

Nigeria

Country Overview

1. Country Context

Nigeria is a country with a population estimated at over 200 million people. The country operates a federal system of governance with a three-tier government at the federal, state and local levels. Over the last two decades, Nigeria has experienced a stable democratic governance.

2. SDGs and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASHNORM) is a national survey instituted to capture the SDG WASH indicators, to monitor implementation progress and inform planning. The data which also provides evidence for advocacy, showed that access to basic water supply services is 67% of which 13% are safely managed. Access to basic sanitation services is 46% of which 18% are safely managed and 23% practice open defecation, while access to basic hygiene services is still very low at 17% (WASHNORM, 2021). The responsibility for WASH service provision lies with the States and Local Authorities while the Federal Government provides the policy direction and framework for governance and implementation.

Initiatives to address the sector challenges include the implementation of the Partnership for Expanded Water Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) Programme, for achieving 100% access for rural water supply and sanitation by 2030, in line with the SDG; the presidential launch of the National Action Plan to revitalize the WASH sector with the declaration of a 'State of Emergency' in the sector; and the roll out of the Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet' Campaign, to end open defecation. These initiatives are designed to provide the framework for meeting the sector's aspirations and attract investments. Efforts are also being made around boosting the sanitation economy in the country which has a huge potential, valued at \$15.5billion in 2020, with an estimated growth potential of \$26billion by 2030.

Human resource capacities are also being developed at sub-national level to close the skilled manpower gap, with strong collaboration civil society organizations, development partners and the private sector. Similarly, the implementation of sanitation marketing and appropriate financing options have accelerated the uptake of improved sanitation facilities in the country.

3. Health, Climate and Economic Crises in Nigeria

The poverty rate in Nigeria is estimated at 40% with over 52% of rural population and 18% of urban population considered poor (Nigeria Poverty Assessment, 2022). Nigeria is said to lose about N455billion (estimated at \$3billion) annually to poor sanitation (WSP, 2012). These cost covers access time, loss of productivity whilst sick or accessing healthcare, cost of healthcare and premature death, among other costs.

The country also faces climate related issues such as floods and droughts which affects agricultural activities and leads to water scarcity for domestic and other uses. The Lake Chad region in the northeastern part of the country, is one of the areas with the most visible effect of climate change with an estimated loss of 90% of its original size. This has led to the displacement of people and disruptions in livelihood and economic activities. Among other negative impacts of climate change in the country is the endemic conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, especially in the dry season when vegetation becomes sparse. All these have contributed to the humanitarian challenges in the country.

In Nigeria, an estimated 1 out of 9 children under the age of five, die per year while over 100,000 deaths in the country are attributed to diseases due to unsafe water and sanitation as well as poor hygiene. Also, the prevalence rate of stunting in children under 5 years is estimated at 32%, attributed to frequent bouts of diarrhoea which limits nutrients absorption (NNHS, 2018).

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic placed a huge strain on the country's health sector. Beside the health crisis, the pandemic exacerbated the economic problem being faced in the country. The drop in oil prices, which is the main revenue source for the country, during the lockdown period, deeply affected economic activities in the country. High inflation rate has also made basic staples to be out of reach of the poor and vulnerable population.

4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Central to Crises Recovery

Addressing the triple crises of health climate and economic crises in the country required an integration of approaches of which improvement in WASH services is key. It has been established that multidimensional poverty indicators such as housing and basic infrastructure correlate with monetary poverty. The World Bank's Multidimensional Poverty Measure used in the Nigeria Poverty Assessment report, incorporated deprivations in education and basic infrastructure, alongside monetary poverty. Of the three indicators used to capture deprivation in terms of basic infrastructure, two are on the access or otherwise to – at least limited standard drinking water and at least limited standard sanitation. This shows the centrality of water and sanitation in addressing the economic crisis.

One of the key preventive measures for many health issues such as diarrhoea, cholera, among others, is the access to safe water and sanitation services and the adoption of good hygiene practices. The efforts to end Neglected Tropical Diseases which are endemic in some parts of the country are being accelerated and sustained through the integration of WASH services. Improving access to basic WASH services in healthcare facilities across the country which is estimated at 55% for water, 10% for sanitation and 20% for handwashing is therefore imperative in addressing

the health crisis and it also serves as an adaptation mechanism for climate action. Ensuring that WASH facilities are climate resilient reduces the vulnerability of the population, especially those with high risk to being negatively impacted by the climate crisis. Addressing WASH issues contributes to addressing other cross cutting issues such as nutrition, child survival, quality education, gender, equity and more.

5. Investment Options for the WASH Sector to address Crises Recovery

According to the National Action Plan for the revitalization of the WASH sector, the current investment gap in the sector is estimated at 1.9trillion naira (\$5.3 billion) which cannot be met by government funding alone. Exploring investments options such as grants, concessionary loans, taxes, tariffs and partnerships, among others.

