Datasource:

Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) - 2025

Period:

June to November, 2025

Electricity coverage

In the Northern Province, at least 76% of households have electricity compared to 74 % at the national level. However, the results show considerable disparities between districts within the Northern Province. Gakenke District recorded the highest number of households with electricity (81.5 %), while Rulindo District registered the lowest at 70%. Over five years, the percentage of households with electricity coverage has increased from 33% to 76 % in the Northern Province, which shows an overall increase in electricity coverage across all districts.

Household durable goods

Mobile phones (84.7 %) is the most owned household good in the Northern Province compared to 83.7 % at the national level. The proportion of people owning mobile phone is much higher in Musanze District with 88.4 % while Gakenke has the lowest with 81.9 %. The second most common household asset is a radio, owned by 46 % of households in the Northern Province compared to 44 % at the national level. By radio possession we only asked standalone radio sets. Rulindo District has the highest percentage of households owning radio (53 %) while Gicumbi District has the lowest percentage with 42 %.

About 8 % of households own a television in the Northern Province compared to 15 % at the national level. Musanze District has the highest percentage in ownership of Television (14 %) while Gakenke District has a lower percentage (5 %). Only 3 % of households in the Northern Province own a computer compared to 5 % at the national level. Across all districts, computer ownership ranges from 7 % in Musanze District to 1 % in Gakenke and Burera Districts.

Access to drinking water

Overall, 15% of households in the Northern Province have drinking water available on their premises, compared with 24% at the national level. Musanze District recorded the highest proportion of households with water on the premises (26%), while Gakenke District registered the lowest (5%). The majority of households require 30 minutes or less to obtain water, accounting for 54% provincially, compared with 44% at the national level. Gakenke District recorded the highest proportion of households obtaining water within 30 minutes or less (71%). Conversely, 31% of households in the Northern Province spend more than 30 minutes obtaining drinking water, compared to 33% nationally. Burera District had the highest proportion of households spending more than 30 minutes on water collection (38%), followed by Gicumbi (34.3 %) and Rulindo (33.8%).

Sanitation services

At least a proportion of 79% of the de jure population in the Northern Province had access to basic sanitation services, compared to 71% at the national level. The province had a lower proportion with limited sanitation services (9%) than the national level (15%), as well as a lower proportion using unimproved services (11%) compared to 12% nationally, while open defecation stood at 2% both provincially and nationally.

At the district level, Rulindo recorded the highest proportion of the de jure population with access to basic sanitation services (86%), followed by Burera (84%) and Gakenke (84%), while Musanze had the lowest (66%). Musanze recorded the highest proportion with limited sanitation services (18%), while Gicumbi had the highest proportion using unimproved sanitation facilities (14%), closely followed by Musanze (13%).

Conversely, Gicumbi recorded the highest level of open defecation (3%), while Rulindo recorded the lowest (less than 1%). Overall, sanitation access in the Northern Province compares favorably to the national level, althoughimportant disparities remain across districts, particularly in Musanze.

Reference documents (PDF)

- RDH 2025 DISTRICT PROFILE_NORTHERN PROVINCE.pdf (pdf, 2.79 MB)
  LAST UPDATED: 19 Nov 2026

Data source

Demographic and Health Survey (2025)

Northern Province

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