



European Asylum Support Office

EASO Country of Origin Information Report

Nigeria Key socio-economic indicators



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EASO

Country of Origin
Information Report

Nigeria

Key socio-economic
indicators

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Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD)

It must be noted that the review carried out by the mentioned departments, experts or organisations contributes to the overall quality of the report, but does not necessarily imply their formal endorsement of the final report, which is the full responsibility of EASO.

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Disclaimer

This report was written according to the EASO COI Report Methodology (2012).¹ The report is based on carefully selected sources of information. All sources used are referenced.

The information contained in this report has been researched, evaluated and analysed with utmost care. However, this document does not claim to be exhaustive. If a particular event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Any event taking place after the finalisation of this report is not included.

Furthermore, this report is not conclusive as to the determination or merit of any particular application for international protection. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

'Refugee', 'risk' and similar terminology are used as generic terminology and not in the legal sense as applied in the EU Asylum Acquis, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

Neither EASO nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained in this report.

The drafting of this report (including review) was finalised on 4 October 2018. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this report. More information on the reference period for this report can be found in the [methodology](#) section of the [Introduction](#).

¹ The EASO methodology is largely based on the Common EU Guidelines for processing Country of Origin Information (COI), 2008, and can be downloaded from the EASO website: [url](#).

Glossary and Abbreviations

ABV	Abuja Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport
ADB	African Development Bank Group
AEA	Abuja Enterprise Agency
AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AHF	AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANAHT	African Network Against Human Trafficking
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Centre
APN	Association Psychiatrists Nigeria
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASCAs	Accumulated Savings and Credit Associations
ASOHON	Association of Orphanages and Homes Operators in Nigeria
AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhoea
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BMI	British Medical Institute
CBQ	Margaret Ekpo International Airport
CHELD	Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development
COI	Countries of Origin
COSUDOW	Committee for the Support and Dignity of Women
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CP	Child Protection
CP SWG	Nigeria Protection sub-Working Group
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG DEVCO	EU Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
DAN	Diabetes Association of Nigeria
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DSVRT	Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ENT	Ear, Nose & Throat
ENU	Akanu Ibiam International Airport
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
EU	European Union

FAAN	Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria
FCT	Federal Capital Territory (Abuja)
FEWS	Famine Early Warnings Systems
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEFC	Gas Exporting Countries Forum
GHWA	Global Health Workforce Alliance
GCPEA	Global Coalition to Protect Education Under Attack
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HRH	Healthcare Human Resources
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDMP	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IOSR	International Organisation of Scientific Research
IPC	Integrated (Food Security) Phase Classification
IRB	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KAN	Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA)
LGAs	Local Government Areas
LOS	Lagos Murtala Muhammed International Airport
LSETF	Lagos State Employment Trust Fund
LUA	Land Use Act
MDAs	[federal] Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta
MSMEs	Medium and Small Scale Enterprises
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS
NACTAL	Network of CSOs against Trafficking in Persons, Child Labour and Abuse
NAPTIP	National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (and Other Related Matters)
NASCP	National AIDS and STIs Control Programme
NASFAT	Nasr Allah al-Fatih Society of Nigeria
NBS	[Nigeria's] National Bureau of Statistics

NDPVF	Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force
NEITI	Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NIFST	Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NNNGO	Nigeria Network of NGOs
NOhep	No Hepatitis
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NRM	National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria
OCHA	(the UN) Office for Humanitarian Affairs
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OPEC	Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PBOF	Pastor Bimbo Odukoya Foundation
PHC	Primary Health Care
PHC	Port Harcourt International Airport
RCCG	Redeemed Christian Church of God in Nigeria
ROSCA	Rotating Savings and Credit Associations
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SIYB	Start and Improve Your Business
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria
STI	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SWG	Sub Working Group
UAC	Unaccompanied Children
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population fund
UNHCR	United Nations High commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
US DoS	United States Department of State
VoT	Victim of Trafficking
WACOL	Women's Aid Collective
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organisation
WOTCLEF	Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation
YouWiN	Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria

Introduction

This report was drafted by staff of the Country of Origin (COI) sector in EASO.

The report aims to provide information on key socio-economic indicators in Nigeria. Such information is relevant for international protection status determination (PSD; refugee status and subsidiary protection). The terms of reference can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Methodology

Defining the Terms of Reference (ToR)

The definition of the terms of reference for the Key socio-economic indicators is based on the Nigerian content, taking into consideration a survey sent out to all EU Member States previous to the development of the ToR. Outcomes of the survey were taken into account in adjusting the ToR.

It was decided to concentrate the information of the key socio-economic indicators on two main cities of Nigeria, Abuja and Lagos, where available.

Members of the EASO COI Specialist Network on West Africa and of the Country Guidance network gave input on the terms of reference that were finalised during a preparatory meeting in March 2018 taking all the inputs into account.

Collecting information

The information is a result of desk research of public, specialised paper-based and electronic sources until 30 August 2018. As a result of the quality control process (see below) some additional information was included in response to feedback received during the respective reviews, until 4 October 2018.

As a general indication, the time frame for collecting information was set on the period from 2015 onwards.

Quality control (peer and external review)

In order to ensure that the authors respected the EASO COI Report Methodology, a review was carried out by COI specialists from the countries and organisations listed as reviewers in the [Acknowledgements](#) section. In addition, a review of the report was carried out by ACCORD (Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation Research Consultancy). EASO performed the final quality review and editing of the text. All comments made by the reviewers were taken into consideration and most of them were implemented in the final draft of this report.

Structure and use of the report

The report is divided into two main sections, after a first brief and general introduction to Nigeria in Chapter 1.

Chapter 2 provides information on the key socio-economic indicators:

- Demographics
- Economic growth
- Employment
- Poverty

- Food security
- Housing and living conditions
- Education
- Health care
- Social networks and support mechanisms

A main emphasis, where information is available, is on the situation in Abuja and Lagos and on the socio-economic situation of women, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees.

The third chapter provides information on mobility and internal travel possibilities.

Simultaneously to this report, EASO has published reports on the [Security situation](#), [Actors of Protection](#), and on [Targeting of Individuals](#) in Nigeria. All reports were published in November 2018 and publicly available at the EASO COI portal.² Where relevant, in this report reference to these reports have been made for further reading and more detailed information.

² EASO COI report Nigeria, Targeting of individuals, November 2018, [url](#); EASO, COI report Nigeria, Actors of Protection, November 2018, [url](#); EASO, COI report Nigeria, Security situation, November 2018, [url](#)

Map



Map 1: © United Nations³

³ UN, Map No 4228, August 2014, [url](#)

1. General introduction on Nigeria

Nigeria is a Federal Presidential Republic. It is divided into 36 states, and Abuja, which has the status of Federal Capital Territory (FCT).⁴ The 36 states and the FCT are grouped into six geopolitical zones (see map below):

- North Central (7 states): Niger, Kogi, Benue, Plateau, Nas(s)arawa, Kwara and FCT
- North East (6 states): Bauchi, Borno, Taraba, Adamawa, Gombe and Yobe
- North West (7 states): Zamfara, Sokoto, Kaduna, Kebbi, Katsina, Kano and Jigawa
- South East (5 states): Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi, Abia and Anambra
- South South (6 states): Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Rivers, Cross River and Delta
- South West (6 states): Oyo, Ekiti, Osun, Ondo, Lagos and Ogun



Map 2: @DFAT 2018⁵

⁴ CIA Factbook – Nigeria, last updated 18 September 2018, [url](#)

⁵ Australia, DFAT Country Information Report Nigeria, 9 March 2018, [url](#), p. 2

Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa, with an estimated population of 193 million people (data 2016).⁶ The country has a population growth rate of 2.61 %. The total area is 923 768 km², and the population density is 212/km².⁷

Nigeria is a highly diverse country with regards to ethnic groups and languages. There are more than 250 ethnic groups of which the largest groups are: Hausa/Fulani 29 %, Yoruba 21 %, Igbo (Ibo) 18 %, Ijaw 10 %, Kanuri 4 %, Ibibio 3.5 %, Tiv 2.5 %⁸, Edo/Bini 2%⁹. The main languages (of the 519 living languages in the country) spoken include English, Pidgin-English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani, Ijaw.¹⁰

In the north, the main ethnic groups are Hausa and Fulani, and several other groups such as Kanuri (in the north-east). The Middle Belt has many smaller, differing but related groups. Nigeria's south is divided into a Yoruba-speaking area in the west and an Igbo-speaking area in the east. The main group in the Niger Delta are the Ijaw although there are several other smaller ethnic groups.¹¹ See the map above with the six zones and the main ethnic groups.

The religious adherence of the population is nearly equally divided between Christians and (Sunni) Muslims. According to a 2010 survey, the percentages of Muslims and Christians were 48.8 % respectively 49.3 % of the population, while 1.9 % was mainly composed of 'either practitioners of indigenous religions or no affiliations'.¹²

The economy largely relies on agriculture, trade, and oil production.¹³

⁶ Nigeria, NBS, Population of Nigeria 2016, available at: [url](#)

⁷ World Population Review, Nigeria population 2018 (estimate), n.d., [url](#)

⁸ CIA Factbook – Nigeria, last updated 18 September 2018, [url](#); Worldatlas, Largest Ethnic Groups in Nigeria, 25 April 2017, [url](#)

⁹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Edo People, 29 August 2018, [url](#)

¹⁰ Ethnologue, Nigeria, Languages, n.d., [url](#)

¹¹ Minority Rights Group International, Nigeria, updated January 2018, [url](#)

¹² Pew Research Centre, Global Religious Futures Projects – Nigeria, 2010, [url](#). The CIA Factbook gives the following percentages: Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%. CIA Factbook – Nigeria, last updated 18 September 2018, [url](#)

¹³ CIA Factbook – Nigeria, last updated 18 September 2018, [url](#)

2. Key socio-economic indicators

In this chapter, an overview of the general socio-economic situation in Nigeria is presented and where applicable, regional differences are highlighted. In particular, the situation in the cities of Abuja and Lagos is discussed where information is available. A main emphasis, where information is available, is on the socio-economic situation of women, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees.

2.1 Demographics

Nigeria has an estimated population of 193 million people (data 2016¹⁴), about 47 % of the population in West Africa. It 'is a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse country.'¹⁵ There is an estimated ratio of 102.7 males per 100 females (2017 data)¹⁶ and the population growth rate in 2016 was of 2.6 %.¹⁷ The fertility rate is 5.7 live births per woman, and infant mortality data shows a decrease, at 76.3 per 1 000 live births (2015 data). Life expectancy at birth is 52.6 years for females and 51.2 years for males (2015 data).¹⁸

Education-wise, the enrolment ratio at primary school is 92.8 out of 100 females and 94.5 out of 100 males (2013 data). The number drops significantly when looking at secondary education - 53.5/100 (females) and 57.8/100 (males) (2013 data), and even more at the tertiary level – 8.3/100 (females) and 11.8/100 (males) (2011 data).¹⁹ The overall school enrolment in the southern regions amounts to 70 %, against 30 % in the north.²⁰

According to the World Bank, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was USD 1 968.6 per capita in 2017.²¹

The country faces increased inequalities in both income and opportunities for its population, mainly due to a widespread lack of employment, the north-south differences, and the security situation affecting the economic growth in the North East region, which consequently brings significant numbers of Nigerians to live in poverty.²² Nonetheless, according to the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) 2018 the Nigerian 'middle class [...] represents a group with the highest purchasing and consumption power in Africa.'²³

Women with secondary or tertiary education access both state and private sectors, and gender-based discrimination has dropped in the middle and upper social levels. Within state organisations, women represent 42.4 % of the work force. However, 'women hardly play any political role at the state and local government levels, let alone at the grassroots level'.²⁴

¹⁴ Nigeria, NBS, Population of Nigeria 2016, available at: [url](#)

¹⁵ World Bank (The), Nigeria Overview, last updated 12 December 2017, [url](#). For more information on ethnic groups, see the EASO COI report Nigeria, Targeting of individuals November 2018, [url](#)

¹⁶ UN Data, Country Profiles, General Information, 2017, [url](#)

¹⁷ World Bank (The), Nigeria, Country Profile, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁸ UN Data, Country Profiles, Social Indicators, 2017 [url](#)

¹⁹ UN Data, Country Profiles, Social Indicators, 2017, [url](#)

²⁰ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Welfare Regime, Equal Opportunity, 2018, [url](#)

²¹ World Bank (The), GDP per capita (current US\$), data for 2017, [url](#)

²² World Bank (The), Nigeria Overview, last updated 12 December 2017, [url](#)

²³ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Level of Socioeconomic Development, 2018, [url](#)

²⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Level of Socioeconomic Development, 2018, [url](#)

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index – that assesses life expectancy, education and standards of living - ranks Nigeria 157 out of 189 countries, thus placing the country 'in the low human development category'.²⁵

2.2 Economic growth

BTI 2018 data revealed that in the evaluation period (February 2015 - January 2017) almost 80 % of the more than 175 million Nigerians lived with less than 2 USD per day.²⁶ The country's 'overdependence [...] on petroleum as a source of income'²⁷ triggered the 2015-2016 economic crisis, due to two main factors: a sharp decrease in international oil price (-60 %), and a decrease of the internal oil production (consequence of the activities by militant groups in the Niger Delta).²⁸ In 2016, the national currency Naira devalued to 50 %.²⁹ A source blames 'long years of military rule, failure to diversify the economy from crude oil and endemic corruption' for the state of the Nigerian economy.³⁰

At the beginning of 2017, the government announced a new economic reform plan (Nigeria Economic Recovery & Growth Plan –ERGP -2017-2020. It has three main objectives: '1) restoring growth, 2) investing in our people, and 3) building a globally competitive economy'.³¹

According to the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the political system has to deal with 'problems regarding state coherence, institutional efficiency of the government, internal security, patterns of democratic representation and attitudes, enforcement of the rule of law and economic reform'.³²

During 2017, the Nigerian economy faced various challenges, including economic growth rates of zero, poor management of economic and financial affairs, and high unemployment rate, especially among youth.³³ The crisis affected most sectors of society, causing large budget cuts in essential areas like education³⁴ or health care.³⁵

In November 2017, the World Bank announced that despite the difficult situation, 'the Nigerian economy is showing signs of recovery', due to 'an improvement in oil production, decent production in agriculture and non-oil industries, and the positive impact on private sector activities overall of more foreign exchange availability'.³⁶

The geography of economic growth in Nigeria is very different from zone to zone. The North Central zone is considered by UNDP as the most 'economically secure geo-political zone', contrary to South South. Although this zone is fertile for agriculture – a factor that could increase employment - the population does not feel economically secure, as they are often not qualified for jobs in the local oil industry. The North East is the most economically insecure region for the population, in large due to the activity of insurgent groups. In general, the population in rural areas feels more economically secure (living from the land and small business), than those in urban environment.³⁷

²⁵ UNDP, Human Development Report 2016, [2017], [url](#), pp. 1-2.

²⁶ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Level of Socioeconomic Development, 2018, [url](#)

²⁷ Kale, A., et al, Economic Recession in Nigeria: Implications for Nursing Education and Practice, (Mar. - Apr. 2017), [url](#)

²⁸ Sahara Reporters, Worst Economic Crisis in 25 Years, 5 October 2016, [url](#). For more information on the Niger Delta militant groups, see EASO COI report Nigeria, Targeting of individuals November 2018, [url](#)

²⁹ UNDP, UNDP Nigeria Annual report, 2016, [url](#), p. 1.

³⁰ This Day, Economic Crisis, How Nigeria Failed to Learn from History, 4 May 2016, [url](#)

³¹ Nigeria, Ministry of Budget & National Planning, Economic Recovery & Growth Plan 2017-2020, February 2017, [url](#)

³² Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Executive Summary, 2018, [url](#)

³³ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Executive Summary, 2018, [url](#)

³⁴ Yenle, M. S., The Effects Of Economic Recession On Education In Nigeria, 15 December 2017, [url](#), pp. 504-505.

³⁵ Kale, A. et al, Economic Recession in Nigeria (Mar. - Apr. 2017), [url](#), pp. 56-59; Afolabi, B.M., Predictable Impact of Current Economic Recession on the Spread and Severity of Diseases in African Countries, 21 April 2017, [url](#), 3:1

³⁶ World Bank (The), Nigeria Economic Update, 21 November 2017, [url](#)

³⁷ UNDP, National Human Development Report, 2015, December 2015, [url](#), pp. XIV-XV

2.2.1 Oil

Nigeria is one of the 15 member countries of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)³⁸ and the biggest African oil exporter. Nigeria also has the largest natural gas reserves in Africa³⁹ and is a member of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), an international governmental organisation (12 member countries, 7 observer countries) engaged in increasing coordination and collaboration among its members.⁴⁰

In 2017, OPEC countries' share of worldwide crude oil exports was of 55.55 %. Nigeria's share of OPEC countries' exports was 7.28 %, corresponding to exports of 1.81 million barrels per day.⁴¹

The Nigerian Ministry of Petroleum Resources is responsible for the 'articulation, implementation and regulation of policies in the oil and gas sector', and supervises the compliance with legislation by the sector's operators.⁴² In July 2017, the Ministry released the National Petroleum Policy 2017-2020, intended to tackle the crisis in the sector⁴³; earlier in June, the government had released the National Gas Policy.⁴⁴

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) is the federal government's agency mandated to 'promote transparency and accountability in Nigeria's extractive industries that drives sustainable socio-economic development and good corporate governance in Nigeria set up on the principles and concepts of the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)'.⁴⁵

Nigeria's oil sales are the government's largest source of revenues.⁴⁶ According to OPEC, Nigeria's 'oil and gas sector accounts for about 10 per cent of gross domestic product, and petroleum exports revenue represents over 83 per cent of total exports revenue'.⁴⁷ The country's oil and gas reserves are the biggest in sub-Saharan Africa, amounting to 37 billion barrels of oil and 188 trillion cubic feet of gas.⁴⁸

Nigeria's oil-producing states are Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Ondo, Imo and Rivers [all in the Niger Delta region], together with Anambra and more recently Lagos State.⁴⁹ The nine Niger Delta oil-producing states alone comprehend over 800 oil-producing communities, more than 900 oil wells and numerous 'petroleum production-related facilities'.⁵⁰ According to 2016 Ministry of Petroleum resources information, 78 of Nigeria's 159 oil fields are in the Niger Delta region.⁵¹

According to the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 'revenue from oil and gas are normally allocated to the state budget [...] in accordance with the state's share in each of the operations. [...] Oil and gas producing regions receive 13 % of the government revenue from production in their territory. These revenues are distributed according to an allocation formula (52.68 % to central government, 26.72 % to regional governments, and 20.60 % to local governments)'.⁵²

³⁸ OPEC, Nigeria facts and figures, [2017], [url](#)

³⁹ World Bank (The), Nigeria Overview, last updated 12 December 2017, [url](#)

⁴⁰ GECF, GECF Overview, n.d., [url](#)

⁴¹ OPEC, Oil Trade, OPEC Crude Exports, Nigeria, 2018, [url](#)

⁴² Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, About, n.d., [url](#)

⁴³ Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, National Petroleum Policy, 2017, [url](#), pp. 14-18

⁴⁴ Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, National Gas Policy, 28 June 2017, [url](#)

⁴⁵ NEITI, Stakeholder Analysis and Mapping Report, Introduction, June 2017, [url](#)

⁴⁶ Natural Resource Governance Institute, Inside NNPC Oil Sales: A Case for Reform in Nigeria, August 2015, [url](#), p. 20

⁴⁷ OPEC, Nigeria facts and figures, [2017], [url](#)

⁴⁸ Natural Resource Governance Institute, Nigeria's Oil and Gas Revenues, December 2017 [url](#), p. 2.

⁴⁹ Vanguard, 13% derivation: Oil-producing states receive N7trn in 18 years, 22 August 2017 [url](#)

⁵⁰ Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, National Petroleum Policy, 2017, [url](#), p. 41

⁵¹ EITI, Nigeria: Mapping the Labyrinth, 13 June 2016, [url](#)

⁵² EITI, Nigeria, Revenue allocation, latest data 2015, [url](#)

Despite the allocation of 13 % of the oil revenue directly to oil-producing states, the Niger Delta region displays ‘massive infrastructure decay, widespread poverty and environmental degradation’.⁵³

Corruption and unaccountability of oil revenues have been major challenges in Nigeria.⁵⁴

The revenue is given directly to the states’ budget (to be managed by state or local governors, who have over the years misused the funds), rather than to local communities to promote the well-being of the populations in the oil-producing states). To address that issue, the Ministry of Petroleum announced in 2017 that the ‘Federal Government is considering stripping states of the proceeds of the 13 per cent derivation funds, making sure that the funds are used for the development of oil-producing communities’.⁵⁵

However, in the first quarter of 2018, the 13 % allocation to oil-producing states increased by 149 % when compared with the same period in 2017. According to the source, this comes as a consequence of ‘higher crude oil prices and increased crude oil production’.⁵⁶

Among other reasons the ‘fall in global prices of crude oil in 2015’ brought oil revenues to the lowest level in years. According to the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), oil revenue in 2011 was USD 68 442 billion, whereas in 2015 it was USD 24 791 billion, representing a 63.78 % decline.⁵⁷

Both the federal government and state governments struggled with diminished budget; that affected, for example, officials’ salaries’ payment - 27 out of 36 states recorded ‘challenges meeting their salary payments’.⁵⁸

Instability in the Niger Delta, caused by crude theft and militant groups’ activities were some of the causes of this drop in oil revenue.⁵⁹ For more information on the unrest in the Niger Delta and militant group activities, see the [EASO COI report Targeting individuals](#), November 2018.

