Country Policy and Information Note

Nigeria: Internal relocation

Version 2.0
September 2021

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 Introduction section). It is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of a particular subject or theme.

It is split into 2 parts: (1) an 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 - that is information in the COI section; refugee/human rights laws and policies; and applicable caselaw - by describing this and its inter-relationships, and provides an assessment of, in general, whether one or more of the following applies**:**

- a person is reasonably likely to face a real risk of persecution or serious harm

- that the general humanitarian situation is so severe that there are substantial grounds for believing that there is a real risk of serious harm because conditions amount to inhuman or degrading treatment as within paragraphs 339C and 339CA(iii) of the Immigration Rules / Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

- that the security situation is such that there are substantial grounds for believing there is a real risk of serious harm because there exists a serious and individual threat to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in a situation of international or internal armed conflict as within paragraphs 339C and 339CA(iv) of the Immigration Rules

- 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

- a claim is 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), 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. 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

• whether the COI is consistent with and/or corroborated by other sources.

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

The inclusion of a source is not, however, an endorsement of it or any view(s) expressed.

Each piece of information is referenced in a footnote. Full details of all sources cited and consulted in compiling the note are listed alphabetically in the bibliography.

Feedback

Our goal is to provide accurate, reliable and up-to-date COI and clear guidance. We welcome feedback on how to improve our products. 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

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope of this note

1.1.1 Whether, in general, those with a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm from non-state actors can internally relocate within Nigeria.

1.2 Points to note

1.2.1 Where a claim from an adult male is refused, it must be considered for certification under section 94(3) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 as Nigeria is listed as a designated state in respect of men only. Such a claim must be certified under section 94(3) if you are satisfied it is clearly unfounded, in line with the Home Office Guidance on Certification of protection and human rights claims under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (clearly unfounded claims).

2. Consideration of issues

2.1 Credibility

2.1.1 For guidance on assessing credibility, see the Asylum 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 consider the need to conduct language analysis testing (see the Asylum Instruction on Language Analysis).

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2.2 Exclusion

2.2.1 Decision makers must consider whether there are serious reasons for considering whether one (or more) of the exclusion clauses is applicable. Each case must be considered on its individual facts and merits.

2.2.2 If the person is excluded from the Refugee Convention, they will also be excluded from a grant of humanitarian protection (which has a wider range of exclusions than refugee status).

2.2.3 For further guidance on the exclusion clauses and restricted leave, see the Asylum Instructions on [Exclusion under Articles 1F and 33(2) of the Refugee Convention](#), [Humanitarian Protection](#) and the instruction on [Restricted Leave](#).

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2.3 Internal relocation

2.3.1 Nigeria is a large, relatively densely populated, culturally and ethnically diverse country with a population estimated to be over 200 million. About half the population live in urban areas, with over 14 million inhabitants living in the megacity of Lagos. 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 mix of different ethnicities and religions (see [Geography](#) and [Demography](#)).

2.3.2 Although Nigeria has experienced some economic growth since 2016 its human capital development remains weak and around 40% (83 million) people live below the poverty line. Nigeria's economic growth is hindered due to corruption, security threats and its reliance on oil, gas production and exports, which fluctuate in price. The economy has been weakened further by the impact of restrictions introduced to control COVID-19 and unemployment and underemployment has increased since the start of the pandemic. The highest rates of unemployment are amongst 15 to 34 year olds. Over 50% of the working population are employed in services with many people working in the informal sector (see [Socio-economic conditions](#)).

2.3.3 Women in particular play an active role within the informal economy such as agriculture and selling of goods at market, but are under-represented in the formal workplace, and do not receive equal pay for equal work (for women experiencing sexual and gender-based violence, see also the country information included in the Country Policy and Information Note: [Country Background Note Nigeria](#), and particularly the section on 'Women'. For further information and assessments on women fleeing female genital

mutilation (FGM) or being victims of trafficking see the respective Country Policy and Information Notes).

2.3.4 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 Economy: Socio-economic conditions, Employment and Social support / protection)

2.3.5 State education is available, although around 10.5 million (19%) children aged 5-14 years are not in school. In the North East ongoing insecurity has resulted in limited participation in formal education and it is estimated that 52% of school aged children have never attended school with girls having particularly low attendance rates (see Education).

2.3.6 There are more than 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria. Many members of ethnic groups experience discrimination and marginalisation in accessing employment, education and housing, especially in areas where they are considered 'settlers'. Non-indigenes – 'settlers' or persons not originally from the state they reside in – occasionally face official and unofficial discrimination in accessing services in some states as well as difficulties and restrictions in moving to another state without family connections or financial means. Although certificates of indigeneity are issued by local governments to allow access to public services, land and political positions, this system can lead to the marginalisation of non-indigenes and internally displaced persons due to discretionary powers belonging to local authorities in the process of issuing certificates (see Ethnicity).

2.3.7 There is a range of housing, and although supply of adequate housing does not meet demand the Government has introduced steps to reduce the housing deficit including a national social housing scheme aimed at delivering affordable housing. There is also a mixture of public and private health care facilities, ranging from primary care clinics to tertiary care in hospitals, although medical services are often inadequate across the country with access difficult for many particularly those in rural areas and the poor (see, Food security, Housing / shelter and Healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene).

2.3.8 Nigeria is a large country, covering an area of over 900,000 sq. km (almost four times the size of the UK) comprised of 36 states, and has several large and multicultural cities. There are no legal barriers to freedom of movement

within the country however movement may be hampered by the denial of indigeneship certificates as well as safety concerns and curfews, particularly in areas where there are ongoing security issues in the North East, the 'Middle Belt'; the Niger Delta region, the South-East and Zamfara state. Despite this, many Nigerians continue to migrate across the country, between states, for economic and other reasons (see Freedom of movement, Ethnicity and Country policy and information note: Islamist extremist groups in North East Nigeria and Country background note).

2.3.9 In general, there are parts of the country where a person would not have a well-founded fear of persecution/real risk of suffering serious harm and it will

be reasonable for them to relocate to, depending on the nature of the threat from the non-state agent(s) and the person's circumstances. However, relocation may be more difficult for single women, non-indigenes without access to support networks, as well as for LGBTI persons (see Country policy and information note on Sexual orientation, gender identity/expression).

2.3.10 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. While the onus is on the person to establish a well-founded fear of persecution or real risk of serious harm, decision makers must demonstrate that internal relocation is reasonable having regard to the individual circumstances of the person.

2.3.11 For assessments of and information about particular groups, see country policy information notes on Islamist extremist groups in North East Nigeria, Separatist groups in the South East, Background note, Actors of protection, Sexual orientation, gender identity / expression, Female genital mutilation (FGM) and Trafficking of women.

2.3.12 For further guidance on considering internal relocation and factors to be taken into account see the Asylum Instruction(s), Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status.

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Country information

3.   Geography

3.1   Size, urban areas and transport network

3.1.1   The total area of Nigeria is 923,768 sq. km, with a land mass of 910,768 sq. km and water mass of 13,000 sq km[1], over 3.5 times larger than the size of the UK[23].

3.2   Maps

3.2.1   See below for an administrative map of Nigeria produced by the UN and showing capitals, towns, villages, major airports, international and state boundaries, roads and railroads.

