



Home Office

Country Policy and Information Note

Nigeria: Internal relocation

Version 1.0

March 2019

Preface

Purpose

This note provides country of origin information (COI) and analysis of COI for use by Home Office decision makers handling particular types of protection and human rights claims (as set out in [the basis of claim](#) section). It is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of a particular subject or theme.

It is split into two main sections: (1) analysis and assessment of COI and other evidence; and (2) COI. These are explained in more detail below.

Assessment

This section analyses the evidence relevant to this note – i.e. the COI section; refugee/human rights laws and policies; and applicable caselaw – by describing this and its inter-relationships, and provides an assessment on whether, **in general**:

- A person is reasonably likely to face a real risk of persecution or serious harm
- A person is able to obtain protection from the state (or quasi state bodies)
- A person is reasonably able to relocate within a country or territory
- Claims are likely to justify granting asylum, humanitarian protection or other form of leave, and
- If a claim is refused, it is likely or unlikely to be certifiable as ‘clearly unfounded’ under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

Decision makers **must**, however, still consider all claims on an individual basis, taking into account each case’s specific facts.

Country of origin information

The country information in this note has been carefully selected in accordance with the general principles of COI research as set out in the [Common EU \[European Union\] Guidelines for Processing Country of Origin Information \(COI\)](#), dated April 2008, and the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation’s (ACCORD), [Researching Country Origin Information – Training Manual, 2013](#). Namely, taking into account the COI’s relevance, reliability, accuracy, balance, currency, transparency and traceability.

The structure and content of the country information section follows a [terms of reference](#) which sets out the general and specific topics relevant to this note.

All information included in the note was published or made publicly available on or before the ‘cut-off’ date(s) in the country information section. Any event taking place or report/article published after these date(s) is not included.

All information is publicly accessible or can be made publicly available, and is from generally reliable sources. Sources and the information they provide are carefully considered before inclusion.

Factors relevant to the assessment of the reliability of sources and information include:

- the motivation, purpose, knowledge and experience of the source
- how the information was obtained, including specific methodologies used
- the currency and detail of information, and
- whether the COI is consistent with and/or corroborated by other sources.

Multiple sourcing is used to ensure that the information is accurate, balanced and corroborated, so that a comprehensive and up-to-date picture at the time of publication is provided of the issues relevant to this note.

Information is compared and contrasted, whenever possible, to provide a range of views and opinions. The inclusion of a source, however, is not an endorsement of it or any view(s) expressed.

Each piece of information is referenced in a brief footnote; full details of all sources cited and consulted in compiling the note are listed alphabetically in the [bibliography](#).

Feedback

Our goal is to continuously improve our material. Therefore, if you would like to comment on this note, please email the [Country Policy and Information Team](#).

Independent Advisory Group on Country Information

The [Independent Advisory Group on Country Information](#) (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to support him in reviewing the efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of approach of COI produced by the Home Office.

The IAGCI welcomes feedback on the Home Office's COI material. It is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any Home Office material, procedures or policy. The IAGCI may be contacted at:

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Information about the IAGCI's work and a list of the documents which have been reviewed by the IAGCI can be found on the Independent Chief Inspector's pages of the [gov.uk website](#).

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Assessment

Updated: 28 March 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Basis of claim

1.1.1 Whether in general it is reasonable / not unduly harsh for a person who has a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm from a non-state actor to relocate within Nigeria.

1.2 Points to note

1.2.1 Where a claim by a male is refused, it must be considered for certification under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, as Nigeria is listed as a designated state (see [Certification of protection and human rights claims under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(clearly unfounded claims\)](#)).

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2. Consideration of issues

2.1 Credibility

2.1.1 For information on assessing credibility, see the instruction on [Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status](#).

2.1.2 Decision makers must also check if there has been a previous application for a UK visa or another form of leave. Asylum applications matched to visas should be investigated prior to the asylum interview (see the [Asylum Instruction on Visa Matches, Asylum Claims from UK Visa Applicants](#)).

2.1.3 Decision makers should also consider the need to conduct language analysis testing (see the [Asylum Instruction on Language Analysis](#)).

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2.2 Internal relocation

2.2.1 Nigeria is a large, relatively densely populated, culturally and ethnically diverse country of around 190 million people. About half the population live in urban areas, with around half of these living in cities of 500,000 people or more (of which there are several including the megacity of Lagos with over 13 million inhabitants). The population is almost evenly split between Christians and Muslims, with a very small minority practicing indigenous religions or having no affiliation at all. The various Christian groups are dominant in the south of the country and Muslims (who are mostly Sunni) are in the majority in the north. However there are members of both religions throughout the country, while the major cities are a 'fluid mix of different ethnicities and religions' (see [Geography](#)).

