

## **Nigeria Overview: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

### **Summary**

Nigeria has a vision of achieving 100% access to basic water supply and sanitation services by 2030 with primary focus on rural areas through the Partnership for Expanded Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) programme. To achieve these targets, Nigeria will require US\$2.74 billion annually, with significantly higher investments in the medium term. Currently, the financing gap per year is estimated at \$106 million. The ambition is highest for rural sanitation where coverage for basic services is 27% and significant household participation is needed to eliminate open defecation and achieve universal basic sanitation services. In addition, access to basic water and sanitation services is significantly lower in poorer communities and among vulnerable groups. The people in the lowest wealth quintile are 16 times more likely to defecate in the open compared to those in the richest wealth quintile (Nigeria MICS Report, 2011). Across rural and urban areas, the WASH deprivation is about 1.5 times more in rural areas than urban areas (Nigeria DHS, 2013). Across geopolitical zones, South-West has the highest rate of Open Defecation.

Five major actions to ensure an aggressive approach to progress include:

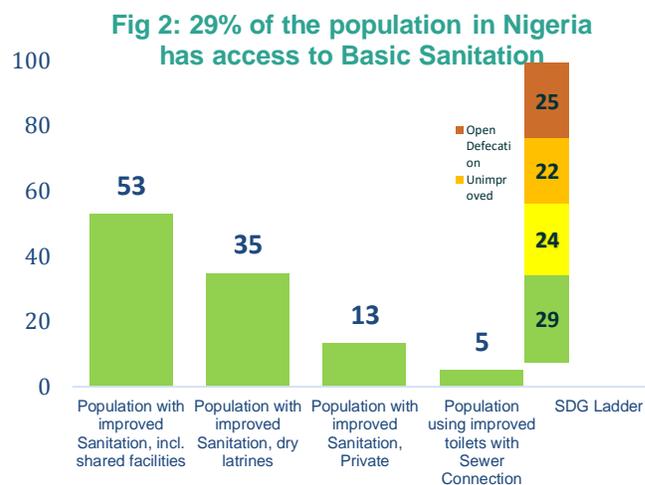
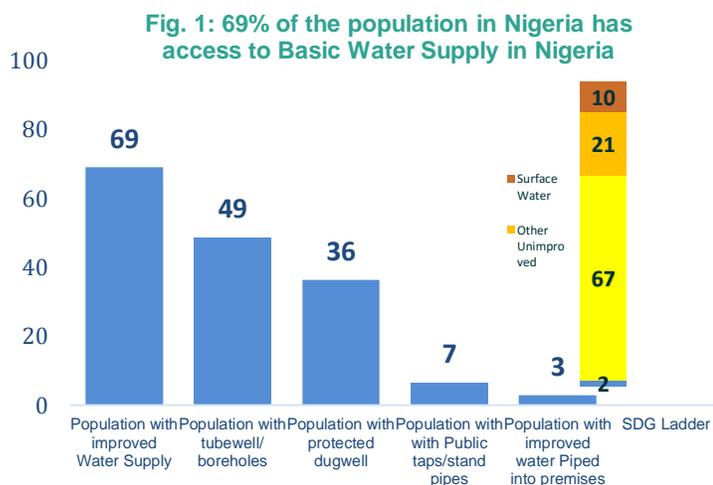
1. Roll out of the National programme on Partnership for Expanded Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) aimed at achieving the SDGs on universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene in rural areas
2. Implementation of the National Open Defecation Free (ODF) Roadmap to eliminate open defecation in Nigeria with emphasis on scaling up strategies for behavior change communication, quality assurance, sanitation marketing and financing for poor households
3. Support the implementation of Sub-national (State) ODF Roadmaps
4. Prioritize rehabilitation of existing water and sanitation facilities with focus on empowering communities and strengthening supply chains
5. Scale up WASH Information Management System (WASHIMS) across the country (the initial target is to reach 30% of local government authorities in 2017) to better identify and target resources to improve coverage for vulnerable groups
6. Establish a sector learning and monitoring hub within the Ministry of Water Resources

### **Overview of Nigeria vision and targets for the SDGs**

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector in Nigeria is guided by the National Water Resources Policy, PEWASH Strategy (2016-2030) and National ODF Roadmap. The strategy prioritizes the elimination of open defecation by 2025 and achieving universal access to basic water services and sanitation in rural areas by 2030.

