB, the European Union, and the governments of Denmark and Germany. Recent developments include the World Bank’s approval of grants supporting the Urban Water Sector Project (US\$80 million) and establishment of an International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (US\$5 million), and the Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project (US\$35 million).

<sup>4</sup> WSP. *Study for Financial and Economic Analysis of Ecological Sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa* (August 2009).

<sup>5</sup> World Bank. IDA at Work/ Project Profile (Ouagadougou Water Supply Project), *Burkina Faso: Turning the Water On in Burkina Faso’s Capital* (2009).

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peri-urban and rural access to improved WSS;</li> <li>• Support to water user associations;</li> <li>• Hygiene awareness and education program;</li> <li>• Inventory studies of WSS infrastructure in semi-urban and rural areas.</li> </ul>	Mme Antoinette DINGA-DZONDO a.dinga-dzondo@afdb.org Tel: 226-50-37-57-50
Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IWRM support through PAGIRE II program;</li> <li>• WSS sector support through PADSEA program;</li> <li>• Focus on financial management and monitoring and evaluation processes.</li> </ul>	Peter Jørgensen petjor@um.dk
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National WSS sector policy reform and institution building;</li> <li>• Rural and peri-urban WSS service support through the National Water Supply and Sanitation Program and ONEA.</li> </ul>	Lucien Pagni Tel: 0032-2-29-55069
German development partners (GTZ), German Development Bank (KfW) and German Development Service (DED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the national water and wastewater plan, reform, decentralization and IWRM;</li> <li>• Infrastructure projects to expand WSS access in urban, peri-urban and rural areas;</li> <li>• Financial support for sanitation in urban areas.</li> </ul>	Marina Mdaihi gtz-burkina@gtz.de Tel: 226-50-31-16-72
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and training of WSS sector professionals, including support for the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering;</li> <li>• Increasing access to WSS in targeted urban areas.</li> </ul>	Galina Sotirova gsotirova@worldbank.org Tel: 226-50-49-63-00 Education Task Team Leader – William Experton
*Contact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.		

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Additional references that aided in the development of this report include: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update* (2010); World Bank, Projects and Operations website and Publications database; World Bank's Burkina Faso online *Country Brief* (2009); Development Gateway Aid Management Platform, *Country Case Study on Burkina Faso* (July 2008); AfDB, *Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project: Appraisal Report* (2007); European Commission, *Burkina Faso Country Strategy Paper 2008-2013*; Government of Burkina Faso, *National Action Plan for Development Aid Effectiveness* (2007); WaterAid, *Country Information Sheet – Burkina Faso* (2006); Center for Development Research, University of Bonn (ZEF Bonn), *The Water Sector of Burkina Faso* (2006); and African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) et al., *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs in Water Supply and Sanitation* (2006).

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