2.2.2 Nigeria's economy has grown in recent years and this has resulted in a significant increase in its value in the UN's Human Development Index. However, around two-thirds of the population are poor / extremely poor, there are large inequalities in income and opportunity and many people work in informal or 'grey' economy. People in the north tend to be poorer than

those in the south, while women tend to find it harder to find paid work and when they do it is often low paid. The government has developed some social protection programmes to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. In addition there is an active civil society which provide a range of services. Food security is a problem for the poor and particularly those in ongoing civil conflict areas, such as the north-east (see [Socio-economic conditions](#) and [Freedom of movement](#)).

- 2.2.3 There is a range of housing, though supply of adequate housing does not meet demand. There is also a mixture of public and private health care facilities, ranging from primary care clinics to tertiary care in hospitals, although access is difficult for many particularly those in rural areas and the poor. State education is available, although around 40% of primary school children do not attend school, with the northern regions recording the lowest school attendance rates in the country, particularly for girls. Non-indigenes – 'settlers' or persons not originally from the state they reside in – may face official and unofficial discrimination in accessing services in some states and may face difficulties in moving to another state without family connections or financial means (see [Geography](#), [Socio-economic conditions](#) and [Freedom of movement](#); and the [country policy and information note](#), Nigeria: Medical and healthcare issues).
- 2.2.4 There are no legal constraints on movement within the country, however government-imposed curfews and insecurity in areas of civil conflict - the north-east; the 'Middle Belt'; the Niger Delta region; and Zamfara state in particular - are likely to make travel difficult and unsafe in these parts of the country. Nonetheless, many Nigerians move within the country for economic and other reasons (see [Freedom of movement](#)).
- 2.2.5 In general a person fearing a non-state actor is likely to be able to relocate to another part of Nigeria depending on the nature of the threat from the non-state agent(s) and the individual circumstances of the person. However, relocation may be more difficult for single women and non-indigenes without access to support networks.
- 2.2.6 Decision makers must give careful consideration to the relevance and reasonableness of internal relocation taking full account of the individual circumstances of the particular person. Each case must therefore be considered on its facts, with the onus on the decision maker to demonstrate that internal relocation would be reasonable / not unduly harsh.
- 2.2.7 For an additional assessment of and information about particular groups see [country policy information notes](#) on Female Genital Mutilation; Trafficking of women; Women fearing gender-based harm or violence; Boko Haram; and Sexual orientation and gender identity / expression.
- 2.2.8 For further guidance on assessing the reasonableness of internal relocation, see the instruction on [Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status](#).

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Country information

Section 3 updated: 10 January 2019

3. Geography

3.1 Size, urban areas and transport network

3.1.1 Nigeria is relatively large country covering over 920,000sqkm – just under 4 times the size of the UK¹.

3.1.2 The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) compilation report of November 2018 on the socio-economic situation in Nigeria based on a range of sources noted:

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

- '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'².

3.1.3 The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) produced a map³ of Nigeria and its respective regions outlined above:

¹ CIA, World Factbook (Country comparison), nd, [url](#).

² EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p16), November 2018, [url](#).

³ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (p2), 9 March 2018, [url](#).



3.1.4 Nigeria has over 190,000km of roads (about half of the UK's), of which only around 28,000km are paved, plus over 3,000km of railway. As of 2013, there were 54 airports, 40 of which were paved, and as of 2015, 16 registered air carriers⁴.

3.1.5 For more information about transport, see [IOM Nigeria Factsheet of 2014](#).

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3.2 Demography

3.2.1 Estimates of the population vary from 193⁵ to 203 million⁶, with a population growth rate of 2.61% which is estimated to lead to a population of around 390 million by 2050⁷.

3.2.2 About half the population live in urban areas, with 'significant population clusters [...] scattered throughout the country, with the highest density areas being in the south and southwest'⁸. There are 'a large number of medium-

⁴ CIA, World Factbook, Nigeria, 3 December 2018, [url](#).

⁵ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p16), November 2018, [url](#).

⁶ CIA, World Factbook, Nigeria, 3 December 2018, [url](#).

⁷ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p16), November 2018, [url](#).

⁸ CIA, World Factbook, Nigeria, 3 December 2018, [url](#).

sized cities with populations between 50 000 and 500 000. Many of these are located in the southern part of the country but the sheer number of urban agglomerations overall means that the whole territory represents one extensive urban network... just over half of all urban dwellers lived in agglomerations of more than 500 000 inhabitants.⁹ The largest cities in 2018 were estimated to be:

- Lagos - 13.463 million
- Kano - 3.82 million
- Ibadan - 3.383 million
- Abuja - 2.919 million
- Port Harcourt - 2.343 million
- Benin City - 1.628 million¹⁰

3.2.3 There around 1.9 million displaced people in Nigeria^{11 12}, mostly as a result of the ongoing insecurity in the north-east region¹³ but also because of communal violence between 'Christians and Muslims in the middle belt region'¹⁴.

