

The 2018/19 Water Sector Budget: Should Women and Girls expect any Relief?

Background

Women and girls are most often the primary users, providers and managers of water in their households and are the caretakers of household hygiene. If a water system fails, women are forced to travel long distances and for many hours to meet their families' water needs. Along the way, they face dilemmas including sexual violence such as rape or unwanted pregnancies, limited time for income generating activities and other social activities. Furthermore, lack of water in houses, schools, health facilities, orphanage and elderly centers results in poor hygiene particularly for women and girls who are potentially at higher risk of developing health care associated infections. Similarly, lack of adequate WASH services and resources like water may discourage women from giving birth in Health Care Facilities or causing delays in care-seeking and greatly increases or minimizes efforts towards neonatal and maternal mortality. In lack of water in Schools may be among the factors for girls missing schools especially during menstruations. Without addressing these factors, it will be difficult to transform women and girls to actively take part in economic activities and contribute to overall economic growth.

Current Trends of Water and Sanitation Budget

The proportion of water sector budget in the sectoral budget as well as in the overall budget has fluctuated for three consecutive financial years as shown below¹. Fiscal decentralisation to lower levels is increasing, with the role of Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MoWI) shifting towards facilitation rather than implementation. A large proportion of transfers are developmental. Despite progress made to decentralise the water sector, access and equity issues remain. As stated in the introductory part, these challenges adversely affect women and girls in social sectors which then castigate into economic mishaps

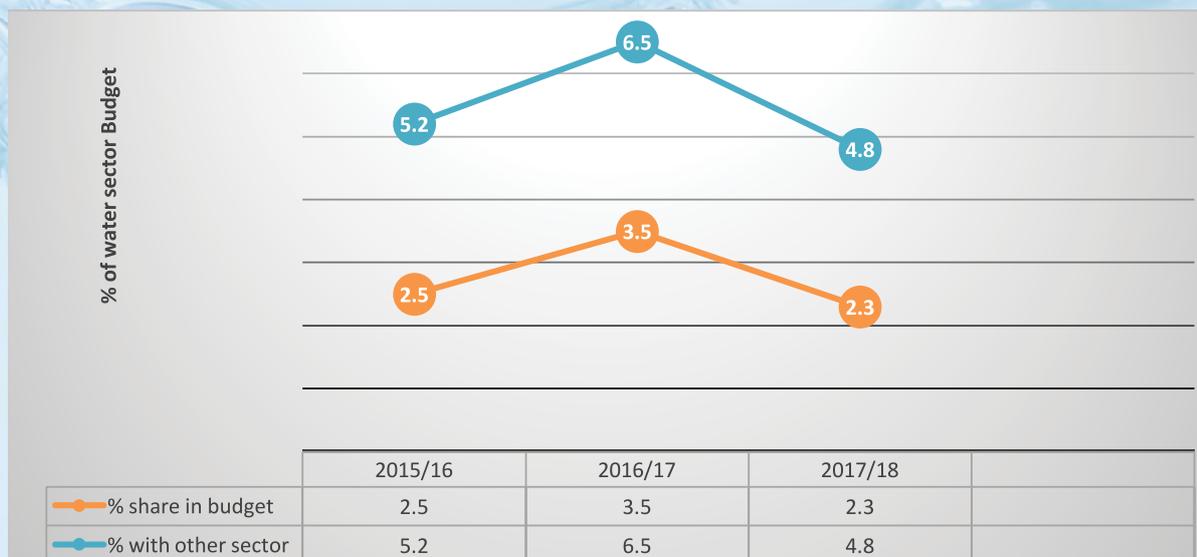


Figure 1: Budget Share (2015/16 – 2017/18)

¹ FY 2018/2019 is awaiting the National Budget

Allocation of Water Sector Budget for the past 5 years

Access to high-quality healthcare, water and education for all has become a major policy priority in Tanzania, highlighting the need for the country to establish sustainable financing mechanisms for social sectors and increase domestic resource mobilization. However, Resource commitments remain a challenge as shown below;

