



Clean Water & Sanitation in Nigeria: A Path to SDG 6



Introduction

The Global Water Challenge

Africa, the world's second driest continent, holds only 9% of global renewable water but supports 15% of the population. This scarcity is worsened by inadequate water and wastewater treatment, especially with rapid population growth and urbanisation.

The UN's Millennium Development Goals highlight water and wastewater treatment as vital for socioeconomic objectives, including poverty eradication, health, and environmental sustainability.

Introduction

Nigeria's Urgent Need

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is crucial globally, especially in developing rural nations. Sub-Saharan Africa lags in achieving SDG 5 targets for clean water.

Nigeria faces significant hurdles in water quality due to poor sanitation, inadequate treatment, unequal usage, and deficient governance. Addressing this requires evidence-based policies and comprehensive management strategies.



Key Findings

Nigeria's WASH Challenges

Despite economic growth, Nigeria struggles with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) provisions. Challenges include insufficient capability, funding, institutional structures, and national policies.

The 2019 WASH–NORM report reveals:

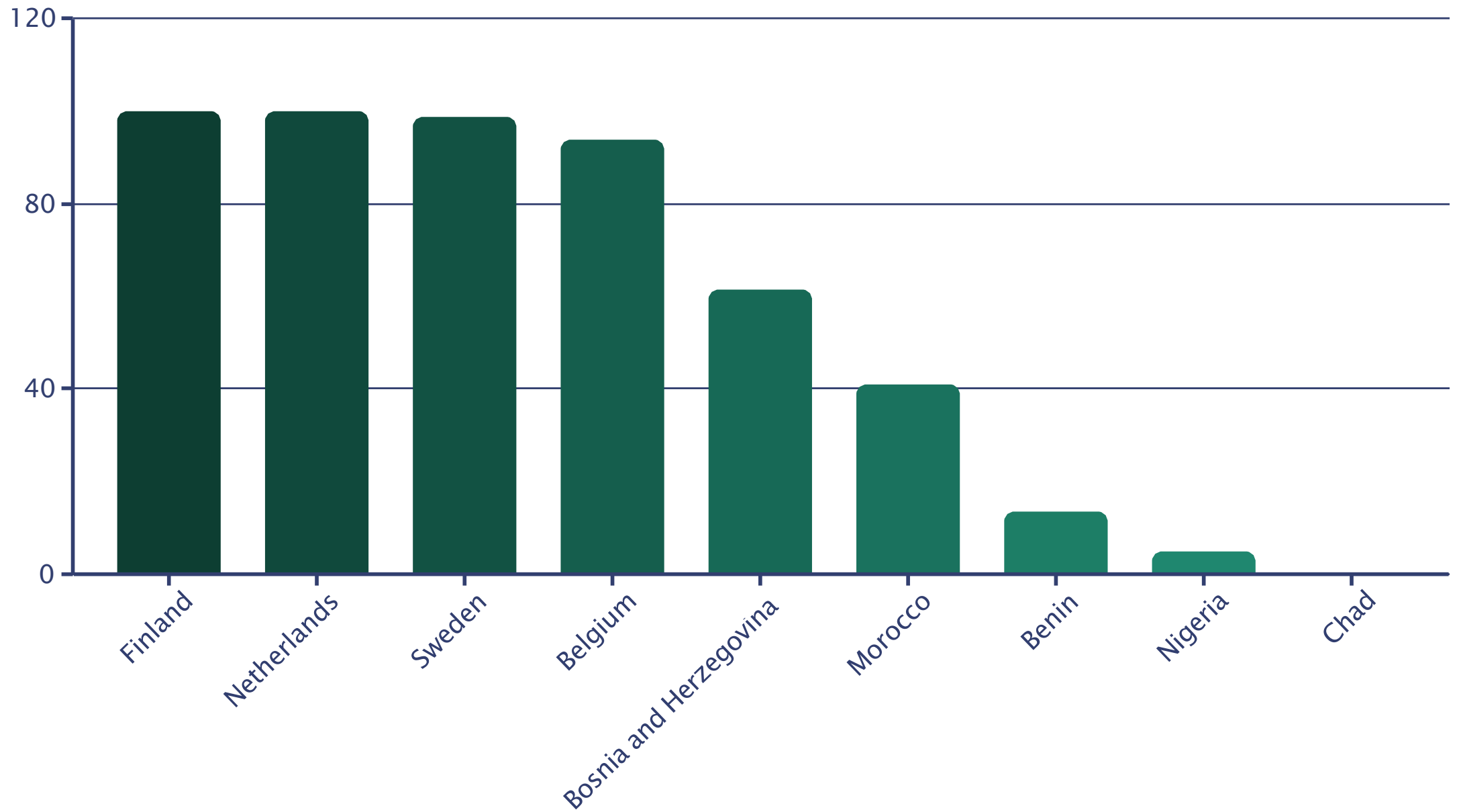
- 30% lack clean water (60 million people).
- 84% lack nearby handwashing facilities (167 million).
- 56% lack decent toilets (112 million).
- 23% practice open defecation (46 million).



Key Findings

Environmental Performance Index

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) evaluates countries' effectiveness in safeguarding human health from environmental risks related to unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation.



Nigeria ranks 177th with an EPI score of 4.9, indicating significant room for improvement.

Solutions

Accessing Clean Water

Communities can access clean water through various methods, including:

1

Safe Water Sources

Connecting to wells, boreholes, or shielded springs.

2

Water Treatment

Using chlorination or filtration at community or household levels.

3

Infrastructure

Establishing and maintaining pipelines and distribution networks.

4

Education

Promoting proper water storage, hygiene, and sanitation practices.

5

Government & NGOs

Prioritizing access, investing in infrastructure, and providing aid.

Solutions

Water Purification Methods

Only 1.42% of Earth's water is freshwater, with less than 1% readily available. Water purification is crucial for making it potable.



The selection of purification techniques depends on the untreated water's constituents and physical attributes, ensuring hygienic and accessible water.



Government Role

Ensuring Water Quality

Governments must implement measures to ensure water is suitable for human consumption:

Monitoring Programs

Establish robust rural sanitation and drinking water monitoring to uphold water quality.

Educational Initiatives

Promote prudent water and sanitation management, emphasizing proper hygiene.

Community Involvement

Engage communities in devising, installing, and managing water delivery systems.

Cleanliness Levels

Nigeria's State Cleanliness Index

In 2022, 176.3 million Nigerians lived in unsanitary conditions. Clean Up Nigeria (CUN) data highlights significant disparities across states.

Top States (2020)

- Akwa Ibom: 80%
- Ebonyi: 44%
- Lagos: 41%

Lowest States (2020)

- Kogi: 9%
- Zamfara: 10%
- Kano: 11%

Ratings are based on physical verification (30%) and satellite imagery (70%), considering factors like waste management, drainage, and public opinion.



Conclusion

Achieving SDG 6 in Nigeria

To advance SDG 6, Nigeria must:



Reinforce Frameworks

Strengthen policies and regulations for water management and hygiene.



Invest in Infrastructure

Develop sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure, especially in underserved regions.



Educate & Engage

Launch public awareness campaigns and integrate hygiene education into curricula.



Ensure Sustainable Financing

Mobilise funds from diverse sources and establish water tariffs.



Build Climate Resilience

Integrate climate adaptation strategies into water and sanitation planning.