



ZAMBIA

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	12.6 million ^a
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	35% ^a
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	2.0 / 3.0 % ^a
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	170/1000 live births ^b
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	15.3% ^b
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided. ^a World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database. ^b World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Zambia is a landlocked country that lies mainly in the Zambezi River basin. It is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 164th out of 182 countries in the 2009 United Nations (UN) Human Development Index (HDI)¹. Water-related diseases, particularly malaria and diarrhea, continue to be among the leading causes of death.² In Zambia, urban and rural access coverage for improved water supply and sanitation (WSS) has seen overall progress, and Zambia has already met the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for improved sanitation. With respect to drinking water, the country experienced an 11 percent increase in the percentage of overall drinking water coverage, between 1990 and 2008, and Zambia has also already achieved the target for urban drinking water access.³

¹ UN. *Human Development Report 2009*, HDI Rankings.

² UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/World Water Assessment Program. *UN Water Development Report 3, Case Studies Volume: Facing the Challenges* (2009).

³ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

The Government has developed progressive policies and strategies for meeting the MDG targets, robust commitments to sector policies, increased financing for water and sanitation infrastructure, and better coordination amongst stakeholders. These steps are critical to maintaining and improving current coverage rates. While Zambia has made important advances in regulatory and institutional reform, it continues to implement national policies and expanded financing and cost recovery strategies. Increased institutional capacity of WSS service providers and improved financial management will allow for increases in efficiency, expanded coverage and better financial viability. In addition, local service providers need the authority and financing to carry out sanitation responsibilities.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN ZAMBIA	
Renewable water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (2008)	6,355 ^c
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2002)	159 ^c
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	5,305 ^d
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided. ^c UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i>. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries. ^d 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 <i>World Bank WDI Database</i> (population) and <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i> (water resources).</small>	

WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

A national collaborative process between Zambia's WSS sector stakeholders in the early 1990s culminated in the adoption of a National Water Policy in 1994 and the Water Supply and Sanitation Act in 1997. Under the Policy and Act, implementation strategies were prepared for improving services in both the urban and rural WSS sub-sectors. Considerable focus was placed on devolving the

KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
Ministry of Energy and Water Development (MEWD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources management; Administers water rights; Some financial management of WSS sector. 	
Ministry of Legal Government and Housing (MLGH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative and financial management of WSS services. 	
Department of Infrastructure and Support Services (DISS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support to WSS service providers; Oversees development and rehabilitation of WSS infrastructure. 	
NWASCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent WSS service regulation. 	www.nwasco.org.zm
CUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide WSS service to urban and peri-urban areas; 11 CUs exist in eight out of nine provinces. 	Varies.
D-WASHE committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes sustainability of service through local control and oversight of WSS service. 	Varies.
RWSSU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works to strengthen the institutional support of rural WSS service providers. 	

authority to provide WSS service from the central government to local authorities.

An independent regulator, The National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO), was established in 1997. NWASCO provides a model for WSS regulation in the region with the use of regulatory scorecards, water “WatchGroups” of consumers, and other regulatory tools.

Zambia’s WSS service providers are commercial utilities (CUs), which service the majority of the population. The local authorities have had a particularly poor service record, with coverage levels actually declining; these are being displaced by CUs in an attempt to increase cost recovery and improve coverage.

Zambia has put in place several key programs to meet and maintain the MDGs. In 1996, the Zambian

government implemented the District Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Education (D-WASHE) concept in rural areas to better incorporate affected populations into system planning and development and thus to improve the delivery of WSS services. The National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program is a set of investment, institutional and sector support activities aimed at accelerating sustainable provision of water supply and sanitation services to the rural population in Zambia. However, these progressive strategies have been hindered by low levels of government funding.

THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Zambia’s national water reforms initiated the creation of CUs in urban and peri-urban areas. CUs provide more local control and have improved the quality of service, but coverage and financial viability remain low. CUs are expected to be financially self-sufficient with respect to operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. However, CUs continue to struggle with meeting the acceptable benchmark for cost recovery (20-25 percent unaccounted for water), particularly with non-revenue water remaining around 50 percent.⁴ The ability to recover costs is largely affected by non-payment of bills by government departments. There also is a critical need for investment in human resource development, as the average personnel cost per staff has increased in most CUs, suggesting that staff efficiency is still an issue.⁵

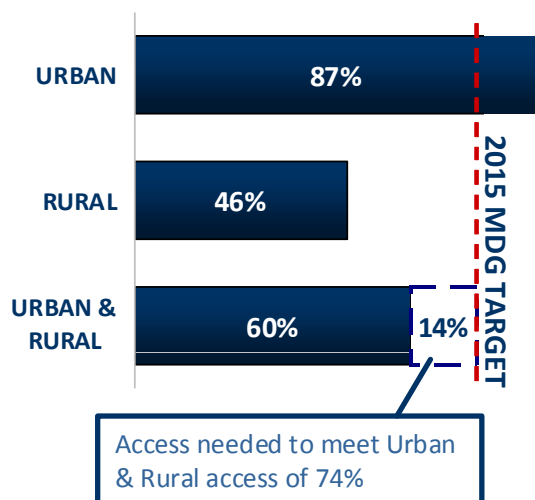
Recognizing the need, Zambia responded with additional financial support such as the Devolution Trust Fund (DTF) and the Zambia Social Investment Fund (ZamSIF). The DTF specifically provides financial support to the CUs to enable them to reach poor populations and growing peri-urban areas. DTF has provided 500,000 additional people with access to water by installing water kiosks in urban areas.⁶ Prior to the kiosks, CU’s were reluctant to supply water to peri-urban areas because of cost recovery challenges.