In 2015, Nigeria achieved basic service coverage of 69% for water and 29% for sanitation. This was near sufficient to achieve the MDG target for water, but insufficient for sanitation. The more ambitious WASH targets and standards under the SDGs significantly raises the bar for what is required. Nigeria will aim to achieve 100% access to basic water supply and basic sanitation by the year 2030. The main challenges are lack of services or poor quality services for the poor in urban and rural areas, mainly in the sanitation and hygiene subsector. Coverage and quality of services vary across the geopolitical zones with water-related deprivations greater in the North, while open defecation is rampant in the Southwest. Furthermore, WASH services insufficiently address the needs of the disabled.

The critical bottlenecks to overcome include: weak sector governance caused by several institutional issues, particularly the lack of mechanisms to ensure appropriate oversight and regulation functions are efficiently performed and separated from service delivery functions; low prioritization of sanitation and hygiene in national and state budgets; poor operation and maintenance regimes; lack of institutional arrangements at the local government level backed by skilled human resources; human resource capacity constraints; lack of a joint sector review mechanism to assess progress on a regular basis; limited private sector engagement. If these are not resolved, progress will remain slow and the SDGs will be missed.



## 2. Review of the sector – State of the Sector Building Blocks and Collaborative Behaviours

Nigeria is improving the foundations of a well-functioning sector. A national plan and sector strategy have helped to clarify the vision for the SDGs. There are some gaps which need to be addressed in a number of building blocks.

**Policy and strategy:** The PEWASH strategy currently addresses the rural regions and will require specific strategies to address challenges in achieving urban services. The equity of resource allocation, particularly for targeting vulnerable groups, can be improved.

**Institutional arrangements:** Implementation of policy recommendations with regard to institutional arrangements at the local government level has not been actualized. Some key policy recommendations include creation of separate WASH units/departments manned by staff with appropriate capacities to plan, implement and manage WASH services; institutional models to increase availability of funds; and an effective institutional arrangement for civil society, private sector and community engagement in local WASH policy development, service provision and management. Provisions in respect to governance, regulation, ownership and operations, voice and accountability need to be strengthened at national and sub-national levels.

**Sector financing:** There has been improvement in investment in sanitation in the last few years in some States. Fifteen out of 36 states are increasingly allocating adequate budgets for sanitation, along with increased budgeting for sanitation at the national level. Funding for water supply continues to be allocated, though not equitably. Levels of disbursement and expenditure can still be improved in order to benefit from increased sector allocations through accelerated and adequate release of funds, and sustained/improved high-level advocacy of WASH issues to the Government.

**Planning, Monitoring and review:** A monitoring framework supported by WASH Information System (WASHIMS) which integrates data on water and sanitation services in the WASH sector is in place covering 117 local government authorities (LGAs) and over 35,000 communities. WASHIMS includes data on WASH facilities in institutions such as schools and health centers. Third party verification of programme implementation will be improved upon to ensure sustainability.

**Capacity development:** There is limited skilled human resources at the sub-national level and there is no clear succession plan and capacity development strategy in place to address the gap. The findings from the ongoing capacity assessment of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) in 9 States and 9 LGAs will inform subsequent development of a robust capacity building and training plan.