2.2.2 Business climate

After several years of decline, Nigeria’s ‘Doing Business 2018’ ranking by the World Bank – that measures the ‘ease of doing business’ in 190 countries⁶⁰ has shown improvement, rising from place 169 in 2016⁶¹ to 145 in 2017.⁶² Between 2008 and 2016, Nigeria’s ranking had fallen 50 places, bringing it down from 120th place to 170th.⁶³

⁵³ Vanguard, 13% derivation: Oil-producing states receive N7trn in 18 years, 22 August 2017, [url](#)

⁵⁴ EITI, Nigeria, Overview, latest data 2015, [url](#); Social Action, The Niger Delta and the Politics of Usable Nigerians, [blog], 13 July 2017, [url](#); BBC News, Can Nigeria’s president defeat oil industry corruption?, 21 October 2015, [url](#)

⁵⁵ Vanguard, 13% derivation: Oil-producing states receive N7trn in 18 years, 22 August 2017, [url](#)

⁵⁶ Vanguard, Revenue allocation to FG, others rise by 36% to N1.9trn, 2 May 2018, [url](#)

⁵⁷ NEITI, 2015 Oil & Gas Industry Audit Report, Petroleum Revenues in the past Five Years, 27 December 2017, [url](#), p. 29.

⁵⁸ Bloomberg, Nigeria revenue drops to 5-year low as tax, oil income fall, 25 April 2016, [url](#)

⁵⁹ NEITI, 2015 Oil & Gas Industry Audit Report, Petroleum Revenues in the past Five Years, 27 December 2017, [url](#), p. 29; DW, Niger Delta: Nigeria’s oil-rich powder keg, 14 January 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁰ World Bank Doing Business rank ‘does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms or investors—or all factors that affect competitiveness. It does not, for example, measure security, macroeconomic stability, corruption, labor skills of the population, underlying quality of institutions and infrastructure or the strength of the financial system. Doing Business focuses on 11 topics [Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Registering Property, Getting Credit, Protecting Minority Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading across Borders, Enforcing Contracts, Resolving Insolvency], with the specific aim of measuring the regulation and red tape relevant to the life cycle of a domestic small to medium-size firm. See: World Bank, Doing Business, Common Misconceptions About Doing Business, n.d., [url](#); World Bank Doing Business, About Us, n.d., [url](#)

⁶¹ World Bank Group, Doing Business 2016, The Business Environment, 2016, [url](#), p. 6

⁶² Nigeria, Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), Nigeria Moves Up 24 Places In The World Bank’s ‘Doing Business’ Rankings, [2018], [url](#); World Bank, Doing Business 2018, Nigeria, [2018], [url](#)

⁶³ Oxford Business Group, Nigeria pushes to improve investment climate, 31 August 2017, [url](#)

To address economic recession, the Nigerian government approved the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020 as well as a 60-day national action plan, with measures to address issues that hamper the economy, including starting a business, construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, paying taxes, trading across borders, and the entry and exit of people.⁶⁴

According to the Nigerian government, this set of measures is intended to streamline and harmonise procedures in the business process, fighting pervasive corruption, ‘mismanagement’ and bureaucracy, that hinder the establishment and maintenance of businesses in the country.⁶⁵

Together with these measures, a new system facilitating visa issuing for foreign investors⁶⁶ and a more efficient residence permit processing system - with 28 new immigration offices foreseen to open in Nigeria and temporary work permits being issued online -, are expected to increase confidence in the country’s business climate.⁶⁷

In 2016, 75 380 new businesses registered in Nigeria, representing a relative growth compared to 2015 (70 441 new companies) and bringing the figures closer to the pre-2014-2015 crisis ones (81 144 in 2012; 74 391 in 2013).⁶⁸ Based on available 2014 data, the least difficult place to start a business was Abuja (FCT) [ranked 1 out of 36 states], and Lagos not far, joining in 4th place. The same ranking considered Akure (Ondo State) as the area where setting up a business was most difficult.⁶⁹ According to the Capital Importation Report for the Full Year of 2017, the top five Nigerian states with the highest foreign business investment in 2017 were Lagos, with 69.12 % of the total, Abuja with 28.86 %, followed a great distance by Akwa Ibom, Ogun and Oyo.⁷⁰

Between 2016 and 2018, distinctive measures taken by the Nigerian government impacted directly the business climate in the country. For example, in Lagos and Kano the World Bank’s indicators show it has become faster, easier and/or more transparent to start a business, deal with construction permits, register property, access credit, pay taxes and protect minority investments.⁷¹

The Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, ‘has assured investors of the Nigerian government’s commitment to providing a favourable investment climate to ensure high returns’.⁷²

In Abuja, investment in the minerals and agricultural sectors is expected, as the government declares ‘efforts to eliminate cases of multiple taxation and leveraging technology to improve our business processes’.⁷³

In 2017, the pace of implementation of the economic reforms slowed down due to the six-month absence of President Buhari for medical reasons. As a consequence, ‘while the economic environment remains difficult, the slow pace of reforms is resented by a population exasperated by imperceptible progress on living standards’.⁷⁴

⁶⁴ Nigeria, The State House, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2017-2020, last updated 29 March 2017, [url](#); Nigeria, PEDEC, Nigeria Moves Up 24 Places In The World Bank’s ‘Doing Business’ Rankings, [2018], [url](#); Deloitte, Regulatory Alert: Nigeria’s Business Climate And Ease Of Doing Business Initiatives, [blog], 6 June 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁵ Reuters, Nigeria among most improved countries in World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business list, 31 October 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁶ Reuters, Nigeria among most improved countries in World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business list, 31 October 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁷ Oxford Business Group, Nigeria pushes to improve investment climate, 31 August 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁸ World Bank (The), New Businesses registered (number), 2008-2016, [2018], [url](#)

⁶⁹ World Bank Group, Doing Business in Nigeria 2014, September 2014, [url](#), pp. 56-63

⁷⁰ Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Nigerian Capital Importation (Q4 & Full Year 2017), February 2018, [url](#)

⁷¹ World Bank (The), Business reforms in Nigeria DB2008-DB2018, [2018], [url](#)

⁷² Guardian (The), FG committed to favourable investment climate, Onyeama tells investors, 23 September 2017, [url](#)

⁷³ Daily Trust, Abuja is open to business, investors – Minister, 29 September 2017, [url](#)

⁷⁴ Coface, Economic Studies, Nigeria, January 2018, [url](#)

Nigeria's business growth is hindered by a 'booming informal trade', where informal activities represent as much as 64 % of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁷⁵ 'Pervasive corruption, inadequate power and transportation infrastructure, high energy costs, an inconsistent regulatory and legal environment, insecurity, a slow and ineffective bureaucracy and judicial system, inadequate intellectual property rights protections and enforcement, and an inefficient property registration system' are also serious concerns for the business environment in Nigeria.⁷⁶

The EU Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) finds that the Nigerian government has 'undertaken important reforms in public financial management, in particular to fight corruption'.⁷⁷

The March 2018 International Monetary Fund's (IMF) economic review indicates that although Nigeria's economy is growing (0.8 % in 2017) - namely due to the recovering oil production -, its situation 'remains vulnerable'. IMF's review indicates that Nigeria must continue to implement the reforms, to start strengthening the 'non-oil non-agricultural' sectors, reduce unemployment and stabilise the banking sector, among others.⁷⁸

2.3 Employment

2.3.1 Unemployment data

The overall unemployment rate in Nigeria was 18.8 % in Q3 2017. It represents a rise of 5 % points from the same period in 2016 (13.88 %).⁷⁹ The table below shows the rising trend in overall unemployment in the country between Q2 2016 and Q3 2017 (the most recent data published by the NBS).⁸⁰

Labour markets unemployment rate (%)

2016 Q2	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	2017 Q1	2017 Q2	2017 Q3
13.30	13.88	14.20	14.40	16.20	18.80

In 2014, the Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) changed the methodology used to assess data on employment and unemployment, moving away from the 40 hours/week benchmark to 20/hours/week, in an attempt to represent the informal work force in the country.⁸¹ Below is the current classification to assess employment/unemployment rates in the country:

- Unemployed = Working less than 20 hours per week or not working;
- Underemployed = Working 20-39 hours per week or working jobs non commensurable with skills and qualifications

⁷⁵ Chatham House, Nigeria's Booming Borders, 7 December 2015, [url](#)

⁷⁶ US DoS, 2017 Investment Climate Statements, 29 June 2017, [url](#)

⁷⁷ EC, International Cooperation and Development, Nigeria, Overview, last update 25 June 2018, [url](#)

⁷⁸ IMF, IMF Staff Country Reports, Nigeria: 2018 Article IV, 7 March 2018, [url](#), pp. 1-3

⁷⁹ Nigeria, NBS, Key Statistics, Labour Markets, Unemployment rate, [2018], [url](#)

⁸⁰ Nigeria, NBS, Key Statistics, Labour Markets, Unemployment rate, [2018], [url](#)

⁸¹ Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, The Labour Market and Unemployment Situation in Nigeria, 9 March 2018, [url](#), p. 8; Nigeria, NBS, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), January 2018 [url](#); Africa Check, Is Nigeria's unemployment rate 18.8%, as widely tweeted?, 7 March 2018, [url](#)

- Employed = Working 40 > hours per week.⁸²

If not using this new classification the rates of unemployment in the country could be as high as 32.2 % in Q1 2016 (as opposed to the actual 12.1 % in that reference period).⁸³

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nigeria faces an upsurge in unemployment, rising from 3.5 % in 2006 to 13.9 % in 2016 (Q3).⁸⁴ The most affected group is youth⁸⁵; in the assessed period, 20 million young Nigerians came into the labour market, but a significant part did not secure employment. Statistics show that youth unemployment doubled from 2006 to 2011 (12.7 % to 23.9 %, respectively). The source adds that ‘as at first quarter of 2016, the youth labour force was estimated at 38.2 million with an estimated 15.2 million or 42.24 % of them unemployed. The situation has heightened the level of poverty in the country bringing it to almost 60 percent on the average and 65.3 % for the youth’.⁸⁶

In Q3 2017 Jigawa, Rivers and Kaduna States lead the unemployment/underemployment rates in the country, with 62.4 %, 61.4 % and 58.6 %, Lagos with 32.7 % and FCT/Abuja with 32.5 % appear towards the lower end of the ranking.⁸⁷

The Nigerian government launched the National Employment Policy, outlining a strategy to fight pervasive unemployment. The policy focuses on ‘the re-invigoration of the private sector; transformation of agriculture; provision and maintenance of physical infrastructure; improved market access for private businesses; and availability of credit facilities’.⁸⁸

The National Employment Policy acknowledges that although there is still a large workforce in the country, their incomes are ‘insufficient as a strong cushion against poverty’.⁸⁹

Skilled labour is scarce in Nigeria, as a result of ‘inadequate educational systems, limited employment opportunities, and the migration of educated Nigerians to other countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States, and South Africa’.⁹⁰

2.3.2 Formal/informal employment (certain sectors)

With a workforce of 85.08 million in Q3 2017, 77.55 million Nigerians have some sort of economic activity for at least one hour a week. According to the Nigerian NBS, here is how the country’s workforce is distributed:

Number of workers	Time per week
8.46 million	1-19 hours
18.02 million	20-39 hours

⁸² Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), January 2018 [url](#), p. 1

⁸³ Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, The Labour Market and Unemployment Situation in Nigeria, 9 March 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 8

⁸⁴ UNDP, National Human Development Report 2016, 12 May 2016, [url](#), p. 11

⁸⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Nigeria Country Report, Executive Summary, 2018, [url](#); UNDP, National Human Development Report 2016, 12 May 2016, [url](#); Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, The Labour Market and Unemployment Situation in Nigeria, 9 March 2018, [url](#), p. 8

⁸⁶ UNDP, National Human Development Report 2016, 12 May 2016 [url](#), p. 11

⁸⁷ Africa Check, Is Nigeria’s unemployment rate 18.8%, as widely tweeted?, 7 March 2018, [url](#)

⁸⁸ Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, 9 March 2018, available at: [url](#)

⁸⁹ Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, 9 March 2018, [url](#)

⁹⁰ US DoS, 2017 Investment Climate Statements, 29 June 2017, [url](#)

51.06 million	above 40 hours
7.53 million	Unemployed ⁹¹

Formal employment data from the United Nations (UN) (2017) indicates that 27.9 % of the population worked in agriculture, 14.7 % in industry and 57.4 % in services. Despite the drop in the number of workers in the agricultural sector (19.1 percent points since 2005)⁹², Nigeria still has a low employment capacity in the formal sector, leading to ‘almost three-quarters of all Nigerians work[ing] in the informal and agricultural sectors or are unemployed’.⁹³

The main economic sectors contributing to the Nigerian GDP are agriculture (22.0 %) and trade (18.6 %), followed by information and communication (10.1 %), manufacturing (8.5 %), mining and quarrying (8.5), and real estate (7.7 %).⁹⁴

More than half (55 %) of all male workers work in agriculture, against 36.2 % of all working women.⁹⁵

The Nigerian NBS 2017 Q3 report provides data in regards to formal employment, per sector and per gender. Of the 77 551 429 employed Nigerians (male and female), over 37 million work in the agricultural sector; nearly 11 million work in trade and the remaining in services.⁹⁶

The increase of unemployment promotes the number of people engaging in the informal sector or ‘grey economy’. This sector is neither monitored nor taxed by the government.⁹⁷

The main characteristics of the informal sector are the ‘absence of official protection and recognition, non-coverage by minimum wage legislation and social security system, predominance of own-account and self-employment work, absence of trade union organisation, low income and wages, little job security as well as the absence of fringe benefits from institutional sources’.⁹⁸

Informal business represents up to 65 % of the Nigerian GDP, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).⁹⁹ Unregistered household enterprises, street vendors, domestic workers and ‘off-the-book activities by registered firms’ are some examples of the types of activities Nigerians engage in informal business.¹⁰⁰

In 2016, Lagos State set up the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), set up ‘to provide financial support to residents of Lagos State, for job, wealth creation and to tackle unemployment’.¹⁰¹ The Fund, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)¹⁰², promotes and delivers free training in six vocational areas: construction, entertainment, garment making, healthcare, hospitality and tourism, and manufacturing¹⁰³, taking place in 14 training centres operating across the state.¹⁰⁴

⁹¹ Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), Key Highlights, January 2018, [url](#), p. 1

⁹² UN Data, Country Profiles, Economic indicators, 2017, [url](#)

⁹³ US DoS, 2017 Investment Climate Statements, 29 June 2017, [url](#)

⁹⁴ Nigeria, Nigeria Data Portal, Gross Domestic Product by Activity Sector, Q4 2017, [url](#)

⁹⁵ Nigeria, NBS, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), [url](#); Labour Force Statistics: Employment by Sector Report Q3 2017, Agriculture, All=Employment+Unemployed (<20hrs), January 2018, [url](#), p. 44

⁹⁶ Nigeria, NBS, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), January 2018, [url](#), pp. 29, 209, 569

⁹⁷ Economic Confidential, Nigeria’s Shadow Economy, 10 January 2018, [url](#)

⁹⁸ Economic Confidential, Nigeria’s Shadow Economy, 10 January 2018, [url](#)

⁹⁹ IMFBlog, Chart of the Week: The Potential for Growth and Africa’s Informal Economy, 8 August 2017, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ Economic Confidential, Nigeria’s Shadow Economy, 10 January 2018, [url](#)

¹⁰¹ Lagos State Employability Support Project (LSESP), What is LSETF?, n.d. [url](#)

¹⁰² LSESP, Employability Support Project, FAQs, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰³ LSESP, Training, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁴ LSESP, Vocational Training Centres, n.d., [url](#)

To access the training, candidates must be between 18 to 35 years old, hold at least a junior secondary school leaving certificate, be unemployed and residents in Lagos State. Applications are online.¹⁰⁵ By 1 October 2018, the fund has certified 2 867 students since its inception, 50 % male and 50 % female.¹⁰⁶ No information was found on the actual employability of trainees.

In 2017, the LSETF announced a project to create one million jobs across the state, through small loans by microfinance and commercial banks, to eligible 100 000 Medium and Small Scale Enterprises (MSMEs). Beneficiaries are small businesses like ‘hairdressers, market women, disc jockeys, people who are baking in their homes, fashion designers, bricklayers, candle making organisation, pure water institutions, people who sell coconut oil for hair and beauty products’. Applications are done online or at one of the 20 liaison offices in Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Lagos State, at no cost.¹⁰⁷

In Abuja, the Abuja Enterprise Agency (AEA), a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) organisation, promotes ‘SME [Small and Medium Enterprise] development and poverty reduction’. It is dedicated to ‘provide excellent support services by developing relevant programmes and activities to start and nurture Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)’.¹⁰⁸

No information was found on the outcomes of the LSETF programme or the measures taken by the AEA.

2.3.3 Employment for specific groups (women, youth, IDPs)

Women

In Q3 2017, 63.56 % (49.19 million) of the Nigerian work force was male and 36.44 % (28.26 million) was female. In absolute numbers, full-time male workers (34.85 million) represented more than twice the number of full-time female workers (16.21 million).¹⁰⁹

In the 2017 Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria, the NBS indicates:

‘Women constitute roughly half of Nigerian’s population and thus potentially half of its workforce. As a group, they do as much work as men if not more. However, the types of work they do, the condition under which they work, and their access to opportunities for advancement differ from men’s. Women are, often, disadvantaged compared to men in access to employment opportunities and in conditions of work; furthermore, many women forgo or curtail employment because of family responsibilities.’¹¹⁰

Additionally, the World Bank states that access to schools and jobs is harder for women. In 2011, 17 million adult women in Nigeria did not work or study, especially those with low levels of education. Those actually working are more likely to be in underpaid sectors, like farming or housekeeping. Women with the same education and experience earn less than men.¹¹¹

In state civil service, women are less represented both in senior and junior positions. Between 2010 and 2015, women represented 38.16 % of the work force, where men form the majority, with 68.84 %. In the federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) the scenario was similar, with women

¹⁰⁵ LSESP, Employability Support Project, FAQs, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁶ LSESP, LSESP Overview, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁷ Guardian (The), Lagos State Employment Trust Fund targets 1m jobs, 4 April 2017, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸ Abuja Enterprise Agency (AEA), Who we are, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁹ Nigeria, NBS, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), January 2018, [url](#), p. 11

¹¹⁰ Nigeria, NBS, Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria 2017, February 2018, [url](#), p. 24

¹¹¹ World Bank [blog],]The work of women in Nigeria, 15 March 2016, [url](#)

occupying less than 42 % of jobs between 2014-2016.¹¹² 36.24 % of the female workforce is found in agriculture, accounting for 10.24 million women.¹¹³

The Public Works for Women and Youth Empowerment Programme aims to employ 370 000 youths/year, with a quota of 30 % of the jobs specifically dedicated to women.¹¹⁴

There is a disproportionate majority of employment occupied by men in most areas. The areas where women represent more work force than men are the exception and are: trade (the second largest sector of employment/self-employment/underemployment in Nigeria), accommodation and food services, and human health and social services.¹¹⁵

Monique Newiak, economist at the IMF refers that in Nigeria, the gender gap 'is relatively high compared to peer countries'; although in Nigeria laws that grants equal rights to women and men exist, the gender inequality persists, and is attributed to lower education or less access to health or financial services. The source also indicates that women 'participate more in the informal economy' and are 'more likely to work in agriculture or in a lower productivity environment'. IMF also notes that women are far less represented in politics (under 6 % seats in parliament), and in business, where 'less than every sixth firm has participation and ownership or senior management positions held by women'.¹¹⁶

Youth

70 % of the Nigerian population is under the age of 30.¹¹⁷ In 2016, population growth in Nigeria was estimated at 3.2 %¹¹⁸ and in 2017 the average growth rate was 2.6 %¹¹⁹. Being the most populated country in Africa, with an estimated population of over 198 million¹²⁰, the population growth (and consequent entrance in the labour market), generates increasing numbers of unemployed people.¹²¹

Data from Q1 2016 shows that the youth unemployment rate remains the highest in the country (16.39 %),¹²² and although the '15-35 year old cohort represents only a third of the workforce in Nigeria, they account for almost two-thirds of the unemployed'.¹²³

Together with population growth, unemployment among young population is seen as a consequence of a 'deficient school' system that fails to provide the necessary skills for employability, even more visible in the rural environment, where the schooling (facilities, teachers, ...) is even more precarious than in urban settings.¹²⁴

¹¹² Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria 2017, Chapter 4: Work, February 2018, [url](#), p. 24

¹¹³ Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), Gender in Employment, January 2018, [url](#)

¹¹⁴ African Development Bank Group, Federal republic of Nigeria, Country Strategy Paper 2013-2017, 2.1.3.2 Unemployment continues to be high, especially among the youth, January 2013, [url](#), p. 5

¹¹⁵ Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Statistics Vol. 2: Employment by Sector Report (Q3 2017), Gender in Employment, January 2018, [url](#), pp. 224, 254, 523

¹¹⁶ IMF, Transcript of podcast with Monique Newiak: "Good for Women, Good for Growth: Closing Nigeria's Gender Gap", 8 March 2018, [url](#), p. 1

¹¹⁷ Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, 9 March 2018, [url](#)

¹¹⁸ Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria 2017, February 2018, [url](#)

¹¹⁹ World Bank (The), Nigeria Overview, last updated 12 December 2017, [url](#)

¹²⁰ Nigeria, National Population Commission, Nigeria's Population Hits 198m People – Npoc Chairman, [April 2018], [url](#)

