

# **Chapter 1 Background of the Project**

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In rural areas of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (hereinafter referred to as “Nigeria”), presently, most of the population have no choice but use unsanitary water sources such as shallow wells and hollow ponds. As a result, the epidemic of water-borne diseases such as guinea worm and diarrhea are common in these areas. Nigeria decided that cooperation from Japan was essential in order to improve the situation of water supply and sanitation in the rural areas. In October 1999, Nigeria made a request for Japanese Grant aid concerning the project that included procurement of drilling rigs, etc. for 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T) in the country. After that, Japan proposed to revise the contents of the request in accordance with the report of project identification survey carried out in March 2000. Nigeria accepted the proposal and reduced the number of states from 36 to 6. In February 2001, Nigeria made new requests for Japanese Grant aid for 3 projects that included the procurement of drilling facilities and the construction of boreholes in 3 States (namely, Oyo, Rivers, Plateau) out of 6 States agreed by the project identification survey. Finally, Japan decided to carry out the basic design study for Japanese Grant Aid in Oyo State, taking into consideration the security situation and the disease rate of guinea worm, etc.