

Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Regulators in Africa – Country Profile Rwanda

General information	
Region	Eastern Africa
Surface area	26,338 km ²
Total Population	13,246,394 (NISR, 2022)*
Urban pop.	27.9%
Rural pop.	72.1%
Access to improved water supply	82.3% (NISR, 2022)*
Access to improved sanitation	72% (NISR, 2022)*



WSS Regulatory Status

	Urban		Rural	
	Water Supply	Sanitation	Water Supply	Sanitation
Type of Regulation	Regulation by Agency			
Name of Regulator	Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA)			
Year of establishment	2003			
Policy	National Water Supply Policy, 2016 National Sanitation Policy, 2016			
Legal instrument	Law N° 29/2001 replaced by Law N° 09/2013			
Area of Jurisdiction	National			
Number of regulated service providers	56 water and 14 sanitation service providers			
Type of service providers	National & Regional Service Providers			
Key functions of RURA				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing guidelines and regulations Licensing service providers, Tariff setting Monitor compliance by licensees 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting on sector performance Ensuring fair competition Protection of the rights and obligations of consumers and service provider 		
Best practice: 1. Reaching rural communities				
<p>As part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy to reach the rural communities with water services, the Rwandan government has set up a public-private partnership (PPP) scheme where service provision is delegated to private companies by the Districts, the infrastructure asset holders. Performance contracts are signed between private operators and Districts that state quality, performance, and monitoring parameters. RURA comes in for monitoring performance and arbitration if there is a conflict between the signatory parties. Also for these service providers to be eligible to operate they must have a license issued by RURA.</p>				
2. Inclusive regulatory framework for different sanitation solutions				
<p>In the absence of central sewerage system, Rwanda has focused on regulating the onsite sanitation systems used by the majority of its population by developing a comprehensive regulatory arrangement across the value chain: Local Authorities regulate containment by issuing construction permits. Sludge emptying and transportation is provided by private operators and regulated by RURA. Treatment is done by private operators through contract with Local Authorities and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) monitors the quality of effluent. Additionally, RURA regulate the installation of decentralized wastewater treatment systems</p>				
*Source	For more information about RURA, click here			