



WaterAid Nigeria hosted WaterAid International's Chief Executive, Barbara Frost, along with members of the International Directors Team - Director of Global Policy and Campaigns, Margaret Batty; Head of South Asia Region, Tom Palakudiyil and WaterAid Head of Region for West Africa, Mariame Dem, on a working visit from 14-21 August 2016.



# WaterAid Chief Executive visits Nigeria

As part of the visit, the delegation visited projects in communities where WaterAid works, interacted with community members, commissioned the WaterAid Nigeria/Guinness Nigeria 'Water of Life' project, held working sessions with members of the country programme, met with high level government officials and other development partners in the country and joined to launch WaterAid Nigeria's new 5 year country programme strategy.





# Gwam community welcomes WaterAid and Guinness Nigeria teams

As part of the team's visit to Bauchi, the delegation joined WaterAid Nigeria colleagues and staff of Guinness Nigeria to commission the WaterAid Nigeria / Guinness Nigeria Water of Life project in Gwam, Ningi local government of Bauchi State.

The facilities – two solar powered water schemes and two blocks of institutional latrines – constructed by WaterAid Nigeria, in partnership with the LGA with funding from Guinness Nigeria, are expected to serve almost 20,000 people in the community, helping to improve their lives and general wellbeing and contribute to both their overall development and that of Bauchi State.

Nigeria's Bureau of Statistics names Bauchi State as the 8th poorest state in Nigeria, a country with 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory. The project will therefore, in line with our mandate, be improving access to WASH services for some of the poorest and most marginalised in Nigeria and helping to transform their lives.

Leaders and citizens of Gwam community were excited to receive the team and welcomed them with much fanfare.

WaterAid Nigeria Country Director, Dr. Michael Ojo, said "the project, which will also train artisans on operations and maintenance of WASH facilities, will go a long way in improving the lives of community members in terms of better livelihoods, improved health, education and menstrual management; and also take us a step towards achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

...The team also visited Kafin Liman community in Ganjuwa local government of Bauchi State, where WaterAid Nigeria is implementing the HSBC Water Programme (HWP) aimed at improving the economic situation and livelihoods of communities and families through improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene.





# WaterAid delegation meet with Nigeria's Minister for Water Resources



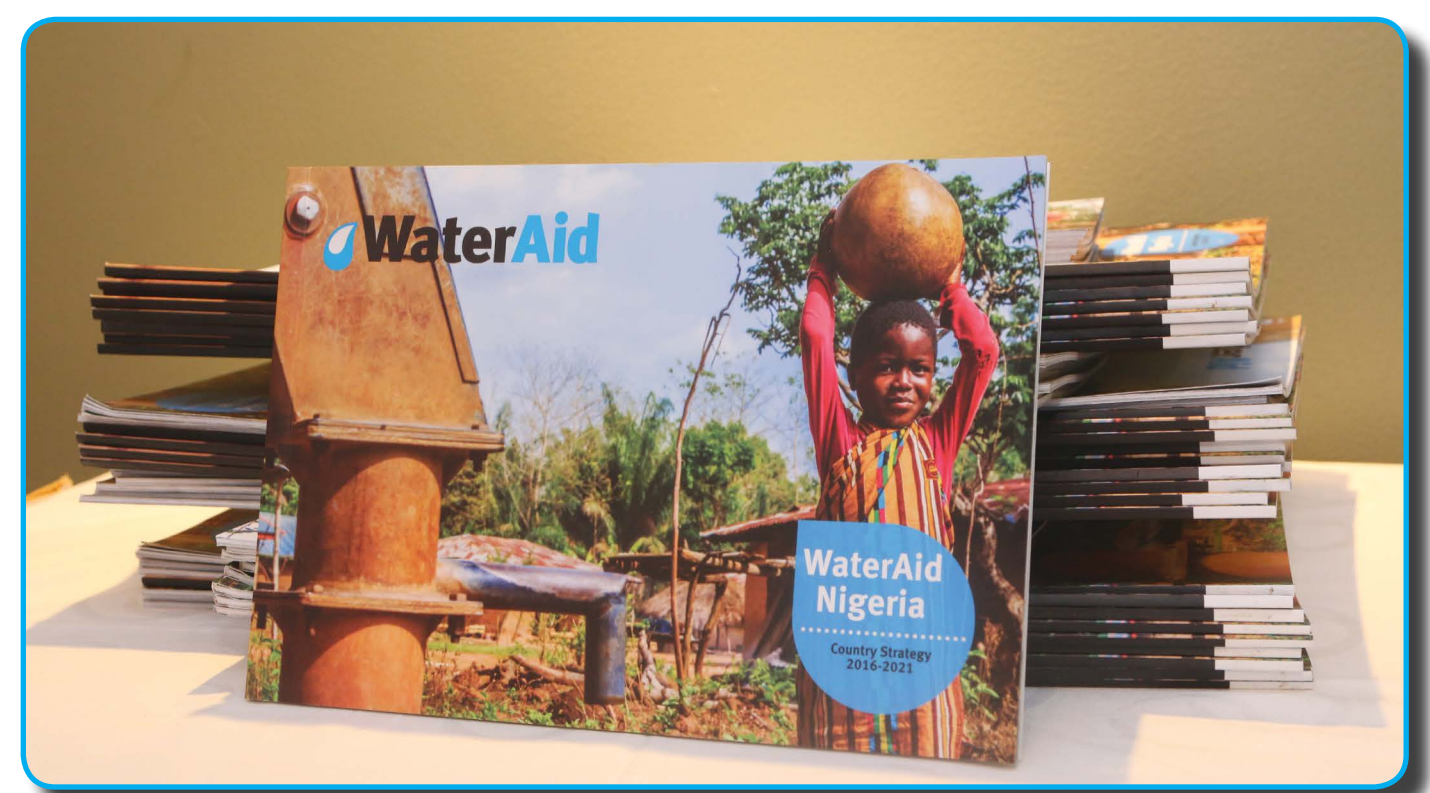
As part of the working visit, WaterAid's International and Regional delegation, alongside WaterAid Nigeria Senior Management Team met with Nigeria's Minister for Water Resources, Engineer Suleiman Adamu. The meeting focused on discussing areas of mutual collaboration for delivering Sustainable Development Goal 6 – universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene – in Nigeria, and other pertinent issues in the sector.