¹²¹ Brookings, Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: A Situation Analysis, 23 September 2014, [url](#)

¹²² Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, 9 March 2018, available at: [url](#), p. 8

¹²³ African Development Bank Group, Federal republic of Nigeria, Country Strategy Paper 2013-2017, January 2013, [url](#), s. 2.1.3.2, p. 5

¹²⁴ Brookings, Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: A Situation Analysis, 23 September 2014, [url](#)

In 2014 a source stated, that together with the ineffective school system, other factors like a weak industry sector and ‘inconsistent public policies on employment’ contribute to high unemployment rates among youth.¹²⁵

In 2013 the African Development Bank Group (ADBG) attributes youth unemployment to four factors:

- High population growth (estimated 1.8 million new entrants to the labour market/years);
- Low literacy rates;
- Poor investment climate;
- Lack of targeted investment in ‘youth-dominated sectors’.¹²⁶

There are however regional disparities in terms of youth unemployment: 2011 data indicates 33 % in the north-eastern region, by contrast with 8 % in Lagos State.¹²⁷

To overcome the difficulties in accessing the formal labour market, many turn to informal employment, as it presents itself as the option for survival. However, the informal market comes with insecure income, no benefits and no social protection. The source refers to the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and states that ‘informality often overlaps with poverty’ and ‘in countries where informality is decreasing, the number of working poor is also decreasing and vice versa’.¹²⁸

Most of the jobs created in Nigeria in recent years are in the informal sector. World Bank data shows that in 2013, 54 % of the (1 167 740) jobs were created in the informal market, whereas the private sector created 37 % and the public sector 9 %.¹²⁹

The Nigerian government has launched several plans to address youth unemployment since 2011, namely the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWiN) Programme, where grants for small and medium scale enterprises are provided, or also the Public Works for Women and Youth Empowerment Programme, with the goal to employ 370 000 youths/year, with a quota of 30 % of the jobs specifically dedicated to women.¹³⁰

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in collaboration with the Nigerian National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), has been ‘promoting entrepreneurship development in Nigeria’, through ILO’S Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training package in FCT and Osun State. The aim of these trainings is to rollout knowledge to local trainers that will then train potential entrepreneurs to start and improve their business.¹³¹ In April 2018, ILO indicated being available to join the AEA in the FCT / Abuja and develop training in entrepreneurship.¹³²

IDPs

The Boko Haram insurgency in North East Nigeria, combined with ‘weak governance and climate change’¹³³ has displaced between 1.7 and 1.9 million individuals, currently settled in camps or camp-

¹²⁵ Brookings, Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: A Situation Analysis, 23 September 2014, [url](#)

¹²⁶ African Development Bank Group, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Country Strategy Paper 2013-2017, January 2013, [url](#), s. 2.1.3.2, p 5

¹²⁷ African Development Bank Group, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Country Strategy Paper 2013-2017, January 2013, [url](#), s. 2.1.3.2, p 5

¹²⁸ Economic Confidential, Nigeria’s Shadow Economy, 10 January 2018, [url](#)

¹²⁹ Nigeria, The Nigeria National Employment Policy 2017, 9 March 2018, The Labour Market and Unemployment Situation in Nigeria, [url](#), p. 8

¹³⁰ African Development Bank Group, Federal republic of Nigeria, Country Strategy Paper 2013-2017, January 2013, [url](#), s. 2.1.3.2, p. 5

¹³¹ ILO, ILO’s Start and Improve Your Business training programme completed by NYSC members, 13 June 2018, [url](#)

¹³² ILO, The ILO Explores Entrepreneurial Potential in Abuja, 17 April 2018, [url](#)

¹³³ IDMP/NRC, UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st century, February 2018, [url](#), p. 2

like settings, or living in host communities.¹³⁴ As a result, unemployment rose alongside poverty, in an already vulnerable population.¹³⁵

In both camps and host communities, there are 'income generating activities' for IDPs, livestock and access to cultivation land. In camps¹³⁶, IDPs resort mainly to petty trade (29 %), daily labour (28 %), farming (23 %) and collecting firewood (15 %), whereas in host communities, IDPs dedicate themselves especially to farming (57 %), followed by petty trade (17 %) and daily labour (14 %).¹³⁷

Studies on employment and livelihoods for IDPs living in the urban setting of Maiduguri and Borno State show numerous challenges to earning a living and getting employment stability for displaced individuals. The business scenario in urban setting is composed mainly of micro and small businesses, with only very few larger ones, hence the employment opportunities are scarce.¹³⁸

Alongside with the lack of employment in urban settings, there is also the fact that 80 % of IDPs in Borno State were previously farmers¹³⁹ (or fishermen¹⁴⁰), making it more difficult to subsist in an urban environment where farming land is not available.¹⁴¹ Some IDPs earn their income in sporadic construction work, domestic work, water vending, and firewood and charcoal sales. Women are mainly engaged in domestic work and cap-making, and small-scale petty trade.¹⁴²

Especially female-headed households 'are in a highly vulnerable position, as their ability to generate enough income for them to meet their needs on a monthly or even daily basis is uncertain'.¹⁴³ Such vulnerability is being addressed by the government, NGOs and the international community, through 'specific livelihood programmes for women, including training in crafts, tailoring, millinery and gardening'.¹⁴⁴ According to IDMP and NRC's study, although a national policy exists to support micro, small and medium-sized companies, namely in IDP areas, it does not cope with the needs.¹⁴⁵

2.3.4 Amnesty program in south Nigeria

'In June 2009, the then President Umaru Yar'Adua, signed an offer of unconditional amnesty for militants operating in the Niger Delta'¹⁴⁶, with the objective of reducing the groups' activities in the region, which reduced the country's oil production by one third.¹⁴⁷ The Nigerian government's

¹³⁴ IOM, Nigeria, Displacement Report 23, June 2018, [url](#), p. 4; Sahara Reporters, Number Of IDPs In Nigeria Up By 4.5% In January 2018, 11 April 2018, [url](#); UNDP Nigeria, The crisis, [2018], [url](#)

¹³⁵ UNDP Nigeria, Emergency employment for IDPS lays foundation for early recovery in north-east Nigeria, [2017], [url](#)

¹³⁶ IOM assessed the situation in camps (and camp-like settings) and host communities in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe and Bauchi States.

¹³⁷ IOM, Nigeria, Displacement Report 23, June 2018, [url](#), p. 22

¹³⁸ IDMP/NRC, UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st century, City of Challenge and Opportunity, February 2018, [url](#)

¹³⁹ IDMP/NRC, UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st century, City of Challenge and Opportunity February 2018, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁴⁰ Save the Children/USAID, Displaced And Host Community Livelihoods and Food Security, Borno State, Nigeria, 2017, [url](#), p. 12

¹⁴¹ IDMP/NRC, UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st century, City of Challenge and Opportunity, February 2018, [url](#)

¹⁴² Save the Children/USAID, Displaced And Host Community Livelihoods and Food Security, Borno State, Nigeria, 2017, [url](#), pp. 12-13

¹⁴³ Save the Children/USAID, Displaced And Host Community Livelihoods and Food Security, Borno, State Nigeria, 2017, [url](#), p. 13

¹⁴⁴ IDMP/NRC, UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st century, City of Challenge and Opportunity, February 2018, [url](#), p. 5

¹⁴⁵ IDMP/NRC, UnSettlement: Urban displacement in the 21st century, City of Challenge and Opportunity, February 2018, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁴⁶ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Government amnesty program for Niger Delta militants, (MEND) (2009-August 2011), NGA103789.FE, 5 August 2011, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷ Guardian (The), Nigeria begins amnesty for Niger Delta militants, 6 August 2009, [url](#)

programme announced a three-phase approach of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR):

- Disarmament: 6 August to 4 October 2009 - collection of biometric data;
- Demobilisation and rehabilitation: 6 to 12 months period - counselling and career guidance;
- Reintegration: up to five years - training and microcredits.¹⁴⁸

As a reaction to the government's amnesty, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the most active group in the region at the time, agreed to a 60-day ceasefire in July 2009; however, in response to the government's call they stated: 'when we choose to disarm, it will be done freely; knowing that the reason for our uprising which is the emancipation of the Niger Delta from neglect and injustice has been achieved.'¹⁴⁹ The programme also included militants from the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) and the Niger Delta Vigilante.¹⁵⁰

Any fighter who would voluntarily hand in their weapons would not be prosecuted, would receive financial compensation of USD 400 /month (whereas the minimum wage was USD 60 /month), and would be eligible to other types of support (including education in Nigeria or abroad or loans for small businesses). The leaders of the above-mentioned militant groups were offered 'large and highly profitable contracts in the oil industry' and they gained power and influence through the amnesty programme.¹⁵¹ Contrary to other DDR programmes in former conflict areas, the Nigerian program is fully managed and financed by the national authorities, and not by international organisations.¹⁵²

When the disarmament phase ended, 20 192 ex-militants had surrendered their weapons and registered in the programme. In 2010, during the second phase of registration, another 6 166 joined. A source refers that by then, many had realised clear how profitable the programme was.¹⁵³ A final phase occurred in 2012, when another 3 642 combatants were included in the programme.¹⁵⁴

Results of the amnesty program

As an immediate result of the amnesty programme, the number and intensity of the attacks by the militant groups decreased significantly, thus boosting the oil industry.¹⁵⁵

However, in 2011 there were already indicators that the amnesty programme was failing in its approach. According to Oluwatoyin O. Oluwaniyi, lecturer in Redeemer's University, Ogun State, 'several issues that affect community reintegration are yet to be addressed'. The local communities 'still suffer from extreme poverty and underdevelopment' and 'lack basic infrastructural facilities such as roads, pipe-borne water and electricity, while land and water pollution and gas flares continue unabated, depriving inhabitants of known sources of livelihoods.'¹⁵⁶

According to Tarila M. Ebiede and Armin Langer, respectively PhD researcher and professor at the University of Leuven, the government failed to strengthen 'wider socio-economic grievances', namely 'social development in local oil communities, environmental pollution and the exclusion of local

¹⁴⁸ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Government amnesty program for Niger Delta militants, (MEND) (2009-August 2011), NGA103789.FE, 5 August 2011, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹ Guardian (The), Nigeria begins amnesty for Niger Delta militants, 6 August 2009, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰ Conversation (The), How amnesty efforts in the Niger Delta triggered new violence, 9 March 2017, [url](#)

¹⁵¹ Conversation (The), How amnesty efforts in the Niger Delta triggered new violence, 9 March 2017, [url](#)

¹⁵² Onapajo, H. et al., The civilianisation of ex-combatants of the Niger Delta, 29 August 2016, [url](#)

¹⁵³ Oluwaniyi, O. O., Post-Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta: Challenges and Prospects [2011], [url](#)

¹⁵⁴ Onapajo, H. et al., The civilianisation of ex-combatants of the Niger Delta, 29 August 2016, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵ Conversation (The), How amnesty efforts in the Niger Delta triggered new violence, 9 March 2017, [url](#); Onapajo, H. et al., The civilianisation of ex-combatants of the Niger Delta, 29 August 2016, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶ Oluwaniyi, O. O., 'Post-Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta: Challenges and Prospects' in: Conflict Trends 2011/4, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), available at: [url](#), p. 54.

communities from the governance of oil production in the Niger Delta region'. Simultaneously, there was no 'meaningful and durable reintegration', with the ex-militants preferring to be on financial incentives rather than looking for a job in their communities. The researchers also argue that the programme attracted youths to militant groups, as they saw it as an opportunity to benefit from the financial support. To stop this pattern, in September 2011, the government halted the registration of new militant groups in the amnesty programme.¹⁵⁷

As of November 2014, the reintegration part of the programme has trained 18 706 ex-militants and youths, 'out of which 15,392 have graduated in the reintegration programme'. A total of 11 294 persons were enlisted in the reintegration programme - while the government announced its intention to end the programme by the end of 2015. After many opposing voices, President Buhari agreed to extend the programme until 2018.¹⁵⁸

With the 'sharp fall in oil prices' severely affecting the Nigerian economy, the government struggled to pay the monthly allowances to the former militants. Consequent dissatisfaction combined with dependency on the government's fees, led the ex-militants to resume the attacks in the region.¹⁵⁹

New attacks by militant groups in the oil and gas infrastructure in early 2016 affected the oil production and exports; however, the restoration of the amnesty programme brought improvement to the production. According to the US DoS, '[t]he longer-term impact of the government's Delta peace efforts, however, remains unclear', because of increasing oil theft.¹⁶⁰

For more information on the militants in the Niger Delta, see the [EASO COI report Nigeria Targeting individuals](#), November 2018. For security situation in the Niger Delta region, see [EASO COI report Nigeria Security situation](#), November 2018.

According to the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme¹⁶¹, the amnesty programme failed to involve the Delta State government in the planning process. Communication between federal and state level was never clear and transparent, which led to unclear expectations and poor implementation of the programme in the region.¹⁶²

Paul Boroh, a retired Brigadier-General and coordinator of the presidential amnesty programme was dismissed by President Buhari in March 2018, amid allegations of 'financial impropriety'¹⁶³ and at the request of beneficiaries and stakeholders.¹⁶⁴ Buhari nominated Professor Charles Quaker Dokubo as the new head of the programme.¹⁶⁵ Dokubo, an academic, was acting director of Research and Studies in the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs.¹⁶⁶

2.4 Poverty

There is no uniform definition of poverty, as a World Bank report notes. In fact it is a multidimensional phenomenon: 1) the lack of necessary needs of material well-being (food, land, housing); 2)

¹⁵⁷ Conversation (The), How amnesty efforts in the Niger Delta triggered new violence, 9 March 2017, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸ Onapajo, H. et al., The civilianisation of ex-combatants of the Niger Delta, 29 August 2016, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹ Economist (The), Who are the Niger Delta Avengers?, 1 July 2016, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰ US DoS, Nigeria, 2017 Investment Climate Statements, Executive Summary, 29 June 2017, [url](#)

¹⁶¹ The Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NRSP) aims to reduce conflict in Nigeria, by provision 'of support to Nigerian stakeholders to better manage conflict resulting in wealth creation, service delivery and poverty reduction' reduction. NSRP, Home, Welcome to Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁶² NRSP, Policy Brief, The role of the Delta State Government in the management of amnesty programme, 2014, [url](#), p. 2.

¹⁶³ Reuters, Nigeria's Buhari sacks head of Niger Delta amnesty programme, 13 March 2018, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴ This Day Live, With Dokubo, Amnesty Programme Gets New Life, 13 May 2018, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵ Sahara Reporters, President Buhari Sacks Boroh, Appoints New Boss For Amnesty Program, 13 March 2018, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶ Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Professor Charles Quaker Dokubo, [2016], [url](#)

psychological aspects such as lack of power, voice and independence (vulnerability to humiliation and discrimination; 3) the absence of infrastructure (roads, water, transport, health facilities).¹⁶⁷

The International extreme poverty line, set by the World Bank in the late 1990s at one dollar a day in purchasing power parities based on an average of national poverty lines in low income countries, was in 2015 last revised to USD 1.90 per day.¹⁶⁸ People living in extreme poverty are unable to meet their daily, minimal survival needs.¹⁶⁹

2.4.1 General trends

Poverty rates

According to a 2017 World Bank report, in 2013 86 million Nigerians lived in extreme poverty.¹⁷⁰ ‘Despite years of growth, Nigeria has also seen a huge increase in the number of people living in poverty.’¹⁷¹ Between 2003 and 2010, the country had a high economic growth rate of 7.6 %, yet at the same time, its poverty rate remained significantly high as well.¹⁷² According to World Bank data, the percentage of the population living on less than USD 1.90 a day (at 2011 international prices) in Nigeria was 57.1 % in 1992, 53.5 % in 2003 and 2009. No data is available for 2016.¹⁷³ Ventures Africa, ‘an online platform for news, analysis and discussion about African business, policy, innovation, and lifestyle’ estimates in November 2017 that ‘currently, 82 million Nigerians live in extreme poverty, which is 42.4 percent of Nigeria’s population.’¹⁷⁴

Unemployment and poverty

According to a research article on the informal sector and employment, ‘unemployment has been the problem that is beleaguering Nigeria [...] unemployment is a phenomenon of Nigeria, which has degenerated the living condition of the masses.’¹⁷⁵

However, it has to be taken into consideration that Nigeria has an extremely high number of people being employed in the informal sector, thus, although officially registered as unemployed these people do work to some extent. See section [2.2.2](#) on formal/informal employment.

Income inequality

‘Income inequality is one of Nigeria’s most serious but least talked about challenges [...] It is this disparity between rich and poor, more than poverty itself, that generates anti-government sentiment and could fuel civil unrest down the road’, according to a formerly leading US expert on Nigeria’s economy.¹⁷⁶

The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index is ‘a new global ranking of governments based on what they are doing to tackle the gap between rich and poor’, initiated by the NGO Oxfam, which accesses 152 countries concerning their reduction in inequality. Nigeria has been placed on the ‘unenviable

¹⁶⁷ World Bank (The)// Narayan, D., Can anyone hear us? Voices from 47 countries, December 1999, [url](#), p. 26

¹⁶⁸ World Bank, FAQs: Global Poverty Line Update, 30 September 2015, [url](#); UNDP, UNDP and the concept and measurement of poverty, Issue Brief, October 2016, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹ Ventures, Nigeria to become the extreme poverty capital of the world by 2018, 9 November 2017, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰ World Bank (The), The 2017 Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals: a new visual guide to data and development, 17 April 2017, [url](#)

¹⁷¹ Guardian (The), ‘Shameful’ Nigeria: a country that doesn’t care about inequality, 18 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁷² World Bank (The), Nigeria Country Brief, Economic overview and performance, April 2012, [url](#)

¹⁷³ World Bank (The), Country profile – Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁷⁴ Ventures, Nigeria to become the extreme poverty capital of the world by 2018, 9 November 2017, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵ Yusuf, S. A., Informal Sector and Employment Generation in Nigeria, February 2014, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁷⁶ Guardian (The), ‘Shameful’ Nigeria: a country that doesn’t care about inequality, 18 July 2017, [url](#)

position' at the bottom of this index, indicating fewer efforts to reduce inequality than all the other countries included.¹⁷⁷

'[Nigeria's] social spending (on health, education and social protection) is shamefully low, reflected in very poor social outcomes for its citizens. More than 10 million children in Nigeria do not go to school and 1 in 10 children do not reach their fifth birthday. [...] despite Nigeria's positive economic growth for many years, poverty has increased, and the proceeds of growth have gone almost entirely to the top 10 % of the population.'¹⁷⁸

Oxfam says that between 2004 and 2010 the levels of inequality have worsened 'with the upper class benefiting from dubious tax wavers and legislators receiving earnings that were among the highest in the world.'¹⁷⁹ Corruption and mismanagement are often considered a major factor contributing to Nigeria's poverty rate as the state has rich resources¹⁸⁰ while other sources also mention factors such as 'unemployment, [...] non-diversification of the economy, income inequality [...] and a poor education system.'¹⁸¹ Inequality, poverty and justice are also often linked; justice is available and accessible to the rich, while the poor reportedly cannot bail themselves out with money.¹⁸²

Nigeria's population growth is one of the major factors for the country's high poverty rates, as the growth of the population is not consistent with its economic growth. Furthermore, the country's dependency on oil and oil-generating revenue has also been mentioned as a contributing factor to the high levels of poverty.¹⁸³

2.4.2 Urban poverty

Regional differences

There is a significant, visible difference between the northern and southern regions of Nigeria as well as between different states¹⁸⁴, while the Middle Belt is characterised as having the highest levels of inequality.¹⁸⁵ The north-south differences with regards to poverty are further increased by the following trends: higher education levels and availability in the south, a more enabling environment in the south, the northern governments spending on average less money on their citizens than the south of Nigeria, an on average smaller household size of the south compared to the north and the north's resistance to birth control, which may be solved through sufficient education for girls.¹⁸⁶

Following Bakare Ganiyu Olalekan, a researcher on urban and regional development, '[t]he explosive rates of growth have not only progressively complicated and exacerbated inter-related problems of human settlements and environment, but have also greatly accelerated poverty.' Lagos is one of the world's fastest growing cities; due to Nigeria's rapid urbanisation, new slums have emerged; slums often grow uncontrolled and as rapid as cities, thus leading to urban poverty.¹⁸⁷ According to UN Habitat, 50.2 % of Nigeria's urban population (Nigeria's urban population itself accounts for nearly

¹⁷⁷ Oxfam, The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index, 17 July 2017, [url](#), pp. 1, 10

¹⁷⁸ Oxfam, The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index, 17 July 2017, [url](#), pp. 1, 10

¹⁷⁹ Guardian (The), 'Shameful' Nigeria: a country that doesn't care about inequality, 18 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁸⁰ Guardian (The), 'Shameful' Nigeria: a country that doesn't care about inequality, 18 July 2017 [url](#); Oxfam, Nigeria: extreme inequality in numbers, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁸¹ Ucha, C., Poverty in Nigeria: some Dimensions and Contributing Factors, June 2010 [url](#), p. 46; See also BBC News, is Nigeria 'fantastically corrupt?', 11 May 2016, [url](#)

¹⁸² Guardian (The), 'Shameful' Nigeria: a country that doesn't care about inequality, 18 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁸³ Hagen-Zanker, J. et al., Social protection in Nigeria - Synthesis report, February 2012, [url](#); Ventures, Nigeria to become the extreme poverty capital of the world by 2018, 9 November 2017, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴ Center for Global Development, Poverty in Nigeria: Understanding and Bridging the Divide between North and South, 6 April 2018, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵ Hagen-Zanker, J. et al., Social protection in Nigeria - Synthesis report, February 2012, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁸⁶ Center for Global Development, Poverty in Nigeria, 6 April 2018, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷ Olalekan, B., Urbanization, Urban Poverty, Slum and Sustainable Urban Development in Nigerian Cities, 2014, [url](#), p. 14

84 million people) lived in slums in 2014.¹⁸⁸ For more information on Housing and living conditions, see [Section 2.6](#).

