

# South Sudan Water Sector

## Opportunities for the Dutch Water Sector

Dutch Government asked Aidenvironment to advise on potential Product Market Combinations for the Dutch Water Sector in 12 developing countries, South Sudan being one of them, and how the Dutch Water Sector can position itself in order to get a better access to the market.

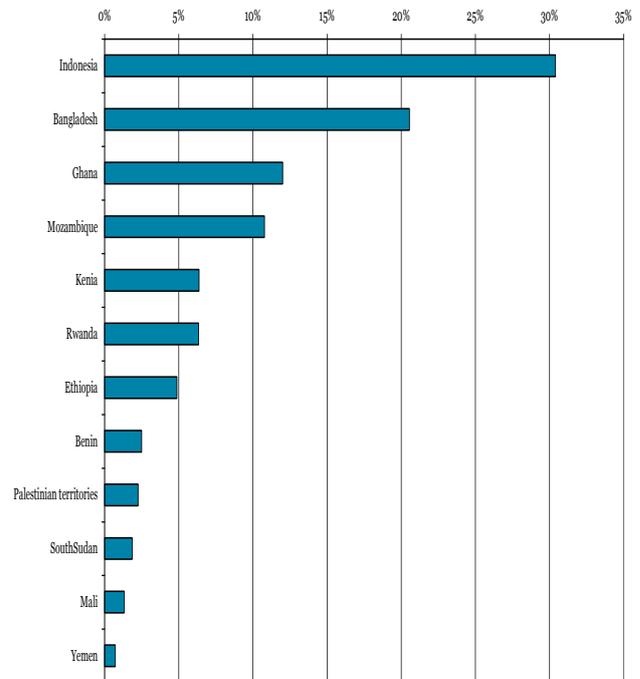
These reports describe the physical ‘water situation’, how the water sector is being organized, the legal and policy framework, trends and entry barriers in a simple way as well. Finance and climate change are special topics in each report. These reports are available on the [aidenvironment](http://aidenvironment.nl) website.

### Demand:

The short-term demand in South Sudan is access to improved WASH facilities. The country ranks low in access to improved drinking water sources (57%) and (together with Niger) South Sudan ranks lowest in the indicator ‘access to improved WASH facilities’, with only 9% access. The need for peace and stability overshadows all other short term needs including the need for water services, but water related problems and the need for stability overlaps where competition over water resources fuel ethnically motivated strife. In food security, closely, challenges are also many with droughts and flooding contributing to food scarcity. Twenty years ago South Sudan was a food exporting area, should a transition take place and the country will achieve more stability there is an enormous agricultural potential.

### Current interest and activities of Dutch organizations:

Amongst the fragile nations in the water OS survey, South Sudan still has a substantial share of the Dutch interest, particularly amongst NGOs. WASH stands out as the main area of interest because of the lack of basic services. At present this interest will have diminished due to the political turmoil but this is likely to be picked up once the situation improves and funding for reconstruction and development will become available again.



Breakdown of Dutch exports in the water sector to the 12 OS-countries, in % of turnover, source: Web survey Panteia, 2014/2015

### Potential product market combinations:

Current product market combinations mainly focus on the provision of basic WASH infrastructure. Additionally, the country has an enormous agricultural potential compared to some of the dryer surrounding countries like Kenya and Ethiopia, particularly for irrigated agriculture. While South Sudan now depends on food import and relief food, it used to be a food-exporting nation. Other opportunities exist around development and maintenance of the navigable waterways .

### Suggestions on positioning strategies for future activities:

Organizations interested to work in South Sudan are suggested to work on the development of knowledge on the lay out of the social as well as infrastructural problem around WASH. In the urban areas this could entail a mapping of wastewater flows and possibilities to work with municipal councils and with state level governmental bodies. In rural areas this should include a

risk mapping and a sociological/anthropological base line study to get a grip on the local tensions and possibilities. In all cases this will be through the engagement and capacity development of local expertise. Dutch water sector engagement in South Sudan would greatly benefit from the regional expertise and networks in for instance Kenya and Ethiopia.

**Successes and lessons learnt: examples**

The projects that the respondents recognized as a success were financed through the EKN, but these are few and scattered over the country. This also seems to be an issue for many organizations in the country. Besides the obvious setbacks due to absence of rule of law, innovation and business development does not come in the picture.

Some organizations described how it was impossible to work from a business approach since the economy is not yet at that level and the private sector virtually absent. Another lesson was that the provision of water facilities should be connected to the security situation. South Sudan is still very much on the agenda of many organizations, since the potential for programs is large, if only there was a good way to approach it.

**Pressing needs**

Basic services are missing: Tearfund in 2012 reported that one-third of the existing water points in South Sudan are known to be non-functional due to the weak operation and maintenance capacity, and less than 50% of existing basic primary schools – and even fewer health facilities – have access to safe water and sanitary latrines. Only 20% of the population contributes to operation and maintenance of their water supply the past years and this number will further drop. This goes for rural as well as urban areas. The capital Juba also has significant water related problems, lack of wastewater treatment facilities and improves sources of drinking water for urbanites led to the spread of cholera mid 2014 (1250 victims registered).

Data collection ceased and most monitoring stations were destroyed. The data gathered is still of great value and can be used, along with data from new monitoring stations, to build a new hydrologic record and knowledge base. The older data is said to be located in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Khartoum; only a portion is available within the MEDIWR in Juba at the Water Information Management System.

**Facts and Figures**

Government type:	Presidential republic
Political situation:	Formerly an autonomous region of Sudan, in 2011 South Sudan hived off to become independent from the country with which it had longstanding conflicts.
Language:	English (official), Arabic, local languages
Population:	11,562,695
Population growth:	4.12%
Economic growth (GDP growth in %):	-42.1% (2012), 27% (2013), 8% (2014), 8.5% (2015), 9% (2016)
GDP (PPP):	USD 14.71 billion (2013)
GDP (PPP) per capita:	USD 1,400
Unemployment rate (in%):	12%
Inflation rate + forecast 2020 (in %):	5.1% (2014), 3.97% (2015, 1.79% (2020)
Foreign direct investments (in % of GDP):	3.02 as of 2011.
ODA in % of GNI:	15.9%
Doing business index:	187 out of 189

**Trade and Aid strategies**

Aidenvironment advises Water Sector players how to combine goals on Trade and Aid. Our advice strengthens the reputation and license to operate of businesses, opens new windows for finance, and enhances growth while contributing to development goals.

Our team performs market research and advices on effective Public Private Partnerships and engagement strategies, and facilitates organizations in tapping into local networks and finance.

**Interested?**

Contact Frederik Claasen to find out what we can do for you.

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