

Water and Sanitation Sector Profile

- Access to safe water and sanitation is a major challenge in Nigeria.
- Water and Sanitation coverage rates in Nigeria are amongst the lowest in the world.
- Nigeria is currently not on track to reach the MDG targets of 75% coverage for safe drinking water and 63% coverage for basic sanitation by the year 2015.
- Civil Society participation in the sector is very limited in Nigeria and the few NGOs engaged in the sector are of limited capacity.
- Although provision of water and other social services is the responsibility of Federal, State and Local Government Areas (LGAs), government at all levels have very limited budgets and human resources capacity for the implementation of sector activities.
- The statistics on sector coverage are irregular and conflicting due to divergent definitions, indicators and methodologies applied by different agencies.
- The issue of urban water supply and sanitation will be very critical in the coming years given the rapid rate of urbanization in Nigeria.
- Sector monitoring and accountability mechanisms are poor.
- At the state level, institutional arrangements are not well defined hence there is duplication of efforts.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s) ¹	140,004
Population Growth Rate (%) ²	2.7
Total Land Area (km ²)	923,768
Urban Population (%) ⁴	49
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000) ²	191
Life expectancy at birth (years) ²	47
GNI per capita ²	\$640
Population living on under \$1/day (%) ⁵	54
Primary School Enrolment Rate, net (%)	61.5

MDG TARGETS FOR IMPROVED WATER SOURCES AND BASIC SANITATION FOR NIGERIA

Indicator	Target (2015)
Proportion of the population that uses an improved drinking water source	75%
Proportion of the population that uses an improved sanitation facility	63%

Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring

At national level, government sectoral monitoring systems are inadequate to properly inform decisions on national sector investments, sub-sector resource allocation, sub-national disbursing, accountability of funds and actual disbursement. Equally, civil society does not have access to user-friendly, relevant information it needs to become a full partner in the sector. Generally, data streams are not harmonized and sector data literacy is poor. The resulting situation is a vicious rather than virtuous circle. The potential for good sector monitoring impacting on resource allocation is lost at all levels. This has prompted the establishment of an independent sectoral monitoring mechanism: the Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP). The WSMP carries out the following activities:

- Monitors trends in coverage;
- Helps built national monitoring capacity;
- Map out the existing data and information streams relevant to the sector;
- Inform policy makers, civil society and other stakeholder on the status of water supply and sanitation sector in the country.

The overall objective of the WSMP is to contribute to accelerated progress towards the MDG targets on safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and to ensure a pro-poor focus for drinking water and sanitation in the country.



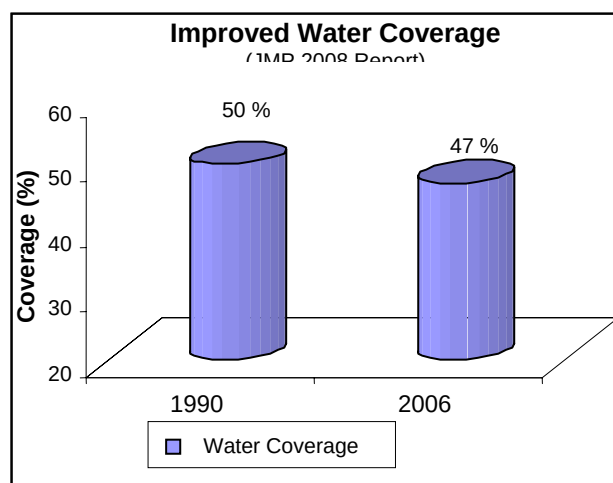
Water and Sanitation Sector Coverage

Improved Sources of Water

National Coverage: Access is Decreasing

Access to drinking water refers to the percentage of the population that uses drinking water from improved sources. Improved drinking water includes household connections, public stand pipes, boreholes, protected wells and springs.

- According to the 2008 report of the WHO/UNICEF JMP (Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation)⁴ the proportion of the population using water from improved sources has decreased by 3% from 1990 to 2006.
- The JMP report – which is compiled from national data sources – shows that in 1990 half (50%) of the population used water from improved sources, while in 2006 slightly less than half (47%) used water from improved sources.



