

## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: RWANDA



## THE FACTS

- » Only 47% of people in areas where World Vision operates in Rwanda have access to an improved water source within 30-minutes round trip.
- » 69% of people in areas where World Vision operates in Rwanda have basic sanitation, but only 6% have handwashing stations with soap and water.
- » Progress needs to accelerate to reach SDG 6 by 2030 and the government's goal of universal water coverage by 2024.

— University of North Carolina  
World Vision 14-Country  
Evaluation Final Report (2020)

## About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, along with country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, as well as regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members—95% of whom work in their own countries—work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

## Global WASH Program

Over the past 35 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. With more than 1,200 WASH technical staff guiding our work in 55 countries, World Vision has emerged a leader in our global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Over the last five years alone, we have reached an estimated 20 million people with clean water and hygiene promotion, as well as 12.5 million people with improved sanitation.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our global WASH business plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact in priority countries, including Rwanda, with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

### World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

## WASH in Rwanda

World Vision established a presence in Rwanda in 1994 following the genocide against the Tutsi. In 2000, World Vision Rwanda (WVR) transitioned from humanitarian response to the implementation of development programs. WVR currently operates in 29 of the 30 districts in Rwanda, implementing programs in three major sectors: 1) resilience and livelihoods 2) health and WASH and 3) education and life skills. World Vision's new strategy in Rwanda (2021 to 2025) targets 3 million of the most vulnerable people for services. This strategy is realized through an annual national budget of \$30 million from a diverse funding portfolio that includes long-term child sponsorship, local revenue, private funding, and grants from United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and others.

The government of Rwanda has prioritized the achievement of universal WASH coverage as a critical enabler of improved nutrition, good health, and economic growth in the country. World Vision is strongly committed to working to improve conditions in underserved areas by supporting the government of Rwanda's goal of 100% universal water coverage by 2024.

World Vision began scaling up its Rwanda WASH Program in 2012 and implements WASH across 13 districts, as well as all refugee camps and transit centers in the country. The WVR WASH portfolio

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totaled \$30 million over the last five years and continues to grow. Our WASH program is staffed by more than 30 technical WASH experts, of which 90% are based in field offices and 10% are based at World Vision's headquarters in Kigali.

### Our WASH priorities in Rwanda are focused on:

- Targeting services for the most vulnerable
- Ensuring synergies between WASH and other sector programming
- Strengthening government capacity through training, equipping, and support
- Connecting with strong private sector partners for long-term sustainability
- Performing rigorous monitoring of programs and services

### Programming Approach

The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities; summarizes capacities and achievements over the past five years; and presents highlights of our upcoming plans in Rwanda.

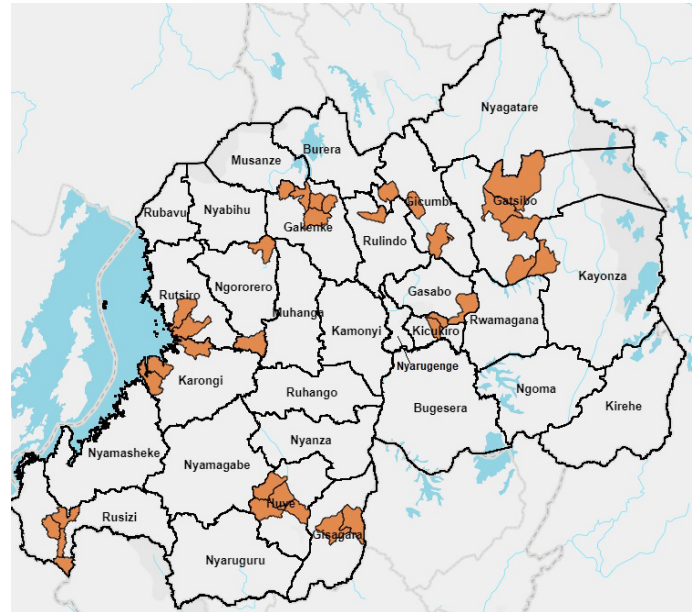
### Our four prioritized intervention areas consist of:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

Behavior change practices and the themes of disability inclusion and gender transformation are integrated across all intervention areas as outlined in the global guidance of World Vision's WASH Core Project Model.

