

BRIEFING NOTE

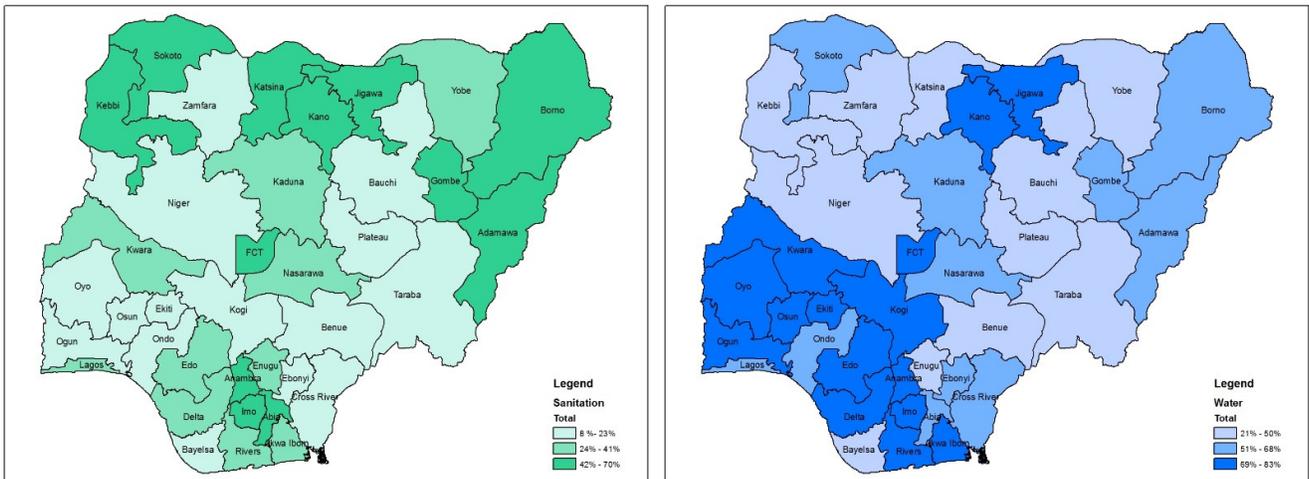
UNICEF support to Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector in Nigeria (since 2014)

Updated in Jan 2017

Situation

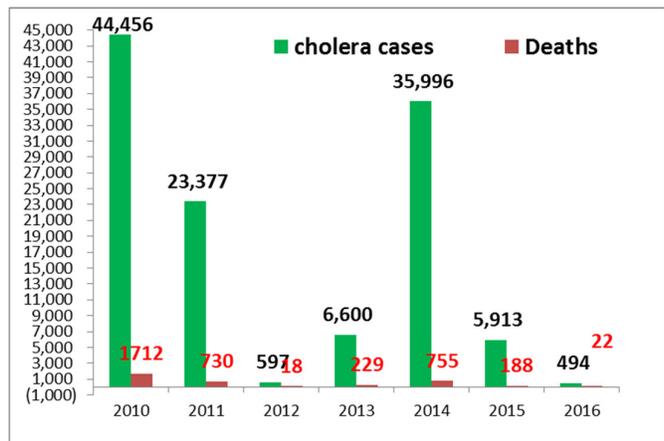
Nigeria ranks among the top 5 countries globally for having large numbers of people without access to safe water, improved sanitation and practicing open defecation. Between 1995 and 2010, Nigeria's progress has been even lower than the regional average for sub-Saharan Africa in both water and sanitation¹. Nigeria is off-track with respect to the MDG targets for water (75%) and sanitation (65%) with major gaps in the rural areas. Among countries with similar population and similar GDP per capita, Nigeria fares poorly on the sanitation front. Poor access to WASH is directly linked to incidences of diarrhoea and this is clearly reflected in Nigeria being among the five countries contributing to half of global under-5 deaths.

NDHS 2013² estimates 34% of the population with access to improved sanitation and 59.6% of the population with access to improved sources of water as at 2013. Map below shows the sanitation and water coverage across various states in Nigeria. Open defecation practices are common across the country, with an estimated 28.7% of Nigerians having to do this on a daily basis, thereby posing grave public health risks. There are wide disparities in access geographically, across



urban and rural areas and among wealth quintiles, with people in the lowest quintile being the major sufferers. People in rural areas are about 1.5 times less likely to have access to safe water and improved sanitation than those in urban areas. The disparities are higher when we look at the wealth quintiles, with the poorest 36³ times more likely to defecate in the open than their richest counterparts.

