



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	64.2 million ^a
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	33% ^a
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	4.0 / 2.5% ^a
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	161/1000 live births ^b
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	17.9% ^b
Note: Most recently available data provided. ^a World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database. ^b World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.	

WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains one of the poorest countries in the world and ranks 176 out of 182 in the United Nations (UN) Human Development Index (HDI).¹ The DRC also has one of the lowest rates of access to drinking water in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, while the rate of access to improved sanitation has improved by 14 percent since 1990, coverage remains low, estimated at 23 percent.²

The DRC is endowed with abundant water resources and has Africa's largest internal renewable water supply.³ Despite this immense water resource availability, the river network and groundwater resources are largely untapped. Very little safe drinking water is available to the population, as the sector remains largely unorganized.

Overall, the DRC's water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector is dominated by a maze of overlapping

¹ UN. Human Development Report 2009, HDI Rankings.
² WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update.
³ AfDB/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). African Economic Outlook: Democratic Republic of Congo (2007).

institutional jurisdictions. Although key government agencies are working with technical assistance from outside donors to develop a national water code and re-organize their duties around the code, existing technical, managerial, and financial gaps must be assessed and improved in order for institutional reform to be effective. In addition to this broad need for institution building, the DRC's infrastructure is deteriorated and under-utilized, funding is inadequate, and water service providers are weak in terms of human resources and the ability to manage and operate systems.

Access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities in the DRC is constrained by poor coordination of, and accountability for, sector activities with responsibilities spread among at least twelve ministries and public bodies. Service delivery focuses on urban and rural areas, with very little coverage in growing peri-urban areas. Only 40 percent of the required funding necessary to meet the DRC's water and sanitation goals is available through planned public investments each year. Such a large funding gap can only be alleviated by bilateral and multilateral donors.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN DR CONGO	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (2008)	14,406 ^c
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2002)	389 ^c
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	11,427 ^d
Note: Most recently available data provided. ^c UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO Aquastat Database. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries. ^d Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from World Bank WDI Database (population) and FAO Aquastat Database (water resources).	

KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
CNAEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-ministerial agency; Helps direct and coordinate drinking water and sanitation service activities through inter-ministerial structure; Currently developing a new national water code. 	
The Ministry of Energy (MINE), Department of Water and Hydrology (DEH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisory authority over REGIDESO; Coordinates Global Water Resources Assessment Program at the national level; Raw water supplier, derives most income from raw water sales. 	
MECNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages water resources; Responsible for urban sanitation. 	
National Directorate of Hygiene (DNH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops hygiene policy for public health, vector control; Part of the Ministry of Public Health with regional health inspection offices and "Hygiene Brigades". 	
PNA under MECNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for wastewater, solid waste, vector control, and environmental hygiene. 	
REGIDESO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public corporation responsible for providing drinking water service in urban areas. 	
SNHR, under the Ministry of Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In rural areas, responsible for inventory of water resources and construction of drinking water sources; Trains the population in servicing and maintaining drinking water structures. 	

WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

While the WSS sector has several ministries and organizations with overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities, the National Water and Sanitation Committee (CNAEA) has primary responsibility for coordination of water management activities at a high level. It is under the supervision of the Minister of the Plan (MINPLAN) and draws its members from six ministries with responsibility in the water sector. The Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Forestry (MECNE) has overall responsibility for water resource management. The National Sanitation Program Agency (PNA), under MECNE, only functions in Kinshasa, while other areas are served by private providers. PNA is responsible for handling domestic and industrial waste, and it operates without

a cost recovery mechanism, thereby jeopardizing the sustainability of existing systems.

The National Company for Water Supply in Urban Areas (REGIDESO) is the public water utility responsible for supplying drinking water to 94 urban centers, including major cities, administrative centers and towns. Drinking water in rural areas falls under the National Rural Water Service (SNHR). SNHR is responsible for making an inventory of water resources in rural areas, constructing drinking water structures, and training the population in servicing and maintenance. SNHR has 17 offices throughout the country, but has neither the resources nor the institutional status to provide direct service.

THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

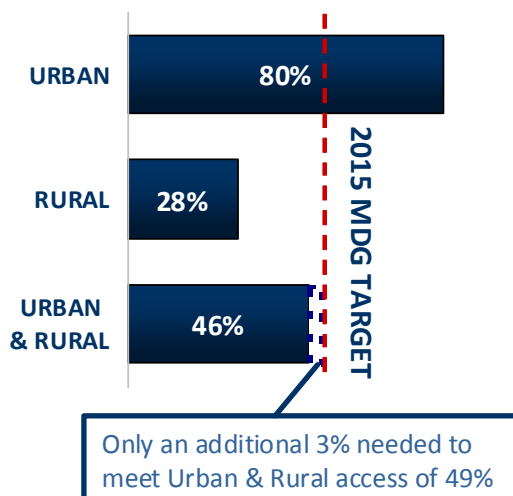
REGIDESO provides water distribution services to approximately 8 million urban water users, or approximately 37 percent of the urban population. Access to services differs widely by area, but generally few adequate services exist beyond the city centers of Kinshasa, Lubumbashi and Matadi.⁴ For example, the city of Mbuji Mayi (population 3 million) is the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa without a drinking water system. Most of the systems serving secondary cities are not operating, due to the combined effects of war and lack of investment or maintenance. Moreover, the lack of water services in peri-urban and slum areas is exacerbated by rapid population growth. REGIDESO also suffers from network inefficiencies, a large percentage of unaccounted-for-water, and unreliable billing data. For example, in 2008, only 48 percent of total existing connections were estimated to be active. Of these, less than a third were equipped with a meter.⁵

Urban sanitation coverage is particularly poor as infrastructure in urban areas remains underdeveloped or in disrepair as a result of war. Effective administration and focus on cost recovery at the regional level is particularly lacking. Operators disregard environmental regulation by discharging wastewater directly into the Congo River and its tributaries, thereby further limiting the supply of safe drinking water sources.

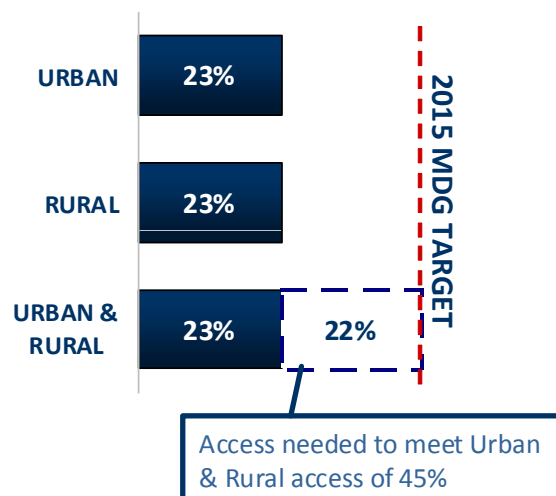
⁴ World Bank. *Project Appraisal Document - Democratic Republic of Congo, Urban Water Supply Project* (November 2008).

⁵ *Ibid.*

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2008



Data Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*. Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

Lack of maintenance has rendered most of the rural water supply infrastructure systems inoperable. In 2008, an estimated 60 percent of rural waterworks were no longer operational due to lack of maintenance.⁶ In some places, like the Banalia area of the Orientale province, access to improved drinking water is estimated at only 3 percent. A shortage of adequate drinking water sources and sanitation facilities has fueled epidemics such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery. Most sanitation and hygiene activities in rural areas are run by private parties such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious missions. No government agency is responsible for rural sanitation service delivery, and the lack of governance, coordination, and financing is evident. Although the DRC has yet to prioritize sanitation, some government-sponsored sanitation improvements are currently active via donors that have partnered or are working through regional health centers or *Zones de Santé* operating under the Ministry of Health. Successful cost recovery programs in Kasai, Kivu, and Bas-Congo need to be scaled up to other small towns and rural areas.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

