

Country briefing

Nigeria



Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a partnership bringing together **governments, donors, civil society and multilateral organisations** at both global and national levels. It aims to ensure **all people have access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water**, with a specific focus on those countries most off-track in achieving this.

To achieve this, SWA calls for:

- Increased political prioritisation.
- Strong national planning, investment and accountability.
- Improved targeting and impact of resources.
- Evidence based decision-making.
- Strengthened mutual accountability.

SWA aims to make this happen through three key components: 1) the High Level Meeting (HLM), 2) the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water report (GLAAS), and 3) the National Planning for Results Initiative (NPRI). So far, the SWA partnership counts 83 partners (as of May 2012), and the Government of Nigeria is a member. The first HLM was held in 2010 and the second one in 2012.

“We can resolve to champion the progress of sanitation and water for all so that young lives are not lost for want of basic human needs; safe water and sanitation.”



Hon Samuel Kofi Woods on behalf of HE President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia, Goodwill Ambassador for Water in Africa

The second HLM of the SWA partnership was held in Washington DC in April 2012. The Government of Nigeria was represented by Honourable Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Minister of Finance, and Ambassador Godknows Igali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water¹. This represented a unique opportunity for the Government, and specifically the Minister of Finance, to set out firm commitments to address the water and sanitation crisis in Nigeria.

¹ Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's statement to the HLM can be watched here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=NZZMVMWWTAA#t=2351s

Sector commitments

In addition to the HLM, the meeting of sector ministers from developing countries was also held on 19 April 2012. This meeting came out with the Joint Statement which is summarised in the box below. In this meeting, the Government of Nigeria was represented by Ambassador Godknows Igali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water, who agreed, along with ministers of 39 other countries, to “strive to achieve the following minimal increases² by the 2014 HLM³”:

- 1 An increase in access to improved water services by at least 5%.
- 2 An increase in access to improved sanitation services by at least 7%.
- 3 An increase in access to water and sanitation services in primary schools and rural health facilities by at least 10%.
- 4 A reduction in the number of non-functioning water services by at least 10%.
- 5 An increase in water and sanitation budgets annually by at least 15% in real terms.
- 6 An assurance that at least 10% of all water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) allocations are directed to hygiene promotion, behaviour change and demand creation, as well as ensuring funding is provided for WASH infrastructure.
- 7 A decrease in open defecation by at least 15%.

² Measured by JMP and GLAAS.

³ Full text:

http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/files/HLM_2012_Sector_Ministers'_Statement.pdf

Country specific commitments

In addition to the joint commitments outlined above, the Government of Nigeria released an individual Statement of Commitments in which they made a number of additional pledges⁴, many of which went beyond those agreed in the Sector Minister's Statement. In its HLM 2012 Country Statement of Commitments, the Government of Nigeria commits to:

- 1 Increasing national access to improved sanitation from the current level of 31% to 65% by 2015. This means that an additional 70 million people will have access to adequate sanitation by 2014.
- 2 Increasing national access to a potable water supply from 58% to 75% by 2015. This means that an additional 45 million people will have access to drinking water.
- 3 Ensuring that the Federal Ministry of Finance make progressive annual increases in budget allocation of up to 5% of the national budget for water supply and 0.5% of the GDP for sanitation within the next three years. This will target mainly rural areas, urban slums and states with low level access.
- 4 Ensuring that the Federal Ministry of Finance (in collaboration with other relevant ministries) organise an annual performance review forum for WASH sector investment. This will raise awareness among state and local governments of increased budget allocation for WASH programme delivery at state and local levels to ensure an adequate flow of funds to local government authorities.
- 5 Ensuring that Nigeria will continue prioritisation of the sector in the Vision 20:2020 document.
- 6 Ensuring that Nigeria will continue to prioritise water and sanitation, as well as health and education, in dialogues with donors and development partners.
- 7 Streamlining all existing sanitation and hygiene policies within the next year to produce a single and acceptable national policy that will provide an effective framework for programme delivery.
- 8 Developing the National WASH Sector Investment Plan within the next year, to achieve set targets and lay out clear roles and responsibilities for all relevant stakeholders, at both national and sub-national levels.

