



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## Water and Sanitation Profile

| POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS                           |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Population (2006)  | 60.4 million         |
| Proportion of population living in urban areas             | 33%                  |
| Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)            | 3.5 / 3.1%           |
| Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)                               | 100,300              |
| Under age 5 mortality rate                                 | 205/1000 live births |
| Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000) | 18.1%                |

### SECTOR OVERVIEW

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 175 out of 177 according to the United Nations. In 2007, the World Bank reported that the DRC had one of the lowest rates of access to drinking water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa with only 22 percent of the total population having access to drinking water and 9 percent to adequate sanitation services. Despite immense water resource availability, very little safe drinking water is available to the population, as the sector remains largely unorganized and present in very few areas beyond the capital, Kinshasa.

Overall, the DRC's water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector is dominated by a maze of overlapping 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, many greater barriers to technical, managerial, and financial adequacy must be first assessed and improved after institutional reforms. Among this broad need for institution building, the DRC's infrastructure is degraded or under-utilized, funding is inadequate,

and water service providers are weak in terms of human resources and the ability to manage, monitor, and evaluate system developments and operations.

### SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities in the DRC is constrained primarily by poor coordination of sector activities. Neither authority nor accountability exists throughout the WSS sector as responsibilities are spread among at least twelve ministries and public bodies. Service delivery is roughly divided between urban areas and rural areas with very little coverage, if any, in peri-urban or semi-urban areas. To further complicate matters, 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 multi-lateral donors. Nevertheless, the sustainability of individual water supply and sanitation systems will not be dependent upon donor funding, but reforms to the nation's water code and the newly initiated operation and maintenance capacity improvement programs. In particular, service providers must control non-revenue water leaks and institute revenue requirements that recover the cost to provide service.

| WATER AVAILABILITY IN DR CONGO  |        |
|---|--------|
| Renewable water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (1960-2007)   | 20,973 |
| Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2000)   | 7      |
| Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015   | 15,927 |
| Note: 2015 projected water resources per capita is a straight-line regression calculation based on population growth rates with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes |        |

## KEY AGENCIES

| Agency  | Description  | Contact Information |
|---|--|---------------------|
| The Ministry of Energy (MINE)<br>–Department of Water and Hydrology (DEH) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides supervisory authority over REGIDESO</li> <li>The DEH coordinates the Global Water Resources Assessment Program at the national level</li> <li>MINE is a raw water supplier and derives most income from raw water sales</li> </ul> |                     |
| The Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Forestry (MECNE)     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages water resources</li> <li>Responsible for urban sanitation</li> </ul>  |                     |
| The National Water and Sanitation Committee (CNAEA)                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter-ministerial agency</li> <li>Helps direct and coordinate drinking water and sanitation service activities through its inter-ministerial structure</li> <li>Developing new national water code</li> </ul>                               |                     |
| The National Company for Water Supply in Urban Areas (REGIDESO)           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public corporation responsible for providing drinking water service in urban areas</li> <li>Bound to state by performance contract</li> </ul>   |                     |
| National Rural Water Service (SNHR)                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventories water resources in rural areas</li> <li>Constructs drinking water structures</li> <li>Trains the population in servicing and maintaining drinking water structures</li> </ul>   |                     |
| National Sanitation Program (PNA)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only active in Kinshasa, but can function nationwide</li> <li>Responsible for wastewater, solid waste, control of water potability, vector control, and environmental hygiene</li> </ul>  |                     |
| National Directorate of Hygiene (DNH)                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develops hygiene policy for public health, vector control and communication</li> <li>Part of the Ministry of Public Health with regional health inspection offices and Hygiene Brigades at health zone scale</li> </ul>                     |                     |

The DRC's National Water and Sanitation Committee (CNAEA) is developing key indicators for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of current and future projects. The development of these important performance measures and their use in a comprehensive M&E system will help the WSS sector's transparency

improve, which is key to reaching the DRC's water and sanitation goals. Finally, involving the private sector to expand services is required to meet the DRC's overwhelming need for water access points and sanitation facilities. For instance, in 2006 the African Development Bank (AfDB) pointed out that with only four drilling companies, the country is grossly insufficient in drilling capacity.