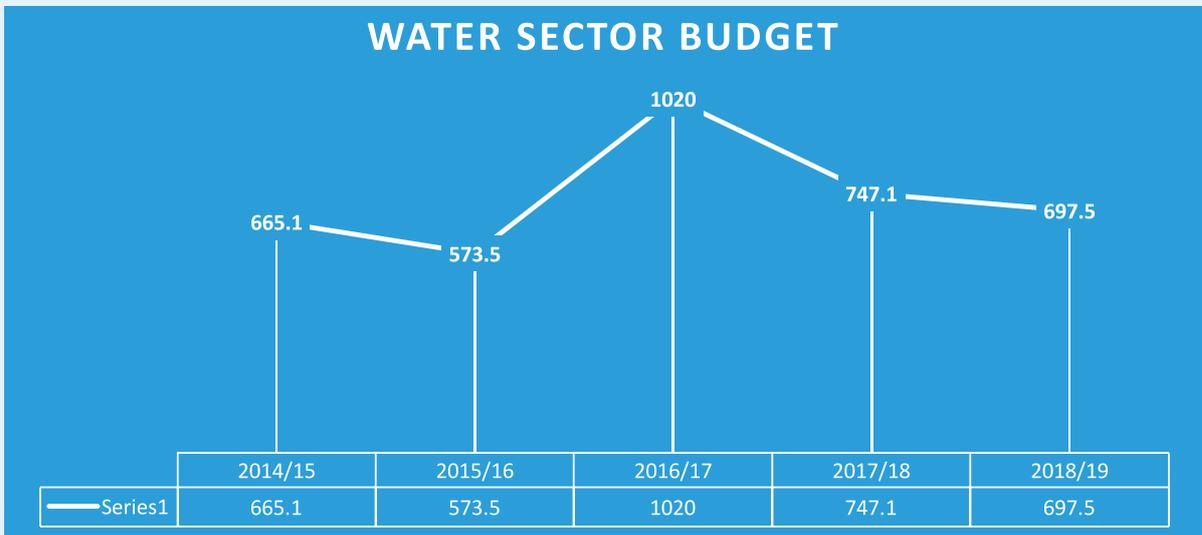


Figure 2: Trends of Water Sector Budget (in billion shillings)

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Much as there is a gradual increase and decrease in sector financing for the last 4 financial years, the increase is not in tandem with the increasing sector priorities. This is reflected in a drop from 3.4% in FY 2016/2017 to 3.1% in FY 2017/2018. In addition, the external financing has been reduced by 4%, which constrain effective service delivery and reach out to the communities to achieve the set FYDP II targets and SDGs goal of providing safe water and thus jeopardize women and girl's emancipation in the sector.

Performance of 2017/2018 Water Sector Budget

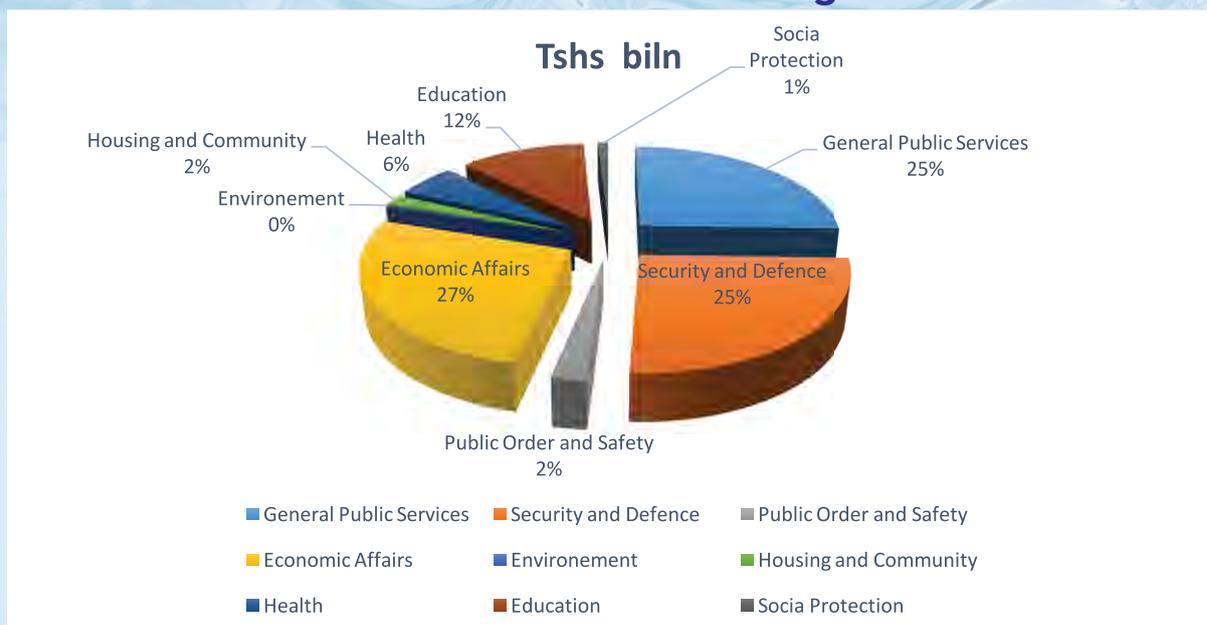


Figure 3: 2017/2018 Summary of Expenditure by Government's Functions

Source: Ministry of Finance and Planning; Citizen Budget

As seen from the above figure, water is enlisted among Housing and Community services which include housing, water supply and community development. For 2018/18, all these categories were allocated only 2% of the budget. This gap in budgetary allocation perpetuates a growing gap between the lives and welfare of the poor majority particularly women and girls who will continue suffering from accessing these resources and thus diminishes their economic inequality.