Urban-Rural Coverage: Major Disparities

Although access to improved sources of drinking water is generally low in Nigeria the urban areas have higher proportion of those with access than rural areas.

Year	Improved Water (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural
1990	50	80	34
2006	47	65	30

Source: JMP 2008

- There is a much lower level of water supply coverage in rural areas than in urban areas in Nigeria: a rural dweller is less than half as likely to have access to an improved water source than an urban dweller.

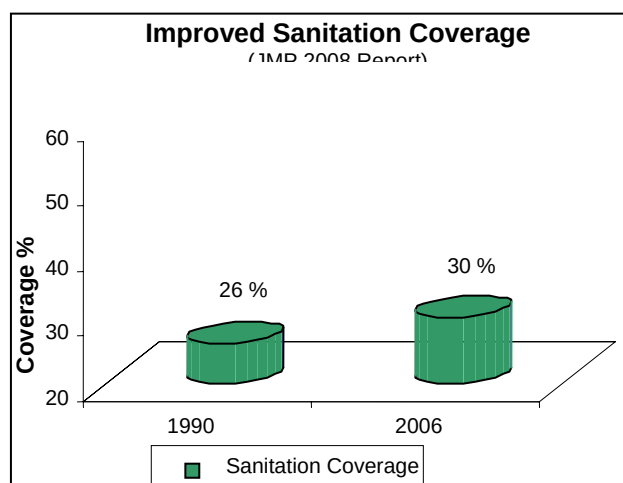
Note: See the Key Data Sources box, below, for information on the data used in this document.

Improved Sanitation Facilities

National Coverage: Very Low

Access to sanitation refers to the percentage of the population that uses improved sanitation facilities. Improved sanitation includes public sewer or septic system, pour-flush latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines and pit latrines with slabs.

- According to the 2008 JMP report, sanitation coverage is increasing, albeit modestly.
- Nigeria is in the bottom 25 countries worldwide in terms of sanitation coverage.
- In 1990 just over a quarter (26%) of the population used improved sanitation facilities, while in 2006 almost one third (30%) used improved sanitation facilities.
- The marginal increase on improved sanitation coverage is a clear indication that not much progress has been made in meeting the MDG target.



Urban-Rural Coverage: Rural Lags Behind

The rural areas are still lagging behind in access to improved sanitation. The situation in the rural areas is deteriorating as virtually all the data indicate low coverage in safe sanitation.

Year	Improved Sanitation (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural
1990	26	33	22
2006	30	35	25

Source: JMP 2008

- While both urban and rural coverage levels for sanitation are very low, rural dwellers continue to have a lower rate of access. There has been little change in the relative rates

Water Coverage (continued)

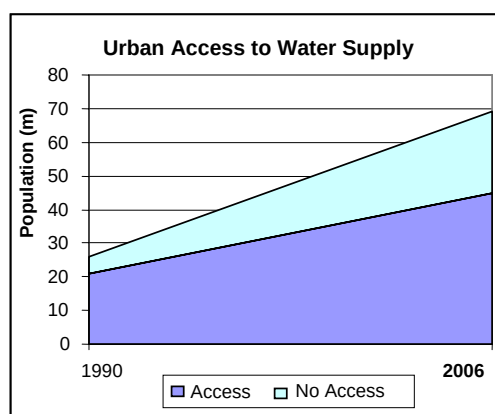
Falling Coverage: A Serious Issue

- The proportion of the urban population with access to improved sources of drinking water in Nigeria decreased by 15% from 80% in 1990 to 65% in 2006.
- The rural areas recorded a decrease of 4% from the 34% in 1990 to 30% in 2006.
- The decrease by 15% in 16 years is very significant at a time that the proportion of the population living in urban areas increased from 30% in 1990 to 49% in 2006,
- The decreases are also significant because of the already huge pressures on existing services/facilities in both urban and rural areas.

