This short brief provides some insights on Zambia’s WASH context compared to its neighbour countries. It was developed using data collected on WASHwatch.

1. Access to improved water

- On current trend, in 2030, 25% of the population will still lack access to safe water (figure 1).
- Unlike Tanzania and Malawi, Zambia will not reach universal access to improved water by 2030 (figure 2).
- Zambia will observe a 14.1% increase (or 9 percentage points) from 2016 to 2030 in access to improved water. It is better than Angola, DRC, Tanzania and Zimbabwe who will continue to lag behind and observe limited improvement (less than 5%).

- On current trend, 569,000 people are gaining access to safe water every year. 423,000 extra people need to gain access each year to reach target. That represents 992,000 people every year in total.
- Financially, this represents an investment of 90 million USD per year to extend access to basic water to each person without access and 1 billion to extend to safely managed water services (figure 3).
Inequalities between rural and urban areas are still pronounced in 2015.

Zambia has made important progress in increasing access to safe water in schools and is doing much better than most of its neighbour countries.

Fig. 3: Cost to extend basic/safely managed water services to each unserved person per year

Fig. 4: Percentage access to safe water in rural and urban areas in 2015

Zambia has made important progress in increasing access to safe water in schools and is doing much better than most of its neighbour countries.

Fig. 5: Percentage access to safe water in schools in 2013 in Zambia and neighbour countries
2. Sanitation

- At current trend, in 2030, 54% of the population will still lack access to improved sanitation. Zambia will not reach target 6.2 on universal access to adequate sanitation (figure 6)\textsuperscript{viii}.

- Zambia is making less progress than its neighbour countries in accelerating access to sanitation with a percentage increase of 4.4% compared to an average of 22.8% for its neighbours (figure 7)\textsuperscript{viii}.

- At this trend, Zambia will lag far behind, reaching universal access in 2504 while neighbour countries will have reached universal access centuries before (figure 8)\textsuperscript{ix}.

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\textbf{Fig. 6:} Percentage access to improved water in Zambia in 2015 and 2030

\textbf{Fig. 7:} Percentage access to improved sanitation in Zambia and neighbour countries in 2015 and in 2030 with percentage increase

\textbf{Fig. 8:} when will countries reach universal access to improved sanitation according to current trends?
• On current trend, 307 000 people are gaining access to improved sanitation every year. 902 000 extra people need to gain access each year to reach target 6.2. It represents 1 209 000 people every year in total.

• Financially, an investment of 139 million US dollars per year is needed to extend access to basic sanitation to each person without access or 385 million US dollars for safely managed sanitation services (figure 9)*.

Fig. 9: Cost to extend adequate / safely managed sanitation services to each unserved person per year

• Inequalities between rural and urban areas are still pronounced in 2015xi.

Fig. 10: Percentage access to improved sanitation in rural and urban areas in 2015

• Access to sanitation in schools has increased in Zambia but is still limited like in most neighbour countries xii

Fig. 11: Percentage access to sanitation in schools in 2013 in Zambia and neighbour countries
3. Water, sanitation and Hygiene a financial analysis

- A World Bank study shows that impacts resulting from poor sanitation and hygiene cost the economy of Zambia 920 Billion Kwache (US$ 194 million) per year, or the equivalent of 1.3% of its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP).  

- According to a World Bank study, Zambia would need to invest 358 million of US dollars every year to extend WASH services to each unserved person by 2030.

- Yet, according to a study of Zambia 2013 and 2014 budget provisions, the county decreased the proportion of its GDP going toward the WASH sector from 0.54% in 2013 to 0.25% in 2014. It represents 743.800 million K (147 million USD) to 417.800 million K (49 million USD). In 2015, the budget allocation for WASH in 2016 decreased even further to 283.647 million K (27 million USD).
The proportion of ODA received by Zambia going to the WASH sector has increased. In 2013, it was representing 6.7% of the ODA received by Zambia. Yet, considering the needs for the sector, a total of 69 million of ODA going to the WASH sector remains insufficient.

4. Impact on health
- Still 2000 children under the age of 5 die of Diarrhoeal diseases due to poor WASH in 2015.
5. SWA commitments versus WASH priorities in 2016 budget:

- As per its 2014 SWA commitment, the government is committed to review its water and sanitation strategy.
- As per its 2014 SWA commitment, the government reiterated its commitment to increase access to improved sanitation to 60% (taking other national baseline figures than JMP).
- Contrary to its 2014 SWA commitment, there seems to be no provisional budget to improve monitoring, target open defecation, build capacity.

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**Conclusion**

- Compared to its neighbour, Zambia has made better progress than its neighbours in terms of access to safe water.
- However, progress in increasing access to improved sanitation is much slower for Zambia than its neighbour countries (excluding Zimbabwe). On current trend, Zambia will reach universal access to sanitation more than 300 years after the mean of the other countries.
- Budget allocation for the WASH sector is particularly worrying. In the last years, Zambia has significantly decreased its budget toward WASH. Planned budget toward WASH has decreased of 81.63% between 2014 and 2016. If Zambia does not reverse this trend, it might risk outweighing past gains, lose the lead it has on some of its neighbour to finally lag far behind them.