

Improvements in SDG 6

The NBS National outcome report on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), suggests improvements in achieving SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) in Nigeria. Accesses to the three WASH areas is indicated to have advanced in five years, up until 2018. In 2013, 56.9% of Nigeria's population had access to improved and safe drinking water; by 2018, those who had access increased to 73.4%¹. Similarly, although about 24.4% of Nigerian household members still practice open defecation, access to improved sanitation enhanced from 35.7% in 2013, to 57.4% in 2018. In terms of hygiene, about 91.4% of household heads were reported to have knowledge of at least two critical times for hand-washing. The remarkable advancements and progress in achieving the SDG 6 may not be unconnected to policy collaborations and structured multi-sectored partnerships between the Nigerian government and international partners like UNICEF. For instance, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and National Open Defecation Free (ODF) road maps², and the PEWASH (Partnership for Expanded Water Supply and Sanitation) policy introduced in 2016³, have provided coordinated framework, strategies, and projects responsible for the recent progress and towards 100% achievement of goal 6 by 2030. Going forward, more exchanges with other African countries on progress, challenges, and needs in the critical areas of the use of data and technological advances is key to better implementation and monitoring.

Decline in Cashless Transactions

The banking sector recorded decrease in the number of transactions and e-payments made in 2019Q1. Quarter-over-Quarter, volume of transactions declined by 9.7%, from 616.5 million to a total of 557 million⁴; this is synonymous to the 13% fall in e-payments value from ₦39.15 trillion in 2018Q4 to ₦34.02 trillion in 2019Q1. The volume and value retrogressions were driven by declines in the use of several e-payment channels during the period including cheques, ATMs, POS, internet banking, mobile payments, and remitta. Highest declines were seen particularly in the use of mobile payments, from a volume of 26.2 million transactions in the previous quarter (equivalent to ₦592.9 billion) to 2.9 million transactions (₦100.7 billion). The risks associated with e-payments such as fraud, and card data security are the possible reasons for the fall in cashless transactions. A multi-stakeholder intervention involving the CBN's Nigerian Electronic Fraud Forum, the Nigerian Communications Commission, and the Nigeria Police is required to provide information on popular scams and how to report them as well as apprehend culprits.

Underperformance in Rail Transport Sector

Activities in the rail subsector deteriorated in 2019Q1, making it the worst performing subsector under the transportation sector. Evidence shows that the subsector's real GDP growth rate was negative in 2019Q1 (-6.06%)⁵; following previous quarters of positive growth and representing a significant decline from the 4.95% quarterly growth recorded in 2018Q4. Recent findings suggest that the subsector's inefficiencies may have resulted to the declines witnessed in passenger and cargo movements. A total of 723,995 passengers and 54,099 tons of volume of goods/cargo travelled via the rail system in 2019Q1 representing 3.05% and 21.27% decline QoQ respectively⁶. Despite reforms observed in the subsector in recent years, many anomalies still stunt its functionality, and growth is mitigated by a myriad of factors: from ticket racketeering, and inadequate number of coaches, to lack of organization⁷, all of which deter continued patronage of the rail route and hamper growth. To improve efficiencies in passenger and cargo services within the rail sub-sector, there is need to increase competitiveness of the rail system by incentivizing private sector participation and partnerships between railways and logistics/ transport operators. Lessons can be drawn from the public- private partnership (PPP) model in the aviation sector.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT		
Quarterly Indicators	'18Q4	'19Q1
GDP Growth Rate (%)	2.38	2.1
Oil GDP (%)	-1.62	-2.40
Non-oil GDP (%)	2.7	2.47
Unemployment Rate (%)	NA	NA
Foreign Direct Investment (US \$ Million)	156.08	NA
Portfolio Investment (US \$Millions)	1,394.68	NA
Other Investment (US \$Million)	589.32	NA
External Debt (FGN & States- N'Billion)	7,759.22	NA
Domestic Debt (FGN + States & FCT N'billion)	16,627.84	NA
Manufacturing Capacity utilization (%)	55	NA
Monthly Indicators	Mar'19	Apr'19
Headline Inflation (%)	11.25	11.37
Food Sub-Index (%)	13.45	13.70
Core Sub-Index (%)	9.5	9.3
External Reserves (End Period) (US\$ Million)	44,420.10	44,792.70
Official Rate Approx. (N/US\$)	305	305
BDC Rate Approx. (N/US\$)	362	362
Manufacturing PMI	57.4	57.7
Non-Manufacturing PMI	58.5	58.7
Crude Oil Price (US\$/Barrel)	67.67	73.08
Petrol (PMS-N/litre)	145.30	145.90
Diesel (AGO -N/Litre)	229.16	230.67
Kerosene (HHK -N/Litre)	303.94	316.26
MPR (%)	14	13.5
CRR (%)	22.5	22.5
91 Day T-Bill Rate (%)	10.91	10.91
Savings Deposit (%)	4.07	4.07
Prime Lending (%)	14.92	18.23
Maximum Lending (%)	30.83	30.89
Narrow Money (N'Billion)	10,945.25	11,252.43
Broad Money (N'Billion)	33,809.57	35,167.53
Net Domestic Credit (N'Billion)	31,696.52	32,898.45
Credit to the Government (N'Billion)	7,741.33	8,001.77
Credit to the Private Sector(N'Billion)	23,955.19	24,896.67
Currency in Circulation (N'Billion)	2,153.22	2,158.70
FAAC (N'Billion)	617.56	616.20

*Revised GDP figures/tentative figures

NA: Not Available

¹National Bureau of Statistics (2019). “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASH-NORM) Survey 2018”. Retrieved from, <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary>

²Federal Ministry of Water Resources (2016). “IMMEDIATE AND LONG TERM STRATEGIES FOR THE WATER SECTOR (2016 –2030)”. Retrieved from, https://washwatch.org/uploads/filer_public/13/82/1382bef1-5370-4cc0-bce1-41eb0ae3cd7b/immediate_and_long_term_strategies_for_the_water_sector_2016-2030_nigeria.pdf

³UNICEF (2016). “Making Nigeria open defecation free by 2025: A national road map”. Retrieved from, <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/reports/making-nigeria-open-defecation-free-2025-national-road-map>

⁴National Bureau of Statistics (2019). “Selected Banking Sector Data: Sectorial Breakdown of Credit, ePayment Channels and Staff Strength (Q1 2019)”. Retrieved from, <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary>

⁵National Bureau of Statistics (2019). “Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report (Q1 2019)”. Retrieved from, [https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary?queries\[search\]=GDP](https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary?queries[search]=GDP)

⁶ National Bureau of Statistics (2019). “Rail Transportation Data (Q1 2019)”. Retrieved from, <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary>

⁷Independent (2019). “Commotion In Abuja Train Stations Over Fraudulent Ticketing As Passengers Avoid Abduction On Roads”. Accessed June 3, 2019. <https://www.independent.ng/commotion-in-abuja-train-stations-over-fraudulent-ticketing-as-passengers-avoid-abduction-on-roads/>