

WaterAid Nigeria Country Programme Strategy

2023 - 2028



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



Contents

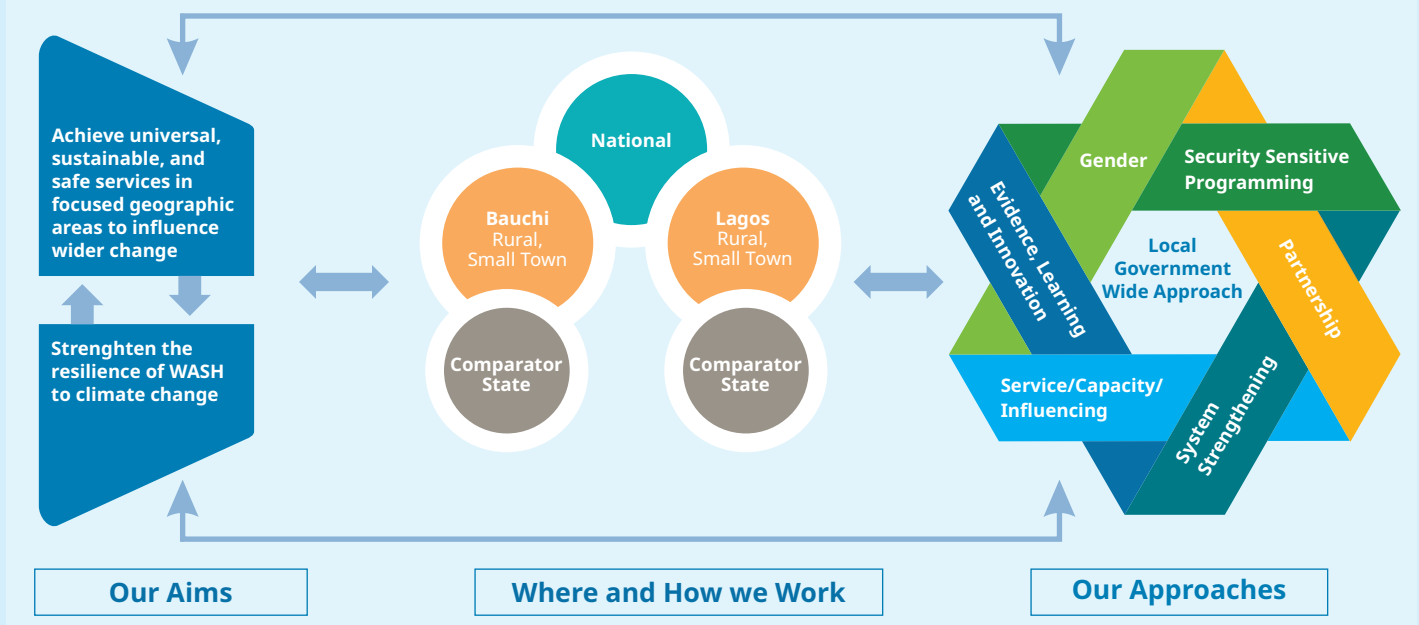
1.	Introduction	3
2.	Our ambition as a country programme.....	5
	Our added value	6
	Key shifts	6
3.	Our strategic aims for 2023–2028	7
	Aim 1: Achieve universal, sustainable, and safe access in focused geographic areas to influence wider change	7
	Rationale for the selection of this aim.....	7
	Impact and outcomes.....	8
	How we will work to deliver the outcomes	9
	Aim 2: Strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change.....	10
	Rationale for the selection of this aim.....	10
	Impact and Outcomes	11
	How we will work to deliver the outcomes	11
4.	Our approaches	13
	Services/Capacity/Influencing.....	13
	Gender-responsive WASH services and behaviours.....	14
	Partnerships and alliances	14
	Evidence, learning and innovation.....	14
	Local government wide approach	14
	System strengthening	15
	Security sensitive programming	15
	Our commitment and call	15

Cover Image: Children playing at a newly installed water point connected to a motorised borehole in Umabor, Nsukka LGA, Enugu State Enugu State provided by WaterAid through funding from The CocaCola Foundation, November 2020.

1

Introduction

WaterAid Nigeria Country Strategy At A Glance



Safe, inclusive and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are not only key to achieving a full and healthy life, they also underpin the realisation of national, socio-economic development. WASH enhances citizens ability to maximise their potentials and realise their rights. That millions are currently denied access to these three essentials is a national crisis that compromises their health, disempowers and impoverishes them. **WaterAid's global vision** is a world where:



Everyone, everywhere has their human right to WASH protected, facilitated and fulfilled.



