



# NIGERIA

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	151 million <sup>a</sup>
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	48% <sup>a</sup>
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	4.4 / 1.4% <sup>a</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	189/1000 live births <sup>b</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	13.5% <sup>b</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>a</sup> World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database.  <sup>b</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

### WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and its population continues to grow rapidly, increasing the poverty rate. It is estimated that about 54 percent of the population lives on less than one dollar per day.<sup>1</sup> While the total volume of water available in surface and groundwater resources is sufficient to meet current drinking water demands, the lack of distribution capacity, coupled with highly variable rainfall patterns, has led to water scarcity in some areas, particularly the north.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the water infrastructure has suffered from years of poor maintenance. The lack of adequate sanitation facilities constitutes a serious public health problem.<sup>3</sup>

To address these problems, Nigeria launched a National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy. Efforts and initiatives have included the completion of hydrogeological mapping of the country, establishment of water-quality laboratories, encouraging private-sector development, and

<sup>1</sup> WorldBank. *Nigeria - Country Brief* (2009).

<sup>2</sup> AfDB/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development(OECD). *African Economic Outlook: Nigeria* (2007).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

expanding rural WSS systems. However, numerous other factors hamper efforts to expand sanitation and drinking water access, including weak and inefficient institutions, unsustainable public sector spending, poor water quality, and conflicts over water use and management.

Accurately assessing the status of Nigeria's progress towards its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets is difficult, due to inconsistent data. For instance, the United Kingdom's Department of Foreign and International Development (DFID) classified Nigeria as "one of the four most off-track MDG countries in Africa." In May 2005, the Nigerian Minister of Water Resources reported that increased spending on water programs resulted in a huge increase in access to safe water supply, from 35 percent in 1999 to 65 percent in 2004. A year later, the Ministry revised its access figure upwards to 68 percent. The World Health Organization (WHO), however, estimated that the figures are closer to 58 percent for improved drinking water and 32 percent for improved sanitation (2008). Regardless, Nigeria faces a daunting challenge to reach its MDG targets.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN NIGERIA	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2008)	1,462 <sup>c</sup>
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2002)	61 <sup>c</sup>
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	1,219 <sup>d</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>c</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i>. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries.  <sup>d</sup> Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from <i>World Bank WDI Database</i> (population) and <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i> (water resources).</small>	

## WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Three tiers of government share responsibility for managing the country's water resources. At the national level, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) is responsible for developing policy, collecting data, monitoring and coordinating water supply development, and funding research and development. FMWR also collaborates with the Ministry of Environment on water sanitation activities including sewage, storm water control and quality control of water supply sources. The 12 River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) are responsible for the development, operation and management of reservoirs for the supply of bulk water in their areas of jurisdiction. RBDAs report to the FMWR on the quantity of water harnessed, sold or released for water supply.

At the State level, the state water agencies (SWAs) are responsible for the establishment, operation, quality control, and maintenance of water supply in urban and semi-urban areas. There are 37 SWAs in the country – one for each State and one in the Federal Capital Territory. Most are established as corporate bodies that are fully owned by their respective State government, but run according to civil service rules. SWAs are intended to be autonomous and self-accounting, but they often find it difficult to be operationally and financially autonomous from the State government. The operational efficiency of most of the SWAs is low, with estimated unaccounted-for-water as high as 83 percent.<sup>4,5</sup>

At the local level, Nigeria has 774 Local Government Authorities (LGA), which are administered by local councils. The LGAs are responsible for rural WSS schemes in their areas and for establishing local water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) departments. However, only a few LGAs have the resources and skills to address local needs and construct small water systems, and the majority of the LGAs have not established WASH departments.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> AfDB/OECD. *African Economic Outlook: Nigeria* (2007).

<sup>5</sup> Kauffmann, Celine and Perard, Edouard. *New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/OECD. Stocktaking of the water and sanitation sector and private sector involvement in selected African countries* (2007).