Map No. 4228 Rev. 1   UNITED NATIONS   Department of Field Support
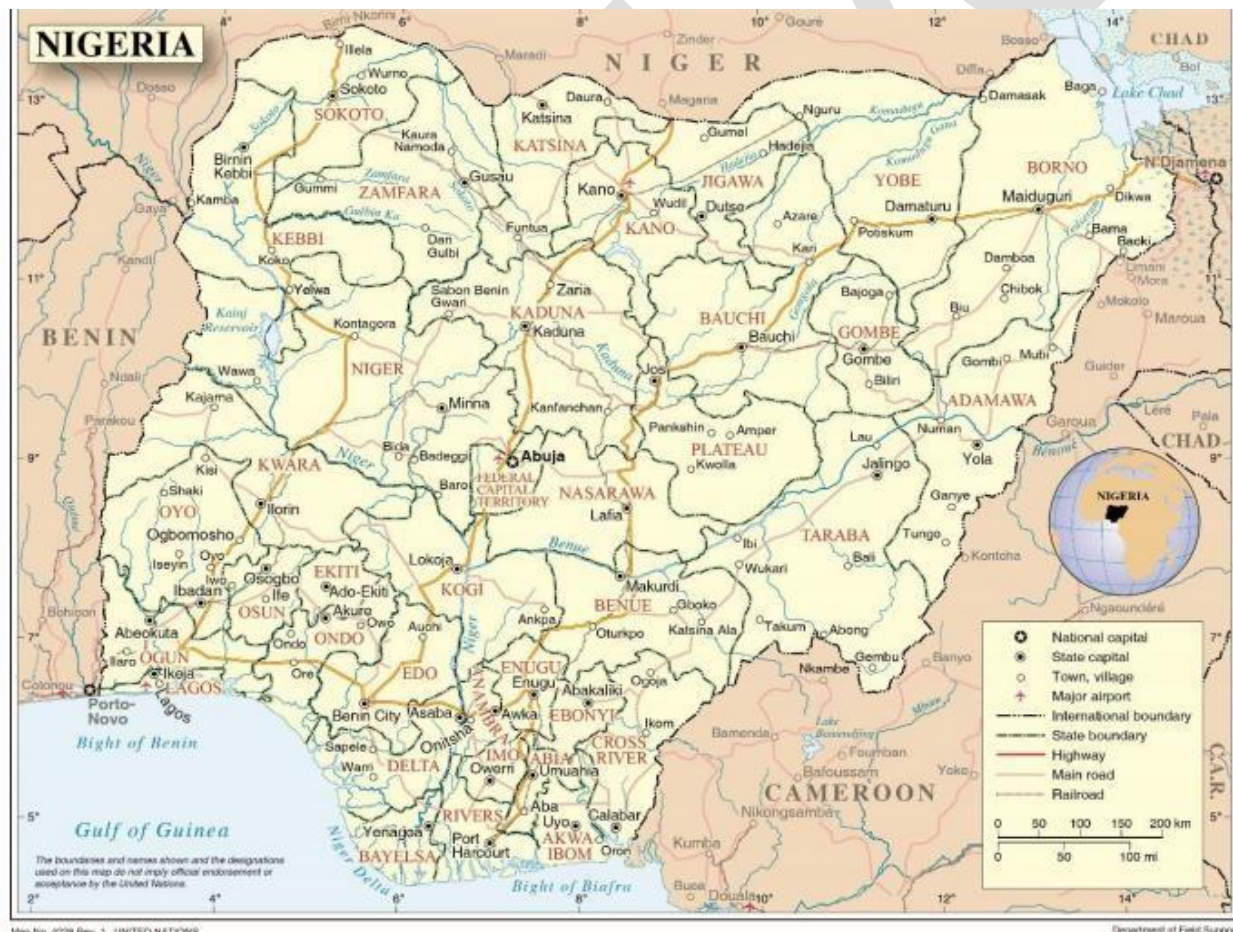
[3]

3.2.2   The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade country information report Nigeria (DFAT 2020 country information report), updated in December 2020, included a map of Nigeria demarking regional
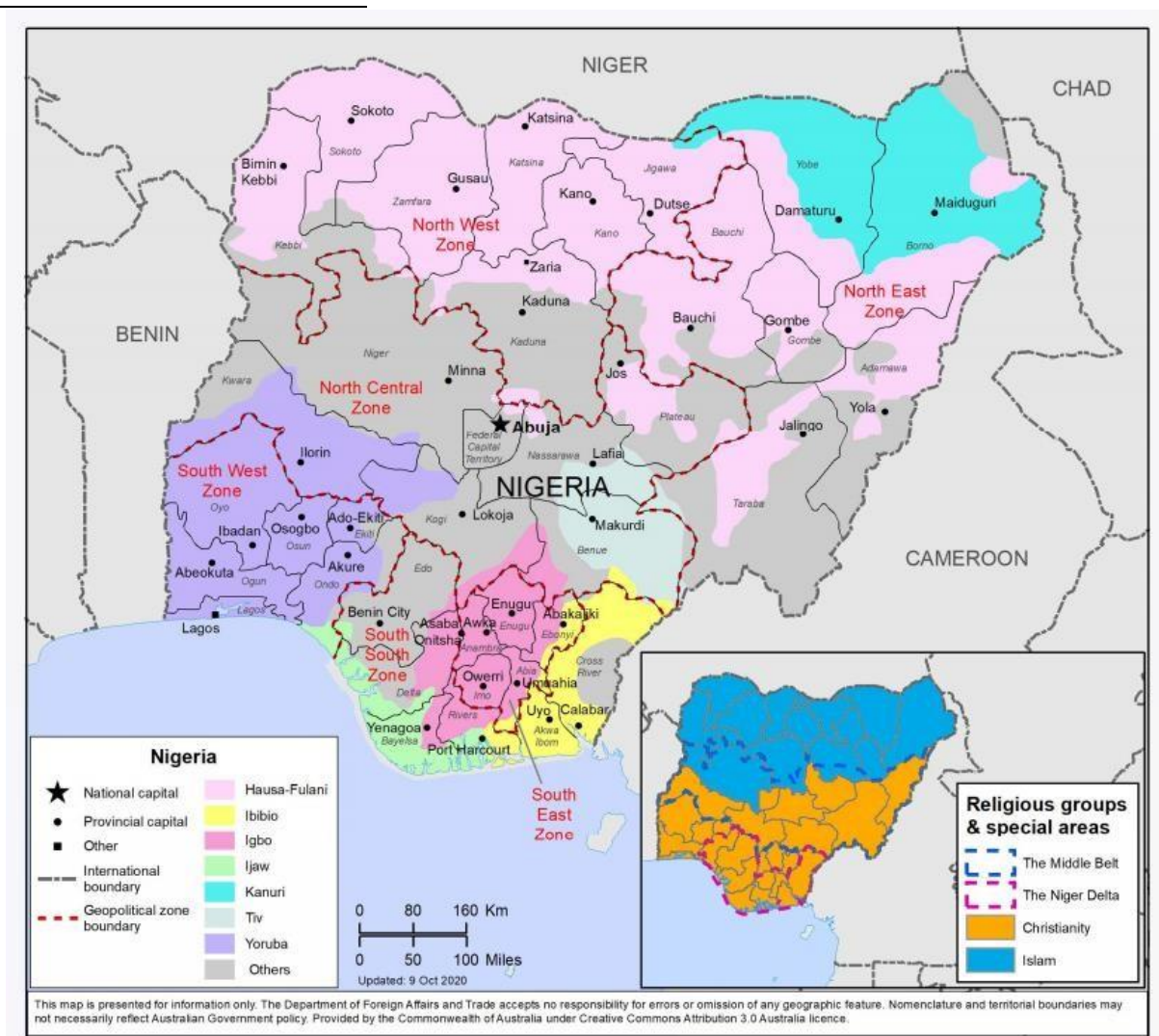
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[1] CIA World Factbook, 'Nigeria' (section Geography), updated 14 July 2021
[2] CIA World Factbook, 'United Kingdom – Geography', 13 July 2021
[3] UN Cartographic Section: 'Nigeria', August 2014

zones and the distribution of the main ethnic groups. An inset within this map depicts the Christian / Muslim split:

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3.2.3   See CPIN Nigeria: Background note for further details on size, urban areas, physical geography and transport network of Nigeria.