2.4.3 Female-headed households

According to Oxfam International, ‘women represent between 60 and 79 percent of Nigeria’s rural labor force but are five times less likely to own their own land than men. Women are also less likely to have had a decent education. Over three-quarters of the poorest women in Nigeria have never been to school and 94 % of them are illiterate.’¹⁸⁹

According to a March 2002 research paper on gender and household poverty, the main causes of female poverty are related to women’s disadvantageous position in the labour market ‘and their limited access to productive resources, education and income for the satisfaction of their basic needs’. The author adds: ‘Experience has shown that any approach to poverty alleviation that leaves the economic situation of women unchanged tends to fall short of its goal.’¹⁹⁰

Female headed households often rely on social networks from family or communities for their survival. See [Section 2.9](#).

2.4.4 IDPs

IDPs are considered especially vulnerable and for that reason often struggle even more than other sections of populations to make a living. Especially IDPs in the north-eastern states, displaced due to the Boko Haram insurgency, live in dire conditions.¹⁹¹ In Yobe they ‘experience high rates of poverty and limited access to social and health services’, according to the researcher Fatima Kyari Mohammed who did field research amongst IDPs. ‘Finding a job and reintegrating into the economy, where there already is a staggeringly high unemployment rate, is particularly difficult for a person from a minority ethnic group.’¹⁹²

As of December 2016, Nigeria had an estimated 1.7 million IDPs, many of them staying in the northern states. In Borno most of them live in host communities, informal settlements and makeshift shelters, in Adamawa approximately 10 % live in IDP camps or camp-like sites. Maiduguri, Borno State capital, saw its population grow from 0.5 million in 2006 to almost 3 million in 2016, mostly due to the influx of IDPs. Adamawa State is the second hardest hit by the insurgency (after Borno) and hosts a large number of IDPs from Borno State as well. Several northern state governments, such as Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, have set up programmes to assist and reintegrate IDPs.¹⁹³

Child marriages and trafficking are reportedly occurring in IDP camps at a significant scale. Poverty is leading many IDP women to marry off their young daughters (aged between 10 and 13) to older men, in order to buy food, water and other most necessary materials.¹⁹⁴

IDPs in Abuja are living in the outskirts of the city in informal and host communities. Their situation seems somewhat better than those in the north-eastern states. According to the researcher Fatima Kyari Mohammed,

¹⁸⁸ UN Habitat, Slum Almanac 2015 2016, Tracking Improvement in the Lives of Slum Dwellers, [url](#), p. 66

¹⁸⁹ Oxfam, Nigeria: extreme inequality in numbers, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁹⁰ Okojie, C. E. E., Gender and Education as Determinants of Household Poverty in Nigeria, March 2002, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁹¹ OCHA, Nigeria: Humanitarian crisis continues as a result of prolonged conflict and ongoing violence, 18 August 2016, [url](#)

¹⁹² SWP, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges, April 2017, [url](#), pp. 26, 31

¹⁹³ SWP, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges, April 2017, [url](#), pp. 25-28

¹⁹⁴ This is Africa, Nigeria’s IDP camps: where child marriages take place, 28 August 2018, [url](#)

‘Many of the displaced persons particularly in the FCT [Abuja] have managed to carve out a reasonable living for themselves and their families. Some local integration has taken place as people find jobs, are supported by various empowerment programmes, settle with extended family members, and in some cases get married. Basic needs remain a high priority.’¹⁹⁵

2.5 Food security

Food security, as defined during the World Food Summit in 1996, ‘exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.’ From this definition, four components of food security can be identified: availability, access, utilisation, and stability of food over time.¹⁹⁶

In Nigeria, agriculture is the major occupation and employs a large part of the active work force. Nevertheless, food security in Nigeria is lacking for large parts of the rural and urban population, according to a study on the challenges of food security in Nigeria (2017)

‘Though Nigeria prides itself as the giant of Africa with its economy becoming the largest in 2014, the poverty rate in the country is alarming. Not less than 70 % of the Nigerian population is surviving on less than a dollar per day while food insecurity prevalence in the low income urban households and rural areas respectively stands at 79 % and 71 %. [...] In the rural Nigeria, inadequate post-harvest technology and poor distribution of food have combined with poverty to form an almost insurmountable challenge and especially with unpredictable variations in weather conditions.’¹⁹⁷

Causes of the food security in Nigeria are multifaceted, according to this study: insufficient food production, gender inequality, inefficient policies and corruption, conflicts and civil insecurity, and low technology for processing and storage.¹⁹⁸

2.5.1 Prevalence

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) stated in 2017 that the ‘food security situation remains extremely concerning’ in north-eastern Nigeria. The UN agency estimates that during the 2018 lean season (June-September, the period between planting and harvesting) 3.7 million people are expected to be in need of support to meet their food requirements.¹⁹⁹ According to the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), in 2017, north-eastern Nigeria was one of the four regions worldwide with the worst food crisis; the situation of food insecurity was mainly attributed to (continuous) conflicts and insecurity.²⁰⁰ The Boko Haram conflict has had a significant impact on the food security situation, especially in the north-eastern part of the country.²⁰¹ In 2016, the Ministry of Health had declared a nutrition emergency status for Borno State.²⁰²

¹⁹⁵ SWP, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges, April 2017, [url](#)

¹⁹⁶ FAO, An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security, 2008 [url](#), p. 1; Matemilola S. et al., The Challenges of Food Security in Nigeria, 2017, [url](#), p. 6

¹⁹⁷ Matemilola S., Elegbede I., The Challenges of Food Security in Nigeria, 2017, [url](#), p. 7

¹⁹⁸ Matemilola S., Elegbede I., The Challenges of Food Security in Nigeria, 2017, [url](#), pp. 9-14

¹⁹⁹ UNOCHA, North-East/Northeastern Nigeria, Humanitarian Situation Update, February 2018, [url](#), p. 2

²⁰⁰ FSIN, Global report on food crisis, 2018, [url](#), p. 1

²⁰¹ ICG, Instrument of Pain (IV): The Food Crisis in North East Nigeria, 18 May 2017, [url](#)

²⁰² FEWS NET, Nigeria Food Security Alert, 7 July 2016, [url](#), p. 1

The number of mal- and undernourished children remains high in north-eastern Nigeria.²⁰³ According to UN data, in February 2018, nearly 30 000 children in the area were identified as suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).²⁰⁴

For some children the situation has further worsened. UNOCHA writes: ‘The sector has observed a deterioration in the nutrition situation in northern Adamawa, and in Gwoza, eastern Borno, where there is an increase in new admissions [...] several partners have initiated a scale-up in nutrition activities in Gubio, Nganzai following the new wave of displacement along the Maiduguri-Monguno axis.’²⁰⁵

With its 2.5 million severely malnourished children under-five years of age, Nigeria rates third worldwide regarding the number of chronically malnourished children, according to the Minister of State, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, speaking at the commemoration of the 2017 World Food day in Abuja. The minister was quoted in an opinion article in the Guardian by columnist Oladele Oladipupo, indicating Nigeria’s exponential population growth while at the same time, its drastic decrease in food production.²⁰⁶

Regional differences

Regional differences are especially notable with regards to the North East (as noted above), where livelihood activities and harvests are negatively influenced by continuous conflict and violent insurgency. Borno State, Adamawa State and Yobe State were expected to reach emergency status²⁰⁷ concerning the situation of food security during the period February to May 2018. Some central and south-eastern regions were expected to have reduced harvest due to floods and pest infestation.²⁰⁸

The Famine Early Warnings Systems (FEWS) network developed the Integrated (Food Security) Phase Classification (IPC), a five-phase scale on the levels of food security in which level 1 is the lowest level and 5 the highest level - famine.²⁰⁹ For the period October 2017 until May 2018, the FEWS network anticipated that the ‘main season harvest are expected to be average to above-average in most areas. However, localised areas have been impacted by flooding, dry spells, conflicts, and pest infestations, leading to below-average harvests in these areas.’²¹⁰

A number of 22 Nigerian states were affected by flooding in the period October 2017 until May 2018, while the impact of pest infestations has been average; some areas have been affected more than others. Conflicts between nomadic pastoralists and farmers led to fewer fatalities than in previous years; however, there has been a spill over of communal conflicts southwards.²¹¹

The FEWS report of August 2018 notes that ‘populations from newly accessible areas [on the move due to the military operation Last Hold] continue to arrive in northeast Nigeria.’ Also ongoing farmer-herder conflicts in the central states make people move to other areas, thereby losing their livelihood assets. Consequences are increased demand for food assistance and rising prices of staple food in the North East. In the rest of the country, harvesting of staple food is progressing favourably.²¹²

²⁰³ ICG, Instruments of Pain (IV): The Food Crisis in North East Nigeria, 18 May 2017, [url](#)

²⁰⁴ UNOCHA, North-East Nigeria, Humanitarian Situation Update, February 2018, [url](#), p. 7

²⁰⁵ UNOCHA, North-East Nigeria, Humanitarian Situation Update, February 2018, [url](#), p. 7

²⁰⁶ Guardian (The), Investing in food security, 22 January 2018, [url](#)

²⁰⁷ FEWS NET, Integrated Phase Classification, n.d. [url](#)

²⁰⁸ FEWS NET, Nigeria, Food Security Outlook, October 2017 to May 2018, [url](#)

²⁰⁹ ‘The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a globally accepted five-phase scale for communicating the severity of acute food insecurity. Famine (IPC Phase 5) is defined as the situation in which three conditions are met: at least 20 % of an area’s population faces an extreme lack of food, at least 30 % of children are acutely malnourished, and the crude death rate exceeds 2/10,000/day.’ FEWS NET, Nigeria Food Security Alert, 7 July 2016, [url](#)

²¹⁰ FEWS NET, Nigeria Food Security Outlook, October 2017 to May 2018, [url](#)

²¹¹ FEWS NET, Nigeria Food Security Outlook, October 2017 to May 2018, [url](#)

²¹² FEWS NET, Nigeria, Food Security Outlook August 2018, [url](#)

2.5.2 Access to food

According to the April 2018 Food Security Cluster report, longer lasting droughts have led to decreased amounts of crops and livestock; especially rural families have reduced access to food as their dependency on subsistence agriculture production to meet their food requirements are impacted by droughts.²¹³

FEWS writes:

‘Information about conditions for populations who remain in inaccessible areas of the northeast is very limited. However, it is likely that households in areas cut-off from humanitarian access are facing more severe constraints to basic food and non-food needs, with an elevated risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) outcomes in these areas throughout the outlook period.’²¹⁴

The August 2018 FEWS report further notes: ‘Across much of the rest of Nigeria, household and market food stocks continue to deplete normally during the peak of the lean season. Most poor households are accessing food through market purchase, early green harvests, wild foods and agricultural and non-agricultural labor.’²¹⁵

Staple food prices

Cereals, sorghum, maize, millet, rice, cowpea, groundnut, yam, potatoes and cassava all represent Nigerian staple food. Compared to 2015, prices for staple food in the period October 2017-May 2018 are generally between 50-100 % above average, depending on the season. In the North East it is estimated that prices increased by 150 %.²¹⁶

The August 2018 FEWS report notes that due to the population movements the demand for food assistance has increased and prices of staple food in the North East are rising. In the rest of the country, harvesting of staple food is progressing favourably. Staple food prices are still above average but lower than in 2017.²¹⁷

2.5.3 Food security for IDPS

UNOCHA notes that ‘[t]he conflict in Nigeria’s northeast has resulted in widespread displacement [...]’ and the crisis shows no sign of abating. ‘Up to 2.1 million people fled their homes at the height of the conflict, 1.7 million of whom are still currently internally displaced and close to 200 000 people are still in Cameroon, Chad and Niger, after having been forced to flee.’²¹⁸

According to FAO,

‘In northeastern Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency has led to heightened levels of displacement and food insecurity. While humanitarian access is improving, most displaced families still rely on vulnerable host communities for basic needs, including food. This has put already impoverished host communities under extreme pressure, leading to increased exposure to food insecurity and malnutrition. Lootings and fear of attacks have prevented

²¹³ Food Security Cluster, Nigeria, Understanding rainfall variability, drought and farmers’ coping strategies in Nigeria, 14 April 2018, [url](#)

²¹⁴ FEWS NET, Nigeria, Food Security Outlook, October 2017, [url](#)

²¹⁵ FEWS NET, Nigeria, Food Security Outlook, August 2018, [url](#)

²¹⁶ FAO, Emergency livelihoods assistance to returnees, IDPs and host communities affected by the insurgency in northeastern Nigeria, 25 July 2018, [url](#)

²¹⁷ FEWS NET, Nigeria, Food Security Outlook, August 2018, [url](#)

²¹⁸ UNOCHA, About OCHA Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

many farmers from working in their fields, leading to the loss of harvests and productive assets, and extremely reduced purchasing power.’²¹⁹

In the north-eastern regions, the Nigerian government intervened by providing food assistance; both to host communities and persons living in camps. Additionally, UNOCHA’s partners have provided IDPs who arrived in Bama and Banki with emergency food rations.²²⁰

IDPs often seek shelter in urban centres, as it was the case in Maiduguri: ‘Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, and its outskirts, have seen their population double from one to two million with the influx of people fleeing the violence in other areas of the state. In an area already economically deprived, more than three in four IDPs are living among host communities.’²²¹ Further information on risks and challenges that IDPs, returnees and other people in need face in accessing energy solutions in Borno State, made available by the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Working Group, indicates that ‘95 % depend on firewood and charcoal for their daily cooking energy needs, 76 % are not able to meet their daily cooking energy needs, 65 % use ‘highly inefficient cooking technologies’ (such as open fire and three stone fire) and 85 % mention protection risks when collecting firewood.’²²²

In terms of malnutrition, data from 2016 suggests dire situations in the ‘Banki camp near the Cameroon border, and the Pulka camp in Gwoza’. The same data referred to a medical screening in Monguno LGA, which indicated ‘that 32 percent of children were acutely malnourished (GAM) [global acute malnutrition], with 13 percent severely malnourished (SAM).’²²³

In March 2018, the Premium Times writes that from Malkohi camp it was reported, that people only eat once in a day. One IDP living in the camp stated that ‘[s]ince early January, when they distributed the normal thirty days food items to us, we have never received anything again. [...] people living in the camp need urgent food intervention, because any moment from now some people, especially children would die of hunger.’²²⁴

Food security in Lagos and Abuja

The Lagos State government is reportedly dedicated to improve food security²²⁵, in order to improve employment and reduce poverty. One of the measures by the state government is to increase its rice production through expansion of the rice mill at Imota from 2.5 to 16 metric tons per hour. A further increase of the capacity of the rice mill to 32 tons per hour ‘will create over 274 000 jobs across the entire rice value chain in the state.’²²⁶ The government subsidises the rice production²²⁷ and fights against price increase through hoarding rice stock, threatening to raid shops and warehouses.²²⁸

Research by the Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) indicates that food security can be achieved by 2020 by effectively implementing policies on ‘food availability, access, utilisation and stability [meaning “available all the time”]’.²²⁹

²¹⁹ Food Security Cluster, Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

²²⁰ UNOCHA, North-East Nigeria, Humanitarian Situation Update, February 2018, [url](#)

²²¹ UNOCHA, About OCHA Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

²²² UNOCHA, North-East Nigeria, Humanitarian Situation Update, February 2018, [url](#), p.4

²²³ FEWS NET, Nigeria Food Security Alert, 7 July 2016, [url](#), pp. 1-2

²²⁴ Premium Times, Displaced by Boko Haram, hungry IDPs protest food shortage, 7 March 2018, [url](#)

²²⁵ Nigeria, Lagos State, World Food Day: Lagos Restates Commitment To Food Security, n.d., [url](#)

²²⁶ Vanguard, Food security: Lagos set to increase rice production, 6 May 2017, [url](#)

²²⁷ Business Day, Food security: Lagos spends N1.05bn on Lake Rice subsidy, 23 May 2018, [url](#)

²²⁸ Vanguard, Food security: Lagos set to increase rice production, 6 May 2017, [url](#)

²²⁹ Vanguard, Food security: NIFST says policies must address 4 pillars, 14 February 2018, [url](#)

2.6 Housing and living conditions

2.6.1 Urbanisation

Nigeria has an estimated population of 193 million people (data 2016)²³⁰, with a growth rate in 2016 of 2.6 %.²³¹ Urbanisation rates have steadily increased from 40.8 % in 2007 to 49.4 % in 2017.²³² In 1990, between 27 and 36 % (depending on the sources) of the population lived in urban areas. Urbanisation is, next to a high birth rate, to a large extent caused by rural-urban migration (about 40 % nation-wide²³³, and about 75 % in Lagos²³⁴).²³⁵

The urbanisation is increasing at an annual growth rate of 3.75 % since 2010, in a largely ‘unplanned and uncoordinated way’, according to a World Bank study. The largest urban areas in Nigeria, with their estimated population in 2016 are Lagos (13.6 million people²³⁶), Kano (3.7 million), Ibadan (3.2 million), Abuja (2.6 million) and Port Harcourt (2.5 million). Abuja was the fastest growing city with 7.1 % per year between 2000 and 2016; however, Lagos is prognosed to be the fastest growing city with an annual growth of 7.2 % between 2016 and 2033.²³⁷

The rapid urbanisation generates many problems in the health situation and living conditions of city dwellers. According to researchers from the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, ‘urbanization in Nigeria is mainly demographically driven [...]. This has created urban health crises of inadequate water safe supply, squalor and shanty settlements, sanitation, solid waste management, double burden of diseases and inefficient, congested, and risky transport system.’²³⁸

Reasons for urbanisation

Generally, the most common reasons for men and women alike to migrate are to seek employment and education, and an additional reason for women is to join a spouse or to marry.²³⁹ Many of slum residents in Lagos migrate to cities for economic reasons (poverty (52 %), lack of jobs (42 %)) or lack of shelter (34 %).²⁴⁰

2.6.2 Living conditions

The rapid growth of the urban population outpaces the necessary infrastructure, public services and employment. This results in urban slums, poverty, traffic congestion, housing shortage, inadequate governmental services, growing social and economic inequalities, street violence and crime. Health and sanitation problems arise from this rapid urbanisation due to a lack of electricity, sewage, potable drink water, and adequate housing.²⁴¹ Moreover, as the World Bank report notes, ‘In Lagos [...] the

²³⁰ Nigeria, NBS, Population of Nigeria 2016, available at [url](#)

²³¹ World Bank (The), Nigeria, Country Profile, n.d., [url](#)

²³² Statista, Nigeria: Urbanization from 2007 to 2017, 2018, [url](#)

²³³ World Bank (The), Nigeria slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing, 23 June 2015 [url](#), p. 3

²³⁴ Akinwale, O. et al., Living conditions and public health status in three urban slums of Lagos, Nigeria, January 2014 [url](#), p. 37

²³⁵ Fox, S. R. et al., Urbanisation and Urban Expansion in Nigeria. July 2015, [url](#), pp. 10-11

²³⁶ However, following a BBC article, the Lagos State government estimates the population in Lagos city at 21 million in 2017. BBC, The city that won't stop growing - How can Lagos cope with its spiralling population?, 21 August 2017, [url](#)

²³⁷ World Bank (The), Nigeria slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing, 23 June 2015, [url](#), p. vi; World Bank, Urbanization in Nigeria: Planning for the Unplanned, 3 November 2016, [url](#)

²³⁸ Alhaji A.A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December, 2017, [url](#)

²³⁹ Fox, S.R. et al., Urbanisation and Urban Expansion in Nigeria. July 2015, [url](#), p. 29

²⁴⁰ Akinwale, O. et al., Living conditions and public health status in three urban slums of Lagos, Nigeria, January 2014, [url](#), p. 37

²⁴¹ Aliyu, A.A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December 2017, [url](#)

gaps in living conditions between informal settlements and formal developments are stark' and the socio-economic gaps within the city's districts are deepening.²⁴²

Housing

Nigeria has a lack of adequate housing, estimated at 20-30 million units in 2014.²⁴³ While the annual housing needs was estimated at 0.5 to 1 million housing units by 2020, only 15-19 % of the housing units had been completed within the governmental planning programmes between 1975-1985. Consequently, many urban dwellings are overcrowded. It is estimated that the costs of meeting the required number of housing would amount to 'more than 36 trillion Naira' (400 Naira = USD 1).²⁴⁴

The housing problem exists both in Abuja and in Lagos. However, where in Abuja the 600 000 deficit houses does not propel the owners to sell or rent at any price – and as a consequence many houses are still vacant –, in Lagos, where the housing deficit is of 2.5 million, investors and government are interested in urban development and building houses in order to sell or rent. In the rental market, the government has launched a 'Rent-to-Own' program²⁴⁵, making the housing process potentially easier for the population.²⁴⁶

Urban areas are characterised by several types of settlements, as discussed in a research paper in 2015. Apart from the residential areas, which are oriented towards the middle class, informal settlements in the core areas of cities are the oldest and largest settlements, with markets and other commercial services. These settlements tend to have the lowest quality residences and the highest population density. At the periphery of the urban area where usually newcomers are housed are squatter settlements and more informal settlements. These settlements usually have lower population density than in the inner cities and 'are ethnically, professionally, socially and religiously diverse'.²⁴⁷