3.2.4 For more information about areas of civil conflict, see [Security and crime situation](#) below.

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3.3 Ethnicity

3.3.1 The EASO socio-economic report of 2018, citing various sources, stated:

'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 %, Edo/Bini 2%. The main languages (of the 519 living languages in the country) spoken include English, Pidgin-English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani, Ijaw.[...]

'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.[...]'¹⁵

3.3.2 Freedom House observed that '[d]espite constitutional safeguards against ethnic discrimination, many ethnic minorities experience bias by state governments and other societal groups in areas including employment,

⁹ Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat, Africapolis (Nigeria), nd, [url](#).

¹⁰ CIA, World Factbook, Nigeria, 3 December 2018, [url](#).

¹¹ UNOCHA, Nigeria home page (Key statistics), August 2018, [url](#).

¹² CIA, World Factbook, Nigeria, 3 December 2018, [url](#).

¹³ See for example, UNOCHA, North-east Nigeria humanitarian update (p11), November 2018, [url](#).

¹⁴ CIA, World Factbook, Nigeria, 3 December 2018, [url](#).

¹⁵ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p16), November 2018, [url](#).

education, and housing.¹⁶ Similarly the US State Department observed of the situation in 2017 that:

‘The ethnically diverse population consisted of more than 250 groups. Many were concentrated geographically and spoke distinct primary languages. Three major groups--the Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba--together constituted approximately half the population. Members of all ethnic groups practiced ethnic discrimination, particularly in private sector hiring patterns and the segregation of urban neighborhoods. A long history of tension existed among some ethnic groups. The government’s efforts to address tensions among ethnic groups typically involved heavily concentrated security actions, incorporating police, military, and other security services, often in the form of a joint task force.

‘The law prohibits ethnic discrimination by the government, but most ethnic groups claimed marginalization in terms of government revenue allocation, political representation, or both.’¹⁷

3.3.3 See also section [Non-indigenes](#) below.

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3.4 Religion

3.4.1 The EASO socio-economic report of 2018, citing various sources, stated: ‘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” [...]’¹⁸

3.4.2 The USSD report on religious freedom for 2017 observed that:

‘A 2010 Pew report found 38 percent of the Muslim population self-identified as Sunni and 12 percent as Shia, with the remainder declining to answer or identifying as “something else” (5 percent) or “Just a Muslim” (42 percent). Included among the Sunnis are several Sufi groups, including Tijaniyah and Qadiriyyah. There are also Izala (Salafist) minorities and small numbers of Ahmadi Muslims. Christian groups include evangelicals, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Pentecostals, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Other groups include Jews, Bahais, and individuals who do not follow any religion.’¹⁹

3.4.3 The DFAT report 2018 noted:

‘Christianity is the major religion amongst the Igbo and Yoruba people in the south and Islam is the major religion of the Hausa-Fulani and Kanuri people in the north. Many observers continue to propagate the historical Christian-south, Muslim-north divide, although in-country sources insist the divide is not clearcut. Muslims and people of predominantly Hausa-Fulani and Kanuri ethnicity are the majority in the northern states, and Christians of

¹⁶ Freedom House, World report 2018 (Nigeria), March 2018, [url](#).

¹⁷ USSD, Human rights report 2017 – Nigeria (section 6), [url](#).

¹⁸ USSD, Human rights report 2017 – Nigeria (section 6), [url](#).

¹⁹ USSD, Religious freedom report 2017 – Nigeria (Section I), May 2018, [url](#).

predominantly Igbo and Yoruba ethnicity are the majority in the southern states. However, many Christians live in the north and Muslims live in the southern states. A mix of Muslims and Christians of various ethnicities comprise the middle belt, and major cities remain a fluid mix of different ethnicities and religions.

‘In accordance with the Constitution, twelve northern states maintain courts that adjudicate civil matters, including divorce, inheritance and domestic disputes, in accordance with sharia...’²⁰

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3.5 Non-indigenes

3.5.1 The DFAT report 2018 observed:

‘An indigene in Nigeria is a person who can trace his or her ancestry back to the original inhabitants of a particular state. The term non-indigene is most often used to identify “settlers” and is used as a way of expressing tribal and ethnic distinctions. Non-indigenes are not officially defined, nor discriminated against, under federal Nigerian law. However, local policies can discriminate against such individuals.

‘Throughout Nigeria, public institutions require individuals to identify their state of origin, or their indigeneity, before they can access public services. DFAT considers credible advice from local sources that non-indigenes can face restrictions in relation to property ownership. At the federal level, indigenous quotas sometimes apply to positions in the civil service or at state universities. Non-indigenes are legally able to vote in federal, state or local government elections. However, it is extremely difficult for non-indigenes to run for an elected position at the state level. For example, non-indigenes in Kano State have been unable to run for parliament.

