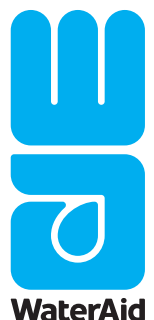


# WaterAid Nigeria Country Programme Strategy

2023 - 2028



**Accelerating access to clean  
water, decent toilets and  
good hygiene for everyone,  
everywhere.**



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**Cover Image: Patrick and Rita (siblings) fetching water at a newly installed water point in a health Centre in Enugu State. The facility was provided by WaterAid through funding from The CocaCola Foundation in November 2020.**

# List of acronyms

AMCOW	Africa Ministers Council on Water
ASPG	African Sanitation Policy Guidelines
CDA	Community Development Association
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DoCC	Department of Climate Change
ECOWAS	Economic Community for West African States
FMoEnv	Federal Ministry of Environment
FMWR	Federal Ministry of Water Resources
GESI	Gender, Equity and Social inclusion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCF	Health Care Facility
ICCC	Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LGA	Local Government Area
LTV	Long-Term Vision 2050
NAP	National WASH Action Plan
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCRWMP	National Climate-Resilient Water Management Plan
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NWRB	National Water Resources Bill
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OPSWASH	Organized Private Sector for WASH
PEWASH	Partnership for Expanded WASH
PLWD	People Living With Disabilities
RWA	Resilient Water Accelerator
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHNORM	Water Sanitation and Hygiene National Outcome Routine Mapping
WANG	WaterAid Nigeria
WHO	World Health Organization
WTS	World Toilet Summit



# Executive summary

With a population of more than 200 million people, Nigeria is a country of strategic importance, enormous opportunities and significant challenges.

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) context in Nigeria remains challenging. 33% of the population lack access to basic water, 54% lack basic sanitation and 82% lack basic hygiene services<sup>1</sup>. This context has been further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic and escalating insecurity situations, including communal violence, herder-farmers conflict, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, and secessionist actions with IPOB in the southeast, causing implications for continued programme delivery.

The Federal Government's response to these challenges has been commendable. Through

the effective leadership of the Minister for Water Resources, national policies have been developed to increase WASH services, end open defecation, and improve sector coordination and monitoring. In addition, Nigeria hosted the World Toilet Summit in 2022 on innovative solutions for sanitation circular economy. WaterAid Nigeria supported the government to develop these policies and implement them in key focal states. This further deepened our credibility as a key actor and thought leader, as well as our commitment to aligning with national priorities.

**Over the next five years our focus will be two-fold:** striving for universal access to WASH services in specific geographic locations; and ensuring that the effects of climate change on WASH are adequately addressed so that services and behaviours renew quickly after shock and stress events.

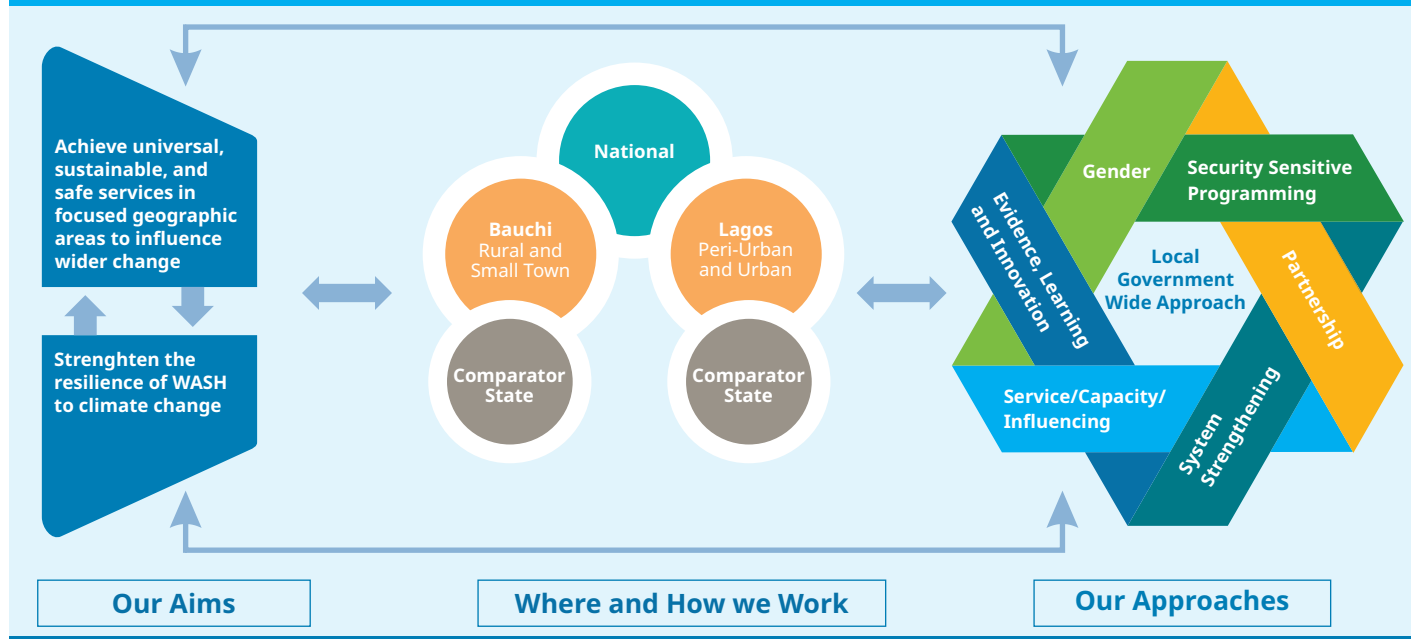


Chiroma Christopher, 57 puts a jerry can in the water cart he uses to fetch water from the water station in Tikangok community in Bauchi state on the 16th of February, 2023. WaterAid installed the water facility under the second phase of a Diageo-funded Water Replenishment Project.

