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Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 13-Oct-2025 | Report No: PIDIA01466



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project Beneficiary(ies)	Region	Operation ID	Operation Name
Burundi	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	P507207	Burundi Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project
Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Approval Date	Practice Area (Lead)
Investment Project Financing (IPF)	08-Oct-2025	10-Dec-2025	Water
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency		
Republic of Burundi - Ministry of Finance, Budget and Digital Economy	Ministry of Mines, Energy, Industry, Trade and Tourism, REGIDESO		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To increase access to climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services and to strengthen the capacity of water operators

Components

- Component 1: Strengthening National WASH Platform, Governance and Reforms
- Component 2: Service Providers Performance Improvement
- Component 3: Leveraging Finance to Increase Climate-Resilient WASH Access
- Component 4: Project Coordination and Management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

Maximizing Finance for Development

Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)?	Yes
Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)?	Yes

SUMMARY

Total Operation Cost	90.00
Total Financing	90.00
of which IBRD/IDA	80.00
Financing Gap	0.00



DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing	
International Development Association (IDA)	80.00
IDA Grant	80.00
Non-World Bank Group Financing	
Counterpart Funding	10.00
Borrower/Recipient	10.00

Environmental And Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

- 1. The Republic of Burundi is a low-income country whose economic growth is recovering. As of 2023, 62.1 percent of its 13.2 million people live below the international poverty line¹ of US\$2.15/day, and 75 percent live in multi-dimensional poverty (as of 2021/2022).²** Burundi is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with a population density of 442 people per square kilometer, exacerbating pressure on arable land. It ranks near the bottom for all global measures of human capital, with a Human Development Index of 0.42, making it one of the least developed nations.³ Gender disparities remain high in Burundi, ranking low on the Gender Inequality Index, placed 132nd out of 170 countries.
- 2. The country has an undiversified economy heavily reliant on public services and agriculture.⁴ It's multi-dimensional fragility results in political, economic, and security risks.⁵** The political crisis of 2015 halted 11 years of growth, and Burundi's GDP per capita - declining over 2016-2023 - was only US\$ 200⁶ (2023), roughly one-eighth of the

1 World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook update (April 2024).
2 UN Human Development Index Report 2021/2022. Table 6.
3 <https://data.undp.org/countries-and-territories/BDI> (2022)
4 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burundi/overview#1>
5 World Bank Burundi Country Economic Memorandum (2022). Republic of Burundi - Country Economic Memorandum (CEM): the challenge of achieving stable and shared growth (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
6 World Bank data (2023) (<https://data.worldbank.org/country/burundi>)



Sub-Saharan Africa average (US\$ 1,637).⁷ A peaceful transfer of power in June 2020 marked a turn toward peace and stability, but challenges remain. Although economic growth in 2024 is expected to improve to 3.8 percent, this is insufficient to cope with rapid population expansion. Potential challenges include regional instability, influenced by the recent influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, postponed exchange rate unification, and restricted external financing.

3. Burundi remains largely rural, with only a 15 percent urban population. However, it is one of the fastest-growing urban populations, growing by 5.7 percent per year between 2000 and 2021. The current urban population of 2 million will double by 2050. Approximately 58 percent of the urban population lives in unplanned areas, often under-resourced, exposed to disaster risks, and without adequate basic services. Bujumbura, the largest city, where 61 percent of the urban population lives, could play a key role supporting the economic drivers in the country. Gitega, the country's political capital and second largest city, faces a similar rapid urbanization process.

4. Burundi has embarked upon a territorial reform that took effect after the July 2025 municipal and parliamentary elections. The administrative set-up has been consolidated from 18 provinces and 119 communes to five provinces and 42 communes with enlarged competencies. The aim is to streamline governance, improve resource allocation at the local level, and enhance service delivery, though such reforms may take several years to mature.

5. Although Burundi has the lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) globally; climate change poses a serious threat to its weak infrastructure and livelihoods. Changes in rainfall patterns have led to increased frequency of extreme weather events such as floods, storms, landslides, and prolonged dry spells, which harm crop yields and threaten food security, especially in the northeastern part of the country. Water levels in Lake Tanganyika surged to their highest level in 60 years due to heavy rains in early 2024, forcing over 230,000 people to relocate. The existing pumping station that provides 90 percent of the water supply to the city was under threat of inundations during the 2024 floods, and part of the existing water distribution network got damaged during flashfloods in October 2024.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

6. Despite the country's considerable water endowments,⁸ a lack of investments and poor governance have led to widespread water insecurity. Over the past decade access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services barely saw improvement, with population growth absorbing gains. An instruction issued in 2021 by the Ministry of Interior, Communal Development and Security⁹ halted water fee collection at public standpipes, causing rural service providers to face financial strain, resulting in dismantling of community operators and the collapse of services. As of 2024, only 65 percent of the population have access to basic¹⁰ water supply (urban: 91 percent; rural: 61 percent), and 45 percent have access to basic sanitation (urban: 42 percent; rural: 45 percent).

7. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Universal Access to WASH by 2030 requires drastic acceleration. Yearly, over 1 million must gain access to basic sanitation, seven times faster than 2010-2020 progress. For water, over 0.8 million annually, three times faster than the past decade. In urban areas, only 55 percent have household connections, with less than half having a regular daily water supply. This reflects the situation in the main cities of Bujumbura and Gitega where water production capacity is largely insufficient and water is rationed, with rotations to

⁷ GDP in current prices; World Bank data (2023) (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=ZG>)

⁸ Estimated at a total renewable water resources availability of 1,002 m³/inhabitant per year (2021) and with a low water stress indicator of 10 percent, reflecting that only 10 percent of freshwater resources are withdrawn for usages (AQUASTAT 2021); (<https://data.apps.fao.org/aquastat>).

⁹ Letter Minister of Interior, Communal Development and Security 530/10544/CAB/2021, dated October 19, 2021. Suspension of collection of funds from households

¹⁰ As per Joint Monitoring Program of UNICEF/WHO, <https://washdata.org/>. For drinking water, a basic water supply means access to an improved source (standpost, protected spring, borehole) within 30 minutes return trip (including waiting time), while a safely managed water service means access at the premises/yard, availability when needed (> 16 hours a day), and free of contamination. A basic sanitation service means household level access (no sharing) to an improved facility that safely separates feces from human contact. A safely managed sanitation service requires an improved sanitation facility that is not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or treated off site. Basic hygiene means presence of a handwashing facility with water and soap.



different quarters every 2-3 days. In rural areas, only 3 percent of the population has access to a household connection. Only 2 percent of the urban population is connected to a sewer, and even then, sewage treatment is not guaranteed.

8. Lack of WASH services disproportionately impacts women and girls, with 78 percent of women responsible for water collection versus 17 percent of men. This highlights a deeply rooted inequality in the distribution of WASH-related domestic labor, with 40 percent of women fetching water for longer than 30 minutes per trip, exposing them to risks of gender-based violence (GBV).¹¹ Poor WASH services are a main contributor to diarrheal disease, the leading cause of child mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).¹² Moreover, drought further exacerbates the time burden on women and girls, compared to boys and men¹³. Access to water and sanitation in schools is about 45 percent¹⁴ and only 18 percent have handwashing facilities with soap, which negatively impacts school attendance, especially of girls during their periods. Malnutrition, which is linked to poor WASH services, stands at 53 percent¹⁵.

9. The Government's Vision "Burundi Emerging Country 2040, Developed Country 2060" prioritizes water supply and sanitation (WSS) services to support urbanization, economic growth, health, and social stability. The National Development Plan (NDP) for Burundi 2018-2027 plans investments in water supply, digital operations, sanitation facilities, and reforms. Public expenditure on WASH is modest at 1.5 percent of total spending, or US\$ 6.6 million in 2022-2023. Development partners' spending in WASH, mostly off-budget, was US\$7 million in 2022-2023. The government's vision is to enable Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and sectoral reforms to improve the investment climate.

10. The Ministry of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Trade and Tourism (*Ministère des Ressources Minières, Energétiques, de l'Industrie, du Commerce et du Tourisme*, MINMREICT) oversees the water supply sector and sanitation sector¹⁶. The Water Supply and Sanitation Department (*Direction Générale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement*, DGEPA) under MINRMEICT plays the leading role in the development of new policies and legislation for the sector, sector coordination and planning. The existing law that organizes the water supply sector stems from 2000¹⁷, while a proposed new law is currently with the Council of Ministers for consultation and is expected to be promulgated later in 2025. The proposed new law clarifies service delegation arrangements by the state and communes to operators and expands the role of the private sector in service delivery beyond production as per the existing law. Operators include the REGIDESO (*Régie de Production et de Distribution de l'Eau et de l'Électricité*), a state-owned water and electricity company, overseen by its Board of Directors under tutelage of the MINRMEICT. Outside of REGIDESO urban service areas, communes are responsible, delegating service delivery to private or not-for-profit operators or directly *en regie*.

