



Home Office

Country Policy and Information Note

Nigeria: Internal relocation

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Executive summary

Nigeria is a large, culturally and ethnically diverse country with a population estimated to be over 220 million. The majority live in urban areas including the large cities of Abuja and Lagos. Freedom of movement is generally possible, though is sometimes hindered by insecurity and criminality in some parts of the country.

A person fearing 'rogue' state actors and/or non-state actors is likely to be able to internally relocate to another area of Nigeria, particularly larger cities such as (but not limited to) Abuja and Lagos. This will depend on the nature of the threat and the person's circumstances.

Relocation may be more difficult for single women, elderly people or people who belong to an ethnic group that does not traditionally live in the area, unless they have access to support networks. However, official discrimination is less likely in Abuja and Lagos, which have multi-ethnic populations.

Specific guidance and information on internal relocation for certain groups is available in the relevant [Country policy and information notes](#) on those groups.

A claim made by a man is likely to be certified as 'clearly unfounded'; a claim by a woman is not likely to be certified.

Each claim must be considered on its particular facts.

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Assessment

About the assessment

This section considers the evidence relevant to this note – that is the country information, refugee/human rights laws and policies, and applicable caselaw – and provides an assessment of whether, **in general**

- internal relocation is possible to avoid persecution/serious harm
- 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 the specific facts of each case.

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1. Material facts, credibility and other checks/referrals

1.1 Credibility

- 1.1.1 For information on assessing credibility, see the instruction on [Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status](#).
- 1.1.2 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](#)).
- 1.1.3 In cases where there are doubts surrounding a person’s claimed place of origin, decision makers should also consider language analysis testing, where available (see the [Asylum Instruction on Language Analysis](#)).

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1.2 Exclusion

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 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).
- 1.2.3 For guidance on exclusion and restricted leave, see the Asylum Instruction 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. Internal relocation

- 2.1.1 A person fearing ‘rogue’ state actors and non-state actors is likely to be able to internally relocate to another area of Nigeria, particularly to the larger cities such as, but not limited to, Abuja and Lagos. This will depend on the nature of the threat and the person’s circumstances.
- 2.1.2 Relocation may be more difficult for single women, elderly people or non-indigenous people without access to support networks. Guidance and information on internal relocation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people; female victims of trafficking; women or girls fearing female genital mutilation; people linked to separatist organisations in south-east Nigeria; and people fearing Islamists in north-east Nigeria; is available in [Country policy and information notes](#) on those groups.
- 2.1.3 While the onus is on the person to establish a well-founded fear of persecution or a real risk of serious harm, decision makers must demonstrate that internal relocation is reasonable (or not unduly harsh) having regard to the individual circumstances of the person.
- 2.1.4 Nigeria is a large, culturally and ethnically diverse country with a population estimated to be over 220 million. About half of the population live in urban areas, with almost 16 million residents living in the megacity of Lagos and around 4 million in the capital Abuja, as well as Kano, Ibadan and Port Harcourt. The population is almost evenly split between Christians and Muslims, with a very small minority practising 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 living in areas throughout the country (see [Geography](#), [Demography](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.5 Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups, although 3 – the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba – account for around 70% of the population. Members of groups who live in areas where their ethnic group does not traditionally live – known as ‘non-indigenes’ or ‘settlers’ – may experience discrimination and marginalisation in accessing employment, education and housing. Non-indigenes may sometimes face discrimination in accessing services in some states as well as difficulties and restrictions in moving to another state without family connections or financial means. According to one source, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, state and local governments occasionally compel non-indigenes – through threats, employment discrimination or destruction of their homes – to return to a region from which

they originated but where they have no ties. Although Certificates of State of Origin are issued by local governments to allow access to public services, land and political positions, this system can also 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. However, there is reportedly little discrimination against or marginalisation of non-indigenes in Abuja and Lagos, which have multi-ethnic populations (see [Ethnicity, Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).

- 2.1.6 Nigeria has experienced some economic growth since 2016 but as a major oil exporter it is subject to fluctuations in energy prices and which in turn effects economic performance. In a bid to stimulate growth, the administration of President Bola Tinubu, who took office in May 2023, scrapped Nigeria's fuel subsidy programme and unified and liberalised the exchange rate. Due in large part to soaring petrol prices, inflation had risen above 33% in 2024 and many households struggle to buy food and other essentials, particularly in areas of conflict where food insecurity is exacerbated. Almost 4 out of 10 Nigerians live in extreme poverty (earning less than US\$2.15 a day (around £1.67)) as defined by the World Bank. More than 6 out of 10 are classed as living in multidimensional poverty, which takes account of factors such as living standards, health and education, although this figure is lower – just over 4 in 10 – in urban areas (see [Economy, Food security](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.7 The unemployment rate in the formal sector is 5.9% in urban areas and 2.5% in rural areas. Of those in formal work, 12% are in wage employment and 88% are self-employed. Almost 12% are classed as underemployed. A large proportion of the labour force work in the informal economy, in sectors such as transport, retail and agriculture. According to one source, the US State Department, informal work in the financial sector is relatively profitable. Women face discrimination in the workplace, including a significant disparity in earnings (see [Employment](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.8 Primary, secondary and tertiary level healthcare is available but is hampered by a lack of funding and poor infrastructure. A higher level of healthcare is available in urban areas than rural areas (see [Healthcare and Country information note, Medical treatment and healthcare](#)). Support for the elderly, the sick and the unemployed or underemployed is generally the responsibility of extended families and the informal sector rather than the state (see [Social support / protection](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.9 Free state education is available, but in practice families often pay for education. School enrolment is 84% at primary school level and 42% at secondary school level. The overall enrolment rate is 70% in the south and 30% in the north. In the North-East particularly, ongoing insecurity has resulted in limited participation in formal education. Higher education is available but is becoming prohibitively expensive for some even at federal and state universities (see [Education](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).

- 2.1.10 While there is a range of accommodation, house building is not keeping pace with population growth leading to an increase in informal housing and slums. Around half or more of those living in urban areas rent their home, and rents are increasing sharply. Some women report difficulty in securing a tenancy as landlords prefer to rent to men (see [Housing and living conditions](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.11 Insecurity and crime – including armed insurgency in the North-East; banditry in North-West and around the main urban areas; farmer-herder disputes in the ‘Middle Belt’; ‘cultism’ and gang wars in the South, and secessionism in the South-East – continue to be major challenges affecting livelihoods and movement. They have caused deaths, property destruction and worsening poverty, and are a significant factor behind the current internal displacement of 2.2 million people, largely in the North-East of the country. There are reports of clashes having occurred between indigenes and non-indigenes in some urban areas. According to a source quoted by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government gives priority to addressing insecurity in the country’s larger cities, including Abuja and Lagos (see [Insecurity and crime](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.12 The law provides for freedom of movement, although there are some restrictions such as checkpoints in place in areas of significant insecurity. Additionally, areas of very high levels of violence – in parts of the North-East, the ‘Middle Belt’, the Niger Delta region, the South-East and Kaduna and Zamfara states – may not be safe to travel to or stay in. However, many Nigerians continue to migrate within states and between states, including to the larger cities for economic and other reasons (see [Freedom of movement](#), [Insecurity and crime](#) and [Annexe A: City and state information](#)).
- 2.1.13 For further guidance on considering internal relocation and factors to be taken into account, see the Asylum Instruction on [Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status](#).

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3. Certification

- 3.1.1 Where a claim from an adult male is refused, it is likely to be certifiable as ‘clearly unfounded’ under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 as Nigeria is listed as a designated state in respect of men only. Where a claim from an adult female is refused, it is unlikely to be certifiable as ‘clearly unfounded’ under section 94.
- 3.1.2 For further guidance on certification, 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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Country information

About the country information

This section contains publicly available or disclosable country of origin information (COI) which has been gathered, collated and analysed in line with the [research methodology](#). It provides the evidence base for the assessment.