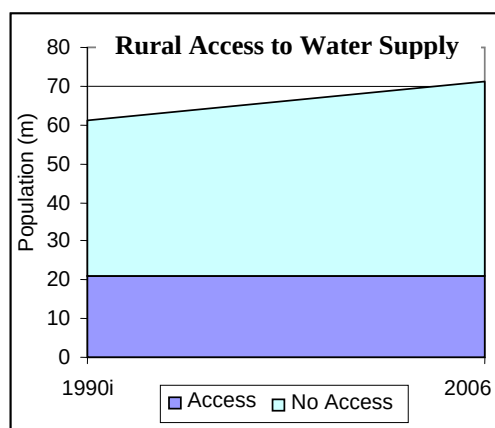
Tens of Millions are without Access⁶

Although efforts have been made by government and internal and external partners, it appears that not much have been achieved by these efforts.

- Twenty four (24) million people in urban areas remain without access to improved sources drinking water in 2006.



- Fifty million people remain without access to improved sources of drinking water in the rural areas in 2006.



- Water supply has not kept pace with the rapid rate of population increase.

Sanitation Coverage (continued)

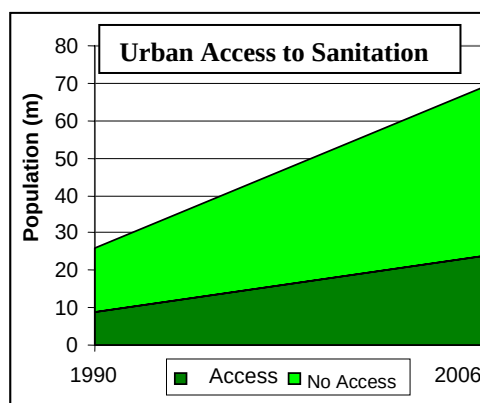
More Progress Needed

- The proportion of the urban population with access to improved sanitation increased from 33% in 1990 to 35% in 2006; an increase of 2% in 16 years.
- The proportion of the population in rural areas with access to improved sanitation increased by 3% from 22% in 1990 to 25% in 2006.
- While this represents some progress, it is very slow.
- Much more effort and resources are clearly required to accelerate sanitation coverage rates both in rural and urban areas.

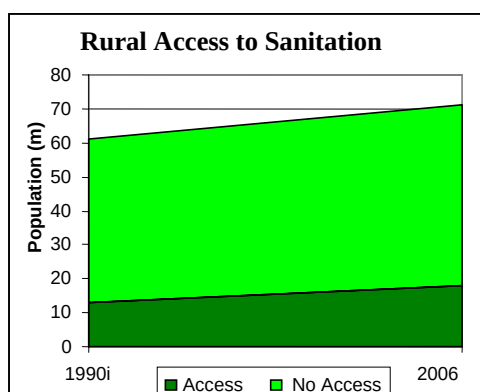
Millions have no Access to sanitation⁶

Facilities that do not guarantee safe sanitation practices are still use by most people in both urban and rural areas. Only one out of three people in urban areas and one out of four people in rural areas have access to improved sanitation facilities.

- Forty five million people in urban areas have no access to improved sanitation facilities in 2006.



- Fifty three million people living in rural areas had no access to improved sanitation facilities in 2006.



- Sanitation has lagged behind and given the rate of population increase access would worsen in the coming years.