Section 4 updated: 1 September 2021

4.   Demography

4.1   Overview

4.1.1   Udo, Reuben Kenrick , Kirk-Greene, Anthony Hamilton Millard , Ajayi, JF Ade and Falola Toyin O, (Udo and others) in an article, 'Nigeria', published in the Encyclopedia Britannica stated: 'Nigeria, like other developing countries, has birth and mortality rates that are higher than the world average. Since the mid-20th century, however, infant mortality has declined drastically, and life expectancy has increased; as a consequence, population growth has

been rapid. Almost three-fourths of the population was younger than age 30.'[5]

[4] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 2), 3 December 2020
[5] Udo and others, Encylopedia Britannica, 'Nigeria' (Demographic trends), 8 December 2020

4.1.2   The CIA World Factbook noted that:

'Nigeria's population is projected to grow from more than 186 million people in 2016 to 392 million in 2050, becoming the world's fourth most populous country. Nigeria's sustained high population growth rate will continue for the foreseeable future because of population momentum and its high birth rate. Abuja has not successfully implemented family planning programs to reduce and space births because of a lack of political will, government financing, and the availability and affordability of services and products, as well as a cultural preference for large families. Increased educational attainment, especially among women, and improvements in health care are needed to encourage and to better enable parents to opt for smaller families.

'Nigeria needs to harness the potential of its burgeoning youth population in order to boost economic development, reduce widespread poverty, and channel large numbers of unemployed youth into productive activities and away from ongoing religious and ethnic violence. While most movement of Nigerians is internal, significant emigration regionally and to the West provides an outlet for Nigerians looking for economic opportunities, seeking asylum, and increasingly pursuing higher education. Immigration largely of West Africans continues to be insufficient to offset emigration and the loss of highly skilled workers…'[4]

4.2   Population density and distribution

4.2.1 Udo and others noted: 'About half of the people live in rural areas. Densely populated settlements occur along the coast, in the Yoruba-inhabited area in the southwest, and in the Hausa- and Kanuri-inhabited areas of the far north...'[5]

4.2.2   The CIA World Factbook gave a projected July 2021 estimate of the population at 219,463,862. Nigeria has the largest population in Africa spread across the country, with the highest density areas being the South and South West[6].

4.2.3   The major urban areas and populations are

- '14.862 million Lagos
- '4.103 million Kano,
- '3.649 million Ibadan,
- '3.464 million Abuja (capital),
- '3.171 million Port Harcourt,

[4] CIA World Factbook, 'Nigeria' (section People and society profile), updated 14 July 2021
[5] Udo and others, Encylopedia Britannica, 'Nigeria' (Rural settlement), 8 December 2020
[6] CIA World Factbook, 'Nigeria' (section People and society), updated 14 July 2021

- '1.782 million Benin City…'[7]

4.3   Ethnicity

4.3.1   EASO in their June 2021 report on the security situation in Nigeria (EASO June 2021 security situation report), using a range of sources stated: 'Nigeria is estimated to have over 250 ethnic groups and around 500 diverse ethnolinguistic groups. According to 2018 estimates, the main ethnic groups were: Hausa 30 %, Yoruba 15.5 %, Igbo (Ibo) 15.2 %, Fulani 6 %, Tiv 2.4 %, Kanuri/Beriberi 2.4 %, Ibibio 1.8 %, Ijaw/Izon 1.8 %, and those classified as 'other' 24.7 %.'[8]

4.3.2   Udo and others stated:

'There are an estimated 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria. Each inhabits a territory that it considers to be its own by right of first occupancy and inheritance. Individuals who are not members of a dominant group but who have lived and worked for several decades in the territory of the group are still considered to be aliens. In most rural areas, such aliens may not acquire outright title to land, yet considerable numbers of people have migrated from one ethnic territory to another in search of farmland. There are three major ethnic groups in the country: the Hausa-Fulani, the Yoruba, and the Igbo.'[9]

4.3.3   The DFAT 2020 country information report observed: 'Nigeria is a highly diverse nation made up of hundreds of different ethnicities speaking almost 400 different languages. Three major groups – the Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba – collectively constitute approximately half the population. While Nigerians of all ethnic backgrounds reside across the country, particularly in major cities, many ethnic groups are concentrated geographically [see map above]… ' 4.3.4 The DFAT report went on to note:

'Article 41(1) of the Constitution guarantees the right of citizens to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part of the country. However, state and local governments reportedly frequently discriminate against ethnic groups not indigenous to their areas, including through occasionally compelling individuals to return to a region from which their ethnic group originated but where they may no longer have ties. Such compulsion may take the form of threats, discrimination in employment, or destruction of their homes. Those who choose to stay can sometimes experience further discrimination, including denial of scholarships and exclusion from employment in the civil service, police and military. For example, in Plateau state the non-indigenous Hausa and Fulani report facing significant discrimination from the local government in land ownership, jobs, access to education, scholarships and government representation. International observers also report members of all ethnic groups practice ethnic discrimination in the form of favouring their own group, particularly in

[7] CIA World Factbook, 'Nigeria' (section People and society profile), updated 14 July 2021
[8] EASO – European Asylum Support Office: 'Nigeria - Security situation' (page 20), June 2021
[9] Udo and others, Encyclopedia Britannica, 'Nigeria' (Ethnic groups), 8 December 2020

privatesector hiring patterns and the segregation of urban neighbourhoods…[10]

4.3.5   DFAT also noted

'Those regarded as "indigenes" of a state are often given preferential access to public resources, government jobs, access to education and other

opportunities not made available to "settlers". The Constitution does not provide a definition of "indigene" or "settler" status. In practice, state (or place) of origin refers to the paternal ancestral place of birth of an individual, rather than the individual's place of birth. The UN Special Rapporteur for Minority Rights reported in 2015 that long-term residency in a state, even for generations, is not considered a criterion entitling a person (or community) to be considered indigenes, and that long-term residents were often denied indigeneship certificates (including Certificates of State of Origin). According to the Guiding Principles of the Federal Character Commission, an indigene of a state is anyone "accepted" as such by local authorities. This leave[s] enormous discretionary powers in the hands of these authorities, and analysts have reported numerous cases of corruption in the process of issuing certificates…

'On occasion, non-indigenes can experience challenges moving to a new state if they do not possess familial connections or financial means in their new locations. 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, however, apply in the larger urban centres of Lagos and Abuja.' [11]

4.3.6   For more information describing the different ethnic groups, Indigenes and Settlers see

- Udo and others, Encyclopedia Britannica, Nigeria (Ethnic groups), 8 December 2020

- Asylum Research Centre, Nigeria: Query Response, The situation of Indigenes and Settlers, 19 January 2018

4.3.7   See also CPIN: Country background note for more information on ethnic groups and discrimination.

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4.4   Religion

4.4.1   The DFAT 2020 country information report stated:

'While there are no official indicators of religious affiliation in Nigeria, most analysts say the population is roughly evenly divided between Muslims and Christians, while approximately 2 per cent belong to other or no religious groups. Many individuals syncretise indigenous animism with Islam or Christianity. The traditional divide between the "Muslim North" and "Christian

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[10] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (pages 23 and 24), 3 December 2020
[11] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (pages 60), 3 December 2020

South" remains, although there are Christian communities in the north of the country and Muslim communities in the south. 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. Ethnicity is not necessarily a determinant of religious identity: many ethnic groups include both Muslims and Christians.'[12]

4.4.2   The EASO June 2021 security situation report stated: 'Islam is the religion of 53.5 % of Nigerians and is the dominant religion in the north, with

Christianity dominant in the south - Roman Catholicism practiced by 10.6 % and other Christian beliefs by 35.3 %. 2018 estimates indicate that the remaining population (0.6 %...) holds traditional religious beliefs.' [13]

4.4.3   Further details about specific sub groups can be found in the [United States State Department (USSD) 2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Nigeria covering events in 2020 (Section I), 12 May 2021](#)

4.4.4   See also Country policy information note: Nigeria – Islamist extremist groups in North East Nigeria and [Nigeria: Country background note](#).