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

This document is intended to be comprehensive but not exhaustive. If a particular event, person or organisation is not mentioned this does not mean that the event did or did not take place or that the person or organisation does or does not exist.

The COI included was published or made publicly available on or before **30 May 2024**. Any event taking place or report published after this date will not be included.

Decision makers must use relevant COI as the evidential basis for decisions.

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4. Geography

4.1 Size and capital

4.1.1 Nigeria's land area is 910,768 square kilometres plus a further 13,000sqkm of water, totalling an area of 923,768sqkm, more than 3.5 times the area of the UK^{1 2}.

4.1.2 The capital is Abuja³.

4.1.3 Reuben Kenrick Udo, JF Ade Ajayi and Anthony Hamilton Millard Kirk-Greene (Udo and others), in the 'Nigeria' entry in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, noted that Lagos 'retains its standing as the country's leading commercial and industrial city'⁴.

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4.2 States and regions

4.2.1 Nigeria comprises 36 states and one territory, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), where Abuja is located⁵.

4.2.2 A US Central Intelligence Agency map of Nigeria, showing the capital, other cities, major rivers and international boundaries, is reproduced below⁶:

¹ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 30 May 2024

² CIA, '[United Kingdom - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 29 May 2024

³ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 30 May 2024

⁴ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Introduction), updated 29 May 2024

⁵ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Government), updated 30 May 2024

⁶ CIA, '[Nigeria map](#)', 2016



4.2.3 A map published by Nigerian privately-owned news outlet Tribune Online, dated 27 January 2021, shows the 6 geopolitical zones or regions of Nigeria and is reproduced below⁷.



⁷ Tribune Online, '[Nigeria: Who owns the Land?](#)', 27 January 2021

- 4.2.4 Leila Demarest, assistant professor at the Institute of Political Science at Leiden University, Netherlands, Arnim Langer and Ukoha Ukiwo (Demarest and others), in a paper 'Nigeria's Federal Character Commission (FCC): a critical appraisal', published in the Oxford Development Studies journal of 2020, stated: 'Geopolitical zones are not formally recognised as administrative units in the constitution, but they are well-known and used, including by the FCC [Nigeria's Federal Character Commission].'⁸ Nigeria's 'Middle Belt' is not precisely defined but it is generally considered to include Benue, Plateau, Kwara, Kogi, Niger, Adamawa and Taraba states as well as southern Kaduna state and the FCT⁹.

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5. Demography

5.1 Population

- 5.1.1 Minority Rights Group International, an NGO, in the Nigeria section of its 'World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples' (MRG directory 2018), updated January 2018, observed: 'Demographic data are politically sensitive in Nigeria and the last census, conducted in 2006, did not collect or analyze data disaggregated by ethnicity, religion or language.'¹⁰ Vanguard, a privately-owned news outlet, reported in an article dated 21 November 2023 that the 2006 census was the most recent¹¹.
- 5.1.2 The CIA World Factbook stated that as of 2024 Nigeria had an estimated population of almost 236.75 million, the largest population of any African nation. It is the sixth most populous country in the world¹².
- 5.1.3 The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided a slightly different figure, stating that as of 2024, the population stood at 229.2 million¹³.
- 5.1.4 The CIA World Factbook reported the estimated populations of major urban areas as follows (2023 figures):
- Lagos: almost 16 million
 - Kano: almost 4.35 million
 - Ibadan: almost 3.88 million
 - Abuja: 3.84 million
 - Port Harcourt: 3.48 million
 - Benin City: just over 1.90 million¹⁴

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5.2 Population density and distribution

- 5.2.1 The World Bank reported that Nigeria has a population density of 234 people

⁸ Demarest, L, and others, ODS, [Nigeria's Federal Character Commission...](#) (page 317), 2020

⁹ Jonah, CE, and Tari, V, JCSD, '[The Myth and Reality of Middle Belt Geo-Politics...](#)', January 2015

¹⁰ MRG, '[Nigeria - World Directory...](#)', updated January 2018

¹¹ Vanguard, '[After 17 years, its disappointing Nigeria hasn't conducted census](#)', 21 November 2023

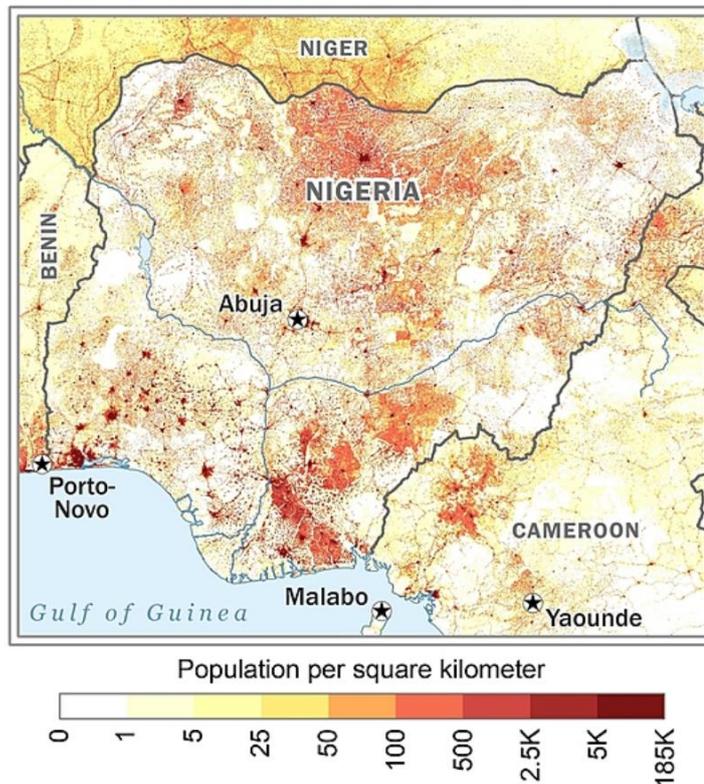
¹² CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and Society), updated 30 May 2024

¹³ UNFPA, '[World Population Dashboard - Nigeria](#)', 2024

¹⁴ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 30 May 2024

per square kilometre of land (2021 estimate, based on a 2021 population estimate of 213.4 million)¹⁵. The comparable figure for the UK was 277¹⁶.

- 5.2.2 The CIA World Factbook stated, 'Significant population clusters are scattered throughout the country, with the highest density areas being in the south and southwest ...' A World Factbook map showing population distribution is reproduced below¹⁷:



- 5.2.3 The same source noted that 54.3% of the total population lived in urban areas in 2023¹⁸.

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5.3 Age structure

- 5.3.1 The CIA World Factbook reported the median age as 19.1 years for males and 19.6 years for females, with an overall median age of 19.3 years (2024 estimates). An estimated 40.4% of the population were aged 0 to 14 years, 56.2% were aged 15 to 64 years and 3.4% were aged 65 years and over¹⁹.
- 5.3.2 The United States Congressional Research Service, in a report 'Nigeria: Overview and U.S. Policy' (USCRS report 2023), updated 9 November 2023, based on various sources, noted: 'Around three in five Nigerians are below the age of 25...'²⁰

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¹⁵ World Bank, '[Population density...](#)', no date

¹⁶ World Bank, '[Population density...](#)', no date

¹⁷ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and Society), updated 30 May 2024

¹⁸ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and Society), updated 30 May 2024

¹⁹ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and Society), updated 30 May 2024

