

## INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION FOR SUSTAINABLE COEXISTENCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A REVIEW OF UNICEF-WASH PROGRAMME IN EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*If foreign aids and assistance was designed to sustain coexistence, control disease and malnutrition, arrest famine and epidemics, then its goal has not been adequately met with respect to African nations. At present, the demands for international interventions aimed at facilitating humanitarian assistance across Africa with a special reference to Nigeria are at increase, especially for the provision of good hygiene, control of infections, epidemics and malnutrition. For an evidence-based in this regard, this study examined the presence, activities and the progress of UNICEF-WASH assisted international programs in Ekiti State, Nigeria. In sequence of the research, questionnaires were administered and data were collected, collated, analyzed and discussed. The results were not satisfactory, the programs are not adequately on ground, and their activities are weak with limited evidence of progress made. The recommendation is that government should attract more foreign donors for humanitarian assistance and strictly supervise it directly like every other government business.*

**Keywords:** *Assisted programs, community developments, foreign donors, governance.*

### **Introduction**

International interventions which always being regarded and known as international assistance, overseas grants, foreign aids or foreign support are all meant volitional allocation of resources from one country to another especially to the less privilege inform of donor or contributor to provide infrastructure needed to the recipient country, or to gain other kinds of humanitarian and altruistic assistant (Agena, J.E. 2008) However, the demands for international interventions for sustainable community development are of recent increasing with the understanding that such intervention are critical and essential for bringing about sustainably co-existence and transformations in the lives of people especially among the poor and disadvantaged communities. Meanwhile, to keep and uphold sustainable coexistence and community developments, there have been campaigning through international assistance towards improving local communities by various international donors working through governmental institutions.

For many years, developing countries are been in a deplorable conditions and developmental failure in many parts of the nations in sub-Saharan Africa, sub-South Asia and Latin America; there are evidence of high level of poverty with poor socio-economic development across these developing countries. There are also records of high levels of social insecurity, violence, unrest and generally unacceptable low standard of living Habibat (2012). However, the World Bank as a result of this has pushed her attentions towards international assistance through international agencies such as UNICEF. Meanwhile, the concept of governance and international development assistance for developments converged broadly around the idea of governance as the exercise of authority over a

country's economic, political, and social affairs. Governance is the way the rules, norms and actions are structured, sustained, regulated and held accountable (Eminue, 2005). As such, governance may take many forms, driven by many different motivations and to get better results toward sustainable development.

UNICEF is one of the United Nations (UN) organs that is charge to provide humanitarian and developmental assistance to developing countries. UNICEF is the acronym of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund that was created by the United Nations General Assembly to provide emergency especially healthcare and food to children in countries that had been devastated. However, one of the major area that is of particular interest of UNICEF for international development programs is WASH which stands for "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" that is involves several interrelated public health issues.

Recently, call for WASH programs through UNICEF in various communities has become obvious to increase funds in the area of safe water supply and sanitation concerns (Jca 2010). The drive is to increase water and sanitation (WASH) programs in local communities and improve health and foster hygiene within communities. The crusade was designed to purposefully focus on and resources into key areas like education, health and security, capacity development, environmental sustainability (MDG's 2004)

According to (UNICEF Report, 2016), UNICEF Nigeria fostered and sustained partnerships with Government, UN system, donors and development partners to achieve social and health outcomes for children and women. Partnerships were forged at different levels to operate within development and humanitarian contexts.

- UNICEF partners with Government through the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), umbrella religious bodies and mass media to create demand for health and immunization services.
- UNICEF played a lead role in the WASH Development Partners' Group and also co-led the WASH in Emergency and Education Development Partners Group with the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Result Group on Education with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Collaboration with State Universal Basic Education Boards resulted in better mobilization of counterpart funding for construction of WASH facilities and institutionalization of hygiene within education sector.
- UNICEF partnered with national and international NGOs to promote local industry in design of water treatment and sanitation technologies.
- UNICEF also forged a partnership with leading microfinance institutions to offer microfinance to sanitation entrepreneurs and households for improved WASH facilities.

However, the World Bank supported UNICEF in the implementation of Nigeria Partnership. According to Aremu (2012) Nigeria has through this made significant milestones in improving local communities through UNICEF WASH programme. This research work focuses on evaluating the progress of the UNICEF WASH assisted programs for sustainable coexistence and community development in Ekiti State.

