

Country Office Annual Report 2019
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Update on the context and situation of children

Despite being home to the largest economy in Africa, with a gross domestic product of USD 397bn in 2018, Nigeria is characterized by widespread poverty and geographic disparity. In 2016, the country emerged from a recession with a major currency depreciation and high inflation. Its economic growth rate (1.8%) is outpaced by the population growth rate (2.6%), resulting in a decrease in per capita income over time.

Current federal government revenue profiles show that the oil and gas sector contribute approximately 43% of national revenue. In the oil-dependent Nigerian economy, most of the sub-national governments participate modestly in the extractive oil and gas industry, which further constrains internal revenue generation at state level and contributes to high dependency on federal government revenue. This is compounded by the lack of accountability and consistency of governors to meet the needs and rights of children. Efforts to broaden the tax base and increase non-oil revenue have been expanded through the upward review of excise duty rates on alcohol and tobacco, deployment of innovative technology to improve revenue collection and stronger enforcement of action against defaulters. However, Nigeria's tax to GDP ratio remains less than 6%, well below the sub-Saharan average of 16%. Over 64% of the population live below the poverty line and 76% of children are affected by multi-dimensional poverty.

101 million Nigerians are under age 18, approximately 50% of the total population, of whom 33.4 million are under five years old. Under-5 mortality however is 132 deaths per 1,000 live births, implying that more than 1 in 8 children in Nigeria die before their 5th birthday. As reported by [DHS 2018](#), 37% of children under age 5 are stunted and 17% are severely stunted, with wide ranging geographical disparities (57% in the Northwest versus 18% in the Southeast). Exclusive breastfeeding practice is low and declines with age, dropping from 39% among children age 0-1 months to 18% among those age 4-5 months.

Antenatal care (ANC) coverage has improved as more women attend ANC with a skilled provider. 4+ ANC visits slightly improved from 51% in 2013 to 57% in 2018. ANC visits within the first trimester has however stagnated at 18%. Skilled assistance during delivery has increased from 32% in 1990 to 43% in 2018 ([DHS, 2018](#)).

Fewer than half (43%) of children under age 5 have had their births registered, and only 31% of children age 12-23 months have received all eight basic vaccinations—one dose each of BCG and measles vaccine and three doses each of DPT-HepB-Hib and polio vaccine. Less than half of children have received the third dose of polio. Although basic vaccination coverage has gradually increased since 2003, 1 in 5 children have received no basic vaccinations ([DHS 2018](#)).

There are about 12.9 mn children of primary school age who are currently out of school. Net Attendance Rate (NAR) was worse among girls (58.8%) compared to their boys (62.2%). An estimated 2.9 million school-aged children need education-focused humanitarian assistance.

Over half of households in Nigeria (56%) use an improved sanitation facility, including facilities shared with other households ([DHS 2018](#)). Urban households are nearly twice as likely than rural households to use improved sanitation facilities (74% versus 39%). Twenty per cent of households use unimproved sanitation, while 1 in 4 households have no sanitation facility or openly defecate. Globally, Nigeria has the second highest number of people defecating in the open.

Seventy-four per cent of urban households and 58% of rural households have access to an improved source of drinking water. Unfortunately, less than a quarter of schools and health care facilities in Nigeria have complete basic WASH services available for use.

A decade of conflict in north-east Nigeria has left 7.1 million people (1.5 million women, 2.3 million girls and 1.9 million boys) in need of humanitarian assistance in the northeast states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. Displacement remained high in 2019, with over 1.82 million people displaced as at October 2019. An average of 4,000 people—mainly women and children—were displaced every week. The cumulative impact of violence and stress has weakened the coping capacities of communities and left more than two million girls and boys in need of psychosocial support. Sexual violence -including rape, sexual exploitation, forced and early marriage, survival sex and domestic violence, physical assault, denial of resources, and psychological and emotional abuse -are among the most frequently reported violations. Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and forced marriage.

