

**Hello Emmanuel, could you introduce yourself and tell us a bit more about your role at AMCOW?**

My name is Emmanuel Chimezie Uguru. I have a master's degree in information technology and security, and a degree in statistics. I support the monitoring and reporting functions at the AMCOW Secretariat, here in Abuja, Nigeria. I am also doubling as the Youth focal person for the institution. I've been working with AMCOW for almost seven years now, and counting...

**In your opinion, why is it important to engage young people in the dialogue on water, sanitation, and human rights?**

This is one very important question that needs to be answered. Knowledge is at the core of every development intervention. For Africa, it is more than important to be able to retain this knowledge. How do we do this? It can only be done if the knowledge that has been generated is efficiently and effectively transferred from one generation to another generation. This can only be achieved if the youth are involved and mainstreamed into the sector activities. Then, we can be able to ensure sustainability of whatever intervention or initiative that is established. So I would say that it is important to engage young people for the sustainable development agenda/to ensure sustainable development goals and its achievements.

**From your own experience, what are some of the challenges young people face in being able to have a meaningful impact in WASH issues and finding the means to trigger change in the water and sanitation sectors? (e.g., lack of participation, lack of financial means, lack of coordination etc.)**

When we talk about young people, I would categorise them in two: there are those that are literate, that can read and write, that are privileged to have basic education but do not have the platform, or the opportunity to harness, improve or express the skills they attained. The other category would cover those that do not even have those privileges, that are not very literate. They are mostly rural and vulnerable populations, suburban or marginalised groups. As such, they are probably not well informed or do not even know much about water and sanitation. Looking at these two categories of people, if you want to be able to address their challenges, on one hand we should think about strengthening or providing access to basic services depending on what can be done: so, access to water and sanitation services, to hygiene services, and to the facilities and infrastructures that will help them living a humane or normal life. For the other