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4.5   Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

4.5.1   The DFAT 2020 country information report stated:

'Nigeria has almost three million IDPs from the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast and the Middle Belt conflict… The UNHCR reports IDPs in Nigeria represent all religions and ethnicities. The majority have settled freely in host communities where they have familial connections or in staterun 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, and lack of family ties, may discourage large-scale migration from the north to the south.'[14]

4.5.2   AI's April 2021 human rights report and covering events from 2020 stated:

'Thousands of people were internally displaced by inter-communal violence and attacks by armed groups in the northern regions. Many were also displaced as a result of military attacks against Boko Haram. On 3 January, soldiers razed the villages of Bukarti, Ngariri and Matiri, forcing hundreds of residents to flee to a camp near Maiduguri in Borno state. In September, the Borno state Governor facilitated the return of around 1,000 people, who had been displaced for years, to their homes in the town of Baga.' [15] 4.5.3   For more information on internal displacement see:

- [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Displaced and isolated: The realities of COVID19 for internally displaced people in Lagos, Nigeria, 9 April 2020](#)

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[12] DFAT, [Country information report: Nigeria (page 24)](#), 3 December 2020
[13] EASO – European Asylum Support Office: [Nigeria - Security situation](#) (page 20), June 2021
[14] DFAT, [Country information report: Nigeria](#) (page 57), 3 December 2020
[15] AI, Amnesty International: [Nigeria 2020](#), 7 April 2021

- [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Internal displacement 2020: Mid-year update [Nigeria excerpt], 23 September 2020](#)
- [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Assessment of Trafficking Risks in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in North-East Nigeria, 7 April 2020](#)
- [Society for Threatened Peoples (via UN Human Rights Council), Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a nongovernmental organization in special consultative status, 20 June 2020](#) For more information on the humanitarian situation see

4.5.4

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), [Humanitarian needs overview, March 2021](#)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), [Nigeria situation reports](#)
- [United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 27 August 2018](#)

4.5.5   For more information on the Humanitarian situation and IDPs see CPIN [Islamist extremist groups in North East Nigeria](#)

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5.   Economy

5.1   Overview

5.1.1   For further information and details on the economy and socio-economic situation of women, see the [CPIN: Country background note](#).

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5.2   Socio-economic conditions

5.2.1   The Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index (BTI) Nigeria Country Report 2020 published in April 2020 and covering the period January 2017 to January 2019, which pre-dates the COVID 19 pandemic stated: '…the economy still suffers from major shortcomings: very modest economic growth rates, poor handling of economic and financial affairs, a high unemployment rate, and overreliance on foreign exchange earnings almost exclusively from the oil and gas exports. At the same time, the communication sector, the religious industry, private education, retail trade and domestic construction flourished, although on a smaller scale than before.'[16]

5.2.2   The US Congressional Research Service in a September 2020 report stated:

'With massive oil reserves, extensive potential in the agriculture and service sectors, and a youthful, rapidly growing population, Nigeria is equipped to emerge as a global economic powerhouse. Yet corruption, infrastructure gaps, insecurity, and a failure to diversify the economy away from petroleum

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[16] Bertelsmann Stiftung: ['BTI 2020 Country Report Nigeria'](#) (pages 3-4), 29 April 2020

production have constrained economic growth and development. The economy is poised to enter a deep recession in 2020—its second contraction in five years—amid a global oil price collapse…, with severe implications for economic livelihoods and government finances. Nigeria already ranks among the world's least developed countries across a range of indicators: according to some estimates, Nigeria is home to the world's largest population living in extreme poverty.'[17]

5.2.3　The World Bank on its online Nigeria page updated in November 2020 observed:

'Nigeria is highly vulnerable to the global economic disruption caused by COVID-19, particularly due to the pronounced decline in oil prices and spikes in risk aversion in global capital markets. Nationally, 40 percent of Nigerians (83 million people) live below the poverty line, while another 25 percent (53 million) are vulnerable. With COVID-19, many of these 53 million vulnerable people could fall into poverty. The magnitude of the health impact depends on the duration and the domestic spread of the outbreak, while the economic impact hinges on oil prices. Oil accounts for over 80 percent of exports, a third of banking sector credit, and half of government revenues. Oil prices also affect growth in non-oil industries and services, with additional pressures arising from foreign portfolio investors' reassessment of risks and domestic liquidity management.

'The macroeconomic situation is more challenging now than in 2015-2016, when oil prices fell sharply and Nigeria experienced its first recession in 25 years. In the current situation, Nigeria has fewer buffers and policy instruments to cushion adverse effects. The Excess Crude Account is depleted, external reserves are highly reliant on short-term flows, and policy uncertainty affects investor confidence. Before the 2016 recession, Nigeria's economy was growing fast at 6.3%. By contrast, before COVID-19 struck, the economy was growing at 2.2%. Inflation was in single digits in 2014, compared to about 12% in 2019. The general government fiscal deficit was 4.4% of GDP in 2019, compared to 1.8% in 2014.' [18]

5.2.4　The World Bank in the same entry stated:

'While Nigeria has made some progress in socio-economic terms in recent years, its human capital development remains weak due to underinvestment. It ranked 152 of 157 countries in the World Bank's 2018 Human Capital Index. The country continues to face massive developmental challenges, including the need to reduce the dependency on oil and diversify the economy, address insufficient infrastructure, build strong and effective institutions, as well as address governance issues and public financial management systems. These pre-existing structural challenges have left the

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[17] CRS, 'Nigeria: Current Issues and U.S. Policy' (Economy), 18 September 2020
[18] World Bank, Nigeria (Overview), 3 November 2020

Nigerian economy especially vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences.

'Inequality, in terms of income and opportunities, remains high and has adversely affected poverty reduction. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of the high poverty levels, regional inequality, and social and political unrest. Without the COVID-19 shock (the counterfactual scenario), about 2 million Nigerians were expected to fall into poverty in 2020 as population growth outpaces economic growth. With COVID-19, the recession is likely to push an additional 5 million Nigerians into poverty in 2020, bringing the total newly poor to 7 million this year.' [19]

5.2.5   See the EASO report 2018, particularly the sections on Economic growth, Employment, and Poverty, for further detail on the economy, growth, gender employment and income inequality, and employment (though note that information is pre-Covid pandemic).

5.2.6   For further information and details on the socio-economic situation of women, see the CPIN Nigeria: Background note.

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5.3   Employment

5.3.1   The World Bank observed in its November 2020 update: 'Unemployment and underemployment are expected to increase, affecting poor households and increasing the share of the population vulnerable to falling into poverty. Only agriculture is expected to positively contribute to growth in 2020.'[20] 5.3.2   The DFAT 2020 country information report noted:

'Before COVID-19, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported Nigeria's official unemployment rate at 23.1 per cent, with underemployment at 16 per cent and youth unemployment at 30 per cent. Since the pandemic [COVID] hit, unemployment has worsened: the government is reportedly anticipating 39.4 million job losses by December 2020. In the pre-COVID 19 environment, analysts largely attributed unemployment in Nigeria to the phenomena of jobless growth, increased number of school graduates with no matching job opportunities, a freeze in employment in many public and private sector institutions, and continued job losses in the manufacturing and oil sectors. According to official statistics, pre-COVID 19 unemployment was highest in the southern states of Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Bayelsa and Abia, and lowest in the southwestern states of Osun, Oyo and Ondo. In the north, unemployment was highest in Borno state and lowest in Katsina state.' [21]

5.3.3   The National Bureau of Statistics report titled 'Labour Force Statistics, Unemployment and Under Employment – Q4 2020' stated

- 'The unemployment rate during the reference period, Q4 [Oct-Dec], 2020 was 33.3%, an increase from the 27.1% recorded in Q2, 2020.

[19] World Bank, Nigeria (Overview), 3 November 2020
[20] World Bank, Nigeria (Overview), 3 November 2020
[21] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 12), 3 December 2020

- 'The underemployment rate declined from 28.6% in Q2 [Apr-June], 2020 to 22.8%.

- 'The unemployment rate among rural dwellers was 34.5%, up from 28.2% in Q2, 2020, while urban dwellers reported a rate of 31.3% up from 26.4%.

- 'In the case of underemployment among rural dwellers, it declined to 26.9% from 31.5%, while the rate among urban dwellers decreased to 16.2% from 23.2% in Q2, 2020.

- 'For the period under review, Q4, 2020, the unemployment rate among young people (15- 34 years) was 42.5% up from 34.9%, 'while the rate of underemployment for the same age group declined to 21.0% from 28.2% in Q2, 2020.