The living conditions in slums, as studied for Lagos, are dire. Most people living in slums suffer 'unacceptable levels of hygiene and health, while they are deprived of essential basic social facilities'. (inadequate water and electricity, lack of garbage disposal and sewage facilities).²⁴⁸

Access to water, sanitation and electricity

Many urban dwellers do not have access to potable water, because of lack of maintenance, underinvestment, lack of governmental subsidies to ensure access to water by the poor. In Ibadan, only 3 % of the residents have access to piped water, and in Lagos only 9 %. The most common source of potable water is coming from tube-wells or boreholes, used by 44 % of the urban residents. However, in Lagos, street vendors are the most important source of drinking water.²⁴⁹

Sanitation in urban areas is improving with 42.7 % of the urban households using 'improved, not shared toilet facilities' according to 2013 data. However, this implies that still a large part of the households use open spaces to relieve themselves, with many serious health risks.²⁵⁰ About half of the respondents in a representative survey into the living conditions in slums stated that they use pit

²⁴² World Bank (The), Nigeria slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing, 23 June 2015, [url](#), p. 3

²⁴³ World Bank (The), Nigeria slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing, 23 June 2015, [url](#), p. 4

²⁴⁴ Aliyu, A. A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December 2017, [url](#)

²⁴⁵ Nigeria, Lagos State Ministry of Housing, Rent-to-Own, July 2017, [url](#)

²⁴⁶ Propertyproinsider, Real Estate Investors Cautious Over Investment In Abuja, 23 August 2017, [url](#)

²⁴⁷ Fox, S. R. et al., Urbanisation and Urban Expansion in Nigeria. July 2015, [url](#), p. 39

²⁴⁸ Akinwale, O. et al., Living conditions and public health status in three urban slums of Lagos, Nigeria, January 2014, [url](#), p. 36

²⁴⁹ Aliyu, A. A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December 2017, [url](#)

²⁵⁰ Aliyu, A. A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December 2017, [url](#)

latrines at the back of their houses (as the water supply is too irregular for flush toilets), while 36 % use a flush system and the rest use the lagoon or other areas.²⁵¹

Neither is there an effective system of waste collection:

‘In the study of nine cities in Nigeria, wastes are commonly dumped in open dumps, uncontrolled landfills, and dumps located along or beside major roads. In many cities, refuse spreads into the roads, blocking traffic, and wastes are often burnt in the open on the side of the road, thereby posing potential hazards of air pollution and fire accidents.’²⁵²

Access to infrastructure and transport

According to a review of literature on urbanization published between 1960 and 2015, ‘More than 95 % of urban transports in Nigeria is by road, and about 70 % of these trips are by public transport. Road traffic injuries are development and social issues with public health consequences. Transport systems in our cities are grossly inadequate, inefficient, risky, and unreliable.’ Many roads are in bad condition. Large cities such as Lagos suffer from traffic congestion and subsequently serious air pollution, resulting from high emissions of exhaust gases and carbon dioxide.²⁵³

Access to land

The main legal framework regulating access to land is the Land Use Act (LUA) of 1978. The law vests management of land in the hands of the governor of a state, who may grant a ‘statutory right of occupancy’ to a person, while local governments are empowered to grant a ‘customary right of occupancy’ to non-urban land. For both tenure types, certificates of occupancy are issued. In addition, the law ‘aims to preserve existing rights over improved land’ from the pre-1978 period, through ‘deemed rights of occupancy’. The World Bank study notes: ‘In rural areas, and even some urban and periurban areas, considerable confusion persists as to the legal status of particular land, and the pre-LUA land management rules of particular communities remain strong in practice.’²⁵⁴

As explained above, the LUA only regulates formally certified land ownership and does not recognize informal and squatter settlements. This implies that in case of involuntary resettlement (which often occurs due to a huge competition for land), the squatters are not entitled to compensation or assistance. As in urban cities such as Lagos, about 60-80 % of the residents live in such informal settlements, the LUA Act falls short in solving housing problems, according to a study on slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing by the World Bank.²⁵⁵

The expansion of urban population has its impact on the growing demand of urban land. In Lagos, most undeveloped land within the urban areas has been occupied by rural immigrants. This leads to ‘uncontrolled and unorganized developments of slum communities which lack basic infrastructural facilities and are characterized by very poor environmental conditions.’²⁵⁶ It is estimated that by 2030 roughly 2.3 million hectares of land will have been turned to urban settlements; which will be 5 times more than the 464 192 hectares of urban land in 2000.²⁵⁷

²⁵¹ Akinwale, O. et al., Living conditions and public health status in three urban slums of Lagos, Nigeria, January 2014, [url](#), p. 39

²⁵² Aliyu, A. A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December 2017, [url](#)

²⁵³ Aliyu, A. A. et al., Urbanization, Cities, and Health, October-December 2017, [url](#), pp. 11-12

²⁵⁴ World Bank (The), Nigeria slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing, 23 June 2015, [url](#), p. 7

²⁵⁵ World Bank (The), Nigeria slum upgrading, involuntary resettlement, land and housing, 23 June 2015, [url](#), pp. vi-vii

²⁵⁶ Akinwale, O. et al., Living conditions and public health status in three urban slums of Lagos, Nigeria, January 2014, [url](#), p. 37

²⁵⁷ Fox, S.R. et al., Urbanisation and Urban Expansion in Nigeria, July 2015 [url](#), p. 12

Indigeneity

Access to land is also dependent of the person's indigenous status. All over Nigeria, there are legal and social differences between 'indigenes' or 'natives' and 'settlers'. Indigenes enjoy more rights than settlers, although this is not laid down in the Constitution. Certificates of Indigeneity (or Certificates of Origin), issued by local governments in the name of the state governor, grant access to services such as land, education, employment, health care, and political positions.²⁵⁸ The bases on which such certificates are issued differ between local governments, thus possibly leading to discrimination and marginalisation of non-indigenes, according to a Crisis Group report.²⁵⁹ This also applies to IDPs who are not indigenes of the state to where they have fled.

Inheritance laws

The Nigerian legal system is a combination of 'Nigerian legislation, English law, customary law (including Islamic law) and judicial precedents', according to an article of The Lawyers Chronicle, 'the magazine for the African lawyer', published at the website Law Repository Nigeria:

'With respect to inheritance, the question of legitimacy and legitimization are principally connected with the status of the successor of the deceased. [...] legitimacy is the status acquired by a person who is born in lawful wedlock and such a person is regarded as been legitimate from birth. [...] By reason of the pluralistic nature of the Nigerian legal system, different systems of law apply to determine who succeed and inherit property of deceased persons.'²⁶⁰

With regard to women's inheritance rights, the Lawyers Chronicle notes: 'There are two types that are recognised under the law: statutory marriages and customary marriages, which include marriages under Islamic law. Therefore, any discourse on women's inheritance rights in Nigeria must be done in the light of diversity of the legal system.'²⁶¹

According to the 1990 Marriage Act, 'The married woman under the Act enjoys equal rights to the family assets acquired during the marriage and to be involved in their disposal during or after the marriage or upon the death of her husband.'²⁶² The FAO website on women's property and use rights in Nigeria states: 'The Sharia legal system, in place in certain states, gives women the right to own and dispose of property, including land [...] Sharia law also says that women can inherit property, but that women only have the right to inherit a small share.' However, 'In most of the country, marriages under Muslim religious laws or other customary laws are not recognized or protected by the statutory law, even though these are the most common marriage.'²⁶³

2.6.3 Living conditions for women without network

Interlocutors of the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) noted in 2012 that it is very difficult for women without male support heading their own households to obtain housing. Landlords often refuse single living women as tenants and reportedly require male guarantees. Nevertheless, in big southern cities such as Lagos, Ibadan and Port Harcourt, a woman heading her own household can obtain a house if she can afford the high rents and is able to pay an advance of two to three years'

²⁵⁸ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Information on a Certificate of State of Origin, (2015-January 2017), 30 January 2017, NGA105727.E, [url](#); UN HRC, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Rita Izsák, 5 January 2015, [url](#)

²⁵⁹ International Crisis Group, Curbing Violence in Nigeria (I): The Jos Crisis, 17 December 2012, [url](#)

²⁶⁰ Law Repository Nigeria, The Underlying Factors in the Law of Inheritance in Nigeria, 9 September 2017, [url](#)

²⁶¹ Law Repository Nigeria, The Underlying Factors in the Law of Inheritance in Nigeria, 9 September 2017, [url](#)

²⁶² FAO, Gender land and rights database – Nigeria, Women's property and use rights in personal laws, n.d., [url](#)

²⁶³ FAO, Gender land and rights database – Nigeria, Women's property and use rights in personal laws, n.d., [url](#)

rent. For uneducated women in southern cities it is difficult to find housing, but in rural areas this might be possible via extended family.²⁶⁴

It is very rare for single women to live alone and head their own households in the northern parts of Nigeria, according to interlocutors of the IRB. Most landlords would reportedly not rent out houses to single women 'due to Islamic and traditional values'. Another interlocutor noted that in some cases a woman's family 'would take care of housing' in the north.²⁶⁵

2.6.4 Living conditions for IDPs

By 30 June 2018, 224 334 Nigerian refugees have been displaced by the insurgency in Cameroon, Chad and Niger, in addition to 2.25 million IDPs within Nigeria.²⁶⁶

UNHCR commented on the living conditions of IDPs in July 2017:

'Displaced populations are living in squalid conditions characterized by overcrowding and limited access to safe, sanitary and dignified accommodation. IDPs and returnees in Nigeria hosted in camps and displacement sites are often living in congested shelters or isolated in insecure or inhospitable areas, making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The situation is most precarious in settlements such as camps, displacement sites, and unfinished buildings. The lack of shelter is, therefore, a major and persistent challenge and one of the main barriers to return.'²⁶⁷

IDPs Lagos

Lagos State is home to many IDPs from northern Nigeria who have escaped violence by Boko Haram. In the Ibeju-Lekki area, an official re-integration center for migrants and IDPs was established. The center is set up as part of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme, a transit centre where migrants can receive services such as counselling, help with family reunification, skill acquisition, temporary accommodation.²⁶⁸

One of the largest concentrations of IDPs in Lagos State is hosted in Debojo, Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos State.²⁶⁹ Lagos' Lekki peninsula is home to thousands of IDPs and forms the arena of competition for land between rich and poor people, according to a media report. Many IDPs in these areas are widowed women who have fled the violence in the north with their children and end up living in shanty dwellings on public or private land for which they have to pay considerable sums. They risk being evicted by the local authorities who aim at developing the scarce land for the better-to-do people. The evicted families usually move to another shanty area where they have friends or relatives.²⁷⁰

News media provide anecdotal evidence of IDPs living in 'camps' on the streets, in deserted cars. Children are unvaccinated and do not go to school - although education in Lagos is free of charge, parents need to buy school uniforms, shoes, books, food and transportation for the children. Men are

²⁶⁴ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Whether women who head their own households, without male or family support, can obtain housing and employment in large northern cities, NGA103907.E, 19 November 2012 [url](#)

²⁶⁵ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Whether women who head their own households, without male or family support, can obtain housing and employment in large northern cities, NGA103907.E, 19 November 2012, [url](#)

²⁶⁶ UNHCR, Regional Update, Nigeria Situation 1 - 30 June 2018, 30 June 2018 [url](#), p. 1

²⁶⁷ UNHCR, Nigeria Situation 2017, Supplementary Appeal January –December 2017, Revised, July 2017 [url](#) p. 8

²⁶⁸ Information Nigeria, FG Establishes IDP Centre In Lagos, 13 February 2016, [url](#)

²⁶⁹ Premium Times, Special Report: Lagos Forgotten Communities, 22 July 2018, [url](#)

²⁷⁰ Punch, Living under terror of 'Omo-Onile', 22 April 2017, [url](#)

often bike riders and ‘hire purchase’ a motorbike from dealers and pay back their debt in bits and pieces, often at very unfavourable prices.²⁷¹

IDPs Abuja

Abuja hosts several IDP camps, according to a news media report: Lugbe, Area One, New Kuchingoro and Kuje. The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, is in charge of the Area One camp.²⁷² Other IDP-camps in Abuja are reportedly in Durumi²⁷³, Kara Majiji²⁷⁴ and Wassa. The latter camp is ‘home to more than 5 000 Internally Displaced Persons from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, about 70 percent of whom are women and children.’²⁷⁵

The reports from these camps are very similar: the IDPs live a dire life to make a living, without having sufficient food, water, healthcare, and other basic needs. They feel abandoned by the government, who says ‘it is doing all in its power to meet their humanitarian needs, not just in the capital, but across the country.’ In one article the head of NEMA is cited stating that ‘IDPs issues have always been and will always be a priority for our government.’²⁷⁶

2.7 Education

2.7.1 Introduction

The 1999 Nigerian Constitution ensures free education in Nigeria. The government is responsible for ‘ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels.’ As specified under Section 18(3)(a) of the Constitution, the government shall also provide ‘free, compulsory and universal primary education’²⁷⁷. Such principles are reaffirmed in Act No 26 of 2003, also known as Child’s Rights Act, which specifies, under Section 15(1): ‘Every child has the right to free, compulsory and universal basic education and it shall be the duty of the Government in Nigeria to provide such education.’²⁷⁸

The fourth edition of the National Policy of Education (2004) has increased the compulsory education to nine years, from the age of 6 to 14: ‘6 years of primary education and 3 years of junior secondary education’.²⁷⁹ Post-basic education includes three years of senior secondary education²⁸⁰, until the age of 17.²⁸¹ The post-secondary or tertiary education consists of a university-education sector and a non-university education sector, which includes colleges of education, polytechnics and monotronics.²⁸²

According to IOM, ‘there are no fixed costs for education in Nigeria’; costs may vary depending ‘on the type of school, on the quality of education it offers and, sometimes, on the location’.²⁸³

²⁷¹ Cable (The), Chased from Chibok to Lagos, 14 April 2018, [url](#)

²⁷² Vanguard, Abuja Area One IDPs camp: A place of tears, uncertainty, 12 March 2015, [url](#)

²⁷³ Al Jazeera, Thousands displaced by Boko Haram languish in Abuja IDP camps, 26 March 2018, [url](#)

²⁷⁴ This Day, Nigeria: Defence Ministry Constructs Borehole, Presents Relief Materials to Abuja IDPs, 10 May 2018, [url](#)

²⁷⁵ Nigeria Health Watch, Reflections from a Journey to Wassa IDP Camp, 21 September 2017, [url](#)

²⁷⁶ Al Jazeera, Thousands displaced by Boko Haram languish in Abuja IDP camps, 26 March 2018, [url](#)

²⁷⁷ Nigeria, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, [url](#), section 18(3)(a).

²⁷⁸ Nigeria, Child’s Right Act, 2003, [url](#), Section 15(1)

²⁷⁹ Nigeria, National Policy on Education – 4th Edition, 2004, [url](#), p. 13

²⁸⁰ Nigeria, National Policy on Education – 4th Edition, 2004, [url](#), p. 19

²⁸¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Nigeria – Education and Literacy, Education System, n.d. [url](#)

²⁸² Nigeria, National Policy on Education – 4th Edition, 2004, [url](#), pp. 36-43

²⁸³ IOM, Returning to Nigeria, Country Information Sheet, 2015, [url](#), p. 14

Education and religion

As provided for under Section 38(2) of the Constitution, no person shall be required to receive religious instruction if this ‘relates to a religion other than his own, or religion not approved by his parent or guardian’.²⁸⁴ It also provides, under Subsection 3, that ‘No religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for pupils of that community or denomination in any place of education maintained wholly by that community or denomination.’²⁸⁵

As Freedom House stated in its 2017 report on Nigeria, ‘[t]he federal government generally respects academic freedom.’ However, as the report further specifies, ‘some state governments mandate religious instruction in elementary and secondary curriculums.’ As concerns tertiary education, the report adds that ‘student admission and faculty hiring policies are subject to political interference.’²⁸⁶

According to IOM, ‘primary/elementary schools deliver western style education, apart from Koranic schools which, in some parts of the country, impart knowledge gained from Islam.’²⁸⁷ According to UNICEF, many children in northern Nigeria attend only Koranic schools, where ‘they are taught to memorize and recite the Koran, but not the numeracy, literacy and life skills needed to function effectively in today’s world.’²⁸⁸

2.7.2 Access to education

According to UNICEF, primary school enrolment has increased in Nigeria in recent years.²⁸⁹ The latest figures available, provided by UNESCO and dating back to 2013, show that the gross enrolment ratio for primary education was at 94.07 % of primary-school age children.²⁹⁰ As for secondary and tertiary education, the gross enrolment ratio was respectively 56.18 % (2013) and 10.17 (2011).²⁹¹ However, about 25 % of all primary school children drop out before completing their school years (data 2010).²⁹²

However, the number of out-of-school children amounts up to 10.5 million in 2017, making Nigeria the country with the world’s highest number of children who are not being educated. About 60 % of those children are in northern Nigeria. Due to the conflict in that area, as a result of which teachers have been killed and schools burned down or closed for security reasons, many children have no access to education.²⁹³ BBC reports that the scale of the problem has been acknowledged by Nigeria’s education ministry’s permanent secretary Adamu Hussaini, who has also affirmed that ‘those most affected were girls, street children and the children of nomadic groups’. Cultural factors have been blamed for this high number of out-of-school children, however, critics note that publicly funded schools experience a lack of money.²⁹⁴ UNICEF also mentions economic reasons: ‘many parents simply can’t afford to send their children to school.’²⁹⁵

Gender gap

UN figures show that about 60 % of the out-of-school children are girls and many of those who enrol drop out early. Reasons given for the specific drop out of girls include ‘low perceptions of the value of

²⁸⁴ Nigeria, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, [url](#), section 38(2)

²⁸⁵ Nigeria, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, [url](#), section 38(3)

²⁸⁶ Freedom House, Nigeria, 2017, [url](#)

²⁸⁷ IOM, Returning to Nigeria, Country Information Sheet, 2015, [url](#), p. 13

²⁸⁸ UNICEF Nigeria, Quality Basic Education. In Nigeria, bringing the Message of education for all, 13 June 2014, [url](#)

²⁸⁹ UNICEF Nigeria, Quality Basic Education – The Situation, n.d. [url](#)

²⁹⁰ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Nigeria – Education and Literacy, n.d. [url](#)

²⁹¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Nigeria – Education and Literacy, n.d. [url](#)

²⁹² World Bank, Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group), n.d. [url](#)

²⁹³ UNICEF Nigeria, Quality Basic Education – The Situation, n.d. [url](#)

²⁹⁴ BBC, Nigeria has ‘largest number of children out-of-school’ in the world, 25 July 2017 [url](#)

²⁹⁵ UNICEF Nigeria, Quality Basic Education. In Nigeria, bringing the Message of education for all, 13 June 2014 [url](#)

education for girls and early marriages'.²⁹⁶ Freedom House also points out the fact that many families in Nigeria 'choose to send sons to school while daughters become street vendors or domestic workers.'²⁹⁷

Yinka Olaito, the executive director of the African Child Education Right Initiatives, a campaign group based in Lagos, claimed in an interview to Africa Check that 'while factors like gender myths, religion and cultural beliefs affect the enrolment of girls, years of insurgency in Nigeria's North East region and other unrest could have made the situation worse in the past few years.'²⁹⁸

The federal government came up with a national strategy to achieve gender equality in primary and secondary education, by launching in 2006 the National Policy in Gender in Basic Education.²⁹⁹ According to Africa Check, 'some of the most affected states have specific programmes to ensure more girls are in school, including cash transfers and free uniforms.'³⁰⁰

Impact of Boko Haram on education

The Freedom House highlights the impact of Boko Haram's activities on secular education in north-eastern Nigeria. As it specifies, 'Boko Haram's assault on secular education included the closure or destruction of primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions.'³⁰¹ As specified by the Global Coalition to Protect Education Under Attack (GCPEA), 'much of the violence was concentrated in Borno and Yobe states' in 2013, where Boko Haram prevented thousands of children 'from continuing their education, including by destroying schools, driving community members away, and targeting girl students in large-scale abductions and other attacks.'³⁰² According to UNICEF, Boko Haram's actions in North East Nigeria since 2009 had killed 2 259 teachers and displaced 19 000 others, leaving 'almost 1 400 schools [...] destroyed'. In Borno, the worst hit state, 57 % of all schools are closed.³⁰³

GCPEA also reports on attacks on higher education personnel and facilities. As specified in its 2018 report, '[a]rmed assailants, unidentified suicide bombers, Boko Haram, and government security forces killed, injured, and detained dozens of university personnel and students' between 2013 and 2017, whereas 'higher education facilities were bombed and set on fire in multiple incidents, including six that took place at the University of Maiduguri in 2017 alone.'³⁰⁴

See further the [EASO COI report Nigeria Targeting individuals](#), November 2018.

