

diarrhoea (23.2% in rural areas, 15% in urban areas), contributing to early childhood deaths. From May 2009 to August 2016, the country reported 37,551 cases of and 1,695 deaths from cholera, of which 45% were recorded in the Far North region. Prevention activities implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the government, NGOs and local stakeholders, however, have gradually reduced the prevalence of cholera, and no confirmed cases have been reported in 2016.

The population's poor knowledge of hygiene practices, a lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities, insufficient funding for interventions, and a lack or disregard for sanitation policies all contribute to the problem. In addition, the government expects WASH and health to be among the sectors (alongside agriculture) most heavily affected by climate change. Other bottlenecks are outlined in Table 1.

Previous experience shows that WASH interventions can remarkably contribute to disease prevention and emergency response. Therefore, the WASH Programme is proposing to develop and implement, at scale, an integrated package of interventions in line with the WASH-related SDGs that address child mortality, undernutrition, maternal health, HIV and a child's right to education.

Poor or unequal access to WASH services is exacerbated by **humanitarian crises** affecting Cameroon, including i) the spill-over from the conflict in Central African Republic (CAR) and the Boko Haram insurgency that have resulted in both an increased internal displacement of people and an influx of refugees from Nigeria and CAR, ii) the nutritional crisis, iii) climate change and its associated impacts, and iv) the high prevalence of water-related diseases.

Although the WASH sector is underfunded and domestic resource mobilisation and allocation remain very low, **there are signs that the government is committed to revamping the sector**, including the creation of a ministry in charge of water and energy and the creation of water resource management and water resource mobilisation departments.

The government has also developed or endorsed several key laws, policies and strategy documents, but most of the strategic documents have not been implemented or need to be updated. The country has also yet to develop some key strategies, such as a national water policy, hygiene policy, water code, and national integrated water action plan.

3. Theory of Change for the WASH Programme

The WASH Programme's desired outcome is that, by 2020, vulnerable inhabitants of target areas, including those affected by emergency situations, use drinking water points and sanitation facilities and adopt good hygiene practices. UNICEF will accomplish this by helping the government to better plan for and manage WASH services and by helping communities to prevent and respond to disease outbreaks. It will also promote the use of improved latrines and increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

The programme will work to establish and strengthen partnerships with municipalities to support the delivery of equitable and gender-sensitive WASH services. It will also strengthen existing partnerships and establish new partnerships with national and international non-governmental organisations to

deliver a comprehensive package of WASH services. It will act as the WASH sector/cluster lead agency, strengthen and promote Public Private Partnerships, and strengthen community participation.

See Figure 1 for a visual representation of the Theory of Change.

Output 1: Facilities for safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are available to vulnerable people in the target areas.

Getting enough quality of drinking water remains a challenge for many households in rural areas. To address this, the programme will organise workshops on household water conservation and treatment in addition to supplying vulnerable groups with appropriate kits.

To alleviate the water burden in vulnerable areas, the programme will support the construction or rehabilitation of water points (mainly boreholes equipped with manual/solar pumping systems, small-scale water networks) and support water trucking where necessary in emergency situations.

In addition to investing in infrastructure construction, the programme will address issues related to sustainable service delivery. It will support the capacity of communities to manage water points, including the establishment of management committees and the training of their members. Also, supply chain issues will be addressed and water pump repairers trained.

The programme will also contribute to the implementation of the WASH in Schools strategy through the development of educational materials and tools on good hygiene practices and the implementation of the Total Sanitation in School strategy. The construction of gender-sensitive institutional latrines equipped with hand-washing facilities will improve school attendance and services in health and nutrition centres.

Output 2: Health districts and municipalities are able to prevent and respond to cholera outbreaks in the target areas.

The programme will focus on enhancing the capacity of governmental and non-governmental partners and municipalities to provide sustainable and safe drinking water. It will also promote behaviour change for improved hygiene, water conservation and treatment, and sanitation practices in communities.

The programme will model integrated, evidence-based and innovative approaches and technologies in two municipalities, provide adequate WASH infrastructure and services to selected vulnerable groups, schools, health and nutrition centres, and act in emergencies.

The next three years will also be dedicated to the preparation and update of regional cholera contingency plans and the ways that WASH can contribute to cholera prevention and response through the promotion of good water, hygiene and sanitation practices and simple water treatment approaches.

The programme will contribute to the transboundary management of cholera epidemics within the Lake Chad Basin. Health personnel, nutritionists, media, municipalities and other key stakeholders will be trained in cholera prevention and emergency response. The programme will also encourage districts and municipalities to use the “sword and shield” strategy to prevent and respond to cholera outbreaks.

With a view to preventing cholera and other water-related diseases, the programme will support municipalities in scaling up the Community-led Total Sanitation approach in target communities. This includes monitoring areas that are open-defecation free, training government and community representatives and NGOs, promoting good hygiene practices and implementing sanitation marketing in rural areas.

