Overview

Inadequate access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services can negatively impact health, in addition to having huge socioeconomic consequences on a society. Use of contaminated drinking water and poor sanitary conditions result in increased vulnerability to water-borne diseases, such as diarrhea, which is a serious threat to many Nigerians. Absence of proper WASH services has also been linked to malnutrition and poor education attainment among young children, and losses in economic and environmental resources. Nigeria barely met its MDGs for water supply. Progress with the sanitation goals, on the other hand, has declined over the years and millions of people were left without access to toilets in 2015.

Nigeria is committed to meeting the SDGs 6 on WASH which is to achieve universal and sustainable access to WASH services by 2030. As part of its strategies to attain the SDG 6, the WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping Survey (WASH-NORM) was launched in 2018 to fill the chronic gaps in the sector data management and monitoring. The WASH NORM is a routine assessment of the status of the WASH services in Nigeria. It integrates user’s perception of service levels based on key outcome indicators with assessments of WASH facilities to produce a comprehensive and in-depth analysis on national WASH coverage. The WASH-NORM effectively disaggregates data across different regions, sub-sectors and demographic groups which can be used to target unserved and under-served groups with appropriate policies that promote equity in access to WASH. The study also contains information on topics such as quality and sustainability of WASH services, which are of relevance to the current issues plaguing the WASH sector.

The WASH-NORM will be used as a routine data collection tool to track progress towards the attainment of national goals as captured in the Partnership for Expanded Water, Sanitation and Hygiene framework and the WASH Sector Revitalization Plan. Availability of reliable, consistent and up-to-date data for the sector will make room for sector-wide planning, priority setting, effective resource mobilization and application. Evidence generated on access to WASH services in public institutions, such as schools and hospitals, can be used by policy makers and programme administrators in planning, monitoring and evaluation towards the achievement of their respective sector goals. On the whole, this will promote governance, accountability, value for money and overall sector sustainability.

The WASH-NORM survey was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and led by National Bureau of Statistics, with support from UNICEF, World Bank, the European Union and DFID. The survey was carried out in all the 36 states of the federation and federal capital territory, Abuja. This survey broadly focuses on two components: Household based assessments of WASH levels and facility-based assessments of WASH infrastructure. The following chart pack summarizes the findings from the survey.

Key Findings

11% Have access to basic water, sanitation, hygiene services

68% Use basic drinking water services

4 liters Average per capita volume of water per day for the rural population

42% Use basic sanitation services

47 million Practice open defecation

21% Households have access to basic hand hygiene services

16% Schools have basic water and sanitation services

6% Health facilities have basic water and sanitation services

9% Markets and Motor Parks have basic water and sanitation services

11% of households had at least one diarrhea case in the past 6 weeks
Access to Basic WASH Services in Nigeria

The overall status of the WASH sector in Nigeria is poor. Only 11 per cent of the population has access to complete basic water, sanitation and hygiene services. Those living in rural areas have less access to basic WASH services compared to those in urban areas.

**Access to Basic WASH Services by Sub-sector**

- Peri-Urban: 13%
- Urban: 20%
- Itinerant: 10%
- Small Towns: 7%
- Rural: 13%

**Access to Basic WASH Services by Geopolitical Zones**

- National: 11%
- Urban: 18%
- Rural: 8%

**Equity in Access to Basic WASH Services**

Disparities were observed in the use of basic WASH services across different sub-regions, geopolitical zones and socioeconomic lines. The most significant disparities are related to wealth. The wealthiest households are more than ten times more likely to access basic water, sanitation and hygiene services than the poorest households.

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

- Poorest: 3%
- Second: 6%
- Middle: 5%
- Fourth: 9%
- Richest: 32%

**Access to Basic WASH Services by Education of Household Head (Literate vs. Non-Literate)**

- Literate: 13%
- Non-Literate: 6%

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

- Persons with Disabilities: 11%

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

- Male: 11%
- Female: 11%
Almost one-third of the population have access to basic water supply and sanitation services. The rural population are more deprived of these services compared to urban population.

Equity in Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services
Disparities were observed in the use of basic water and sanitation services across different sub-regions, geopolitical zones and socioeconomic lines. The richest households are at least four times more likely to have access to basic water and sanitation services than the poorest households.