11. A key bottleneck for the sustainability of the sector is the lack of cost reflective tariffs, both in urban and rural areas. The DGEPA is developing a WSS tariff policy to be submitted to the Council of Ministers later in 2025. This policy will be the basis for the Authority for Regulation of Water and Energy Sectors (*Agence de Régulation des Secteurs de l'Energie et de l'Eau Potable*, AREEN) to develop the regulatory instruments to review and determine tariffs. The rural arm of MINRMEICT is the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (*Agence de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement en Milieu Rural*, AHAMR), responsible for construction and rehabilitation of rural water systems and sanitation activities. AHAMR is in the process of decentralizing to the commune level, where it will provide technical support to communes and backstopping to rural operators. Going forward, it is critical that in the delegation contracts between communes and operators,

11 The World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2024/03/13/gendered-burden-of-water-collection-in-afe-afw-sub-saharan-africa>

12 Ngabo F, et al Can routinely collected national data on childhood morbidity and mortality from diarrhea be used to monitor health impact of rotavirus vaccination in Africa? Examination of pre-vaccine baseline data from Rwanda. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2014 Jan;33 Suppl 1: S89-93.

13 See <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgatlas/goal-5-gender-equality/?lang=en>

14 <https://washdata.org/data/school#!/dashboard/new>

15 National Nutrition Survey (2024)

16 Through decree 100/018 of September 17, 2025, concerning the modification of decree 100/002 of August 5, 2025 defining the structure, functioning and missions of the government.

17 With several amendments to this law and a new law on the electricity sector approved in March 2024.



the role of AHAMR, and the responsibilities for O&M and capital maintenance are well defined in guidelines and by-laws and that financing mechanisms for capital maintenance and infrastructure development are put in place.

12. REGIDESO provides water services in Burundi's urban centers through 137,500 private connections and 880 water kiosks, which represents just 8.5 percent of the country's population. Non-Revenue Water (NRW) is estimated at 40 percent (2019), bill collection efficiency is around 80 percent (2023). REGIDESO has benefited from long-standing World Bank support and a vision for its performance improvement trajectory of electricity services¹⁸, articulated in a national energy pact, developed as part of the Mission300¹⁹. A diagnostic for REGIDESO's water services and a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) is under development. REGIDESO has implemented an enterprise resource management system that would enable separate accounts for water and energy services, with the aim to gradually remove cross-subsidies. Financial modelling for REGIDESO's water operations in Bujumbura illustrates an operating deficit, underscoring the necessity of tariff revisions - especially as water tariffs have not changed since 2012²⁰ - combined with service improvements to ensure sustainable O&M. The Board's adoption and regular review, including independent audits, of key performance indicators (KPIs) in the PIP would be an important step towards transforming REGIDESO's water services.

13. The urban sanitation sector is fragmented and suffers from a lack of clarity on institutional mandates and coordination. Investments by development partners, government and the private sector are negligible due to sustainability concerns, due to the lack of a viable revenue model. The Burundian Urban Planning, Housing, and Construction Agency (*Office Burundais de l'Urbanisme, de l'Habitat et de la Construction*, OBUHA) under the Ministry of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport and Equipment (*Ministère des Infrastructures, des Logements Sociaux, du Transport et de l'Équipement*, MILSTE) is responsible for the operation of wastewater treatment plants and sewer networks in Bujumbura and Gitega, executing its tasks in collaboration with private fecal sludge emptiers. A roadmap to address obstacles in the sanitation sector is under preparation. The mandate for water resources management and protection of ambient water quality rests with the Department for Water Resources and Forestry (*Direction de la Promotion des Ressources en Eau et des Forêts*, DPREF), under the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (*Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage*, MINEAGRIE)

14. Through its WASH Coordination Group, MINRMEICT leads the coordination mechanisms between various government stakeholders, development partners, civil society and private enterprises in the sector. The government is preparing a National WASH Program and Investment Plan. A Presidential Pact on WASH has been drafted, awaiting signature, that commits to the establishment of a national WASH platform to monitor the implementation of the program, sector reform measures, investments and results. Key partners in the Burundi WASH sector are the European Union (EU), the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNICEF, Amazi Water, an NGO, and the German Development Bank (*Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*, KfW).

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

To increase access to climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services and to strengthen the capacity of water operators

Key Results

¹⁸ Through the Jiji and Mulemwa Hydropower project (P133610) and the ASCENT project (P181494)

¹⁹ <https://mission300africa.org/energysummit/about-mission-300/>

²⁰ An increasing block tariff is applied with the first domestic consumer block of 20 m³ charged at BIF 310/m³ (US\$ 0.10/ m³). Non-domestic customer categories are charged higher rates. REGIDESO is self-reporting that the cost of production is over BIF 600 m³.