‘... all states, apart from Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), implement these practices to varying degrees. Federal policies are intended to preserve “federal character” to prevent over- or under-representation by any ethnic group in the public service or at universities. It is difficult to determine the level of application of these policies at state level. Some local governments issue “certificates of indigeneity” which serve as documentary proof that the bearer is an indigene of the area.

‘Non-indigenes are entitled to access essential public services, including health care, primary and secondary education; however, societal norms discourage them from attempting to do so. Nigerians can freely relocate to another state; however, they may face restrictions in a different state...’²¹

3.5.2 The EASO report 2018, citing various sources, similarly noted:

‘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

²⁰ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (p16), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

²¹ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (ps15-16), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

governor, grant access to services such as land, education, employment, health care, and political positions.[...] 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.[...] This also applies to IDPs who are not indigenes of the state to where they have fled.’²²

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Section 4 updated: 10 January 2019

4. Socio-economic conditions

4.1 Economy

4.1.1 The US Congressional Research Service (CRS) paper of December 2018, citing a number of sources, commented:

‘Despite its oil wealth and large economy, Nigeria’s population is among the world’s poorest, and the distribution of wealth is highly unequal. The average life expectancy for Nigerians is rising (estimated at 59 years in 2018), but the percentage of the population living on less than [US]\$1.90 per day has grown in the past decade to a projected 87 million, making Nigeria the country with the largest population living in extreme poverty in 2018.[...] Over 30% of the population has no access to improved sources of water, less than one-fifth of households have piped water, and some 70% lack access to adequate sanitation, according to the World Bank. Nigeria ranked 146 out of 190 in the Bank’s 2019 Doing Business report, slightly above the average for sub-Saharan Africa.][...]

‘These challenges notwithstanding, Nigeria has attained notable success in public health provision. A small Ebola outbreak in mid-2014 was swiftly contained, enabling World Health Organization (WHO) authorities to declare the country Ebola-free in October 2014. The country has taken great strides to eradicate polio, though sporadic cases have precluded its designation as polio-free. Other successes include decreasing malaria and tuberculosis prevalence and reducing HIV prevalence among pregnant women. Nigeria’s HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate of 2.9% is relatively low in comparison to Southern African nations, but Nigeria comprises the largest HIV positive population in the world after South Africa, with more than 3 million infected persons. Malaria remains the leading cause of death in Nigeria.

‘Decades of economic mismanagement, instability, and corruption have hindered investment in education and social services and stymied industrial growth.’²³

4.1.2 The World Bank observed

‘Nigeria has made significant progress in socio-economic terms over the last 15 years. Between 2005 and 2015, Nigeria’s Human Development Index value increased by 13.1%. However, the country continues to face massive developmental challenges, which include reducing the dependency on oil and diversifying the economy, addressing insufficient infrastructure, and

²² EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p41), November 2018, [url](#).

²³ CRS, Nigeria (Economy), 1 February 2019, [url](#).

building strong and effective institutions, as well as governance issues, public financial management systems, human development indicators, and the living conditions of the population.

'Inequality in terms of income and opportunities has been growing rapidly, and has adversely affected poverty reduction. The North-South divide has widened in recent years due to the Boko Haram insurgency and a lack of economic development in the northern part of the country. Large pockets of Nigeria's population still live in poverty, without adequate access to basic services, and could benefit from more inclusive development policies. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of the high poverty levels, of regional inequality, and of social and political unrest in the country.'²⁴

4.1.3 The CIA World Factbook commented:

'... Economic diversification and strong growth have not translated into a significant decline in poverty levels; over 62% of Nigeria's over 180 million people still live in extreme poverty.

'Despite its strong fundamentals, oil-rich Nigeria has been hobbled by inadequate power supply, lack of infrastructure, delays in the passage of legislative reforms, an inefficient property registration system, restrictive trade policies, an inconsistent regulatory environment, a slow and ineffective judicial system, unreliable dispute resolution mechanisms, insecurity, and pervasive corruption. Regulatory constraints and security risks have limited new investment in oil and natural gas, and Nigeria's oil production had been contracting every year since 2012 until a slight rebound in 2017.'²⁵

4.1.4 The EASO report of 2018 observed that '[t]he 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".'

The same EASO report, citing various sources, noted that '[w]ith 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.'²⁶ Further noting:

'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.[...]

'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".[...]

'Informal business represents up to 65 % of the Nigerian GDP, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).[...] Unregistered household enterprises, street vendors, domestic workers and "off-the-book activities by

²⁴ World Bank, Nigeria (Overview), 1 November 2018, [url](#).

²⁵ CIA, World Factbook – Nigeria, 14 December 2018, [url](#).

²⁶ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p23), November 2018, [url](#).

registered firms” are some examples of the types of activities Nigerians engage in informal business.²⁷

4.1.5 Women’s experience of employment was different from men. The EASO report 2018, citing various sources, noted ‘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”.[...]’²⁸

4.1.6 The EASO report further noted:

‘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).[...]

