

Achieving State-Wide Open Defecation Free Status in Nigeria

SUMMARY

On 26 October 2022, Nigeria achieved a landmark success when the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) validated Jigawa state as the first Open Defecation Free (ODF) state after decades of struggling to eliminate the practice of open defecation. When Jigawa adopted the National ODF Roadmap in 2016, it was acknowledged as one of the top ten states, where eliminating open defecation would be very challenging.

UNICEF adopted the LGA-wide approach, addressing complete local government areas (LGAs) using the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and market-based sanitation strategies. Key ingredients to success included:

- government ownership and commitment at the national, state and local levels
- strong participation of relevant local stakeholders and natural leaders
- strong subnational policies and laws to guide and regulate action
- evidence-based advocacy to sustain momentum
- results-based monitoring and reporting to effectively track ODF progress and guide corrective action at the community level.

With six million people and an expanding population, Jigawa is one of the poorest and least developed of the 36 states in Nigeria, where almost nine out of ten people live below the poverty line. Yet, between 2018 and 2022, Jigawa became the first state in Nigeria to achieve open defecation free status in all 27 LGAs. This remarkable achievement provides a beacon of hope from which lessons can be drawn to make progress across Nigeria where 54.5% of the population do not have access to basic sanitation and 48 million practice open defecation (Federal Ministry of Water Resources, 2021).

Given that the sustainability index for household sanitation services in Jigawa is 35.8 per cent, UNICEF is currently providing technical assistance to devise and implement a Jigawa ODF sustainability plan and is continuing its sanitation promotion programme to create demand and an enabling environment for people to move up the sanitation services ladder towards safely managed sanitation services. (UNICEF, 2022).

Introduction

Why Open Defecation Free Nigeria?

Open defecation has dire consequences. It contributes to outbreaks of diseases, nutritional deficiency, reduced school enrolment and attendance, loss of dignity and increased risk of insecurity especially among children and women. Negative results include environmental pollution and reduced productivity and human capital of Nigeria's workforce leading to economic losses. (World Bank, 2012)

Despite growing recognition of these consequences, open defecation remains a public health crisis in Nigeria with negligible change since 2015. There are still about 48 million people, mostly within the poorest quintile and in rural areas, defecating in the open each year, a figure which has remained relatively the same since the start of the SDGs (Federal Ministry of Water Resources, 2021).

The Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and LGA-wide ODF strategy were adopted in Nigeria in 2008 and 2010, respectively to promote sanitation uptake. Substantial progress became possible following ratification in 2016 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which calls for the elimination of open defecation by 2025 under SDG 6.2.

With UNICEF's support, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) launched the National Open Defecation Free Roadmap (2016-2025). To

underline commitment to SDG 6 a state emergency in the WASH sector was declared in 2018 followed in 2019 by the launch of the Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet Campaign aimed at increasing awareness, mobilizing public and private resources, and stimulating the demand, action and behavior change needed for sanitation uptake.

Since 2016, 100 of Nigeria's 774 local government areas have been validated as open defecation free. The SDG 6.2 target will not be met at this pace. Nigeria needs to build about 3.3 million toilets per year (20 times more than current levels) and achieve 224 ODF LGAs each year to meet the 2025 targets, or 1.3 million toilets and 84 LGAs a year to end open defecation by 2030¹ (FMWR, 2016).