### Statement of the Problem

Good governance to enhance sustainable coexistence and community development especially towards the improvement of sanitation and hygiene remains a challenge in many parts of the world especially among the third world nations (Hussaini, 2014). This is also a pointer to others like education, healthcare, security and energy. (WHO and UNICEF, 2008 and 2010, Banerjee and Morella, 2011). To address this global challenges, efforts have been made through international assistance towards improving local communities by various international donors and working through governmental institutions.

This enactment shows the government’s commitments in improving developmental programs across various local communities’ and within the humanitarian contexts through UNICEF WASH programs. Meanwhile, the achievements of UNICEF WASH programs in Ekiti State has remained undocumented for public knowledge, hence the need to empirically evaluate the collective functions and the current progress of WASH programs by UNICEF/EU assisted programs the and roles of Development partners at household level in terms of resource distribution and its management in order to plan for its optimization in Ekiti State.

### Research objectives

The research work was designed to evaluate the progress of the UNICEF WASH assisted programs for sustainable coexistence and community development in Ekiti State.

### Empirical study

#### Study Area

The population of the study were drawn from the beneficiary communities and the benefited local governments’ area in Ekiti State, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) in Ekiti State and other public office involved in the implementation of WASH programs in Ekiti State. Two local government’s areas were sampled within two selected senatorial district in Ekiti State where the activities of UNICEF WASH assisted programs were prominent as indicated below:

Selected Senatorial District	Sampled Local Government	Beneficiary Communities within the LGA
Ekiti Central	Ekiti west local Government.	Aramoko, Ita-Ore, Erio
Ekiti South	Gbonyin	Ode, Ijan, Agbado

Three hundred and fifty (350) questionnaires were administered, 150 to each local governments’ area and 50 to each beneficiary communities while 50 questionnaires were distributed within RUWASSA agency and other public offices relevant to the program. But, in all, only 250 questionnaire were retrieved.

### Discussions and Presentation of Findings

#### A: Distribution of the respondents according to their genders

Gender Distribution of the Respondents					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	170	68.0	68.0	68.0
	Male	80	32.0	32.0	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

### Findings and interpretation of the table

As revealed in the Table above, the gender distribution of respondents shows that the majority of the respondents are female as indicated by 170(68.0%) of the respondents while 80(32.0%) of the respondents are male. It should be noted that this distribution does not really represent demographic distribution of the Ekiti-State stakeholders and village dwellers population, but just a representation of the distribution of the respondents by the researcher.

### B: Distribution of the respondents according to their Educational Background

Educational Background of the Respondents					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Primary School Leaving Certificate	82	32.8	32.8	32.8
	WAEC/NECO	33	13.2	13.2	46.0
	OND/ND/HND	36	14.4	14.4	60.4
	B.sc/M.sc	21	8.4	8.4	68.8
	None of the above	78	31.2	31.2	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

### Findings and interpretation of the table:

The above table show that 82 (32.8%) of respondents are primary school leaver, 33 (13.2%) of respondents possess WAEC/GCE, 36(14.4%) respondents had OND/ND/HND, 21 of the respondents constituted about (8.4%) of the total samples, are B.Sc./M.Sc. holders, while 78(31.2%) of the respondents had none of the qualification. This shows that majority of the respondents are literate and are able to attend to the questionnaires with little or no help.

### Discussions of the Findings

#### A: Respondents' awareness of the UNICEF activities in Ekiti State

Are you aware of UNICEF activities in this state?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	52	20.8	20.8	20.8
	No	198	79.2	79.2	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

### Findings and interpretation of the table:

The Table showed the distribution of the opinion of respondents based on whether they are aware of UNICEF WASH activities in their local government/ state. Thus, majority of the respondents, represented by 198 (79.2%) respondents said they are not aware of UNICEF WASH activities and only 52(20.8%) respondents agreed that they are aware of UNICEF WASH activities in their communities. The investigation shows that majority of respondents were not aware of UNICEF WASH activities in the Local Governments/ State.

### B: Respondents' knowledge about the presence of the Organization

If yes what do you know about the organization?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	UNICEF has Office	24	9.6	19.5	19.5
	UNICEF has Office/Staff working there	11	4.4	8.9	28.5
	UNICEF has work here	43	17.2	35.0	63.4
	I know a Volunteer working for the UNICEF	45	18.0	36.6	100.0
	None of the above	127	50.8	100.0	
Total		250	100.0		

#### Findings and interpretation of the table:

The Table above revealed the distribution of respondents based on their opinion or understanding of UNICEF WASH activities in the state. The data showed that 24(9.6%) respondents indicated that, 'UNICEF has Office', 11(4.4%) respondents indicated 'UNICEF has Office/Staff working there', 43(17.2%) respondents said 'UNICEF Had work here' while 45(18.0%) respondents indicated that 'they know a volunteer working of the UNICEF and 127(50.8%) respondents indicated none of the above. This shows that only few percentage of the respondents have full knowledge about UNICEF WASH.