Priority Areas for 2018/19 National Budget

In his speech, the Minister for Finance and Planning (MoFP) Honorable Dr. Philip Mpango stressed that the 2018/19 budget of TZS 32.4 trillion will put more emphasis on implementation of flagship projects, including those related to social services water being among them.

In 2018/19 budget, the Government is planning to increase availability and distribution of clean and safe water particularly in villages and sewerage systems, drilling of boreholes in arid and semiarid areas and construction of strategic dams.

The Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II) aims at increasing the proportion of households with improved sanitary facilities in rural areas to 75 per cent by 2020 and 85 percent by 2025, with rehabilitation of sewerage infrastructure included in the key areas of interventions. The Government’s commitment in this year’s budget will significantly help in realizing the set objectives in the FYDP II on improving availability and distribution of clean and safe water.

Gender Dimensions in Water and Sanitation Sub Sector Budget

Budgetary allocations for the water sector are found in different Government institutions. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for example, has allocated Tshs 17,033,235,000 for addressing WASH in schools. The President’s Office – Regional Authorities and Local Government (PO-RALG) on the other hand has allocated Tshs 332,000,000 for addressing WASH challenges in Rural areas.

In water and sanitation, availability of improved water sources has only increased from 54.8% in 2006 to 55.5% in 2014². Women are most responsible for the burden of fetching water and this situation takes a heavy toll on them. The figure below sheds some more insights regarding some key concerns in this sector.

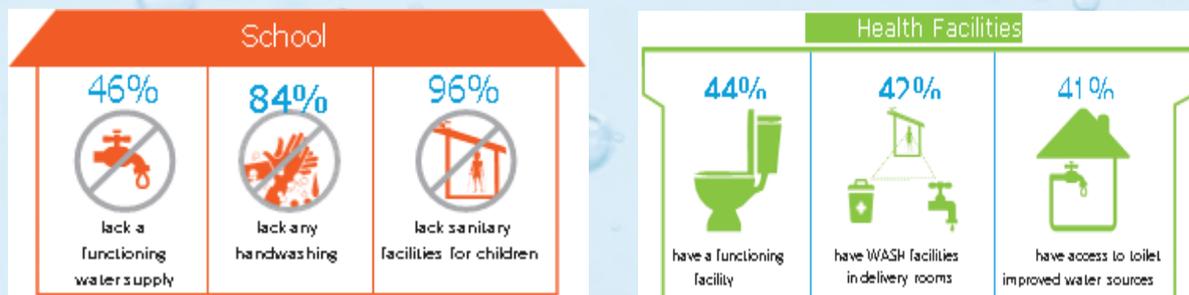


Figure 4: WASH in Schools and Health Facilities

Sources: Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHSMIS), 2015–2016; SNV, WaterAid and UNICEF, School WASH Mapping in 16 districts, 2010; National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) et al, Tanzania Service Provision Assessment Survey 2014–2015, 2016; Benova et al., Where there I sno toilet, 2014.

² databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx? source=2&country=TZA&series=&period= accessed 04/06/2016

Despite its importance, many schools in Tanzania do not have adequate and enough water supply. The survey report on School WASH mapping indicates that 61% of schools in the surveyed districts have access to pipe or other protected water supply³.

Women and girls are affected by lack of water in homes, school and health facilities. Despite the success in increasing enrolment, drop-out and completion rates remain high. The drop-out rate in Tanzania is high, standing at about 33 percent, with significantly higher rates of drop out for girls. The reasons for poor retention are many but international research suggests that inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities play a major role.

