Overview

Access to climate resilient safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene remains a recurring challenge in Nigeria. Progress in the sector, achieved through the collaborative efforts of Government and Development Partners is often dwarfed by the growing population. While the Covid-19 pandemic and the national cholera outbreak in 2021 presented an opportunity for investment in water sanitation and hygiene, with significant focus on hand hygiene, their impact on socio-economic activities has adversely affected gains in the WASH sector.

The 2021 WASH NORM is the third in the series of national assessments of the status of WASH Services launched in 2018, to provide reliable, comprehensive, and up-to-date WASH data to inform strategic decision making and address critical gaps in the sector. The vast amount of data collected under the WASH NORM can be used for strategic, efficient, and equitable budget allocation and use of resources; devising and implementing well-targeted, effective policies and programmes; and monitoring and reporting on progress towards achieving the global SDG 6.1 and 6.2, and in meeting national goals including the National Open Defecation Free Roadmap, Partnership for Expanded WASH (PEWASH) and National Action Plan for Revitalization of the WASH sector.

The survey collects and succinctly disaggregates WASH data across the different states and geopolitical zones, area of residence and demographic groups, gender, and wealth quintiles. In addition, it contains information on quality, dependability, and adequacy of WASH services, which are critical components of the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) definition of safely managed WASH services and sustainable access.

The 2021 WASH NORM was funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria and conducted under the overall leadership of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources. Technical and financial support was provided by UNICEF and the World Bank. The National Bureau of Statistics, the agency with the mandate to conduct national surveys in Nigeria, managed data collection and statistical analysis across the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. This survey broadly focuses on three components: household assessments of WASH service levels, facility-based assessments of WASH infrastructure and mapping of urban water utilities. The exercise also included household expenditure parameters and water quality assessments.

This infographic summarizes the findings from the survey and complements the main report.

Key Findings

- **10%** Have access to basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services
- **67%** Use basic drinking water services
- **10 liters** Average per capita volume of water for rural population
- **46%** Use basic sanitation services
- **48 million** People practice open defecation
- **17%** Households have access to basic hygiene services
- **11%** Schools have basic water sanitation and hygiene services
- **6%** Health facilities have basic water sanitation and hygiene services
- **4%** Markets and Motor parks have basic water sanitation and hygiene services
- **11%** Of households had at least one diarrhoea case in the past 2 weeks
Access to Basic WASH Services in Nigeria

The overall status of the WASH Sector in Nigeria is low. Only 10% of the population have access to complete basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services, using the global JMP definitions. Those living in rural areas are three times more disadvantaged than those in urban areas.

Disparities were observed in the use of basic WASH services across different areas of residence, geopolitical zones, and socioeconomic lines. The most significant disparities are related to wealth. The wealthiest households are about ten times more likely to access basic WASH Services than the poorest households.
Trends in Access to Basic WASH Services

The trend shows a drop of 3 million in the number of people with access to basic WASH services from 21 million in 2018 to 18 million in 2019. However, an additional 2 million people gained access to basic WASH services between 2019 and 2021. In comparison, the population of Nigeria increased by 3 million from 198 million in 2018 to 201 million in 2019 and by an additional 5 million to 206 million in 2021. The modest gains in access to basic WASH services is dwarfed by the increasing population.
Access to Basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Nigeria

Access to different combinations of basic water, sanitation and hygiene also show an overall low WASH status in Nigeria, with WASH services more accessible to people living in urban areas and those amongst the richest wealth quintiles.
About 67% of Nigerians have access to basic drinking water supply services. This is a 3% decline from the 2019 WASH NORM data. This decline is also reflected amongst those living in the urban and rural areas as access level in 2019 was higher than 2021.

Equity in Access to Basic Water Supply Services

Access to basic water supply services amongst the richest household is twice higher than that of the poorest household. Access based on area of residence reveals that people in the rural areas have 29% less access than people in the urban areas.
People in Lagos are three times more likely to use basic water supply than people living in Sokoto.
Characteristics of Water Supply Systems in Nigeria

There are 2.31 million water points in Nigeria, 75% are self-supplied, 43% of these are boreholes and less than one-fifth have provisions for people living with disabilities.

Management of Publicly used Water Points

- 7% of all publicly used water points have a tariff system in place.
- 30% of all publicly used water points have management committees in place.
- 51% of all publicly used water points have caretakers in place.

WASHCOM

- 80% Male
- 20% Female

Status of Urban Water Utilities

Public water utilities are currently producing water in only 28 out of 36 states, plus the federal capital territory. In 16 states, the public utilities are classified as functional, that is, consistently producing water, supplying to active consumers, and collecting user fees.

- 28 out of 36 states (+ FCT) have urban water utilities that produce water.
- 16 states have fully functional urban water utilities.
- 8% of urban water utilities' consumers are metered.
- 54% of urban utilities' consumers do not depend solely on their taps for drinking water.
- 69% of all taps fed by urban utilities' supply are contaminated with E. coli.
Functionality of Water Systems in Nigeria

Up to 77% of publicly owned water points are functional, an eight-percentage point cumulative increase from 2018. There are only minor disparities across area of residences, ownership, usage, and water facility type.

