Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Water Service Delivery in Burundi

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Why?

- **About 30% of water facilities are not functioning**, raising the problem of water point management and sustainability.

- **Ensure Sustainability of water facilities in Rural areas**
What has been done to date?

- Support reform of policies and legal framework (delegate water service delivery to private associations)
- Focus on decentralisation and commercialisation
- Support Reform of public utilities and privatisation of community-owned water utilities
- Entry of commercial service providers alongside public & civil society supported ones
- Emphasis on sustainable service delivery to low-income target groups
Key Challenges

- Bringing the municipality to meet their commitments regarding service delegation
- Respect in implementing regulatory framework (delegation of water service)
- Weak partnership between Municipalities/Communes and private companies recruited for WASH construction works
- Managing the partnerships/partners
- Ensuring community participation
- Resource constraints: Capacities for households to pay for water
Key Results/Impacts

- **Technical expertise**: Capacity building and experience exchange between Governmental structures and private enterprises

- **Local authorities ownership**: Develop ability and capacity for commune/local authorities to collaborate with governmental bodies and private enterprise and ensure ownership through control and supervision

- **Behaviour change**: Payment for water service by local communities
Key Results/Impacts

- **Support to institutional reforms** (Communal Development Plan/water service delegation) in the frame of decentralization
- **Strengthen capacities**, especially at local levels (O&M by water point management committees)
- **Facilitated and Strengthened collaboration** between Government counterparts (coordination, control and supervision) and private company (construction works) and NGO’s (hard and soft works)
- **Acceleration** of project implementation with respect of timing
Lessons learnt

- **Technical expertise vs Financial profit** (working with governmental entities and private enterprises)
- **Increased community participation** with a focus on gender and equity
- **Financial mechanism** in support to the process: Low capacity at community level to mobilize financial resources
- Limited human resource and coordination capacity
- **Increased management effectiveness and motivation** as a result of clear incentives and lack of reliance on volunteers