²⁰ USCRS, '[Nigeria Overview...](#)' (Demography), updated 9 November 2023

5.4 Ethnicity

- 5.4.1 Udo and others reported that there are an estimated 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria²¹.
- 5.4.2 The CIA World Factbook stated that the country 'is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups'²². It provided the following ethnicity percentages:
- Hausa 30%
 - Yoruba 15.5%
 - Igbo (Ibo) 15.2%
 - Fulani 6%
 - Tiv 2.4%
 - Kanuri/Berberi 2.4%
 - Ibibio 1.8%
 - Ijaw/Izon 1.8%
 - other 24.9% (2018 estimates)²³
- 5.4.3 The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs' Nigeria Country Information Report of December 2020 (DFAT Nigeria report 2020) noted: 'While Nigerians of all ethnic backgrounds reside across the country, particularly in major cities, many ethnic groups are concentrated geographically.'²⁴ It provided a map, dated 9 October 2020 and reproduced below²⁵, to show the geographical concentrations of ethnic groups, with an inset showing religious groups and special areas:

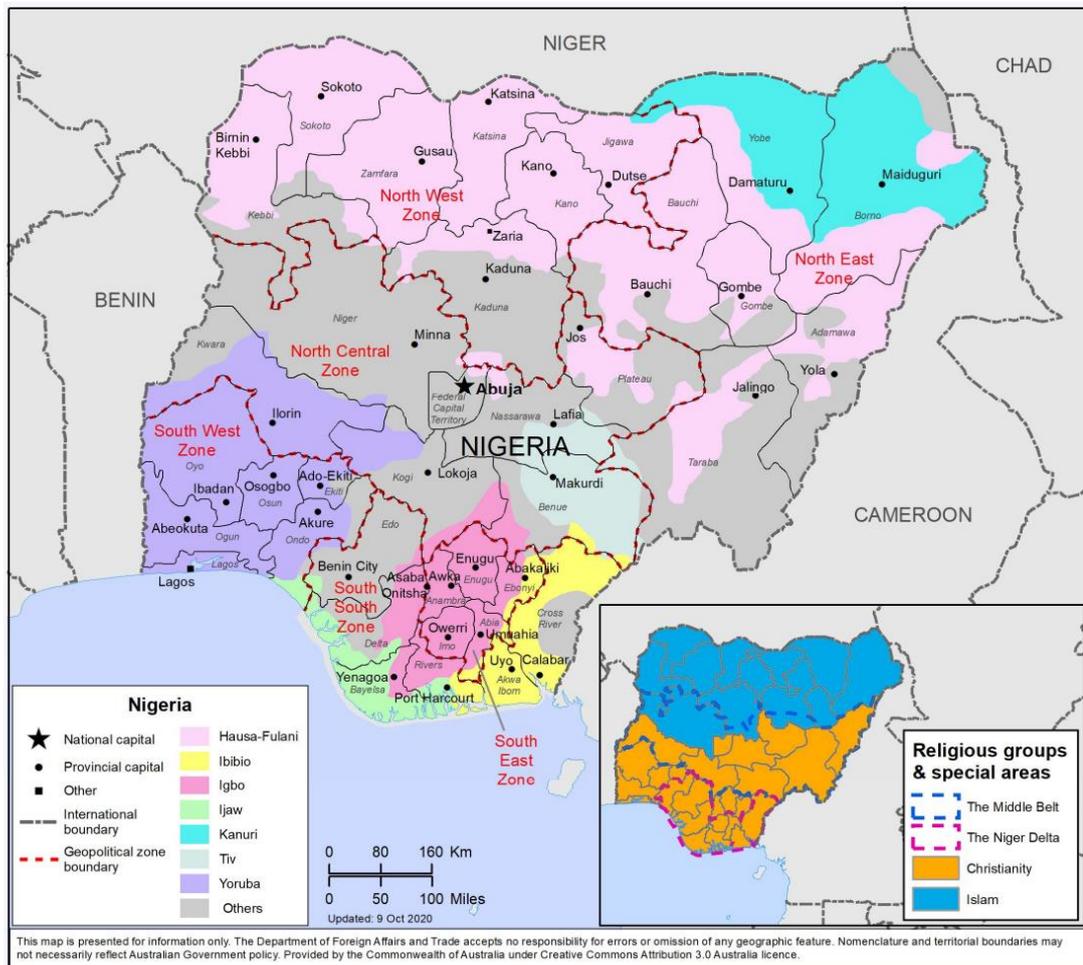
²¹ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Introduction), updated 29 May 2024

²² CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and Society), updated 12 December 2023

²³ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and society), updated 30 May 2024

²⁴ DFAT, '[Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#)' (section 3.2), 3 December 2020

²⁵ DFAT, '[Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#)' (section 3.2), 3 December 2020



- 5.4.4 For more information on religious groups, see [Religion](#).
- 5.4.5 The USCRS report 2023 stated: ‘Nigeria’s largest ethnic groups are the Hausa-Fulani, made up of two groups (the Hausa and Fulani) concentrated in the north whose mutual assimilation has led them to be often, but not always, considered as a bloc in the context of Nigerian politics ... the Yoruba, a majority in the southwest; and the Igbo, who predominate in the southeast.’²⁶
- 5.4.6 With regard to the Fulani, Udo and others reported: ‘Town-dwelling Fulani intermarry freely with the Hausa and other groups ...’, whereas cattle-herding rural Fulani generally do not intermarry²⁷.
- 5.4.7 In relation to the Yoruba, they stated: ‘Most Yoruba are farmers but live in urban areas away from their rural farmland.’²⁸
- 5.4.8 With regard to the Igbo, the authors noted this ethnic group lives in ‘decentralized and democratic settlements’ and that ‘[a] smaller proportion live in large towns ...’²⁹
- 5.4.9 The authors reported that the greatest concentration of ethnic groups – more than 180 – is found in the middle belt, and that the largest of these groups

²⁶ USCRS, ‘[Nigeria Overview...](#)’ (Demography), updated 9 November 2023

²⁷ Udo and others, EB, ‘[Nigeria...](#)’ (Ethnic groups), updated 29 May 2024

²⁸ Udo and others, EB, ‘[Nigeria...](#)’ (Ethnic groups), updated 29 May 2024

²⁹ Udo and others, EB, ‘[Nigeria...](#)’ (Ethnic groups), updated 29 May 2024

are the Tiv and the Nupe³⁰.

5.4.10 The MRG directory 2018 noted: 'Plateau State, just east of the centre of the middle belt is especially diverse. Among the main minority groups there are Berom, Tarok, Jawara and Gemai.'³¹

5.4.11 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, in an entry 'Federal Capital Territory (FCT)' (Encyclopaedia Britannica FCT entry), updated 25 March 2024, reported that the population of the FCT comprises the Gwari, Koro, Ganagana, Gwandara, Afo and Bassa ethnic groups, and that Hausa and Fulani also live in the territory³².

5.4.12 For more information:

- on ethnic groups, see Odu and others' Encyclopaedia Britannica entry [Nigeria - People](#) and MRG's [World Directory - Nigeria](#)
- on ethnic discrimination, see [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#)

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5.5 Languages

5.5.1 The United States State Department's 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (USSD human rights report 2022), published 20 March 2023, stated that 395 languages are spoken in Nigeria³³.

5.5.2 The CIA World Factbook gave a different figure, listing the following languages: 'English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, over 500 additional indigenous languages'³⁴.

5.5.3 David M Eberhard, Gary F Simons and Charles D. Fennig, in the online version of 'Ethnologue: Languages of the World, 26th edition (2023)', reported that Nigeria has 520 living indigenous languages, some of which – Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba – are official in parts of the country. They stated that 10 living non-indigenous languages are also established within Nigeria, including English, the official language of the country³⁵.

5.5.4 Udo and others stated that although English is the official language, Hausa is the most widely spoken. They noted that Yoruba, Igbo, Fula and English Creole are also widely spoken³⁶.