Dependability of Public Water Systems in Nigeria

About 14% of water points are dependable with respect to their design and configuration, 59% are dependable with respect to their functionality and only 11% are dependable with respect to their operation and maintenance.
Adequacy of Water Systems in Nigeria

In rural areas, the average per capita share of drinking water is 9 liters/person/day. Only 19% of the population are using water supply systems in rural areas that meet the adequacy threshold of providing “sufficient” quantities of water or a minimum of 16 liters of water per person per day for those living within 500 meters from the water system.

Notes:
- “Snapped” water facilities refer to systems that are not contributing to per capita share due to non-functionality
- “Stressed” water facilities are systems that are serving more than three times the population they should serve and providing less than 5 liters per capita share
- “Stretched” water facilities are systems that are serving about twice the population they should serve and providing between 5 and 12 liters in per capita share
- “Suitable” systems meet the prescribed per capita share in line with National Standards and providing between 12 and 16 liters in per capita share
- “Sufficient” water facilities are systems meeting the per capita share of 16 liters and above

Map Showing the Per Capita Share of Water across Nigeria

Per capita share of water supply across the country. Dark blue areas represent high levels of per capita share while dark orange areas represent low levels of per capita share.
About 70% of drinking water at source and point of consumption within households are contaminated with E.coli. Rural dwellers are exposed to more contaminated drinking water than urban dwellers.

The organoleptic quality is the result of evaluating water based on smell, taste, color, and turbidity.
About 46% of the population have access to basic sanitation services, while 23% of Nigerians continue to practice open defecation. In comparison to 2019 WASHNORM data, there has been little progress in the achievement of universal access to basic sanitation services.
Equity in Access to Sanitation Services

Access to Basic Sanitation Services by Geopolitical Zones

- SE: 51%
- NW: 42%
- SS: 49%
- NC: 35%
- S: 36%
- SW: 47%
- NE: 17%

Open Defecation by Geopolitical Zones

- SE: 22%
- NW: 24%
- SS: 23%
- NC: 47%
- S: 24%
- SW: 46%
- NE: 17%

Access to Basic Sanitation Services by Wealth Quintiles

- Poorest: 19%
- Poor: 31%
- Moderate: 43%
- Rich: 56%
- Richest: 76%

Open Defecation by Wealth Quintiles

- Poorest: 48%
- Poor: 32%
- Moderate: 25%
- Rich: 11%
- Richest: 1%

Access to Sanitation Services by Education of Household Head (Literate vs. Non-Literate)

- Literate: 52%
- Non-Literate: 31%

Open Defecation by Education of Household Head (Literate vs. Non-Literate)

- Literate: 17%
- Non-Literate: 37%

Access to Sanitation Services by Households with Persons Living with Disabilities

- Persons Living with Disabilities: 45%
- Non-Persons Living with Disabilities: 51%

Open Defecation by Households with Persons Living with Disabilities

- Persons Living with Disabilities: 23%
- Non-Persons Living with Disabilities: 20%

Access to Sanitation Services by Gender of Head of Household

- Male: 45%
- Female: 47%

Open Defecation by Gender of Head of Household

- Male: 23%
- Female: 24%
Equity in Access to Sanitation Services

Access to Sanitation Services and Open Defecation by State

Sanitation Service Ladder

Notes:
- **Safely Managed Services** are improved facilities which are not shared with other households and where excretes are safely emptied and treated.
- **Basic Sanitation Services** are improved facilities which are not shared with other households.
- **Limited Sanitation Services** are improved facilities shared by two or more households.
- **Unimproved Sanitation Services** are pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or buckets latrines.
- **Open Defecation** is disposal of human feces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches, and other open space.

Based on WHO/UNICEF JMP definitions.
Hygiene Practices in Nigeria

About 17% of household members have access to basic hygiene services, this is a marginal increase of one percentage point when compared with 2019 WASHNORM figures.

**Trends in the use of Basic Hygiene Services by Area of Residence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Equity in Access to Hygiene Services**

**Access to Basic Hygiene Services by Area of Residence**

- Urban: 25%
- Rural: 13%
- Peri-Urban: 22%
- Urban Centers: 25%
- Itenerant: 28%
- Core Rural Areas: 14%
- Small Town: 17%

**Access to Basic Hygiene Services by Education of Household Head (Literate vs non-Literate)**

- Literate: 21%
- non-Literate: 8%

**Access to Basic Hygiene Services by Households with Persons Living with Disabilities**

- Persons with Disabilities: 22%
- Persons without Disabilities: 17%

**Access to Basic Hygiene Services by Wealth Quintiles**

- Poorest: 9%
- Poor: 10%
- Middle: 13%
- Rich: 17%
- Richest: 38%

**Access to Basic Hygiene Services by Gender of Head of Household**

- Male: 18%
- Female: 15%

**Knowledge and Practice of Handwashing**

- Heads of households have knowledge of at least 2 critical times for handwashing: 99%
- Heads of households demonstrated proper handwashing with water and soap under running water: 8%
People in Rivers State (41%) are 20 times more likely to have access to basic hygiene services than people in Edo State at 2%.

