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Nigeria, Water and Sanitation

**Project Save Nigeria: A New Approach to Cleaning Nigeria**

Nigeria is a crucial country in the international trading community (“Nigeria as a Nation”). Its economy is the biggest in the continent of Africa (World Bank). The growth in agriculture and population makes it very smart to get involved in Nigeria (“Nigeria as a Nation”). Although Nigeria may seem like the perfect economic investment, the water and sanitation insecurity must be resolved. This approach can help solve this issue in different types of ways. Supplying more water pollution employees, preventing the issue from escalating, and implementing more effective technology can help Nigeria further solidify its economy and its people.

Water and sanitation is a growing issue in Nigeria (“Effective Water”). Over 86% of Nigerians lack proper access to safe drinking water (“Nearly One Third”). The crisis is progressively getting worse as more than 50% of the population does not have access to clean water (NorthWindProject.com). As of 2019, due to a combination of insufficient foundations, a lack of human capital, poor investment, and deficient enabling regulatory environment, nearly 60 million Nigerians were living without access to basic drinking water (World Bank). Poor water and sanitation has taken an immense toll on rural and urban populations in Nigeria.

Currently, improper water and sanitation programs are resulting in more effects that can be very detrimental for the future of Nigeria (UNICEF). Unequal access to sanitation services is limiting girls and women from education, and careers (World Bank). Marginalized populations are usually excluded from basic services and infrastructure (Obaniyi). Additionally, poor sanitation, access to water, and hygiene services is the lead cause of diarrheal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria; as a result at least 70,000 Nigerian children die each year (UNICEF). Poor water and sanitation increases the adversities in the environment since it can lead to water pollution, which can contribute to climate change (Pona).

“Necessity” can be defined as an imperative requirement or a need for something (“Necessity”). In Nigeria currently, clean water is a necessity (“Effective Water”). Water is a necessity in order to survive and thrive as a human being (Sargen). Nigeria is suffering from inefficient access to clean water and sanitation programs. (“Effective Water”) "The world's water crisis is not coming - it is here, and children are its biggest victims" (“Nearly One Third”). Inadequate access to clean water is not only harming the children’s lives but their potential as human beings (“Nearly One Third”). “When wells dry up, children are the ones missing school to fetch water. When droughts diminish food supplies, children suffer from malnutrition and stunting. When floods hit, children fall ill from waterborne illnesses. And when water is not available in Nigerian communities, children cannot wash their hands to fight off diseases" (“Nearly One Third”). The basic sources of life such as food and water are being negatively impacted by poor access to not just water but clean water as well in Nigeria (“Nearly One Third”). “The figures in Nigeria are particularly worrying, with 26.5 million Nigerian children experiencing high or extremely high water vulnerability – or 29 per cent of Nigerian children” (“Nearly One Third”). Water vulnerability is an issue of great significance in Nigeria (“Nearly One Third”).

The concern of water shortages can be solved with the funding for more water programs to be placed in Nigeria. More accessible clean water can result in less detrimental effects of water shortages. This approach can be put into action by the funds of the Clinton Foundation. The Clinton Foundation supports projects through their funding for programs and partnerships that will help to expand economic opportunity, improve public health, confront the climate crisis, and inspire citizen engagement and service (“About the Clinton Foundation”). The non-profit organization has been very successful in the field of water and sanitation (“Catalyzing”) “By successfully raising $32.7 million for this commitment, Aqua for All will reach an additional 3 million people with access to clean water and sanitation and an additional $107.8 million mobilized towards water and sanitation by 2030” (“Catalyzing”). Reaching out for support from the Clinton Foundation to fund an endeavor as huge as this will have a great benefit on the health of the people of Nigeria (“Catalyzing”). The Make Water Count program uses an innovative approach to scaling water and sanitation services by developing the market and increasing financial access. (“Catalyzing”) It has achieved an overall financial leverage of almost 1:5, has reached 3.1 million people directly with access to clean water and good sanitation, and is well on track to reach the targeted 4 million people by 2024. (“Catalyzing”) “Good Nutrition can lead to impressive benefits, including improved health, cognitive development, and work capacity” (the impact). Through the support of the Clinton Foundation proper funding and support can be provided to begin and sustain this approach. Having proper access to basic necessities has its advantages. Having access to clean water can lead to more work getting done in the field of agriculture, which can lead to economic benefits (the impact). The more work that is completed in agriculture can lead to a highly successful economy (the impact). However, in order to face this “necessity” with maximum efficiency the project must be continuously funded, supervised, and reviewed. This type of project can not be done overnight but through the support, and diligence of the Clinton Foundation it can be achieved.

