

Sanitation Fact Sheet Nigeria



Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s) ¹	140,004
Population Growth Rate (%) ¹	3.2
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000) ²	194
Under-five mortality rank (1=worst, 190=best) ²	14
Life expectancy at birth (years) ²	44
GNI per capita ²	\$560
Population living on under \$1/day (%) ²	71
Primary School Enrolment Rate, net (%) ²	60

Country Setting

- Nigeria is rich in human and natural resources. It is the most populous country in Africa. It is the sixth largest exporter of crude oil and has the ninth largest proven oil reserves in the world.³
- It has a highly varied climate and geography ranging from arid plains in the north to tropical rainforests in the south.
- Nigeria is a three-tiered federal republic consisting of the Federal Capital Territory, 36 states and 774 local government areas (LGAs) administered by Local Councils.
- Development priorities and poverty reduction strategies are guided by the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and their state and LGA equivalents (SEEDS and LEEDS). A new NEEDS is about to be issued, covering the period 2008 to 2012.

The Importance of Sanitation

What is Sanitation

- Sanitation encompasses a wide range of challenges including excreta disposal, hygiene, solid waste (garbage) disposal, drainage, etc. This fact sheet focuses on excreta disposal.
- The Nigeria minimum standard for household excreta disposal is a safe, hygienic and conveniently-located facility.⁴
- Acceptable technologies include upgraded traditional pit latrines, sanplat latrines, VIP toilets and more expensive technologies that can be built and maintained by households with their own funds.

Effects of Poor Sanitation

- **On health:** Lack of access to basic sanitation facilities, coupled with poor hygiene practices, causes diarrhoea. Diarrhoea is the 2nd largest direct cause of childhood mortality in Nigeria and is a major contributing factor to malnutrition and other diseases such as pneumonia.
- **On education:** The lack of safe, private toilets and hand-washing facilities in schools affects educational enrolment and performance. Girls are particularly affected, and poor sanitation is a contributing factor in Nigeria's low girl enrolment rates (7 percentage points behind boys).²

- **On economic development:** The benefits of good sanitation far outweigh the costs, including health care costs and lost productivity. In Nigeria it is estimated that over 10 million productive days would be gained if access to both water and sanitation rose to 100%.⁵

Current Situation

- Sanitation access varies widely in Nigeria, with estimates ranging from as low as 15% in some areas and higher than 80% in others.⁶
- Nationally, estimates from 2004 show that less than half the Nigeria population have access to improved sanitation facilities:

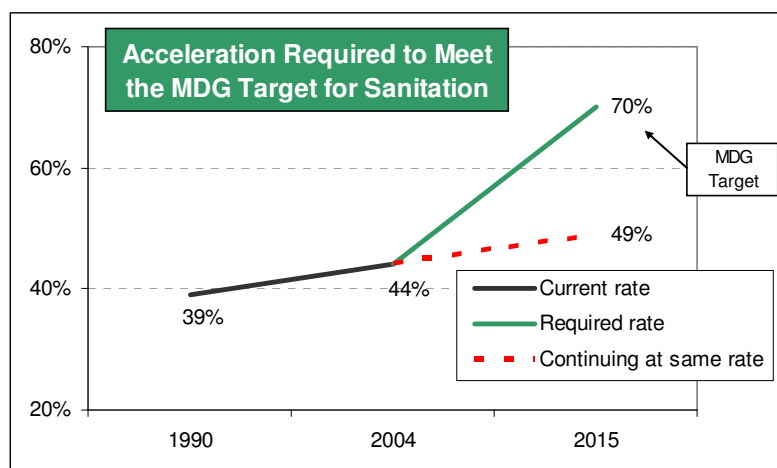
UN/ JMP Data ⁷	Improved Sanitation (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural
1990	39	51	33
2004	44	53	36

- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources is finalising a new baseline survey that will help to determine current access levels.
- Institutional sanitation rates are also low, particularly in schools. On average there is only one toilet for every 500 students in schools,⁸ ten times the standard of one for every 50 students.

The Sanitation Challenge

Targets

- The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for sanitation is to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to basic sanitation. In Nigeria, this means 70% must have access by 2015.
- Currently, the country is not on track to meet this target (see chart).⁷
- An estimated additional 62 million Nigerians must gain access to basic sanitation from now until 2015.⁹
- If Nigeria doesn't meet the MDG sanitation target, neither will Africa as a whole.



The Response: Programmes and Policies

Programming for Sanitation

- Sanitation is a key input for poverty alleviation and is thus a priority within NEEDS2.
- Sanitation programming is guided by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development. Other federal ministries with important sanitation agendas include the Ministries of Health and Education. Programmes are implemented by State Government ministries and agencies, LGAs, communities and civil society organisations.
- The African Development Bank, the European Commission, UNICEF, WaterAid, DFID, the World Bank and Unilever are supporting major sanitation programmes in the country.

Policies and Strategies

- Programming for sanitation is guided primarily by the National Water-Sanitation Policy, the National Environmental Sanitation Policy and a new Strategy for Scaling-Up Rural Sanitation. A new comprehensive National Water and Sanitation Policy is under development.
- New and more flexible strategies to stimulate improved progress and reduce open defecation in communities are under development.

National Task Group on Sanitation

- Coordinates national efforts for sanitation and hygiene programming, and is the focal point for the International Year of Sanitation in 2008.
- Outputs include: the National Water-Sanitation Policy, a (draft) national strategy for scaling-up rural sanitation and hygiene; technical guidelines for school sanitation facilities; and a set of sanitation guidelines.

Task Group Members

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources ■ Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development ■ Federal Ministry of Health ■ Federal Ministry of Education ■ Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs ■ National Orientation Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MDG Office ■ National Planning Commission ■ National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control ■ UNICEF ■ WaterAid ■ European Commission ■ DFID ■ World Bank ■ NEWSAN
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Contacts

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

Federal Secretariat, Area 1, Abuja

E-Mail: nwatsan@yahoo.com

Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development

14 Aguinyi Ironsi Way. Maitama, Abuja

UNICEF Nigeria

UN House,

Plot 617/618 Central Area District, Abuja

E-Mail: Abuja@unicef.org

Notes

1. *Nigeria Housing and Population Census*, National Population Commission, 2006 (provisional); 2. *State of the World's Children*, UNICEF, 2007 (drawing on various government and UN data sources); 3. *Annual Statistical Bulletin*, OPEC, 2006; 4. *National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategic Framework*, Fed. Ministry of Water Resources, 2004; 5. WaterAid calculations for Nigeria using methodology from *Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements*, WHO, 2004; 6. DHS 2003 and 2006 WaterAid estimates in selected LGAs; 7. *Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation*, WHO/UNICEF, 2006 (2004 data set); 8. *Nigeria Education MIS*, Fed. Min. of Education, 2003; 9. *Nigeria International Year of Sanitation Plan*, National Task Group on Sanitation, 2007 (based on JMP figures).