Distribution of basic hygiene services across the country. Dark purple areas represent a high level of service, while light purple areas represent low level of service.
WASH in Schools

Only 11% of schools have basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services. At 18%, schools in urban areas are about twice as likely to have access to basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services than schools in the rural areas at 7%.

Disparities in Access to Water and Sanitation Services in Schools

Primary schools are more disadvantaged in access to basic water and sanitation services than secondary schools. Schools in the South-south and North-west are more likely to have access to basic water and sanitation services compare to other regions of the country.

Trends in Access to Basic WASH Services in Schools

Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services in Schools by Type

Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services in Schools by Geopolitical Zones

3.4%

Schools have basic gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene services.

These are schools with useable improved toilet/latrines with separate blocks for males and females, available at all times during school days and has facilities for handwashing and menstrual hygiene management.
Access to Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Schools

Less than half of all schools in Nigeria have access to basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services. Schools in urban areas are more likely to have access to basic WASH services than schools in the rural areas, while secondary schools have more access than primary schools.

**Disparities in Access to Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene**

**Access to Basic Water Supply Services in Schools by Type**
- **Primary**: 35%
- **Secondary**: 44%

**Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Schools by Type**
- **Primary**: 30%
- **Secondary**: 29%

**Access to Basic Hygiene Services in Schools by Type**
- **Primary**: 33%
- **Secondary**: 42%

- **19%**
  - Schools have basic water supply services that are accessible to pupils/students living with disabilities

- **8%**
  - Schools have girls’ toilet compartments with provisions for menstrual hygiene management

- **89%**
  - Schools dispose of their solid waste properly
WASH in Health Facilities

Only 6% of health care facilities have basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services. At 10%, health care facilities in urban areas are twice as likely to have access to basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services than health care facilities in the rural areas.

Disparities in Access to Water and Sanitation Services in Health Care Facilities

Primary Health Facilities are more disadvantaged in access to basic water and sanitation services than secondary facilities. Access to basic water and sanitation services is generally low across all geopolitical zones.

Prevalence of Diarrhoeal Disease

1 in 10 Households had at least one member who suffered diarrhoea in the past 2 weeks preceding the survey.

74% of household members who suffered diarrhoea are children under five years old.

35% of Hospital records of all sick reports are diarrhoea cases.
More than half of health facilities in Nigeria have basic water supply services, 1 in 10 (12%) health facilities have access to basic sanitation services and nearly one-third of health facilities have access to basic hygiene services. Health facilities in rural areas are more disadvantaged in access to WASH Services than their counterparts in urban areas.

Access to Basic Water Supply Services in Health Facilities by Type

- National: 59%
- Urban: 82%
- Rural: 50%

Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Health Facilities by Type

- National: 12%
- Urban: 15%
- Rural: 11%

Access to Basic Hygiene Services in Health Facilities by Type

- National: 30%
- Urban: 47%
- Rural: 24%

WASH in Health Care Facilities

Access to Basic Water Supply Services in Health Facilities by Type

- Primary: 56%
- Secondary: 83%

Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Health Facilities by Type

- Primary: 11%
- Secondary: 19%

Access to Basic Hygiene Services in Health Facilities by Type

- Primary: 27%
- Secondary: 53%

Health facilities have improved water supply facility within the premises that are accessible to persons living with disabilities

Health facilities have improved sanitation facility that are accessible to persons living with disabilities

Health facilities have their garbage/waste separated into at least three labelled bins in the consultation areas and safely disposed
WASH in Markets and Motor Parks

Only 4% of markets and motor parks have basic water supply, sanitation, and services. At 7%, markets and motor parks in urban areas are four times more likely to have access to basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services than those in rural areas.

**Trends in Access to Basic WASH Services in Markets/Motor Parks**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Markets/Motor parks have access to basic water supply sanitation and hygiene

**Access to Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Markets/Motor Parks**

About one-third of the markets and motor parks in Nigeria have basic water supply services, 1 in 5 have access to basic sanitation services and only 8 per cent have access to basic hygiene services. Markets and Motor parks in rural areas are more disadvantaged in access to WASH services than their counterparts in urban areas.

**Markets/Motor Parks have basic water supply services**

- National: 33%
- Urban: 41%
- Rural: 25%

**Markets/Motor Parks have basic sanitation services**

- National: 20%
- Urban: 28%
- Rural: 10%

**Markets/Motor Parks have basic hygiene services**

- National: 8%
- Urban: 13%
- Rural: 3%

20% of Markets and Motor Parks have latrines that are cleaned at least once a day

20% of Markets and Motor Parks have basic water supply services that are accessible to persons living with disabilities
Households in Nigeria spent approximately ₦3.4 trillion or $8.5 billion annually, on water, sanitation, and hygiene services in 2019 and 2020 (the two years recall period covered by the WASH Account Survey).

₦3.4 Trillion
$8.5 Billion is spent by households on water, sanitation, and hygiene services annually

* At a working exchange rate of ₦400 to $1

Breakdown by Sector

Water supply (29.95%)
Sanitation Services (1.94%)
Hygiene Services (68.11%)

Breakdown by Service Type (in Naira)