**Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Regulators in Africa – Country Profile**

**South Africa**

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| --- | --- |
| General information |  |
| Region | **Southern Africa** |
| Surface area | **1,221,037 km2** |
| Total Population | **60,604,992 (StatsSA, 2022)\*** |
|  Urban pop. | 67% |
|  Rural pop. | 33%  |
| Access to improved water supply services | **88.2% (StatsSA, 2019)\*\*** |
| Access to improved sanitation services | **82.1% (StatsSA, 2019)\*\*** |

**WSS Regulatory Status**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Urban | Rural |
| **Water Supply** | **Sanitation** | **Water Supply** | **Sanitation** |
| Type of Regulation | Ministerial regulation |
| Name of Regulator | Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) |
| Year of establishment | 1997 |
| Policy | The White Paper on National Water Policy for South Africa, 1997 | The National Sanitation Policy, 2016 |
| Legal instrument | Water Services Act (Act 108 of 1997) |
| Area of Jurisdiction | National |
| Number of regulated service providers | 144 Water Service Authorities (Municipalities) 9 Regional Water Board |
| Type of service providers | Regional |
| Key functions |
| * Economic and social regulation of WSS,
* WSS regulatory policy formation,
* Water sector management and support
 |
| Best practice: Reputational incentives |
| In South Africa, the Department of Water and Sanitation developed Blue Drop (drinking water services) and Green Drop (wastewater) certification programmes. These assess and measure an organisation’s ability to provide acceptable drinking water and wastewater services by auditing and benchmarking the performance of participating water services institutions against a set of audit criteria. The results of these audits are published in annual Blue Drop and Green Drop reports and linked to an annual awards ceremony. This served as an important reputational incentive for water services institutions, and the process has been linked to [improved performance](http://www.wrc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/mdocs/The%20Blue%20Drop%20Factsheet.pdf).  |
| \*[Source](https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022022.pdf) \*\*[Source](https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182019.pdf) For more information on DWS, click [here](https://www.dws.gov.za/) |