‘In the 2017 Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria, the [National Bureau of Statistics] 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.”[...]

‘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.[...]’²⁹

4.1.7 The DFAT report of 2018 noted:

‘... that economic conditions in Nigeria create push factors for internal and external migration for individuals seeking employment opportunities. Despite strong economic growth and abundant natural resources, the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics estimates the number of people living in extreme poverty (under USD1.25 a day) has risen from 52 per cent of the population in 2004 to 67 per cent in 2016. The World Bank attributes Nigeria’s high poverty rates to poor governance, and an estimated five million people are in urgent need of food assistance due to the Boko Haram insurgency and ethnic conflicts throughout the country.

‘The Nigerian diaspora is significant with many Nigerians seeking employment overseas. Nigeria receives the highest rate of international remittances in Africa and is the fifth highest globally. Remittances declined by 10 per cent in 2016 due in part to diversion of remittances to informal

²⁷ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p24), November 2018, [url](#).

²⁸ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p17), November 2018, [url](#).

²⁹ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p25), November 2018, [url](#).

channels after the introduction of foreign exchange controls in 2015. The World Bank projects a 3.3 percent increase in Nigerian remittances in 2017 to USD34 billion.³⁰

4.1.8 Key data on economic performance include:

Gross Domestic Product per capita	US\$1,968.6 (2017) ³¹ (approximately £1,550 ³²); US\$5,900 (2017) ³³ (approximately £4,650 ³⁴) at purchasing power parity ³⁵
Unemployment	16.5% (estimate in 2017) ³⁶
Labour by occupation	Agriculture (27.9%); industry (14.7%); Services (57.4%) ³⁷
Inflation rate	16.5% (estimate 2017) ³⁸
Currency	Naira; £1: 462 nairas as of December 2018 ³⁹

4.1.9 See the [EASO report 2018](#), sections on Economic growth, Employment, and Poverty, for further detail on the economy, growth, gender employment and income inequality, and employment.

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4.2 Food security

4.2.1 The EASO report 2018 noted:

‘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.”[...]

‘Causes of the food security in Nigeria are multifaceted, according to this study: insufficient food production, gender inequality, inefficient policies and

³⁰ DFAT COI report 2018 (paras 2.14-15), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

³¹ World Bank, GDP per capita, nd, [url](#).

³² XE currency converter, USD: GBP conversion, 21 December 2018, [url](#).

³³ CIA, World Factbook – Nigeria, 14 December 2018, [url](#).

³⁴ XE currency converter, USD: GBP conversion, 21 December 2018, [url](#).

³⁵ Exchange vary, figures are therefore approximate

³⁶ CIA, World Factbook – Nigeria, 14 December 2018, [url](#).

³⁷ UN, Data – Nigeria, nd, [url](#).

³⁸ CIA, World Factbook – Nigeria, 14 December 2018, [url](#).

³⁹ XE currency converter, USD: GBP conversion, 21 December 2018, [url](#).

corruption, conflicts and civil insecurity, and low technology for processing and storage.[...]⁴⁰

4.2.2 The EASO report noted:

‘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.[...] 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.[...] The Boko Haram conflict has had a significant impact on the food security situation, especially in the north-eastern part of the country.[...] In 2016, the Ministry of Health had declared a nutrition emergency status for Borno State.’⁴¹

4.2.3 In the Global Hunger Index (GHI) ‘Nigeria ranks 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries. With a score of 31.1 [out of 100], Nigeria suffers from a level of hunger that is serious’⁴². The index is based on a number of indicators, with a high GHI score ‘[b]roadly speaking... evidence of a lack of food, a poor-quality diet, inadequate child caregiving practices, an unhealthy environment, or all of these factors.’⁴³

4.2.4 For more detail, see the [EASO socio-economic report 2018 \(Food security\)](#)

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4.3 Social support

4.3.1 The EASO report of 2018, citing an article Oladayo Awojobi of Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, noted:

‘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.[...]⁴⁴

4.3.2 Nigeria has a broad and vibrant civil society^{45 46}. The International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) noted that ‘[t]he range of [civil society organisations] CSOs is as wide and diverse as the country itself, including

⁴⁰ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p34), November 2018, [url](#).

⁴¹ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p34), November 2018, [url](#).

⁴² GHI, Nigeria, nd, [url](#).

⁴³ GHI, Concept, nd, [url](#).

⁴⁴ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p53), November 2018, [url](#).

⁴⁵ Freedom House, World report 2018 (Nigeria), March 2018, [url](#).