Comparisons of Budget Performance with 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 FY

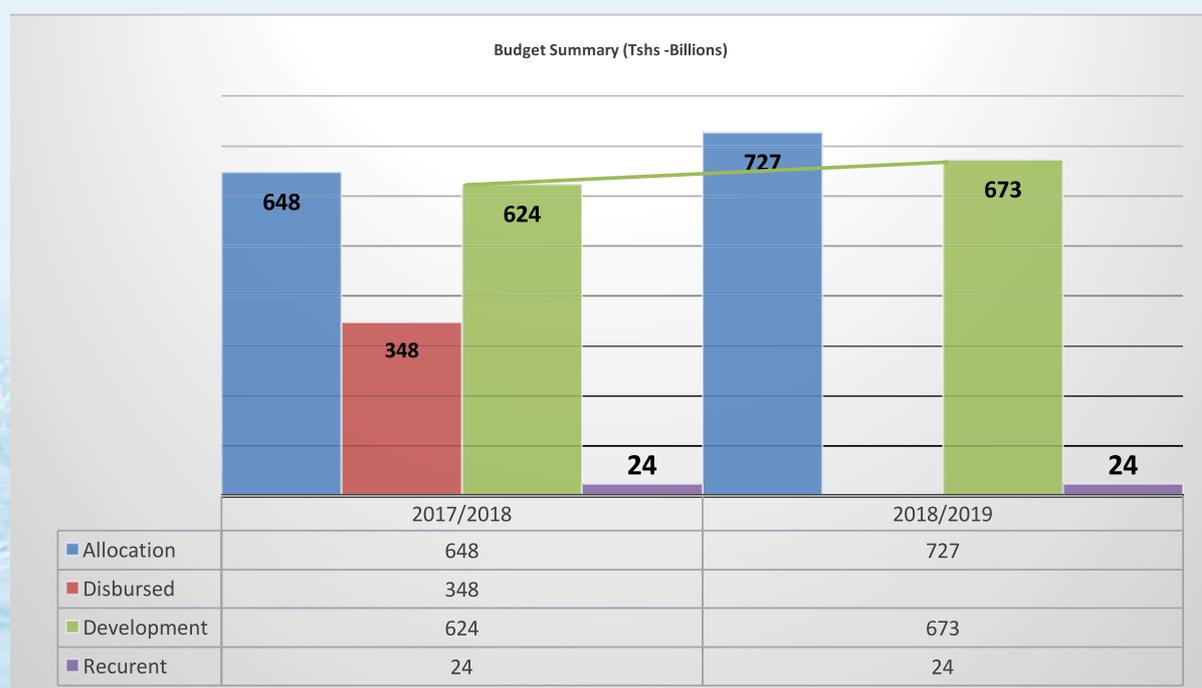


Figure 5: Budget Summary

Source; Budget Speech MoWI 2018/2019⁴

Based on the implementation of the 2016/17 and 2017/2018 budgets, experiences show that the gap between allocations and actual disbursement could affect aspirations of addressing key gender sensitive challenges in the sector. For instance, only 56% of the total development budget for the 2017/18 fiscal year had been released by March 2018. There are also clearly capacity issues that limit the water sector's ability to utilize its increasing budget and these issues in budget execution relate to the Government's inability to meet the commitments it outlined for itself in the WSDP Restructuring Plan.

The water sector budget is broadly aligned to sector policy priorities but the delays in disbursement of development funds to LGAs are set to persist. Analysis has indicated a reasonable alignment of the sector's approved budget with key strategic objectives and projects in the sector as set out in the WSDP. Furthermore, there is a concern about the timely availability of funds to implementing units to carry out development projects in rural areas. This trend seems to continue because until the end of the third quarter of 2017/18

³ WASH Mapping in 16 Districts (SNV 2010)

⁴ www.parliament.go.tz/

budget, only 56% was disbursed for development projects for water sector and only 50.68% for PO-RALG.

Moreover, although a high level of development expenditure is important to improve the infrastructure in the country, it is also important to maintain an adequate recurrent budget to ensure proper operations and maintenance of facilities. Challenges are faced in sustaining rural water supplies as communities struggle to raise enough revenues to cover large maintenance expenses. Given the difficulty of implementing costly recovery policies such as user fees at the local level in low income contexts, it is imperative that recurrent costs are fully covered.

Observations from the table below suggest that most of the projects which were allocated budget for 2017/2018 will be carried out in the 2018/2019 financial year. The disbursement of the budget was not done adequately, even those which were released were even below 50% and worse still are those which could address women challenges. This simply implies that a lot is still desired in responding to the needs and concerns of women and girls.