The Jigawa State Context

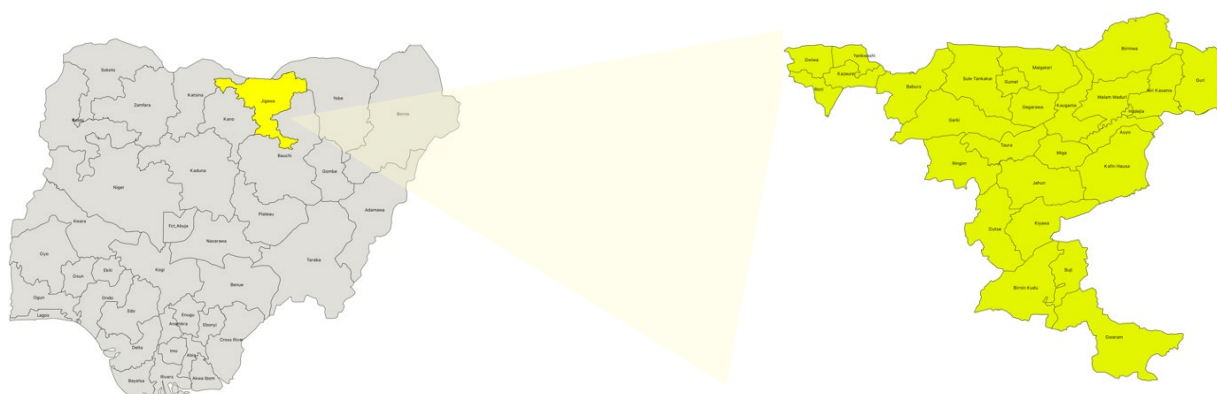
Created in 1991, Jigawa state is located in the northwest of Nigeria, sharing borders with Kano, Katsina, Bauchi and Yobe, and an international border with the Republic of Niger. The state is home to six million people of whom 70 per cent reside in rural areas² (NBS, 2021). The multidimensional poverty rate for Jigawa in 2022 is 84 per cent and the state has the second lowest humanitarian development indices in the country (NBS, 2022) (CSEA Africa, 2018).

Frequent flooding and drought in Jigawa are increasing with climate change. Development is also disrupted by farmer-herder tensions and banditry.

¹ Calculations derived from the National Open Defecation Free Roadmap

² This is based on 2016 projection. In 2022, the population of Jigawa state is projected to be about 7,499,100

Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing Jigawa and its LGAs



The state has 27 LGAs governed by local government councils and traditional institutions comprising five Emirate Councils under the leadership of Emirs who are the traditional leadership for the communities. The Jigawa State Ministry of Water Resources (SMWR), develops and implements WASH policies and plans while the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Services (RUWASSA), Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (STWASSA) and State Water Board are responsible for providing WASH services in rural areas, small towns and urban areas, respectively.

Figure 2: Handpump borehole provided through the SHAWN programme in Jigawa state



Access to WASH Services in Jigawa

Over many years, Jigawa state has been plagued by poor access to safe water, sanitation and

hygiene services. In 2020, 89 per cent of the state's population relied on at least basic drinking water services, 52 per cent used basic sanitation services, and about one-third of the state's population had access to basic hygiene services. Furthermore, 28 per cent were practising open defecation while schools and health care facilities (HCFs) reported extremely low access to integrated WASH services at 2 and 3 per cent, respectively (Federal Ministry of Water Resources, 2021).

Table 1: WASH Sector Status (2021 NORM)

	Nigeria	Jigawa
Basic WASH	10%	19%
Basic Water Supply	67%	89%
Basic Sanitation	46%	52%
Basic Hygiene	17%	35%
Open Defecation	23%	28%
WASH in Schools	11%	2%
WASH in Health Care Facilities	6%	3%
WASH in Markets and Motor Parks	4%	3%

Description of Intervention

Programme Approach

UNICEF's sanitation programme in Jigawa used

the following approach to support the State Government to achieve Open Defecation:

1. UNICEF promoted the use of safe sanitation facilities using the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach to trigger, monitor and sensitize communities on the negative effects of open defecation. Using the National Hygiene Promotion framework, key hygiene messages are integrated with sanitation promotion and campaigns are carried out concurrently with CLTS triggering. Processes for triggering, monitoring, verification and certification of ODF status of communities are developed by the National Task Group on Sanitation³ and implemented based on a Revised National Open Defecation Free Certification Protocol.⁴
2. Market-Based Sanitation strategies are integrated within the CLTS programme to strengthen the supply side so that it can meet the demand for sanitation wares and commodities.
3. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) attract private investors, including entrepreneurs, market associations and motor park unions to rehabilitate dilapidated public toilets and build new ones in markets and motor parks with the aim of creating access to adequate sanitation in public areas while making profits for private investors. Partnership models in Jigawa include service contracts, joint ventures, leasing and management contracts.