The programme also plans to advocate for sustainable solutions to hygiene and sanitation issues through the involvement of national and municipal authorities and sector partners, experience-sharing, documentation of CLTS implementation, and the celebration of international days (mainly World Toilets Day, World Hand-Washing Day, World Water Day).

Output 3: The government and other key stakeholders have an improved capacity to legislate, coordinate, plan and monitor WASH services.

The programme is focused on key WASH sector governance functions, mainly: i) sector policy and strategy, ii) institutional arrangements (including, sector coordination, service delivery arrangements, regulation and accountability), and iii) planning, monitoring and review. It will work with the government to strengthen the WASH sector enabling environment by developing and improving WASH-related policies, laws, strategies and norms and ensuring their effective implementation. To ensure that those policies are based in evidence, UNICEF will help the government to establish a WASH data- and information-sharing system (including infrastructure inventory and mapping, monitoring and characterisation of surface and ground waters, database and training of players). It will also support the government’s planning and monitoring of WASH programmes, including pilot WASH climate-resilient initiatives.

The programme will advocate for more funding for WASH services, including by supporting the adoption and implementation of a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp), which is a sustained government-led partnership with donor agencies and other groups. Applying sector-wide policies will ensure WASH sector reforms and will change the dynamic between the government and its technical and financial partners.

The response to humanitarian crises will be integrated into WASH initiatives that target the most vulnerable groups, including communities hosting refugees, IDPs, or populations affected by natural disasters and water-related epidemics.

4. Results Structure

The programme will ensure that vulnerable inhabitants of target areas, including those affected by emergency situations, use drinking water points and sanitation facilities and adopt good hygiene

Significant deterioration of security situation in targeted areas

New community don't members respect good practices

Private Companies and NGOs aren't able to deliver

Regular departure of trained government staff

Vulnerable inhabitants, including those affected by emergency situations, use drinking water points and sanitation facilities and adopt good hygiene practices.

Water and sanitation infrastructure management mechanism implemented by municipalities and communities.

Inhabitants of vulnerable areas cope with cholera outbreaks.

Government applies policies, strategies and legal frameworks.

Facilities for safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are available to vulnerable people in the target areas.

Health districts and municipalities are able to prevent and respond to cholera outbreaks in the target areas.

The government and other key stakeholders have an improved capacity to legislate, plan and coordinate WASH services.

Infrastructure is constructed, taking into consideration the needs expressed by the population and the sociocultural context.

Cholera remains a priority for health districts and municipalities.

Improvement of WASH sector management and financing is a priority for the government.

Service delivery: construction of water points and latrines
Capacity building: reinforcement of decentralised community capacity in terms of access to sustainable WASH services, development of guidelines for WASH infrastructure construction
Advocacy: for the ISO Certification of private companies
Empowering communities: implementation of Total Sanitation in Schools

Strengthen enabling environment: preparation and update of regional/national cholera contingency plans
Partnerships: with municipalities, NGOs and health centres for the promotion of good WASH practices, CLTS implementation
Supply delivery: procurement and pre-positioning of WASH kits
South-South cooperation: for the transboundary management of cholera
Capacity building: cholera prevention and response
Advocacy: for sustainable solutions to hygiene and sanitation issues

Strengthen enabling environment: support the elaboration of IWRM Action Plan and water code, support the adoption of the Sector-Wide Approach, help with sector coordination
Evidence generation: data management, pilot innovative WASH, climate-resilient initiatives
Advocacy: for government budget allocation to the sector

Private Companies – NGOs & Associations – UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNDP, WHO) – Firms – C4D/Education/Health/Nutrition sections

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note for the Record

Subject: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As part of the development of the [REDACTED] and in accordance with recommended practice, the UNICEF Country Office [REDACTED] has undertaken an initial screening of all proposed activities within each draft programme component to assess their potential impact on the environment.

The Country Office applied the recommended assessment methodology as described in the PPP Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3 (the Manual's 2011 version), namely Checklist 1 "Initial Screening". The completed checklist attached to this note reflects that the Country Office considers that the programme components contemplated in the draft Country Programme Document, submitted to the UNICEF [REDACTED], should have no impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 1 – Checklist 1 "*Initial Screening*"

[REDACTED]

Checklist 1- Initial Screening

Does the proposed programme or project contain activities that fall under one or more of the following categories? If the answer is **NO**, and EIA is not required, and the process is complete

- Extraction of water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, and rain water) NO
- Disposal of solid or liquid wastes (e.g., human faeces, animal wastes, used supplies from a health centre or health campaign) NO
- Use of chemical (e.g., pesticides, insecticides, paint and water disinfectant) NO
- Use of energy (e.g., coal, gas, oil, wood and hydro, solar or wind power) NO
- Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., trees, plants, minerals, rocks, soil) NO
- Construction work above household level (e.g., hospital or school) NO
- Changing land use (deforestation, forestation, and developing industrial housing or recreational centres) NO
- Agricultural production (e.g., growing crops, fish farming) NO
- Industrial production (e.g., small scale town/village workshops) NO