Table 1; Gender Lens in WASH Priorities

Projects	Budget in 2017/2018	Budget Released for 2017/2018	Budget Projection for 2018/2019
Water Resources Development and Management	52,180,000,000	-	41,000,000,000
Construction and Maintenance of Water Projects in District Headquarters and National Projects	91,000,000,000	13,230,376,415	95,900,000,000
Expands and Rehabilitate on going water projects in rural areas.	24,702,742,400	-	30,480,000,000
Improvements of water and sanitation in rural areas	158,500,000,000	80,110,906,926	170,000,000,000
Strengthening the capacity for District Councils	30,724,000,000	931,489,830	14,520,000,000

Source: MoWI Speech 2018

Gender Sensitive Salient Features for Water Sector Budget

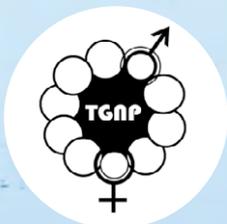
1. Tshs. 267.3 billion was allocated for 366 water projects in Councils and Rural areas, only Tshs. 91.08 billion (34%) was disbursed for 71 projects (19%) of all anticipated projects. While we hail the government for the efforts in supplying water to rural communities, we strongly believe that a lot needs to be done to address the existing gender issues in the sector.
2. Water is not among the priority sectors in TAMISEMI despite all the challenges which implies a long way to go addressing gender issues in water sector particularly in schools and health facilities. Water is only mentioned in the Local Government Authority functions to include the environmental conservations and protection of catchments areas under vote 88.
3. Out of 3,713 of Health Centers evaluated on provision of quality health services standards; 1,244 (33%) scored 0 in the standard of providing quality health care services. One of the assessment criteria was availability of WASH services and only 62 Health Centers (2%) scored above 3 stars grade. Under Vote 56, a Study by NIMR on availability of Basic Health Facility Standards in Health Centers; 19% access water from unimproved water sources including open source such as dams and rivers. Also 46.5% of water sampled was found to be contaminated, 42% labor wards lack hands washing facilities and 10% have poor standard toilets. In the statement by the Ministry of Health a promise was made to collaborate with PO- RALG to address these challenges (Vote 57) by allocating specific budget. However, there is no specific budget allocated in the 2018/19 budget.
4. Lack of strategic gender mainstreaming and sex-disaggregated data in most budget speeches and reports limits the integration of gender into budgeting documents. Gender is only mentioned in the Budget Guidelines as one of several cross-cutting issues. That gender needs to be mainstreamed by different areas of government; regional and local governments are also expected to create and strengthen specific systems to address gender issues, as well as to protect the rights of children. But again, gender is treated as a tag on issue, not a priority; and advancement of women is not mentioned at all here⁵.

Recommendations

1. The water sector requires timely disbursement of funds to effectively implement core functions of water resource management. There is need for an establishment of Gender Strategy in water and sanitation sector.
2. The government needs to improve the predictability of funding in the sector, reduce geographical disparities in access to water, invest in sanitation and hygiene, and allocate funds to cover the backlog of weak maintenance, management of existing sources and establishment of new sources.
3. The government needs to establish separate budget lines and allocate enough funds for scaled-up investments on sanitation and hygiene for households/ community, schools and health facilities through;

⁵ TGNP's Five Years Development Plan analytical paper at page 11

- a) Construction of new school classrooms should consistently be matched by new latrines, hand-washing facilities and, where possible, improvement of water supply. This should be inspected and enforced.
 - b) Ensuring that in each village with a WSDP-financed project, water supply is provided to schools.
 - c) Finalize the school WASH programme with a clear mechanism for channelling
 - d) Increase budget allocation to sanitation to 0.5% of GDP in line with the African target.
 - e) Cabinet endorsement of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and efforts to improve interministerial coordination as a matter of urgency
4. It is recommended that the financing of the recurrent budget is increased in line with what can realistically be absorbed. While the Government is making a credible commitment to water sector development and has increased its development spending, the declining recurrent budget is a concern for future sustainability.
 5. It is recommended that there is a rebalancing in favour of the rural water sector to attempt to support efforts to improve rural water access and to work towards meeting access targets.
 6. It is recommended that continued efforts are made to reduce dependence on foreign sources over the medium and long term.
 7. Government of Tanzania budget need to consider the review of the water policy strategies and plans to meet the current context and demand including the aligning to SDGs, targets and indicators by 2030 with the following key demands:
 - a) Inclusion of a gender expert in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring at the national and LGA level to ensure concrete gender mainstreaming on water use and management including WASH facilities to align with the target set by the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children' initiative objectives
 - b) Gender mainstreaming in the water sector particularly in ensuring that the strategic and practical gender needs differs with gender disaggregated lens particularly for school girls from Primary to High academic level and mainstream this into a nationwide program supported with adequate staffing and budgets
 8. Improve and harmonise gender disaggregated data on water and sanitation sector with a very strong and real database informed by a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to inform evidence during planning and budgeting process.



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