

Clean and Safe?
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. Introduction

Access to clean and safe water is a fundamental requirement for life, recognised in every notable set of global and national targets, and set out as Sustainable Development Goal 6. In Tanzania, clean and safe water has been included in each MKUKUTA (National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty) round, Vision 2025, Big Results Now, and successive election manifestos across all major political parties. There is universal agreement that this is an important priority, and yet, expanding access to clean and safe water and sanitation in Tanzania has proved difficult in practice.

The Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) has, since 2006, been the government and development partners' main vehicle to deliver access to safe water. Over USD 1.2 billion was spend on WSDP phase 1 between 2006 and 2014. From 2013-2016, this was complemented by the Big Results Now (BRN) initiative, which included rural water supply as one of its six original focus areas.

This brief presents data on citizens' access to water and sanitation services, and the related topics of water treatment, hygiene and public cleaning campaigns. Have the efforts and investment of WSDP and BRN delivered improvements in access to clean and safe water and sanitation that have benefited citizens? What hygiene and water treatment practices do citizens employ? How many citizens participated in the public cleaning activities mobilised by President Magufuli?

Data for the brief come from Twaweza's flagship *Sauti za Wananchi* survey. *Sauti za Wananchi* is a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey. It is representative for Mainland Tanzania. Information on the overall methodology is available at www.twaweza.org/sauti. For this brief, data were collected from 1,808 respondents from the 14th round of the second *Sauti za Wananchi* panel, conducted in October 2016.

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The key findings are:

- Half (54%) of households in Tanzania get water from an improved water source.
- Access to water in rural Tanzania has not increased in the last 10 years.
- Water collection is still a time consuming exercise and remains primarily the responsibility of women and children.
- 60% of households practice household water treatment (HWT), with boiling being the most common method used.
- Distance; fewer water points and dirty water are among the main challenges rural communities face in accessing clean water. Contrastingly, cost and irregular supply are the main challenges for urban Tanzanians.

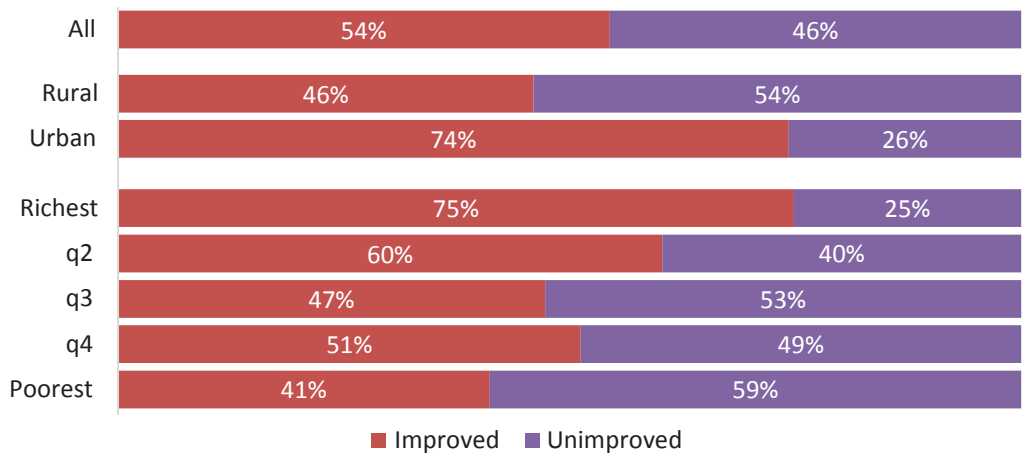
2. Nine facts about water, sanitation and hygiene in Tanzania

Fact 1: Five in ten households get their drinking water from an improved water source

A little over half (54%) of all households in mainland Tanzania use an improved[1] source of water as their main source of drinking water.

In urban areas, three in four households (74%) have access to clean and safe water, while in rural areas the figure is just under half (46%). There is a clear link with wealth, with 75% of the richest households having access, compared to four in ten (41%) of the poorest households.

Figure 1: What is the main source of drinking water for members of your household?



Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

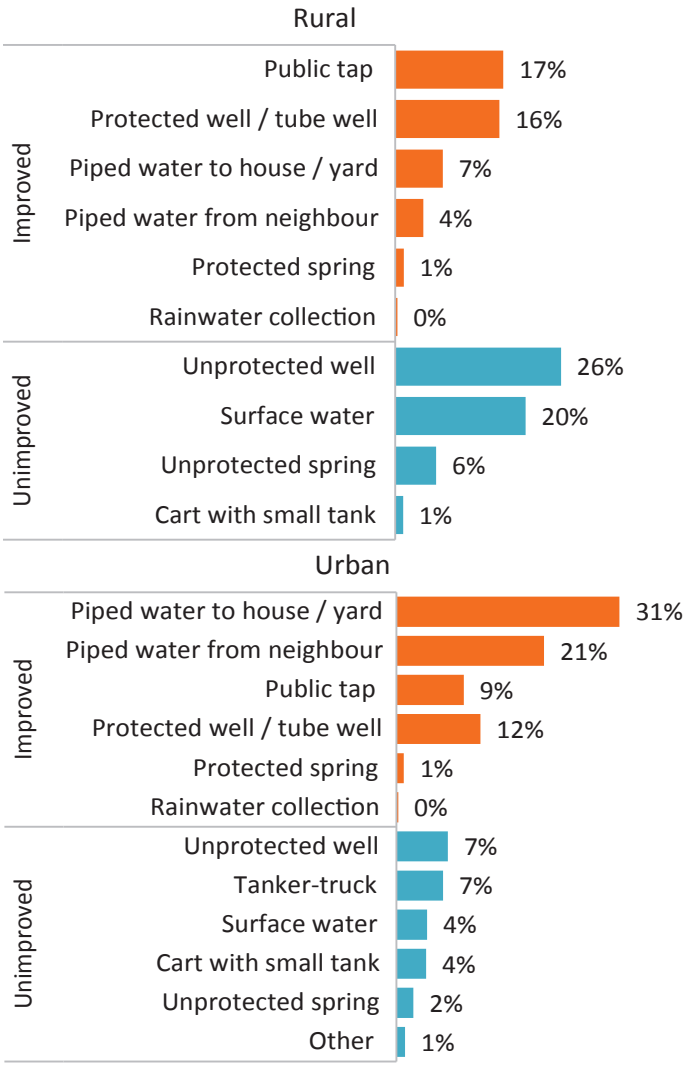
1 This uses the nationally and internationally recognised classification of different types of sources as either improved or unimproved. Improved sources include piped water, protected wells and springs, and rainwater collection. As defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF – see *https://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories/*

Breaking these figures down further, we can see that in rural areas, one in four households (26%) uses an unprotected well as their main source of drinking water, and one in five (20%) uses a surface water source, such as a river, stream or dam.

In urban areas, a piped source (61%) is most common, with three in ten households (31%) having piped water into their dwelling or yard, with a further two in ten (21%) getting their drinking water from a neighbour's piped supply and one in ten (9%) from a public tap.

Both in urban and rural areas, less than 1% of households harvest rainwater for use as their main source of drinking water.

Figure 2: What is the main source of drinking water for members of your household?



Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

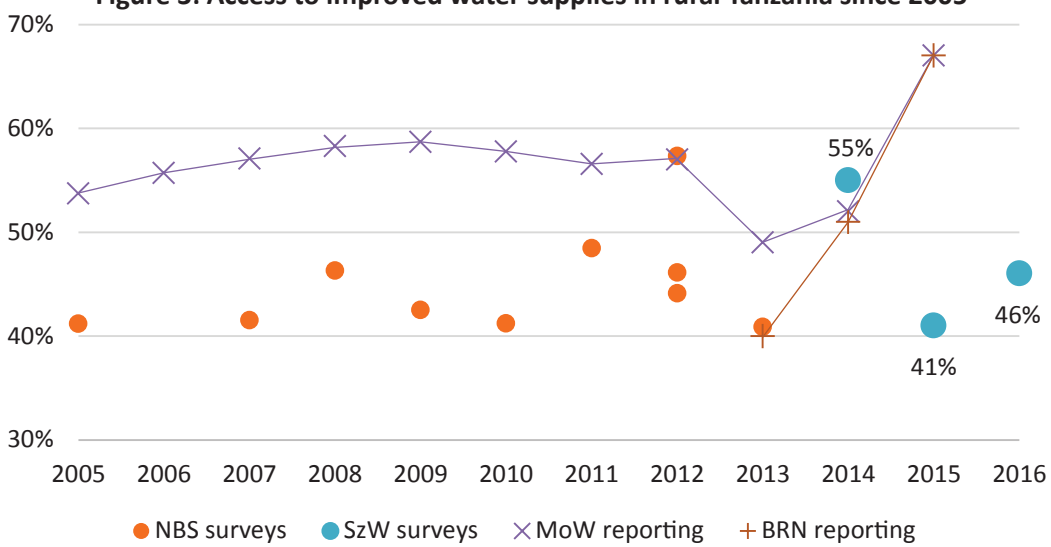
Fact 2: Access to clean and safe water in rural Tanzania has not increased in the past ten years

To look at the trend in access to water especially in rural areas over time, we compare data on access to water in rural Tanzania from *Sauti za Wananchi* survey rounds, data collected through household surveys by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), data reported by the Ministry of Water (MoW) and results reported by the Big Results Now (BRN) initiative.

The overall trend in survey data collected by NBS and *Sauti za Wananchi* show that access to clean and safe water in rural Tanzania has neither increased nor declined since 2005. Out of fourteen such surveys, twelve estimate that between 41% and 48% of households use an improved water source for their drinking water.[2] Taken alone, the *Sauti za Wananchi* data shows a decrease in access from 55% in 2014 to 46% in 2016.

For most of this period, the Ministry of Water has reported higher access, at between 50% and 60%. Figures for BRN, however, report a rapid increase in access from 40% in 2013 to 67% in 2015. [3]

Figure 3: Access to improved water supplies in rural Tanzania since 2005



Sources of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016); NBS survey data from Joint Monitoring Programme (https://www.wssinfo.org/documents/) includes Demographic and Health Survey (2005, 2010, 2016), Household Budget Survey

2 NBS survey data from Joint Monitoring Programme (https://www.wssinfo.org/documents/), includes Demographic and Health Survey (2005, 2010, 2016), Household Budget Survey (2007, 2012), HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey (2008, 2012), Living Standards Measurement Study (2009, 2011), and Census (2012);

3 Ministry of Water data from Open Data portal (http://bit.ly/2ju8a2e); BRN 2013, 2015 data from Open Data portal (2013 and 2015: http://bit.ly/2jbjjDZ); BRN 2014 data from Ministry of Water (http://bit.ly/2jZQmiS);

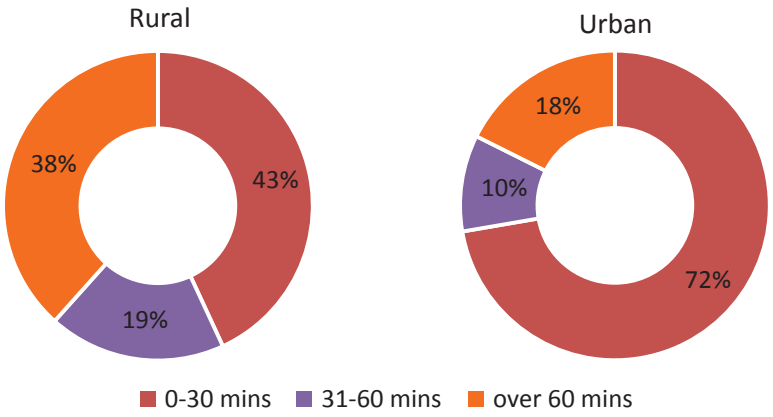
(2007, 2012), HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey (2008, 2012), Living Standards Measurement Study (2009, 2011), and Census (2012); Ministry of Water data from Open Data portal (http://bit.ly/2ju8a2e); BRN 2013, 2015 data from Open Data portal (2013 and 2015: http://bit.ly/2jbjjDZ); BRN 2014 data from Ministry of Water (http://bit.ly/2jZQmiS)

Fact 3: Four in ten rural households in Tanzania need an hour or more to collect water

Four in ten rural households (43%) are able to collect water within the 30-minute period specified by national targets including MKUKUTA. For two in ten households (19%) in rural areas it takes between 30 and 60 minutes to collect water, while four in ten (38%) need over an hour.