Based on reports by the monitoring and reporting mechanism, the use and recruitment of children by non-state armed groups constituted over 35% of the incidences of grave violations reported in 2018. Children used by and associated with armed groups are exposed to severe abuse and violations, including emotional, physical and sexual violence. Analysis of data on gender-based violence show that of gender-based violence survivors seeking assistance, 44% were children (98% girls), of whom 46% reported having suffered sexual violence.

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Major contributions and drivers of results

As part of the Government of Nigeria-UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation (2018-2022), seven key results for children (KRCs) have been identified. The contributors and drivers are articulated below for each of these key results. These key results are aligned to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) 2018-2022, agreed by the Government of Nigeria and the United Nations country team. The primary focus of UNICEF contributions to the framework are under result area two of the framework, "Equitable Quality Basic Services" where UNICEF contributes to all four outcome areas, Health, Nutrition, HIV&AIDS; Learning and skills development; Water, sanitation and hygiene; and protection.

KRC1 Immunization

KRC1 seeks to ensure that by 2021, 80% of children 0-11 months are protected against vaccine preventable diseases annually.

In 2019, UNICEF supported the implementation of several health care initiatives such as evidence-based planning and tracking through score cards and trend analysis, the basic health care provision fund and the community platform for integrated services. All were implemented to achieve NCO 2019 pre-defined results. As a result of the intensive work done over the past few years in partnership with the concerned national and international stakeholders, Nigeria has completed three years without a Wild poliovirus case having been detected, thus moving forward towards polio free certification and eradication status by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 2020. However, vaccine-derived polio remains a concern with 18 cases reported in 2019. In addition, 2019 has witnessed some improvements in the treatment of diarrhea with ORS (40% versus 33% in 2013), care seeking for pneumonia (73.3% versus 36.5%); and treatment of malaria (28% vs 18%).

On a related note, UNICEF supported the improvement in service delivery through the continued TA for quality of care to improve maternal/ newborn and child health outcomes in some states where routine immunization coverage rates have shown a significant improvement. In addition, UNICEF supported a nationwide physical stock count of vaccines and related devices, elaboration of the operational deployment plans and facility readiness assessment. As a result, Nigeria continued to provide uninterrupted vaccination services across the country due to availability of stocks of the DTP/Penta, Polio (OPV and IPV) and Tetanus Toxoid vaccines at district level. In this regard, "Pentavalent-3 coverage" increased from 38% in 2013 to 50.1% in 2019 vs a target of 55%, thus bringing the total number of children 0-11 months vaccinated with 3 doses of DTP-containing/Penta vaccine nationally to 36,678,239 from an overall population of 73,210,058. Furthermore, "Percentage of districts that have at least 80% of children 0-11 months vaccinated with three doses of DTP-containing/Penta vaccine" reached 36% (279 districts out of 774), thus exceeding 2019 annual target (31%), as the recent DHIS2 data revealed.

However, it is not possible to say whether the overall strength of the immunization supply chain in Nigeria has changed or not as the last "Effective Vaccine Management Assessment" was conducted in 2017 and revealed an EVM composite score of 69%. This undertaking is usually conducted every three to four years, with the next assessment planned for 2020.

The immunization programme in Nigeria is still heavily reliant on emergency short term measures. This will have to change if the RI programme is going to be sustainable and achieve the desired outcome. In addition, UNICEF targeted women of reproductive age through campaigns implemented during 2019, supporting "Country has been verified/ validated as having eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus".

UNICEF revised its emergency programming strategy in the NE States leading to three-pronged approach in delivery. To ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines, UNICEF procured and made available all essential medicines for primary health care services for over 4,000,000 OPD consultation services.

Partnerships were fostered with academia, professional bodies, IPs and NGOs towards strengthening data systems and advance implementation research for health. The "every breath" coalition partnership resulted in the first National Pneumonia Control Strategy and Implementation Plan.