<sup>1</sup>2021 WASH NORM Report, <https://washims.com.ng/washnorm3>



## WaterAid Nigeria Country Strategy At A Glance



**Our ambition** is to directly reach 10 million people with improved basic WASH services through our interventions, and indirectly reach 17 million people through our support and influencing to government to scale up basic WASH access. We will maintain a balance between our rural and urban interventions. Our work in Bauchi will focus on rural areas and small towns; in Lagos, we will focus on urban environments.

We believe **change will happen** when: government systems are strengthened to reduce sector blockages; citizens practice good sanitation and hygiene behaviours and are empowered to demand better services; and the right partnerships are nurtured and strengthened to drive innovations. We will continue to deepen our partnership with the Nigerian government to address existing challenges and improve WASH access to citizens. We will also continue to adopt an influencing and system strengthening approach where sector blockages, environment, people, markets, and alliances are considered holistically, and solutions are

jointly identified to address and improve the entire WASH system.

We will build and **deepen our work on gender-inclusion** and ensure it is integrated in our work by treating it as a 'non-negotiable' principle of what we do. We will do this by: ensuring that WASH service delivery models reflect women's voices, perspectives and needs, and their social and biological roles; increasing women's leadership and decision-making status in WASH; modelling best gender practice in WASH solutions; and empowering women economically to contribute to sustainable WASH service delivery in their communities. Ultimately, these will have positive ripple effect on gender equality across the communities where we work.

Insecurity and instability are persistent inhibiting factors and challenges to programming in Nigeria. Together with our state partners, we will deepen community-level partnership and adopt **security-sensitive programming** principles to ensure we can continue responding to WASH challenges in a fragile context.

# 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Introducing WaterAid

With four decades of technical experience and collective expertise, we are the largest not-for-profit global organisation that focuses solely on sustainable and safe WASH.

By 2032, our ambition through our work is to see:



400 million more people with sustainable and safe WASH.



\$15 billion more a year mobilised for WASH in low- and middle-income countries.

We will work with the utmost determination, passion and focus to reach everyone, everywhere with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. We know that change is possible. It can be done.

We will do this through: increased financing and delivery of WASH services that improve public health; climate resilient WASH interventions, and; strengthening WASH systems in specific locations, then using these as scalable models.


Community members participate in a game during a hygiene behaviour change campaign in a community in Bauchi State, 2023.




WaterAid/Joshua Morolayo




## 1.2 Our Global Strategy: Vision, Mission and Values




**Our mission** is to transform lives through sustainable and safe water, sanitation and hygiene




**Our values** define our culture and unite us across the many countries in which we work. They are at the very heart of WaterAid – who we are, what we do and how we do it.




**Respect:** we treat everyone with dignity and respect, and champion the rights and contribution of all to achieve a fairer world.




**Accountability:** we are accountable to those we work with and to those who support us.




**Courage:** we are bold and inspiring in our actions and words, and uncompromising in our determination to pursue our mission.




**Collaboration:** we work with others to maximise our impact, embracing diversity and difference in the pursuit of common goals.



**Innovation:** we are creative and agile, always learning, and prepared to take risks to accelerate change.




**Integrity:** we act with honesty and conviction, and our actions are consistent with openness, equality.




Hauwa Abubakar, a trader, poses with her newly purchased satopan which will serve as the new water-easy toilet, at her home in Bauchi, 2019.


## 1.3 Our Global Aims




**Aim 1:**  
Achieve universal, sustainable and safe services in focused geographic areas to influence wider change.



**Aim 3:**  
Strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change.



**Aim 2:**  
Prioritise WASH across the health sector to improve public health.



**Aim 4:**  
Increase the quantity and quality of financing.

WaterAid has been working in Nigeria since 1995. Since then, we have worked with determination towards the day when everyone in the country has access to sustainable and safe WASH services. Now, we need to accelerate progress towards this goal. Our new strategy, bolder and more ambitious than the last, lays out our blueprint for the next five years, outlining how we will support the development of a strong enabling environment, and maximise emerging opportunities through systemic change.





## Our ambition as a country programme

Achieving universal access to WASH in Nigeria is of global importance due to its size, population, economic strength, geo-strategic significance, and influence beyond its borders. Realising this goal has the potential to create a ripple effect of transformational change across the region and continent.



By 2028, our ambition is to reach **10,000,000 people directly** through our interventions with basic WASH services and behaviours. Working collaboratively with the government of Nigeria and other key partners in development, media, academia, private sector, and civil society space, we further seek to **influence** improved basic WASH access for **17,000,000 more people**.

To achieve this, we will align our work with two strategic aims over the next five years:



### Aim 1:

Achieve universal, sustainable, and safe services in focused geographic areas to influence wider change.



### Aim 2:

Strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change.

Our support to the federal, state and local governments of Nigeria and our collaboration with targeted communities will be central to achieving our ambition. Together, we will deliver and scale-up WASH solutions that are sustainable, climate-resilient, and gender responsive, and that address key cross-cutting elements of other development goals including health, education, poverty, economic growth, and nutrition.