<sup>6</sup> WaterAid. *National Water Sector Assessment: Nigeria* (July 2006).

## KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

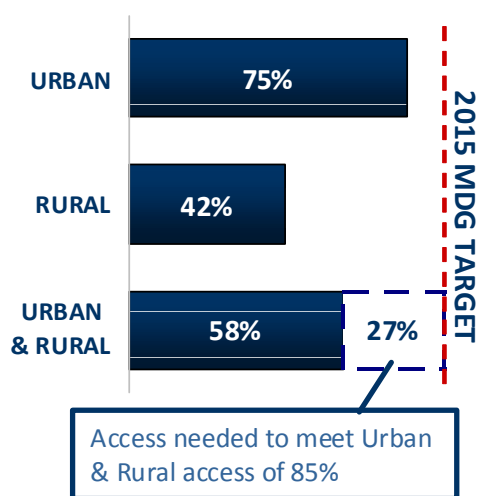
Agency	Description	Contact Information
FMWR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formulation and implementation of policies for overall water resources management;</li> <li>Monitoring and coordination of water resources development.</li> </ul>	Tsafe Alivu Adamu, Commissioner Tel: 806-515-7478 nwatsan@yahoo.com
SWAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage and operate systems for water service delivery in urban areas;</li> <li>License and monitor private water supply and monitor water quality;</li> <li>Provide technical assistance to the LGAs.</li> </ul>	Varies.
LGAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural WSS service;</li> <li>Establish, fund, and equip Water and Environment Sanitation (WES) departments.</li> </ul>	Varies.
Ministry of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some sanitation policy and strategy formulation.</li> </ul>	
RBDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suppliers of bulk water in 12 jurisdictions.</li> <li>Reservoir and water resources management.</li> </ul>	

Coordination between the three tiers of government is weak, particularly when it comes to implementation. The agencies across the three tiers of government formally consult only once a year. The effective operation of the decentralized organizational structure is further hampered by failures in fiscal decentralization.<sup>7</sup>

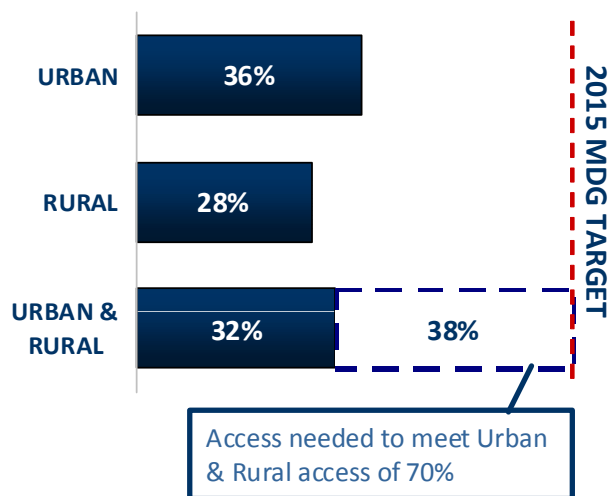
In 2000, Nigeria's federal government launched a National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy. The policy encourages private-sector participation, expansion of rural water supply systems, and reform of urban water service providers. Subsequently, in 2003, the government introduced the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), which targets poverty reduction and development. NEEDS recognizes the low level of sanitation in the country as a critical issue. The same year, the country introduced the "Presidential Water

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2008



Data Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*. Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

Initiative (PWI): Water for People, Water for Life.” The initiative aims to increase access to water supply and sanitation (WSS) services to 100 percent in state capitals, 75 percent in other urban and peri-urban areas, and 66 percent in rural areas. Nigeria also introduced a National Water Supply and Sanitation Program, which provides a framework for all WSS projects in the country.<sup>8</sup>

#### THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Nigeria’s rapid urbanization and growth have not been accompanied by an adequate increase in the delivery of WSS services. In fact, the WHO estimates that between 1990 and 2008, the percentage of urban drinking water coverage has fallen by 4 percent, while the percentage of urban sanitation coverage has fallen by 3 percent during that same period.<sup>9</sup>