- 'These rates were the highest when compared to other age groupings.'[22]

5.3.4   The USSD human rights report 2021 covering events in 2020 noted that the Ministry of Labour and Employment, who are responsible for maintaining

workers' rights and acceptable conditions of work such as standards set for pay, hours worked and health and safety provisions, stated that: 'the government did not enforce the law [occupational health and safety law] strictly. Authorities did not enforce standards in the informal sector, which included the majority of workers.'[23]

5.4   Social support / protection

5.4.1   The EASO report of 2018, citing an article Oladayo Awojobi of Bonn-RheinSieg 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…[24]

5.4.2   The (BTI) Nigeria Country Report 2020, covering the period January 2017 to January 2019, which pre-dated the COVID 19 pandemic, stated: 'In general, the burdens of aging, illness, underemployment and unemployment are carried mostly by extended family networks and the informal sector. Only civil servants and employees in the higher education system, state-owned and partially state-owned companies and mediumsized and large international companies enjoy a certain level of social security. However, the pension reform act was amended in 2014 to harmonize the fees and benefits for employees across the public and private sectors. The National Pension Commission (PenCom) supervises pension departments, which

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[22] NBS, 'Unemployment and Under Employment – Q4 2020' (page 3), March 2021
[23] USSD, 2020 Human Rights Report, 'Nigeria' (Section 7E), 30 March 2021
[24] EASO,' Socio-economic report 2018' (p53), November 2018

were created to carry out the functions of the relevant pension boards or offices in the public service of the federation and Abuja with a view to making regular and prompt payments of pensions to pensioners. More than 8 million Nigerians have been registered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), which has more than $25 billion available (mid-2018). The expectations of the National Health Bill were not fulfilled.'[25]

5.4.3   A UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Monthly Protection Report for Abuja, Lagos, Ijebu Ode & Kano; May 2021; Issue #3, May 2021 stated:

'The mandate of NASSCO [National Social Safety Nets Coordinating Office] is to establish the building blocks and delivery of targeted safety net transfers and livelihood support to extremely poor and vulnerable households in Nigeria. NASSCO is also in charge for building the National Social Register of poor and vulnerable households in Nigeria which is the basis for any social protection intervention. It liaises with many development actors including the World Bank, UNICEF, WFP, UN Women, Save the Children in data sharing but also aligning various programmes.'[26]

5.4.4   Vanguard a Nigerian news agency reported in March 2021:

'The Federal Government says it has captured no fewer than 30 million Nigerians in the National Social Register [NSR] that would facilitate lifting 100 million people out of poverty in the next 10 years.

'Alhaji Bashir Alkali, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development stated this at the National Social Safety Nets Project (NASSP) engagement meeting with State Permanent Secretaries on Thursday in Abuja.

'He said that under the ministry's mandate sat on NASSP supported by the World Bank to reduce poverty and Socioeconomic vulnerabilities in Nigeria.

'Alkali said NASSP was designed to have structures from the federal to the states, down to the local government levels, reflecting the three tiers of government.

'"Currently, the NSR has 30 million Nigerians from 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory from seven million poor and vulnerable households…"'[27]

5.5   Education

5.5.1   The DFAT 2020 country information report noted:

'Article 18 of the Constitution commits the Government to: ensuring there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels…

[25] Bertelsmann Stiftung: 'BTI 2020 Country Report Nigeria (pages 3-4), 29 April 2020
[26] UNHCR, 'Monthly Protection Report for Abuja, Lagos, Ijebu Ode & Kano', May 2021
[27] Vanguard, 'FG says 30m Nigerians in National Social Register', 18 March 2021

'Nigeria has adult literacy rates (15 years and over) of 71.3 per cent for males and 52.7 per cent for females, and youth literacy rates (15-24 years) of 81.5 per cent for males and 68.2 per cent for females…

'International observers report Nigeria's strong population growth places considerable pressure on its basic education system. Despite the building of thousands of new public schools in recent years, the basic education system remains underfunded, facilities are often poor, teachers inadequately trained, and participation rates low by international standards. Although basic education is free and compulsory, UNICEF reports around 10.5 million children aged 5-14 years are not in school [population of children aged 5-14 is 55,707,000[28]], and only 61 per cent of 6-11 year olds regularly attend primary school.' [29]

5.5.2   Freedom House observed in its annual report 'Freedom in the world 2021' covering events in 2020:

'The federal government generally respects academic freedom. However, some state governments mandate religious instruction in elementary and secondary curriculums and student admission and faculty hiring policies are subject to political interference. Boko Haram's assault on secular education

has included the closure or destruction of primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. In 2018, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that as many as three million children in the north were left without access to a school as a result. Boko Haram has continued targeting schoolchildren; in December 2020, it claimed responsibility for the disappearance of over 300 students in Katsina State, though they were released a week later.

'Students have faced ill-treatment in unregulated Islamic schools, which have operated for decades. Some parents have patronized these schools for corrective services, as a robust juvenile-rehabilitation system is lacking in much of Nigeria.'[30]

5.5.3   The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in their report Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview [Summary of Humanitarian Needs and Key Findings; Part 1: Impact of the Crisis and Humanitarian Conditions] – (UNOCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021), dated March 2021 stated with particular emphasis on Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states (BAY areas) stated:

'Even before the current crisis and temporary closure of all schools by Federal Mandate in March 2020 until October 2020 due to COVID-19, there was limited participation in formal education in north-east Nigeria: armed conflict, communal violence, natural disasters and resulting economic challenges have aggravated existing challenges and gaps in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. An estimated 52% of school-aged children have never attended school and the annual drop-out rate for children in the

[28] UN, Economic and Social Affairs, 'Population by age groups, both sexes - Nigeria', August 2019
[29] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 15), 3 December 2020
[30] Freedom House, 'Freedom in the world 2021: Nigeria', 3 March 2021

northeast is the highest in Nigeria, demonstrating the gravity of barriers to education.'[31]

5.5.4 The USSD human rights report 2021 covering events in 2020 noted:

'The law requires provision of tuition-free, compulsory, and universal basic education for every child of primary and junior secondary school age. According to the constitution, women and girls are supposed to receive career and vocational guidance at all levels, as well as access to quality education, education advancement, and lifelong learning. Despite these provisions, extensive discrimination and impediments to female participation in education persisted, particularly in the north.

'Public schools remained substandard, and limited facilities precluded access to education for many children.

'Most educational funding comes from the federal government, with state governments required to pay a share. Public investment was insufficient to achieve universal basic education. Actual budget execution was consistently much lower than approved funding levels. Increased enrollment rates created challenges in ensuring quality education. According to UNICEF, in some instances there were 100 pupils for one teacher.'[32]

5.5.5 The EASO June 2021 security situation report stated: 'The Global Coalition to Prevent Education from Attack recorded at least 10 attacks on schools in

north-eastern and in north-central areas of Nigeria between 2017 and 2019, with Boko Haram explicitly targeting Western education… UNICEF noted in 2020 that 1400 schools have been damaged by conflict[33].

5.5.6 For more information see the EASO socio-economic report 2018, section 2.7. and Nigeria: country background note

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5.6 Food security

5.6.1 UNICEF noted in Humanitarian Action for Children 2020 – Nigeria with regard Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (BAY) States:

'Across targeted [BAY] states, over 5.1 million people are food insecure. This situation, coupled with poor access to basic services, is exacerbating the vulnerability of crisis-affected children and women. Based on current global acute malnutrition levels, an estimated 807,000 children under 5 years will be acutely malnourished in 2021 in the northeast. Rapid assessments in the northwest indicate proxy global acute malnutrition rates exceeding 15 per cent, with some locations indicating over 30 per cent.'[34] 5.6.2   UNOCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021 noted:

'Across the country, inflation in food prices has constrained household consumption and access to food for the most vulnerable. Specifically, the

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[31] UNOCHA, 'Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', (page 70), 8 March 2021
[32] USSD, 2020 Human Rights Report, 'Nigeria' (Section 6), 30 March 2021
[33] UNICEF, 'Humanitarian Action for Children 2020 – Nigeria', 14 December 2020
[34] UNICEF, 'Humanitarian Action for Children 2020 – Nigeria', 14 December 2020

COVID-19 associated movement restrictions and lockdown, although later relaxed, have caused severe hardships for people by reducing their incomes and their ability to procure commodities and services. The pandemic comes in the wake of a year-long closure of all Nigeria's land borders since September 2019 (as an anti-smuggling measure) which contributed to rising inflation, especially for food.' '[35]

5.6.3   With regard the Bay states specifically the UNOCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview stated:

'Conflict and insecurity have cut people off from their main means of livelihoods — farming and fishing. This causes major food insecurity in northeast Nigeria, which COVID- 19's effects on incomes, small businesses and trade have exacerbated: in many parts of the BAY states, food insecurity is rising, as is malnutrition, of which hotspots due to insecurity are emerging. As a result, more people will rely on humanitarian assistance to survive in 2021.'[36]

5.6.4   The same UNOCHA report also commenting on BAY states noted: 'The food security situation has deteriorated significantly in 2020. Findings from the October 2020 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis project up to 5.1 million food-insecure people during the 2021 lean season in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states—a 19% increase in food insecurity compared to 2020.