5.5.5 The BBC, in an article 'Nigerian schools: Flogged for speaking my mother language' (BBC language article 2023), dated 7 January 2023, stated: 'For many middle-class Nigerians, especially in the south, English is now their mother tongue and some may not speak any local languages. This is partly a result of marriages between members of different ethnic groups, and people moving to cities, where English is the lingua franca.'³⁷

5.5.6 The same source stated: ' ... [W]ith people moving around the country -

³⁰ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Ethnic groups), updated 29 May 2024

³¹ MRG, '[Nigeria - World Directory...](#)', updated January 2018

³² Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Federal Capital Territory \(FCT\)](#)', updated 25 March 2024

³³ USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 6), 20 March 2023

³⁴ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (People and society), updated 14 November 2023

³⁵ Eberhard, DM, and others, '[Ethnologue: Languages of the World - Nigeria](#)', 2023

³⁶ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Languages of Nigeria), updated 29 May 2024

³⁷ BBC, '[Nigerian schools: Flogged for speaking my mother tongue](#)', 7 January 2023

many Nigerian children live in areas where their mother tongue is not the dominant local language.³⁸

- 5.5.7 For information on each living language of Nigeria, see [‘Ethnologue: Languages of the World – Nigeria’](#).

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5.6 Religion

- 5.6.1 The CIA World Factbook provided the following percentages for religious affiliation in Nigeria, based on 2018 estimates:

- Muslim 53.5%
- Roman Catholic 10.6%
- other Christian 35.3%
- other 0.6%³⁹

- 5.6.2 The US State Department’s 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom (USSD IRF report 2022) provided slightly different figures:

‘According to [non-partisan “fact tank”⁴⁰] the Pew Research Center, as of 2015, the country is 50 percent Muslim and 48.1 percent Christian, while approximately 2 percent belong to other or no religious groups. Many individuals syncretize indigenous animism or traditional practices with Islam or Christianity.

‘In its most recent detailed surveys in 2010 and 2012, Pew found 38 percent of Muslims self-identify as Sunni, most of whom belong to the Maliki school of jurisprudence, although a sizable minority follows the Shafi’i school of fiqh. This corresponds to the 37 percent of Muslims who identify either with Sufism, of which the largest brotherhoods are the Tijaniyyah (19 percent) and Qadriyyah (9 percent), or Salafism, known in the country as Izala. The same studies found 12 percent of Muslims self-identify as Shia, with the remainder declining to answer or identifying as “something else” (5 percent) or “just a Muslim” (42 percent). There are also small numbers of Mouride Sufis, as well as Ahmadiyya and Kala Kato (Quraniyoon) Muslims.

‘According to a 2011 Pew Center report, Catholics comprise approximately 25 percent of Christians, and Protestants and other Christians approximately 75 percent. According to CAN [Christian Association of Nigeria], mainline Protestants, including Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and others, together account for approximately 25 to 30 percent of the Christian population; Pentecostals, approximately 30 percent; evangelical Christians, including the Fellowship of Churches of Christ and Evangelical Church Winning All Fellowship, approximately 10 percent; and African Instituted Churches, including the Christ Apostolic Church, the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, and other indigenous Aladura or “white garment” churches, 5 to 10 percent of the Christian population. There are numerous nondenominational churches and smaller Christian groups, such as

³⁸ BBC, [‘Nigerian schools: Flogged for speaking my mother tongue’](#), 7 January 2023

³⁹ CIA, [‘Nigeria - The World Factbook’](#) (People and society), updated 30 May 2024

⁴⁰ Pew Research Center, [‘About Pew Research Center’](#), 2023

Jehovah's Witnesses, Rosicrucians, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Other religious communities include Baha'is, Hindus (including members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness), Sikhs, Buddhists, animists, and individuals who do not follow any religion.

'There are Jewish communities in Abuja and Lagos led by the Chabad Lubavitch movement and comprised mostly of foreign residents. A larger community of Nigerian Jews – dividing themselves among Messianic, Sabbatarian, Community of Hashem, and Orthodox congregations – is present primarily in the South East and South South regions of the country.

'Islam is the dominant religion in the North West and North East regions, although significant Christian populations reside there as well. Christians and Muslims reside in approximately equal numbers in the North Central region. Christianity is the dominant religion in the South West, including Lagos, which is also home to significant Muslim populations.

'In the South East region, Christian groups, including Catholics, Anglicans, and Methodists, constitute the majority. In the South South, Christians form a substantial majority. There are small but growing numbers of Muslims in the South South and South East.

'Evangelical Christian denominations are growing rapidly in the North Central and South East, South South, and South West regions. Ahmadi Muslims maintain a small presence in several cities, including Lagos and Abuja. The Shia Muslim presence is heavily concentrated in the North West region.⁴¹

5.6.3 The Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an undated 'Culture' section on its website, stated: 'The Hausa tend to be Muslim and the Igbo are predominantly Christian. The Efik, Ibibio, Annang people are mainly Christian. The Yoruba have a balance of members that are adherent to both Islam and Christianity. Indigenous are often blended with Christian beliefs.'⁴²

5.6.4 For more information on the geographical concentrations of religious groups, see the map in [Ethnicity](#).

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5.7 Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

5.7.1 The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its Nigeria Situation Report (OCHA situation report 2023), dated 20 November 2023, stated that as of 20 November 2023 there were 2.2 million displaced people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states (BAY states)⁴³.

5.7.2 With regard to reasons for displacement, the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in its 'Protection and Monitoring Report – UNHCR Maiduguri Sub-Office' (UNHCR Maiduguri report 2023), dated 2 November 2023 and covering events in July and August 2023, noted that triggers for displacement during the reporting period included 'poor living conditions, family reunification, military operations, the pursuit of improved security,

⁴¹ USSD, '[International religious freedom – Nigeria](#)', 15 May 2023

⁴² Nigerian MoFA, '[Culture](#)', no date

⁴³ OCHA, '[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)' (page 2), 20 November 2023

access to humanitarian assistance, insurgent attacks, and fear of attacks.’⁴⁴

5.7.3 The OCHA situation report 2023 stated that 57,000 people had become displaced because of flooding that occurred in Adamawa State between May and October 2023⁴⁵.

5.7.4 For more information on:

- employment among IDPs, see [Internally Displaced Persons \(IDPs\) and host communities](#)
- living conditions for IDPs, see [Internally Displaced Persons \(IDPs\)](#)
- education for IDPs, see [Internally displaced children](#)
- freedom of movement for IDPs, see [IDPs](#)

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6. Economy

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6.1 Main indicators

6.1.1 The CIA World Factbook, in its ‘Economic overview’ for Nigeria, provided the following summary: ‘[L]argest African market economy; enormous but mostly lower middle income labor force; major oil exporter; key telecommunications and finance industries; susceptible to energy prices; regional leader in critical infrastructure; primarily agrarian employment’⁴⁶.

6.1.2 UN Data, in an undated entry on its website, reported that gross domestic product per capita was US\$2,361.20 [GBP1,853.54, converted at the rate prevailing on 30 May 2024⁴⁷], in 2019 based on ‘current dollar’ figures⁴⁸.

6.1.3 The CIA World Factbook, which provided data based on the 2017 US dollar, reported that real GDP per capita stood at an estimated US\$4,900 [GBP3,836.50, converted at the rate prevailing on 30 May 2024⁴⁹] in 2020 and 2021, compared to an estimated US\$5,100 [GBP4,003.50, converted at the rate prevailing on 30 May 2024⁵⁰] in 2019. The 2021 figure placed Nigeria 179th among 229 countries ranked by the World Factbook for GDP per capita on a purchasing power parity basis⁵¹.