In terms of the SWA **Collaborative Behaviours**, the government and development partners work together to improve the WASH sector systems and approaches. The government has led the process of developing the sector vision and strategy, which is focused on achieving universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. Development partners are increasingly aligning their programs and funding to the achievement of government-led strategies, priorities and systems. An example can be seen in the increasing use of WASHIMS by development partners and the government. While the government is working to standardise and streamline procurement procedures, development partners will gradually and progressively aim to use the government defined procurement systems. Funding from most development partners is not on-budget yet. The government is currently working with partners to capture most of the funding on the national and sector plan as well as national budget.

While the monitoring and evaluation architecture is elaborate, greater use of the findings captured by information systems and reports is needed to drive performance improvements.

Fig 3 Application to the SWA Collaborative Behaviors by government and partners, Nigeria

Collaborative Behaviour	Government	Development Partners
1. Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes	★★★★★	Insufficient data
2. Strengthen and use country systems	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
3. Use one information and mutual accountability platform built around a multi-stakeholder, government-led cycle of planning, monitoring, and learning	★★★★★	Insufficient data
4. Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies that incorporate financial data from taxes, tariffs, and transfers as well as estimates for non-tariff household expenditure	★★★★☆	Insufficient data

**Priority actions to be taken to ensure the readiness of the sector for the SDGs**

- Allocate resources at the national level to roll out PEWASH
- Allocate budget to implement sub-national ODF Roadmap
- Increase the share of public resources allocated to rural water and sanitation
- The government and development partners will gradually increase the amount of development financing on national budget, with initial plans to incorporate sector financing in the National WASH Sector plan
- Government will make procurement procedures more transparent and development partners will progressively increase the use of these systems
- Improve third party verification of programme implementation through the engagement of the civil society network.
- Utilize findings from ongoing capacity assessments to develop a robust National, State and LGA capacity building and training plan
- Scaling up of WASHIMS and extending SMS-based real-time tracking of water pump functionality in additional LGAs. Smartphones are increasingly being used for baseline surveys and has brought down survey costs by a tenth (e.g. FGN-UNICEF-UKAid supported SHAWN-II project)

### 3. Sector investment needs, the financing gaps and areas for improving efficiency

#### Investment needs and funding gap

Nigeria will require \$2.74 billion per year to achieve the basic water, sanitation and hygiene SDG targets. The largest share of the investments will be targeted at capital expenditures in the medium-term and mostly dominated by investment needs in urban sanitation. These costs are driven mostly by population growth due to migration in urban areas, rehabilitation to maintain services and new construction to expand services. Presently, there are more people living in rural areas. However, by 2030, Nigeria will have 45 million more people living in urban areas than in rural areas. Migration will be focused on highly populated cities such as Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano and Ibadan. Currently, the financing gap is estimated as \$106 million. The deficit is mostly in urban sanitation and hygiene where current funding projections cover 21% of the costs and households are expected to rapidly increase their contributions.

Fig 4 Nigeria will require \$2,735m to build and maintain universal basic coverage