Partnerships will form the bedrock of our approach. We will be deliberate in collaborating and building linkages with government institutions, donors, researchers, think tanks, innovation hubs, communities, youth groups, civil society organisations, private sector players, development sector actors, and a diverse range of stakeholders. We will mobilise human, financial, intellectual and social resources in every Local Government Area (LGA) and city where we work, creating the foundations to improve the WASH sector and transform the lives of Nigerians. We will measure our collective success with our partners and allies, reaching millions of people through strengthening the system to deliver sustainable WASH services.

We will be a catalyst for change in specified LGAs in Bauchi and Lagos states, supporting and influencing service providers and government authorities to deliver sustainable and safe WASH for communities. We will also seize sudden emerging opportunities to maximise impact in other states.

We will be a thought and practice leader with a clear, well-recognised and distinctive role in elevating WASH issues and putting them at the forefront of the development agenda. We will influence donors and governments to invest more in WASH. And we will improve integration and prioritisation of WASH in other sectors such as health and education, with the aim of delivering sustainable access to WASH nationwide.

Crucially, across all our work, we will advance gender equality through changes in norms and systems. We will drive cutting-edge programmes of exceptional quality, demonstrate the effects of climate change on WASH, anchor learning initiatives through our work on the ground, and use these experiences to influence positive change.



# Situation analysis

## 3.1 General context

Nigeria is divided into 36 autonomous states and a Federal Capital Territory, which are further sub-divided into 774 LGAs. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with a population of over 200 million people. In 2021, the country's GDP was an estimated \$440 billion<sup>2</sup>, making it the continent's largest economy. Nigeria covers a land mass of 923,770 km<sup>2</sup> and is divided into six geopolitical zones: North Central, North West, North East, South West, South East and South-South. The oil sector contributed 6.63% to GDP in Q1 of 2022<sup>3</sup>. In January 2023, the inflation rate stood at 21.34% and unemployment was 33.3%<sup>4</sup>.

The security situation in Nigeria is complex and dynamic. Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises, such as: extremist Islamist insurgencies, banditry and kidnapping, farmer/herder crisis, South-East separatist agitations and Niger Delta militancy. Drivers of insecurity in Nigeria include: socioeconomic grievances, unemployment, collapse of the value system, climate change, environmental degradation and weapons proliferation. These drivers are both local and international; they feed into each other, and often exacerbate conflict dynamics.

## 3.2 WASH situation in Nigeria

Access rate:	National	Urban	Rural
Water	67%	86%	57%
Sanitation	46%	59%	39%
Hygiene	18%	25%	13%
People living with disability	6%	6%	6%
Household in poorest to poor wealth quintile	40%	9%	55%
WASH in HCFs	6%	10%	4%
WASH in schools	17%	28%	11%
WASH in public places	14%	21%	25%
WASH in public places accessible to PLWDs	13%	18%	19%
23% of the population (46 million people) still defecate in the open			

Source: 2021 WASH NORM figures

Significant gaps remain with access to WASH. Inequalities are more prevalent in the north. The average rate of basic WASH access is 8% across the three regions, with the North Central zone having the lowest rate of 6.7%. The south averages 12% basic access, with the South East zone having the lowest rate of 9.2%. Poor WASH has a significant impact on health and child mortality rate in Nigeria. According to UNICEF, poor sanitary conditions and the use of contaminated drinking water have resulted in the deaths of more than 70,000 children under five<sup>5</sup>. In 2021, Nigeria recorded one of the highest cases of cholera in its history, with 111,062 cases and 3,604 deaths<sup>6</sup>. According to WHO, Nigeria recorded 144,724 diarrhoea-related deaths in 2020, accounting for 9.77% of total deaths<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/gdp>

<sup>3</sup>Nigeria Gross Domestic Report, Q1 2022, National Bureau of Statistics

<sup>4</sup>National Bureau of Statistics, <https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/525854-nigerias-2021-cholera-outbreak-worst-in-recent-times-who.html>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/nigeria-diarrhoeal-diseases>



Retmun, a secondary school student, during a handwashing practice in Bogoro L.G.A, Bauchi State.

WASH financing needs are enormous. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, Nigeria needs to invest an estimated \$11 billion annually on basic and safely managed WASH services – the equivalent of 2.5% of its current GDP. A large share of this will require funding support by the public sector up to 1.3 percent of GDP, which is equivalent to \$5.72 billion a year until 2030<sup>8</sup>.

At the national level, water sector management has been centralised, using top-down, command and control mechanisms instead of the more inclusive, bottom-up approaches prescribed in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). While the draft National Water Resources Bill (NWRB) is based on the principles of IWRM, the current practice is still very much sector-oriented. Approaches have tended to treat water as a public social good, without adequate attention to water resource development, management and conservation. The need for the Federal Government to limit its role to policy and regulation is yet to be understood, as traditionally they have been responsible for the operation, management and maintenance of water schemes. This has created a conflicting dual role of regulating the provision and use of water, whilst at the same time being the sole provider of such water. Sector reforms suggest the Federal Government should divest from public works in states. The NWRB also supports reforms to be driven at state level.

The Federal Government has made commendable progress responding to these challenges, developing the Partnership for Expanded WASH (PEWASH) policy 2016-2030. This was followed by the 2018 declaration of a state of emergency in the WASH sector by the President, and a 13-year National WASH Action Plan (NAP). Additionally, the government developed a national Open Defecation Free (ODF) Roadmap that provides a guide towards achieving an ODF country by 2025. The government also hosted the 2022 World Toilet Summit (WTS) in an effort to attract investments to the WASH sector and showcase the potential of the sanitation economy for national development. However, there are still significant gaps in implementing these policy frameworks efficiently and sustainably at the state levels.

