



Press Release

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## More money, less water

### Access to clean water not improving despite huge investments in recent years

**1 April 2014, Dar es Salaam:** Spending per person in the water sector has increased by a factor of five between 1999/2000 and 2011/2012 but there has been absolutely no increase in the figures for access to clean water over the same period. To the contrary, between 1990 and 2011, access has actually decreased from 55% to 53%. Similarly, between 1995 and 2005, Tanzania received \$57 per beneficiary in aid for the water sector and saw a decline in access of 1%. In comparison Uganda received \$16 per beneficiary over the same period and saw a 25% increase in access to clean and safe water; while Kenya received \$17 per beneficiary and saw a 20% increase in access.

These findings were released by Twaweza in a research brief titled *Money flows, water trickles. Challenges of access to clean water in Tanzania*. The brief is based on data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, a nationally representative mobile phone survey of households across Mainland Tanzania.

The lack of change in access to clean water over the last 20 years is also in direct contrast to trends in the rest of Africa, where access has increased – from 49% in 1990 to 63% in 2011. Given the decline in access to water despite huge investment, reaching the ambitious Big Results Now targets of 75% of the population having access to clean and safe water will require a complete change in practice. Simply increasing funds for the sector without a robust review of past failures may mean that the same mistakes are repeated.

Perhaps unsurprisingly given the lack of improvement over time, almost one in three (30%) Tanzanians say that water is one of the three most important problems facing the country. Water is ranked alongside health as a core challenge. The only issue thought to be more pressing is the economy, which four out of ten (43%) of people cite as a major national challenge.

The challenges of water provision continue to be relevant for the majority of people. Almost all (89%) Tanzanians collect water from public sources, meaning only one out of ten (11%) have piped or delivered water. The official government target is for the trip to collect water to take not more than 30 minutes (round trip) but the average time taken is almost an hour (57 minutes).

Sauti za Wananchi also asked who in a household was mainly responsible for collecting water: in three out of four households, it is the female head of the household who must ensure that the household has water for its daily needs.

Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza, said *“Compared with huge investments in the water sector in recent years, the small decrease in access to clean and safe water is troubling. If Big Results Now targets are to be achieved, we need an urgent evaluation of what has gone wrong and what has happened to the funds so that every citizen can enjoy their right to clean and safe water.”*

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**Notes to Editors**

- This brief and the data contained can be accessed at [www.twaweza.org](http://www.twaweza.org), or [www.twaweza.org/sauti](http://www.twaweza.org/sauti)
- Twaweza is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action, and seeks to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account.
- You can follow Twaweza's work

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