6.1.4 The World Bank, on its data website, reported that based on current dollar figures, GDP per capita was US\$2,162.60 [GBP1,697.64, converted at the

⁴⁴ UNHCR, ‘[Protection Monitoring Report...](#)’ (section II: Population Movement), 2 November 2023

⁴⁵ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), variously updated

⁴⁶ CIA, ‘[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)’ (Economy section), updated 30 May 2024

⁴⁷ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 30 May 2024

⁴⁸ UN Data, [Nigeria economic indicators](#), no date

⁴⁹ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 30 May 2024

⁵⁰ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 30 May 2024

⁵¹ CIA, ‘[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)’ (Economy section), updated 30 May 2024

rate prevailing on 30 May 2024^{52]} in 2022.

- 6.1.5 The Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in its 'Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report (Q1 2024)', dated May 2024, stated that GDP grew by 2.98% year on year in real terms in the first quarter of 2024 (January to March 2024), with growth driven mainly by the services sector⁵³.
- 6.1.6 With regard to inflation, the Financial Times, in an article dated 26 November 2023, stated: 'Recent inflation data highlighted the pressures facing ordinary Nigerians. Food prices are 31.5 per cent higher than they were last year. Bus fares in Nigerian cities have on average risen 117 per cent year on year, according to the most recent data from the statistics agency.'⁵⁴
- 6.1.7 The Central Bank of Nigeria, in an undated entry on its website, reported that in April 2024, the inflation rate stood at 33.69%. Food inflation was 40.53%⁵⁵.

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6.2 Development challenges and reforms

- 6.2.1 Regarding development challenges, the World Bank, in its Nigeria overview (World Bank Nigeria overview 2024), updated 21 March 2024, stated:

'Despite having the largest economy and population in Africa, Nigeria offers limited opportunities to most of its citizens. A Nigerian born in 2020 was expected to be a future worker 36% as productive as they could have been if they had full access to education and health, the 7th lowest human capital index in the world. Weak job creation and entrepreneurial prospects stifle the absorption of the 3.5 million Nigerians entering the labor force every year, and many workers choose to emigrate in search of better opportunities... In most areas of Nigeria, state capacity is low, service delivery is limited, and insecurity and violence are widespread. Wide infrastructure gaps constrain access to electricity and hinder the domestic economic integration that would allow the country to leverage its large market size. Emerging problems such as the increased severity and frequency of extreme weather events, especially in the northern parts of the country, add to these long-standing development challenges.'⁵⁶

- 6.2.2 With regard to reforms, the same overview stated:

'From 2015-2022 ... growth rates decreased and GDP per capita flattened, driven by monetary and exchange rate policy distortions, increasing fiscal deficits due to lower oil production and a costly fuel subsidy program, increased trade protectionism, and external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic...

'Following a change in administration in May 2023, the country has been pursuing bold reforms to reestablish macroeconomic conditions for stability and growth. The petrol fiscal subsidy was partially eliminated, and [foreign exchange] FX reforms have led to the unification of FX markets and to a market-reflective exchange rate. To alleviate the inflationary effects of these

⁵² Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 30 May 2024

⁵³ NBS, [Gross Domestic Report \(Q1 2024\)](#) (Overview), May 2024

⁵⁴ Financial Times, '[Nigerians resort to emergency loans...](#)', 26 November 2023

⁵⁵ CBN, '[Central Bank of Nigeria: Money and Credit Statistics](#)', no date

⁵⁶ World Bank, '[Nigeria Overview: Development news, research, data](#)', updated 21 March 2024

reforms on the most vulnerable, the government has been implementing temporary cash transfers to reach 15 million households. Efforts are also being made to tighten monetary policy and refocus the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on its core mandate of maintaining price stability.⁵⁷

- 6.2.3 A World Bank press release (13 December 2023) to accompany publication of the December 2023 edition of its Nigeria Development Update, titled ‘Turning the Corner: From Reform and Renewed Hopes to Results’, stated: ‘These essential reforms [see preceding paragraphs] entail painful adjustments. They have led to an increase of retail gasoline prices by an average of 163%. The naira has depreciated against the US dollar by approximately 41% in the official market and by about 30% in the parallel market. To reap the benefits of the bold reforms and difficult but necessary economic adjustments now underway, it is essential to sustain and fully implement the reforms and take complementary actions.’⁵⁸
- 6.2.4 The full World Bank update is available at [‘Turning the Corner: From Reform and Renewed Hopes to Results’](#).
- 6.2.5 For information on the Conditional Cash Transfer Program, an intervention aimed at supporting households affected by policies such as removal of the petrol subsidy, see [Social support / protection](#).

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6.3 Poverty, wealth and inequality

- 6.3.1 With regard to poverty, the World Bank Nigeria overview 2023 stated: ‘The [extreme] poverty rate is estimated to have reached 38.9% in 2023, with an estimated 87 million Nigerians living below the poverty line [\$2.15 [GBP1.68⁵⁹] a day⁶⁰] — the world’s second-largest poor population after India.’⁶¹

While the (UN) International Labour Organisation (ILO) reported in its ILOSTAT database that in 2022, the working poverty rate, defined as the percentage of those in employment living on less than US\$2.15 (purchasing power parity) per day, stood at 34.3%⁶².

- 6.3.2 The NBS, in a report ‘Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022)’ (NBS MPI 2022), produced in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, stated: ‘Sixty-three percent of people—133 million—are multidimensionally poor.’ The results were based on various sources including 52,022 interviews conducted in 36 states and the FCT between November 2021 and February 2022 and population projections published by the Nigerian National Population Commission, and covered indicators in 4 dimensions: health, education, living standards, and work and shocks⁶³.

⁵⁷ World Bank, [‘Nigeria Overview: Development news, research, data’](#), updated 21 March 2024

⁵⁸ World Bank, [‘Turning the Corner...’](#), 13 December 2023

⁵⁹ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 13 December 2023

⁶⁰ World Bank, [‘Fact Sheet: An Adjustment to Global Poverty Lines’](#), updated 14 September 2022

⁶¹ World Bank, [‘Nigeria Overview: Development news, research, data’](#), updated 21 March 2024

⁶² ILO, [‘Statistics in Africa’](#), no date

⁶³ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 22), November 2022

- 6.3.3 For more information on the different dimensions of deprivation, see [Employment, Healthcare, Education, Water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\), Housing and living conditions](#) and [Insecurity and crime](#).
- 6.3.4 With regard to geographical inequality, the NBS, in a report 'Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria 2019' (NBS poverty report 2019) dated May 2020, based on a survey conducted between September 2018 and October 2019, classified 40.09% of Nigerians as poor, which it defined as those with an annual real per capita expenditure below 137,430 naira [GBP138.39, converted at the rate prevailing on 13 December 2023⁶⁴]. For those living in urban areas, 18.04% were classified as poor based on the same definition, while the figure for those living in rural areas was 52.10%⁶⁵.
- 6.3.5 The same source reported that states in northern Nigeria had considerably higher rates of poverty than those in the south. The northern states of Yobe (72.3%), Zamfara (72.3%), Adamawa (75.4%), Jigawa (87.2%) and Sokoto (87.7%) recorded poverty rates well above the national average. No figure was recorded for the northern state of Borno because of accessibility issues. In contrast, the southern states of Lagos (4.5%), Ogun (9.3%), Oyo (9.8%) and Ondo (12.5%) had poverty rates well below the national average⁶⁶.
- 6.3.6 With regard to inequality in multidimensional poverty, the NBS MPI 2022 stated: 'Multidimensional poverty is higher in rural areas, where 72% of people are poor, compared to 42% of people in urban areas.' It also reported: 'Poverty levels across States vary significantly, with the incidence of multidimensional poverty ranging from a low of 27% in Ondo to a high of 91% in Sokoto.'⁶⁷
- 6.3.7 The World Bank Nigeria overview 2024 stated: 'Spatial inequality continues to be large, with the best-performing regions of Nigeria comparing favorably to upper middle-income countries, while the worst performing states fare below the average for low-income.'⁶⁸
- 6.3.8 Deutsche Welle (DW), the German state-owned international broadcaster⁶⁹, in a written introduction to a video report 'Inequality in Nigeria' (DW video report 2022), dated 25 August 2022, stated: 'Though the economy in Lagos continues to boom, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. Makoko, possibly the biggest floating slum in the world, is just a 15-minute drive away from Lagos Island, the central business district where most Nigerian celebrities and billionaires live.'⁷⁰
- 6.3.9 With regard to wealth, African Vibes, 'a one-stop global platform that connects the African diaspora to opportunities for growth, development, and social impact in Africa', and whose activities include sales of real estate⁷¹, in an article 'See These 10 Wealthiest Neighborhoods in Nigeria' (African Vibes article 2020), dated 16 October 2020, listed the 'wealthiest neighborhoods in