The interconnections between climate change and WASH are increasingly understood. Events such as nationwide flooding, drought, desertification and gully erosion contribute to unpredictable water availability, worsening water scarcity, and contamination of water supplies, leading to disease outbreaks and negative impacts on health.

Nigeria has significant total water resources, estimated at 333 billion m<sup>3</sup> of surface water and 88 billion m<sup>3</sup> of groundwater resources, although large-scale geographical inequalities exist. By comparing available water resource with varying water demands across the country, it is clear that the country is not water stressed.

<sup>8</sup>National Action Plan on WASH

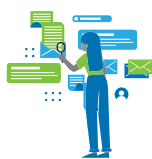
<sup>9</sup>JICA (2014), National Water Resources Master Plan



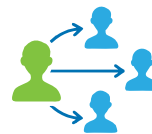
## Challenges ensuring proper and sustainable management of water resources in an integrated manner



Policy implementation gap



Poor information management



No functional coordination platform



No responsible agencies with adequate capacity for effective risk forecasting



No collaboration and synergy



Inadequate resource mobilization to achieve and sustain climate resilient WASH services.

However, climate change threatens this situation. Nigeria's Water Master Plan (2014)<sup>9</sup> projected that changes in air temperature over Nigeria could result in a 20% reduction in annual runoff in the country. Similarly, groundwater recharge could also reduce by up to 20% due to climate change. Groundwater levels for the whole country are predicted to lower by 5-20 metres by 2030. This would warrant the need to drill boreholes 20m deeper than current depth and make the depth of the pump table 20m deeper than it is currently.

In addition, Nigeria has significant challenges in sustainable and integrated water resource management. This poses potential risks and challenges for any adaptive climate change responses. These challenges include: policy implementation gaps, poor information management, functional coordination platform, with the responsible agencies lacking adequate capacity for effective risk forecasting, collaboration and synergy, and inadequate resource mobilisation to achieve and sustain climate resilient WASH services.

The federal government has established institutional and governance arrangements relating to the water and climate sectors, including the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (ICCC), and the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) at the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMoEv).

Developed by the DoCC, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) for Nigeria 2021–2030 aims to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient,



Audu Bala, a sanitation business owner in Kirfi LGA, Bauchi, shows off some of the water-easy-toilets he was introduced to by WaterAid during the HSBC Water Programme II, November 2019.

gender-responsive and sustainable socio-economic development that specifically leads to reduced vulnerability to climate change and its impacts across all sectors. Sector policies focus on climate resilient water resource management strategies that are cost effective and contribute to economic prosperity and poverty reduction. This will be achieved through several pathways including strengthening systems and capacity building for long term climate risk management.

### 3.2.1 Key barriers and opportunities

Some of the major **sector barriers** for improved WASH access in Nigeria include:



**Weak institutions and institutional frameworks, poor coordination and a lack of sustainable funding:** Government at state and local level has weak institutional structure and capacity. The quality and quantity of funding is poor, across public and private sectors.



**Limited political will at the state level:** This results in a poor and incoherent approach to planning, weak implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems, and private sector involvement.



**Poor sustainability, transparency, and accountability:** A lack of evidence-based data for decision making, and poor usage of data further contributes to an inadequate enabling environment for private sector participation.



**Lack of representation and inclusive decision-making:** Women often lack opportunities to influence decision-making in WASH services and management. This is compounded by weak gender, equity, and social inclusion (GESI) analyses to inform planning and policy making, and an absence of gender-specific budgets. Representation of user voices is poor in civil society and the media, and marginalised groups and PLWD are not adequately represented in WASH decisions that affect them.

Whilst these barriers remain, there are **sector opportunities** emerging:

- **National prioritisation of WASH** including the state of emergency declaration and National Action Plan (NAP). The NAP presents five key pillars to address WASH challenges, of which WaterAid will prioritise three: governance, sanitation and sustainability.
- The COVID-19 pandemic **heightened the importance of hygiene** in preventing diseases and reducing infection.
- The launch of the African Sanitation Policy Guideline (ASPG) by the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), in conjunction with the National ODF Roadmap and National Hand Hygiene Roadmap, provides **a framework to deliver safely managed sanitation services**. We will support the government and will engage and share our experiences and learning at continent level.
- **Youth mobilisation:** 62% of Nigeria's population are below 25 years of age<sup>10</sup>. We will leverage the youthful population to expand capabilities on: behaviour change interventions to promote hygiene practices; gender equality to build greater voice and representation on WASH challenges, and: harnessing the power of technology to drive innovation to improve WASH services and behaviour.
- **Private sector resource mobilisation:** We will leverage our strong relationships with private sector organisations and foundations (including Diageo, Heineken Africa Foundation, Kimberly Clark, PepsiCo, Global Environment & Technology Foundation, Cummins and TikTok) to partner and invest in joint WASH priorities. We will nurture and strengthen these transformational partnerships to address challenges in line with national government priorities.

<sup>10</sup> National Youth Survey 2020, <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241079>

### 3.2.2 Key drivers of change



**Effective leadership at the federal and state levels:** At the federal level, political will and support for WASH is at its highest level, with the President's declaration of a state of emergency for the revitalisation of the WASH sector; development of the NAP; and signing of Executive Order 009 to end open defecation by 2025. At the state level, political will within Executive Governors is low. If this is restored and sustained, it will create a significant driver for improved WASH access.