KRC2 Prevention of Stunting

A key result for children prioritized by UNICEF Nigeria is that by 2022, Children, adolescent mothers and women, particularly in vulnerable and deprived areas, have increased access to quality services and information, and adopt appropriate nutritional practices to prevent and treat malnutrition (CPD 2018-2022, Outcome 1). In this regard, the *KRC2 seeks to ensure that by 2021, 93% girls and boys under age of 5, especially those that are marginalized and those living in*

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humanitarian situations, receive high impact nutrition services to prevent stunting". Although a significant progress was recorded in 2019 towards the achievement of this result, nutrition however remains a development issue in Nigeria.

The 2018 Demographic and Health Survey recorded a stunting rate of 37%, as compared 44% MICS 2017, and wasting rate of 7% as compared to 11% in 2017. While a slight increase is observed in the exclusive breastfeeding rates, 22% of children 6 to 23 months, approximately 3,043,725, receive the minimum number of food groups, far below the 2019 target of 37%.

Based on the results of the first round of the Mother and Child health weeks, 24 million children aged 6 to 59 months received vitamin A supplements and 13.6 million children 12-59 months were reached with deworming, representing a 64 and 41% achievement respectively. Results of the second round conducted in December 2019 are not yet available for all states.

UNICEF NCO provided technical and financial support to the States on the development of costed nutrition plans resulting in 24 States out of 37 having costed nutrition plans, meeting 2019 targets. Plans developed includes elimination of water and fluids to support increase in exclusive breastfeeding as well as improving dietary diversity.

UNICEF also strengthened advocacy efforts to secure political commitments and leverage domestic financial resources to drive nutrition outcomes. This resulted in the release of USD 4,825,231 domestic funds for Nutrition representing 241% of the 2019 target. Actual funds released were very limited and conditional focused to geopolitical zone including states with low burdens of malnutrition.

In the North-east states, UNICEF exceeded the 2019 target (179,825 cases) for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among children 6 to 59 months by providing treatment for 242,379 SAM cases. This was made possible by deployment of community nutrition volunteers and pre-positioning Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) at facility level to avoid supplies stock out. Also, to prevent malnutrition, a total of 539,953 caregivers of children 0-23 months were counselled on adequate child feeding. This achievement exceeded the annual target of 305,474 and represents a significant increase from the 184,972 caregivers reached in 2018.

UNICEF collaborated with organizations such as Alive and Thrive, CSSUNN, Save the children, Nigerian Governors Forum to provide financial and technical support to the government in achieving the above stated results.

KRC3 Equitable and sustainable access to education; and KRC4 Improved Learning Outcomes

In 2019, UNICEF continued its efforts to contribute to a situation where children have access to and complete quality education, within a safe learning environment, with skills and knowledge for lifelong learning by 2022. The KRC3 and KRC4 call for the reduction in the out of school children of primary and lower secondary school age, and also all pupils of both sex from pre-primary to lower secondary education are reached with interventions targeting the improvement of learning outcomes and skills.

UNICEF brought 914,025 children (m: 465,627 and f:448,398) to school across 11 states through enrolment drives and mobilization under the custodianship of traditional leaders, and state governors, SUBEBs and education stakeholders at all levels. Through UNICEF advocacy, the Minister of Education approved the National Enrolment Drive Framework to formalize its use federally and in all states. High ranking traditional and religious leaders committed to work with UNICEF to keep girls in school. OOSC rate of primary and lower secondary school age has however increased from 29% in 2018 to 34.3% in 2019. There are currently about 7,697,823 children, out of a total of about 22,447,499, who are out of school. Transition rates between primary and lower secondary education have increased from 49% in 2017 to 57.1% in 2019. This is nevertheless still far below the UNICEF WCAR target of 75%.