- **PDO Indicator 1:** People provided with water supply services. Disaggregated by gender, youth, level of service (% at least basic, and % safely managed) (number); Baseline 0; Target: 530,000 people
- **PDO Indicator 2:** People provided with sanitation services. Disaggregated by gender, youth and level of service (% at least basic) (number); Baseline 0; Target: 60,000
- **PDO indicator 3:** People with enhanced resilience to climate risks, disaggregated by gender, youth, of which people benefiting from climate-resilient infrastructure. Disaggregated by gender, youth (number): Baseline: 0; Target: 530,000
- **PDO indicator 4:** Transboundary aquifer management plan for climate-resilient water supply completed and submitted for adoption to relevant authorities (number); Baseline: 0; Target: 1
- **PDO indicator 5:** Reduction in Non-Revenue Water Ratio of REGIDESO in Bujumbura compared to the baseline (%); Baseline: 0; Target: 10%
- **PDO indicator 6:** Water operators under a public service delegation contract in rural areas achieving an Operating Cost Coverage Ratio of at least 100% (Number); Baseline 0; Target: 1

D. Project Description

15. The Burundi Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project (BWSSAP) is phase III under the Accelerating Access to WASH in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region Multi-phase Programmatic Approach (P512763). The GoB priorities are twofold: i) the urgent expansion of climate-resilient water supply services in Bujumbura, the largest city and economic capital, thereby reducing flooding risk impacting service delivery; and ii) the provision of climate-resilient water and sanitation service in rural communes exposed to drought risks and water insecurity. In Bujumbura, the project will improve access to safely managed water supply, through connecting previously unserved people, and through improving the quality of existing services through safe and available water supply access at home. The project will improve access to at least basic water supply and basic sanitation services in the rural commune of Butihinda, prioritized by the GoB given based on criteria including the number of people without access, poverty levels, and population density.

16. The project will develop a National WASH Program and prepare for later investment phases to scale-up impact, while possibly mobilizing private capital and development partner financing. The GoB envisions mobilizing private capital in the medium term and the project will prepare the necessary studies to develop a hybrid PPP approach for a future bulk water treatment plant in Gitega, the country's capital, that suffers an acute water production deficit. Potentially, the hybrid-PPP model could be replicated for other bulk water treatment plants in Bujumbura-Nord, as the water supply masterplan includes additional water treatment plants to serve the expansion of the northern part of the city. Provided the performance of the project is satisfactory and availability of additional resources, investments in water supply expansion in Gitega through a hybrid PPP, as well as scale-up of WASH services in rural areas may be considered²¹.

17. The total project costs are US\$ 90 million, with US\$ 80 million equivalent in IDA funds and US\$ 10 million equivalent as a national government contribution. The government's counterpart financing will be provided in local currency and will contribute to operating costs, resettlement costs and local currency expenditure of works contracts under component 3.

18. Component 1: Strengthening National WASH Platform, Governance and Reforms (US\$2.6 million IDA). This includes activities that are MFD-enabling and consists of two subcomponents [mapped to Pillars 1 and 2 of MPA P512673].

- **Subcomponent 1.1 – Strengthening National WASH Programming and Platform (US\$1.4 million).** This subcomponent finances technical assistance, training and equipment for: (i) the preparation of a national WASH program and

²¹ During a scale-up phase this would be expanded to the prioritized communes of Muyinga, Rwibaga, and Mugere.



investment plan; (ii) the coordination and the establishment of a national WASH platform; (iii) the development of a Management Information System (MIS) for the WASH sector; (iv) a water supply masterplan for Gitega; (v) preparatory technical and financial studies, including for *affermage* contracts for rural areas and for potential PPPs for urban areas.

- **Subcomponent 1.2 – Advancing Governance and Reforms (US\$1.2 million)** to increase institutional capacity and resilience to climate change impacts: this subcomponent finances technical assistance, training, and equipment for the implementation of sector reforms and improvement of sector governance notably for: (i) support for the drafting and dissemination activities of implementation regulations of existing laws/and of the new law if ratified;; (ii) the revision and/or development of new policies for water and sanitation (iii) institutional support, capacity building, and tariff studies to develop a tariff framework and new tariff structures and awareness campaigns; (iv) institutional support and capacity development of key stakeholders, *inter alia* MINRMEICT, AHAMR, AREEN, and commune administrations, including the provision of office equipment, motorbikes and vehicles; (v) knowledge exchange visits to countries with private capital mobilization²² and participation in international trainings and forums, and enabling participation in knowledge and learning activities under the Regional MPA.

19. Component 2: Service Providers Performance Improvement (US\$10.0 million IDA) [*Mapped to Pillar 3 of MPA P512673*]. This component aims to enhance service delivery by improving sustainability, efficiency, social inclusion and climate resilience of water operations in both urban and rural areas. In urban areas the aim is to improve the performance and financial viability of REGIDESO, while in rural areas, the aim is to support the implementation of a commune-wide professional management model through delegation contracts (*affermage*) with domestic private operators. It consists of two subcomponents.