Sanitation infrastructure and facilities are also lacking. Except for Abuja and Lagos, no urban community has a sewerage system.<sup>10</sup> Some households with water carriage systems pipe raw sewage into public drains. Even with higher access rates, 10 percent of the urban population has no toilet facilities of any type

while 61 percent use pit latrines and 28 percent use flush toilets.<sup>11</sup>

#### THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

In many rural areas, water is subsidized and provided to the population free of charge. Local governments are responsible for rural water service, sharing the costs of service with SWAs and the federal government. Most rural areas depend upon boreholes or hand-dug wells for water supply.

With respect to sanitation, the percentage of coverage in rural areas has fallen by 8 percent since 1990. In addition, it is estimated that 31 percent of people in rural areas resort to inadequate methods of sanitation and human waste disposal such as open defecation in bushes, rivers or dumpsites.<sup>12,13</sup> According to a survey conducted by UNICEF of rural households to prioritize their needs, lack of potable water was identified as their greatest problem, while the lack of a latrine was considered the least of their problems.<sup>14</sup> This lack of demand is one reason for the traditionally low prioritization of sanitation at all Government levels.

<sup>8</sup> WaterAid. *Nigeria: Effective financing of local governments to provide water and sanitation services* (August 2008).

<sup>9</sup> WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

<sup>10</sup> World Bank. *Second National Urban Water Sector Reform Project: Project Information Document* (2005).

<sup>11</sup> European Commission. *Nigeria – Support to the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Water Resources Management and Policy* (June 2006).

<sup>12</sup> WHO/UNICEF JMP. *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

## DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Nigeria receives less aid than other sub-Saharan countries, but the country still has multiple international development agencies playing a role in

Nigeria's WSS sector. Some of the principal donor organizations include the DFID, United Nations, African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, and European Commission.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION <sup>e</sup>
DFID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural WSS infrastructure development and local management capacity building.</li> </ul>	
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-urban WSS infrastructure development;</li> <li>Local management capacity building;</li> <li>Urban WSS sector reforms and infrastructure development;</li> <li>National WSS sector reforms and policy development.</li> </ul>	Alex McPhail amcphail@worldbank.org Tel: 202-458-2125  Mr. Onno Ruhl oruhl@worldbank.org Tel: 234-9-314-5263
WSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public expenditure reviews for rural WSS sub-sector;</li> <li>Supporting greater private sector participation through business; association creation development.</li> </ul>	Joe Gadek jgadek@worldbank.org Hassan Khida
African Development Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutional capacity building in SWAs;</li> <li>National rural WSS services planning.</li> </ul>	Herve ASSAH NGFO@afdb.org Tel: 234-9-4133261
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural WSS infrastructure and capacity development.</li> </ul>	
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peri-urban and rural water infrastructure development.</li> </ul>	
European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban and rural infrastructure development and capacity building.</li> </ul>	Tel: 234-9-234-4402 (STWSS Program)
<sup>e</sup> Contact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.		

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Additional references that aided in the completion of this report include: WaterAid, *Sustainability and equity aspects of total sanitation programmes: A study of recent WaterAid-supported programmes in Nigeria* (June 2009); Ezeji, J., "Regulating to Revive Water Supply in Urban Nigeria" (August 22, 2009) - <http://www.whichwaynigeria.net/regulating-revive-water-supply>; UNICEF, *International Year of Sanitation, Sanitation Fact Sheet: Nigeria* (2008); WaterAid, *Nigeria- Briefing Note: Urban Issues in the Nigerian Water and Sanitation Sector* (2007); WaterAid, *Water and Sanitation in Nigeria: A Briefing on National Policy* (2007); Federal Republic of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, *National Water and Sanitation Policy* (November 2005).

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