UNICEF further strengthened government's capacity to deliver quality education through support to improve pedagogies in the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy in government schools and IQSs. A total of 26,099 primary teachers/facilitator and head teachers in formal and non-formal schools improved their capacities in child centered pedagogies and leadership for the benefit of 478,252 children who also received learning materials. A ?? Findings of IQSs pupils' Oral Reading Fluency using Early Grade Reading and Mathematics Assessment conducted in collaboration with FHI 360 in 1,000 IQSs spread across 6 UNICEF focus states showed an average of 51% of male pupils and 45% of girls in multi-grade class-settings in Bauchi, Niger and Kebbi belonging either one of the three categories—emergent readers, beginning reader and reading. The Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) programme also found that children who can read a story increased by 20% and children who can solve simple subtraction increased by 48%.

UNICEF increased access to education for about 361,168 children in humanitarian situations through increase spaces for participation while 835,871 children benefitted from essential learning materials. Through UNICEF support 7,206 primary teachers and 5,775 teacher educators improved their knowledge and skills on psychosocial support and referral of children

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at risk. Consequently, 369,446 school aged children received psychosocial support in their schools/learning spaces during and after the humanitarian situation.

UNICEF's 2019 education programme was implemented in close partnership with Federal Ministry of Education, State Governors, State Departments of Education and Traditional leaders. The Federal Ministry of Education and Universal Basic Education Commission made contributions to institutionalize enrolment drives at the federal and state education systems. Traditional leaders in Northern Nigeria committed to ensuring that all children within their areas of jurisdiction are enrolled in schools. Additionally, Sokoto and Niger states have institutionalized cash transfer system in their education systems backed with budgets by the government. The National Cash Transfer Programme under the National Social Investment Office of the vice President, the Nigeria Partnership for Education Programme of the Global Partnership for Education, and World Bank supported BESDA programme in 17 states have made contributions to reduce OOSC by giving cash incentives.

KRC5 Protection of children from violence and exploitation, including in humanitarian contexts.

KRC5 aims to ensure that *"by 2021, at least 50% more children affected by violence will be provided with protective services to prevent and respond to violence in both humanitarian and non-humanitarian settings"*. In 2019, a total of 11,736 children (5,437 girls and 6,299 boys) located in UNICEF focus states who have experienced violence were reached by health, social work or justice & law enforcement services, thus representing 89% of the 2019 target (13,166).

The national and sub-national elections during the first half of the year, that was combined with the shift of UNICEF programmatic approach to integrated case management and the limited numbers of skilled social workers and paucity of budgetary allocation to social welfare units, contributed to the inability to achieve the overall target values.

In addition, an inter-operable information management system that supports and tracks case management, incident monitoring, and programme monitoring, (including humanitarian), was developed and became functional. UNICEF investment focused also on sustaining the engagement with multisectoral partners to ensure timely tracking, real-time reporting, referrals, follow-up and case closure of CP caseloads. Moreover, the established CPIMS units at state and LGA levels continued to function with the procurement and installation of relevant equipment and supplies contributed to effective data management/usage.

In 2019 UNICEF provided response services to a total of 1,691 women and children in humanitarian situations who experienced Gender-Based Violence (GBV); 693 women (41%), and 998 children (59%). The attained value exceeded the 2019 target of 1400.