- **Subcomponent 2.1 – Support to REGIDESO (US\$8.8 million):** this finances technical assistance, training, works, and equipment for: (i) institutional strengthening, including (a) the provision of equipment and vehicles for REGIDESO, and (b) professional development of REGIDESO staff, *inter alia* through courses on digitalization, water quality and NRW; (ii) enabling improvements in customer engagement and female employment in technical and managerial positions, (iii) support to organizational development and restructuring as needed; (iv) measures identified in the PIP, *inter alia* to reduce NRW, implement digital applications and automatic control systems, improve water quality management systems, increase energy efficiency and climate resilient operations; (v) improvements to the existing water treatment plant and pumping stations to increase energy and operational efficiency; (vi) private connections for selected households (estimate at 35,000) in Bujumbura; (vii) support the preparation and implementation of a REGIDESO pro-poor connection policy and fund and awareness campaigns;
- **Subcomponent 2.2 – Support for Rural Water Service Providers (US\$ 1.2 million)** *contributing to reduced climate vulnerability and increased capacity:* this finances technical assistance, training, works, and equipment specifically for: (i) transaction advisory to communes and AHAMR to prepare and supervise the *affermage* contracts; (ii) business incubation support, capacity development and coaching of domestic private service providers; (iii) development and delivery of vocational courses and internships on solar pumping, plumbing and management of water operations in collaboration with Rusi Vocational Training Center²³; (iv) communication campaigns and mobilization on the new management model and tariffs; (v) support for installation of connections for selected households (estimate 2,000).

20. Component 3: Leveraging Finance to Increase Climate Resilient WASH Access (US\$ 72.2 million out of which US\$66.6 million IDA, and US\$5.6 million equivalent counterpart financing) [*Mapped to Pillar 4 of MPA P512673*]. It includes two subcomponents:

- **Subcomponent 3.1 Climate-Resilient Water Access in Urban Areas (US\$ 62.3 million IDA),** thereby reducing flood risks and drought vulnerability. This subcomponent finances technical assistance, works, training and equipment for

²² Such as for example Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal and Uganda.

²³ Centre Public de Formation Polytechnique et de Reconversion Professionnelle de Rusi.



climate-resilient water supply distribution and production systems for Bujumbura. It includes (i) construction and one-year operation of a new water intake, water treatment plant (60,000 m³/day) and pumping stations in Bujumbura-Sud and capacity building for REGIDESO staff to take on its operations; (ii) construction and/or rehabilitation of REGIDESO's urban drinking water systems, including transmission lines, reservoirs and distribution mains; (iii) preparation and implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) for Bujumbura water supply investments; (iv) supervision costs for construction; (v) technical preparation studies for priority water supply investments in Gitega, *inter alia* hydrogeological studies and PPP-studies, and transaction advisor support and (vi) support for stakeholder workshops in support of the Tanganyika transboundary aquifer assessment and management plan in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD.

- **Subcomponent 3.2 – Climate-resilient WASH Access in Rural Areas (US\$ 4.3 million IDA)**, thereby reducing drought vulnerability. This subcomponent finances technical assistance, works, training and equipment for (i) the rehabilitation, expansion and construction of new gravity-fed and/or solar-pumped climate-resilient rural water systems in the selected communes and associated preparation studies, including ESIA and RAPs as needed; (ii) supervision costs of construction; (iii) community mobilization and stakeholder engagement, including consultation with women on the public water points; (iv) community-led total sanitation (CLTS) activities, including material support for durable latrine construction; (v) supporting education sessions for girls on menstrual hygiene management.

21. Component 4: Project Coordination and Management (US\$ 5.2 million, out of which US\$ 0.8 million IDA and US\$ 4.4 million counterpart financing). This component finances all project coordination, management, communication, implementation, monitoring and evaluation costs, and coordination costs related to the Regional MPA for the proposed Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within the MINRMEICT (Subcomponent 4.1) as well as a proposed PIU within REGIDESO (Subcomponent 4.2).

Project Beneficiaries

22. The main beneficiaries will be people that will be provided with access to water supply, i.e. with basic water services through public standposts in rural areas and certain urban quarters, and with safely managed water in majority of the urban areas and the denser parts of rural communes through household connections. In addition, there will be people in urban areas who will move from a basic to a safely managed level of water supply services, specifically as water availability has been a problem and many quarters in Bujumbura are only served once every few days. The project aims to reach 530,000 beneficiaries with at least basic access to water, out of which 470,000 in urban areas (Bujumbura) and 60,000 in rural areas, and out of which a total of 400,000 with safely managed water services (85 percent). A total of 60,000 people will be provided with basic access to sanitation in the rural areas. Given the gendered burden of water collection, these improvements are expected to have a disproportionate positive impact on women's time savings. The project targets marginalized and vulnerable populations through selecting rural communes with higher-than-average poverty rates and high absolute numbers of poor people due to high population density²⁴. The project will support REGIDESO to implement a social connection policy and fund to facilitate household connections for the poorest. In addition, the project will be educating 40,000 girls on menstrual health and hygiene²⁵. The project is therefore expected to bring significant positive public health and human capital impacts by reducing incidence of waterborne diseases, lowering healthcare costs, and increasing productivity.