The team was excited to hear about the Minister's plans and roadmap to deliver improved water, sanitation and hygiene for Nigerians. According to the Minister, this roadmap, the Partnership for Expanded Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH), will also help tackle challenges and open up opportunities within the sector, especially as it relates to coordination of key sector actors. The Honourable Minister appreciated the potential for job creation within the WASH sector and discussed his plans to explore opportunities for private sector investment towards advancing universal access. He said the Ministry of Water Resources is a member of the inter-ministerial working group, an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria to improve coordination amongst ministries. He emphasised that only strong partnerships between the State Governments and Federal Government with support of other stakeholders will ensure Nigeria achieves the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WaterAid team left the meeting optimistic that with the right political will, commitment and funding, universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene remains an achievable possibility in Nigeria by 2030. The team assured the Minister of the WaterAid's optimum support in implementing the roadmap and ensuring universal access to WASH in Nigeria.



# WaterAid Nigeria unveils 2016-2021 country programme strategy



On 18 August, WaterAid Nigeria launched its 2016 – 2021 country programme strategy. The strategy lays the foundation for our fifteen year path to achieving universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone everywhere in Nigeria by 2030. Millions of Nigerians have benefited directly from our provision of WASH infrastructure in communities and still many more, from access to WASH facilities provided indirectly through our collaboration and assistance to government and other stakeholders. Over the next five years, WaterAid Nigeria will focus on increasing citizens' access to quality, equitable and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services built on a strong sector and engaged communities.

It was exciting to have WaterAid's International and Regional delegation be a part of the unveiling alongside various other stakeholders, including current and prospective partners looking forward to strong and broad partnerships towards achieving the SDGs and particularly #Goal6.

The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) give hope for tackling the WASH crisis in Nigeria as the country is signed up to achieving these Global Goals. WaterAid Nigeria launches its new strategy with a commitment to seizing this historic opportunity to tackle the underlying causes of poverty and inequality and to accelerate transformational change through a shared vision of universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

**Speaking on the new strategy, WaterAid Nigeria Country Director, Dr. Michael Ojo said:**

“Our new strategy is an ambitious and challenging one but we look forward to an exciting journey that will impact positively on child health, education, livelihoods, the environment and addressing poverty and inequalities. Our strategic objectives target strengthening systems to reduce WASH sector blockages; empowering citizens to demand their rights and participate in WASH decision-making and strengthening partnerships to influence the WASH sector and increase access to sustainable WASH services. We will continue to work with the government, colleagues in the development sector and through our partners, to ensure universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all in Nigeria by 2030.”



# Inspiring sessions

The WaterAid International and Regional delegation also held interactive sessions with the Nigeria team to share thoughts and advice on implementing the new country strategy.



“I am immensely proud of WaterAid Nigeria and what we have achieved in spite of the complex context. I believe that building on what works, we will explore new opportunities and make realistic and important choices as we begin the implementation of this new ambitious strategy in Nigeria. It’s always about the people so we need to make universal access to WASH happen for them.”

**Barbara Frost, Chief Executive, WaterAid International.**

“Now that we have unveiled this beautiful strategy, we need to think of the ‘how’- translating our ambitions into credible programme implementation. We need to make strategic choices and be authentic. Our interventions have to deliver impact and we need to be open to new ways of working, especially those supporting our work towards achieving increased access to WASH for all in Nigeria by 2030.