⁶⁴ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 13 December 2023

⁶⁵ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

⁶⁶ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

⁶⁷ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 26), November 2022

⁶⁸ World Bank, '[Nigeria Overview: Development news, research, data](#)', updated 21 March 2024

⁶⁹ DW, '[About DW](#)', no date

⁷⁰ DW, '[Inequality in Nigeria](#)', 25 August 2022

⁷¹ African Vibes, '[Daily Latest Positive African Breaking News Headlines Online](#)', no date

Nigeria'. It did not provide statistics or define wealth. The neighbourhoods it cited included Banana Island in Lagos State, 'home to some notable Nigerians and corporates in various sectors', the Maitama district of Abuja, which 'provides a perfect blend of tranquility, class, and entertainment', the Alalubosa area, 'a luxurious escape from the ever buzzing city of Ibadan', and Lekki Phase 1 in Lekki city, 'a prominent residential, commercial, and industrial district in Lagos State ... the heart of relaxation and fun activities for most Lagosians and tourists'⁷².

6.3.10 For a full list of neighbourhoods covered, see the [African Vibes article 2020](#).

6.3.11 The Nigerian office of the non-governmental organisation Oxfam, in a press release dated 15 January 2024, stated: '[Nigeria's] Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest person ... owns more wealth than the bottom half of Nigerians (109 million people)'.⁷³

6.3.12 For state-by-state data on monetary poverty and multidimensional poverty, see the NBS reports [Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria 2019](#) and [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022](#).

6.3.13 For information on housing, see [Housing and living conditions](#).

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7. Employment

7.1 Labour force participation and unemployment

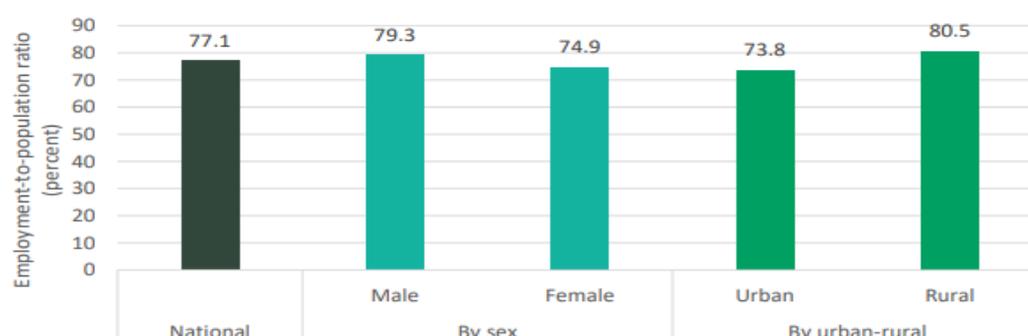
7.1.1 The NBS, in the results of its labour force survey for the second quarter of 2023 (NBS labour force survey report 2023), dated December 2023, stated:

'The labour force participation rate among the working-age population remained high at 80.4% in Q2 2023 [April to June 2023] ... Most workers (around 88.0%) were in self-employment in Q2 2023.

'The proportion of workers in Wage Employment in Q2 2023 was 12%.⁷⁴

7.1.2 The report provided a bar chart, reproduced below, showing the employment-to-population ratio (the proportion of the working-age population that is employed), with disaggregated findings for sex and location⁷⁵:

Figure 3: Employment-to-Population Ratio by Sex and Urban-Rural



⁷² African Vibes, '[See These 10 Wealthiest Neighborhoods In Nigeria](#)', 16 October 2020

⁷³ Oxfam in Nigeria, '[Seven richest Africans have more wealth...](#)', 15 January 2024

⁷⁴ NBS, [Labour force survey report](#) (Key Highlights), December 2023

⁷⁵ NBS, [Labour force survey report](#) (Employment-to-population ratio), December 2023

7.1.3 The NBS labour force survey report 2023 stated: ‘The unemployment rate in Q2 2023 was 4.2%...’ It further reported: ‘The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment as a share of the labour force population... was 15.5% in Q2 2023.’⁷⁶

7.1.4 With regard to methodology, the World Bank Data Blogs, in an entry dated 20 October 2023, stated:

‘In the case of a country like Nigeria, unemployment has proved a difficult statistic to interpret. Nigeria’s unemployment rate stood at 33.3 percent in Q4 of 2020. However, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) recently reported unemployment rates of 5.3 percent (Q4 2022) and 4.1 percent (Q1 2023), based on the new Nigeria Labour Force Survey (NLFS).

‘How can this make sense?

‘To begin, the definition of unemployment has changed to bring it more in line with the standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO). For the new NLFS, the “employed” covers anyone who worked one hour or more for pay or profit in the last seven days, even if they were temporarily absent. The “unemployed” are those individuals who are not employed but are (1) actively searching for paid work and (2) available to start paid work, either last week or within the next two weeks.

‘In Nigeria’s previous Unemployment Reports, the headline unemployment rate – like the 33.3 percent in Q4 2020 – included not only those who were not employed (and were searching and available) but also those working 1-19 hours per week. Thus, this headline number mixed unemployment and some proxy of time-based underemployment – although alongside this, NBS always reported unemployment according to the “international” definition as well. Additionally, temporary absences were not explicitly considered before, so the new approach correctly expands the count of employed people.’⁷⁷

7.1.5 The NBS labour force survey report 2023 provided a bar chart showing unemployment by sex, location, education and age. The survey results showed that the unemployment rate was more than twice as high in urban areas than in rural areas and more than three times higher among those who had studied beyond secondary school than among those with no education. By age group, unemployment was highest among those aged 15 to 24.

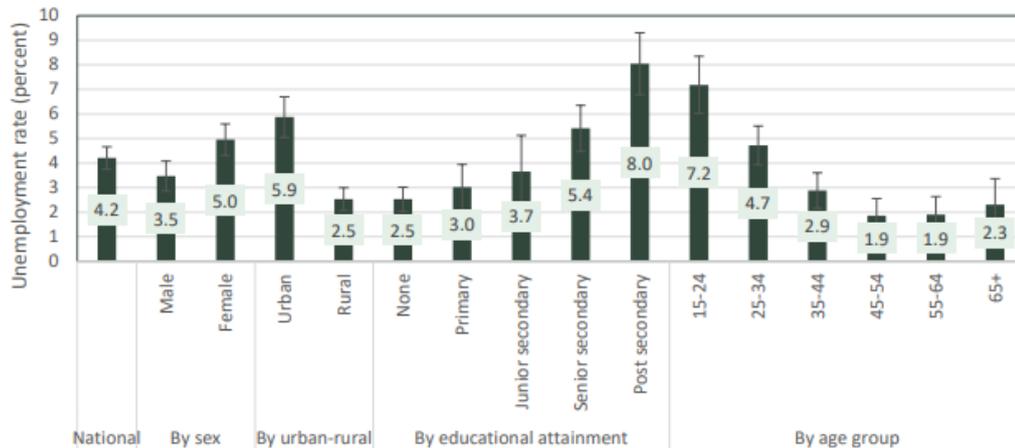
The bar chart is reproduced below⁷⁸:

⁷⁶ NBS, [Labour force survey report](#) (Key Highlights), December 2023

⁷⁷ World Bank Data Blogs, ‘[Nigeria’s dichotomy: low unemployment...](#)’, 20 October 2023

⁷⁸ NBS, [Labour force survey report](#) (Employment-to-population ratio), December 2023

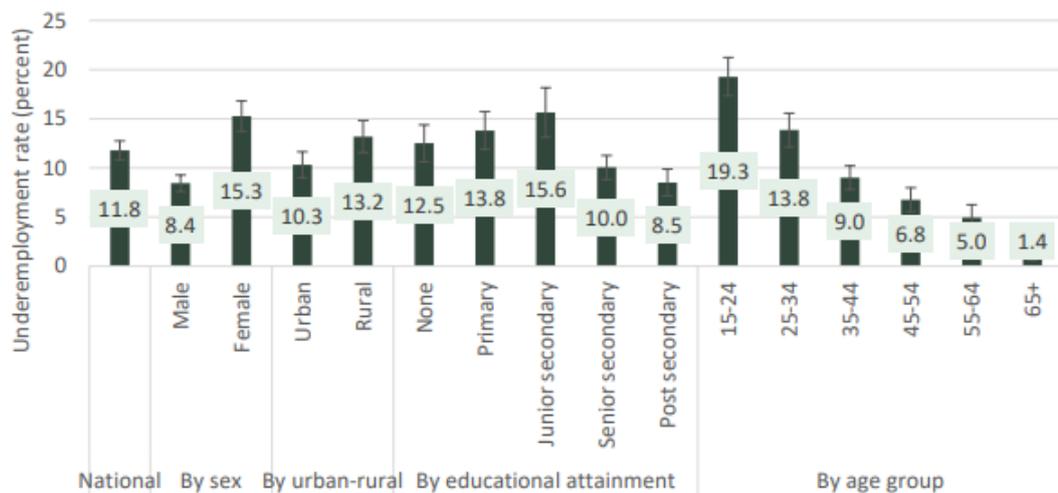
Figure 8: Unemployment by Sex, Urban-Rural, Educational Attainment, and Age



7.1.6 The report also provided a bar chart showing time-related underemployment (defined as ‘the share of employed people who are working less than 40 hours per week, but who would be willing and available to work more’) by sex, location, education and age. The rate of time-related underemployment stood at 11.8% nationally, but was considerably higher for women than for men, at 15.3% compared to 8.4%. Almost 20% of people in the 15 to 24 age group were underemployed.

The bar chart is reproduced below⁷⁹:

Figure 10: Time-related Underemployment by Sex, Urban-Rural, Educational Attainment, and Age



7.1.7 For more data and information on NBS survey methodology and definitions, see [Labour Force Survey Q2 2023](#).

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7.2 Informal employment

7.2.1 The NBS labour force survey report 2023 noted:

⁷⁹ NBS, [Labour force survey report](#) (Employment-to-population ratio), December 2023

'Informal employment in Nigeria ... seems to be very high when compared to the developed countries ... The informal employment rate in Q2 2023 was 92.7%. Like the previous two quarters, the rate of women in informal employment is higher than that of men. Although the informality rate is high across all age groups, younger persons (15-24), and persons above 65 years were more informally employed.

'The rate of informal employment among people living in rural areas is 97.3% while the urban informality rate is estimated at 88%. Educational qualification seems to be negatively associated with informality as findings show that persons with higher qualifications are less likely to be in informal employment. 99.6% of people with no formal education were found to be in informal employment.'⁸⁰

7.2.2 The USSD human rights report 2023 stated: 'Approximately 70 to 80 percent of the country's working population worked in the informal economy.'⁸¹

7.2.3 With regard to types of informal employment, the USSD human rights report 2022 stated:

'The informal sector consisted mainly of small-scale, largely self-employed activities such as retail trade; transport, restaurant, and repair services; financial services; domestic work; personal services; farming; mining; quarrying; sewing; attending traditional births; and acting as herbalists and other traditional medical practitioners. Relatively profitable informal work could be found in the financial sector, with private money lenders, currency exchangers, and informal finance associations operating irregular and shadow-banking enterprises.'⁸²

7.2.4 For information on social support for those in informal employment, see [Social support / protection](#).

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7.3 Earnings

7.3.1 ILOSTAT data showed that in 2019 average monthly earnings of employees were 45,512.70 naira (GBP34.13, converted at the rate prevailing on 22 April 2024⁸³)⁸⁴.

7.3.2 ILOSTAT data showed that in 2022, the monthly minimum wage was 30,000 naira (GBP22.50, converted at the rate prevailing on 22 April 2024⁸⁵)⁸⁶.

7.3.3 The USSD human rights report 2023 stated: 'The law provided for a national minimum wage for public and private sector employers with 25 or more full-time employees, with exceptions for seasonal agricultural workers and some others. The minimum wage was higher than the poverty income level. Many employers had fewer than 25 employees, so most workers were not covered. Some states declined to implement the minimum wage law, citing

⁸⁰ NBS, [Labour force survey report](#) (Key Highlights), December 2023

⁸¹ USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 7), 22 April 2024

⁸² USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 7), 20 March 2023

⁸³ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 22 April 2024

⁸⁴ ILO, [ILOSTAT Data Explorer – Average monthly earnings](#), accessed 22 April 2024

⁸⁵ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 22 April 2024

⁸⁶ ILO, [ILOSTAT Data Explorer – Statutory minimum wage](#), accessed 22 April 2024

financial constraints.⁸⁷ The report did not provide further details about this statement.

7.3.4 The same source noted that the government ‘rarely effectively enforced’ minimum wage laws and that such laws were not enforced in the informal sector⁸⁸.

7.3.5 For information on earnings disaggregated by sector, see [ILO Data Explorer – Nigeria – Earnings](#), and on monetary and multidimensional poverty, see [Economy](#).

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7.4 Discrimination in employment

7.4.1 ILOSTAT data showed that in 2019, the average monthly earnings of male employees were 54,057.30 naira (GBP40.54, converted at the rate prevailing on 22 April 2024⁸⁹) and the average monthly earnings of female employees were 34,042.30 naira (GBP25.53⁹⁰)⁹¹.

7.4.2 The USSD human rights report 2022 stated:

‘The law prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation based on disability. The law does not prohibit discrimination in employment and occupation based on race, religion, national origin, color, sex, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, HIV and AIDS status, or refugee or stateless status.

‘Women are legally barred from particular fields of employment, such as mining ... Women often experienced discrimination due to traditional and religious practices. Police regulations provide for special recruitment requirements and conditions of service applying to women, particularly the criteria and provisions relating to pregnancy and marital status.

‘The law prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities and provides them ... the right to work on an equal basis with others ... The law further provides “all employers of labor in public organizations shall, as much as possible, have persons with disabilities constituting at least 5 percent of their employment.”

‘The government did not effectively enforce laws against discrimination... Penalties were rarely applied against violators.