²⁴ For the communes in the north-east the poverty rate (people living below US\$ 2.15/day) falls between 60-80 percent, while the population density varies from 400-700 people/km².

²⁵ Through collaboration with the Human Capital Development Project (P180925), the installation of WASH facilities in rural schools and health centers provided with water connections under the project will be pursued.



23. The project will focus on building the capacity of water operators to deliver sustainable services, both domestic private operators as well as REGIDESO. The project will benefit REGIDESO by improving its technical capacity to supply water and reduce NRW, while expanding its production facilities and service area, thereby increasing its financial viability. In rural areas, an incubation, coaching and a skills-building program will be launched to support the professionalization of domestic water operators. The project will strengthen operators' capacity to engage customers, strengthen their systems for soliciting and responding to customer feedback, and as well as strengthen the capacity of AREEN to oversee, monitor performance and determine tariffs thus enabling O&M investments and cost recovery. In addition, it will strengthen the capacity of the MINRMEICT, AHAMR, selected commune administrations, specifically their WSS units.

Rationale for Bank Involvement and Role of Partners

24. The World Bank's engagement is grounded in its comparative advantage in supporting complex, infrastructure programs in FCV and low-capacity environments. The Bank brings extensive global and regional experience in designing and implementing WASH programs, particularly in contexts requiring institutional and governance reforms. With BWSSAP as phase 3 under the regional WASH Access MPA, Burundi will benefit extensively from phase 1 of the MPA (P506439), implemented through the Africa Union Agency for Development- new Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD). AUDA-NEPAD will engage global and regional knowledge partners to deliver knowledge, analytics and peer-to-peer exchanges through a learning agenda tailored to the Burundi context. Thus the Bank's involvement is critical to assist the GoB with state-of-the art knowledge: (i) to support institutional reforms and advance regulatory competencies; (ii) professionalize rural water supply management models; (iii) to lift utility performance through energy efficiency, digitalization, and NRW measures; (iv) to promote and prepare hybrid PPPs in the medium term under a One WBG approach; (v) to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation measures in infrastructure design and operations; and (vi) to leverage impact at-scale for human capital outcomes through cross-sectoral engagement in education and health.

25. The World Bank is an active participant in the WASH Sectoral Coordination Group, which ensures alignment of development partner interventions and government priorities. The World Bank's convening and technical leadership roles are instrumental in harmonizing efforts and scaling up impact in the sector. The project is designed to complement and leverage the efforts of key development partners active in Burundi's WASH sector, specifically: (i) European Union (EU) through aligning investments in the rural water supply sub-sector and providing technical assistance for improving the legislative framework; (ii) UNICEF through joint support in the preparation of the National WASH Program as well as the National Sanitation Roadmap; (iii) AfDB through aligning investments in rural water and delivery models; and (iv) KfW through coordinating investments and support for REGIDESO. To scale-up urban water supply and sanitation investments in Bujumbura, in the medium-term co-financing through EU grants and European Investment Bank (EIB) loans may be considered, provided fund availability and a conducive macro-fiscal environment.