'Of the 5.1 million people in the BAY states that the October 2020 CH projects will be food-insecure in 2021, 31% are girls, 25% boys, 24% women and 20% men. These are categorized as IDPs (36%), people in host communities (31%), people in inaccessible or hard-to reach areas (16%) and returnees (17%).'[37]

5.6.5   For further information see UNOCHA, [Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), Food security – section 3.6 and [UNOCHA situation reports-Nigeria](#)

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5.7   Housing / shelter

5.7.1   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 19751985. Consequently, many urban dwellings are overcrowded. It is estimated that the costs of meeting the required number of housing would amount to

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[35] UNOCHA, [Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'](#), (pages 15 & 22), 8 March 2021
[36] UNOCHA, ['Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'](#), (pages 15 & 22), 8 March 2021
[37] UNOCHA, ['Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'](#), (pages 23 & 75), 8 March 2021

"more than 36 trillion Naira" (400 Naira = USD 1) [£0.70[38]]... 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)…'[39] 5.7.2   Udo and others stated:

'Overcrowding in the cities has caused slums to spread and shantytown suburbs to emerge in most of the larger urban centres. Most houses are built by individuals, and, because banks do not normally lend money for home

construction, most of these individuals must rely on their savings. A federal housing program provides funds for the construction of low-cost housing for low- and middle-income workers in the state capitals, local government headquarters, and other large towns.'[40]

5.7.3   Amnesty International's April 2021 report on human rights (AI's April 2021 human rights report) and covering events from 2020 stated:

'Authorities in the Federal Capital Territory, Lagos and Benue states forcibly evicted thousands of people without adequate notice, compensation or the provision of alternative accommodation. In January, the Navy used live ammunition over a two-day period to forcibly evict hundreds of families from their land in Tarkwa Bay, Lagos state. Some residents said their children went missing during the incident.

'In April [2020], Lagos state officials demolished around 10 houses during a forced eviction in Yaya Abatan in Ogba.

'In May [2020], more than 20 houses were destroyed in the Logo 1 area of

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[38] XE Currency Converter, no date
[39] EASO, 'Socio-economic report 2018' (p39), November 2018
[40] Udo and others, Encylopedia Britannica, 'Nigeria' (Housing), 8 December 2020

Makurdi in Benue state, overseen by armed police. The Benue state Governor denied any involvement in the demolition and failed to investigate the incident.

'In August [2020], hundreds of houses were demolished, and thousands of people were displaced at the Nepa Junction settlement in Apo in the Federal Capital Territory, while armed police dispersed residents with tear gas, resulting in some residents being hospitalized.

'On 31 December [2020], residents of Monkey Village in the Opebi area of Lagos state were forcibly evicted when houses and buildings were demolished by bulldozers with the aid of police and thugs.' [41] 5.7.4   Premium Times in December 2020 reported:

'The Nigerian government has launched the portal for the 300,000-unit national social housing scheme aimed at delivering affordable housing and millions of jobs to Nigerians.

'The government's N200 billion facility social housing scheme is one of the planned schemes under the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) prepared by the Vice President Yemi Osinbajo-led Economic Sustainability Committee.

'It was approved by the Federal Executive Council and supported by the Central Bank of Nigeria. It is targeted at providing 300,000 low-income houses and creating 1.8 million jobs in the process.

'The Family Homes Fund, the federal government agency designated to implement the scheme, launched the portal Wednesday in Abuja.'[42]

5.7.5   The Guardian Nigeria reported in May 2021that Government had announced that 1,752 families had benefited from its Rent-to-Own policy in Lagos[43].

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6.   Healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene

6.1.1   The DFAT 2020 country information report noted:

'Article 17(3)(d) of the Constitution commits the State to ensuring there are adequate medical and health systems for all persons. Health care is provided by the public and private sectors, with the private sector providing around 60 per cent of health service delivery while owning only 30 per cent of health facilities. The government spent around USD3.2 billion on health in 2019, compared to over USD10 billion spent in the private health sector. This indicates there is a high reliance on out-of-pocket health payments to finance the health system in Nigeria, despite a consensus to develop a universal health care system.

'Nigeria's health system faces significant challenges in meeting the needs of its population. The prevalence of infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, remains high. According to the World Health Organization

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[41] AI, Amnesty International: 'Nigeria 2020', 7 April 2021
[42] Premium Times, 'Nigerian govt. launches portal for social housing scheme', 17 December 2020
[43] The Guardian Nigeria, '1,752 benefit from Rent-to-Own housing policy in Lagos', 11 May 2021

(WHO), Nigeria's health statistics indicate significant adverse outcomes, and there is a significant disparity in health status across states, urban and rural areas, education and social status. As at 2018, male life expectancy in Nigeria was 53 years and female life expectancy 55 years. The maternal mortality ratio is high at 576 per 100,000 live births, as is the total fertility rate at 5.5 (compared to the replacement level of 2). The infant mortality rate (for children under 5 years old) is 19.9 per 1,000 live births [compared to 3.7 for the UK[44]].

'A number of major disease outbreaks have seriously challenged the Nigerian health system in recent years. Nigeria experienced a meningitis outbreak in 2016-17, which included 14,518 suspected cases reported from 25 states and 1,166 deaths. The northern states of Zamfara, Sokoto, Yobe, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi and Niger were most affected. In early 2020, 472 cases of lassa fever were reported across 13 Nigerian states (and the FCT) [Federal Capital Territory], with 70 fatalities. As at 23 November 2020, Nigeria had a COVID-19 confirmed case count of 65,305, with 1,163 deaths.'[45]

6.1.2   Udo and others stated:

'The concentration of people in the cities has created enormous sanitary problems, particularly improper sewage disposal, water shortages, and poor drainage. Large heaps of domestic refuse spill across narrow streets, causing traffic delays, while the dumping of garbage along streambeds constitutes a major health hazard and has contributed to the floods that have often plagued Ibadan, Lagos, and other cities during the rainy season. Lower respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, malaria, and HIV/AIDS are among the leading causes of death. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control was established in 2011 to support public health… 'Medical and health services are the responsibility of all levels of government. There are hospitals in the large cities and towns. Most of the

state capitals have specialized hospitals, and many are home to a university teaching hospital. There are numerous private hospitals, clinics, and maternity centres. Medical services are inadequate in many parts of the country, however, because of shortages of medical personnel, modern equipment, and supplies.'[46]

6.1.3   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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[44] ONS, 'Child and infant mortality in England and Wales: 2019', 24 February 2021
[45] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 13-14), 3 December 2020
[46] Udo and others, Encylopedia Britannica, 'Nigeria' (Health and welfare), 8 December 2020 [49]
ACforSC, 'Nigeria's diverse security threats', 30 March 2021

7.   Security and crime situation

7.1   Overview

7.1.1   The map below produced by Africa Centre for Strategic Studies in March 2021 shows Nigeria's ongoing security threats from Militant Islamist groups, criminal gangs, herder-farmer related violence, militant Biafran separatists, piracy and security sector violence against civilians based on 'composite data from 2018-2021'.