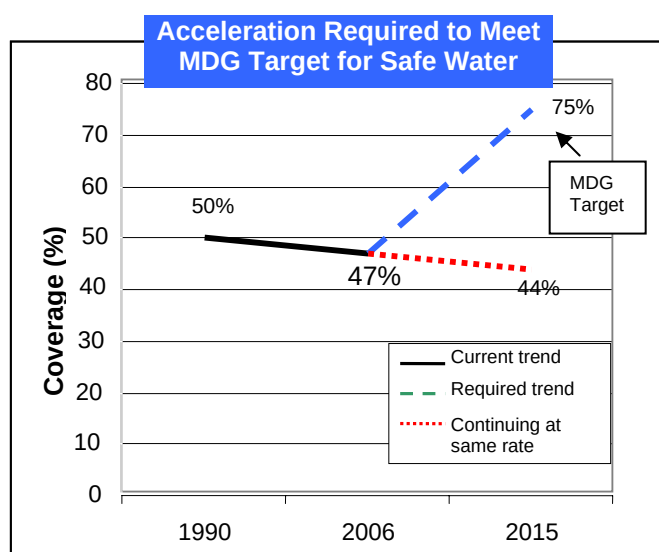
Progress Towards Achieving MDG Targets

The MDG target on safe drinking water and basic sanitation requires countries of the world to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to improved sources of drinking water and safe sanitation. The official MDG indicators for measuring access to safe sources of drinking water and basic sanitation are (i) **the proportion of the population that uses an improved drinking water source, urban and rural and** (ii) **the proportion of the population that uses an improved sanitation facility, urban and rural.** The MDG target for Nigeria is 75% and 63% for water and sanitation coverage respectively.

The graphs below show progress to date, and projected progress at current rates and progress needed if the targets are to be met. The data is based on the coverage figures from the JMP 2008 report, which is in turn based on national surveys.

A Negative Trend for Water

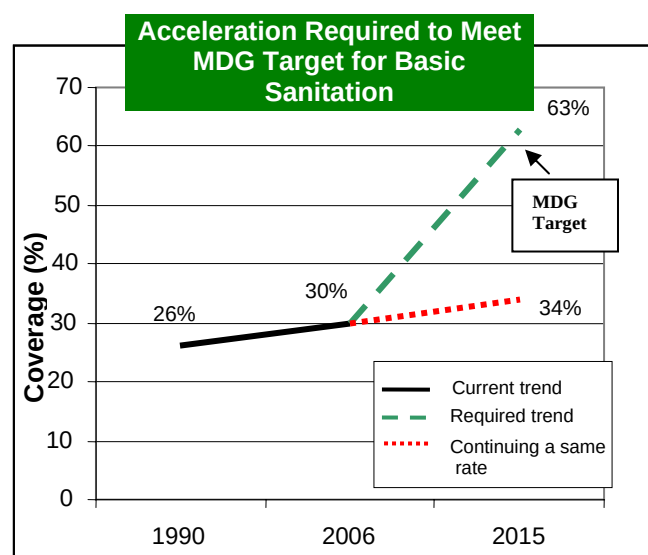
- The regression line shows that Nigeria is not on track to meet the MDG target on safe water.
- If the present negative trend of water coverage progress continues, only 44% of people in Nigeria will have access to improved water sources, far short of the MDG target.
- This negative trend must be reversed quickly for the target to be met.



Source: JMP 2008

Slow Progress for Sanitation

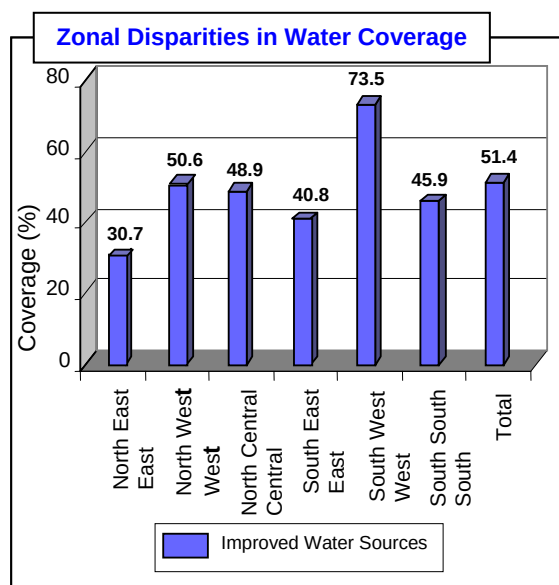
- The regression clearly shows that current progress in basic sanitation coverage is very minimal.
- If the current rate of progress continues, only 34% of Nigerians will have access to improved sanitation facilities by 2015.
- This would be less than half the MDG target of 63%.
- Unless major strides are made, tens of millions of Nigerians in urban and rural areas will continue to be forced to practice open defecation.