**Effective budget management:** When government WASH budget allocations are prioritised, released in a timely manner, effectively utilised and regularly reviewed and evaluated through strong monitoring, services will be efficiently delivered.



**Actively engaged and empowered citizens demanding change:** WASH access will improve when the collective actions and voices of users hold duty bearers to account, and demand improved services; and where communities, especially women and girls, have a say in the decisions that impact how their services are provided.



**Increased private sector involvement in WASH:** The Organized Private Sector for WASH (OPSWASH) provides a platform for private sector collaboration, investment and participation to address WASH challenges through sustainable models of WASH.



**Recognition of the impact of WASH on public health:** This has been the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and cholera outbreaks.

Lilian, 13, (2nd from left), sits with a group of fellow students at a primary school in Enugu State, Nigeria. A sanitation facility was provided by WaterAid in their school, under the Sustainable Total Sanitation (STS) project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



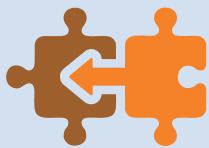


# 4

## Our role in the next five years

### 4.1 Key lessons learnt and implications for new strategy

To strengthen our impact, we continuously reflect on and learn from our expertise and experience gained through 27 years of work in Nigeria. A robust country-level evaluation of our last strategy period (2016-2021) highlighted some key learnings for us to harness:



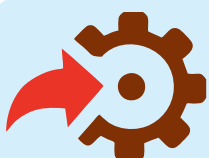
**Adapting to a rapidly changing context is necessary:** Our dynamic strategic framework and our ability to adapt to a rapidly changing context helped deepen alignment with national priorities and impact. This continues to be a significant guiding principle for our new strategy. We will do this by maintaining a commitment to NAP, focusing our efforts on supporting the governance, sanitation and sustainability pillars. Insecurity is set to remain in the short to medium term, and we will therefore invest more in staff safety and security infrastructure, including specialised security staff to support the different office locations.



**Internal resourcing and strong partnerships are necessary for effective impact:** WaterAid Nigeria's systems and processes progressively improved over the previous strategy period, particularly in policy frameworks, state commitments and service delivery. These will be maintained in the next strategic plan. Resourcing the strategic plan posed a fundamental challenge in the previous strategy period, particularly due to the trend of traditional and larger donors deprioritising WASH. We must therefore explore new and innovative ways of increasing funding. We are strong innovators and campaigners: the Vote4WASH and Keep Your Promise campaigns are evidence of our ability to mobilise the public. To enhance the sustainable and strategic impact of our influencing further, we must expand our partnerships to include non-traditional groups.



**A focused and clearly aligned approach creates greater impact:** Our technical competence, community-centred and tested approaches, international reach, values, and experiences were used to sustain engagement in the WASH sector, by easily re-aligning our programme to revised national and state WASH frameworks and plans. Our focus on three states was effective for impact, depth, and learning, however aligning focal states of intervention with donor priority states will improve funding prospects. This was considered in our choice of focal states in this new strategy.



**Integration with other sectors is crucial:** A strong focus to improve the integration of WASH services and hygiene behaviours models within the health, nutrition, education and climate change sectors will have mutual sectoral benefits and wider impact.

## 4.2 Our added value over the next five years

WANG's added value and niche continues to be in sector thought-leadership. We are catalysts for change, conveners and knowledge contributors, enabling institutions to make and sustain long-term improvements in access to WASH.

We have demonstrated technical expertise in sustainable WASH programming. We adopt a system strengthening approach to address

WASH sector blockages. We pilot sustainable models that we then use to influence replication and scale up by government and other development partners. And we continuously advocate for solutions that will drive transformative change.

At the heart of our system strengthening work is enabling social accountability and amplifying citizens' voices to demand improved access to WASH. We strengthen community and citizen engagement processes and CSOs' capacity to amplify issues on WASH.

## 4.3 Key shifts

To achieve our strategic objectives, WANG will build on its strengths and adapt to respond to ongoing changes. There are a number of systematic changes that we will introduce or strengthen in our work:



**WASH in climate:** We will strengthen our integration of climate change considerations, ensuring WASH services are more resilient, and that WASH is prioritised and strategically positioned in climate change adaptation strategies.



**Circular sanitation economy:** Our approach to sanitation will be more holistic, focusing on all the links in the sanitation service chain. We will support the government to deliver safely managed sanitation and to derive sanitation's wider impacts, contributing to economic growth in other sectors such as agriculture, area-wide multiple water use, environment and climate change.



**Public private partnerships:** We will build long-lasting partnerships that harness the strengths of public and private sectors to drive business potential in WASH. We will engage with partners and public institutions in other sectors to drive sustainable economic growth through WASH.



**Comparator states:** We will be more deliberate in working with states that border our focal states, as a route to scale up improved WASH access. We will provide technical assistance and support them to play a role in our implementation process.



**Gender:** We will work with gender-focused partners and groups to plan and deliver our programme. We will build on our experience of empowering women economically by strengthening their skills and capacity to operate and manage water schemes. We will ensure that their social and biological roles are reflected in institutional service delivery, an example of which is our female friendly toilet model. Another focus will be on gender-based analysis, budgeting and monitoring to continuously learn and improve on women and girls' representation and decision-making roles on their WASH needs.



## Our strategic aims for 2023–2028

A view of the solar powered water facility that supplies water to Tikangok community in Bauchi State on The facility was provided by WaterAid, with funding from Diageo in 2021.