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7.2   Insecurity

1.1.1 The United States State Department (USSD) 2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Nigeria, covering events in 2020, noted:

'There were incidents of violence involving predominantly Muslim Fulani herders and settled farmers, predominantly Christian but also Muslim, in the North Central and North West regions. The government continued ongoing security operations and launched additional operations that it stated were meant to stem insecurity created by armed criminal gangs and violent conflict over land and water resources that frequently involved rival ethnic groups. Various sources said the government did not take significant measures to combat insecurity throughout the country; the International Crisis Group said that state governments relied heavily on armed vigilante groups to help quell the violence, which it said was counterproductive. Some

said this lack of government response exacerbated insecurity and failed to address underlying causes.' [47]

1.1.2   The same USSD report stated: 'Violent conflicts between predominantly Muslim Fulani herdsmen and predominantly Christian farmers in the North Central states continued throughout the year. Some religious groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) continued to express concern that this conflict had religious undertones. In addition to religious differences, local authorities, scholars, and regional experts pointed to ethnicity, politics, criminality, lack of accountability and access to justice, and increasing competition over dwindling land resources as among the key drivers of the violence. Attacks and killings attributed to Muslim Fulani herdsmen continued during the year. According to ACLED data, total civilian deaths numbered 2,454 during the year, compared with 2,198 in 2019 and 3,106 in 2018. Some domestic and international Christian groups stated that Muslim Fulani herdsman were targeting Christian farmers because of their religion. Local Muslim and herder organizations said unaffiliated Fulani were the targets of Christian revenge killings. Local and international NGOs and religious organizations criticized what they said was the government's inability or unwillingness to prevent or mitigate violence between Christian and Muslim communities. Christian organizations reported several cases during the year of Muslim men kidnapping young Christian girls and forcing them into marriage and conversion to Islam.' [48]

7.2.1   EASO in their June 2021 report on the security situation in Nigeria (EASO June 2021 security situation report), and using a range of sources stated:

'Nigeria's long-standing security challenges continued in 2019 and 2020 and have been described as stemming from militant Islamists predominantly active in the North-East Region moving into north western states; violence related to armed bandits and criminal violence in the North-West and North Central Regions and street gangs in the South-West Region; conflict between farmers and herders mainly in the Middle Belt but increasingly moving to southern states; communal and ethnic clashes in the North-

Central Region and increasingly in the southern states; Biafra separatists in the South-East Region and oil militants in southern Nigeria, particularly the Niger Delta… Election-related violence mainly occurred throughout January to March 2019…

'Covering the first half of 2019, the UN described the security situation in Nigeria as "volatile"…, with ongoing conflict due to Boko Haram's presence, resulting in a worsening of the existing humanitarian situation and affecting population displacement and food insecurity… Global Rights described Nigeria's 2019 threshold of violence as 'very high'…

'The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) covering events in 2019/2020 ranked Nigeria in 3rd place (same ranking as in the previous year…), according to

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[47] USSD, '2020 Report on International Religious Freedom' (Section Exec Summary), 12 May 2021
[48] USSD, '2020 Report on International Religious Freedom' (Section Exec Summary), 12 May 2021

number of deaths from terrorist attacks, and "recorded the second largest reduction in deaths from terrorism in 2019", a reduction of 39.1 % compared to the previous year and 83 % lower than during its peak in 2014... The reduction was mainly attributable to falling terrorism-related deaths from "Fulani extremists"..., despite a 25 % increase in deaths attributed to Boko Haram, compared to 2018... Taking into account only those countries most impacted by terrorism, the GTI described Nigeria as being one of those that could be classified as in a "state of war"... Of the 50 worst terrorist attacks recorded in 2019, four occurred in Nigeria, two of which ranked in the top 10 worst attacks in terms of deaths recorded...

'According to the Global Peace Index 2020, Nigeria ranked 147th out of 163 countries (compared to 148th position in the previous year)... As in the previous two years, the Fragile State Index covering events in 2019, classified Nigeria in a state of "Alert" and ranked it 14th out of 178 countries... The Brookings found that since 2018 'intense insecurity' and violence have persisted and increased.

'Security across Nigeria has been reported as being "challenged" in 2020 through Islamist groups' operations in the north, '"ow-level insurrection" in Niger Delta, ongoing farmer-herder conflict in the Middle Belt, which sometimes includes ethnic and religious components, and widespread criminality across the country.

'In the first six months of 2020 violent attacks surpassed those recorded in total in 2019... During 2020 Nigeria continued to experience various security challenges, including violent extremists' attacks against security forces, kidnappings (for example from July to October 2020 there were about 102 incidents in the Federal Capital Territory alone), and protests which turned into violence and riots in a number of states.' [49]

7.2.2 The same EASO report noted: 'The farmer-herder conflicts centre around Nigeria's Middle Belt… and as more grazing land is sought, violence has expanded to the South-West and South-East Regions… The worst affected areas are Benue, Plateau, Taraba, Adamawa, Kaduna, Kwara, Borno and Zamfara…' [50]

7.2.3 The UN Security Council Report by the UN Secretary-General on developments in West Africa and Sahel between 15 December 2020 to 17 June 2021 (political trends; security-related developments; human rights situation; women and girls; conflicts between herders and farmers; other topics) stated:

'The situation in Nigeria continued to pose multidimensional security challenges. Boko Haram factions, bandits and unidentified armed groups increased their attacks against security forces and humanitarian agencies, but mostly against civilians. In the previously calm south-eastern region, there were numerous attacks by unidentified shooters targeting security personnel and installations. During the reporting period, the frequency of kidnappings for ransom increased exponentially, affecting more than 1,570

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[49] European Asylum Support Office, 'Nigeria - Security situation' (pages 21 to 23), June 2021
[50] European Asylum Support Office, 'Nigeria - Security situation' (page 35), June 2021

people, including 800 secondary school students, predominantly in Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara and Niger States. In late April, the Governor of Niger State announced that Boko Haram factions had taken control of some territories in the state, marking an extension of their operations beyond north-eastern Nigeria. Security challenges in the country have triggered knock-on effects on public safety, food security and social cohesion, with separatist voices growing louder.'[51]

7.2.4 For further information on the security situation in Nigeria see CPINs Nigeria: [Actors of protection](#), [Islamist extremist groups in North East Nigeria](#), [Separatist groups in the South-east](#) and [EASO – European Asylum Support Office: Nigeria - Security situation June 2021 (for security situation by state – section 2 onwards)](#)

7.3   Crime

7.3.1   The USSD's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Crime and Safety Report for Lagos, updated in April 2020, and aimed at US travellers noted with regard police response:

'Crime is prevalent throughout Nigeria… The mostly commonly reported crimes are armed robbery, kidnap for ransom, and fraud. In addition, mainland portion of Lagos has experienced periodic outbreaks of violence, resulting from clashes among localized street gangs known as "Area Boys."...

'Armed robbers have targeted occupants in vehicles. Smash-and-grab robberies are common, with thieves canvassing stopped vehicles for valuables. Thieves will break the vehicle's window or simply reach in and grab items while a vehicle stops in traffic. Cooperate if an armed assailant or carjacker approaches; resistance may invite violence.

'Home invasions remain a serious threat, with armed robbers even targeting guarded compounds. Perpetrators have scaled perimeter walls, followed residents/visitors, and/or subdued guards to gain entry. Armed robbers in Lagos have invaded waterfront compounds and businesses by boat, using waterways as a means of escape…

'Crime is rampant throughout southern Nigeria, particularly the Niger Delta region including Port Harcourt. Multiple armed criminal elements exist throughout Nigeria, ranging from low-level to organized syndicates. Cultist or gang violence, which often erupts in supremacy battles between various groups, is a concern.'[52]

7.3.2   The DFAT 2020 country information report stated:

'Nigeria's crime rate is high for both violent and petty crime. Crime increases at night and includes assault, armed robbery, home invasions and carjacking. Assaults and robberies are common on public transport and in

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[51] UN Security Council, '[Report by UN Secretary-General…](#)', (paragraph 26), 28 June 2021
[52] OSAC, '[Crime and Safety Report: Lagos](#)', updated 28 April 2020.

taxis, while petty crimes such as pickpocketing are common in crowds. Nigeria has a well established reputation as a centre for internet-based scams, often run by organised criminal gangs.