Water pollution prevention is just as crucial a cause as the actual cleaning of the water. Water pollution prevention programs must be put into place throughout Nigeria (Obialor). “The impact of flooding on water and sanitation infrastructure is particularly alarming as it causes water contamination and damage to sanitation facilities, resulting in the spread of water-borne illnesses such as cholera, typhoid fever, and diarrhoea” (NorthWindProject.com). “There is also an issue of inadequate access, and poor water management. Inadequate access to water, and poor water management practices majorly contribute to

Nigeria’s water and sanitation crisis” (NorthWindProject.com). Due to poor management of the water such as minimal water pollution prevention programs, and sanitation programs, the country is suffering the consequences. Agriculture is the lead of the Nigerian economy (“Agriculture and Food Security”). “Nigeria has an arable land area of 34 million hectares: 6.5 million hectares for permanent crops, and 28.6 million hectares on meadows and pastures (Kamer). Agriculture accounts for about 23 percent of Nigeria's GDP” (Kamer). “Degraded soil produces low quality and low nutrient food. Plant tissue damage can occur due to flooding, which promotes the development of bacterial and fungal diseases affecting crop quality” (“Nigeria Floods”). Water pollution prevention programs can allow for less damage to crops from flooding which will benefit the economy. This area of interest can be solved by support from the Water.org organization. Water.org is a non profit organization that provides financial solutions to people living in poverty and in need of proper access to water and sanitation (Water.org). Water.org uses small, affordable loans to help those with financial issues and issues with water and sanitation (Water.org). Water.org has benefitted millions with their small loans and through increased funding and interest of international governments it can impact nations that are struggling with the issue of water and sanitation such as Nigeria (WaterCredit). Similarly, non-profit organization Water Initiatives Nigeria organizations is working to advocate and implement policies and practices that prevent water pollution (About Us). Through investing in the approaches of these two organizations, water pollution can possibly be further contained, allowing agriculture to grow and thrive. Regular citizens can assist in this endeavor as well. By adhering to water pollution prevention policies funded and implemented by organizations like Water.org and Water Initiatives Nigeria the effectiveness of this approach can be vastly increased. Supporters of clean water can also protest to raise awareness to the issue and educate others on the solutions being incorporated. There are many contributors to the issue of water pollution such as climate change (Gusmao). Nigeria has abundant water resources but through poor water management practices and inadequate infrastructure render most resources unfit for human consumption (Ihezie). The type of technology necessary in Nigeria is technology that can help properly harvest the abundance contained in the nation. Climate change is a harmful result of the pollution from humans in Nigeria and is fuel to more pollution like water pollution (Gusmao). Water pollution has extremely detrimental effects on agriculture which can negatively impact the economy (Tsokar). Partnering with these organizations can allow for funding for more water pollution prevention programs, and in turn can protect agriculture (Water.org). If water pollution is further prevented then agriculture can advance and the people and economy of the nation of Nigeria can progress properly.

One last approach can focus on getting access to more technology that will effectively clean the water in Nigeria. Finland has the cleanest water in the world (Finland’s). “The water supply system in Finland is robust, reliable and cost-effective (“Reverse Osmosis”). It functions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in conditions easy and challenging” (“Reverse Osmosis”). Ground Water or brackish water is from water located in the pore space of soil and rock “Borehole well”, which can be treated using Reverse Osmosis Systems, Chemical Dosing, UV Water Sterilizers” (“Reverse Osmosis”). There are many processes of water purifying that work in Finland (“Reverse Osmosis”). Oils spills have contributed heavily to the water pollution in Nigeria (“Pollution”). In order to combat this dilemma of technology the wateraid organization can be called upon for support. This foundation funds projects revolving around water and its importance to the life of every single person (“How”). Wateraid can use its connections to reach out to the organizations responsible for the successful technology of Finland. “We’re focused on helping people break free from poverty and change their lives for good through the three essentials of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene” (“How”). “Each member organisation mobilises support in its home country, engaging individuals, companies and institutions to raise funds and influence policies to support our mission” (“How”). The wateraid organization can reach out to Finnish scholars and inventors to help implement their technology in Nigeria. In Finland there is a company called Clewat that specializes in cleaning water pollution and treating water (A Finnish). The company uses a machine called “The Cleansweep”, it collects unwanted material and waste from polluted waters with the use of a vacuum, and a conveyor belt (A Finnish). Nigeria can benefit in their water pollution issue with the incorporation of this Finnish invention. Clewat has strived to combat plastic waste, excess biomass, and other pollutants that are within bodies of water (Saving Global). Clewat helps educate different communities on waste management and recycling (A Finnish). Nigerian governments can collaborate with Finland governments to come to an agreement on how to implement this invention. The “Cleansweep” is mainly manufactured and applied in Finland (Saving Global). Clewat has succeeded in their endeavors due to their expertise and variety of workers (Saving Global). The Clewat team consists of professionals in the areas of marine biology, waste management, recycling, engineering, value chains, and circular economy (Saving Global). Through governmental funding and partnership with the business Clewat, the “Cleansweep” and additional expertise can be extended to Nigeria. As a result of this decision, the increasing water pollution crisis can be possibly controlled and lessened.

In conclusion, Nigeria is a country with broad potential. The capabilities of the country can be reached through improving water and sanitation. The application of this approach can positively direct the issues in Nigeria, especially with the health of the next generation of Nigeria, and the longevity of this crisis. Non-profit organizations have funds but through the use of the funds of governments can clean water and proper sanitation in Nigeria be reached. The only way Nigeria can reach this initiative is by proper funding, prevention, connections, and lastly patience.

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