The World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) are the primary lending institutions operating

in the sector. Major bilateral participants include the European Union (EU), France, Germany, United Kingdom (UK), and Belgium. Donor activities range from institutional reforms and improving cost recovery to water and sanitation infrastructure for the poor. These efforts are in line with the DRC's poverty-reduction strategy, and are generally well coordinated through a Water Management Sector Sub-Group chaired by MINE or the Water and Sanitation Thematic Group, created to monitor the progress of goals made in the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

In parallel with WSS sector work, there is a large pooled fund for internally displaced persons camps in North and South Kivu and the Katanga province, which has its own coordinated water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster strategy. The strategy, implemented by national and international NGOs and UN agencies, targeted 57 water and sanitation projects between 2007 and 2008. The projects reached 3.2 million beneficiaries for a total cost of US \$26 million for water trucking, spring protection, cholera response, public health education and establishment of water committees.⁷

⁶ AfDB/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). *African Economic Outlook: Angola* (2008).

⁷ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). *Pooled Fund – Water and Sanitation Cluster*. [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fullMaps_Af.nsf/luFullMap/DB6AF6DC777B237BC12575B6004B35C7/\\$File/map.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fullMaps_Af.nsf/luFullMap/DB6AF6DC777B237BC12575B6004B35C7/$File/map.pdf?OpenElement).

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Largest contributor among donors to expanding drinking water service in urban areas. 	Medjomo Coulibaly m.c.coulibaly@afdb.org Tel: 243-81-556-0291
Belgian Development Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction of small drinking water systems in semi-urban areas; ▪ Financing of private community-managed drinking water systems in cooperation with REGIDESO. 	Paul Cartier Kinshasa@diplobel.org Tel: 243-89-892-4233
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institution building at REGIDESO, including improvement in billing and collections; ▪ Improvements to drinking water distribution system efficiency through leak detection and repair; ▪ Construction of new boreholes. 	delegation-dem-rep-of-congo@ec.europa.eu Tel: 243-81-555-4630
Germany/KfW/GTZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation of drinking water systems in peri-urban areas; ▪ Consumer education; ▪ Institution building and reforms at REGIDESO and water code development with CNAEA. 	Ubald Koch (GTZ) Ubald.koch@gtz.de
UK Department for International Development (DFID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports UNICEF “sanitized village” concept; ▪ Increased access to drinking water in peri-urban areas in cooperation with Belgian Development Cooperation. 	DRC-enquiries@dfid.gov.uk Tel: 243-81-715-0761
UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of community-managed drinking water systems in semi-urban areas; ▪ Development of “sanitized village” concept in rural health zones; ▪ Construction of protected water points and ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines; ▪ Promotion of hygiene education and awareness programs; ▪ Establishment and training of water committees. 	Kinshasa@unicef.org Tel: 243-81-519-8142
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation of drinking water systems in urban areas; ▪ Assessment studies of drinking water systems in urban areas; ▪ Supporting institutional efficiency and reform of REGIDESO; ▪ Expansion of drinking water systems in urban areas beyond Kinshasa. 	Franck Bousquet fbousquet@worldbank.org Tel: 202-473-0309
World Bank/Water and Sanitation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the government map-out of coherent WSS sector development; ▪ Strengthening sector coordination, knowledge dissemination, and networking; ▪ Planning and implementation of local WSS initiatives; ▪ Reforming urban water supply services with pro-poor focus. 	Georges Kazad gkazad@worldbank.org Tel: 243-99-990-3066 Mbaye Seye wspaf@worldbank.org
<p>^eContact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.</p>		

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Additional references that aided in the completion of this report include: African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) et al., *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation* (October 2006); African Development Fund, *Semi-urban Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project: Appraisal Report, Democratic Republic of Congo* (February 2007), GTZ Environment and Infrastructure Division, *Factsheet: Water Sector Reform, Democratic Republic of Congo* (April 2007); GTZ website: <http://www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/afrika/kongo/16220.htm>; AfDB/OECD, *African Economic Outlook: Democratic Republic of Congo* (2008); World Bank, *Project Information Document, Appraisal Stage – Urban Water Supply Project, Democratic Republic of Congo* (August 2008).

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