⁴⁶ ICNL, Civic freedom monitor: Nigeria, 6 July 2018, [url](#).

local “elites” clubs, traditional age class associations, unions in villages and small towns, and national organizations with thousands of members.¹⁴⁷

- 4.3.3 The USSD report for 2017 observed with regard to human rights groups ‘Domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Government officials sometimes cooperated and responded to their views, but on some occasions, dismissed allegations quickly without investigation and threatened some NGOs.’¹⁴⁸

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4.4 Housing

- 4.4.1 The EASO report 2018, citing various sources, observed:

‘Nigeria has a lack of adequate housing, estimated at 20-30 million units in 2014.[...] 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).[...] 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’ program[...], making the housing process potentially easier for the population.[...]

‘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”.[...]

‘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).[...]¹⁴⁹

- 4.4.2 For more detail, see the [EASO socio-economic report 2018 , section 2.6](#)

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⁴⁷ ICNL, Civic freedom monitor: Nigeria, 6 July 2018, [url](#).

⁴⁸ USSD, Human rights report 2017 – Nigeria (section 6), [url](#).

⁴⁹ EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p39), November 2018, [url](#).

4.5 Healthcare

4.5.1 The DFAT report 2018 provided an overview of the healthcare:

‘Nigerians have poor access to health care and poor health outcomes, particularly outside major urban centres. Nigeria spent USD94 per person on health care in 2016 and demand for public health care significantly exceeds supply. Medical and health services are the responsibility of all levels of government. Access to and availability of quality medical services are inadequate, with most Nigerian unable to afford health care.

‘Life expectancy is 53 years for men and 56 for women. Infant mortality rates are significantly higher than the global average at 71.2 deaths per 1000 births in 2016, compared with (global average). The reported incidence of HIV for adults (aged 15 to 49 years of age) was 3.1 per cent in 2015. While relatively low, the country's large population means that Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of sufferers of the disease in the world.

‘Nigerians continue to die from common treatable diseases including rubella, yellow fever, meningitis, cholera, diarrhoea and measles. Malaria, tuberculosis and Guinea worm disease are widespread, although Nigeria celebrated one year without a case of polio in 2015 and only a few isolated cases reported in 2016.’⁵⁰

4.5.2 For more information on healthcare, see the [country policy and information note, ‘Medical and healthcare issues’](#) and the [EASO Socio-economic report 2018](#), section 2.8.

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4.6 Education

4.6.1 The DFAT report 2018 observed:

‘Nigeria’s adult literacy rate is 51 per cent and primary school enrolments have stalled at around 57 per cent since the early 2000s. Girls’ participation in formal education is low, particularly in the northern states and rural areas. Only one state in southern Nigeria has primary school attendance rates of less than 35 per cent, compared to four states that have rates less than 10 per cent in northern Nigeria. According to UNICEF, 40 per cent of Nigerian children aged 6-11 do not attend any primary school, with the northern regions recording the lowest school attendance rates in the country, particularly for girls. The gender gap remains particularly wide in the north and the proportion of girls to boys in school ranges from half to a third in some states.

‘Targeting of schools by the terrorist group Boko Haram in northern states... exacerbates the situation. Boko Haram attacks caused the closure of all public schools in the northeast state of Borno in March 2014. While many schools re-opened from late 2015, some parents remain reluctant to send their children, especially girls, back to school for fear of violence.

‘According to current data from UNICEF and the Nigerian government, 30 per cent of pupils drop out of primary school and only 54 per cent transit to

⁵⁰ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (p9), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

Junior Secondary Schools, mainly due to economic hardship, child labour and early marriage for girls.⁵¹

4.6.2 The EASO report 2018, citing various sources, observed:

‘According to UNICEF, primary school enrolment has increased in Nigeria in recent years.[...] 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.[...] As for secondary and tertiary education, the gross enrolment ratio was respectively 56.18 % (2013) and 10.17 (2011).[...]

‘However, about 25 % of all primary school children drop out before completing their school years (data 2010).[...] 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.[...] 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.[...] UNICEF also mentions economic reasons: “many parents simply can’t afford to send their children to school.”[...]⁵²

4.6.3 For more detail, see the [EASO socio-economic report 2018, section 2.7.](#)

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Section 5 updated: 10 January 2019

5. Freedom of movement

5.1 Security and crime situation

5.1.1 A Congressional Research Service (CRS) paper of December 2018 observed: ‘The country has faced intermittent political turmoil and economic crises since gaining independence in 1960 from the United Kingdom. Political life has been scarred by conflict along ethnic, geographic, and religious lines, and corruption and misrule have undermined the state’s authority and legitimacy.⁵³ The paper also commented that ‘[e]thnic and religious strife have been common in Nigeria. Tens of thousands of Nigerians have been killed in sectarian and intercommunal clashes in the past two decades.[...] Ethnic, regional, and sectarian divisions often stem from issues related to access to land, jobs, and socioeconomic development, and are sometimes fueled by politicians.’⁵⁴

⁵¹ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (p10), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

⁵² EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p43), November 2018, [url](#).

⁵³ CRS, Nigeria (Summary), 1 February 2019, [url](#).

⁵⁴ CRS, Nigeria (Overview), 1 February 2019, [url](#).

