



“Towards Universal Access to Drinking Water in Fragile Contexts: The Democratic Republic of the Congo” 27. August 2017



Overview of the current situation



- Second largest country in Africa
- Population of approx. 80 mio.
- Most water-rich country of Sub-Saharan Africa
- Only 52% have access to drinking water (2015)
- Only 29% access to sanitation



Overview of the current situation cont

Key challenges especially pertaining to urban and peri-urban areas are:

- Weak cost recovery and financial viability of operators, especially the public water utility REGIDESO, due to non-payment of water bills by the government and a non-profitable tariff policy
- Degradation of water infrastructure due to lack of maintenance and new investments
- High water prices compared to the income
- Irregular water supply due to, for example, lack of sufficient electricity and maintenance of equipment
- Informal provision of water service provision in peri-urban areas which leads to inadequate quality control and maintenance
- Rapidly growing population



Overview of the current situation cont.

Key drinking water challenges especially pertaining to rural areas:

- Water distribution networks are sparse
- High water prices compared to the income
- Economically unattractive for operators due to weak cost recovery and a lack of support infrastructure such as roads and electricity
- Informal provision of water service which leads to inadequate quality control, maintenance and pricing



„Towards Universal Access to Drinking Water in Fragile Contexts: DR Congo“, 27 September 2017



Major innovations of the new Water Law (2015)

- Water service is accessible to all and not free of charge, Art. 84
- Liberalisation of the water sector, Art. 74
 - Opening up of the water sector to the private sector
- Regulation of the water sector
- The provinces/districts are now contracting authorities
- Different types of management contracts possible for public water service
- Domestic use of water for consumption, hygiene and other household needs is the first priority established by law



„Towards Universal Access to Drinking Water in Fragile Contexts: DR Congo“, 27 September 2017



6 objectives of the Public Water Service Policy :

- Objective 1: Establish a successful institutional framework capable of assuring its normative and regulatory role and of protecting the rights of the users
- Objective 2: Establish an efficient coordination and planning of the sub-sector
- Objective 3: The contracting authority assures a better public water service for the population



6 objectives of the Public Water Service Policy :

- Objective 4: Create favourable conditions for contracting quality operators
- Objective 5: Implement an efficient, independent and financially viable regulation system
- Objective 6: Implement sustainable mechanisms for funding of public water services



„Towards Universal Access to Drinking Water in Fragile Contexts: DR Congo“, 27 September 2017



Strategy to implement Public Water Service Policy

Themes of the Strategy	Contribute to the following objectives of the PNSPE
(1) The Ministry of Water (institutional reform)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective 1: Establish a successful institutional framework capable of assuring its normative and regulatory role and of protecting the rights of the users• Objective 2: Establish an efficient coordination and planning of the sub-sector• Objective 5: Implement an efficient, independent and financially viable regulation system
(1) The contracting authority, the conditions and the modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective 3: The contracting authority assures a better public water service for the population• Objective 5: Implement an efficient, independent and financially viable regulation system
(1) Regulatory Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective 1: Establish a successful institutional framework capable of assuring its normative and regulatory role and of protecting the rights of the users• Objective 5: Implement an efficient, independent and financially viable regulation system
(1) The implementation of favourable conditions for operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective 3: The contracting authority assures a better public water service for the population• Objective 4: Create favourable conditions for contracting quality operators
(1) Sustainable mechanisms for funding of public water services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective 6: Implement sustainable mechanisms for funding of public water services



Thank you for your attention!