³ At the national level, the Federal Ministry for Water Resources (FMWR) in partnership with key stakeholders established the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) and State Task Group on Sanitation (STGS) with a key mandate to periodically review the progress, challenges and agree on standardized approaches and protocols to ensure scaling-up of sanitation strategies with quality across the country.

BOX 1.

MARKET-BASED SANITATION IN JIGAWA STATE

Sanitation Marketing was integrated with CLTS in Jigawa state to strengthen the supply chains for sanitation wares and commodities. This involved building capacities and skills of small and medium enterprises to market and offer a range of affordable technology options to households and construct improved toilets for households. These supply nodes are connected to the demand generation activities through the CLTS process.

Under this initiative, UNICEF is working with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and coordinates with the state Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agencies (RUWASSA) and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN).

Roll out of Sanitation marketing has boosted the local economy in Jigawa state through the engagement and strengthening of up to 50 Toilet Business Owners (TBOs) who are responsible for constructing toilets under UNICEF's sanitation marketing programme.

⁴ The definition of ODF and its set of indicators were set and agreed upon by stakeholders at the national level through the NTGS. The main requirement is that all households in a community have a latrine with handwashing facilities. Secondary elements also monitored include personal and domestic hygiene, WASH facilities in health centres, schools and markets and environmental sanitation. An LGA is announced ODF when the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) visits 20% randomly selected communities in the LGA and confirm that all households, schools, health facilities, public places, markets, and motor parks have latrines and handwashing facilities.

Figure 3: Sato stool constructed by a toilet business owner over a drop-hole latrine in a health care facility in Jigawa state



Figure 5: Public latrine along Hadejia major road for travelers



Interventions strengthen the enabling environment, especially by establishing local structures for service delivery and management (WASH committees, LGA WASH departments), building data and monitoring and evaluation systems, and by supporting local government to develop and implement state and local laws, policies and plans such as the state ODF roadmap, sanitation communications campaigns and sanitation by-laws; strengthening the ability of stakeholders to meet their commitments.

Jigawa's journey towards ODF status

Open grounds and farmlands soiled with human faeces, schools, hospitals and public places functioning with dilapidated or no toilets, and children openly defecating close to their homes: these scenes marked UNICEF's initial field assessments in Jigawa in 2008.

Prior to 2008, the Nigerian Government implemented donor-funded WASH programmes with emphasis on the provision of water systems. Limited sanitation interventions involved creating awareness, hygiene promotion and subsidies for toilets, but provided negligible results in ending open defecation.

Figure 4: Public latrine models



Figure 6: Woman by her household latrine in Jigawa state.



