

INFORMATION SHEET

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Nigeria

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Country Water Situation

According to UNICEF/WHO joint monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, 54% of the population did not have access to improved drinking water sources in 2004. For the rural population, the figure rose up to 69 % (33% in urban areas). With a population of 140 million people living in Nigeria, this translates in about 70 million people who do not have access to improved drinking water. Similarly, less than half of the population (44%) had access to improved sanitation facilities (36% in rural areas).

The inadequacy of safe water to the entire population is manifested in the prevalence of water related diseases such as guinea worm, cholera, diarrhea, dysentery etc.

UNICEF Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) programme in Nigeria

UNICEF in collaboration with government partners and other stakeholders is involved in the implementation of rural water supply and sanitation with the primary objectives of supporting the provision of improved water sources and sanitation facilities in schools and rural communities. The programme has a positive impact on child health by providing a safer environment and reducing morbidity related to water-borne diseases. It also reduces drudgery and workload on children and women who traditionally have the responsibility of taking care of household water supply.

The goal of the WASH programme is to contribute to at least 20% improvement in number of people benefiting from improved water and sanitation facilities in at least 111 Local Government Areas (222 communities) by 2007. The principal objectives are to:

(1) Improve access to protected water and sanitation facilities for communities and schools in the 111 + focus LGAs

[Nigeria Country Programme](#)

(2) Create 11,100 sources of safe water in primary schools and rural communities by 2007

(3) Promote the construction of 55,900 sanitary latrines in primary schools and rural communities by 2007

(4) Enhance institutional capacity and community management to ensure 80% functionality and use of facilities in target areas by 2007.

This purpose is aligned to the National Rural Water Sanitation Strategic Framework as approved by the National Water Council and the MDG Goal 7 on environmental sustainability and the reduction by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

UNICEF supports the provision of improved water sources comprising mainly of boreholes and protected hand dug wells in schools and communities through the recommended institutional structure. Working with the children has proved to be beneficial in ensuring effective management of the water sources both in the schools and within the community. The School Environmental Health Clubs whose members have been trained on various aspects of the programme together with the Community Water and Environmental Sanitation Committees give necessary support to ensure the functionality of the water sources.

Key Results

Since 2002 – the beginning of the current Programme of cooperation, a total of 6,960 new safe water sources (boreholes, dug wells and protected springs) have been constructed by UNICEF within the 36 states/FCT providing safe water to about 2.23 million people nation-wide. UNICEF also supported the construction of over 19,100 household latrines in communities, thus improving hygiene practices of up to 200,000 people.

Over 400 schools have been provided with latrines with separate provision for boys and girls and hand washing facilities, benefiting to thousands of pupils throughout the country. In 2006, a total of 520 school Environmental Clubs were established and functional and their 5,880 members were trained on hygiene promotion and management of School Water and Sanitation facilities. The Clubs members

February 2007

facilitate the cleaning of the school toilets and of surroundings of water points.

UNICEF also enhances the skills of the members of the community Water and Sanitation Committees (over 25% women) through adequate training and education programmes. The skills of community artisans are equally developed through series of training in operation and maintenance of water supply sources, so they will have the capacity to maintain hand-pumps.

This has contributed to increase in functionality of water points. For instance, the functionality of water points in focus communities of Kwara State has improved from 53% to 98% while Zamfara State is reporting 100% functionality of its water points. Also, in Kebbi State, the functionality of boreholes has improved from 12.3% to 88%.

Guinea Worm eradication

A major success of UNICEF WASH programme is its contribution to the eradication of Guinea Worm in Nigeria. Only 15 cases of Guinea Worm were reported in 5 States in 2006 as compared to 495 in 2004. In 1988, the first national case search recorded 653,620 cases in almost all states throughout Nigeria.

UNICEF's role involved the following activities:

- ➔ Provision / rehabilitation of safe water sources, particularly hand pump boreholes, development of springs and dug wells in endemic Communities.
- ➔ Support advocacy and community mobilization activities as well as supervision, surveillance, monitoring, and documentation.
- ➔ Capacity building / training at all levels of programme implementation.
- ➔ Hygiene education and promotion programmes at community level.
- ➔ Provision of provision of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles to partners at all levels for programme supervision and monitoring
- ➔ Distribution of filter and production of straw filter production
- ➔ Case containment and management

- ➔ Provision of equipment and materials to community based workers.

Funding and Donors

- DFID (UK Government) has been a major donor for UNICEF WASH programme since 2002, funding a six-year programme with a contribution of US \$22.3 Million. This programme currently covers eight States: Benue, Enugu, Ekiti, Jigawa, Ebonyi, Kwara, Zamfara, Borno.
- In 2005, the European Commission (EC), the Nigerian Government and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) signed a four-year grant agreement for a Rural Water and Sanitation Project worth €33.3 million (over US \$ 43 Million) that will provide safe drinking water to over 2 million Nigerians in 1,400 communities in 6 States of the country.

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