No one is forced to compromise their dignity and safety by defecating in the open.



Every woman or girl can improve their productivity, realise their rights to a good education and live free of the risk of gender-based violence



No community is ravaged by an endless cycle of sickness, disease and poverty arising from a lack of WASH.

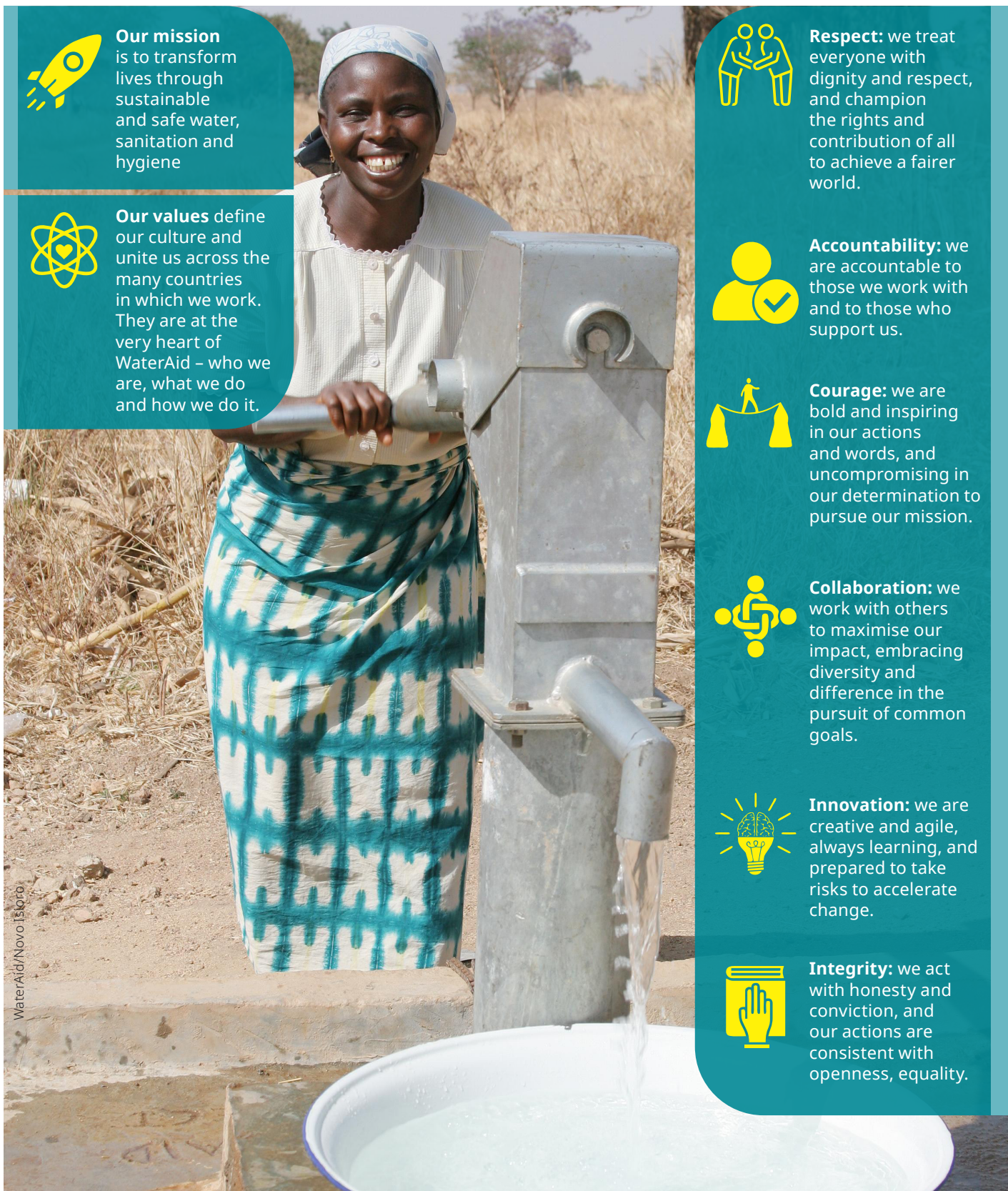


High rates of maternal and infant mortality due to poor WASH become a distant memory.