### C: Respondents who are not aware of the Organization

If no why?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I am new in this place	36	14.4	14.4	14.4
	I haven't hear about them	17	6.8	6.8	21.2
	I don't know them and I don't know whether they are here in our community	10	4.0	4.0	25.2
	I am not aware of their programme or whether they have office or project	27	10.8	10.8	36.0
	No awareness	9	3.6	3.6	39.6
	I have not come in contact with them	18	7.2	7.2	46.8
	I have never seen them in this community	8	3.2	3.2	50.0
	No response	125	50.0	50.0	100.0
Total		250	100.0	100.0	

#### Findings and interpretation of table:

The Table shows the distribution of respondents based on their opinion on the awareness of UNICEF WASH activities in the state. The results of the findings shows that majority of the respondents which comprises 125 (50.0%) respondents were not aware about UNICEF WASH activities. 36(14.4%) respondents said "They are new in this place", 17(6.8%) respondents said they "haven't hear about

them”, 10(4.0%) respondents said they “don’t know them and I don’t know whether they are here in our community”, 27(10.8%) respondents said they “were not aware of their programme or whether they have office or project”, 9 (3.6%) respondents said “No awareness”, 18(7.2%) respondents said “they have not come in contact with them”, 8(3.2%) respondents said “they have never seen them in this community”.

### Respondents who are aware of the UNICEF activities

If yes what do they do that you know?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Immunization	23	9.2	9.2	9.2
	Digging of Borehole	52	20.8	20.8	30.0
	Building of Public Toilet	12	4.8	4.8	34.8
	Assisting wherever they are called	8	3.2	3.2	38.0
	There is prompt attention to solve any problem identify	6	2.4	2.4	40.4
	Provision of portable water for rural dwellers	7	2.8	2.8	43.2
	Construction of Public Toilet	5	2.0	2.0	45.2
	Provision of water facility for people in the rural area	6	2.4	2.4	47.6
	Construction of Borehole	7	2.8	2.8	50.4
	Provision of Vaccine to the community	7	2.8	2.8	53.2
	Identify some certain problem that can affect construction of borehole	1	0.4	0.4	53.6
	Education talk on personal hygiene and provision of portable water	4	1.6	1.6	55.2
	Sensitizing people on hand wash	6	2.4	2.4	57.6
	Organizing seminar and educating people (rural dwellers) on how to maintain hygiene	2	0.8	0.8	58.4
	seminar on water, handwashing and personal hygiene	3	1.2	1.2	59.6
	No response	1	0.4	0.4	60.0
	No Idea	100	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0		

### Findings and interpretation of the table:

The above is the distribution of respondents’ based on their view on the awareness of UNICEF/WASH activities in the State. The results of the findings shows that majority of the respondents said that one of UNICEF/WASH activities is provision of water facilities like hand pump borehole, repair/reconstruction of hand dug well and immunization/vaccine, some respondents opined that UNICEFR is to constructs public toilet/ improved sanitary facilities. Some said that they organizes seminars and educating people on how to maintain hygiene..

### UNICEF-WASH intervention in selected local governments

Had your Local Government Benefited in UNICEF Programs					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	121	48.4	48.4	48.4
	No	129	51.6	51.6	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

**Findings and interpretation of the table:**

Table shows the opinion of the respondents on whether their Local Government had benefited from the activities of UNICEF/WASH Programs Majority of the respondents which comprises of 129(51.6%) disagreed to the assertion by indicated ‘No’. while 121 (48.4%) respondents tick ‘Yes’.

**UNICEF activities in selected Communities**

Activities Carried Out by UNICEF tick as Appropriate					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Construct Boreholes	84	33.6	33.6	33.6
	Repair and Construct Public Toilet	76	30.4	30.4	64.0
	help Primary School	28	11.2	11.2	75.2
	Others (Specify)	62	24.8	24.8	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

**Findings and interpretation of the table:**

Table reveals the opinion of the respondents on the activities carried out by UNICEF/WASH in Ekiti State. Majority of the respondents which comprises of 84(33.6%) said that UNICEF/ WASH is specialized in ‘Construction of Boreholes’, 76 (30.4%) respondents indicated “Repair and Construction of Public Toilet” as the activities of UNICEF/WASH Programs they know, while 62 (24.8%) respondents ticked “Other” opined that, UNICEF/WASH programs are numerous and only 28(11.2%) respondents said UNICEF/WASH “help primary School”. This shows that the respondents have in one way or the other benefited from UNICEF/WASH programs in the State.