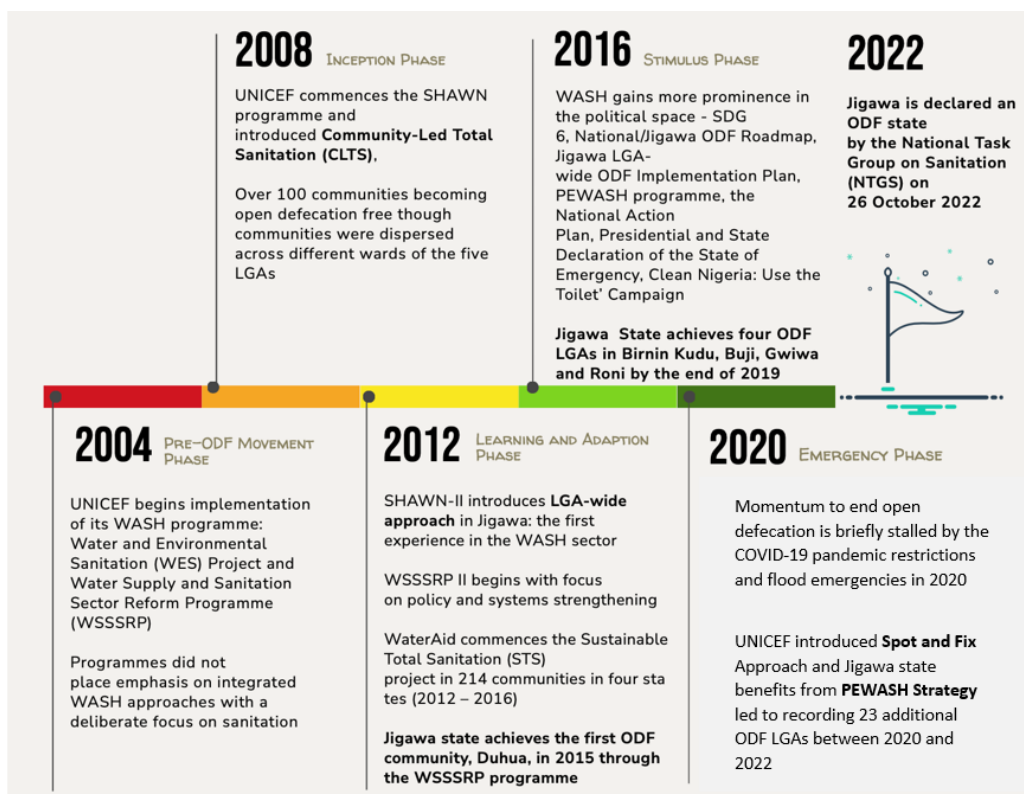
The introduction of the CLTS approach in Jigawa state in 2008, through UNICEF’s Sanitation, Hygiene and Water in Nigeria (SHAWN) project, boosted sanitation uptake in individual communities and can be seen as the start of the journey to end open defecation. Subsequently, the

LGA-wide approach adopted in the second phase of the SHAWN programme in 2014 mobilized key stakeholders and provided the enabling environment for scaling up, while the ‘spot and fix’ approach, described below, brought rapid achievements resulting in eventual success.

Nigeria ratified the SDGs in 2016 and this enabled UNICEF to leverage high-level commitments and initiatives at federal level to create momentum in Jigawa state, leading to the development of a State ODF Roadmap, and Jigawa state declaring a state of emergency in the WASH sector.

UNICEF sustained its support through advocacy, coordination, capacity building, provision of latrines in schools, health centres and public places and technical assistance. The growing political commitment and stakeholder engagement towards improving and sustaining sanitation services at state and local levels helped to fast-track ODF achievements between 2018 and 2022.

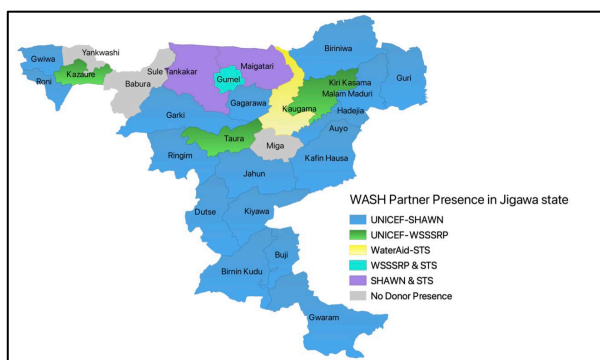
Figure 7: Timeline of UNICEF’s Sanitation Programme in Jigawa state



Outcomes

UNICEF provided direct sanitation and hygiene interventions through donor-funded programmes in 23 out of the 27 LGAs, garnering substantial achievements.

