

Report

CAPACITY AND INCLUSION FOR LOCALIZATION IN THE NORTHEAST NIGERIA WASH SECTOR PLATFORM

Good Practices from IASC Task Force 5

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Capacity and Inclusion for Localization In the Northeast Nigeria WASH Sector Platform

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Geographical coverage

- Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states in north-east Nigeria



Actors and Stakeholders

- **Who are the main financial partners/donors?** ECHO, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF).
- **Who are the main implementing partners?** Lindii Peace Foundation (LPF), GoalPrime Organization Nigeria (GPoN), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR).
- **What is the nature of the partnership?** Collaboration on implementing the WASH Sector platform of common services including the delivery of critical supplies within culturally appropriate information, education and communication (IEC) materials, items accessible for all sector partners, supported by the growing coordination roles of National Non-government Organization (NNGOs) Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) members and Local Government Areas (LGA) focal points.



People of Concern

Direct - National Partners, INGOs and UN, Government.
[North-east Nigeria WASH Sector response monitoring dashboard \(link\)](#)
[North-east Nigeria WASH Sector country profile \(link\)](#)



Gender

- Specific gender-related challenges include low involvement of female colleagues as most of the technical staff in the sector are male.
- Gender objectives or indicators included number of female participants involved in capacity pieces of training conducted by the WASH Sector: 30
Number of male participants who have received capacity building training by the WASH Sector: 45
Number of National Partners trained as part of capacity building: 12
Number of technical trainings conducted by the WASH Sector in 2022: 7



Context

The North-East Nigeria WASH Sector is made up of 16 NNGOs, 17 INGOs and 2 UN agencies, and is led by MoWR and co-led by UNICEF and NRC for humanitarian response. There are more active partners; however, strong coordination is conducted with the above-listed organizations. The north-east of Nigeria is a mixture of both emergency and early recovery,

This good practice was identified and documented through a template developed on the basis of the [2021 IASC Guidance on Localization](#), which aims at supporting efforts to strengthen the meaningful participation, representation, and leadership of local and national humanitarian actors (L/NAs) within IASC humanitarian coordination structures. Its objective is to share knowledge and inspire progress and positive change regarding the meaningful participation of local actors in Humanitarian Coordination platforms. The original draft of this good practice template was developed by the [KORE \(Knowledge Platform for Emergencies and Resilience\) team](#) in the Office of Emergencies and Resilience of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) and was tailored to the needs of this IASC initiative.

with a significant portion of some of the local government areas in Borno still being accessible.

This has pushed the nature of the response to rely more on national organizations, especially because they have access to most of these hard-to-reach areas. However, several challenges have emerged, from lack of adequate funding to sufficient in-house technical capacity to conduct high-impact WASH response, partially due to the inability to be able to pay for highly qualified staff who are already engaged with other stronger agencies, and also because most are self-funded, with minimal budgets.

The North-East Nigeria WASH Sector has initiated several steps towards ensuring the inclusion of national agencies in the coordination platform and also to improve their capacity to deliver. In addition, government agencies have been part of the localization strategy as they also have greater access to some of the hard-to-reach areas due to insecurity.



Implementation and objective

There was close collaboration between national partners and the WASH Sector, with support of the Global WASH Cluster. The WASH Sector North-East Nigeria WASH Sector requested technical support from through the Global WASH Cluster to create a technical capacity assessment for all partners that looked into various thematic areas where WASH partners do not have capacity. Through the feedback, various technical topics were chosen for the 2022-2023 capacity building plan. Further Local Government Areas (LGAs) were predominantly coordinated by UN agencies and INGOs.

In 2022, the coordination of one of the critical LGAs was taken over by a national partner. The WASH Common Pipeline in Nigeria is managed by UN agencies IOM and UNICEF. It provides critical WASH non-food items which are accessed by all partners in the sector. In 2022, the WASH Sector introduced common services, to cover chronic needs which are underfunded. These were covered by UNICEF while an international organization designed and produced Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. However, the local context in terms of language and design issues was noted, and a national partner was nominated to produce all IEC and hygiene promotion material as part of common services. The good practices are noted as below:

- Involvement of national partners in contribution to gap analysis which developed the capacity building plan in 2023.
- Nationalization of production of IEC materials and messaging into local language from a national partner.
- Inclusion of national partners in the panel that scores projects for pooled funds (two national organizations were included).
- Using sub-national leads to nominate active national partners as opposed to handpicking them.
- Initiating capacity building with the Global WASH Cluster with support from Save the Children.
- Further, the WASH Sector North-East, through the NHF, supported an innovative project led by a national organization to develop the capacity of other national organizations with the overall best partners, awarding a cash grant for further in-house capacity building.

The aim/objective of the good practice is to:

- Ensure transparency in the process of nominating national partners in cluster coordination;
- Expand the technical and coordination capacity of national partners; and
- Ensure that materials used by WASH partners are culturally acceptable and in line with the messaging required for behaviour change.