**Beneficiary of communities of the UNICEF programs**

Have your Community or Local Government Benefit from these					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	88	35.2	35.2	35.2
	No	162	64.8	64.8	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

**Findings and interpretation of the table:**

Table reveals the opinion of the respondents on whether they have benefited from UNICEF/WASH programs in their Community, Local Government or Neighborhood and State. Majority of the respondents which comprises of 162(64.8%) said they are not be benefiting from any UNICEF/ WASH Programs in their community and 88(35.2%) respondents agreed that they have in one way or other benefited from UNICEF/WASH Programs in their community. This shows that only few people have benefited from UNICEF/WASH Programs in the Local of Study.

**The benefit of state**

Has UNICEF Benefit the State					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	49	19.6	19.6	19.6
	No	201	80.4	80.4	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

### Findings and interpretation of the table:

Table reveals the opinion of the respondents on whether the State have benefited from UNICEF/WASH programs. Majority of the respondents which comprises of 201(80.4%) respondents claimed that State have being benefiting from any UNICEF/ WASH Programs and 49(19.6%) respondents agreed that State have being benefiting from UNICEF/WASH Programs since their arrival in the State.

### The Communities challenges that UNICEF can handle

Identify the challenges of Community that UNICEF Can Help					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Lack of Public Toilet	114	45.6	45.6	45.6
	No good drinkable water	128	51.2	51.2	96.8
	and many others	8	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

### Findings and interpretation of table:

Table shows the Challenges of Community that UNICEF/WASH Programs can help. Majority of the respondents which comprises of 128(51.2%) respondents indicated “No Good Drinkable Water”, while 114(45.6%) respondents ticked “Lack of Public Toilet” and only 8(3.2%) respondents indicated that there are “Many Others” area which UNICEF/WASH can be immense help.

### UNICEF attempt to address issues

Has UNICEF Addressed These					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	101	40.4	40.4	40.4
	No	149	59.6	59.6	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

### Findings and interpretation of table:

Seeks of the respondents whether UNICEF/WASH Programs address the challenges mention in table above. Majority of the respondents which comprises of 149(59.6%) respondents indicated “No while 101(40.4%) respondents agreed that UNICEF/WASH Programs has addressed some of the challenges.

### Recommendation to make UNICEF Perform Better

What is your Recommendation to make UNICEF Perform Better					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	They should create more awareness	78	31.2	31.2	31.2
	They should sensitize the village dwellers how to maintain personal hygiene/ hand wash	34	13.6	13.6	44.8
	They should help and provide drinkable water in the rural area	37	14.8	14.8	59.6
	Create more public toilet	55	22.0	22.0	81.6
	Organize consistence seminar on WASH Programs	46	18.4	18.4	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	



**Findings and interpretation of the table:**

Revealed the recommendation of the respondents to make UNICEF/WASH perform effectively. Majority of the respondents which comprises of 78(31.2%) respondents recommend that “UNICEF/WASH should create more awareness” about their activities, 34(13.6%) respondents recommend that “UNICEF/WASH should sensitize the village dwellers how to maintain personal hygiene/hand wash”, 37(14.8%) respondents recommend that “UNICEF/WASH should help and provide drinkable water in the rural area”, while 55 (22.0%) respondents recommended that “UNICEF/WASH should create more public toilet” for the village dwellers and 46(18.4%) respondents recommended that “UNICEF/WASH should Organize consistence seminar on WASH programs”.

**Understanding UNICEF/WASH programs**

What did you understand about UNICEF/WASH?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	UNCEP is an International Organization that focuses on the welfare of women and children in order to reduce morbidity and mortality	3	30.0	30.0	30.0
	UNICEF is responsible for the provision of portable water and maintenance of general hygiene.	5	50.0	50.0	80.0
	UNICEF is a United State (UN) Programs that provides Humanitarian and Developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.	2	20.0	20.0	90.0
					100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

**Findings and interpretation of the table:**

The above, showed the responses of the interviewees on what they know about UNICEF. The interviewees comprised of 3(30.0%) said “UNCEP is an International Organization that focuses on the welfare of women and children in order to reduce morbidity and mortality”, while 5(50.0%) interviewees opined that “UNICEF is responsible for the provision of portable water and maintenance of general hygiene.” And 2(20.0%) interviewees revealed that “UNICEF is a United State (UN) Programs that provides Humanitarian and Developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.”