'Kidnappings and abductions have become an acute concern across the country, with 685 kidnappings recorded in the first quarter of 2019 alone. While kidnapping has been a tactic of Boko Haram during its insurgency…, it has increasingly been used by factions in intercommunal conflicts elsewhere in the country and by criminals demanding ransom. Maritime kidnappings in the Niger Delta and the southeast are common, as militants have turned to piracy and related crimes to support themselves. In July 2019, for example, pirates boarded a cargo vessel off the coast of Bayelsa, taking 10 Turkish sailors away by speedboat and holding them for ransom. Prominent and wealthy figures (or their family members) are often targeted for abduction: in May 2019, armed assailants kidnapped the nephew of President Buhari, holding him for more than two months before police conducted a successful rescue operation.' [53]

7.3.3 For further information on the crime situation see

- ENACT, Enhancing Africa's response to transnational organised crime, Organised Crime Index 2019 – Nigeria, 23 September 2019,
- OSAC, Crime and Safety Report: Abuja, updated 28 April 2020 and
- EASO – European Asylum Support Office: Nigeria - Security situation June 2021 (particularly 1.4.1.1 Types of conflict).

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Section 8 updated: 1 September 2021

8.   Freedom of movement

8.1.1 For information on documentation including fraudulent and forged documents see Country Background Note Nigeria.

8.2 Legal rights and practice within Nigeria

8.2.1 DFAT and the USSD observed that there are no legal barriers to movement within the country[54][55] and Udo and others stated in an article updated in December 2020 that: 'There is considerable migration in Nigeria, especially between the north and the south. Large numbers of southern migrants have settled in the northern cities of Kano, Sokoto, Kaduna, and Jos, while seasonal migrants have often moved from the northern Sokoto and Kano

areas to southern areas where cacao is grown. A more significant number of people have migrated from the southeast to the more industrialized and urbanized western states of Lagos, Oyo, and Ogun or to the agricultural western states of Ondo and Edo. ' [56]

8.2.2 Similarly DFAT noted

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[53] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 19), 3 December 2020
[54] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 56-57), 3 December 2020
[55] USSD, 2020 Human Rights Report, 'Nigeria' (Section 2D), 30 March 2021
[56] Udo and others, Encylopedia Britannica, 'Nigeria' (Demographic trends), 8 December 2020

'Internal migration is very common in Nigeria. Nigerians often live and work in different parts of the country from their family origins or birthplaces. This distribution reflects a multitude of factors such as: employment opportunities in sectors such as the telecommunications, construction, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing across Nigeria; educational opportunities; placement of young Nigerian graduates as part of national service or internship arrangements; herdsmen or farmers seeking new grazing or agricultural opportunities; the existence of relatives or family support structures in other parts of the country; as well as internal displacement due to poverty or conflict in the northeast of the country. Internal migration includes both northerners moving to the south and southerners moving to more northerly locations such as Kaduna or Kano or to the FCT.' [57] 8.2.3 However, the DFAT 2020 country information report also stated: '… While there are no legal impediments to internal relocation in Nigeria, governments reportedly frequently discriminate against ethnic groups not indigenous to their areas…

'On occasion, non-indigenes can experience challenges moving to a new state if they do not possess familial connections or financial means in their new locations. Non-indigenes may face official discrimination when attempting to access government services, including university places or employment in the civil sector (see Race/Nationality). These restrictions do not, however, apply in the larger urban centres of Lagos and Abuja.' [58]

8.2.4 Furthermore, insecurity and COVID-19 measures have restricted movement. Freedom House in its 'Freedom in the World 2021' report covering events in 2020 stated:

'While the freedom of movement is legally guaranteed, security officials frequently impose dusk-to-dawn curfews and other movement restrictions in areas affected by communal violence or by Boko Haram activities. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, over 2.1 million people were internally displaced nationwide at the end of 2020.

'Freedom of movement was also curtailed by COVID-19 measures, with states imposing lockdowns in March and April and a nationwide curfew being imposed in May. In mid-April 2020, the NHRC recorded 27 incidents of freedom-of-movement violations or unlawful arrests, along with 18 extrajudicial killings by authorities enforcing pandemic-related measures. A nationwide curfew remained in effect at year's end.' [59]

8.2.5 Similarly the USSD human rights report 2021 covering events in 2020 noted

'The constitution and law provide for freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, but security officials restricted freedom of movement at times by imposing curfews in areas experiencing terrorist attacks and ethnic violence.

'… The federal, state, or local governments imposed curfews or otherwise restricted movement in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States in connection

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[57] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 56-57), 3 December 2020
[58] DFAT, 'Country information report: Nigeria' (page 56-57), 3 December 2020
[59] Freedom House, 'Freedom in the world 2021: Nigeria', 3 March 2021

with operations against Boko Haram and ISIS-WA. Other states imposed curfews in reaction to specific threats and attacks, and rural violence. 'Police conducted "stop and search" operations in cities and on major highways and, on occasion, set up checkpoints. In response to COVID-19, the federal and state governments each instituted restrictions on movement between and within states, as well as curfews that varied throughout the year.'[60]

8.2.6 The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MofFA) COI report on Nigeria of March 2021 citing various sources, including the DFAT report above, noted: 'Both the high level of violence and the poverty of much of the Nigerian population also resulted in high numbers of displacements during this reporting period [2020]… Freedom of movement is one of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Nigerian constitution, and according to DFAT there are no legal barriers to relocation within Nigeria…. However, there are various practical, cultural and legal barriers that cause most people who have fled violence to settle with family in or close to their own region. First, there are significant linguistic, cultural and religious differences between northern and southern Nigeria, which means that relatively few IDPs from the north of Nigeria settle in the south… Second, several sources stated that Nigeria is a "network society", and that without social contacts it is almost impossible to find housing or a job in an unknown city or region… Third, there is legislation that grants more rights to members of population groups that are regarded as "indigenous" (indigenes) within a particular region. Outsiders (non-indigenes) may experience discrimination in using government services, accessing…education and government jobs, and buying land in these regions… However, this phenomenon does not apply in cities such as Lagos and Abjua, according to DFAT… The coronavirus pandemic led to the restriction of freedom of movement, with the announcement of a complete lockdown for the residents of Lagos, Abuja and Ogun in April 2020 and local restrictions in other Nigerian states… As an estimated 40% of the Nigerian population live below the poverty line and many Nigerians depend on the informal economy, these measures had a major impact on the livelihoods of millions of Nigerians….'[61]

8.3 Exit/entry

8.3.1 The Netherlands MofFA noted in its March 2021 report:

'Many migrants return to Nigeria every year. There are various programmes to support returnees to Nigeria with their travel to and economic and other

reintegration in Nigeria. Which programme a returnee can use depends on the country where he/she is based before returning to Nigeria and whether or not he/she cooperates with the repatriation… There is no evidence of

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[60] USSD, 2020 Human Rights Report, Nigeria (Section 2D), 30 March 2021
[61] Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs,'COI report Nigeria' (section 1.3), 22 June 2021

systematic problems between returnees (voluntary and forced) [from the Netherlands] and the authorities on arrival in Nigeria.'[62]

8.3.2   See also Home Office Guidance on [Voluntary and assisted returns](#) and [EASO COI Query - Nigeria: Exit Procedures and Controls](#) and the [Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)](#) website.

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[62] Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, COI report Nigeria (section 5), 22 June 2021

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 ToR, 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
  - o Physical and political geography, transport network
  - o Demography, including size, ethnic-religious make-up, languages, IDPs
- Socio-economic

  situation

  o Economy
    - Employment
    - Personal finance o Food security / availability o IDPs o

  Social support
    - Government services
    - Civil society o Housing / shelter and hygiene,

  including water, sewage o Healthcare o Education

- Security situation o Civil

  conflict

  _____
    - o Crime
- Freedom of movement o

  Legal rights o

  Documentation

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Version control

Clearance

Below is information on when this note was cleared:

• version **2.0**
• valid from **9 September 2021**

Official – sensitive: Start of section

The information on this page has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

Official – sensitive: End of section

Changes from last version of this note

Updated country information