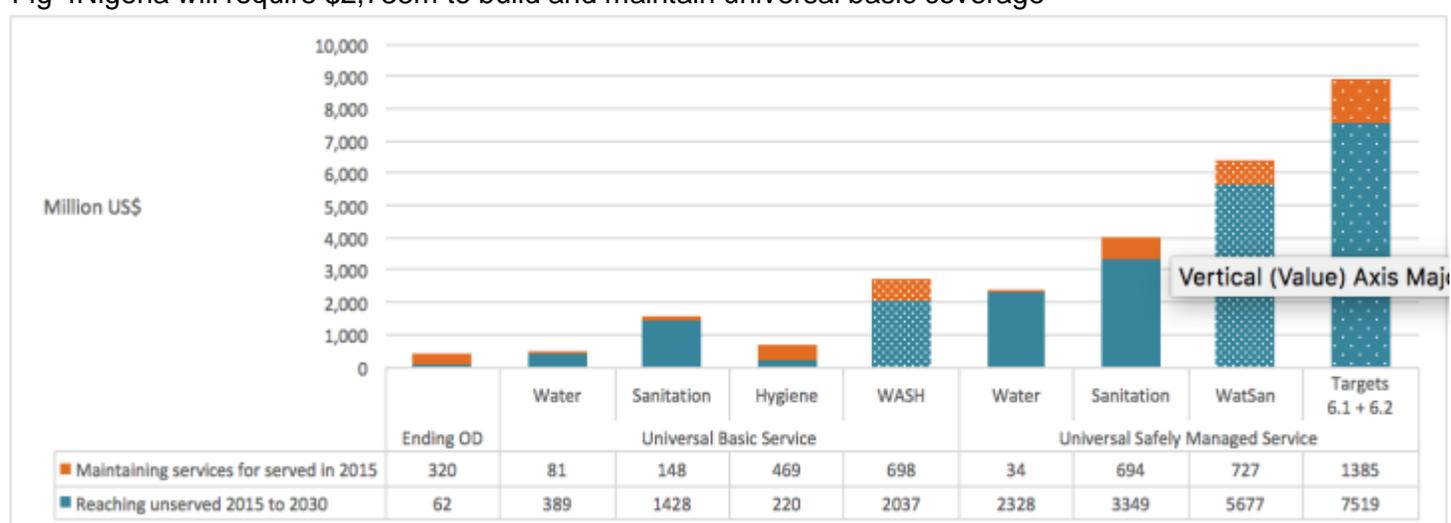
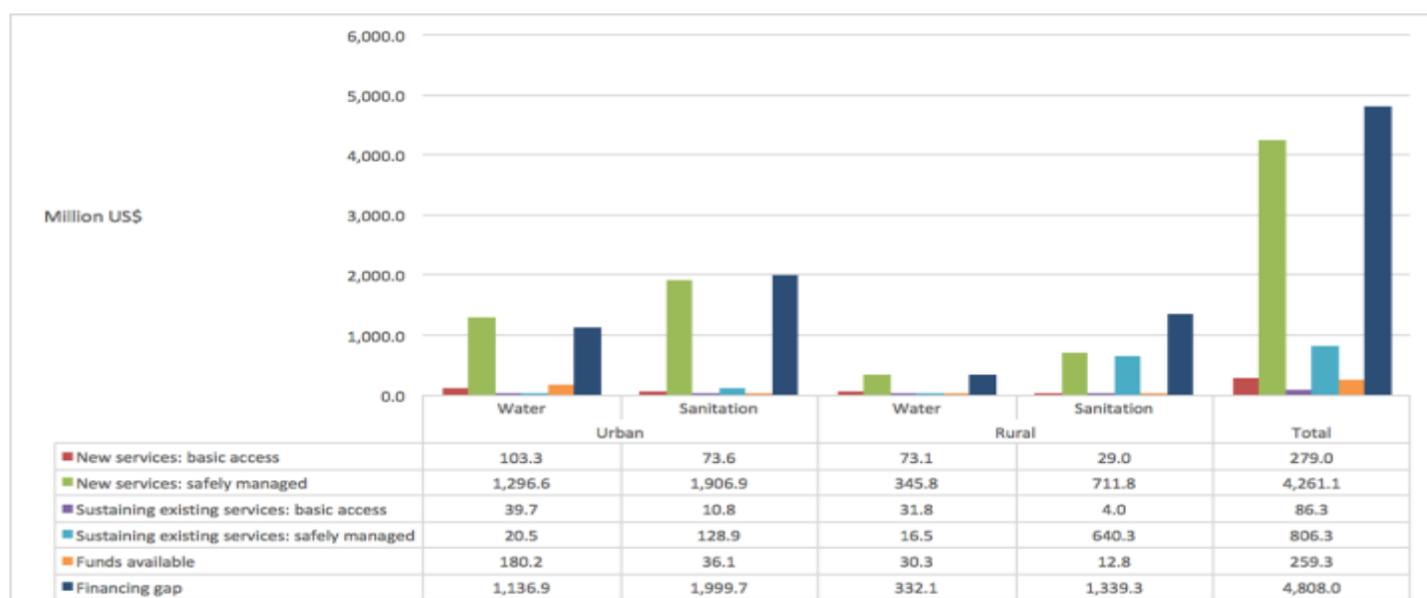