5.1.2 The CRS paper summarised the main areas where conflict has and continues to arise:

‘In the south, social unrest, criminality, and corruption in the oil-producing Niger Delta have hindered oil production and contributed to piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. Perceived government neglect and economic marginalization have also fueled resentment in the predominately Muslim north, while communal grievances and competition over land and other resources—sometimes subject to political manipulation—drive conflict in the Middle Belt.

‘The rise of Boko Haram has heightened concerns about extremist recruitment in Nigeria, which has one of the world’s largest Muslim populations. Boko Haram has focused on a range of targets, but civilians in the impoverished, predominately Muslim northeast have borne the brunt of the violence... Boko Haram appears primarily focused on the Lake Chad Basin region.’⁵⁵

5.1.3 The DFAT report 2018 noted:

‘The security situation in Nigeria is volatile and numerous terrorist attacks have occurred in recent years on the civilian population and on foreign buildings. Conflict and terrorism killed a reported 4,751 people in 2017; the actual number of deaths is likely to be higher. Nigeria’s northeast remains under a state of emergency due to conflict between government security forces and the terrorist group, Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal-Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram. The number of civilian deaths decreased in 2016 reportedly due to increased military operations and the Boko Haram factional split. Nonetheless, the group continues to launch deadly suicide attacks and wield considerable influence in the north-east.

‘Southern Nigeria is also volatile due to confrontations between armed criminal groups and security forces predominantly in relation to the theft of and control over oil resources in the Niger Delta region. Interethnic land disputes in the central region of Nigeria, known as the middle belt, and the central north escalated in 2016. Conflicts between the largely Muslim Fulani nomadic pastoralists and Christian farmers of the Berom tribe have traditionally occurred mainly in Plateau state over the past decade. The conflict has recently moved into the central northern states of Katsina, Nassarawa, Benue and Kaduna states.’⁵⁶

5.1.4 The EASO report on the situation situation in Nigeria of November 2018, citing various sources, noted:

‘The security situation in Nigeria is affected by the following long-standing major conflicts:

‘1. The Boko Haram conflict in the North East zone[...];

‘2. The conflict between pastoralist and farmers in the North Central zone or so-called Middle Belt [particularly Benue, Plateau, Adamawa, Nasarawa and Taraba states⁵⁷];

⁵⁵ CRS, Nigeria (Summary), 1 February 2019, [url](#).

⁵⁶ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (ps11-12), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

⁵⁷ ICG, Report no 262, 26 July 2018, [url](#).

'3. The oil-related conflict in the Niger Delta; and

'4. The escalating violence in Zamfara State related to cattle rustling and banditry.

'... Besides these major conflicts, there are other manifestations of violence that create insecurity in the country:

'1. The tension between the military and the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) in Kaduna State [northern Nigeria];

'2. The tension between the government and Igbo groups for an independent Biafra [south-east Nigeria].'⁵⁸

5.1.5 Freedom House noted in its report covering events in 2017 that: 'Freedoms of internal movement and foreign travel are legally guaranteed. However, security officials frequently impose dusk-to-dawn curfews and other movement restrictions in areas affected by communal violence or the Islamist insurgency.'⁵⁹

5.1.6 The EASO security situation report of 2018, citing various sources, noted:

'Roads in the north-east are often subject to kidnapping and robbery, mainly by Boko Haram.[...] In March 2018, the UN suspended road travels in Maiduguri LGA (Borno) and Damaturu LGA (Yobe), due to threats of abduction by Boko Haram.[...] The Nigerian army announced in June 2018 that four roads in Borno State had been cleared and reopened for the public.[...] Not only the north-eastern region is insecure to travel by road, the Birnin-Gwari Kaduna highway is a notorious road in Kaduna State where several violent incidents took place such as kidnapping.[...].

'In general, travelling by road is not without danger in Nigeria. In January 2018, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) reported 4 410 deaths by road accidents in 2017.[...] From October 2017 to March 2018, at least 2 598 Nigerians died in road accidents, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).[...]'⁶⁰

5.1.7 The EASO security situation report 2018 also observed that '... an increasing level of violence and firearms proliferation is noted across the country, particularly manifesting in ransom kidnapping along highways, armed robbery and other forms of violent crime.[...] This violence constitutes serious security and public safety concerns in Nigeria.[...]'⁶¹

5.1.8 For more information about the security situation across Nigeria, with detail about the areas with the highest levels of violence identified above, see the [EASO security situation report 2018](#), the [CRS paper of December 2018](#), [ACCORD's Nigeria: Security Situation update](#), [ACLED's Nigeria dashboard](#), and the [country policy and information note, Boko Haram](#).

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⁵⁸ EASO, Security situation report 2018 (ps17-18), November 2018, [url](#).

⁵⁹ Freedom House, Freedom in the World – 2018, January 2018, [url](#).