More people can face the future with confidence and assurance that the changing climate will not deprive them of the quality and quantity of water they need.

In our new global strategy (2022-2032), we will work with our partners and allies to reach 400 million more people with sustainable and safe WASH and mobilise \$15 billion more a year for WASH in low- and middle-income countries.



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.

In the past 27 years, WaterAid Nigeria has been working towards the day when everyone in the country has access to sustainable and safe WASH services. Whilst some progress has been made, facilitated by political will at Federal level, it is necessary to support the development of a strong enabling environment to create the nationwide impact required. Our new strategy, bolder and more ambitious than the last, lays out our blueprint for maximising the emerging opportunities through systemic change and accelerating impact over the next five years.



Our ambition as a country programme

Nigeria is a country of global importance for achieving universal access to WASH due to its size, population, economic strength, geo-strategic significance, and influence beyond its borders. Achieving universal WASH coverage in Nigeria therefore 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 over the next five years with two strategic aims:



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.

Central to this ambition is our support to the Federal, State and Local Governments of Nigeria and collaboration with targeted communities, to deliver and scale-up **WASH solutions that are sustainable, climate-resilient, gender-responsive and 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. Through this, we will galvanise efforts and mobilise human, financial, intellectual and social resources in every Local Government Area (LGA) and city where we work as a foundation to improving the WASH sector and transforming 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 the catalyst for sustainable and safe WASH for communities in specified LGAs in Bauchi and Lagos states, supporting and influencing service providers and government authorities to deliver change. We will also engage sudden emerging opportunities to maximise impact in other states.

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

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 effect of climate change on WASH, anchor learning initiatives through our impactful work on the ground and use these experiences to influence positive change.

Our added value

WaterAid Nigeria'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 systems' strengthening approach to address WASH sector blockages, pilot sustainable

models that we then use to influence support replication and scale up by government and other development partners, whilst continuously advocating 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 for improved access to WASH. We strengthen community and citizen engagement processes and civil society organisation (CSO) capacity to amplify issues on WASH.

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 prioritized and strategically positioned in climate change adaptation strategies.



Circular sanitation economy – our approach to sanitation will be more holistic, focusing on all the links of the sanitation service chain and supporting government deliver safely managed sanitation and derive the wider impacts that sanitation could contribute to overall economic growth in other sectors such as agriculture, area-wide multiple water use, environment and climate change.



Public private partnerships – we will increase our focus on building long lasting partnerships that harness the strengths of public and private sectors to drive business potentials in WASH. Our partnership engagements will include partners and public institutions in other sectors, to bring WASH as part of the drivers of sustainable economic growth of the area and nation.



Comparator states – we will be more deliberate in working with states that border our focal states by providing technical assistance and supporting them to be part of our implementation process as a route to keep scaling up improved WASH access.



Gender – As a non-negotiable principle, we will be more deliberate to work with gender focused partners and groups in planning and delivering our programme. We will build on our experience of empowering women economically by strengthening skill and capacity to operate and manage water schemes and village level operations and management. We will ensure that various dimensions of their social and biological roles are reflected in institutional service delivery like 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



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

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

Rationale for the selection of this aim

Realising universal and sustainable WASH access with a route to scale calls for a comprehensive and holistic approach that targets to reach everyone with services. Based on our situational analyses, we have selected to focus our intervention on two states: Bauchi and Lagos, both in urgent need of increasing and improving WASH services and behaviours. In Bauchi, 2021 WASHNORM statistics, basic access to water is 67%, sanitation is 60% and hygiene just 19%. In Lagos, basic water access is 96%, sanitation is 62% and hygiene is 35%.

We have therefore chosen to focus on Aim 1, and chosen Bauchi and Lagos as our focal states, because:

Working in dedicated focal states offers us the opportunity to employ our system strengthening approach in order to deliver change at a significant scale. Based on our

situational analyses, and lessons learnt, a major challenge is that WASH deliveries are often not sustained in the long term. The enormity of this problem underlines the need for intensive and targeted work to strengthen the WASH system to deliver change at a significant scale.

Achieving 100% WASH coverage in the targeted states has considerable influencing power to catalyse major institutionalised change beyond the specific geographic area where it occurred.