Figure 8: Map of Jigawa showing partner supported LGAs



Through CLTS and market-based sanitation strategies between 2018 and 2022:

- About **15,000** communities were certified ODF and **900,000** households gained access to latrines
- More than **150** public latrines were built through PPP mechanisms
- **134** leaders (Emirs, LGA chairpersons, local government council members, ward development committees, community leaders and WASH committees) were engaged and sensitized
- The capacities of up to **60** government partner and stakeholder organizations were strengthened
- Up to **300** toilet business owners, entrepreneurs and local area mechanics were trained and mobilized
- All local government authorities enacted sanitation by-laws which prohibit the practice of open defecation within the LGA and its environments

Elements of Jigawa's Success

ELEMENTS OF JIGAWA STATE'S SUCCESS IN ELIMINATING OPEN DEFECTION

1. *Government resources, strong leadership and sustained engagement through sustained advocacy*
2. *Strong policy environment and monitoring systems for sanitation programming*
3. *Adoption of the LGA-wide ODF sanitation approach*
4. *Capacity Building and engagement of key stakeholders*
5. *Coordination and Collaboration*
6. *Legal enforcement through sub-national Sanitation Bills and By-laws*
7. *Community Monitoring and Surveillance through the "Spot and Fix" approach*
8. *Engagement of community associations and youth groups for expansion of sanitation in public places*
9. *Engagement of local community leaders for a strong and effective CLTS triggering process*

Government resources, strong leadership and sustained engagement through advocacy

Sustained engagement and evidence-based advocacy at national, state and local level strengthened leadership and commitment, and unlocked funds for sanitation initiatives were critical factors in attaining and sustaining ODF success.

UNICEF advocacy convinced the Honourable Minister of Water Resources at national level and the Governor of Jigawa state to raise the political priority of sanitation. UNICEF consulted extensively with the state ministry (SMWR), the rural agency (RUWASSA), and with the Emirs. UNICEF also engaged at LGA level with local government councils and the chairpersons' committee (ALGON). This sustained engagement yielded results at the political, technical and community level, strengthening leadership and commitment for sanitation programming.

Leadership, and continuous engagement by the Governor was the greatest single driving force and motivation for local government leaders. The Governor's direct involvement at the local and community level boosted the morale of local leaders, built trust in the WASH programme and accelerated sanitation uptake.

Key advocacy wins for Jigawa include:

- i. Development and implementation of the state-level ODF Roadmap, LGA-wide ODF strategy and declaration of a state of emergency in Jigawa state
- ii. The release of monthly operational funds by the state governor for LGA WASH departments. This was strengthened when LGA chairpersons issued financial instructions for these funds to be directed into WASH Department accounts, ensuring a steady flow of monthly funds to follow up and monitoring of triggered communities.
- iii. The Governor openly supported the campaign to end open defecation. He started action in 2018 by launching a Jigawa Open Defecation Award to challenge the 14 LGAs benefitting from the SHAWN programme to eliminate the practice within their areas.
- iv. Government took over full financial responsibility for the achievement of ODF following the completion of the SHAWN project in 2020. Dedicated budgets and operational funds for open defecation elimination activities were promptly released with implementation plans strictly adhered to and monitored by

state government authorities.

- v. The Governor improved the relationship between UNICEF, SMWR and LGA WASH units with traditional leaders. He placed personal calls to all five Emirs to support the WASH team and implement activities leading to the end of open defecation.
- vi. The passing and enactment of Sanitation by-laws by Local Government Authorities prohibiting open defecation strengthened enforcement of law and order by the police and other security operatives within the LGA and environments to punish the practice of open defecation within the LGA and its environments.

