

Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Regulators in Africa – Country Profile Democratic Republic of Congo



General information	
Region	Central Africa
Surface area	2,345,410 km ²
Total Population	98.370,000 (INS, 2020)*
Urban pop.	40%
Rural pop.	60%
Access to basic water supply services	33.6% (INS, 2019)**
Access to improved sanitation services	32.6% (INS, 2019)**

WSS Regulatory Status

	Water		Sanitation	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Type of Regulation	Ministerial regulation			
Name of Regulator	<i>Ministère des Ressources Hydrauliques et de l'Electricité (MRHE)</i>			
Year of establishment				
Policy	National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Framework Programme			
Legal instrument	The Water Law 2015, Decree No. 15/039 of December, 2015			
Area of Jurisdiction	National			
Number of regulated service providers	2 (REGIDESO – urban; SNHR – peri urban & rural)			
Type of service providers	National Public Utilities			

Key functions of MRHE

- Elaboration of norms and standards for public water services
- Establishing conditions for approval of public water service operators
- Determination of rules for tariff setting (in collaboration with Ministry of Finance)
- Ensuring compliance with regulations through enforcement (i.e fining).

Note: Comprehensive Water Code requiring implementation

The DRC's Water Code enacted in 2015^{Ref} provides legal backing to various aspects of WSS service provision and water resources management. It specifies that the Government shall establish a regulatory authority for public water services with the following regulatory functions:

- I. Ensuring compliance by water supply service providers
- II. Monitoring the adherence to standards and norms by WSS service providers.
- III. Establishing specifications for awarding concessions and any normative document within the public water supply services framework.
- IV. Aiding dispute resolution between operators and between consumers and public water supply service providers.
- V. Determining the rules and procedures for fixing the elements of the tariff structure.
- VI. Ensuring that rates and tariffs do not exceed the permitted maximums.

The implementation of the Water Code has not proceeded as expected due to various governance and financial factors. In particular, Decree No. 22/04 on the creation, organisation, and operation of a Public Water Service Regulatory Authority (ARPSE) was passed in March 2022. This delay has resulted in regulatory functions for WSS being split across different ministries in a fragmented arrangement that is not effectively regulating WSS services (^{Ref})

*Source **Source

For more information about MRHE, click [here](#)