⁶⁰ EASO, Security situation report 2018 (p25), November 2018, [url](#).

⁶¹ EASO, Security situation report 2018 (p67), November 2018, [url](#).

5.2 Legal rights and practice

5.2.1 The EASO socio-economic situation report 2018 noted:

'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.” [...]

'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.”[...] 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 ethnoreligious violence.”[...]

'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 ethnoreligious violence.’ The source adds that the ‘police conducted “stop and search” operations in cities and on major highways and, on occasion, set up checkpoints.” [...]

'In late 2017, the Nigeria Police Chief Ibrahim Idris ordered the immediate removal of police roadblocks across the country.[...] However, many “checkpoints operated by military and police remained in place.”⁶²

5.2.2 The DFAT report 2018 observed:

'There are no legal impediments to internal relocation in Nigeria. Freedom of movement is one of the fundamental rights provided in Nigeria's Constitution.

'Nigeria has as many as three million internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the insurgency in northeast and internal conflicts in the middle belt states. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that IDPs in Nigeria represent all religions and ethnicities. The majority have settled freely in host communities where they have familial connections or in state-run camps established in response to the conflicts. While some IDPs have moved to southern Nigeria in response to the insurgency, differences in language and culture pose impediments to large-scale migration from the north to the south.

'Many Nigerians move to different parts of the country for economic reasons. High rates of poverty, particularly in the north, lead many individuals to seek

⁶² EASO, Socio-economic report 2018 (p64), November 2018, [url](#).

opportunities in new industries such as telecommunications, construction, wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing in different locations across Nigeria.

‘Non-indigenes of a particular state can have difficulty moving to a new state without familial connections or financial means. Non-indigenes may face official discrimination when attempting to access government services including university places or employment in the civil sector... These restrictions do not apply in the larger urban centres of Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja).

‘DFAT assesses that Nigerians can and do freely relocate internally. Internal moves can be more difficult for non-indigenes due to language, religious and cultural differences, particularly between northern and southern states.’⁶³

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5.3 Documentation

5.3.1 The DFAT report 2018 noted:

‘In September 2014, Nigeria launched the National Electronic Identification Card (known as eID card). The eID card is intended to eventually act as a travel document between ECOWAS countries. The card is intended to harmonise all national identity databases including drivers’ licences, voter registration, health, tax, and National Pension Commission, into a single “shared” services platform. Individuals will receive a Unique National Identification Number with their eID card. Nigerians who do not have an eID card by 2019 will be unable to vote or use other government services. To obtain a card, a citizen must attend an NIS Enrolment Centre in their state to record their photographs, fingerprints, iris scan and signatures. The card is currently undergoing a trial and is several years from full implementation. Previous attempts to introduce a national identity card in Nigeria have failed.

‘The National ID Card Management Commission (NIMC) manages administration of the card and the National Identity Database. The government has been criticised for developing the card in partnership with MasterCard, ensuring it also provides access to financial services for millions of Nigerians.’⁶⁴

5.3.2 The same source noted with regard to passports:

‘Passports are the most commonly used travel document in Nigeria. The NIS issues and manages passports. Nigeria rolled out ePassports in 2011 to reduce passport fraud. The ePassport has an embedded microchip that stores the personal information of the holder. An ePassport costs 8,750 Nigerian Naira (USD24).

‘Applicants may apply for a passport online or in person. All applicants are required to attend an interview at a local NIS office in their state. Current requirements for adult passport applicants include a valid National Identity Card or driver’s license, marriage certificate (where relevant), father’s letter

⁶³ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (ps31-32), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

⁶⁴ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (ps32-33), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

of consent for minors under 16 years signed by both parents, birth certificate or age declaration, letter of identification from an individual's local government and a guarantor's form witnessed by a commissioner of oaths.⁶⁵

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⁶⁵ DFAT, Nigeria report 2018 (p33), 9 March 2018, [url](#).

Terms of Reference

A 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) is a broad outline of what the CPIN seeks to cover. They form the basis for the [country information section](#). The Home Office's Country Policy and Information Team uses some standardised ToRs, depending on the subject, and these are then adapted depending on the country concerned.

For this particular CPIN, the following topics were identified prior to drafting as relevant and on which research was undertaken:

- Geography
 - Physical and political geography, transport network
 - Demography, including size, ethnic-religious make-up, languages, IDPs
- Socio-economic situation
 - Economy
 - Employment
 - Personal finance
 - Food security / availability
 - Social support
 - Government services
 - Civil society
 - Housing / shelter and hygiene, including water, sewage
 - Healthcare
 - Education
- Security situation
 - Civil conflict
 - Crime
- Freedom of movement
 - Legal rights
 - Documentation

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Version control

Clearance

Below is information on when this note was cleared:

- version **1.0**
- valid from **3 April 2019**

Changes from last version of this note

New CPIN on internal relocation only.

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