### Water Supply and Quality

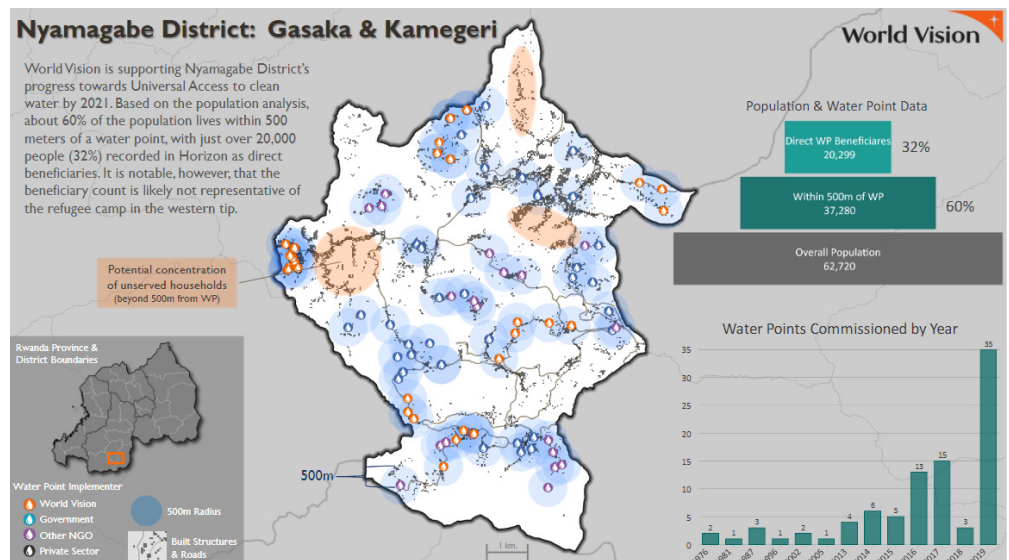
Rwanda is known as the country of a thousand hills, and it has many natural spring water sources. Therefore, most water systems developed by World Vision are spring catchment systems which utilize gravity for water to flow from high in the mountains down to the community it is meant to serve. Where the water source is not at a high enough elevation to allow for a gravity system, World Vision engages with its partners Grundfos and Davis & Shirliff to design and install appropriate pumps for the systems, utilizing solar power wherever possible.



The map of Rwanda above shows 13 districts where World Vision has WASH programming. The specific sectors where World Vision has long-term programming are highlighted within each district.

### Establishing co-financing with district governments

World Vision works closely with each district government where we have programming to design and plan each water system. A co-financing model is used where the government funds 30% to 60% of the cost of the overall system, and a local contractor is jointly selected to carry out the work. In 2019, the district governments spent \$3.2 million to match World Vision's contributions for new water system construction.



This data visualization shows served and underserved areas in the Nyamagabe district for planning with the government.

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## EMPOWERING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH GENDER-INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING



After a water pipeline was completed in the Rukara sector in 2018, WASAC (the group that manages rural water points in Rwanda) was looking for a private operator to manage the water point and sell water in the community. World Vision encouraged Honorine (above, right) to invest in the water point and take over the operation. With the \$30 she had saved, she requested a subscription to manage the water point near her home and sell the water in her community. With training from World Vision, she has been successful in collecting water-user fees from her neighbors and makes about \$30 each month, which she uses to take care of her mother and to increase her economic well-being.

Honorine says: “For me, the water in my village is a double chance (safe water and a business). With the interest I got from selling water in December, I bought sorghum and sold it back after its price had increased. With the profit, I was able to buy doors and windows for our house, as the existing ones were very old. I have other plans to seek medical care for my mother and to buy a cow. I have joined the World Vision Savings Group, with the purpose of taking out a \$20 loan to take my mummy to the hospital for treatment.”

### Facilitating universal coverage

By these efforts, World Vision is helping accelerate progress toward universal water coverage in Rwanda. For instance, through a close partnership with the Nyamagabe district government, four water

systems were installed in 2019 and 2020, resulting in universal water coverage of the Gasaka and Kamegeri sectors in Nyamagabe district. By utilizing geospatial population density data, along with the location of community water points, we are able to see more clearly what areas are underserved and better plan construction projects with the district government (see map below).

### Engaging private operators for system sustainability

The government of Rwanda relies on private operators, largely from the Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC), to manage water systems. After construction is completed, World Vision stays engaged for a year to train these private operators on fee collection, community engagement, water quality monitoring and maintenance, and repair to ensure the water system is functional for the long-term. After a year, once the private operator and community are working well together, World Vision hands over the system fully to the district to manage. Most systems have a chlorination unit installed to ensure water quality, and the private operator is responsible for quarterly household water quality checks to ensure the safety of the system.

### Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Utilizing behavior-change approaches to improve impact

World Vision understands that infrastructure alone is not enough to improve health outcomes. Latrines and handwashing stations are of no use if they are not used and taken care of. Therefore, behavior change is a critical part of our model. We use door-to-door in-person methods of behavior change, as well as radio and television to spread hygiene behavior-change messages widely. We also use our distinctive as a faith-based organization to train faith leaders on hygiene messages that they, as trusted members of the community, can then promote within their congregations.