**What WASH does**

What does WASH entails?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	WASH organize seminar on how to maintain personal hygiene	3	30.0	30.0	30.0
	WASH stop open defecation by providing toilet facilities in public Institutions, Market Place, Health Centre etc.	4	40.0	40.0	70.0
	They provide portable water	3	30.0	30.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

**Findings and interpretation of table:**

Table above, showed the responses of the interviewees on their assessment on what WASH entails. As shown in the data, majority of the interviewees comprising 4(40.0%) said “WASH stop open defecation by providing toilet facilities in public Institutions, Market Place, Health Centre etc.” while 3(30.0%) of interviewees said that their assessment on WASH Programs was “They organize seminar on how to maintain personal hygiene” and 3(30.0%) said “They provide portable water”.

**What are the effects of UNICEF/WASH on the development of Communities in Ekiti State?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	They increase easy access to portable water for rural dwellers.	2	20.0	20.0	20.0
	Increase personal hygiene among the rural women as they educate them	3	30.0	30.0	50.0
	Decrease outbreak of epidemics like cholera and diarrhea resulting from open defecation	3	30.0	30.0	80.0
	Decrease in morbidity and mortality rate caused by water borne diseases e.g. typhoid fever	2	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

**Findings and interpretation of the table:**

As revealed in Table the opinion of interviewees on the effects of UNICEF/WASH on the development of Communities in Ekiti State. 3(30.0%) interviewees said “it Increase personal hygiene among the rural women as they educate them”, 2(20.0%) interviewees opined that “it increases easy access to portable water for rural dwellers”, while 3(30.0%) interviewees agreed that “it decreases outbreak of epidemics like cholera and diarrhea resulting from open defecation”, and 2(20.0%) of interviewees believed that “Decrease in morbidity and mortality rate caused by water borne diseases e.g. typhoid fever”.

**What are the challenges faced by UNICEF on WASH Programs**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	High level of illiteracy is one of the challenges faced by the organization	3	30.0	30.0	30.0
	The State government did not reciprocate the gesture through financial help in order to get it across the other 14 local government areas	1	10.0	10.0	40.0
	Lack of basic infrastructures like accessible roads, bridge linking villages are not available	2	20.0	20.0	60.0
	Supply of substandard materials by some contractors which slows down the functioning of some boreholes in some of the communities	4	40.0	40.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

### **Findings and interpretation of the table:**

As revealed the opinion of interviewees on the challenges faced by UNICEF on WASH Programs. 3(30.0%) interviewees said “High level of illiteracy is one of the challenges faced by the organization” is one of the major challenges impeding the progress of the programs in the Ekiti State, 1(10.0%) interviewees opined that “The State government did not reciprocate the gesture through financial help in order to get it across the other 14 local government areas”, while 2(20.0%) interviewees agreed that “Lack of basic infrastructures like accessible roads, bridge linking villages are not available”, and 4(40.0%) of interviewees said that “Supply of substandard materials by some contractors which slows down the functioning of some boreholes in some of the communities”.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

All developing countries in Africa including Nigeria need foreign aids (World Bank Report 1999, World Bank Development Report 2004), from the data collected, analyzed and discussed, many communities in Ekiti state needs assistance and international donors for at present majority of the communities are in dire need of essentials but basic requirements for community developments and sustainable coexistence. In addition, water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in many of the communities are not satisfactory. WASH sector has weak monitoring and evaluation systems, with limited evidence based data collection, poor analysis and documentation which are important for improved sector advocacy. Capacity building to evaluate and advocate equity issues also requires attention. An adage said “Health is Life” therefore, maintenance of personal hygiene among children and women is very important; it should be given adequate attention from local, states, federal and international levels.

Arising from the above and based on the findings of this study; it is therefore recommended that:

- UNICEF/WASH coordinators should create more awareness about their activities and their programs,
- they should sensitize the village dwellers more on how to maintain personal hygiene and organize consistence seminar on WASH programs;
- both states and local governments should give an adequate cooperation to aid the success of the programs at various localities.
- government should reciprocate the gesture of UNICEF-WASH intervention through allocation of funds for the programs in the State budget to assist in the running of the programs across each state.
- in addition, Federal governments should create/empower ministries to coordinates the affairs and activities of international donors; and re-strategies to attract international agencies/donors for international assistance.

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