WaterAid/Etinosa Yvonne

### 5.1 Aim 1: Achieve universal, sustainable, and safe access in focused geographic areas to influence wider change

#### 5.1.1 Rationale for the selection of this aim

Based on our situational analyses, we have selected two states to focus our intervention on: Bauchi and Lagos, both in urgent need of increasing and improving WASH services and behaviours. In Bauchi, basic access to water is 67%, sanitation is 60% and hygiene just 19%<sup>11</sup>. In Lagos, basic water access is 96%, sanitation is 62% and hygiene is 35%.

We have chosen this aim for the following reasons:

- Working in dedicated focal states offers us the opportunity to use our system strengthening approach to deliver change at a significant scale. We will address the substantial challenge of ensuring WASH interventions are sustained in the long-term

using a targeted and intensive approach to strengthen the entire WASH system.

- Achieving 100% WASH coverage in targeted states can catalyse major institutional change beyond the geographic area of our work. We will develop locally driven, replicable examples of how to overcome barriers, and generate learning and evidence to inform and influence a wider approach. Our situational analyses highlighted huge potential to affect change in our focal states. In Bauchi, we will use our nine years of experience and expertise in the area to deliver universal WASH interventions focused on rural areas and small towns. We will build on our sector strengthening work and deepen and expand our area-wide and WASH integration interventions. As a mega city with a population of 25 million people, Lagos presents huge opportunities to address major issues and access a large market for WASH services. We can improve the lives, health and dignity of millions of people, drive innovations and share learnings that can shape solutions for other cities and regions in Nigeria and beyond.

<sup>11</sup>2021 WASHNORM statistics



## 5.1.2 Impact and outcomes

**Ultimate change 1:** WASH rights are protected through better institutional/regulatory systems and accountability mechanisms by state and non-state actors

### Outcomes:

- Autonomous regulatory institutions are established by government and capable to ensure accountability in WASH services
- Reformed WASH policy in place to guide sector activities in focal and comparator state
- Improved capacity of Community Development Associations (CDAs), community members, LGAs and States on WASH.
- Strengthened CDAs and CSOs to hold service provider accountable

**Ultimate change 2:** Sustainable, inclusive WASH service delivery and behaviour change models that are accessible and gender responsive are demonstrated

### Outcomes:

- Improved collaboration and capacity between private sector and government for WASH innovation
- Gender responsive and inclusive behaviour change approach and intervention are effectively modelled as proof of concept in 3 LGA (1 in Bauchi, 2 in Lagos) and ready to be replicated into other areas
- Improved access to WASH services due to effective, sustainable, gender responsive and inclusive WASH management solutions

**Ultimate change 3:** Strong coordination and integration of WASH across related sectors at state level and in 3 LGAs (1 in Bauchi, 2 in Lagos)

### Outcomes:

- WASH integrated into primary healthcare, school, nutrition and climate change resilience



Hauwawu Dalhatu, 42 works on her farm in Pholuntulu community Bauchi State, on 17 February 2023. With the installation of a water facility under the Diageo-funded Water Replenishment Project, access to clean water brought succour to a lot of farmers in her community.

- Health sector prioritises hygiene behaviour change to prevent and respond to WASH public health emergencies.
- Evidence of effective coordination among WASH and other sectors
- Effective coordination within the WASH MDAs

**Ultimate change 4:** Adequate budget allocation, release, and utilisation of financing for WASH at state and across LGAs

### Outcomes:

- Funding for WASH service delivery and Behaviour Change prioritised at both state and LGA levels
- Increased investment in WASH from government budgets compared to donors
- Appropriate tariffing for WASH services that users clearly understand and comply with.

### 5.1.3 How we will work to deliver the outcomes

We will work in both rural and urban spaces to model universal, sustainable and safe WASH. Our interventions in Bauchi will focus on rural and small towns while in Lagos we will focus on the urban setting. Our entry point will be through policy and legal frameworks and strong institutional arrangements. This will include multi-sectoral coordination to drive integration. Our gender-responsive solutions will address power imbalances, strengthen evidence-based gender planning and promote leadership and decision making of women and girls.

We will actively engage in sector learning and coordination platforms at federal and state levels, exchanging knowledge and learning from government efforts on replicating and scaling up WASH solutions. Partnerships will be at the heart of this work, including those with academia and research institutions, media, CSOs, youth groups and the private sector. We will adopt a system strengthening approach to: address WASH sector blockages; pilot sustainable models that can be replicated and scaled up by government and other partners, and; advocate for solutions that will drive transformative change.

We will be deliberate in working with comparator states as a route to scale up improved basic WASH access beyond our core focal state. We will work with regional organisations such as Economic Community

for West African States (ECOWAS) and AMCOW on national level accountabilities towards regional and continental commitments (like our engagements on ASPG). And we will drive learning and influencing beyond our borders for greater change.

Our rural work will move away from boreholes and focus more on water schemes and piped services interventions that can deliver water to large groups of people. On sanitation and hygiene, we will scale up our 'rethinking rural sanitation and hygiene behaviour change' approach to address gaps in sustainable sanitation and hygiene practices. This will be done through modelling of technological solution and proof of concept intervention.