By developing these locally driven, positive and replicable examples of how to overcome the barriers, we will have the opportunity to generate learning and evidence to inform and influence a wider approach. Our situational analyses highlighted that there is huge potential to affect change in our focal states. Having worked in Bauchi for the last 9 years, we have the expertise and experience to deliver universal WASH interventions focused on rural and small towns. We will build on our sector strengthening work in Bauchi, deepen and expand our area wide and WASH integration interventions. As a mega city with 25 million people, affecting change in 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.

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)



WaterAid/Racheal Ogunlana

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.

Outcomes:

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

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 town while in Lagos we will focus on WASH interventions in urban setting. Our entry point will be through policy and legal frameworks and strong institutional arrangements. This would include multisectoral coordination to drive integration and with gender responsive solutions. Our gender solutions will address power imbalances, strengthen evidence-based gender planning and promote leadership and decision making of women and girls.

We will engage actively in sector learning and coordination platforms at federal and state levels as mechanism to exchange knowledge and learn from government efforts on replicating and scaling up WASH solutions. At the heart of this are partnerships across: academia and research institutions, media, CSO, youth groups and private sectors. We will adopt a system's 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 and work actively with regional organisation located in Nigeria like Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) on national level accountabilities towards regional and continental

Handwashing demonstration during a hygiene behaviour change campaign in a community in Bauchi, 2023.

commitments like our engagements on Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) and 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 underserved people. On sanitation and hygiene, we will take our rethinking rural sanitation and hygiene behaviour change centred approach to scale 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 seek water solutions that will address challenges for significantly large groups of people**. Sanitation services will be a key focus over the next 5years, and we will work with the private sector to **develop sanitation circular economy solutions** and support government to strengthen the entire sanitation service chain (emptying, transport, treatment and disposal or reuse). It will be critical to work with private sector as well as actors and institutions in other relevant sectors, including agriculture and city urban planning so that treated sanitation materials could contribute to the wider needs within the city. We will work with the regulator to strengthen its oversight function and to drive quality, affordable and sustainable WASH service provision for consumers.



Through our Resilient Water Accelerator (RWA) programme, which aims to assist vulnerable communities in securing clean and reliable water resources and services, **we will focus on water security management interventions.** Water is how people experience the effects of climate change the most and its often through increased water insecurity. This demonstrates **alignment and inter-relationship between Aim 1 and Aim 2** because without reliable water resources and WASH resilience to climate change, universal, sustainable, and safe access would not be achieved.

Correspondingly, at the national level, we will drive universal access by supporting policy reviews, development of frameworks and guidelines and institutional capability strengthening. We will be networked in key spaces to influence and advocate for WASH integration across key sectors including health, education, nutrition and environment. We will work with climate change partners to build the case that essential services such as WASH should form a core part of any climate change adaptation strategy to achieve universal climate resilient WASH access sustainably.

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



Aim 2: Strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change

Rationale for the selection of this aim

There is strong evidence that climate change is exacerbating existing barriers and creating new challenges to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 and 6 targets. It is causing increased vulnerabilities for communities already struggling with poor access to WASH and negatively impacting their resilience. There is need to ensure that progress is delivered in a way that helps to manage existing and future threats and strengthen the environment to enables services and behaviours to be renewed quickly after shock events.

This aim also directly aligns with Aim 1 as universal, sustainable and safe WASH can only be achieved if it is delivered in a way that manages existing and future climate threats. In delivering this aim, we will work at national, state, and local government levels.

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 presents opportunities as entry points for us to effectively engage.

We have therefore chosen to focus on Aim 2, because:

The impact of climate change manifests mainly through water - either too much of it through issues such as flooding or too little through droughts caused by drying up of water resources. It is therefore causing increased vulnerabilities for communities already struggling with poor access to WASH and negatively impacting their resilience. Communities need reliable access to WASH services, otherwise they will struggle to cope with abrupt changes, particularly to water resources.



Women celebrate access to clean water provided by WaterAid.

Climate finance offers a huge but currently underdeveloped funding opportunity for WASH. A larger percentage of funding globally by donors has shifted to climate change, but without a focus on WASH. WASH in climate adaptation plans, and climate considerations in WASH plans is still lagging. We will leverage these opportunities to address negative impact of climate change by ensuring WASH solutions are more climate resilient

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

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: Improved and sustained awareness on the impact of climate change on WASH among stakeholders at national, state and LGA

- Effective coordination platforms established for WASH and climate change at national, state and districts/LGAs
- Climate sensitive WASH policies and WASH sensitive climate policies with clear institutional responsibilities and financing modalities

How we will work to deliver the outcomes

Our entry point to achieve this aim is to focus on strengthening 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 lead to better water management and reduction in waste. **Our work on circular sanitation economy model** would also contribute to the

climate resilience of communities through reuse of treated sanitation products and potentially/indirectly reducing Green House Gas emissions. This aligns with our Aim 1 on providing universal, sustainable and safe WASH because resilient WASH solutions enable communities cope with abrupt changes, manage existing and future threats.