In 2018, World Vision signed a contract with Urunana Development Communication, which specializes in entertainment communication approaches through their Urunana radio soap opera and Umuhoza radio magazine programs that have been produced and aired during the past 20 years. This led to the development of 52 soap opera episodes with messages raising awareness of the importance of latrines in the target communities. In addition, six radio magazine programs were produced and aired, along with five radio talk shows, that focused on community members using the district sanitation center to buy different WASH products and materials to construct their own household latrines.

#### Partnering with financial institutions for self-reliance

World Vision also ran the sanitation and hygiene component of the USAID-funded Isuku Iwacu project. This \$2.4 million project ran from 2016 to 2020 and was led by SNV in collaboration with partners and the government across eight districts. The project aimed to improve access to and encourage correct and consistent use of household sanitation and hygiene facilities to decrease childhood stunting and support the government's work in sanitation. World Vision managed the development and implementation of the behavior-change communication strategy. The program developed a sanitation toolkit

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and trained 164 people in a Training of Trainers, who in turn trained 3,662 community hygiene promoters. Through this project, World Vision contributed to the construction of 103,273 household latrines across eight districts and reached 251,388 people with hygiene messages. We also worked with microfinance institutions in Rwanda to create loan products for sanitation construction for this project, which assisted in the high number of latrines that were built.

### Improving hygiene education for children

In addition, we partnered with Sesame Workshop to roll-out a curriculum called WASH UP! in 100 schools in Rwanda. This program is a nine-week play-based curriculum for children in primary school that uses Sesame Muppet characters, videos, stories, and games to promote safe hygiene practices, teaching children how to be healthy superstars and share key hygiene messages with their friends and family at school and home.

### Governance and Finance

#### Building capacity of local government authorities

World Vision has a strong partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINIFRA), which coordinates WASH partner efforts. We have played an active role in disseminating water and sanitation policies at the sector and cell level in Rwanda and reached 572 local authorities in 2019 to ensure local buy-in for WASH improvements in all World Vision implementation areas. Through individual memorandums of understanding with each district government, World Vision ensures there is government budget for every water system that is built, that there is ongoing budget to pay for private operators, and that maintenance costs are budgeted for. As World Vision maps more water points with our geographic information system, information sharing with district and local government is essential to validate universal coverage has been reached by the government goal of 2024 and to plan for additional needed infrastructure efforts. Building this strong collaboration with government is essential for ongoing achievement.

#### Mobilizing communities and civil society to advocate

The current governance framework in Rwanda calls for the participation of citizens in decision-making at all levels. In response to this, WVR incorporates the Citizen's Voice and Action (CVA) model in connection with every water system we commission. CVA aims to increase both the transparency and accessibility of information and provides a feedback mechanism for citizens to be heard by both WASAC and government on successes and areas for improvement.

WVR uses an ultra-poor graduation model. For the poorest 10% of the population, subsidy is provided in the form of metal sheeting to assist in latrine construction. All other people are connected to local suppliers to purchase WASH products and are informed of financing, available either through village savings and loan groups or from financial institutions.

### BEHAVIOR-CHANGE PROGRAMMING

As the primary sanitation and hygiene partner on the a five-year USAID-funded Rwanda Integrated Water Supply Program (RIWSP) (2011-2016) managed by Florida International University, WVR spearheaded the implementation of behavior-change project components through the Community-Based Environmental Health Promotion Programme (CBEHPP), reaching 86,602 direct beneficiaries through supporting 315 Community Hygiene Clubs in the Kayonza and Gatsibo districts.

Additionally, WVR provided capacity building training on CBEHPP to 15 district environmental health officers, 41 individuals in charge of social affairs at the sector level, and 309 at the village level. Moreover, WVR integrated WASH and nutrition by supporting communities to install 4,381 kitchen gardens.

### Water Security and Resilience

#### Planning for future climate change impacts

Drought and the competitive needs for water sources are set to become a major concern as climate change progresses. To address these challenges, World Vision focuses on community capacity building for the protection of natural water resources and implementing Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) to protect the watershed. World Vision held a national catalyst workshop for FMNR in Rwanda, which brought together the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Rwanda Agricultural Board, Rwanda Environment Management Authority, and district representatives as part of the FMNR for East Africa project funded by World Vision Australia, Australian Aid, and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). By discussing the need to conserve water resources in agricultural practices and to plant additional trees for watershed protection, FMNR has become a powerful tool for water security in Rwanda. In addition, World Vision uses solar panels whenever possible when planning pumping systems in order to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from traditional diesel-powered pumping systems.