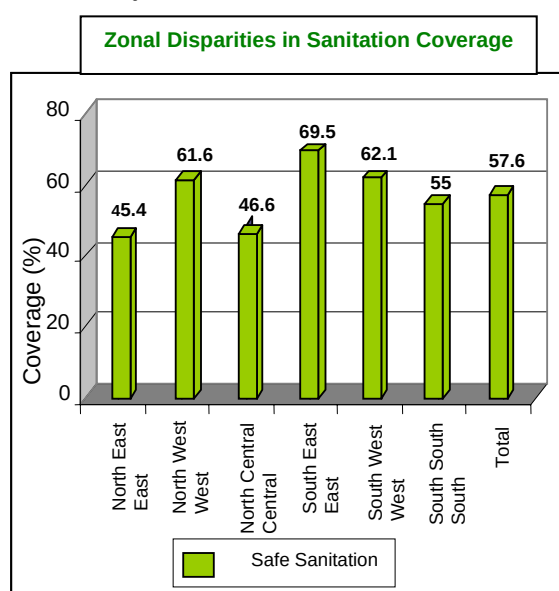
Source: JMP 2008

From the review of data, there are clear indications that coverage is deteriorating even as significant investments are made in the sector, especially for water supply.

National Disparities in Water and Sanitation Coverage



Source: CWIQS, 2006



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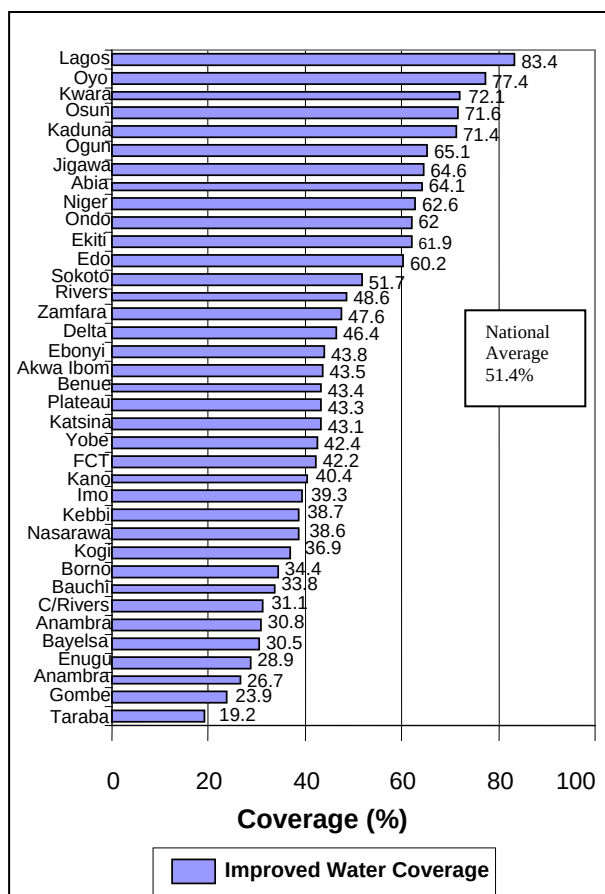
- CWIQS 2006 data shows significant regional variations in the number and proportion of people using water from improved sources.
- Based on the population census of 2006, the South West has the highest coverage rates: only 26.5% of the population – a total of 7 million people – are not using water from improved sources.
- The North East region has the lowest coverage rates: less than one-third of the population has access to improved water sources.
- Further analysis of the causes of these regional differences will help to understand the causes and remedies for this situation.
- State variation is even greater, as shown on the following page.

- CWIQS data also shows significant variation in sanitation coverage data, although not quite as pronounced as for water.
- The proportion of people from the North East, North Central and South South that use improved sanitation is less than the national average (57.6%).
- The South East Zone has the highest proportion where about 2 in every 3 people use improved sanitation. This implies that 11 million of its 16.3 million use water from improved sources.
- As is the case for water, the lowest coverage rates are in the North East region.
- See following page for state level variations for sanitation.