⁴ IPC. *Reforming Without Resourcing: The Case of the Urban Water Supply in Zambia* (2008).

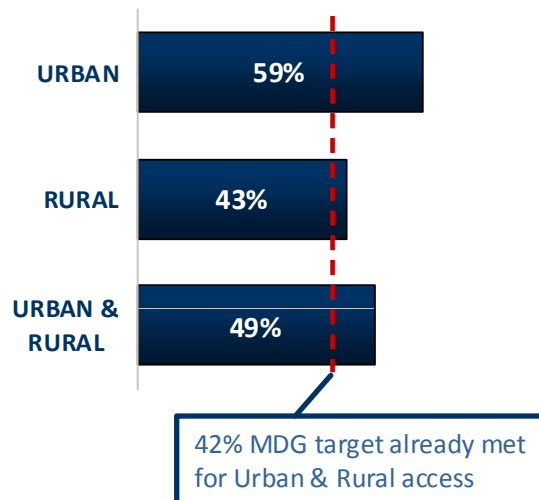
⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ NWASCO. *Urban and Peri-Urban WSS Sector Report 2008/2009*.

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.

In urban areas, sanitation has not received as much attention as drinking water. Some sources suggest that sanitation coverage in urban areas has actually declined. In addition, groundwater contamination and inadequate drainage continue to cause widespread outbreaks of cholera. For example, cholera outbreaks caused the closure of over 25 schools between January and March 2009.⁷

The vast majority of the population depends on pit latrines which are often poorly sited, constructed and maintained. The Lusaka Water Company has started a sanitation surcharge to enable extension of a piped wastewater collection system, and NAWASCO is advising CUs on appropriate and affordable ways to improve sanitation service.

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

In rural areas, all WSS functions are to be transferred to WASHE committees under Zambia's new institutional framework for rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) and in line with decentralization policies, but change has been slow due to local capacity constraints. District WASHE committees continue to relinquish WSS service responsibilities to community-based WASHE committees and CUs. Recognizing the institutional weakness of most local

authorities, Zambia is strengthening local capacity through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Unit (RWSSU). The Zambian government may require the implementation of a clearer cost recovery sharing policy with RWSS service providers in order to maintain rural service growth, especially with regard to sanitation coverage. Monitoring and evaluation lag behind the urban sub-sector, but continued support of these efforts will provide the foundation to further decentralize and increase self-sufficiency.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Zambia's most important bilateral and multilateral development partners in the WSS sector include: Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Ireland, the World Bank/Water & Sanitation Program and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Donor involvement is crucial to increasing sector financing in order to meet MDG targets. Zambia is moving towards better donor coordination by formalizing the Informal Donor Group, as well as standardizing approaches and procedures via the development of an official national aid policy. In addition, an RWSS forum has brought together key government agencies and donors.

⁷ International Federation. *Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Operation Final Report* (June 2009).

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION ^e
AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban WSS service delivery projects in the central province including establishment of a CU; RWSS service delivery in Central province including strengthening of D-WASHE committees. 	Felix Njoku, f.njoku@afdb.org, Tel: 216-71-10-26-12
Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports RWSS management information system and knowledge and resource framework; Urban and peri-urban WSS Service delivery for low-cost housing areas; Integrated Water Resources Management. 	Peter Sievers, petsie@um.dk, Moffat Mwanza, mofmwa@um.dk,
GTZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RWSS decentralization and service delivery in Southern Province; Leads donor coordination in WSS group. 	Helmut Lang, helmut.lang@gtz.de, Tel: 260-1-229-281
KfW (German Development Bank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban WSS service delivery; Rural WSS in the Southern Province; Support to NWASCO and the DTF. 	Philip Graf von Schwerin, kfw.lusaka@kfw.de, Tel: 26-01-29-22-33
Irish Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban WSS service in the Northern Province; Support to RWSSU and the DTF; Prioritization and planning in WSS sector; Capacity building & institutional strengthening for RWSS through WASHE framework. 	iremb@samnet.zm, Tel: 260-1-290-650 http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/zambia.asp
Japan International Cooperation Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peri-urban water supply service delivery through community-based schemes; Groundwater development via borehole drilling; Linkages with public health. 	Tel: 260-211-254501 Fax: 260-211-254935
Netherlands Development Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peri-urban and rural WSS capacity building & institutional strengthening through hygiene education at catchment level and targeting gender issues. 	zambia@snnworld.org, Tel: 260-1-255174, 260-1-251336
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban WSS through improvements in Copperbelt CUs to attract private investments; WSS sector-wide policy making capacity in the MEWD and MLGH; Legislative, regulatory and institutional reform related to decentralization; Water resource management in Kafue Basin; Support to ZamSIF. 	Jane Walker, nwaler@worldbank.org, Tel: 202-458-2703
Water and Sanitation Program, Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RWSS sector programming, policy development and streamlining; Sanitation marketing and community-based water and sanitation delivery schemes in poor urban areas; Support to MLGH in development of MDG roadmaps, prioritization and planning. 	Barbara Senkwe, bkaziimbayasenkwe@worldbank.org Tel: 260-97-754-012
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RWSS service in drought & refugee affected areas; Financing D-WASHE activities for improved hygiene in schools. 	lusaka@unicef.org, Tel: 260-211-252-055
^e 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: African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), et al., *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs in Water Supply and Sanitation* (2006); the Zambian NWASCO website, www.nwasco.org.zm/; WaterAid Country information – Zambia (2006); the Zambian Development and Assistance Database; DANIDA, *Joint Assistance Strategies in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, Final Report* (2005); African-European Water Initiative, *Zambia Country Dialogue Progress Report* (2004).

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