⁴ Full text: http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/files/Nigeria_-_Statement_to_2012_HLM_EN.pdf

- 9 Establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation WASH sector platform in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources within the next year, which will include budget tracking and monitoring of allocated resources, as well as information sharing on sector performance to all stakeholders, to monitor effectiveness.
- 10 Participating in the biennial SWA HLM and issuing statements on the progress and prioritisation of sanitation and water in Nigeria.
- 11 Fostering collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Education and other relevant Government ministries and agencies to mobilise additional resources from the private sector and other partners in order to increase provision of facilities in schools.
- 12 Strengthening the existing Public Private Partnership on handwashing mechanisms to mobilise more resources from the private sector and collaborate effectively with the media and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to create a sustained handwashing promotion programme in Nigeria.
- 13 Strengthening the health sector budgetary allocation processes to improve public health interventions.
- 14 Intensifying efforts to scale up the Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach in all 36 states of Nigeria and Federal Capital Territory to accelerate programme delivery towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets.

Summary of analysis

Sanitation

Though efforts are being made in the scaling up of CLTS, it will not be possible to meet the Government's ambitious target of 65% of the population with access to sanitation by 2015 at the current pace. Progress towards this target can only be accelerated through ongoing sanitation programmes like CLTS and campaigns which use bottom-up approaches concentrating on latrine and hygiene promotion efforts. However, these still need to be scaled up and the situation in the field is far behind this MDG target, which will not be reached unless there is a doubling of efforts, backed by equal amounts of resources and political will.

Water

There is also serious doubt about the Government achieving the target of 75% of the population having access to safe clean water by 2015. There are currently concerns about the sustainability and functionality of many of the existing water points. For example, out of the 85 million people living in urban and semi-urban areas, less than half have reasonable access to a reliable water supply. Many households, often the poorest, end up purchasing water from private vendors much more expensively than from the public supply. Many water supply systems show extensive deterioration and poor utilisation of existing capacities due to under-maintenance and lack of funds for operation.

Funding

We welcome commitments to increase funding for water and sanitation but need to see this implemented. One of the biggest problems facing the sector is the very low budgetary allocation for WASH. Even where there is budget, implementation is a huge problem due to low capacity, lack of political will and diversion of funds to other areas. The sanitation sub-sector is suffering most, receiving even less attention than water. There have been inter-ministerial meetings and recently a national task group on sanitation involving CSOs, government agencies, and bilateral and international non governmental organisations was formed. So far this has not yielded considerable changes. At all tiers, budgeting and expenditure are not in line with funding commitments and fund allocations to WASH in the national and state budgets are unclear and in the budget of the now defunct Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources. This makes it very difficult to track progress in terms of sanitation and hygiene funding.

Policies

The commitment to produce a single and acceptable national policy that will provide an effective framework for programme delivery is key. One of the major challenges in Nigeria to date has been the multitude of different policies for addressing water and sanitation. For instance, the Federal Ministries of Environment, Health and Water Resources all have health and sanitation policies which cover the same ground. Efforts to harmonise these policies have faced a huge task, in part due to the proliferation of institutions - ministries, departments and agencies - that deal with policy formulation and implementation for WASH. The institutions are also poorly coordinated in their roles and responsibilities, so further efforts are required.

Monitoring and evaluation

The proposed creation of an effective monitoring and evaluation WASH sector platform is very important. This would include budget tracking and monitoring for effective utilisation of allocated resources as well as information sharing on sector performance with all stakeholders. Generally, data streams are not harmonised and sector data literacy is poor. At the national level, sector monitoring systems within the Government are inadequate to properly inform decisions on national sector investments, sub-sector resource allocation, sub-

national disbursing, accountability of funds and actual disbursement. In addition, CSOs often don't have the capacity to analyse the information it needs to make sustainable contributions to the sector and often require strengthening in budget tracking, monitoring and data analysis.

Key recommendations

Government

- The Government of Nigeria should ensure a **clear plan**, backed by **adequate resources**, is in place to achieve its HLM commitments (including an appropriate **monitoring framework** with milestones and timelines from now until the 2014 HLM).
- The Government of Nigeria should ensure a **continued dialogue** is held between ministries, development partners and CSOs, in order to ensure prioritisation of WASH issues and to strengthen policy development and coordination of programmes.
- The Government should **continue to engage in the SWA partnership** and attend all future High Level Meetings.
- The Government must take further steps to tackle equity and inclusion issues.
- Funding should be geared towards building the capacity of WASH actors at all levels, especially local government and CSOs, as this is key to boosting the process and results of monitoring and evaluation and information management.

Development partners

- Development partners should **align their funding with national WASH policies** and systems and comply with aid effectiveness principles.

CSOs

- CSOs should **monitor progress against commitments** through existing tools such as WASHWatch.org and End Water Poverty's 'Keep Your Promises' campaign.
- CSOs will take into account the political will demonstrated by the Government, and **support the implementation of HLM commitments** where appropriate.