Strong policy environment and monitoring systems for sanitation programming

UNICEF supported Nigeria at national and state level in devising a uniform national strategy and plans for use by stakeholders. UNICEF was a partner in developing the CLTS manual, the State ODF Roadmap and the ODF Certification and Validation Protocol which have become key documents to guide programme implementation at sub-national and community levels across Nigeria and within Jigawa. UNICEF is currently supporting the Jigawa state governor to develop and implement a Sustainability Action Plan.

UNICEF supported the integration of Jigawa into the National WASH information management system to allow all stakeholder partners to report gaps and access information on sanitation for each LGA and community. Simplified, but comprehensive, community data collection and analysis tools were put in place to support effective monitoring. Together with the WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASH-NORM) data, this supported regular and systematic evidence-based advocacy, and the planning and monitoring of WASH activities.

Adoption of the LGA-wide sanitation approach

Efforts to end open defecation gained momentum in Nigeria and Jigawa with the adoption the LGA-wide approach to CLTS in 2014 which targeted all

the communities in each LGA towards achieving ODF status. Introducing the LGA-wide implementation approach, as opposed to “scattered” interventions in “selected communities”, provided focus to target all populations in all communities wherever they may be within the LGA. This approach has also helped to address sanitation needs in institutions such as schools and health centers and public places such as markets and transport hubs. The attainment of ODF LGAs was accompanied by state-level celebration and national and state-level recognition of achievements. This created healthy competition among LGA authorities and aided in increasing the pace of ODF interventions.

Figure 9: Latrine in a primary healthcare center in Jigawa state



1. Capacity Building and engagement of key stakeholders

UNICEF strengthened the capacity of the rural provider, RUWASSA, the WASH departments at LGAs level, and the local and the state task groups

that were established to plan, implement and monitor CTLS and sanitation marketing. This has yielded the most important achievement for sustainability in the programme: the effective handover and management of sanitation implementation under the UNICEF SHAWN and WSSSRP programmes to Jigawa State Ministry of Water Resources. Since these programmes closed, the Government has taken financial and technical responsibility for attaining state-wide ODF and has continued to deliver implementation effectively with minimal oversight from UNICEF. Sustained results over the past year have led to the achievement of an ODF state.

Human resource capacity (in terms of quantity and quality) within RUWASSA and LGAs was augmented with skilled and professional external persons from within and outside the state to support triggering and monitoring in communities. This helped to fast-track attainment of ODF status in most LGAs.

Employing and stationing a consultant/facilitator in each intervention LGA greatly supported the development of LGA staff to follow-up on communities and to document interventions. Facilitators were initially financed and supported by UNICEF which invested in building their capacity. When UNICEF handed the ODF programme over to the government, RUWASSA maintained the facilitators and they are now considered essential in supporting states to achieve ODF.

At the same time, repeated training for members of the State Task Group on Sanitation and sanitation personnel provided a better understanding of CLTS programming and the revised ODF certification protocol and eventually improved the quality of certification.

Figure 10: Hadiza Ibrahim, demonstrates proper hygiene by washing hands using ash and water after toilet in her home at Sabon Garin Matsango.



Coordination and Collaboration

UNICEF used its convening power to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to the table to coordinate efforts, maximize resources and ensure that each stakeholder was able to fulfil its role under the state-level ODF plan. The formation of a cross-sectoral LGA coordination team – with personnel from health, education, community development, and including LGA chairpersons – facilitated buy-in at the state and local political level, and the integration of WASH into other sectors, such as schools, health care centers and marketplaces. This enabled personnel from other sectors to influence discussions and community meetings and share experiences.

Figure 11: Gender-segregated latrines built under the SHAWN Programme in Zakirai Primary School, Kiyawa LGA, Jigawa state



Legal enforcement through sub-national Sanitation Bills and By-laws

LGA and community sanitation by-laws are significant aids to compliance and reducing resistance.

LGAs passed sanitation by-laws prohibiting open defecation, thereby reinforcing the use of toilets by all households and in public places. Community leaders passed laws penalizing people practicing open defecation and established community-level taskforces to monitor and report defaulters.