Legal Operational Policies

Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50

Yes

Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60

No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts



Potential environmental risks/impacts are expected for the activities under components 2 and 3 which include investments in water systems/production and sanitation in Bujumbura and Gitega (the latter city only studies at this stage). Key anticipated direct, indirect and cumulative risks and impacts associated with water and sanitation investments will entail : temporary disruption of utility services in the project area; traffic disruption as the excavation of trenches and laying of pipeline work will be done along main roads and streets; interference with fish and other aquatic organisms at intake sites; risk of increased turbidity and sedimentation downstream that may affect aquatic habitats; risk of pollution and oil spill; management of chemicals; waste generation; occupational and health and safety for workers; community safety due to active construction sites and activities within the community. The project will also support Technical Assistance (TA) activities of Types 1, 2 and 3 under components 1 and 2 which include the preparation of investment plans, preparation studies, transactions advisory services, capacity building, development of national legal and regulatory text and policies, etc. TA activities may have potential downstream environmental risks as a result of potential new investments. However, the E&S risk level of these activities is not expected to exceed Substantial. This classification takes also into account the capacity of the Borrower, as well as all stakeholders involved in this project, including public and private entities to manage potential risks. Potential social risks associated with the project include the exclusion of women and members of vulnerable groups from project benefits and activities such as training and capacity building and household connections under components 1 and 2, work opportunities under components 3 and 4. Planned civil works under component 3 also present the risks associated with influx of labor such as SEA/SH, communicable diseases, and labor, social conflicts, economic and physical displacement (mostly temporary), and community health and safety impacts. As indicated in the Environmental risk section, TA activities of Types 1, 2 and 3 under components 1 and 2 are likely to carry downstream impacts and the capacity of the foreseen Borrower will likely be low and will need substantial capacity building. To manage these risks/impacts, including those related to ancillary works, an Environmental and Social Assessment will be conducted through several instruments. Considering that the specific locations of some project investments are not yet known at this stage, the Borrower is preparing an ESMF, a draft of which will be available by the end of appraisal. The ESMF will establish the procedures and guidelines for screening sub-projects, conducting site-specific assessments, and developing appropriate mitigation measures. It will also include a capacity-building action plan to strengthen the borrower's capacity to manage ES risks and impacts according to the ESF. For investments in the water supply system for Bujumbura, including the water intake in Lake Tanganyika, the construction of pumping station, the construction of the water treatment plant, reservoirs and distributions networks, for which feasibility studies are already under preparation, the ESIA/ESMP and RAP will be prepared during implementation. The Project will include SEA/SH Action Plan as well. Regarding TA activities proposed under components 1, 2 and 3, the Borrower will prepare Terms of Reference (ToRs) and outputs acceptable to the Bank and will need to be consistent with the environmental and social provisions of ESSs 1-10. To date, no associated facilities have been identified under the project. However, if an associated facility is identified during the preparation of the specific activities, an assessment of its potential environmental and social risks and impacts will be reflected in the relevant instruments (ESIAs, ESMPs) to be prepared by the project during its implementation. The Borrower has prepared, jointly with the Bank team, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). The ESCP includes the materials measures and actions required to address the identified ES risks and impacts, timelines, responsible parties and monitoring indicators.

E. Implementation



Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

26. The Project is anchored within the MINRMEICT who takes the lead role in coordination of the project through its PIU (MINRMEICT-PIU). The implementation of the project will be the responsibility of two PIUs, namely the MINRMEICT-PIU and a second PIU hosted within REGIDESO. The MINRMEICT-PIU will be responsible for overall coordination, overall progress reporting, consolidation of annual workplans and budgets, functioning as secretariat for the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and coordinating the regional activities with the regional MPA. MINRMEICT-PIU will be responsible for implementing Component 1 (national level), Subcomponent 2.2 and Subcomponent 3.2 (rural areas) and Subcomponent 4.1 (project coordination/management). The MINRMEICT-PIU will be staffed with the required specialists in advance of Project effectiveness²⁶. The REGIDESO-PIU, staffed in advance of project effectiveness²⁷, will be responsible for coordinating and reporting progress to MINRMEICT-PIU and for implementing the activities that are related to REGIDESO, namely Subcomponent 2.1, Subcomponent 3.1, as well as Subcomponent 4.2 (project management). The financing agreement between IDA and the Recipient (through the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Digital Economy (*Ministère des Finances, Budget et Economie Numérique*, MINFBEN), will be complemented through a project agreement between the IDA and REGIDESO. A subsidiary agreement between MINFBEN and REGIDESO will be signed in advance of project effectiveness.

27. Capacities of MINRMEICT and REGIDESO were assessed and staffing requirements for the MINRMEICT-PIU and the REGIDESO-PIU have been identified. Given the fact that MINRMEICT-DGEPA has no prior experience with IDA-financed projects, the MINRMEICT-PIU will be staffed with consultants in identified PIU positions, with detailed Terms of References in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM). In line with IDA-financed projects in the energy sector, the staffing of the REGIDESO-PIU will consist mainly of salaried REGIDESO staff, assigned on a full-time basis²⁸, and based on evaluation of competencies to fulfill the terms of references, as detailed in the PIM. To strengthen its capacity, the REGIDESO-PIU will be supported through external consultants, including an environmental and social specialist, a financial management specialist and international technical assistance on procurement, the latter supporting both PIUs

28. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) including all relevant line ministries involved in the Project will be set up to provide strategic guidance during project implementation. The PSC will be chaired by MINRMEICT and will be responsible for overall oversight and strategic direction of the proposed project, in line with national strategies and policies. The PSC will be composed of representatives of MINRMEICT, MINFBEN, MILSTE, MINEAGRIE, Ministry of Education, Science and Research (*Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Recherche Scientifique*, MINENRS), the Ministry of Public Health (*Ministère de la Santé Publique*, MINSP), and REGIDESO. The PSC can invite representatives from agencies or directorates under the tutelage of the PSC ministries, e.g. AHAMR, AREEN, OBUHA or others. Responsibilities of the PSC are detailed in the PIM.