Regarding the situation in Lagos, the government of Lagos State adopted in 2018 a new strategy to address the challenges related to girl-child education in the society, as reported by Vanguard, a Lagos-based nation-wide newspaper. As claimed in the article, the new strategy is based on the construction of female schools to 'expand the opportunities for girl-child education in Lagos'.³⁰⁵

Infrastructure development in public schools across the state is one of the main areas of intervention of the Lagos State government. In order to support the development of the educational sector, 92.4 billion Naira was allocated in the 2017 state budget. As stated in the official state government's webpage: 'Presently, Lagos provides free education to over One Million pupils/students in 1 010 primary schools with a population of about 497 318 pupils; 670 Junior and Senior Secondary Schools

²⁹⁶ UNICEF Nigeria, Quality Basic Education – The Situation, n.d. [url](#)

²⁹⁷ Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Nigeria, 2017, [url](#)

²⁹⁸ Africa Check, Does Nigeria have the world's most girls out-of-school, as activist Malala claimed?, 10 August 2017, [url](#)

²⁹⁹ Nigeria, National Policy on Gender in Basic Education, January 2006 [url](#)

³⁰⁰ Africa Check, Factsheet: Grading Nigeria's progress in education, 16 July 2018 [url](#)

³⁰¹ Freedom House, Freedom in the world - Nigeria, 2017, [url](#)

³⁰² Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Education under attack, 2018 [url](#), p. 180

³⁰³ UNICEF, More than half of all schools remain closed in Borno State, 29 September 2017 [url](#)

³⁰⁴ Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Education under attack, 2018, [url](#), p. 183

³⁰⁵ Vanguard, Education: Lagos adopts new strategy to end gender disparity, 13 January 2018 [url](#)

with a population of about 564,758 students and 5 Technical and Vocational Schools across the state.’³⁰⁶

IDPs and returnees

As stated in the abovementioned Global Coalition to Protect Education Under Attack (GCPEA) report:

‘In August 2017, the IOM reported that 1,757,288 people were displaced in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe states—a slight decrease from previous assessments. The majority of the IDP population (80 percent) was located in Borno state, and the primary cause of displacement was insurgency.’³⁰⁷

In such areas – already adversely affected by the Boko Haram insurgency³⁰⁸ – efforts have been made to ensure school access for both children from host communities and IDP children.³⁰⁹ To this end, the Safe Schools Initiative (SSI) – launched in 2014 by the Nigerian government and the United Nations – developed the double shift schooling strategy, to be adopted when the number of IDP learners is too high to let them join into the normal school programme.³¹⁰ UNICEF provides details on the initiative:

‘Double shift schooling enables the utilization of the few facilities, services and resources that are available without straining the schooling system in the sense that the “normal” school programme is allowed to run as normal for children from the school community but with a slight adjustment of school hours to allow for afternoon classes for IDP children.’³¹¹

In October 2015, the Global Business Coalition for Education reported that ‘nearly 50 000 children displaced from their homes in Nigeria by Boko Haram have been helped by the Safe Schools Initiative through a student transfer program, a school reconstruction program, and innovative education strategies within IDP camps.’³¹²

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides support to Nigerian migrants wishing to return voluntarily, through Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR).³¹³ AVRR programmes involve different stages of intervention, among which reintegration assistance once back in Nigeria, where they can benefit from ‘educational support – in terms of school fees for adults and children’.³¹⁴

2.8 Health care

2.8.1 Basic data

Life expectancy at birth (2015)	52.6 years (women) 51.2 years (men) ³¹⁵
Maternal mortality rate (2015)	814 per 100 000 live birth ³¹⁶
Infant mortality	76.3 per 1 000 live birth ³¹⁷

³⁰⁶ Lagos State Government, Lagos and the Revival of Public Education, 13 March 2018, [url](#)

³⁰⁷ Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Education under attack, 2018, [url](#), p. 177

³⁰⁸ UNICEF, More than half of all schools remain closed in Borno State, 29 September 2017, [url](#)

³⁰⁹ UNICEF, Education Strategy for Internally Displaced (ID) Children in Host Communities, 9 November 2015, [url](#)

³¹⁰ UNICEF, Education Strategy for Internally Displaced (ID) Children in Host Communities, 9 November 2015, [url](#); Global Business Coalition for Education, Safe Schools Initiative: Protecting the Right to Learn in Nigeria, October 2015 [url](#)

³¹¹ UNICEF, Education Strategy for Internally Displaced (ID) Children in Host Communities, 9 November 2015, [url](#), pp. 7-8.

³¹² Global Business Coalition for Education, Safe Schools Initiative: Protecting the Right to Learn in Nigeria, October 2015 [url](#)

³¹³ IOM, Returning to Nigeria – Country Information Sheet, 2015, [url](#), p. 7

³¹⁴ IOM, Returning to Nigeria – Country Information Sheet, 2015, [url](#), p. 7

³¹⁵ UN Data, Country Profiles, Social Indicators, 2017 [url](#)

³¹⁶ WHO, Nigeria: country profiles, Maternal mortality in 1990-2015, n.d. [url](#)

³¹⁷ UN Data, Country Profiles, Social Indicators, 2017 [url](#)

Under-5 mortality rate	186 per 1 000 live birth ³¹⁸
Fertility rate	5.7 live births per woman ³¹⁹
Density of physicians	4 per 10 000 population ³²⁰
Density of midwives and nurses	16.1 per 10 000 population ³²¹
Hospital bed density	5 per 10 000 ³²²
Proportion of population using unimproved sanitation facilities	22 % ³²³
Proportion of population practising open defecation	25 % ³²⁴
HIV/AIDS prevalence rates (estimates)	Adults aged 15-49 2.8 %, women aged 15-49 3.0 %, men aged 15-49 2.5 % ³²⁵
Coverage of persons in need of treatment receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)	33 % ³²⁶
Children receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) aged 0-14 years old	26 % ³²⁷
Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2014)	3.7 % ³²⁸

The most common causes for death in Nigeria, according to the WHO, are: 1. Lower respiratory infections, 2. HIV/AIDS, 3. Malaria, 4. Diarrhoeal diseases, 5. Preterm birth complications, 6. Birth asphyxia and birth trauma, 7. Meningitis, 8. Stroke, 9. Ischaemic heart disease, 10 Protein-energy malnutrition.³²⁹

2.8.2 Health care system

The Nigerian healthcare system is organised into primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare levels³³⁰ and it is also divided into a private and public health network.³³¹ Public healthcare provision is a concurrent responsibility of the three tiers of government: the federal, states and local governments. Primary health care system is managed by the Local Government Areas (LGA), the secondary health care system by the state ministries of health. The tertiary health care is provided by specialist and teaching hospitals.³³²

The federal government is responsible for policy development, regulation, overall stewardship and providing healthcare at the tertiary level (teaching hospitals and specialist hospitals). The state

³¹⁸ UNICEF, Nigeria, n.d. [url](#)

³¹⁹ UN Data, Country Profiles, Social Indicators, 2017 [url](#)

³²⁰ UN Data, Country Profiles, Social Indicators, 2017 [url](#)

³²¹ WHO, Nigeria, Country description, n.d. [url](#)

³²² WHO, Nigeria, Country description, n.d. [url](#)

³²³ UNICEF, Nigeria, n.d. [url](#)

³²⁴ UNICEF, Nigeria, n.d. [url](#)

³²⁵ UNAIDS, Country Nigeria, Data, 2017, [url](#)

³²⁶ UNAIDS, Country Nigeria, Data, 2017, [url](#)

³²⁷ UNAIDS, Country Nigeria, Data, 2017, [url](#)

³²⁸ WHO, Nigeria, n.d. [url](#)

³²⁹ WHO, Nigeria: WHO statistical profile, Last updated: January 2015, [url](#)

³³⁰ Pharm Access Foundation, Nigerian Health Sector, Market Study Report, March 2015, [url](#), p. 10

³³¹ Cable (The), Change in Nigeria's healthcare system, 1 January 2016, [url](#)

³³² Oyibocho, E. O., et al., Sustainable Healthcare System in Nigeria, September-October 2014 [url](#), p. 30

governments are responsible for secondary healthcare, while the Local Government Areas (LGAs) manage primary healthcare.³³³ According to a report from Pharm Access Foundation, ‘the LGA level is the least funded and organised level of government and therefore has not been able to properly finance and organise primary healthcare, creating a very weak base for the healthcare system.’³³⁴ The 2016 federal budget for health is 250.06 billion Naira.³³⁵ Total expenditure on health has increased from 3 % of the GDP in 2012 to 4 % in 2015.³³⁶

The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) indicates in its directory: ‘As of December 2011, 34,173 health facilities from 36 States and FCT were listed in this Directory. Of this number 30,098 (88%) are primary health care (PHC) facilities, 3992 (12 %) are secondary level facilities while 83 (1 %) are tertiary level facilities. More than 66 % of the facilities are public (government) owned.’³³⁷

In 2014, according to a report of the British Medical Institute (BMI), quoted in a report by the International Trade Administration, there were 3 534 hospitals, 950 of which were public sector. ‘These include 54 federal tertiary hospitals comprising 20 teaching hospitals, 22 federal medical centers, 3 national orthopedic hospitals, the National Eye Centre, the National ENT [Ear, Nose & Throat] Centre and 7 psychiatric hospitals.’³³⁸

Health care human resources

A 2014 report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) states that the number of practicing physicians (30 232 doctors) in 2013 was about 35 % of the officially quoted numbers because the data have never been updated since 1963. The ‘densities of nurses, midwives and doctors [...] are far too low to effectively deliver essential health services.’ The report shows that there is a shortage of medical staff all over Nigeria, as well as an uneven distribution, with the North East zone (home to 14 % of the population) having 4 % of all doctors and the South West zone (20 % of the population) having 43.9 % of all doctors.³³⁹

The Nigerian Minister of State for Health, quoted in the Guardian, admitted that the shortage of health workers and the uneven distribution of the available skilled healthcare professionals were identified as reasons for poor health care service delivery in Nigeria.³⁴⁰

The WHO network Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) indicates similarly:

‘The primary challenge for Nigeria is inadequate production and inequitable distribution of health workers. The health workforce is concentrated in urban tertiary health care services delivery in the southern part of the country, particularly in Lagos [...] these challenges are further compounded by the fact that the federal government accepts and regulates three systems of health care delivery: orthodox, alternative, and traditional.’³⁴¹

³³³ Pharm Access Foundation, Nigerian Health Sector, Market Study Report, March 2015, [url](#), p. 10; Oyibochoa, E.O., et al., Sustainable Healthcare System in Nigeria, September-October 2014, [url](#), p. 30

³³⁴ Pharm Access Foundation, Nigerian Health Sector, Market Study Report, March 2015, [url](#), p. 10.

³³⁵ Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2016 Health Budget, n.d. [url](#), p. 1

³³⁶ WHO, Global Health Expenditure Database, NHA Indicators, [url](#)

³³⁷ FMOH, Directory of Health Facilities – Extract, 2011, [url](#)

³³⁸ US ITA, 2016 Top Markets Report Medical Devices, Country Case Study, Nigeria, 2016, [url](#), p. 1.

³³⁹ IOM, Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria, May 2014 [url](#), pp. 16, 18, 24, 38

³⁴⁰ Guardian (The), Developing human recourse for health, 4 September 2017, [url](#)

³⁴¹ WHO/Global Health Workforce Alliance, Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

2.8.3 Access to treatment

60 % of the public primary healthcare facilities are located in the northern regions of the country. These 'are mainly health posts and dispensaries that provide only basic curative services.'³⁴²

According to the Borno State government, in 2017, 6.9 million people were in need of health assistance in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe State alone. Many health facilities have been fully destroyed, 262 out of 749, while some facilities were partially damaged, 215 out of the total 749. Nonetheless, according to IOM, accessibility to a health facility for IDP sites has improved in some ways as more sites had health services within three kilometres of distance.³⁴³

An estimated 10 % of the diagnosed cancer patients in Nigeria in 2011 had access to health care.³⁴⁴ 'In Nigeria, there were more than 100 000 reported cancer cases and 72 000 deaths in 2012, with breast and cervical cancer accounting for about half of all the cancer patients, according to Globocan, a World Health Organization database. Mortality rates are extremely high, with half of all women with breast cancer dying from the disease.'³⁴⁵ In addition, the costs of cancer treatment are very high in Nigeria. An investigation by the newspaper The Guardian shows that medicines against cancer may cost 300 000 Naira per month, while the price for chemotherapy or radiotherapy is at least 200 000 Naira, 'which obviously cannot be afforded by the common man'. The article relates the increasing death rate of cancer in Nigeria to 'poor infrastructure' (inadequate cancer centres and equipment).³⁴⁶

Nigeria has approximately 4 million people with diabetes, which is one-fifth of all diabetes cases in sub-Saharan Africa. High medical cost as seen in the treatment of diabetes poses a barrier to seeking healthcare, and can be a major cause of indebtedness and impoverishment of households, since there is a lack of financial risk protection mechanisms in Nigeria.³⁴⁷

According to an article published in the Nigerian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, 'Nigeria is an area of high endemicity for HBV [Hepatitis B virus] with over 70 % of the population showing evidence of past infection with the virus and 7,3 % – 24 % of the populace having serological evidence of current infection.'³⁴⁸ According to research by Polaris Observatory, Nigeria is amongst the African countries with the lowest hepatitis treatment rates (less than 0.01 %).³⁴⁹

Nigeria has a National Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Control Programme (NASCP) performed by the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).³⁵⁰ According to the NGO AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), out of the 3.4 million people living with HIV in Nigeria, 700 000 persons have access to treatment.³⁵¹ According to the Guardian, 'of the estimated 3,228,842 PLHIV [People Living with HIV] (2 981 946 adults and 246 896 children) in Nigeria in first semester of 2017, only 31 per cent that is 1 050 594 (991 584 adults and 59 010 children) are on treatment.'³⁵²

According to President Buhari's wife Aisha, free tuberculosis treatment is offered to 95 000 adults and about 5 000 children each year in Nigeria. She further states, however, that 'almost 500 000 Nigerians

³⁴² IOM, Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria, May 2014, [url](#), p. 15

³⁴³ Nigeria, Borno State Government, Health Sector Nigeria, 19 February 2017, [url](#)

³⁴⁴ Maiyaki M.B. et al., The burden of non-communicable diseases in Nigeria, February 2014, [url](#)

³⁴⁵ Stanford Medicine News Center, Collaboration aims to improve cancer care in Nigeria, 20 April 2018, [url](#)

³⁴⁶ Guardian (The), Addressing high cost of cancer treatment in Nigeria, 5 February 2018, [url](#)

³⁴⁷ Okoronkwo, I.L., et al., Socioeconomic inequities and payment coping mechanisms used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus in Nigeria, January-February 2016, [url](#), p. 105

³⁴⁸ Nigerian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Hepatitis B and C treatment Guidelines for Nigeria, 2 December, 2015, [url](#), p. 63

³⁴⁹ World Hepatitis Alliance, Treatment of hepatitis C has more than doubled since 2013, 28 July 2016, [url](#)

³⁵⁰ NACA, NACA's mission, n.d., [url](#)

³⁵¹ Premium Times, Only 700,000 persons have access to HIV/AIDS treatment in Nigeria, 16 September 2016, [url](#)

³⁵² Guardian (The), Nigeria: Sustaining Free HIV Treatment in Nigeria, 1 December 2017, [url](#)

with tuberculosis do not receive treatment and, therefore, suffer unnecessarily, die prematurely and continue to spread the disease.³⁵³

Health insurance

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was officially launched in 2005 but in 2015 it served only 4 % of the population. Enrolment under the NHIS is voluntary.³⁵⁴ A research paper on the impact of social health insurance on the government's aim of universal health coverage concludes:

‘At present, only about 5 % of Nigerians have prepaid health care through social and voluntary private insurance. Whereas the NHIS and private insurance has gained sufficient traction in providing coverage to federal public sector workers, their families and workers of large private organizations, the large majority of Nigerians are without any form of coverage.’³⁵⁵

Mental health care

Several psychiatric experts have expressed their concerns about increased numbers of mental disorder cases in Nigeria. They estimate that one out of seven persons will have serious mental illnesses and one in four persons will have some form of mental disorder in Nigeria.³⁵⁶ The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that lifetime prevalence of mental illness is 12.1 %.³⁵⁷

The estimated number of psychiatrists in Nigeria varies between 130³⁵⁸ and 200.³⁵⁹

According to the Chief Medical Director of the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric hospital in Maiduguri, ‘there has been a huge gap in mental health services in the North-east Nigeria even before the [insurgency] crisis as the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric hospital, Maiduguri is the only specialized mental health hospital in the [Borno] region for a population of over 25 million people.’ WHO’s mental health programme as of December 2017 treats conditions such as ‘depression, suicide, epilepsy, dementia, disorders due to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs and mental disorders in children.’³⁶⁰

Concerning societal stigma, neuropsychiatrist Memumah Yusuf Kadiri says ‘we are in the part of the world where people still regard mental health as a taboo.’³⁶¹ According to a Nigerian consultant clinical psychologist, due to the existing stigma, individuals in need of support often seek help only once they are already severely ill.³⁶²

As psychiatric treatments are expensive, people turn to traditional healers instead.³⁶³ A neuropsychiatrist interviewed by the Guardian indicates that ‘people are suffering, as families are doing more pocket payment because health management schemes are not working, and sometimes mental health treatments lingers longer than expected.’³⁶⁴

³⁵³ Premium Times, 500,000 Nigerians living with tuberculosis have no access to treatment – Aisha Buhari, 19 May 2016, [url](#)

³⁵⁴ Adewole, D. A. et al., Payment for Health Care and Perception of the National Health Insurance Scheme in a Rural Area in Southwest Nigeria, 2015 [url](#), p. 648. For further reading, see Awosusi, A. et al., Nigeria's new government and public financing for universal health coverage, September 2015 [url](#), p. 514

³⁵⁵ Okpani, A. I. et al., Nigeria's new government and public financing for universal health coverage, Sep-Oct 2015, [url](#)

³⁵⁶ Premium Times, Increased rate of mental disorder among Nigerians worried experts, 25 October 2015, [url](#)

³⁵⁷ WHO, WHO Spearheads provision of mental health serviced in primary healthcare facilities, 15 December 2017, [url](#)

³⁵⁸ Jazeera, Traditional healers fill Nigeria mental healthcare gap, 7 June 2015 [url](#); Cable (The), There are only 100 Psychiatrists in Nigeria, 21 November 2018 [url](#)

³⁵⁹ Premium Times, Increased rate of mental disorder among Nigerians worried experts, 25 October 2015, [url](#); Gureje et al., Integrating mental health into primary care in Nigeria, 21 June 2015, [url](#)

³⁶⁰ WHO, WHO Spearheads provision of mental health serviced in primary healthcare facilities, 15 December 2017, [url](#)

³⁶¹ Guardian (The), Tayo Oreola, Health, Psychiatrist canvasses passage of delayed Mental Health Bill, 18 February 2016, [url](#)

³⁶² Nigeria Healthwatch, Mental Health: the Danger of Nigeria's single Story, 27 July 2017, [url](#)

³⁶³ Al Jazeera, Traditional healers fill Nigeria mental healthcare gap, 7 June 2015, [url](#)

³⁶⁴ Guardian (The), Tayo Oreola, Health, Psychiatrist canvasses passage of delayed Mental Health Bill, 18 February 2016, [url](#)

According to an ACAPS report on health in North East Nigeria, there is a heightened need for treatment for certain populations:

‘a large proportion of IDP households have pronounced mental health needs stemming from traumatic experiences associated with the insurgency and displacement. [...] Many IDPs have sustained severe injuries and they also face a heightened risk of violence, discrimination, social exclusion and other barriers to essential services. All of this impacts on their mental health.’³⁶⁵

Challenges remain, according to an article written by a Nigerian consultant clinical psychologist and published by Nigeria Healthwatch, as ‘the country’s only existing Mental Health Policy document was formulated in 1991. Although a bill for the establishment of a Mental Health Act was introduced in 2003 and re-introduced to the National Assembly in 2013, this is yet to be passed into law.’ The article continues: ‘In the absence of a Mental Health Act passed by law and with a lack of adequate mental health infrastructure, low numbers of professional personnel, training and research, Nigerians suffering from mental illness are at risk of being subjected to prejudices, discrimination, stigmatization and abuse.’³⁶⁶

Maternal health care

According to a factsheet by the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Nigeria ‘is the second largest contributor to maternal mortality worldwide.’³⁶⁷ One out of 13 women die from pregnancy and childbirth in Nigeria. Despite a continuous reduction in maternal death on the global level, Nigeria has been much slower in reducing deaths, with the most common causes being heavy bleeding after childbirth and well as infections. About 60 % of the births take place at home without a birth attendant. Women in urban areas, in northern Nigeria and especially girls between the age of 15 and 19 years face heightened risks compared to women and girls in the south and/or in urban areas, due to less frequent usage of skilled maternal health services, anemia, fistula, home deliveries without skilled birth attendants and obstructed labour. Prenatal and postnatal care visits are below the recommended numbers; reasons are the costs of the services, the distance to service providers, long waiting times as well as mistreatment and abuse by health providers.³⁶⁸

The following table provides current estimates for regional, urban and rural differences in the maternal mortality ratio in Nigeria:

Region	Maternal deaths per 100 000 live births
North East	1 549
South West	165
Urban	828
Rural	351

Source: APHRC (based on Federal Ministry of Health, 2011, 2015; WHO Global Health Repository, 2014)³⁶⁹

2.8.4 Access and availability of medication

Over 60 % of the Nigerian population still lack access to medicines. The proportion of people with access to essential medicines required for the treatment of chronic diseases, such as malaria and HIV,

³⁶⁵ ACAPS, Thematic Report, Nigeria, Health in the Northeast, 24 May 2017, [url](#), p. 3

³⁶⁶ Nigeria Healthwatch, Mental Health: the Danger of Nigeria’s single Story, 27 July 2017, [url](#)

³⁶⁷ APHRC, Fact Sheet June 2017, Maternal Health in Nigeria: Facts and Figures, June 2017, [url](#), p. 1.