In March 2022, Jigawa State House of Assembly passed a bill to ban open defecation across the state sending a strong message for people across the state to use a toilet.

Community Monitoring and Surveillance through the “Spot and Fix” approach

An innovative Spot and Fix Approach was introduced in 2020 as an innovation in CLTS monitoring to deliver on the ODF certification criteria and indicators.

The CLTS approach requires continued engagement with communities by facilitators who provide technical support with toilet design and construction.

A team of facilitators moves from house to house, engaging with households on the state of their toilets. Facilitators use a specially created “Gaps Analysis” tool to identify where household sanitation needs strengthening. Gaps are reported to the community chief and to the LGA WASH department. Facilitators follow up with the household to address any infrastructure problems. Progress is monitored weekly by the ODF

Taskforce.

The Spot and Fix approach differs from the original CLTS process as it mandates facilitators to remain in communities during the ODF verification and certification process until problems are fixed. For instance, if a facilitator identifies toilets that are missing latrine covers or households with collapsed latrines, s/he mobilizes the community to start constructing/renovating latrines using local materials and stays with the community supporting households until the problem is fixed.

Figure 12: Laraba Aliyu and her daughter, Husna Aliyu at their home at Sabon Garin Matsango in Jigawa state



This innovation specifically targets households with unimproved, collapsed or dilapidated latrines, who require additional support in restoring their sanitation facilities to meet the ODF criteria.

The Spot and Fix approach generally yields results within 72 hours and ensures a real-time, results-

based and grounded approach to achieve and sustain of community ODF results. This reliable monitoring and reporting system reflects progress accurately and assist the state to address gaps in a timely manner.

Engagement of community associations and youth groups for expansion of sanitation in public places

Community-led initiatives drew on the creativity and capacity of local people to take control of their change processes. One example is the use of Market Development Associations (MDAs) and Youth Groups to serve as champions for sanitation uptake in public places.

MDAs sought to end open defecation within their markets by forming and mobilizing volunteer youth groups to monitor and maintain sanitation activities around the markets. Youth groups also made house-to-house visits to promote and inspect toilets, especially in communities without WASH committees.

Figure 13: Public latrine managed by private sector and collecting user fees



Market Development Associations and Youth Groups became instrumental in the rapid expansion and maintenance of public toilets, in monitoring quality and in feedback on ODF attainment and sustainability.

These initiatives were integrated into programmes across the state by engaging MDAs and Youth Groups in planning and monitoring CLTS programmes and by including them as key stakeholders in coordination groups at state and local levels.

Engagement of local community leaders for a strong and effective CLTS triggering process

Emirs, Imams (religious leaders) and other traditional leaders were engaged as sanitation champions to promote and monitor ODF achievements in Jigawa. Community members show trust, respect and reverence for these leaders, who are deeply involved in social and political development in the state.

Figure 14: Advocacy meeting with traditional leaders of Gumel emirate council, Jigawa



They played key roles in igniting behavior change and in supporting monitoring of communities throughout the process, from CLTS triggering to ODF validation.

The State Governor personally approached Emirs who were supported through UNICEF advocacy visits to serve as wardens for the LGAs and communities within their jurisdiction. They ensure that sanitation by-laws are upheld and ODF sanitation initiatives are fast-tracked. The LGAs chairpersons committee (ALGON) and community leaders were also engaged before ODF triggering to mobilize communities to construct and use toilets. With UNICEF support they learned about the damaging effects of open defecation and were trained in CLTS planning, implementation and monitoring. Local government WASH officials consulted directly with Imams to sensitize them on using Qur'anic injunctions on cleanliness to teach

their followers to adopt safe sanitation and hygiene practices.

Figure 15: Advocacy to traditional and religious leaders of Garki LGA



Traditional leaders, together with community leaders and members, created a structure to monitor, enforce and sustain sanitation through regular review meetings to report on progress and challenges, and to help to develop and monitor community action plans that led the way to becoming open defecation free.

