

STRATEGY FOR DELIVERY WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES TO THE URBAN POOR IN ANAMBRA STATE



1

By Babatope Babalobi

**Team Leader, Bread of Life Development
Foundation**

blfnigeria@yahoo.com

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT-2

There is enough Water for everyone. The problem we face today is one of governance: equitably sharing this water while ensuring the sustainability of natural ecosystems.-

WHO ARE THE POOR?

- Less than One dollar a day by UN Standards
- Live in squatters and Slums

A recent survey by Bread of Life Development reveals the following definitions of poverty

- *Poverty is a disease.*
- *State of lack.*
- *Inability to provide for basic needs of life.*
- *Lack of basic resources.*
- *State of being poor.*
- *Lack of money.*
- *A situation of economic hardship.*
- *Absence of productive ideas.*
- *Inability to provide basic amenities.*
- *State of not being comfortable in life.*
- *State of penury.*
- *Not able to provide three square meal.*

CURRENT SITUATION OF WSS DELIVERY TO THE URBAN POOR IN THE STATE

- Public WSS agencies in Anambra state lack the human and financial service to provide services to the urban poor
- Private service providers are more interested in providing services to the high and middle income urban dwellers because of the higher profit ratios

CURRENT SITUATION OF WSS DELIVERY TO THE URBAN POOR IN THE STATE

WHERE THEY ARE WILLING PRIVATE WSS SERVICE PROVIDERS LACK THE FINANCE EXTEND SERVICE TO THE URBAN POOR

NONETHELESS, OVER 70% OF SERVICE DELIVERY FOR THE URBAN POOR IS DONE BY PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS...SERVICE QUALITY IS POOR SINCE THEY ARE NOT REGULATED

WSS TARIFFS BY PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE NOT REGULATED LEADING TO ARBITRARINESS AND CONSUMER EXPLOITATION.

CURRENT SITUATION OF WSS DELIVERY TO THE URBAN POOR IN THE STATE

- Sanitation providers are limited by lack of designated desludging points
- Unregulated tariffs per pit or load
- Need for Sanitation, Hygiene and health awareness campaigns in urban poor settlements
- Traditional pit latrines are source of surface and ground water pollution in Urban slums

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REACHING THE URBAN POOR WITH WSS SERVICES

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct baseline surveys and poverty mapping
- Need to collect baseline information on WSS service delivery for the urban poor in the state in order to plan and develop intervention models
- Geographical Information System data need to be developed for ease of reference and for updating new developments

PRESENT BASELINE INFORMATION

Executive Summary of Structure Plans for Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi and Environs, 2009-2027, produced with the support of UN-Habitat.

This report contained a list of slums in three major towns of Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi, and this was used as baseline information .

PRESENT BASELINE INFORMATION

- *Anambra State Community Needs Assessment Survey financed by the Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget with technical assistance from EU SRIP Anambra STU and prepared by Professor Olaseni Akintola-Bello and Mr. Samuel Obi.*
- *This report was focussed on several towns in Anambra state, and captured access to WSS services by various segments of the populace*

Present Baseline Information

*Poverty Mapping and Profiling in Anambra State
prepared by Samuel Obi and Oluranti Afowowe and
jointly financed by the European Commission and the
World Bank.*

*This report profiles poverty in several
towns of the Anambra state*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government must recognize the reality of Informal settlements and put in place strategies to address their needs
- Government WSS agencies should open up partnerships with informal urban settlements
- Government should recognize private service providers in the state, since the state Water utility has limited service provision

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government could built water storage tanks in Informal settlements to supply water to public kiosks
- Government WSS need to develop Institutional frameworks to improve on its capacity to engage with the Urban poor communities

GOVERNMENT AND WSS SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE URBAN POOR

- Government policy makers should create an enabling environment for small scale WSS service providers to offer better services to the urban poor
- Creating an enabling environment among other things involve financing and legal backing for the informal service providers
- Public WSS agencies should formalize and legalize small scale water providers as partners in service delivery and strengthen their capacities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Water vendors need to be trained on basic water handling to reduce water contamination
- WSS tariffs by private service providers are not regulated leading to arbitrariness and consumer exploitation.
- Need for Sanitation, Hygiene and health awareness campaigns in urban poor settlements

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government should facilitate the implementation of WSS programmes in Urban settlements by the donor community and CSOs
- Government should create an Anambra State Water Supply Regulatory Commission to regulate provision of services to the Urban poor by private service providers

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Options such as rolling funds, cooperatives, self help projects should be explored for financing delivery of WSS service in slum
- Support for Informal water service providers
- Generally, Need for pro poor WSS policy and legislations, pro poor institutional arrangement, Innovative financing and Investment mechanisms. And pro poor technical arrangements

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government should prioritize service provision to the Urban poor. Existing gaps in policy and legislations that hinder WSS delivery should be addressed
- Intra sectoral priorities must change..financing within the system should be directed where needs are greatest-among the Urban poor
- Designate sludge disposal sites for Sanitation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Give incentives to private sanitation service providers to ensure proper fecal sludge management
- Establish Sanitation Utility Regulator
- Promote micro financing for private WSS service providers

RECOMMENDATIONS

- New sanitation technologies should be explored- ECOSAN is a water demand management tool that reduces environmental pollution
- Local Government policies and laws should be reviewed to include pro poor strategies
- Give the poor a voice..facilitate the formation of WCAs in communities as a platform to engage with service providers

END