6. Review of 2019 MAM Commitments

As a pioneer country under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) of the SWA, Nigeria under its multi-stakeholder coordination platform for the sector, made commitments focused on government's priority for the sector and to which other partners are aligned. The progress made on the commitments which have been reviewed through a multi-stakeholder process are as follows:

Government Commitments

- i. Internalization of the National WASH Action Plan by the sub-national government and development of State specific WASH Action Plan and the operationalization of the PEWASH programme by the end of 2019: **50 – 74% achieved.**
- ii. Operationalization of the communication strategy for implementing the national OPF campaign by 2020: **100% achieved.**
- iii. Review WASHIMS indicators to capture disaggregated data on inequalities in access to WASH services across the country by end of 2019, scale up WASH Information Management System to additional 14 States by 2021 and carry out the WASHNORM survey on an annual basis: **50 – 74% achieved.**

Civil Society Organization Commitments

- i. NEWSAN commits to build advocacy messages, activities and engage with policy makers in order to hold them accountable for their compliance with Nigeria's WASH sector's 2014 and 2019 SWA commitments and, Ngor declaration by 2025: **75 – 99% achieved.**
- ii. NEWSAN commits to intensify its engagement with the State Governors on state by state basis through the Nigeria's Governors' Forum (NGF) and enlisting the support and concerns of the Legislators at both National and State Levels towards prioritizing and improving the provision of WASH services to achieve a Nation Wide ODF by 2025: **75 – 99% achieved.**
- iii. NEWSAN commits to work with the government and advocate for the establishment of appropriate mechanism and conducive environment that will guide the participation of the

private sector in supporting and providing WASH services and hasten the achievement of Nation Wide ODF by 2025: **75 – 99% achieved.**

Private Sector Commitments

- i. Establishment and strengthening of three categories of organized Private Sector in WASH within different Local Governments and States in Nigeria and appointment of focal points with the view of providing innovations, technologies, private finance in sanitation and water sector before the end of 2019: **75 – 99% achieved.**
- ii. Engage State level focal points to collect verifiable data on the rural sanitation schemes availability and the sanitation needs especially in the most vulnerable communities that need support with the ultimate aim of making sure that no one is left behind before the end of 2019: **100% achieved.**
- iii. Development of cost effective financial and technological models for end-to-end rural sanitation schemes and mobilization of private investors within the sanitation value chain with the support of the Government and other constituencies by 2021: **100% achieved.**

Development Partners' Commitments

The WASH Development Partners Group (DPG-WASH) comprising AFD, AfDB, FCDO, EU, JICA, UNICEF, USAID, WaterAid and World Bank, are fully committed to supporting the government's goal of achieving the SDGs on WASH. All DPG-WASH members will maintain close collaboration and meaningful engagement with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to support WASH infrastructure development and implement initiatives that are in line with the objectives of key national WASH sector priorities, including the WASH Action Plan, the PEWASH and the national ODF Roadmap. The following are the commitments of the WASH development partners.

National Commitment #1: Internalization of the National WASH Action Plan by the sub-national government and development of State specific WASH Action Plan and the operationalization of the PEWASH programme by the end of 2019.

- AFD and USAID will implement the National WASH Action Plan through their support to AFD project States' Water Boards (Enugu, Ondo, Plateau, Ogun and Kano) by 2022 and USAID project States' Water Boards (Abia, Delta, Imo, Niger, Sokoto and Taraba) by 2023: **50 – 74% achieved.**
- AfDB will contribute to the internalization of the WASH Action Plan in Yobe, Osun, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, and Taraba States, while the World Bank will support 13 States in the implementation of the WASH Action Plan: **50 – 74% achieved.**
- FCDO and UNICEF will support the preparation of sub-national state-specific WASH plans of action in the eight States (Benue, Bauchi, Jigawa, Katsina, Kaduna, Kano, Yobe and Zamfara) within the existing SHAWN II budget: **100% achieved.**
- AfDB to commit \$500million for the operationalization of the PEWASH from 2019 to 2024 while the World Bank will begin with Rural Sustainable WASH Project in support of the PEWASH from 2020: **75 – 99% achieved.**

- FCDO and UNICEF will support Kano State to operationalize PEWASH (without pooling fund): **50 – 74% achieved.**

National Commitment #2: Operationalization of the communication strategy for implementing the national OPF campaign by 2020.

- FCDO and UNICEF will support the operationalization of the communication strategy in eight SHAWN States: **100% achieved.**
- AfDB will provide support to development of the ODF communication strategy at the Federal level and domestication of the tools in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Taraba States: **50 – 74% achieved.**

National Commitment #3: Review WASHIMS indicators to capture disaggregated data on inequalities in access to WASH services across the country by end of 2019, scale up WASH Information Management System to additional 14 States by 2021 and carry out the WASHNORM survey on an annual basis.

- FCDO and UNICEF to scale up WASHIMS in eight SHAWN States and provide technical assistance at the national level for the review and disaggregation of WASHIMS indicators: **50 – 74% achieved.**
- FCDO will support the implementation of WASHNORM survey: **100% achieved.**
- AfDB will support the establishment of WASHIMS in six States by 2021: **50 – 74% achieved**

Revised Government Commitments

- Internalization of the National WASH Action Plan by the sub-national government and development of State specific WASH Action Plan and the operationalization of the PEWASH programme by the end of 2023.
- Review WASHIMS indicators to capture disaggregated data on inequalities in access to WASH services across the country by end of 2022, scale up WASH Information Management System to additional 14 States by 2024 and carry out the WASHNORM survey on an annual basis.

New CSO Commitment

NEWSAN commits to intensify its engagement with Governments and Institutions at all levels to integrate and prioritize WASH into Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Policies to promote citizens health and economic recovery for the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria by the year 2030.

Contacts

1. Emmanuel Awe – Government Focal Point (solaomoawe@yahoo.com)
2. Jane Bevan – UNICEF (DPG Co-Chair) (jbevan@unicef.org)
3. Benson Attah – CSO Focal Point (bensonattah@hotmail.com, newsansecretariat@yahoo.com)
4. Dr Nicholas Igwe – Private Sector (nicholas@zennithgroup.com)