**Tom Palakudiyil, Head of South Asia Region, WaterAid.**

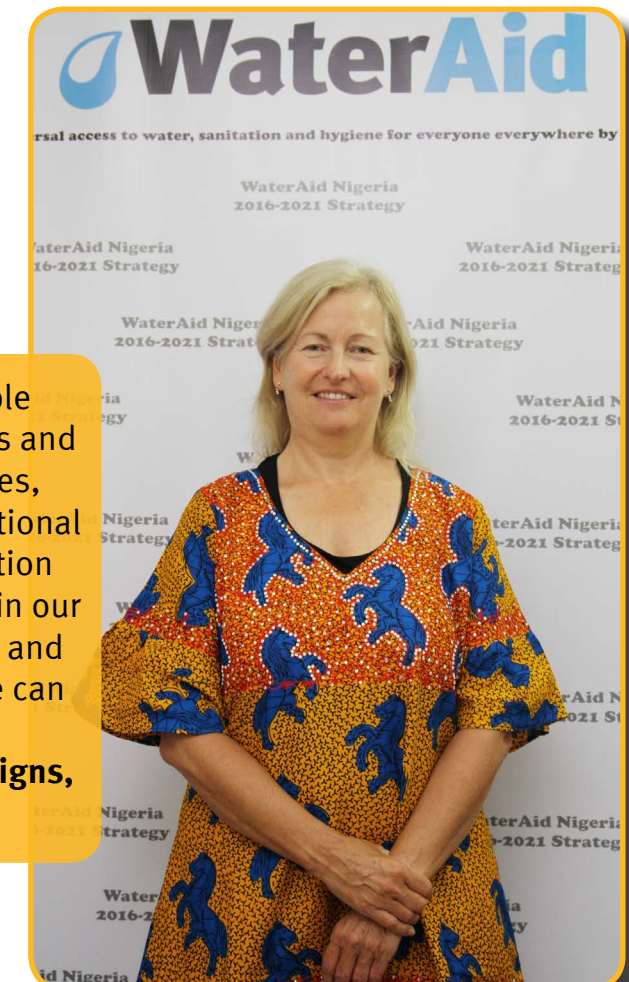


“We have opportunities, potential and connections. In spite of the huge problems we face as a country, the scale of opportunity is also huge. We need to do things differently to bring about a ripple effect – find the right partners, shift existing relationships, strengthen capacities and the like. Bear in mind that whatever we do here in Nigeria towards increasing access to WASH will impact tremendously not just regionally but globally.”

**Mariame Dem, Head of Region, WaterAid West Africa.**

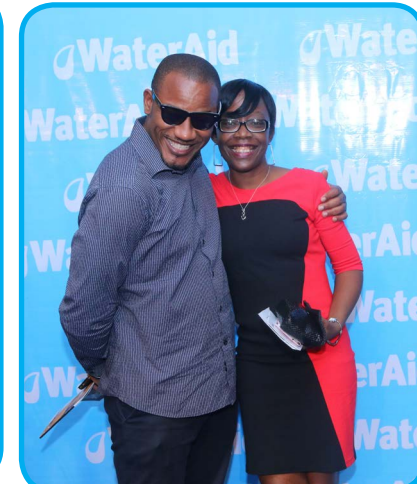
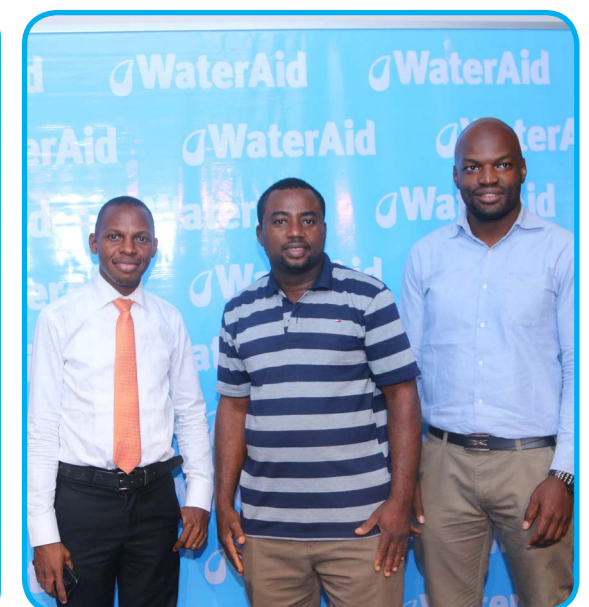
“Everything revolves around power, money and people and Nigeria has got these. Yes there are big problems and big dilemmas but there are also massive opportunities, especially with the scale of poverty in spite of the national wealth. We have great advocacy potential in information and mobile technology as well as opportunities within our context for sector strengthening. We need to be bold and take risks because 2030 is around the corner and we can make universal access a reality.”

**Margaret Batty, Director of Global Policy and Campaigns, WaterAid UK.**





# PICTURE GALLERY





### **Our vision**

is a world where everyone, everywhere has safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

### **Our mission**

is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.