Key Data Sources

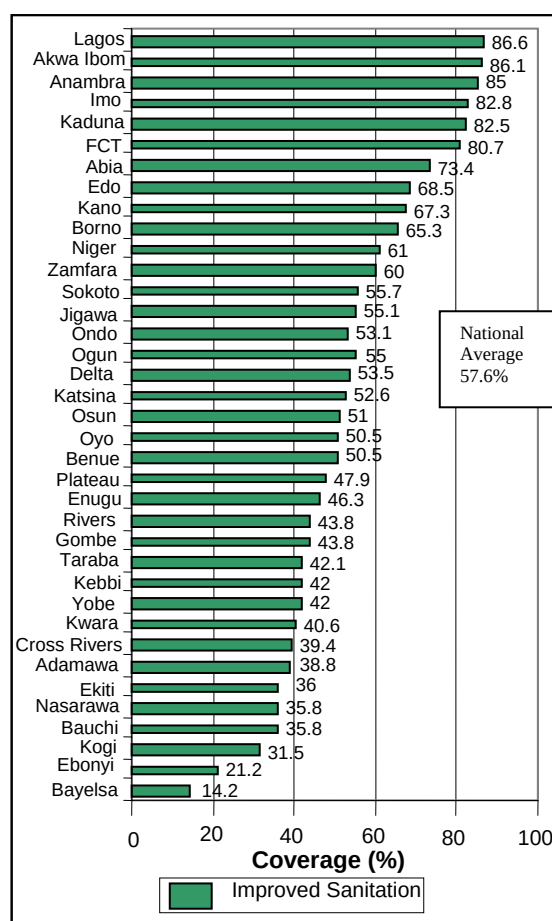
- Coverage data in this version of the WSMP Country Summary Sheet is from two key sources: the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) and from the Nigeria Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Surveys (CWIQS).
- The JMP uses regression analysis of existing high-quality surveys to derive coverage levels. In the case of Nigeria, three surveys were used: the DHS (Demographic and Health Surveys) of 1990, 1999 and 2003 conducted by National Population Commission and ORC Macro. Subsequent JMP will use additional survey data. The JMP data used here is from the 2006 data set.
- The CWIQS was a national survey covering all states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 200. The 774 Local Governments in Nigeria served as the reporting domain. Data were aggregated to derive estimates at National, Zonal and State levels.
- *Note that JMP/DHS data does not match CWIQS data due to differing data gathering methodologies and indicator definitions CWIQS data is used here only to illustrate regional and state coverage disparities.*
- In future editions of this Summary Sheet, other data sources will be used. One example is the United Nations-sponsored MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) that contains additional information on the sector, and will be released later in 2008.

State Coverage Disparities: Water



Source: CWIQS, 2006

State Coverage Disparities: Sanitation



Source: CWIQS, 2006

Conclusion

- Available data and coverage estimates show that improved drinking water and sanitation coverage rates are low in Nigeria.
- Nigeria needs to revisit sector investment levels and patterns, and to mobilize civil and political commitment to meet WASH sector demand of the population.
- Government as a driver of change should strengthen the State and Local Government councils so that they can fulfil their mandate in the water and sanitation sector.
- There is need to enhance co-ordination and institutional collaboration in the water and sanitation sector to sustain gains of the past and maximise benefits of contributions of sector partners.
- There is need for a joint sector review to enable the sector partners take stock of the country development and strategise for accelerated progress if we are to meet the MDG targets on water supply and sanitation.

Contacts

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Notes

1. *Nigeria Housing and Population Census, 2006* (provisional)
2. *State of the World's Children*, UNICEF, 2008 (various government and UN data sources)
3. National Population Commission, 1991 Census Analytical Report, 1998
4. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), 2008 report
5. World Bank Country Brief for Nigeria, March 2008
6. Population data used for these calculations are derived from the 1991 and 2006 provisional census. The urban-rural population ratio for 2006 is based on UN estimates
7. Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey (CWIQS), 2006