We will seek to scale up WASH climate resilient services by working across the different levels of government in parallel to create the right enabling environment to ensure climate policy decisions and funding opportunities are more WASH inclusive. Our work with states and LGAs will support 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.

With our RWA programme, we will address challenges of financing for WASH resilient services with a focus on lack of data needed to high quality programmes, 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.

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

To drive gender and citizens' rights, we will prioritise and support the voice and participation of women and girls and their organisations in WASH and 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, review existing WASH policies to integrate climate change at National and State level and also integrate climate change policies into WASH.



WaterAid/Matops

Two students of Ibadan Boys High School, Oyo State, wash their hands at a handwashing station provided in their school by WaterAid, with funding from Hieneken Africa Foundation, to improve hygiene behaviour, March 2022.

4

Our approaches



WaterAid/Ikechi Ugwoje.

Services/Capacity/Influencing

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

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

We will focus on water solutions with a large reach, on sanitation services that both support the Federal Government of Nigeria's objective to end open defecation as well as deliver safely managed sanitation in a sustainable way such as the Clean Nigeria Campaign (CNC), and drive 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 policy and guidelines in place, aligned with relevant international standards, and 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 interventions and solutions, and domestication with national policy standards.



WaterAid/ Ejura Adama

Gender-responsive WASH services and behaviours

Core to our aim to achieve universal WASH is ensuring our solutions are gender-responsive and inclusive. As well as ensuring the safety and accessibility of facilities, we will work to address discriminatory norms and systems, addressing power imbalances and promoting leadership and decision making of women and girls. 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 practice social inclusion and equitable service delivery.

Partnerships and alliances

To fulfil our role in helping to strengthen the WASH sector, 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 private sector. We will be represented in key spaces to drive the agenda of improved WASH access and harness the power of these collaborations.

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.

Evidence, learning and innovation

We will base our work on political economy and power analyses and capture political opportunities to progress the WASH agenda. We will be networked 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, and relevant business, and civil society groups.

We will also maintain strong media engagement to ensure WASH commands public and political attention, is covered widely, 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.



Retmun Jonathan, a secondary school student, during a handwashing practice at Govt Day Primary School, Dinkin Rimi, Bogoro L.G.A, Bauchi State.

Local government wide approach

Our approach to sustainable delivery will be to deepen our work, and extensively and holistically cover the entire LGA, as opposed to just selected communities to maximise impact. We also refer to this approach 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 it becomes part of the development plans of the district, town, or city.

System strengthening

At the centre of our strategy is a systems' thinking approach, recognising that tackling systemic barriers to sustainability and inclusion requires efforts to address the

interlinkages across 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 delivery of inclusive, lasting, universal access to WASH.

Security sensitive programming

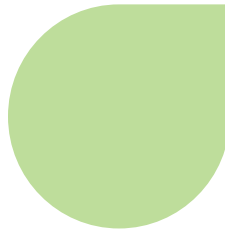
We will adopt a systemic approach to working in fragile context that characterises Nigeria presently, where security challenges are rife. We will use scenario plans, clear early warning indicators, ride on local acceptance of our work and explore the right partnerships to enable flexible and adaptive programme in insecure and unpredictable settings to deliver our programmes. A heightened Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be used for safety and security, and this will be integrated into our programme design to ensure we can continue to programme safely and sustainably despite the fragile and unpredictable context



Our commitment and call


We are committed to the full implementation of this strategy to achieve the objectives and outcomes. 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 and unlock better futures for everyone. We have a strong and effective programme delivery capacity, with adaptable, evolving, innovative, and tested programme delivery approaches but we cannot do it alone. Let's come together, and work with determination and urgency towards achieving the vision and delivery of the global promise that was made for everyone, everywhere to have sustainable, safe water, decent toilets and good hygiene by the end of this decade.

Change is possible and the time for change is now!




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.



 WaterAid Nigeria
Plot 832 Emmanuel Aguna Street,
Jabi, Abuja

 wateraid.org/ng

 +234 810 219 9951

    @WaterAidNigeria