In urban areas, for one in five households (18%) it takes more than an hour to collect water. For one in ten (10%), it takes between 30 minutes and an hour, while the majority of households in urban areas fall within the 30-minute target collection time.

Figure 4: How long does it take to get to this water source, collect water and return?

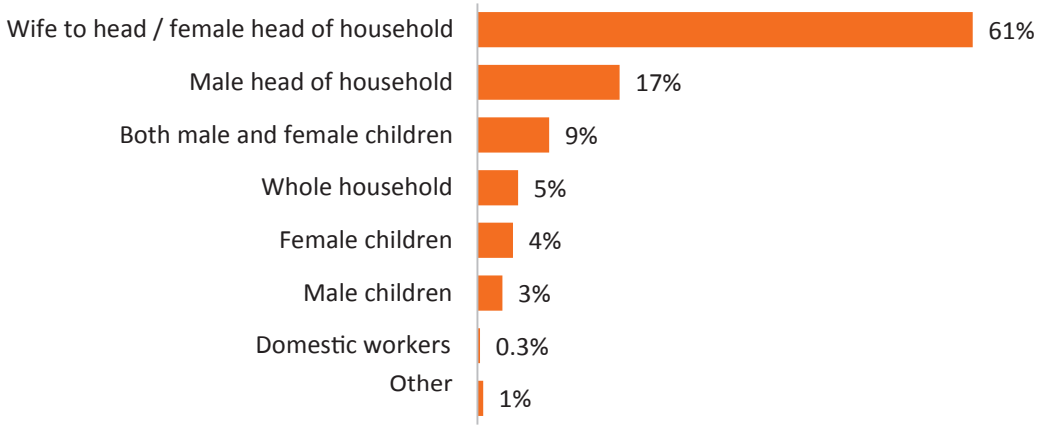


Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

Fact 4: In 80% of households, the task of collecting water falls to women and children

For six in ten households (61%), the female head of household or wife to the head of household is responsible for collecting water. In a further 16% of households, the responsibility is borne by children. There is no significant difference in these figures between urban and rural areas.

Figure 5: Who in your household is the person responsible for collecting water?



Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

It should be noted that this data is based on household members' own reporting of who is responsible, rather than on observation. It may well be that a greater part of the task of collecting water is actually borne by children or domestic workers, but that adult women in the household direct this work and it is felt to be their responsibility.

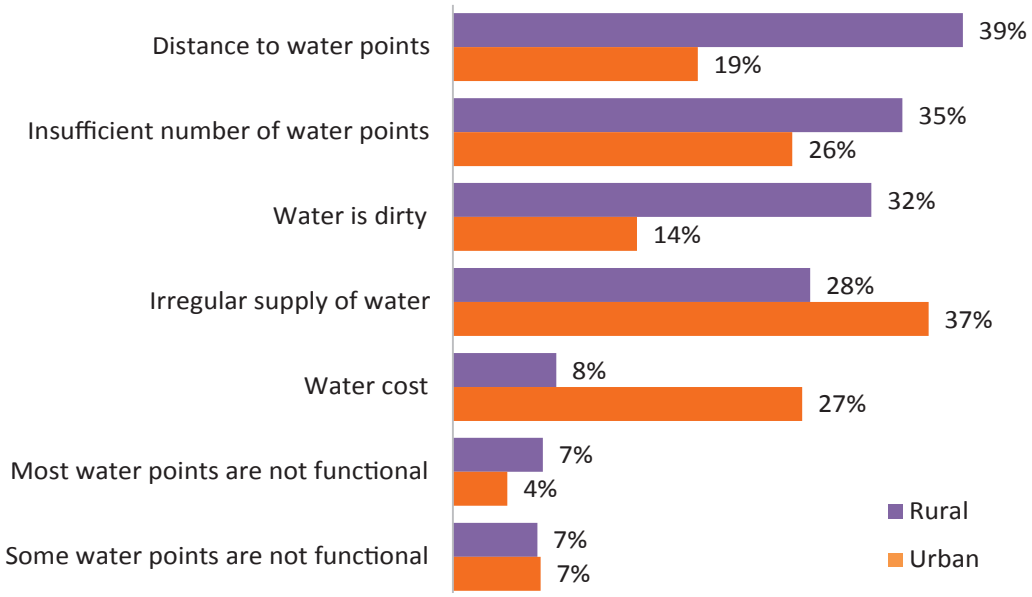
Fact 5: In rural Tanzania, distance and few water points are the biggest challenges faced in accessing water.