Nigeria also witnesses various kinds of emergencies on an on-going basis. The unprecedented floods in 2012 affecting over 2.1 million people across the country exposed the country's poor ability to respond timely. This however led to the establishment of a National Emergency WASH sector Working Group with UNICEF as co-lead. After a low in 2012, there has been a resurgence of Cholera in 2014 and 2015 with nearly 42,000 cases & 943 deaths cumulatively. The conflict in the North-East led to a significant number of IDPs in the country (over 2.1 million) in 2015. UNICEF is working closely with the National and the sub-national Emergency WASH working groups to support emergency response and cholera prevention activities.



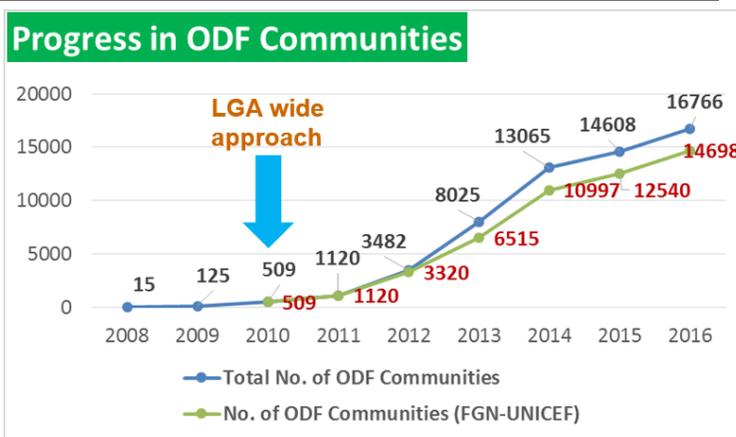
¹ A Snapshot of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Africa – 2012 Update, African Minister's Council on Water

² National Demographic Health Survey - 2013

³ NBS/ UNICEF conducted Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2011

The **Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)** approach is helping accelerate access to sanitation in the country. The numbers of reported Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities have expanded from just about 15 in 2008, to over 16,000. **UNICEF currently contributes over 70% of the ODF throughput in the country.**

UNICEF supported the development of a National Roadmap for the **elimination of Open Defecation in Nigeria by 2025**, which was launched by the **Minister of Water Resources in November 2016**. The organization of the “Presidential Summit on Water” in February 2013 and the participation of the Finance & Water Resources Ministers at the “**Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High level meeting**” in 2012 & 2014 successively is a testimony to increased government commitment to the sector. In November 2016, the **Vice President launched the 2016-2030 “Partnership for Expanded WASH (PEWASH)”** programme prioritizing achievement of 100% access to basic water and sanitation in the rural areas by 2030, and bodes well for the WASH sector in the SDG era.



What are we doing?

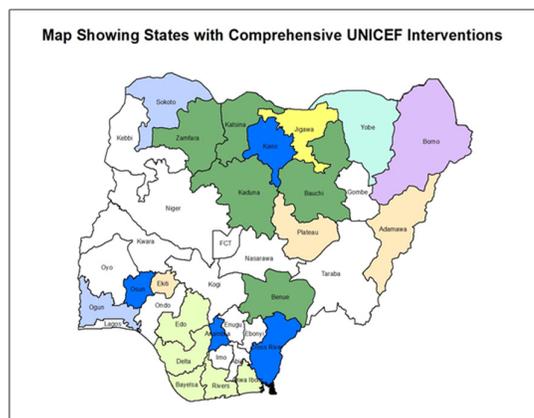
UNICEF supports the government of Nigeria in the areas of Policy/planning & human rights based approach to programming; systems strengthening; service delivery; piloting approaches/models & evidence generation; monitoring & research; WASH in schools; humanitarian response during emergencies & disaster risk reduction. More details below:

- **Since March 2016 UNICEF chairs the WASH Development Partner’s Group** with African Development Bank as co-chair (members include DFID, EU, JICA, USAID, AfD, WaterAid, etc.);
- Development of social policies/sector investment plans;
- Establishment of institutions (RUWASAs, LGA WASH Departments/ Units) for sustainable WASH services;
- Strengthening institutional capacities and systems for integrated WASH programme management, fulfillment of global commitments (SWA, eThekwini) and knowledge sharing at national and sub-national levels. This includes operationalization of WASH sector M&E framework;
- Promoting use of low cost community based approaches including CLTS, Village Level Operation & Maintenance (VLOM), and community based water quality monitoring & surveillance to scale up access to water sanitation;
- Widen partnerships to accelerate sanitation coverage for the most deprived in urban/rural areas;
- Documentation of experiences to generate evidence for programme advocacy and leveraging of results;
- Harnessing technology/ innovation for improved WASH service delivery;
- Promoting access to WASH in Institutions (Schools, Primary Health Care facilities);
- Enhance inter-sectoral collaborations including Neglected Tropical Diseases for synergistic impact of WASH interventions;
- Strengthen knowledge and capacity of stakeholders for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) including climate change adaptation, government’s capacity to plan and respond to emergencies and building resilience in communities.