Our urban work will focus on water solutions that address challenges for significantly large groups of people. Sanitation services will be a key focus over the next five years. We will work with the private sector to develop circular sanitation economy solutions, and we will support government to strengthen the entire sanitation service chain (emptying, transport, treatment and disposal or reuse). We will work with actors and institutions in other relevant sectors, including agriculture and city urban planning so that treated sanitation materials contribute to the wider needs within the city. We will also work with the regulator to strengthen its oversight function and to drive quality, affordable and sustainable WASH service provision for consumers.

We will focus on water security management interventions through our Resilient Water

Accelerator (RWA) programme, which aims to assist vulnerable communities to secure clean and reliable water resources and services. Water is how people experience the effects of climate change the most, often through increased water insecurity.

Hajiya Suwaiba Lawan, a facilitator trained by WaterAid, demonstrates handwashing during a hygiene behaviour change campaign in a community in Bauchi, 2023.



WaterAid/Joshua Morolayo



Keles Caleb, 29, a sanitation worker getting water from the tap to do her daily cleaning of the clinic and its environs. Gwagwalada township clinic, Abuja, Nigeria



The National Climate Change Policy, NCCP (2021), Climate Change Act (2021), updated National Determined Contribution (NDC) 2022, National Climate Resilient Action Plan, 2050 Long-Term Vision for Nigeria (LTV-2050) and National Climate Resilient Water Management Plan (NCRWMP) all present opportunities as entry points for us to effectively engage.

We have chosen to focus on Aim 2, because:

- **The impact of climate change manifests mainly through water:** too much causes issues such as flooding, too little causes water resources to dry out. Climate change increases the vulnerability of communities who are already struggling with poor access to WASH, and negatively impacts their resilience. Communities need reliable access to WASH services to be able to cope with abrupt changes, particularly to water resources.
- **Climate finance offers a huge but currently underdeveloped funding opportunity for WASH.** Climate change is now attracting increased donor funding, but without a focus on WASH. WASH in climate adaptation plans, and climate considerations in WASH plans are still lagging. We will leverage these opportunities to address the negative impacts of climate change by ensuring WASH solutions are more climate resilient.

This demonstrates alignment and the inter-relationship between Aim 1 and Aim 2: without reliable water resources and climate resilient WASH solutions, universal and sustainable WASH access cannot be achieved.

At the national level, we will drive universal access by supporting policy reviews, the development of frameworks and guidelines, and institutional capability strengthening. We will network in key spaces to influence and advocate for WASH integration across other sectors, including health, education, nutrition and environment. We will work with climate change partners to build the case for WASH forming a core part of any climate change adaptation strategy.

## 5.2 Aim 2: Strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change

### 5.2.1 Rationale for the selection of this aim

There is strong evidence that climate change is exacerbating existing barriers to WASH and creating new challenges to meeting SDG13 and SDG6. Climate change is causing increased vulnerabilities for communities already struggling with poor access to WASH and reducing their resilience. We will make sure that existing and future threats are managed, and that progress in WASH leads to stronger environments where services and behaviours can be renewed quickly after shock events.

This aim also directly aligns with Aim 1, since universal, sustainable and safe WASH can only be achieved when existing and future climate threats are addressed. We will work at national, state, and local government levels to deliver this aim.



## 5.2.2 Impact and outcomes

**Ultimate change 1:** Strengthened institutional capability better positioned for WASH resilient climate change interventions.

- Capacity of relevant stakeholders at all levels strengthened to access and manage climate change funding for WASH
- Improved systems capability at national and states to access, generate and manage data for WASH resilience resource mobilisation
- Increased funding for WASH resilient in climate adaptation interventions

**Ultimate change 2:** Improved access to climate resilient WASH services and behaviours

- Risks, threats, and solutions to climate effects on WASH understood by relevant stakeholders
- Improved access to climate resilient WASH services and behaviours with proven modalities that are gender responsive

**Ultimate change 3:** WASH and climate change adaptation are well-aligned in national policies and strategies.

- Effective coordination platforms established for WASH and climate change at national, state and districts/ LGAs
- Improved and sustained awareness on the impact of climate change on WASH among stakeholders at national, state and LGA
- Climate sensitive WASH policies and WASH sensitive climate policies with clear institutional responsibilities and financing modalities

## 5.2.3 How we will work to deliver the outcomes.

Our entry point will be to strengthen data management and system capabilities at national, state, and local government levels, to resource and efficiently manage climate change-related funding. We will also focus on behaviour change that leads to better water management and a reduction in waste. Our work on the circular sanitation economy model will also contribute to the climate resilience of communities, through the reuse of treated sanitation products and potentially/indirectly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This aligns with Aim 1; resilient WASH solutions enable communities to cope with abrupt changes and manage existing and future threats.

We will scale up climate-resilient WASH services by working across the different levels of government, while creating the right enabling environment to ensure climate policy decisions and funding opportunities are more WASH inclusive. We will support states and LGAs to develop resilient infrastructure, efficient systems and capacity building to implement plans. We will also foster transboundary collaborations with River Basin Authorities and use learning for influencing.

In our RWA programme, we will address the challenges of financing WASH resilient services: the lack of data needed for high quality programmes; the absence of a comprehensive approach to address systemic water issues; and the difficulty to navigate the complex climate change funding landscape. We will also seek to build climate resilient water for small-scale livelihoods, WASH-watershed and sub-watershed management, capacity building for resilient WASH service and behaviours at scale, low carbon/low pollution to harness opportunities for greenhouse gases mitigation, and natural based solutions to protect against climate change impact.



WaterAid/Ejura Adama

Women being trained as Local Area Mechanics, learning to repair water pumps during a workshop organised in Lagos State by WaterAid, with funding from PepsiCo Foundation, May 2023.