Citizens in rural areas state that distance to water points (39%) and an insufficient number of water points (35%) are among the two biggest challenges their community faces in accessing clean drinking water. Significant numbers also report dirty water (32%) and irregular supply (28%).

In urban areas, irregular supply is the most widely experienced challenge, with four in ten (37%) citizens mentioning this issue. The cost of water was also cited by many (27%), along with an insufficient number of water points (26%).

Interestingly, irregular supply and an insufficient number of water points are among the most widespread problems in both rural and urban areas.

Figure 6: What are the two main challenges your community is facing in accessing clean drinking water?



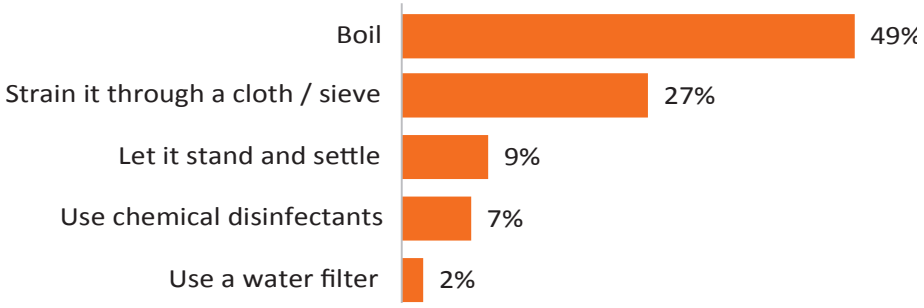
Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

Fact 6: Six in ten households treat their water before drinking

Six in ten (61%) households report that they treat their water to make it safer to drink. Half (49%) report boiling the water, and a quarter (27%) report straining it through a cloth or sieve. One in ten report using either chemical disinfectants such as WaterGuard (7%) or a filter (2%) to make their water safe.

Boiling is more common in urban areas (58% of households) than rural (45%). The same applies to use of chemical disinfectants, which stands at 14% in urban areas and 5% in rural.

Figure 7: Do you do anything to your water to make it safer to drink? (% mentioning the following)[4]



Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

4 World Health Organization standards and guidelines on water treatment: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/om/linkingchap6.pdf

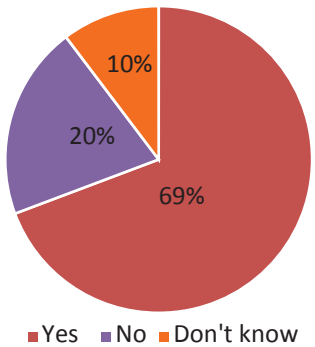
Fact 7: Seven in ten citizens report that their MP promised water projects during the last election

A clear majority (69%) of citizens report that water projects were promised by their local MP during the 2015 election.

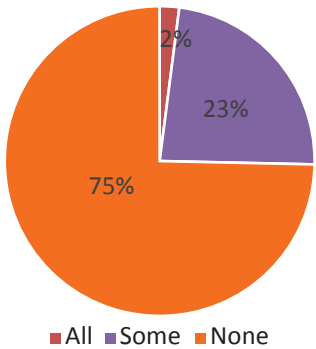
Three quarters of those who report having been promised a water project also report that this promise is yet to be fulfilled, though it must be noted that this data was collected 12 months after the elections. In one in four cases, citizens report that their MP has implemented all or some of the water project promises that he or she made during the election campaign.