KRC7 Birth Registration

KRC7 targets that *"By 2021, 30% more children under – 1 have their births registered (at least 10 million children)"*. Achievements in 2019 demonstrated the significant and positive impact of the strategic approach to and the investment in the birth registration system in Nigeria. Interventions provided have addressed the recommendations raised in the 2018-Birth Registration Impact Evaluation Report. An emphasis was made on elevating the birth registration from a child rights issue to a foundation for good governance, data management, digitized process and national planning. These concerted and targeted approaches helped the lift of birth registration beyond the 100% target. Out of 4,607,937 children under-1 in Nigeria, a total 3,285,459 children had their births registered in 2019, thus denoting an overall under-1 birth registration rate of 71.3%. The "Percentage of children under-1 whose births were registered" has far exceeded the 2019 40% target. On a related note, the under-5 birth registration has also witnessed an increase in 2019 where 50.7% of children under 5 have their births registered with local authorities against the 2019 24% target. The birth registration rates exceeded 2019 targets due to the focus on structured community level actions, strong media alliances, use of developed advocacy briefs and leveraging the NPopC Enumeration Area Demarcation exercise across all States. In addition, the registration of children under-1 has been boosted in 2019 by the integration of registrars into children's routine immunization and into immunization days organized by health workers. DHIS tools and services are integrated at health care delivery points in routine immunization services, which enables children under-1 to be registered as soon as they are born. This was made possible by existing interoperable systems between civil registration, health education and community actors, which enabled increased coverage of birth registration services in both institutional and non-institutional registration settings.

For both KRC5 and KRC7, the partnerships established with the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs has facilitated the development of the country rolling workplan, while that with the Ministry of Budget and Planning supported the provision of internal advocacy and access to relevant actors at State level. For the legal reforms, the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Judiciary have been key partners who engaged in the development of the legal frameworks and pushed for the validation of the child protection regulations and rules.

Results in north-east Nigeria were achieved in close collaboration with the State ministries of women affairs, as well as NPopC, other community and religious leaders and I/NGOs.

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KRC-8: Ending Open Defecation

KRC8 seeks to ensure that *"by 2021, the proportion of population practicing open defecation is reduced from 25.4% (122 million) to 15.5% (88 million)"*.

In 2019, UNICEF made remarkable contributions in improving access to WASH services. The number of people who gained access to safely managed drinking water services as a result of UNICEF's intervention was 2.8 million (against a target of 2 million) representing 1.4% of Nigeria's projected population. UNICEF propagated the roll-out of Water Safety Plans and implementation of routine surveillance and monitoring of water quality in 6,156 communities across 112 LGAs, thereby enabling enhanced water quality measures required of safely managed facilities.

Nigeria succeeded in shifting 3.6 million additional people to now living in open defecation free communities against a set target of 1.5 million. Because of UNICEF's community approach to total sanitation (CATS) programming in 2019, a total of 4,781 communities have been certified ODF. In addition, 7 LGAs were certified ODF in 2019, bringing the count to 10 ODF LGAs because of UNICEF's direct intervention. Moreover, UNICEF achieved key milestones in supporting the government to kickstart actions to end open defecation. UNICEF supported the development and launching of the National ODF communications Campaign; "The Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet campaign" aiming at eradicating open defecation by 2025. In addition, UNICEF supported the Organized Private Sector in WASH, led by Zenith Water Projects, and FMWR in organizing a Private Sector Forum themed "Coordinating Indigenous Private Sector Initiative to End Open Defecation in Nigeria" which brought together Nigeria's private businesses and WASH sector partners. The objective is to explore the huge potential of the Nigerian private sector involvement in WASH and examine possibilities of Public-Private-Partnerships in scaling-up efforts to bridge gaps in sanitation services. UNICEF's vision that was presented during the workshop, suggested different categories for possible private sector involvement ranging from communication, construction, infrastructure management, training, financing, etc.

During 2019, UNICEF supported 1,636 schools with water and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls, thus exceeding 2019 target of 1,000 schools and benefiting 530,086 pupils (264,424 males and 265,662 females).

UNICEF continued to play a key role in emergency programming for WASH in the North East states, being part of the 2019 HRP and supporting the response to cholera and flooding throughout the country with interventions such as construction and rehabilitation of systems, provision of WASH emergency supplies including water treatment chemicals and hygiene awareness. In 2019, access to potable water supply reached 922,940 people in humanitarian needs through the emergency water trucking, and construction, rehabilitation and O&M of water systems. About 656,358 people benefited from the construction, repair and management of sanitation facilities, including gender-friendly and child-safe latrines, bath shelters and handwashing stations provided in camps, host communities, schools and health facilities. Effective emergency response continues to be hampered by insecurity in many UNICEF's target locations, limited access to remote locations, difficult hydrogeology in locations within the North East, and negative cultural influences on behavior and attitude change towards hygiene practice.