29. A Technical Committee (TC) will be set up consisting of senior management staff of various entities that will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination of project activities with the MINRMEICT-PIU and the REGIDESO-PIU. The TC will include members including but not limited to AHAMR, REGIDESO, AREEN, OBUHA, and relevant departments within MINEAGRIE²⁹, MINENRS³⁰, and MINSP³¹. TC members are responsible for ensuring that staff of their respective entities

26 Namely, a project coordinator, procurement specialist, financial management specialist, environmental specialist, a social development/GBV specialist, and a water supply and sanitation specialist.

27 Namely, a REGIDESO project coordinator, a procurement specialist, financial management specialist, an environmental specialist, a social development/GBV specialist, and a water supply engineer.

28 Assigned on a full-time basis to support the implementation of the project, through an instruction of REGIDESO's CEO.

29 Namely the Directorate for Water Resources and Forestry (*DPREF*, and the National Environmental Protection Agency (*Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement*, OPBE)

30 Namely the Directorate for Primary and Secondary Education (*Direction Générale de l'Enseignement Fondamental et Post-Fondamentale*, DGEFPF)

31 Namely, the Directorate for Health Promotion (*Direction de la Promotion de la Santé*, DPS)



are participating in the necessary tasks to deliver the project. The roles and responsibilities of the TC members are detailed in the PIM.

30. A Commune Cooperation Agreement will be signed within three months after project Effectiveness. The cooperation agreement will reflect the roles and responsibilities of the selected commune in the implementation of the activities under Subcomponent 3.2, including the requirements to put in place service delegation contracts between the communes and the selected private operators and the articulation of AHAMR's supporting role. A template of the cooperation agreement will be included in the PIM.

31. To ensure coordination of the knowledge and technical assistance activities under phase I of the Regional WASH Access MPA a representative of MINRMEICT will be included in the Regional Project Advisory Committee. In addition, selected members of the Technical Committee will constitute the Country Coordination team for Burundi, to ensure that regional activities are well coordinated, scoped and adding value to the BWSSAP project.

Results Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

32. The MINRMEICT-PIU will be responsible for overall monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project. The MINRMEICT-PIU will have a dedicated M&E specialist and will closely coordinate with the REGIDESO-PIU, and its M&E officer, to track indicators under the results framework to ensure timely and accurate data flows. Capacity building for M&E staff and – as needed - independent baseline, midline and endline data collection will be financed under Component 4. The MINRMEICT- PIU will establish a robust M&E system and be responsibility for:

- Regular data collection and reporting on PDO and intermediate indicators, disaggregated by gender, age, and urban/rural location.
- Use of Management Information Systems (MIS) developed under Component 1 to consolidate data from implementing partners, REGIDESO, and rural service providers.
- Beneficiary surveys and technical audits to validate service delivery outcomes, including feedback from women/girls on time-burden for water collection
- Mid-term and end-of-project evaluations to assess impact, sustainability, and lessons learned.

Sustainability

33. Institutional Sustainability: The project supports the operationalization of the sectoral legal framework, strengthens the regulatory authority (AREEN), and builds capacity within MINRMEICT, REGIDESO, domestic private operators and WSS units within the commune administrations. These reforms aim to clarify mandates, improve accountability, and enhance service delivery oversight.

34. Financial Sustainability: The project promotes cost recovery through tariff reforms, preparation of a new tariff framework, the implementation and monitoring of the REGIDESO PIP and awareness campaigns as required to accompany tariff adjustments. In rural areas, affermage contracts with private operators will be supported with proposed tariffs for standposts and household connections and community engagement to ensure willingness-to-pay. The reversal of free water at standposts is introduced as a disbursement condition for the rural civil works and the project will help to establish financing mechanisms for major repairs and maintenance at the commune level.

35. Technical Sustainability: Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, digital tools (e.g., SCADA, MIS), and vocational training for local technicians will enhance the durability and maintainability of WASH systems. Designs for the water treatment plant in Bujumbura will ensure adequate location choice and protection measures against flooding induced by rising levels of Lake Tanganyika, informed by flood analysis carried out as part of the Urban Resilience Project. Capacity building will be ensured through a one-year operation period of the water treatment plant in Bujumbura-Sud, as



part of the works contract, to ensure knowledge transfer to REGIDESO to operate the new plant that will introduce a new treatment technology in Burundi.

36. Environmental and Social Sustainability: Environmental and social standards are integrated into project design, with ESMF, ESIA/ESMPs and community engagement plans ensuring inclusive and responsible implementation. These instruments will include measures to address SEA/SH risks as well. The project supports REGIDESO with technical assistance to set up its own internal revolving financing mechanism and pro-poor policy for private connections to ensure continued service expansion by reducing liquidity barriers for households. The project will also include capacity building of beneficiaries for ownership and participatory management for the maintenance and servicing of infrastructures to be installed and above all avoid wasting water and other natural resources.

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