Figure 8: Campaign promises and implementation

A: In the previous election, did your MP promise your community a water project?



B: Did your MP implement the water project promises they made?

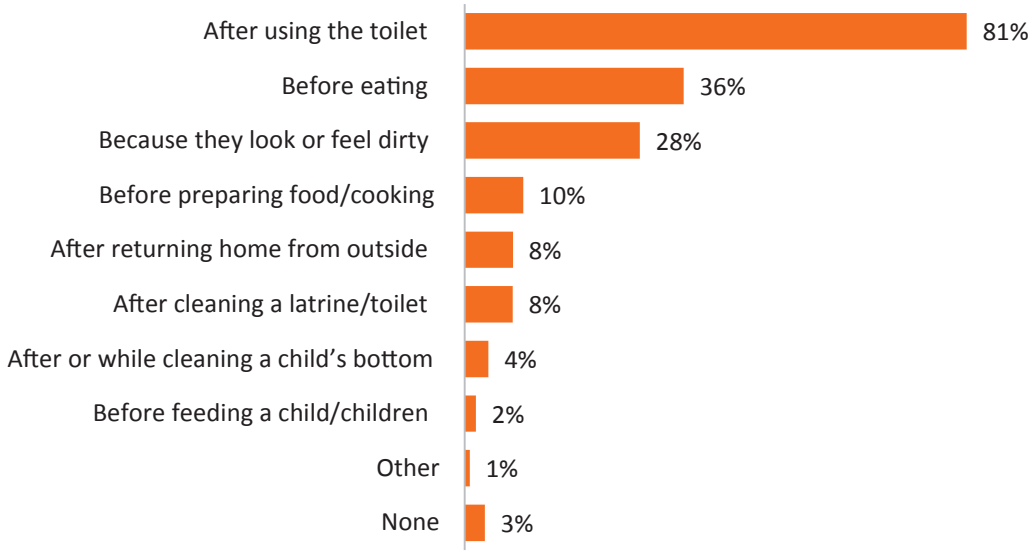


Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

Fact 8: Eight in ten citizens report washing their hands after using the toilet

Handwashing with soap is an important element of hygiene practice. Eight in ten (81%) reporting having washed their hands with soap in the previous 24 hours after using the toilet. One in three (36%) report washing their hands before eating, and three in ten (28%) when their hands looked or felt dirty.

Figure 9: The most commonly mentioned reasons for washing hands in the past 24 hours



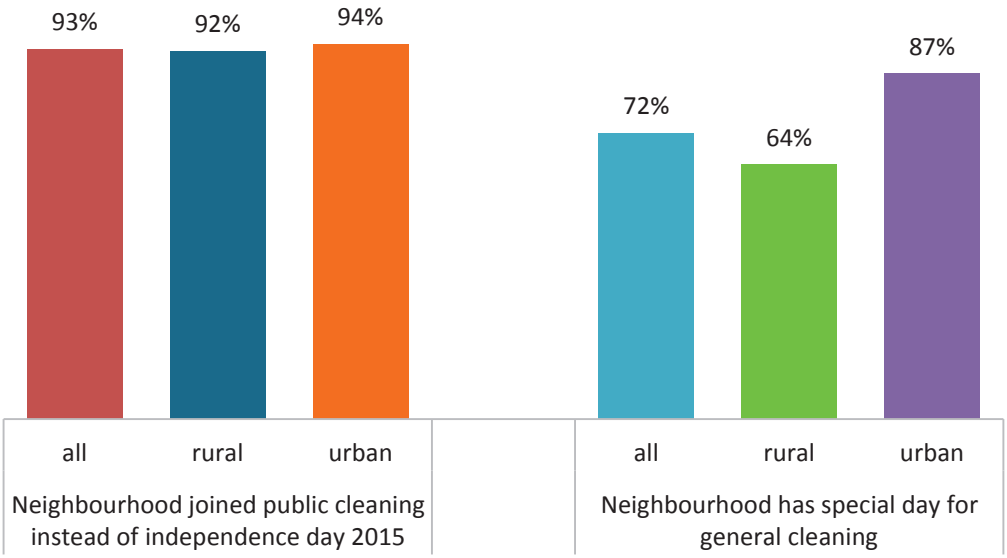
Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