Access to Water and Sanitation Services by Sub-sector
- Peri-Urban: 34%
- Urban: 47%
- Itinerant: 22%
- Small Towns: 31%
- Rural: 26%

Access to Water and Sanitation Services by Geopolitical Zones
- National: 32%
- Urban: 45%
- Rural: 26%

Access to Water and Sanitation Services by Wealth Quintiles
- Poorest: 14%
- Second: 23%
- Middle: 24%
- Fourth: 35%
- Richest: 64%

The poorest are the most deprived

Access to Water and Sanitation Services by Education of Household Head (Literate vs. Non-Literate)
- Literate: 35%
- Non-Literate: 24%

Access to Water and Sanitation Services by Households with Persons Living with Disabilities
- Persons Living with Disabilities: 32%
- Non-Persons Living with Disabilities: 27%

Access to Water and Sanitation Services by Gender of Head of Household
- Male: 32%
- Female: 32%
Map of Nigeria Showing Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services

Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services by State

Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services
- 8% - 18%
- 18% - 27%
- 27% - 36%
- 36% - 44%
- 44% - 60%
About 68% of Nigerians have access to basic drinking water services. In comparison with JMP data, the WASH NORM revealed that progress in the achievement of universal and equitable access to the use of basic drinking water services has been slow. About 56 million people still drink water from unimproved sources.

Equity in Access to Basic Water Supply Services

There are obvious disparities in access to basic water services with regards to the wealth quintiles and among states. People from the poorest households are about two times less likely to have access to basic water supply than those from the richest households.

Access to Basic Water Services by Sub-sector

Access to Basic Water Services by Geopolitical Zones

Access to Basic Water Services by Wealth Quintiles

Access to Basic Water Supply by Education of Household Head (Literate vs. Non-Literate)

Access to Basic Water Supply by Households with People Living with Disabilities

Access to Basic Water Supply by Gender of Household Head

People living in Rivers state are three times more likely to use basic water supply services than those living in Sokoto state.

In equities in the use of Basic Drinking Water Services by Category

Based on WHO/UNICEF JMP definitions, basic water services are improved drinking water sources in which collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing. Limited water services are improved drinking water sources for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing. Unimproved water services are drinking water sources from an unprotected well or unprotected spring. Surface water are drinking water sources from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal.
**Functionality of Water Systems**

- **69%** of Water facilities are functional
- **22%** of Water facilities broke down in their first one year of operation

**Dependability of Water Systems**

- Only **6 per cent** of the water points are dependable with respect to their design and configuration.

**Design and Configuration**
- 6%

**Operation and Maintenance**
- 11%

**Functionality**
- 63%

**Adequacy of Water Systems**

The average per capita share for the country is **4l/p/d**. Only **6 percent** of the population are using water supply systems in rural areas that meet the adequacy threshold of providing a minimum of 12 liters of water per person per day for those living within 500 meters from the water system. Up to 80 percent of water facilities nationwide are either snapped or stressed.

**Average Per Capita Share by Zones**

- National: 3.7
- North Central: 4.1
- North East: 3.2
- North West: 3.7
- South East: 3.7
- South South: 2.9
- South West: 4.5

**Performance Levels of Water Facilities in Nigeria**

- Snapped: 34
- Stressed: 44
- Stretched: 16
- Suitable: 2
- Sufficient: 4

"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 3 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" these are systems meeting the per capita share of 16 liters and above.
Household Water Treatment Methods

The most commonly used methods for household water treatment are boiling and letting the drinking water stand and settle. Among these households, boiling is prevalent in urban areas, while the stand and settle method is widespread in rural areas.
According to the WASH NORM household survey, only 42 per cent Nigerians use basic sanitation services in 2018. In comparison with the JMP data, 36 and 32 per cent in 2000, 2015 and 2018, respectively, there has been an increase in the number of people using basic services. Despite this progress, 47 million people still defecate in the open.
Equity in Access to Basic Sanitation Services

Access to Sanitation by Educational Level of Head of Household

- Literate: Basic Sanitation 45, Non Literate: Basic Sanitation 35, Literate: Open Defecation 20, Non Literate: Open Defecation 34

Access to Sanitation by Households with People Living with Disabilities


Access to Sanitation by Gender of Head of Household

- Male: Basic Sanitation 42, Female: Basic Sanitation 41, Male: Open Defecation 24, Female: Open Defecation 25

