

Conclusion :

This research underscores the critical role that women play in the sustainability of WASH services in humanitarian contexts. By enhancing their participation in decision-making processes, we can ensure more effective and inclusive WASH governance, ultimately leading to better outcomes for communities in Maiduguri and beyond.

Recommendations and future considerations :

The study recommends continued support for women's participation in WASHCOMs through ongoing training and capacity-building programs. Future research should focus on evaluating the long-term impact of these initiatives and exploring additional strategies to overcome cultural, social, and gender barriers to inclusive WASH decision-making.

(Images)



Fig 1: Group 1 brainstorming and presentation of workshop findings



Fig 2: Group 2 brainstorming and presentation of workshop findings



Fig 3: Group 3 brainstorming and presentation of workshop findings

This project is implemented by (Charles Henry TAPALNA) from (University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria)

(Presentation of the utility.—Laboratory or University)

The University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) is a prestigious federal institution located in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. Established in 1975, UNIMAID has grown into one of Nigeria's foremost centers of higher education, known for its strong emphasis on research and academic excellence.

I am Charles Henry Tapalna, a Master's student in Strategic Studies (MASS) at UNIMAID, under the Department of History. My passion for methodological historiography and writing techniques, developed through my course modules, has fueled my commitment to research. This dedication led to my involvement with the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA).

The University of Maiduguri's History Department, particularly the department's science laboratory, has been instrumental in my research. Under the guidance of my thesis supervisor, Dr. Aminat S. Ramat, and with access to the department's extensive archives, journals, and library resources, I have been able to conduct thorough and impactful

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An African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA) Initiative



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African Water and Sanitation Association



SMALL GRANTS FOR THE AFRICAN YOUNG WATER AND SANITATION PROFESSIONALS (AFYWS)

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Project Title : EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE WASH SERVICES AND IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES IN

(A significant images or photographs from the project)



Fig 4: Student Researcher Facilitating workshop to gather findings from key WASH members



Fig 5: Data collection process Director Planning Research and Statistics RUWASSA and Women Groups in Bolorin ward

Background & Introduction :

This research explores the impact and involvement of women in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs) within the humanitarian context of Maiduguri, Borno State. The study assesses the effectiveness of WASH-related awareness campaigns, support for women's participation in WASHCOMs, and the perception of government and NGO support. The research also identifies barriers to inclusive WASH decision-making and the necessity of training and capacity-building programs to enhance women's roles in WASH-related initiatives.

Purpose and Objective :

The primary objective of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of women's participation in WASHCOMs and their influence on the sustainability of WASH services in Maiduguri. The study aims to provide actionable insights that can enhance women’s roles in decision-making processes, particularly in post-conflict settings, and recommend strategies for improved WASH governance and service delivery.

Summary of main achieved activities (including images):

1. Stakeholder Engagement and Data Collection:

- Conducted in-depth interviews (IDIs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) with 15 participants from diverse stakeholder groups, including women in WASHCOMs, government officials, CSO representatives, and NGOs.
- Facilitated focus group discussions (FGDs) with 15 participants, including women affected by Boko Haram insurgency, to gather qualitative insights.
- Distributed 70 questionnaires across different stakeholder groups, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the perceptions and effectiveness of WASH-related interventions.

2. Assessment of WASHCOMs Effectiveness:

- Evaluated the effectiveness of WASH-related awareness campaigns and the support provided for women’s participation in WASHCOMs.
- Identified key barriers to inclusive WASH decision-making, focusing on cultural, social, and gender norms, and limited access to resources.

3. Mapping and Geographic Analysis:

- Utilized the UNICEF-provided map titled "WASH Priority Wards/Areas and Infrastructure in Maiduguri" to identify critical areas for WASH interventions.
- Aalyzed the spatial distribution of WASH facilities in relation to the needs of communities affected by the Boko Haram insurgency.

4. Capacity Building and Training Needs:

- Highlighted the unanimous need for training and capacity-building programs among stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of WASH services and promote gender-sensitive approaches.

5. Reporting and Dissemination:

- Compiled and analyzed data, preparing comprehensive re-

ports on the outcomes of the research, including recommendations for future WASH interventions.

- Shared findings with relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, and international organizations, to inform policy and program development.

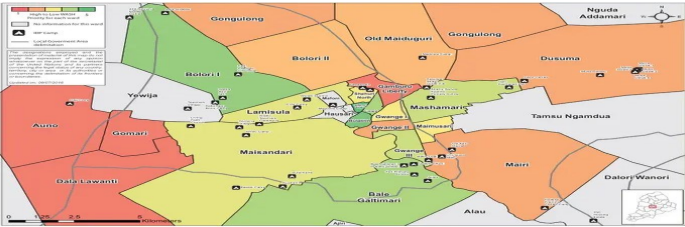


Fig 1: Map of WASH Priority areas in Maiduguri



Fig 2: Group photo with Workshop Participants



Fig 3: FGD with Women Group in old Maiduguri Ward



Fig 4: Key stakeholders engagement and FGD at Ministry of Water Resources and Rural development

Outcomes:

1. Increased Awareness: The research led to a significant enhancement in awareness regarding the crucial role of women in WASH-related decision-making processes. The study highlighted the existing gaps in women's participation within WASHCOMs (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Committees) and brought attention to the positive impact of their involvement on the sustainability of WASH services. Through awareness campaigns and discussions, stakeholders, including community leaders and policymakers, recognized the need for gender-sensitive approaches in WASH initiatives.

2. Policy Recommendations: Based on the research findings, a set of actionable policy recommendations was developed to strengthen support for women in WASHCOMs. These recommendations emphasized the need for inclusive decision-making processes that actively involve women at all levels of WASH governance. The policies proposed include creating gender-responsive frameworks, ensuring equal representation of women in WASHCOMs, and providing financial and technical support to women-led WASH initiatives. These recommendations were shared with government bodies and NGOs for integration into ongoing and future WASH programs.

3. Capacity Building: The research identified critical training needs for women in WASHCOMs, particularly in leadership, decision-making, and technical aspects of WASH management. In response, the project facilitated targeted capacity-building programs aimed at empowering women with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively participate in WASH governance. These programs have equipped women with the tools to advocate for their rights, manage WASH projects, and contribute to the maintenance and sustainability of WASH facilities within their communities.

4. Stakeholder Engagement: The project successfully fostered collaboration between key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, CSOs, and local communities, to support and promote women's involvement in WASH initiatives. This collaborative approach has led to the establishment of partnerships that are committed to advancing gender equality in WASH governance. The engagement process also facilitated the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to overcoming cultural and social barriers that hinder women's participation in WASHCOMs. As a result, there is now a more cohesive effort towards achieving sustainable and inclusive WASH outcomes.