Fact 9: Nine in ten citizens participated in public cleaning activities instead of Independence Day, 2015

In response to President Magufuli's decision to replace official public celebrations of Independence Day in December 2015 with a national day of cleaning up, over nine in ten citizens (93%) report that their community joined in the clean-up exercise. This is consistent across rural (92%) and urban (94%) areas.

In urban areas, nine in ten households (87%) report that ongoing community-organised general cleaning exercises still take place. In rural areas, two in three citizens (64%) report that this still happens.

Figure 10: Neighbourhood participation in public cleaning activities



Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, mobile phone survey, Round 14 (October 2016)

3. Conclusion

The data in this brief effectively present a report card on the performance of Tanzania's water and sanitation sector over the past few years. It is, at best, a mixed picture.

Since 2007, the government and development partners have spent over USD $2bn on the sector, under phases I and II of the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP). Further attention was given to rural water supply in particular through the Big Results Now (BRN) initiative, which claimed to have delivered results that lived up to its name.

This brief, however, raises serious questions about whether the increase in spending has had the desired impact, and whether BRN has truly delivered as much as it has reported. In particular, the finding that access to clean and safe water in rural areas of Tanzania has neither increased nor declined in any substantial way in the past ten years is alarming. Other data in the brief are consistent with this conclusion: lack of water points and distance to waterpoints were cited as the biggest water-related challenges faced by rural communities, and 69% of voters report that their MPs recognised the need for water and responded by making promises during the 2015 election campaign.

So, has this huge amount of money been spent to little or no effect, merely keeping up with the rate of population growth? It is not a happy conclusion, but it appears to be an unavoidable one. Perhaps the achievements of BRN were delivered at the cost of drawing time and funding away from other efforts to maintain and increase access, such that the

overall effect was minimal? Or perhaps there are more fundamental issues for the sector to resolve before it can deliver the big increases in access that are so desperately needed?

Household surveys conducted by NBS are the most thorough and reliable way of measuring access to clean and safe water. Such surveys typically take 1-2 years to show results, however, and *Sauti za Wananchi* surveys provide a quick means of measuring progress in the shorter term.

Beyond the issue of access, the data in this brief provides valuable insights on other challenges faced by Tanzanians in accessing clean and safe water. In rural areas, 57% of households are not able to collect their water within the target of 30-minutes. Effective treatment of water to make it safe for drinking is far from widespread. And water is fundamentally a gender issue, with responsibility for collecting water falling to women and children in eight in ten households.

The water sector's continued struggles in Tanzania will not be straightforward to resolve. The experience of recent years has shown that pouring in money does not automatically result in more than a trickle of water. Though the public regularly cite water as among their top priorities for government action, and MPs demonstrate that the feel this pressure locally, this is rarely reflected in the national media. And while spending big money on shiny new water projects may satisfy both MPs and their constituents in the short term (as well as providing opportunities for corruption), keeping those projects working over the following years is what will determine whether they result in real improvements in access. Keeping projects working is also a much more complicated task, with responsibilities (and costs) split between local communities, local government, water utilities and the Ministry. And persuading people to treat their water and to wash their hands is an educational challenge rather than a financial or engineering issue.

There is a positive finding to end with from this data, however. It appears that President Magufuli's decision to replace national Independence Day celebrations in 2015 with a nationwide clean-up exercise drew an enthusiastic response. Over nine in ten communities were mobilised by the President's call, and held community clean-ups. Further, seven in ten communities have continued with such exercises on a regular basis. This is no small achievement. And if the same commitment could be harnessed to bring about improvements in access to clean and safe water, that may deliver a genuinely big result.