Other upstream results were achieved in 2019 towards promoting institutions capacity building; policy, strategy and plans development; and contributing to learning and evidence generation. UNICEF facilitated the institutionalization of the WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping (NORM). UNICEF also supported the development of a web-based Intervention Profiling Tool, using the well-established WASH Information Management System platform for setting priorities, selection of intervention areas and optimum allocation of resources. UNICEF supported the FMWR to finalize the National Guidelines for water quality monitoring and surveillance. UNICEF's advocacy efforts towards leveraging local resources to scale up WASH services led to securing of US\$5.4 million as government contribution.

Technical expertise was accessed internally from UNICEF HQ and externally from several organizations, including the World Bank, UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme, WHO and collectively from the Development Partners' Group on WASH. Zenith Water Projects (ZWP), the private sector global representatives for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), have been instrumental in coordinating the WASH private sector and bringing sanitation issues to the forefront of the previously nascent sector.

Planning and Monitoring

During the reporting year, NCO programme effectiveness was further strengthened to ensure the achievement of the above-mentioned results. NCO continued the work started on strengthening the office's planning and monitoring capacity and on improving the government's results-based management effectiveness. The use of the new planning SOPs led to more results-based and harmonized 2019 workplans which were fully aligned with CPD, RAM and KRC. The NCO monitoring capacity was strengthened by the introduction and vitalization of the new monitoring framework to track the implementation of interventions and achievement of results at different levels. Monitoring activities including periodical

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monitoring, mid-year and end-year reviews were designed and implemented as such and yielded timely performance information that were used to satisfy global reporting requirements in a timely and quality manner, including CRAVE, SDGs, SMQs, Narrative Summary and RAM outcomes and outputs reporting, and also to adjust as appropriate the performance during the reporting period and beyond. The staff capacity has been also strengthened through a series of capacity development activities such as RBM trainings, on-the-job training and coaching.

On a related note, NCO supported the development of the national M&E strategy for Nigerian, to guide the government to monitor and evaluate for results. MICS6 was initiated in partnership with NBS to fill data requirements gap on the status of children and women in Nigeria, to use for planning and monitoring purposes. In a related note, emphasis was placed on strengthening the NCO programme convergence in states and local governance areas with the highest deprivations for children combined with extreme poverty and demographics. In this regard, Sections and Field Offices capacities were further strengthened to promote and adopt programme convergence, thus laying the foundation for initiating the Child Friendly Communities (CFC).

Lessons Learned and Innovations

The following lessons were learnt and innovations implemented in 2019 to further strengthen the achievement of the highlighted results.

KRC1 Immunization

Overall funding, inadequate supplies, poor referral linkage between community and the health facilities, inadequate coordination and low service immunization service uptake have all created a pressure on UNICEF when implementing activities as planned and achieving results as intended. They were addressed through the high-level advocacy and technical support in priority states, engagements with low-performing LGAs and following the quarterly LQAS exercises, for capacity development in BNA and CA and drawing plans for corrective measures. In addition, UNICEF supported the development of a community-based insurance in some selected settlements.

Alignment of partners efforts at all levels is indispensable to success. With the advent of the national strategy for immunization and primary Health care systems strengthening, planning processes of development partners and government have been further streamlined under the leadership of federal and states authority within revitalized coordination structures. In addition, regular reliable assessment of performance (LQAS) to guide engagement with poor performing states/LGA serves not only to provide corrective measures, but also build capacity at the decentralized level. Such undertakings need to be expanded beyond the immunization group for a more holistic approach to PHC systems strengthening.