Where are we working?

UNICEF has been operating in WASH since 1980’s starting in Imo. UNICEF, through its eight zonal offices implements WASH interventions across the country, with its own resources and generous funding from EU, UK Aid & other donors and private sector. Currently UNICEF has comprehensive WASH programming in 22 states spread across the Federation. As co-lead of the National Emergency WASH working group, UNICEF contributes significantly to the humanitarian response in the North-East and other emergencies in the country.

With WHO, UNICEF supported Nigeria in maintaining zero case status for Guinea worm since 2009 and Nigeria was certified as Guinea Worm free country in 2013. UNICEF is a major contributor to the National Onchocerciasis Control Program.



Key Contributions of UNICEF WASH programme to Nigeria since 2014



3.1 million

People gained access to safe water additionally



4.9 million

People use latrines additionally

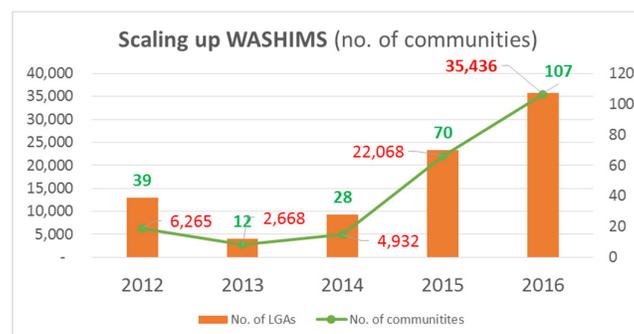


Over **200,000** children gained access to WASH in schools

- Played an instrumental role in the formulation of the Government's 2016-2030 PEWASH Strategy and the National Road Map for elimination of Open Defecation in Nigeria;
- Supported the development of Road Maps for 36 states for elimination of Open Defecation in Nigeria and successful institutionalization/ conduct of National Roundtable conferences on Sanitation;
- Various Latrine models developed and MoUs signed with Micro Finance Institutions to offer affordable sanitation loans to help households move up the sanitation ladder;
- Development of State WASH Policies and Investment Plans in a number of states (over 13);
- Development of National Strategies/ Guidelines (Hygiene, WASH in Schools, WASH in Primary Health centres, Water Safety, Village Level Operation and Maintenance, Harmonized procurement guidelines, etc.);
- Documentation of best practices – WASH Impact evaluation in 2014; Compendium of Case studies on CLTS in 2014; Promising Practices showcasing best practices across various thematic areas in 2016;
- Key contributor to the North-East Recovery and Peace Building Assessment in 2016;
- Nearly **8,200** communities became Open Defecation Free;
- Over **1.2 million** benefited from humanitarian response activities (Sahel crisis, cholera, Floods, conflict in the N-E);
- Hand-washing campaigns reached millions of people including school children;
- Millions of people have been treated for Onchocerciasis diseases in the ten UNICEF-assisted states.
- WASHCOMs as an entry point **addressed birth registration and immunization in 722 communities** leading to 100% at-birth registration and significant increase in immunization coverage;
- Capacity building programs benefited many thousands (WASH staff, NGOs/CSOs, community members);
- Strengthened monitoring systems including activation of the online WASH Information Management System (WASHIMS) and CLTS database at Federal level;
- **SMS-based Real-time water point functionality tracking in 57 LGAs raising functionality from 56% to 71%;**
- Supported establishment of State RUWASSAs and LGA WASH Departments/ Units in a number of states/LGAs.

Key Priorities for Nigeria going forward

1. Strengthening National level sector coordination
2. Support Implementation of the PEWASH program and the ODF Roadmap
3. Harmonization of the Sanitation Policy
4. Sanitation Marketing and Sanitation Financing
5. Strengthening Monitoring of the sector (scaling-up of WASHIMS)
6. Humanitarian response/ Recovery efforts for the North-East
7. Establishment of LGA WASH institutions
8. Advocate for increased investments to basic WASH (with budget line for sanitation & hygiene) & support states to develop SDG Plans for WASH.



Funding Needs

An estimated US\$ 2.5 billion was required per annum between 2007 and 2015 to attain MDG water and sanitation targets for Nigeria. Nigeria's allocation to the WASH sector was much lower than required. For Nigeria to attain the SDG targets that is more comprehensive and aims at universal access to water, sanitation & hygiene in communities, schools and Primary Health centres, greater commitment and innovative funding mechanisms would be needed. 8 million people need to be reached every year with access to safe water and sanitation to meet the SDG-6 targets by 2030. **The capital cost alone for attaining the SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 for Nigeria is estimated at 1.7% of the GDP⁴ in the first year**, with significant increases in Operation & maintenance costs for the increased infrastructure in the future.

⁴ World Bank/WSP - The Costs of Meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, January 2016