



Support of the Water Sector Reform

Universal and equitable access to
drinking water and sanitation

Client	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Current phase	7/2016 – 12/2018
Partner	Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resources	Budget	EUR 7.5 million

Field experience

Through the consultation platform of the water sector of the province Kasai-Oriental, Gertrude Biaya, Angel Musau and Thérèse Mitendu are committed to the rights of women. They use this platform, which is supported by the project, to draw attention to this arduous and time-consuming daily task of women in collecting and transporting water for the whole family. Thanks to the newly created structures, 500,000 women, men and children have been sensitized. They are now aware of their rights and can make a joint contribution to the provision of a hygienically safe supply of drinking water.



Objectives

Access to drinking water and sanitation for the poor, living in urban areas or on the outskirts of the city, needs to be improved in the Bandundu, Equateur and Kasai regions. The bacterial load of drinking water with pathogens such as E. coli must be reduced to a measurable extent. The latest version of the national public water service policy must ensure that women and men have equal access to an adequate supply of healthy drinking water.

- The consultation platform in the water sector, established in the province of Kasai-Oriental, will continuously be supported.
- In order to improve water quality and reduce the cost to the consumer the regional service centers of the REGIDESO municipal water distributor, built with financial support from the KfW, will be accompanied and advised on the operation of facilities.
- In the provinces of Bandundu, Equateur and Kasai, awareness-raising activities for the population will be organized near the facilities rehabilitated with the help of KfW.

Challenges

The Democratic Republic of Congo has more abundant water resources than almost any other country in the world, but only 51% of the population has access to clean drinking water. In a large part of the country, sanitary facilities are inadequate. In the context of an overload of population growth and of uncontrolled urbanization problems of public health and recurrent epidemics of water-borne diseases are common. The country's health infrastructure has no priority, which leads to insufficient investments in this sector.

Activities

The project focuses on four areas of action:

- The partner ministry receives support in the implementation of the national policy for drinking water. Consultants from the previous project had been instrumental in its drafting.

Results

On behalf of the Federal Government of Germany, GIZ has been supporting the improvement of access to drinking water and sanitation in the country since 2006. This support has led to the drafting and adoption of key documents, including the Water Frame Act, the disposal of drinking and waste Water and a concept for decentralized sectoral taxes. Since the beginning of project activities in the Kasai province, the water consultation platform that has been put in place brings together all stakeholders – including civilian populations – in order to tackle the problems of the sector together.