KRC2 Prevention of Stunting

Effectiveness and functionality of the multisectoral committees on food and Nutrition at all levels provided an opportunity for partnership and leveraging resources across ministries, departments, and agencies thereby helping to mitigate the effect of the high political turnover and delay in appointment of heads of government ministries, departments and agencies at all levels following the 2018 election.

UNICEF implemented an adolescent nutrition programme during the year, the first of its kind in Nigeria. Together with the Government, we have noted that the programme is filling a critical gap in the life cycle approach to nutrition in Nigeria, especially in the context where girls give birth to their first child during adolescence. Thus, a decision was taken to scale up the programme in other states.

The planned roll out of "ZERO Water Campaign" to reach more mothers and other care givers with behavior change messages will improve exclusive breastfeeding, thereby addressing myths and cultural norms especially in Northern Nigeria constraints the promotion and adoption of improved child care practices.

KRC3 Equitable and sustainable access to education and KRC4 Improved Learning Outcomes

Community household mapping of OOSC was carried out through a real data monitoring system that improves economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Data collection is conducted by enumerators by smartphones or tablet which cut costs, provided real-time feedback and reduced data error.

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UNICEF's innovative programme "Teaching at the Right Level" (TaRL), was found to be a viable remedial approach in Nigeria that supports learners with reading and numeracy deficiencies and has been scaled up to more schools and states.

KRC5 Protection of children from violence and exploitation, including in humanitarian contexts, and KRC 7 Birth Registration

While advocacy efforts continue to intensify for the domestication of the 2003 CRA across the remaining 11 northern states of Nigeria, the planned targets for domestication may need to be adjusted to allow more dialogue with key change makers to avoid child rights legislation including provisions that legitimize child marriage.

Reaching agreements with government and key stakeholders on clear vulnerability criteria reduces the risks of having inflated child protection caseloads, which in turn allows for higher quality case management processes until case closure.

Programme integration, integrating the provision of psychosocial support with the education sector, ensures greater number of children benefit from both education and protection services and activities, and maximizes on use of available structures. In addition, collaboration with WASH ensures all child-friendly spaces meet the minimum standards for WASH. Moreover, integrating birth registration services with health facilities, immunization and nutrition services increases the number of children registered.

KRC8 Ending Open Defecation

Securing highest-level political commitment to the "Clean Nigeria" campaign catalyzed sub-national movement towards ending open defecation leading to key sub-national actions such as development of state-wide ODF roadmaps and launching state campaigns to end open defecation.

By aligning the ODF Campaign with the institutional mandates, some states called for a State of Emergency for WASH, while other states were able to increase investments in WASH. The engagement of private sector in an organized manner to support "Clean Nigeria" campaign and the development and sustainability of WASH sector has the potential to infuse hugely needed, yet untapped financial/ human resources and boosting possibilities of Nigeria meeting its SDG6 commitment.

Engaging with key stakeholders and policy makers throughout the NORM process ensured a smooth buy-in and ownership of the results as well as the utilization of the data. The in-depth analysis and wide dissemination of NORM data has helped stakeholders to view the sector from different perspectives, especially with regards to the quality and sustainability of the different WASH services. In addition, strengthening the engagement with media houses and private sector has been an effective way of improving awareness of sanitation issues amongst policy makers and capable of creating mass movement to support the 'Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet' Campaign.

Change strategies

Based on the new monitoring framework, a programme performance monitoring tool was developed using an online Excel for tracking performance at National and States levels.

Improvement in organizing advocacy visits to media owners strengthened partnership and leveraged more air time and space for children. Again, extended partnerships with the entertainment industry helped in elevating child rights advocacy especially using the CRC@30 commemoration platform. UNICEF engaged Nigerian artists to provide a dedicated song and music video to commemorate CRC@30.

Participatory consultative planning, monitoring and evaluation involving relevant stakeholders maximize the sense of ownership, increase the mutual accountability to the achievement of results, ensure the alignment of interventions with the national development strategies and donor thematic focus and priorities, and accelerate the achievement of the intended results to the target children and women.