Methodological approach

1. Describe the methodological approach step-by-step so that it can be easily understood and replicated by others (the different practical steps can be listed as bullet points, if relevant)

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- Stakeholder meetings, including dissemination of tools to map potential capacities, including government partners;
 - Capacity mapping of national partners;
 - Collective decision-making in SAG and other strategic forums;
 - Open and transparent expression of interest from national partners.
2. **Were any needs assessments conducted? If so, what were the main needs identified?**
- Yes, the needs capacity of partners was mapped through a WASH Sector partners capacity mapping.
3. **Which activities were included to support local actors and initiatives? Briefly describe them in relation to the localization elements below:**
- Nomination of national partners to the NHF, including supporting already existing initiatives, such as access to a common pipeline for partners who are self-funded.

3.1 Representation and participation

In what ways do L/NAs participate in the process? Are they involved in information exchanges and decision-making fora?

WASH Sector Coordination team, SAG members, government colleagues and selected partners.

Are age, gender and diversity considerations taken into account, including Women Led Organizations (WLOs), Women Rights Organizations (WROs), LGBTI+ groups, Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), youth groups and older persons' organizations, as well as other priority and marginalized groups?

All (active) national partners, including two CSOs, have been targeted as part of the localization initiative.

3.2 Leadership

Why is local leadership needed in this context? On what?

- Local leadership is required to enhance sustainability of all the approaches which have been initiated, especially since there is a sector in North-east Nigeria as opposed to a cluster and it is led by the MoWR.

Who are the key leading stakeholders and in what ways are they leading?

- The MoWR and Sector Coordination group carry out the overall leadership of the North-East WASH Sector.

Do local actors co-lead, facilitate or co-facilitate and co-chair humanitarian coordination platforms (HCT, ICCGs, Clusters)?

- Yes, UNICEF and NRC.

3.3 Capacity strengthening

Describe the capacity development approach of the intervention (if any), including modalities of knowledge and skills transfer

- As stated above, there was a capacity mapping to determine weak areas in technical implementation from partners.

Describe if there is any potential involvement of governments and/or decentralized authorities

- The sector is led by the MoWR in close collaboration with Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) and Borno State Environmental Protection Agency (BOSEPA) which is responsible for solid and environmental protection/waste disposal.

What technical capacities are being strengthened, and how are these skills mainstreamed and translated at the local level?

- There are regular pieces of training across various thematic areas. For example, local/national partners have been trained on: solar water pumping systems, community-led total sanitation, GIS for WASH professionals, cash and voucher programming, and drilling and construction of boreholes amongst other topics all in line with the capacity building plan.

3.4 Partnership

Which partners are involved in this practice, and what are their respective roles?

- National, International and UN partners.

Is the partnership on short- or long- term basis?

- Mostly short-term, project driven.

3.5 Resourcing

Is there a multi-year funding mechanism in place? If so, how is it functioning?

- It exists but only currently supports INGOs through donors such as EU and BHA.

Does it include un-earmarked funds or flexible funds to allow change in priorities with an evolving humanitarian situation?

- Yes, the funds are flexible based on access and needs on the ground

Does it include sufficient overhead costs for management and future institutional development?

- NHF covers for overheads but other subgrants do not include sufficient overheads.

3.6 Preparedness, response and humanitarian-development-peace collaboration

- National partners are involved in various technical working groups and forums that are involved in preparedness and response. The WASH Sector worked with various national partners to nominate them as part of the RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism) funded through UNICEF and WFP to be able to be join first-responder teams in case of an outbreak.



Results and impact

- **REPRESENTATION:** More participation has led to the ownership of the Sector Guidelines, and principles and ensured more access to funding and partnership opportunities, including influencing which areas are prioritized for capacity building.
- **PARTNERSHIP:** Currently, there are two main consortiums with national partners funded by EU and BHA. The improved capacity from partners has enabled the partnerships to thrive, for example, through the WASH Sector two national partners have been equipped with water testing capacity which has ensured quality programming for water supply.
- **CAPACITY STRENGTHENING:** There is a need to map out the national partner's capacity to prioritize technical and non-technical areas that need support and further capacity building.



Sustainability

- **To what extent is the practice institutionally (in terms of national/regional ownership), socially and financially sustainable?**
The North-East Nigeria WASH Sector has ensured that funds supporting localization and capacity building are prioritized. Further through the Cluster Lead Agency (CLA) additional funds have supported the capacity building and localization initiatives which have been successful, such approaches may be sustainable in future.



Replicability and upscaling

An active platform coordination lead and co-lead, deliberate efforts to fundraise initiatives supporting localization, adequate work plans that include localization and desired outcomes, ensuring that the L/NAs are involved in localization initiatives.



- It is critical to document some of the milestones, since localization successes are more difficult to document, this should include tools, e.g., the capacity

Key learning

- assessment tool that was developed with the support of the Global WASH Cluster.
- It is important to involve both government and humanitarian actors, even though the government may not fully understand localization since their approaches are often politically-driven.

**Related resources**

- List of references about the practice (training manuals, guidelines, pictures, video, websites, etc.). Project documents and reports, including monitoring and evaluation studies are also an important source of information to highlight evidence of the project impacts.
- <https://response.reliefweb.int/nigeria/water-sanitation-hygiene>

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