Fig5 Financing gap: current public funding compared with annual costs intended to be met from public funds, in US\$ million



## **Strategies to close the financing gap**

Projections of available finances indicate increased household spending/user financing for capital and recurrent costs through tariffs and their own investments, especially in sanitation. A combination of domestic and commercial revenues, more efficient allocations and usage of available funds will be required. The most viable options for mobilizing additional resources include accessing domestic private markets and commercial resources including banks and microfinance institutions. In addition, inefficiencies must be curtailed particularly those emanating from poor revenue collection (~44.98%, IBNET 2015), high levels of non-revenue water rate (~39.35%, IBNET 2015), poor functionality and high operating costs. These make the water and sanitation service providers an unattractive investment for commercial finance which is needed to expand and sustain services. If improvements are made, utilities and service providers can become more credit worthy and attract additional resources.

The current contribution of tariffs to operations and maintenance can be further improved if quality of services is high. To achieve the SDGs and particularly to mobilize additional funding, an aggressive resource mobilization strategy, which combines increased household and public contributions and access to commercial financing, is needed. Cost saving measures will also be needed, particularly by using alternative energy sources for utilities and by improving efficiency of water and sanitation systems including in the use of energy.

## **4. Planned actions to catalyze progress towards the SDGs**

### **Steps the government and partners are prepared to take to make the sector fit for purpose**

- a. **Policy and strategy:** The Ministry of Water Resources in collaboration with other Ministries (Health, Education, Environment, Information) and development partners will roll out the implementation of States ODF Roadmaps and the PEWASH strategy aimed at eliminating open defecation by 2025 and achieving universal access to basic water and sanitation in rural areas by 2030.
- b. **Capacity development:** The Ministry of Water Resources will utilize the findings from the capacity assessment of sub-national WASH institutions in the development of a Human Resources Strategy for the sector by 2019 towards creating an enabling environment for the achievement of SDG-6. The Ministry will facilitate the inclusion of WASH Department cadres in the Unified Local Government System towards the establishment of WASH Departments in all 36 states.

### *Relevant (SMART) actions to ensure the Collaborative Behaviours are applied*

- c. As part of the PEWASH programme, an annual review of the WASH sector has been planned which will involve the participation of all sector stakeholders.
- d. Development partners will progressively begin to use country procurement procedures with the view to fully align with the government by 2025. Most of the development partners make use of the government systems for procurement of services, e.g. construction of water supply systems, construction of water and sanitation facilities in institutions, etc. to the extent possible. UNICEF worked with the various states' rural water and sanitation agencies to develop a harmonized procurement guidelines to guide procurement processes.
  - i. Participation in WASH service delivery by 2025
  - ii. Development partners will align their funding in line with government plans and priorities

**Plans and strategies to reduce the financing gap**

- e. Plans to use existing resources more effectively:
  - i. Utilities will gradually improve cost saving measures, particularly in energy use and reducing unaccounted for water
  - ii. Ministries and spending agencies will improve the resource allocation strategies to better target 70% of vulnerable groups by 2025
- f. Plans to access more financing:
  - i. The government will work towards improving household access to different financing options for capital costs of WASH facilities by 2030
  - ii. The government will create an enabling environment and provide incentives for private sector participation in WASH service delivery by 2025
  - iii. The government will work towards the passage of the Water Resources Bill under consideration by the National Assembly which includes mechanism for Public Private Partnership in the operation and maintenance of water schemes.



This country brief was prepared by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources with the participation of partners including Federal Ministries of Education, Environment, Health, Finance, Budget and Planning; UNICEF, WSSCC Nigeria, WaterAid, NEWSAN and the Development Partners' Group-WASH.