³⁶⁸ APHRC, Fact Sheet June 2017, Maternal Health in Nigeria: Facts and Figures, June 2017, [url](#), p. 1

³⁶⁹ APHRC, Fact Sheet June 2017, Maternal Health in Nigeria: Facts and Figures, June 2017, [url](#)

is estimated at 40 %. Between 2002 and 2012, the median availability of selected generic medicines in public facilities was 26.2 % while that of the private sector was 36.4 %.³⁷⁰

According to a researcher at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria, the current system of drugs' distribution in Nigeria is chaotic. 'The most notable fallout of the chaotic and unorganized drug distribution system is the unrestricted circulation of fake, substandard, and adulterated pharmaceutical products.' Different sources show that between 15 to 70 % of all drugs in Nigeria are 'fake'. Furthermore, poor coordination of medicines procurement and supply to public facilities leads to a shortage of medicines, which are very common in governmental hospitals particularly in primary healthcare facilities.³⁷¹

Generally, prices of the same medicines are not so different in public and private facilities, but show a large difference when compared with the cost in private clinics, that charge up to 184 % more than the public health facilities and 193 % more than private retail pharmacies.³⁷²

2.8.5 Access to health care for IDPs

In 2016, the WHO responded to the critical health needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Borno State through the provision of emergency medical supplies, which were distributed to health facilities within Mafa and Dikwa IDP camps. This assistance followed an assessment of the availability of medicines, which was inaccessible for patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer. The Ministry of Health indicated that 'many of the IDP health facilities in the [Borno] state are in need of such assistance and WHO's supplies have therefore come in at the right time.'³⁷³ UNOCHA announced that, 'health needs remain extremely high with many people already in critical health conditions and high prevalence of severe malnutrition, morbidity and mortality.'³⁷⁴

Furthermore, UN OCHA outlines the need for specialised health care for victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in camps. The north-eastern regions of Nigeria are the areas most in need for improvement of facilities, to avail medicine and to provide access to health facilities, while the most vulnerable populations groups are children, women in general, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly.³⁷⁵ According to UNICEF, 9 % of the children in the IDP population in the region are babies below the age of one year.³⁷⁶ Elderly people (over 60 years of age) represent 6 % of the IDPs in Nigeria.³⁷⁷

Research carried out in 2014 by the Nigerian-based NOIPolls indicates that for 7 out of 10 IDPs, access to healthcare is not available.³⁷⁸ IDPs and persons living in camps are especially vulnerable to Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), waterborne diseases and cholera due to the practice of open defecation, lack of hygiene and crowded camp conditions.³⁷⁹ The need for trauma treatment and psychological support is often higher for IDPs who are traumatised by violence and conflict.³⁸⁰

³⁷⁰ Obuaku, C., Essential Medicines in Nigeria: Foregrounding Access to Affordable Essential Medicines, 2014, [url](#), p. 51

³⁷¹ Ogbonna, B. et al., National drug distribution in Nigeria: Implementations for the Goals of National Drug Policy, 2016, [url](#), p. 1

³⁷² Obuaku, C., Essential Medicines in Nigeria: Foregrounding Access to Affordable Essential Medicines, 2014, [url](#), pp. 51-52

³⁷³ WHO, WHO responds to the critical health needs of IDPs in Mafa and Dikwa, Borno state, Nigeria, 6 October 2016, [url](#)

³⁷⁴ OCHA Nigeria, Humanitarian Needs overview 2017, November 2016, [url](#), p. 8

³⁷⁵ OCHA Nigeria, Humanitarian Needs overview 2017, November 2016, [url](#), pp. 16, 21

³⁷⁶ ACAPS, Thematic Report, Nigeria, Health in the Northeast, 24 May 2017, [url](#), p. 3

³⁷⁷ Adedeji, I. et al., Unmet Health information needs and coping strategies of the elderly in IDP camps in Nigeria, 2017, [url](#)

³⁷⁸ Pharma Times, Inadequate Healthcare Delivery Deepening the Burden of IDPs, 13 February 2018, [url](#); Daily Trust, Improving the healthcare needs for Abuja IDPs, 18 January 2018, [url](#)

³⁷⁹ ACAPS, Thematic Report, 24 May 2017, Nigeria, Health in the Northeast, [url](#), p. 4

³⁸⁰ Pharma Times, Inadequate Healthcare Delivery Deepening the Burden of IDPs, 13 February 2018, [url](#)

2.9 Social networks and support mechanisms

The Nigerian government at federal, state and local levels have developed several social protection programmes to reduce poverty, economic shocks and economic vulnerability, to improve life for women and families. The Buhari government focuses on six social protection elements: increase the number of teachers, beat youth unemployment with vocational training, conditional cash transfers to selected poor, meals for school kids, and a micro-credit scheme for market women, artisans and farmers.³⁸¹

2.9.1 Women

Single women who head their own households, and widows in particular, experience many difficulties in acquiring support. An interlocutor of the Canadian IRB stated that ‘it is very difficult to generalize’, and underlined that ‘many factors must be considered, including a woman's tribe, sub-clan, geographical location, level of education, and socio-economic status.’ Another interlocutor of the Canadian IRB stated that ‘women who live without male support are worse off living in large northern cities than in the south.’ There are more female-headed households in large southern cities than in those in the north. Women with higher education have better chances to survive, although there is a very high unemployment rate, also for graduates, according to IRB’s interlocutors.³⁸²

The situation is reportedly most difficult for divorced women with children and low level of education. They cannot count on alimony from their ex-husbands or governmental support. According to an IRB interlocutor, in Islam, ‘divorced women are not entitled to maintenance (except during *iddah*- the waiting period)’, adding that ‘[i]n Christian and secular marriages, although “maintenance orders” can be made, they are rarely enforced.’³⁸³

IRB’s interlocutors also noted that ‘there are no government support services’ for women heading their own households and that the Ministry of Women’s Affairs provides very little support services. There are a few NGOs but their services are ‘hardly effective’. In the north, there are a ‘few state or religious-based organizations to provide women a “safety net” in providing for their children, generating income, or repaying debt.’³⁸⁴

The Committee for the Support and Dignity of Women (COSUDOW) run by Catholic nuns and based in Benin City runs a Welcome House, aiming at ‘providing a safe house to young women without families’.³⁸⁵

2.9.2 IDPs and returnees

According to the US DoS, ethnic groups not indigenous to their areas are discriminated against by authorities, ‘occasionally compelling individuals to return to a region where their ethnic group originated but where they no longer had ties’.³⁸⁶

³⁸¹ Awojobi, O., Cultivating a long-term social protection strategy in Nigeria, 25 October 2017, [url](#); see also Hagen-Zanker, J. et al., Social protection in Nigeria - Synthesis report, February 2012, [url](#)

³⁸² Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Whether women who head their own households, without male or family support, can obtain housing and employment in large northern cities, NGA103907.E, 19 November 2012, [url](#)

³⁸³ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Whether women who head their own households, without male or family support, can obtain housing and employment in large northern cities, NGA103907.E, 19 November 2012, [url](#)

³⁸⁴ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Whether women who head their own households, without male or family support, can obtain housing and employment in large northern cities, NGA103907.E, 19 November 2012, [url](#)

³⁸⁵ DW, Nigerian returnees face poverty and destitution back home, 2 February 2018, [url](#)

³⁸⁶ US DoS, 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, 20 April 2018, [url](#)

Support to IDPs mainly comes from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and national or international NGOs. In the first months of 2018, the European Union (EU), in collaboration with the IOM has facilitated the voluntary return of about 7 720 Nigerians from Libya and other places abroad. About half of the returnees came from Edo State, and another 15 % from Delta State. The returnees were reportedly ‘guaranteed start-up funding for opportunity to pick the pieces of their lives and restart their future with some vocational training activities.’³⁸⁷

Similarly, the IOM reported that in the past year more than 8 000 migrants, who had been stranded in Libya or elsewhere on their way to Europe, returned to Nigeria with IOM assistance. They receive immediate assistance (food, medical screening, a place to sleep and some pocket money to travel home); in the next phase they would receive assistance to reintegrate and set up small-scale businesses.³⁸⁸

However, Nigerian migrants who had been assisted by IOM to return to Nigeria, said they came back to the same conditions that made them risk their lives crossing the Sahara desert, unemployed, no money to rent a room or buy food, and no future ahead.³⁸⁹ It is estimated that 40 % of the returnees plan a second attempt at migrating north out of a lack of long-term economic opportunities in Nigeria.³⁹⁰

UNHCR underlines that ‘the conflict [in the north-east] particularly affects vulnerable groups such as women and children who constitute the majority of the displaced population in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.’ According to the sources, there has been ‘an increasing number of unconventional households headed by women, children and older people’, representing 18 % (6 800) of the 17 700 households assessed as vulnerable by UNHCR in November 2016.³⁹¹

2.9.3 Social support networks

According to a report on social protection in Nigeria by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), ‘at the community level, existing traditional forms of support have been eroding, with some community-based lending groups disbanding when members cannot afford to repay their debts and horizontal support networks breaking down as a result of financial hardship.’³⁹²

As a reaction to displacement in North East Nigeria (caused by Boko Haram) and in North Central Nigeria (consequence of land disputes between pastoralists and herders), religious organisations provide support to the IDP community. An example is the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) that focus on ‘three priority sectors: agriculture and livelihoods, health, and emergency response and recovery. CRS supports households, communities and farmer groups to increase their agricultural production and diversify their incomes.’ CRS notes that conflict and displacements have ‘disrupted agricultural production and trade, significantly impacting livelihoods for rural communities who depend predominantly on agriculture for household nutrition and livelihoods.’³⁹³

In 2016, the NGO Mercy Corps introduced the concept of savings groups³⁹⁴ to IDP households (mixed with host community members) in Gombe State having fled from the violence by Boko Haram in

³⁸⁷ Premium Times, EU to assist 7,831 Nigerian returnees from Libya, 3 May 2018, [url](#)

³⁸⁸ IOM, Over 8,000 Nigerian Migrants Return Home with IOM Assistance in Past 12 Months, 8 May 2018, [url](#)

³⁸⁹ Al Jazeera, Nigeria migrants who escaped Libya restart their lives, 4 February 2018, [url](#); DW, Nigerian returnees face poverty and destitution back home, 2 February 2018, [url](#)

³⁹⁰ DW, Nigerian returnees face poverty and destitution back home, 2 February 2018, [url](#)

³⁹¹ UNHCR, Nigeria Situation 2017, Supplementary Appeal, January-December 2017, Revised, July 2017, [url](#)

³⁹² Hagen-Zanker, J., Holmes, R., Social protection in Nigeria - Synthesis report, February 2012 [url](#), p. 9

³⁹³ CRS (Catholic Relief Services), CRS in Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

³⁹⁴ Savings groups are a ‘type of community-level financial mechanism’ [...] that ‘serve several objectives for IDPs: Informal social safety nets that allow group members to save set amounts at agreed-upon intervals; Provide cash flow through small, short-term loans; Build savings to cushion potential shocks and stresses, assets and strengthen savings behaviors; Create or

Adamawa, Borno, Taraba, and Yobe. The aim was to create informal social safety nets, provide small, short-term loans, build up some savings to ‘cushion’ financial shocks, and to ‘create or strengthen social bonds and networks (social and business)’. The majority of members of these savings groups were women and girls who were very eager to set up their own businesses.³⁹⁵

A list of NGOs in Nigeria by thematic areas can be found on the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) official website.³⁹⁶

2.9.4 Shelters and other support for victims of domestic violence

According to the UN Africa Renewal programme, the most common forms of violence against women in Nigeria ‘include sexual harassment, physical violence, harmful traditional practices, emotional and psychological violence, socio-economic violence and violence against non-combatant women in conflict situation.’³⁹⁷

In Lagos State, there were three shelters for abused women in 2014, according to interviewees by the Canadian IRB:

- one run by a church;
- one run by the NGO Project Alert called Sophie’s Place (20 beds); and
- one run by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (100 beds).

The source adds that women can stay for free in Project Alert for several weeks, after which they must pay. The Ministry shelter requires a referral in order to be permitted access.³⁹⁸

Interviewed by the IRB, the representative of the Legal Assistance Defence Project (LEDAP) stated that ‘the Ministry of Women’s Affairs has shelters in other parts of the country, but that the shelters in the cities of Lagos and Abuja have “better capacity” than those in “other less advanced parts of the country”.’³⁹⁹

The UNDP, in a mapping exercise on shelters for victims of gender-based violence in 2014, mentions three more centres for abused women in Lagos:

- Hope House, run by Pastor Bimbo Odukoya Foundation (PBOF) which provides shelter for pregnant single girls between 13-23 years. These girls are sometimes victims of GBV.
- Genesis House, run by the Freedom Foundation, a religious NGO. The shelter ‘helps sexually abused ladies and former commercial sex workers within the age of 13 and 25 years.’
- In addition, a Rehabilitation Centre (Peace Villa), run by The Real Woman Foundation; this is a ‘rehabilitation centre for girls and young women who have been victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.’ Counselling and vocational training are part of the programme.⁴⁰⁰

In Lagos, a Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) has been created, supported by the Lagos State government. It is a collective of ‘professional service providers and officials that respond as a group and in a timely fashion to the various needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors by

strengthen social bonds and networks (social and business) building cohesion between group members’. For more, see: Mercy Corps, Tipsheet: Savings Groups in Humanitarian Response, February 2017, [url](#)

³⁹⁵ Mercy Corps, Tipsheet: Savings Groups in Humanitarian Response, February 2017, [url](#)

³⁹⁶ Nigeria Network of NGOs, List of NGOs in Nigeria on our database by thematic areas, n.d. [url](#)

³⁹⁷ UN, AfricaRenewal [blog], n.d., [url](#)

³⁹⁸ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Domestic violence, including Lagos State (2011-October 2014), NGA104980.E, 10 November 2014, [url](#)

³⁹⁹ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Domestic violence, including Lagos State (2011-October 2014), NGA104980.E, 10 November 2014, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁰ UNDP, Mapping of Laws, Policies, and Services on Gender-Based Violence and Its Intersections with HIV, May 2014 [url](#), pp. 50-52

providing legal, medical, emergency assistance, counselling and psychological and psycho social support.’⁴⁰¹

In 2013 the federal government opened a shelter in Abuja (Kurudu Centre for Women Victims of Domestic Violence).⁴⁰² The UNDP found that this Abuja shelter, and several other shelters were not functioning well.⁴⁰³

The UNDP mentions a few more shelters for victims of gender-based violence in the country in 2014:

- The government of Ekiti State established in 2013 a Social Intervention Centre in Ado for temporary shelter of victims of domestic violence (12 beds).
- The women’s organisation Women’s Aid Collective (WACOL) runs a shelter in Enugu (East Nigeria) for temporary accommodation to women and girls who are victims of domestic violence.
- In Cross River State, the governor’s wife has set up two shelters for victims of domestic violence: Destiny Care Centre for abandoned and abused children; and Mothers against Child Abandonment, a home for pregnant teenagers.
- In Kaduna State, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) together with the Kaduna Ministry of Women affairs and Social Development was constructing a shelter in 2014.⁴⁰⁴

A list with some of the available helplines, legal support organisations and shelters in Nigeria can be found online.⁴⁰⁵

2.9.5 Orphanages and other support for unaccompanied minors

The Nigerian Constitution in Section 17(3) referring to child protection, stipulates that ‘the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that- (f) children, young persons and the age[d] are protected against any exploitation whatsoever, and against moral and material neglect.’⁴⁰⁶

According to UNICEF data, in 2012 11.5 million children were ‘orphaned due to all causes’. In addition, 2.2 million children are ‘orphaned by AIDS’.⁴⁰⁷ More recent data on the number of orphans could not be found in the consulted sources within the timeframe of this report.

In Lagos State, in the absence of parents who are able and willing to fulfil their parental obligations to protect the child/children and provide the basic minimum life needs, the state government is responsible, and is expected to take custody and search for alternative solutions, such as the identification and selection of an orphanage for the child/ren. ‘Consequently, the child becomes a ward of the Lagos state government, subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Social Development.’⁴⁰⁸

In North East Nigeria, more than 30 000 children have lost or been separated from their parents in the conflict with Boko Haram. Of these, two-third are being cared for by a relative; about 10 000 children are on their own. Aid workers try to find relatives or to reunite them with their parents via elaborate

⁴⁰¹ DSVRT, Welcome to DSVRT – who we are, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁰² Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Domestic violence, including Lagos State (2011-October 2014), NGA104980.E, 10 November 2014, [url](#)

⁴⁰³ UNDP, Mapping of Laws, Policies, and Services on Gender-Based Violence and Its Intersections with HIV, May 2014, [url](#), pp. 50-52

⁴⁰⁴ UNDP, Mapping of Laws, Policies, and Services on Gender-Based Violence and Its Intersections with HIV, May 2014, [url](#), pp. 50-52

⁴⁰⁵ Onegeria, Resources for Domestic Violence Agencies in Nigeria, 20 September 2017, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁶ UNWOMEN, Global Database on Violence Against Women, Section 17 of the Constitution, 2010, [url](#); Nigeria, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, [url](#), section 17 (3)

⁴⁰⁷ UNICEF, At a glance: Nigeria, Statistics, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁰⁸ Ogunmokun, T., Legal Arrangements For Children Without Parents Or Guardians In Nigeria, September 2017, [url](#)

family tracing and reunification programmes across North East Nigeria. However, according to UNICEF, this is a very difficult and lengthy process with so many people displaced and on the move. Even when family members have been tracked, the reunification process itself is not always simple, the report notes. Temporary caregivers and foster family are reportedly not always willing to let the children leave again to be reunited with their family, as the children are sometimes sent to work or are married off for money, while in other incidents, children did not want to return to their biological families.⁴⁰⁹

Orphanages

There are several private orphanages in Nigeria, but exact figures could not be found within the consulted sources for this report. The Association of Orphanages and Homes Operators in Nigeria (ASOHON) has called upon the state and federal governments for support to enable equipping and upgrading orphanages in rural areas.⁴¹⁰ Lack of funding contributes to the difficulty to take care of orphaned and abandoned children.⁴¹¹

According to Management Science for Health (MSH), '[a]lthough it is customary in Nigeria for extended family and community members to care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), the capacity and resources of these individuals and households have been overextended by the growing number of OVC and the complexity of their needs.'⁴¹²

Some of the reported common challenges and problems faced by Nigerian orphanages, are educators who lack professionalism, and are understaffed and overworked; and often also underpaid. Additionally, many buildings housing orphanages are under-equipped regarding infrastructure, basic sanitary conditions and health requirements; corruption is prevalent and donations at times disappear.⁴¹³

There are reportedly unapproved or illegal orphanages in Lagos, Abia, and other states.⁴¹⁴ An article on the problems of orphanages in Nigeria mentions the existence of 'fake orphanages', allegedly set up for money laundering or selling Nigerian children.⁴¹⁵

Africafeeds reports about an incident in which babies were rescued from a fake orphanage and later placed in 'government-approved homes'. According to the State Commissioner for Youth and Social development of Lagos, 162 children were involved in this incident.⁴¹⁶ Regarding the same incident, the BBC reports 'It is not uncommon for Nigerian authorities to raid "baby factories". In some cases, unmarried pregnant women are promised healthcare, only for their children to be taken away. In others, women are raped and made pregnant.'⁴¹⁷

⁴⁰⁹ Reuters, On the run from Boko Haram's lost children hope to find families again, 30 January 2017 [url](#)

⁴¹⁰ Vanguard, ASOHON tasks govts FG on technical support for orphanages, 3 July 2017, [url](#)

⁴¹¹ Online Nigeria, Orphanages cry out for funding, 22 February 2018, [url](#)

⁴¹² MSH, Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria: A Conversation with Obialunamma ("Oby") Onoh, 11 July 2014, [url](#)

⁴¹³ Falae, Vivian, Problems of orphanage homes in Nigeria, updated January 2018, [url](#); Nwaneri D.U. et al., Assessment of facilities and best practices in orphanages in Benin City, 2016, [url](#)

⁴¹⁴ Information Nigeria, 12 Kids Rescued from Illegal Orphanage in Lagos, Niyi, 7 December 2016, [url](#); Guardian (The), Abia commissioner charges orphanages on illegal operators and child traffickers, 14 April 2018, [url](#)

⁴¹⁵ NAJJ.com, Problems of orphanage homes in Nigeria, updated January 2018, [url](#)

⁴¹⁶ Africafeeds, Over 100 babies rescued from 'fake' orphanages in Nigeria, 26 April 2018, [url](#)

⁴¹⁷ BBC, Nigeria 'baby factory' raided in Lagos, 26 April 2018, [url](#)

2.9.6 Shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)⁴¹⁸ manages eight (or nine⁴¹⁹) shelters for victims of trafficking (VoT) in human beings across Nigeria, with the capacity to welcome 313 victims. There is one shelter in each of the nine zonal commands: Abuja (38), Lagos (60), Benin (40), Uyo (45), Enugu (30), Kano (30), Sokoto (30), Maiduguri (20), and Makurdi [20].⁴²⁰

The shelters – transit or closed -, are managed by NAPTIP’s Shelter Management Section and offer the victims food, clothing, hygiene products, physical exercise and basic educational courses. Victims can stay in NAPTIP shelters up to six weeks, and if needed, can then be referred to shelters run by ‘collaborating NGOs’.⁴²¹

The Ministry of Women’s Affairs runs two shelters that receive VoT referred to by NAPTIP.⁴²² Some NGOs run shelters across Nigeria: The African Network Against Human Trafficking (ANAHT) in Bakhita Villa, Lagos⁴²³; the Nigerian Conference of Women Religious, in Benin City⁴²⁴; The Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), in Abuja⁴²⁵; Grace Gardens in Jos, Plateau State.⁴²⁶

Further support to victims - including counselling and rehabilitation, as well as vocational training (e.g. knitting, weaving, fashion design, hair dressing, catering, hat making, beads making and photography) – is also provided by NAPTIP’s Rehabilitation Section, together with ‘psychosocial therapy, individual counseling, group counseling, career counseling, family counseling and case conferencing’.⁴²⁷

NAPTIP refers victims to partner hospitals and clinics for medical and psychological treatment, when necessary.⁴²⁸ According to Julie Okah-Donli, Director General of NAPTIP, ‘over 13 000 victims have passed through the NAPTIP shelters.’⁴²⁹

In August 2016, the federal government issued the Guidelines on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria (NRM). The document, drafted in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), defines roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the support of VoT in Nigeria.⁴³⁰

Several NGOs working in the field of prevention/fight against trafficking in human beings are registered with the Network of Civil Society organization against Child trafficking, abuse and labour (NACTAL), the umbrella organization that coordinates the activities of those NGOs.⁴³¹

⁴¹⁸ Nigeria, NAPTIP, About Us, n.d., [url](#). See EASO, COI report Nigeria, Actors of Protection, November 2018, [url](#), Section 9.