We will build the capacity of CSOs and media to advocate for and influence increased prioritisation for climate-resilient WASH funding, with strong emphasis on gender-responsiveness and social inclusion. We will also conduct systems review for climate change WASH data at federal and state levels.

To drive gender and citizen rights, we will prioritise the voice and participation of women and girls and their organisations in WASH, climate discussions and leadership. We will also demonstrate proof of WASH model concept (national and transboundary) by design, implementation and evaluation of climate resilient WASH and behaviour change approaches.

We will support functional coordinating platforms for WASH and climate change. We will integrate climate change into existing WASH policies at national and state level, and integrate climate change policies into WASH.



Women celebrate access to clean water provided by WaterAid.





## Our approaches



WaterAid/Ikechi Ugwoeje.

### Services, capacity, influencing:

We will deliver: innovative services on water to increase reach; sanitation options to maximise the supply chain, and; behaviour change to drive hygiene. Our service delivery will be undertaken in targeted areas, where it is critical to pilot and model sustainable solutions that are gender inclusive and climate resilient. These models can then be replicated and taken to scale by government and other development partners.

We will focus on: water solutions with a large reach; sanitation services that support government objectives to end open defecation, and deliver safely-managed sustainable sanitation, such as the Clean Nigeria Campaign (CNC), and; driving an uptake in hygiene practice using a behaviour change-centred approach.

Our influencing will target decision-makers at national and state level. At national level, we will focus on ensuring there are clear policies and guidelines in place, aligned with relevant international standards. We will also make sure that strong monitoring, accountability and sector review mechanisms are in place to drive learning, research, and innovation. State level advocacy will focus on replication of quality

Aneke Victor stands in front of the solar-powered, motorised borehole, provided in his community in Enugu State, January 2022.

interventions and solutions, and domestication with national policy standards.

### Gender-responsive WASH services and behaviours:

As well as ensuring the safety and accessibility of facilities, we will address discriminatory norms, systems and power imbalances, and promote women and girls' leadership and decision making. We will strengthen evidence and gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation, ensuring a 'Do No Harm' approach. We will partner with women's rights organisations and experts to build leadership in menstrual health and hygiene. We will also work with disability groups at national and state level to plan, design, monitor, learn and improve in social inclusion practice and equitable service delivery.



## Strengthen partnerships and alliances:

We will form effective partnerships at national, state and local levels with government bodies, civil society, academic/research institutions, international development partners, youth groups, media and the private sector. We will harness the power of these collaborations and will be represented in key spaces to drive the agenda of improved WASH access.

## Evidence, learning and innovation:

We will base our work on political, economic and power analyses, capturing political opportunities to progress the WASH agenda. We will have strong networks in the most influential spaces, both within the WASH sector and with other sectors relevant to WASH. We will engage meaningfully with both national and international development actors including the government, utilities, think tanks, relevant business and civil society groups.

We will also maintain strong media engagement to ensure WASH commands public and political attention, is covered widely and regularly, and penetrates mainstream debate spaces. We will work collaboratively with civil society WASH platforms, shape strategic alliances and convene influential spaces to progress the WASH agenda. We will work with youth for various innovation solutions.

## Local government wide approach:

To maximise impact, our approach will be to deepen our work, and extensively and holistically cover the entire LGA, as opposed to just selected communities. This approach is

known as a District Wide Approach (DWA). We will support institutions and structures best placed and closest to the people who need the services. This promotes accountability, sustainability, responsiveness and coordination. It will also lead to mainstreaming WASH in other sectors and becoming part of the development plans of the district, town, or city.

## System strengthening:

Central to our strategy is a systems approach. This recognises that tackling systemic barriers to sustainability and inclusion requires efforts to address the links between actors, factors and behaviours. System strengthening means understanding that WASH exists in complex systems with many component parts and within different social, economic, political and environmental contexts. We understand the WASH system to be all the people, behaviours, policies, processes, resources, interactions, and institutions necessary for the delivery of inclusive, lasting, universal access to WASH.

## Security sensitive programming:

We will adopt a systemic approach to working in Nigeria's fragile context where security challenges are rife. We will use scenario plans and clear early warning indicators. Local acceptance of our work will be key, and we will explore the right partnerships to enable flexible and adaptive programmes in insecure and unpredictable settings. Heightened standard operating procedures will be used for safety and security, and these will be integrated into our programme design to ensure we can continue to work safely and sustainably despite the fragile and unpredictable context.

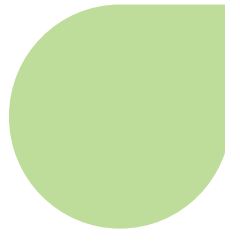


Join  
us

We have always worked towards the day when everyone, everywhere in Nigeria has sustainable and safe WASH. This strategy will bring that day closer, even faster.

We call on you to join us in creating and delivering a monumental shift to transform water, sanitation and hygiene services for entire communities and towns. Together, we will unlock better futures for everyone. We have a strong and effective programme delivery capacity, with adaptable, evolving, innovative and tested approaches. We will work with determination and urgency to reach everyone, everywhere in Nigeria with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene by the end of this decade.


Change is possible, and the time for change is now. Together, we can achieve a future where WaterAid Nigeria no longer needs to exist.





WaterAid is an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good.



Rumasa'u fetching at a water point provided by WaterAid as part of the Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Delivery Systems (SWADS) project in Guyaba, Kirfi LGA, Bauchi State, 2019.

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