In this way the traditional and religious leaders provided visibility, buy-in and acceptance within communities, which was especially significant where UNICEF initially faced programmatic resistance to sanitation uptake. Success in leveraging such leaders became a key tool for accelerating LGA-wide ODF plans in the state.

Emerging Opportunities and Next Steps

Jigawa's success story is arguably one of the greatest achievements for the WASH sector in Nigeria and will greatly contribute to other SDG goals covering health, education, nutrition, gender and equity, environment, poverty and economic development.

The following steps have been identified to sustain and expand the Jigawa achievements:

i. **Provide Jigawa state government with Technical Support to develop and implement an ODF Sustainability Plan and ODF+ strategy** with a focus on multisectoral participation as a foundation to institutionalize vigilance, support and resources and support households move up the sanitation services ladder. Jigawa ODF status remains at risk of slippage without a sustainability plan and ODF+ Strategy being developed and put into immediate effect. The Jigawa ODF Sustainability plan will include:

- lifelong supportive monitoring of the ODF status
- continuous coordination, engagement and capacity building of government personnel, community leaders and representatives from all relevant sectors
- strengthening local monitoring capacity to maintain current levels of awareness and commitment
- continued support to enact and implement sanitation laws at state and LGA levels
- ongoing sanitation promotion
- integration of new innovations and affordable climate-resilient technological solutions to support poor households and mitigate the impact of climate change
- ensure continued community engagement and drive to maintain the new norm around latrine use and make the shift to higher level of services to sustain the behaviour
- technical support to the state to create demand for people to move up in the sanitation ladder to achieve safely managed sanitation (SMS) and at the same time, to build the necessary sanitation markets to manage this new demand.

ii. **Support in developing evidence and sharing lessons and best practices from the Jigawa ODF story to serve as a blueprint for other states.** This will involve sustained advocacy and technical support to other states to scale-up national and subnational interest in sanitation promotion and apply the Jigawa lessons in state strategies to fast-track ODF achievement. UNICEF may also consider learning and study

exchange visits for selected state-level stakeholders to engage in Peer-to-Peer learning to understand models that worked in Jigawa for open defecation, especially at the state and local levels.

Lessons Learned

Many factors contributed to the ODF achievement of Jigawa state, of which factors listed below are seen as major contributors:

- The political commitment of the executive governor of Jigawa and commitments from the commissioners and traditional institutes. This translated into release funding, commitment of time and resources and prioritization of sanitation interventions by all authorities.
- Timely passing of Jigawa state ODF bill to law and local sanitation by-laws was key to compliance thus reduction in resistance
- Simplifying the gap analysis and monitoring tools made them digestible for everyone and easy to use.
- The Spot and Fix approach had a significant impact on achieving results as it kept the community, field facilitators and taskforce focused on addressing gaps and reduce validation time to around three months for an LGA.
- Capacity Building and establishing pool of local and external human resource is key to achieving result timely.
- Shifting from targeting communities to targeting LGAs. As more local government areas were validated, more LGA chairpersons looked forward to joining the success story.
- Inclusive planning and monitoring at state level and LGAs level was central to winning buy-in at local government and community level.
- The achievement of local government area-wide ODF created demand among other

- LGAs which facilitated the ODF process, from triggering to validation.
- Engagement of “natural” and traditional and religious leaders to secure buy-in, ownership, as well as to leverage their support for mobilizing communities towards construction and use of toilets was a key ‘tool’ for accelerating ODF plans in the state.

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UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) country teams work inclusively with governments, civil society partners and donors, to improve WASH services for children and adolescents, and the families and caregivers who support them. UNICEF works in over 100 countries worldwide to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices. This publication is part of the UNICEF WASH Learning Series, designed to contribute to knowledge of good practice across UNICEF's WASH programming. In this series:

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