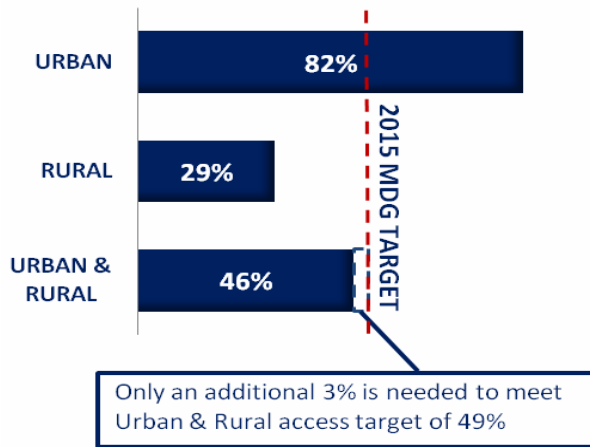
## THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

REGIDESO provides a majority of the water distribution services to approximately 8 million urban water users. Access service differs widely in each urban area, but generally few adequate services exist beyond Kinshasa. For example, the city of Mbuji Mayi (population 3 million) is the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa without a drinking water system. Urban sanitation coverage is particularly paltry as infrastructure in urban areas remains dilapidated, underdeveloped and/or clogged. Effective administration and any focus on cost-recovery at the regional level is particularly lacking. Operators disregard rules entirely by discharging waste products directly into local water supplies, thereby limiting the supply of safe drinking water sources further. The government agency responsible for sanitation (PNA) only functions in Kinshasa, while other areas make due with private providers. In response, donor efforts are coming to bear on the fundamental problems of the urban WSS sub-sector – operation and management, as a prerequisite, or complementing infrastructure redevelopment and expansion projects.

## THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

Drinking water in the DRC's rural areas is the responsibility of the National Rural Water Service (SNHR). The SNHR has 17 offices throughout the country, but has very few resources or the institutional framework to provide water supply service. Lack of maintenance has rendered most of the water supply infrastructure inoperable. In 2004, direct access to water still remained under 12 percent, with overall access improving to approximately 29 percent by 2006. However, the improvement in coverage may be distorted because improvements have only occurred in Kinshasa. In some places, like the Banalia area of the Orientale province, access to drinking water is only 3 percent. So little access to improved drinking

#### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

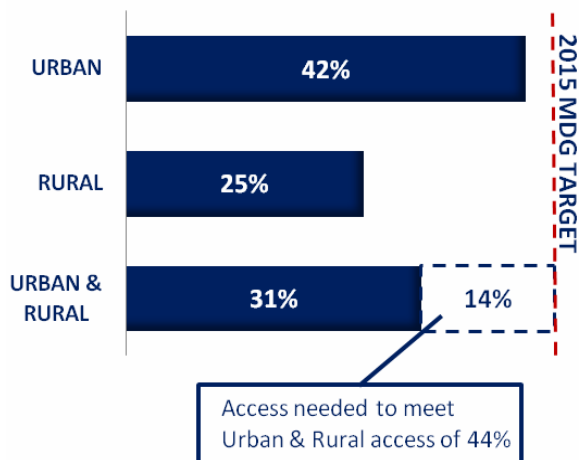
water sources has fueled epidemics such as cholera and dysentery.

Virtually all sanitation facilities in rural areas are constructed and maintained by private parties such as non-governmental organizations and religious missions. Not a single government agency is responsible for rural sanitation, and the lack of governance, coordination, and financing is evident. Although the DRC has yet to prioritize sanitation, some sanitation improvements are currently active via donors that have partnered or are working through regional health zones.

#### DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Key donors in DRC's WSS sector include the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, and the following governments via their aid agencies: France, Germany, United Kingdom, and Belgium. Donor activities range from institutional reforms and better cost-recovery to infrastructure projects that focus on increasing access to basic services by 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 Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

#### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

| DONOR                               | ACTIVITIES   | CONTACT INFORMATION  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| The World Bank                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation of drinking water systems in urban areas</li> <li>Assessment studies of drinking water systems in urban areas</li> <li>Supporting institutional efficiency of REGIDESO</li> <li>Expansion of drinking water systems in urban areas beyond Kinshasa</li> </ul>                      | Franck Bousquet<br><a href="mailto:fbousquet@worldbank.org">fbousquet@worldbank.org</a><br>Tel: 202-473-0309                   |
| Water and Sanitation Program        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the government map-out coherent WSS sector development</li> <li>Strengthening sector coordination, knowledge dissemination, and networking</li> <li>Planning and implementation of local WSS initiatives</li> <li>Reforming urban water supply services with pro-poor focus</li> </ul> | Georges Kazad<br><a href="mailto:gkazad@worldbank.org">gkazad@worldbank.org</a><br>Tel: 243-99-9903066                         |
| The African Development Bank (AfDB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largest contributor among donors to expanding drinking water service in urban areas</li> </ul>  | Medjomo COULIBALY<br><a href="mailto:m.c.coulibaly@afdb.org">m.c.coulibaly@afdb.org</a><br>Tel: 243-815-560-291                |
| European Union                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institution building at REGIDESO including improving billing and collections</li> <li>Improvements to drinking water distribution system efficiency through leak detection and repair</li> <li>Construction of new boreholes</li> </ul>   | <a href="mailto:delegation-dem-rep-of-congo@ec.europa.eu">delegation-dem-rep-of-congo@ec.europa.eu</a><br>Tel: 243 81 555 4630 |
| DfID                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports UNICEF “sanitized village” concept</li> <li>Increasing access to drinking water in peri-urban areas in cooperation with Belgian Development Cooperation</li> </ul>   | <a href="mailto:DRC-enquiries@dfid.gov.uk">DRC-enquiries@dfid.gov.uk</a><br>Tel: 243 81 715 0761                               |
| Belgian Development Cooperation     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of small drinking water systems in semi-urban areas</li> <li>Financing of private community-managed drinking water systems in cooperation with REGIDESO</li> </ul>   | Paul Cartier<br><a href="mailto:Kinshasa@diplobel.org">Kinshasa@diplobel.org</a><br>Tel: 243-89-89-24-233                      |
| KfW/GTZ                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation of drinking water systems in peri-urban areas</li> <li>Consumer education</li> <li>Institution building and reforms at REGIDESO and water code development with CNAEA</li> </ul>   | Ubald Koch (GTZ)<br><a href="mailto:Ubald.koch@gtz.de">Ubald.koch@gtz.de</a>   |
| UNICEF                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of community-managed drinking water systems in semi-urban areas</li> <li>Development of “sanitized village” concept in rural health zones</li> </ul>   | <a href="mailto:Kinshasa@unicef.org">Kinshasa@unicef.org</a><br>Tel: 243 815 198 142   |

Additional information and sources: Statistics were compiled from the WHOSIS database, WRI-Earthtrends Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems database, and the UN MDG Indicators database. Other sources include the 2006 African Development Bank’s “Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs in Water Supply and Sanitation,” the 2007 African Development Bank/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development African Economic Outlook Report, World Bank’s Democratic Republic of the Congo online Country Brief, the AfDB-DRC Semi-Urban Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project Appraisal Report (2007), The Water Operator’s Partnership-Africa Utility Performance Assessment Draft Synthesis Report for Discussion at the WOP-Africa Regional Workshops (May 2008), Water and Sanitation Program FY09-11 Business Plan.

This Water and Sanitation Profile was prepared under the **Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI)**. ABRI is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and addresses some of the most challenging water issues in the Middle East and Africa, including the lack of access by the poor to improved water and sanitation services, inefficient and nonproductive water use, and transboundary river basin management. ABRI works closely with host country governments, actively pursues co-investments from the private sector, reaches out to like-minded foundations, and partners with regional institutions.