⁴¹⁹ US DoS, 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2017 [url](#)

⁴²⁰ US DoS, 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2017, [url](#); NAPTIP, Counselling And Rehabilitation, Shelter Management Section, n.d., [url](#)

⁴²¹ Nigeria, NAPTIP, Counselling And Rehabilitation, Shelter Management Section, n.d., [url](#); US DoS, 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2017, [url](#)

⁴²² US DoS, 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2017, [url](#)

⁴²³ ANAHT (African Network Against Human Trafficking), [website], n.d. [url](#); UK FCO, The fight to end human trafficking, 6 December 2017 [url](#); Daily Mail, Nigeria struggles against human trafficking, 24 October 2015, [url](#)

⁴²⁴ EASO, COI Report Nigeria Sex Trafficking of Women, 2015, [url](#)

⁴²⁵ WOTCLEF, 2015 Annual Programmatic Report, [2016], [url](#)

⁴²⁶ Serving in Nigeria, Grace Gardens, n.d., [url](#)

⁴²⁷ Nigeria, NAPTIP, Counselling And Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Section, n.d., [url](#)

⁴²⁸ US DoS, 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2017, [url](#)

⁴²⁹ Leadership, FG, IOM Rescued 10,500 Human Trafficking Victims From Libya – DG NAPTIP, 31 July 2018, [url](#)

⁴³⁰ Nigeria, NAPTIP, NAPTIP, UNODC Launch National Referral Mechanism Document, 4 August 2017 [2016], [url](#); Information Nigeria, Human Trafficking: Fg Launches National Guidelines To Assist Victims, 7 August 2016, [url](#); Tribune, Over 5,000 Nigerians trafficked abroad, says NAPTIP, 7 August 2016, [url](#)

⁴³¹ NACTAL, Vision & Mission, Our Objectives, n.d., [url](#)

NAPTIP has announced that NGOs not registered with NACTAL and yet running shelters for VoT (and gather funds for such activities), to either close or ‘face prosecution’. NAPTIP adds that NACTAL was created to meet the need to regulate the sector’s activities.⁴³²

In June 2017, NAPTIP made it compulsory to all NGOs and consultants in Nigeria dealing with human trafficking ‘to seek clearance from the Office of the National Security Adviser [...] without which no organisation, local or foreign will be allowed to function’, including those running shelters. This process will be done in collaboration with NACTAL.⁴³³

In September 2017, NAPTIP announced it ‘will vet all Non Governmental Organization (NGOs) working against human trafficking.’ According to NATIP’s Director General, Julie Okah-Donli, ‘the era of haphazard programming and interventions largely un-measurable and unaccountable must stop’ and ‘all partners working in the field of human trafficking must be credible, accountable and reputable.’ NACTAL also ‘should be subjected to monitoring and evaluation.’⁴³⁴

In February 2018, the Edo State government announced that there are plans to construct permanent shelters to receive locals who have been VoT and victims of irregular migration, where rehabilitation and reintegration programmes will be available for returnees.⁴³⁵

For more information on victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), see the [EASO COI report Nigeria, Targeting individuals](#), November 2018. For more information on shelters for victims of trafficking, see [EASO COI Report – Nigeria: Sex Trafficking of Women](#), 2015, Section 4.5.1.

⁴³² Premium Times, NAPTIP to prosecute ‘unknown’ groups running shelters for rescued trafficking victims – DG, 11 May 2017, [url](#)

⁴³³ Vanguard, NAPTIP tasks NGOs to seek clearance from ONSA, 13 June 2017, [url](#)

⁴³⁴ Daily Trust, NAPTIP vets NGO’s working against human trafficking, 26 September 2017, [url](#)

⁴³⁵ Vanguard, Human trafficking: Edo Govt. plans permanent shelters for returnees, 17 February 2018, [url](#)

3. Mobility and internal travel

3.1 Operational international and domestic flights

According to Nigeria Travel online, ‘there are 22 operative airports within Nigeria, operated by the FAAN.’⁴³⁶

Flights timetables are subject to change and airlines may sometimes not maintain the most up-to-date flight schedules on their websites. Domestic and international flights posted online may not necessarily reflect actually operational flights. Both Lagos and Abuja are widely served by domestic flights by a variety of different airlines. Nigerian airlines cover destinations within the African continent, Europe, the United States as well as the Arabian Peninsula.

Nigerian lawmakers have criticised the state of Enugu Airport and Port Harcourt International Airport: ‘What we saw in Enugu airport was a very serious infrastructure decay, we saw potholes on the runway and these are very unsafe for aircrafts to land. We are surprised that international flights are operating at that airport where there is no running water and the toilets are in bad shape.’⁴³⁷

Concerning the recent Ebola outbreaks in some West African countries and in the light of direct flight connections from Nigeria to West African countries, a FAAN (Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria) spokesperson said that ‘relevant agencies, including the Port Health Services have been mobilized and are collaborating effectively to ensure the safety of passengers and airport users at all time.’⁴³⁸

3.1.1 International flights

Nigeria Travel Online mentions four international airports from where international flight services operate:

- Lagos Murtala Muhammed International Airport (LOS);
- Abuja Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV);
- Port Harcourt International Airport (PHC);
- Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (KAN).⁴³⁹

FAAN mentions two more international airports:

- Akanu Ibiam International airport (ENU), serving Enugu;
- Margaret Ekpo International Airport (CBQ), Calabar.⁴⁴⁰

Lagos Murtala Muhammed International Airport (LOS)

The airport, commonly known as Lagos International Airport and also abbreviated as MMIA is ‘Nigeria’s premier international air gateway’. The airport terminal has been renovated several times since the 1970s but its most radical reconstruction began in 2013. The lounge area was expanded and ‘new passenger handling conveyor systems were installed which can handle over 1 000 passengers per hour.’⁴⁴¹

According to Nigeria Travel Online the airport operates domestic flights to:

⁴³⁶ Nigeria Travel online, Airlines in Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

⁴³⁷ Premium Times, Lawmakers express disgust over state of Nigerian airports, 27 October 2017, [url](#)

⁴³⁸ The Nation, Ebola: FG steps up efforts at airports, 10 May 2018, [url](#)

⁴³⁹ Nigeria Travel online, Airlines in Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴⁰ FAAN, Website, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴¹ FAAN, Murtala Muhammed International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

- Abuja, Benin City, Calabar, Enugu, Kano, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Uyo, Warri (Aero Contractors);
- Abuja, Asaba, Benin City, Calabar, Enugu, Gombe, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Uyp, Warri, Yola (Arik Air);
- Benin City, Ibadan (Associated Aviation);
- Abuja (ChanChangi Airlines);
- Abuja (Dana Airlines);
- Abuja, Port Harcourt (First Nation Airways);
- Abuja, Gombe, Kano, Maiduguri, Port-Harcourt, Yola (Irs Airlines); and
- Asaba, Ibandan, Ilorin (Overland Airways).

The airport further offers international flights to:

- Accra (Aero Contractors);
- Paris-Charles de Gaulle (Air France);
- Rome-Fiumicino (Alitalia);
- Accra, Bamako, Banjul, Cotonou, Dakar, Freetown, Johannesburg, London-Heathrow, Luanda, Monrovia, New York JFK, Ouagadougou (Arik Air);
- Bangui, Cotonou, Kinshasa, Lomé, Libreville, Yaoundé (Asky Airlines);
- London-Heathrow (British Airways);
- Atlanta (Delta Airlines);
- Cairo (Egypt Air);
- Dubai (Emirates);
- Addis Abeba (Ethiopian Airlines);
- Abu Dhabi (Etihad Airlines);
- Madrid (Iberia Airlines);
- Nairobi (Kenya Airways);
- Amsterdam (KLM)
- Frankfurt (Lufthansa);
- Beirut (Middle East Airways);
- Doha (Qatar Airlines);
- Casablanca, Cotonou Royal Air Maroc);
- Amman, Accra (Royal Jordanian);
- Kigali (Rwandair);
- Johannesburg (South African Airways);
- Houston-Intercontinental (Turkish Airways);
- London-Heathrow (Virgin Atlantic Airways).⁴⁴²

Abuja Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV)

Approximately 3 million passengers pass through the Abuja Airport (also abbreviated as NAIA) yearly. The airport was opened in 2002 and has two terminals (one for international and one for domestic flights).⁴⁴³

The FAAN website mentions plans ‘to build a second runway at this airport, in order to reduce the heavy air traffic on the airport’s single runway are at an advanced stage. A cargo section is also included in the design of the new state-of-the-art international terminal currently under construction at the airport.’⁴⁴⁴

According to Nigeria Travel Online the airport operates domestic flights to:

- Lagos, Owerri, Port Harcourt (Arik Air);

⁴⁴² Nigeria travel online, Airlines in Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴³ FAAN, Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴⁴ FAAN, Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

- Benin City, Calabar, Enugu, Gombe, Ibadan, Ilorin, Kano, Katsina, Lagos, Maiduguri, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Uyo, Warri, Yola (Arik Air);
- Benin City, Ibadan, Markudi (Associated Aviation);
- Lagos (ChanChangi Airlines);
- Lagos (Dana Air);
- Lagos (First Nation Airways);
- Gombe, Kano, Lagos, Maiduguri, Port Harcourt, Yola, Kaduna (IRS Airlines);
- Asaba, Ibadan, Ilorin (Overland Airways).

The airport further offers international flights to:

- Paris- Charles de Gaulle (Air France);
- Accra (Arik Air);
- Lomé, Niamey (ASKY Airways);
- London Heathrow (British Airways);
- Accra, New York JFK (Delta Airlines);
- Cairo (Egypt Air);
- Addis Ababa (Ethiopian Airlines);
- Frankfurt (Lufthansa).⁴⁴⁵

Port Harcourt International Airport (PHC)

The Port Harcourt International Airport (also abbreviated as PHIA), located in of the oil and gas industry in the Niger Delta, is ‘a very important economic hub’. The FAAN website mentions that ‘the old terminal at the airport is under renovation, although it continues to operate commercial flights.’⁴⁴⁶

In an April 2018 interview to the Daily Trust, an aviation analyst stated that Port Harcourt airport had ‘not changed from the way it was two years ago when it was classified as the worst airport in the world.’⁴⁴⁷ On 15 August 2018, the management of the airport indicated that the construction of the international wing of the airport was ‘ongoing’ and should be finished by December [2018].⁴⁴⁸

According to Nigeria Travel Online the airport operates domestic flights to:

- Abuja, Lagos (Aero Contractors);
- Abuja, Lagos (Arik Air);
- Lagos (Air Nigeria);
- Lagos (ChanChangi Airlines);
- Lagos (Dana Air); and
- Abuja, Lagos (IRS Airlines).

The airport further offers international flights to:

- Paris-Charles de Gaulle (Air France);
- Frankfurt (Lufthansa);
- Douala, Malabo, Pointe-Noire, Port Gentil (Region Air).⁴⁴⁹

Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (KAN)

The airport, abbreviated as MAKIA is located in Kano in the northern part of the country. It is, according to FAAN, ‘one of the country’s oldest international airports. Apart from being a major transit

⁴⁴⁵ Nigeria travel online, Airlines in Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴⁶ FAAN, Port Harcourt International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁴⁷ Daily Trust, Expert calls Port Harcourt Airport “shameful portrait of a nation”, 22 April 2018, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁸ Eagle Online (The), Port Harcourt Airport Management Laments Non-Completion Of Alternative Road, 15 August 2018, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁹ Nigeria travel online, Airlines insin Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

point for the annual Muslim Haji to Mecca, MAKIA is a major connection point for air travellers going from Northern Nigeria to different parts of the world.⁴⁵⁰

According to Nigeria Travel Online the airport operates domestic flights to:

- Abuja, Lagos (Aero Contractors);
- Abuja, Lagos (Arik Air); and
- Abuja (Lagos) IR Airlines).

The airport further offers international flights to:

- Cairo (Egypt Air);
- Beirut (Middle East Airlines);
- Jeddah (Saudia);
- Khartoum, N'Djamena (Sudan Airways).⁴⁵¹

Akanu Ibiam International Airport (ENU)

The airport is located in Enugu, 'an important centre of political, cultural, commercial and administrative influence in the South Eastern part of the country.'⁴⁵²

According to the flight tracking service Flightradar24 the airport operates domestic flights to:

- Lagos (Aero Contractors);
- Abuja, Lagos (Air Peace);
- Abuja, Lagos (Arik Air);
- Lagos, Port Harcourt (Med-View Airline).

The airport further operates international flights to:

- Addis Ababa (Ethiopian Airlines).⁴⁵³

Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar (CBQ)

Also known as Calabar Airport⁴⁵⁴ the airport is located in Calabar, the capital of Cross River State. The nearest community to the airport is Ediba Qua Town.⁴⁵⁵

Although the airport is mentioned by FAAN as an international airport, according to flight tracker Airportia it has only domestic flights to:

- Lagos (Arik Air);
- Abuja (Air Peace);
- Abuja (Aerolineas Sosa).⁴⁵⁶

⁴⁵⁰ FAAN, Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵¹ Nigeria travel online, Airlines in Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵² FAAN, Akanu Ibiam International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵³ Flightradar24, Enugu Akanu Ibiam International Airport, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵⁴ World Airport Codes, Margaret Ekpo international Airport, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵⁵ FAAN, Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵⁶ Airportia, Calabar Margaret Ekpo International CBQ, Arrivals, n.d., [url](#); Navitime Transit, CBQ Margaret Ekpo International Airport, n.d., [url](#); FAAN, Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar, n.d., [url](#)

3.1.2 Domestic flights

According to FAAN, the following domestic airports exist: Benin Airport, Ilirin Airport, Sokoto Airport, Yola Airport, Ibadan Airport, Kaduna Airport, Katsina Airport, Maiduguri Airport, Makurdi Airport, Minna Airport and Akure Airport.⁴⁵⁷

A number of domestic airlines operate in Nigeria, according to the Nigerian tourist portal Come To Nigeria.⁴⁵⁸

3.2 Access to airports and freedom of movement

3.2.1 Freedom of movement

The freedom of movement for all Nigerians is stipulated in the 1999 constitution under Section 41(1):

‘Every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereto or exit therefrom [...] Nothing [...] of this section shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society - (a) imposing restrictions on the residence or movement of any person who has committed or is reasonably suspected to have committed a criminal offence in order to prevent him from leaving Nigeria; or (b) providing for the removal of any person from Nigeria to any other country.’⁴⁵⁹

Although legally guaranteed, Freedom House’s Freedom in the World 2018 report indicates that ‘security officials frequently impose dusk-to-dawn curfews and other movement restrictions in areas affected by communal violence or the Islamist insurgency.’⁴⁶⁰ The 2017 US DoS human rights practices report similarly states that ‘security officials restricted freedom of movement at times by imposing curfews in areas experiencing terrorist attacks and ethno-religious violence.’⁴⁶¹

In-country movement was restricted by curfews and other free movement-restrictive measures imposed at federal, state, or local level in ‘Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe in connection with operations against Boko Haram’. The US DoS notes that ‘other states imposed curfews in reaction to events such as ethno-religious violence.’ The source adds that the ‘police conducted “stop and search” operations in cities and on major highways and, on occasion, set up checkpoints.’⁴⁶²

In late 2017, the Nigeria Police Chief Ibrahim Idris ordered the immediate removal of police roadblocks across the country.⁴⁶³ However, many ‘checkpoints operated by military and police remained in place.’⁴⁶⁴

3.3 Entry and settlement issues

There are nationwide legal differences between ‘indigenes’ or ‘natives’, those whose fathers were born in the area, and ‘settlers’, those who settled in the area later. Those regarded as ‘indigenes

⁴⁵⁷ FAAN, Domestic Airports, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵⁸ Come to Nigeria, Domestic Airlines Nigeria, n.d., [url](#)

⁴⁵⁹ Nigeria, The constitution of the Federation of Nigeria, n.d., [url](#), section 41(1).

⁴⁶⁰ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2018, Nigeria, G1, January 2018, [url](#)

⁴⁶¹ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2018, Nigeria, G1, January 2018, [url](#)

⁴⁶² US DoS, 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Nigeria, 20 April 2018, [url](#)

⁴⁶³ BBC, Why Nigeria wants to remove police roadblocks, 26 September 2017, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁴ US DoS, 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Nigeria, 20 April 2018, [url](#)

citizens' are being granted preferential access to land.⁴⁶⁵ International Crisis Group writes that 'this gives rise both to grievances and fierce political competition, which too often leads to violence.'⁴⁶⁶

Although these legal and social differences are implemented by local governments, the 1960 constitution does not provide a definition of indigene or settler status⁴⁶⁷, but provides an interpretation of the concept of 'belong to'.⁴⁶⁸ Crisis Group states that 'indigeneity was given constitutional force at independence in 1960 to protect the ethnic minorities from being submerged by the larger Hausa-Fulani, Igbo and Yoruba groups and preserve their cultural and political identity and traditional institutions of governance'.⁴⁶⁹

Local governments, in the name of the state governor, issue Certificates of Indigene (or Certificates of Origin), which grants access to land, education, employment, health care, and political positions, among others. The basis on which such certificates are issued differ between local governments, which may thus lead to discrimination and marginalisation of non-indigenes.⁴⁷⁰ [see [EASO COI report Nigeria, Targeting individuals](#), November 2018, Section 3.7.

⁴⁶⁵ Canada, IRB, Nigeria: Information on a Certificate of State of Origin (2015-January 2017), 30 January 2017, NGA105727.E, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁶ ICG, Curbing Violence in Nigeria (I): The Jos Crisis, 17 December 2012, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁷ UN HRC, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Rita Izsák, 5 January 2015, [url](#), par. 20

⁴⁶⁸ 'Belong to' is defined in Nigerian Constitution as 'a person either or whose parents or any of whose grand parents was a member of a community indigenous to that state'. Nigeria, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Part IV, art. 318 (1), 1999, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁹ ICG, Curbing Violence in Nigeria (I): The Jos Crisis, 17 December 2012, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁰ ICG, Curbing Violence in Nigeria (I): The Jos Crisis, 17 December 2012, [url](#); UN HRC, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Rita Izsák, 5 January 2015, [url](#), par. 20-22

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Terms of Reference

- **Introduction on Nigeria**

- Background information on Nigeria

- **Key socio-economic indicators**

Give overview of general situation and reflect regional differences (if applicable), as well as the particular situation in **Abuja** and **Lagos cities** (if available).

- Demographics
- Economy
 - Oil
 - Businesses
- Employment
 - Unemployment data
 - Formal/informal employment (certain sectors)
 - Employment for specific groups (women, IDPs & returnees)
 - Special 'amnesty' program in south Nigeria
- Income
 - General trends
 - Urban poverty
 - Female-headed households
 - IDPs & returnees
- Food security
 - Access to food
 - Food security for IDPs & returnees
- Housing and living conditions (water/sanitation/hygiene)
 - Urbanisation
 - Land access, property rights, inheritance laws
 - Living conditions for IDPs & returnees
- Education
 - Basic data, access to /availability of education (including girls)
 - Access to education for IDPs & returnees
- Health care
 - Basic data, availability and access to health care
 - Mental health care
 - Maternal health care
 - Availability of medicines

-
- Access to health care for IDPs & returnees
 - Networks and support mechanisms
 - (Extended) family structures and support
 - Other social structures (savings groups. Age groups)
 - Orphanages and other support for unaccompanied children
 - Shelters and other support for victims of human trafficking
 - Shelters and other support for victims of domestic violence
 - Situation of vulnerable groups in relation to the above topics
 - IDPS
 - Returnees (including from Libya and other countries)
 - Women (including trafficking – THB)
 - Children (forced labour/child labour, orphans, etc.)
 - **Mobility and internal travel**
 - Operational international and domestic flights
 - Situation of and access to airports for internal travel (functionality/security)
 - Situation on the roads/checkpoints around major cities
 - Entry and residency requirements (indigenous/settler issue)
 - Civil documentation needed/ requirements to move / re-establish oneself



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