ACCESS TO BASIC SANITATION SERVICES BY STATE

NATIONAL: 81.7, Katsina: 41.5, Zambiya: 10.6

PRACTICE OF OPEN DEFCATION BY STATE

NATIONAL: 24.4, Katsina: 1.6, Kano: 65.8
Based on WHO/UNICEF JMP definitions, 
Safely managed sanitation services are improved facilities which are not shared with other households and where excreta 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 between two or more households 
Unimproved sanitation services are pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines 
Open defecation is disposal of human faeces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches and other open spaces or with solid waste

Map of Nigeria Showing Access to Sanitation Services

The Sanitation Services Ladder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: 
- Open Defecation
- Unimproved sanitation
- Limited sanitation
- Basic sanitation
- Safely managed sanitation
Hygiene Practices in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the majority of households do not have basic handwashing services, that is, where a handwashing facility is available on household premises with water and soap at the time of the survey. In 2018, only 21 per cent of households had handwashing facilities available on premises with water and soap.

**Equity in Access to Hygiene Service**

Significant disparities with regards to wealth quintiles and geopolitical zones exist. The wealthiest households are about four times more likely to have basic handwashing services than among poorest households. Households whose heads were non-literates almost twice less likely to have basic handwashing services than their counterparts.

**Knowledge and Practice of Handwashing**

91.4% Heads of Households that have knowledge of at least 2 critical times for handwashing

12.5% Heads of Households demonstrated proper handwashing with water and soap under running

6% Households are likely to practice proper handwashing with water and soap at critical times

1. All indicators are expressed in percentages.
2. Critical times for handwashing include: after using the toilet, after changing child's diapers, before eating and before preparing food
WASH in Schools

16%
Schools have access to basic water and sanitation services

Only 7% of all schools have access to combined basic water, sanitation and hygiene services

Basic Water Services in Schools

36%
Schools have basic Water Supply Services

Basic Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools

34%
Schools have basic Sanitation Services

28%
Schools have basic Hygiene Services

Access to Basic Water in Schools by Geopolitical Zones

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

Access to Basic Water Supply Services in Schools by Type of School

Access to Basic Water Services in Schools by Ownership

Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Schools by Type of School

Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Schools by ownership
WASH in Health Facilities

6%

Health facilities have access to basic water and sanitation services

National
Urban
Rural

With Access (6%)
Without Access (94%)

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

Secondary health care centers are more than three times likely to have basic WASH services than primary health care centers. Private facilities are twice as likely to have basic WASH services than public health facilities.

Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services in Health Facilities by Type

Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services in Health Facilities by Ownership

Only 5% of health facilities in Nigeria have combined basic water, sanitation and hygiene services

Diarrhea Prevalence in Nigeria

1 in 10

Households had at least one member who suffered diarrhea in the past 6 weeks preceding the survey

Hospital records showed 13% of all sick reports are diarrhea cases

75%

of household members who suffered diarrhea are children under five years old
### Water Supply in Health Facilities

- **Access to basic water supply services in Health Facilities by Sector**
  - National: 46%
  - Urban: 66%
  - Rural: 38%

### Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Facilities

- **Access to basic sanitation services in Health Facilities by Sector**
  - National: 12%
  - Urban: 17%
  - Rural: 9%

### Access to Basic Water Supply Services in Health Facilities by Type

- Public: 43
- Private: 74

### Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Health Facilities by Type

- Public: 42
- Private: 64

### Access to Basic Sanitation Services in Health Facilities by Ownership

- Public: 23
- Private: 18

### Additional Information

- **32%**
  - Hospitals have basic water supply services that are accessible to people living with disabilities

- **77%**
  - Hospitals have their waste separated into at least 3 labeled bins and safely disposed
Only 9 per cent of markets and motor parks have basic water supply and sanitation services.

Access to basic Water and Sanitation services in Markets and Motor Parks by Geopolitical Zones

- **North Central**: 12
- **North East**: 8
- **North West**: 11
- **South East**: 7
- **South South**: 3
- **South West**: 10

Only 1.4% of all markets and motor parks have access to combined basic water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Water Supply Services

- **National**: 24%
- **Urban**: 30%
- **Rural**: 20%

Sanitation and Hygiene Services

- **National**: 15%
- **Urban**: 18%
- **Rural**: 13%

About 75 per cent of markets and motor parks in Nigeria do not have access to basic sanitation services and up to 95 per cent do not have basic hygiene services.

- **National**: 19%
  Markets and Motor Parks have basic water supply services that are accessible to PLWDs
- **National**: 13%
  Markets and Motor Parks have latrines that are cleaned at least once a day