‘NGOs expressed concern regarding discrimination against women in the private sector, particularly in access to employment [and] promotion to higher professional positions ...’⁹²

7.4.3 The USSD human rights report 2023 stated: ‘There were reports some businesses implemented a “get pregnant, get fired” policy for women employees.’⁹³

⁸⁷ USSD, ‘[Nigeria](#)’ (Section 7), 22 April 2024

⁸⁸ USSD, ‘[Nigeria](#)’ (Section 7), 22 April 2024

⁸⁹ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 22 April 2024

⁹⁰ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 22 April 2024

⁹¹ ILO, [ILOSTAT Data Explorer – Average monthly earnings](#), accessed 22 April 2024

⁹² USSD, ‘[Nigeria](#)’ (Section 7), 20 March 2023

⁹³ USSD, ‘[Nigeria](#)’ (Section 6), 22 April 2024

7.4.4 With regard to discrimination based on ethnicity, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRBC), in a ‘Response to Information Request on Nigeria: Role of indigeneship in obtaining employment, housing, and social services ...’, dated 10 November 2023 (IRBC RIR of November 2023), based on various sources, quoted information provided to the IRBC Research Directorate in 2019 by Henry Gyang Mang, an academic with the Department of Military History of the Nigerian Army University Bui, Borno State, and resent to the directorate on an unspecified date in 2023. It quoted Mang as having stated:

‘It is part of all forms of government (federal, state and local government) recruitment processes that the applicant must tender an indigeneship certificate as part of the process of gaining employment. [On its website,] [t]he [FCC] [Federal Character Commission] ... describes its primary function as [“implement[ing] and enforc[ing] the Federal Character Principle of fairness and equity in the distribution of public posts and socio-economic infrastructures among the various federating units of the Federal Republic of Nigeria” (Nigeria n.d.)]. One of the main tasks of the FCC is to statistically verify quotas of employees within government ministries, agencies and parastatals, by the different states in which they come from in Nigeria, and in so doing, recommend needed balancing, where quotas of some states fall below a required level. In determining this, the FCC insists on candidates not only presenting their indigeneship certificates, but also letters of introduction from the state cabinet office (or office of the head of civil service), the letter helps in affirming the genuineness of the indigeneship certificate and confirming the individual as a bona fide indigene of the state from the mentioned local government area. Although the employment space in Nigeria presently is riddled with the corrupt practice of “who you know” (a colloquial for gaining employment opportunities through friends, family, or the use of money), a lot is also achieved through the FCC. Thus it is not uncommon for people whose quotas are filled within their states to claim indigeneship from other states to take advantage of their unfilled quotas. This in some cases has led to a lot of petitioning and interstate bureaucratic conflicts, which sometimes go unsettled. Where bona fide indigenes of a state discover that non-indigenes gained employment through their own states, this portends a lot of problems both within the bureaucracy and the polity. There have been cases of riots and demonstration, some leading to violent conflicts. (2019-10-08)’⁹⁴

7.4.5 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 quoted correspondence with a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in October 2023 in which the professor stated that non-indigeneity influences access to employment, among other services.⁹⁵ The response did not provide further detail about this statement.

7.4.6 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 also quoted correspondence with a lecturer in political science at Redeemer’s University in Nigeria. It quoted the lecturer as stating that non-indigeneity can influence access to employment,

⁹⁴ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

⁹⁵ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

among other services, ‘depending on political connections’⁹⁶. It did not provide further information about this statement.

- 7.4.7 For more information on discrimination based on ethnicity, see [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#).

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7.5 Returning migrants

- 7.5.1 The International Displacement Monitoring Centre, part of the Norwegian Refugee Council⁹⁷, in a report ‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk of new displacement or secondary migration’ (IDMC report 2021), dated July 2021, based on various sources including 105 qualitative interviews with returning migrants in Nigeria in August and September 2020 and data from the (UN) International Organisation for Migration (IOM), stated: ‘Returnees ... find themselves disproportionately affected [by unemployment]. Over a quarter of all Nigerian returnees surveyed by IOM were out of work ... In the absence of regular employment, many returnees rely on daily labour...’⁹⁸ Of those surveyed, 51 had left Nigeria with the intention of travelling to Europe. Seventy-three had reached Libya and 2 had crossed the Mediterranean (to the Netherlands and Spain). Most other respondents had returned to Nigeria from neighbouring countries. The report stated: ‘Since data collection for this study took place between August and September 2020, many respondents highlighted the negative impact of Covid-19 on their attempted reintegration.’⁹⁹

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7.6 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities

- 7.6.1 With regard to internally displaced persons and host communities in the BAY states, the UNHCR Maiduguri report 2023 noted that the greatest need, food, was ‘closely followed by the need for livelihood and vocational skills’¹⁰⁰.
- 7.6.2 In relation to IDPs in the BAY States, the OCHA situation report 2023 stated: ‘... [M]any of the 2.2 million displaced people do not have alternative livelihoods [to farming]. They are often forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex and child labour to stay alive.’¹⁰¹

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8. Social support / protection

- 8.1.1 The ILO’s ILOSTAT database provided the following data from 2019:
- persons above retirement age receiving a pension: 11%
 - unemployed receiving unemployment benefits: 7%
 - employed covered in the event of work injury: 32.8%

⁹⁶ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

⁹⁷ IDMC, ‘[IDMC](#)’, no date

⁹⁸ IDMC, ‘[Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...](#)’ (Unemployment), July 2021

⁹⁹ IDMC, ‘[Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...](#)’ (Unemployment), July 2021

¹⁰⁰ UNHCR, ‘[Protection Monitoring Report...](#)’ (section XIII: Persistent Gaps...), 2 November 2023

¹⁰¹ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), 20 November 2023

- children/households receiving child/family cash benefits: 12%
- poor persons covered by social protection systems: 2.2%
- vulnerable persons covered by social assistance: 1.8%¹⁰²

8.1.2 The Bertelsmann Stiftung Nigeria Country Report 2022 (BTI report 2022), dated 23 February 2022, covering the period 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2021, stated:

‘In general, the burdens of aging, illness, underemployment and unemployment are carried mostly by extended family networks and the informal sector. This means that only civil servants and employees in higher education, state-owned and partially state-owned companies and medium-sized and large international companies enjoy a certain level of social security. The National Pension Commission (PenCom) supervises pension departments, which have been 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 existing pensioners. More than 8.0 million Nigerians have registered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) ...’¹⁰³

8.1.3 Human Rights Watch, in a report ‘Between Hunger and the Virus’ (HRW report 2021), dated 28 July 2021, stated:

‘Nigeria’s constitution does not provide a legal right to social security and ... Nigerian laws create no entitlement to unemployment or child benefits. Nigeria does have a pension scheme open to employees in the formal and informal sectors, but enrolment is only about 40 percent nationally, according to the World Bank. Long-term underinvestment in social protection meant that, prior to the [Covid] pandemic, only 4 percent of the poorest 40 percent of households had access to any form of social safety net program, according to the World Bank.’¹⁰⁴

8.1.4 HRW’s World Report 2023, Nigeria, covering events in 2022, stated:

‘In June, the federal government announced that 2 million households are benefiting from its Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program.

‘... Human Rights Watch research in 2021 found Nigeria lacks a functional social protection system to protect citizens from economic shocks. It also found that ad-hoc initiatives such as the CCT program failed to protect people’s right to an adequate standard of living during the Covid-19 pandemic.’¹⁰⁵

8.1.5 The Bertelsmann Stiftung Nigeria Country Report 2024 (BTI report 2024), dated 19 March 2024, covering the period 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2023, stated:

‘According to the World Bank’s 2022 poverty assessment for Nigeria, the country spent only about 0.3% of GDP on safety net programs. This is significantly lower than the average for low- and middle-income countries, as

¹⁰² ILO, [ILOSTAT Data Explorer - Social protection](#), no date

¹⁰³ BTI, [‘BTI 2022 Nigeria Country Report...’](#), 23 February 2022

¹⁰⁴ HRW, [“Between Hunger and the Virus”: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic’](#), 28 July 2021

¹⁰⁵ HRW, [‘World Report 2023: Nigeria’](#), 12 January 2023

well as comparator countries in the region. Using data from the 2018/19 Living Standards Survey, it is estimated that just 1.6% of Nigerians live in a household that was enrolled in the National Social Safety Net Project (NASSP), which is funded by the federal government and the World Bank. Only 2% were enrolled in any other program, such as YouWin, Inputs-For-Work Programme, E-Wallet Input Subsidy Programme, Growth Enhancement Scheme, N-Power, and all other federal, state and local government assistance programs. However, the national school meals program has seen more success, with 14.7% of all Nigerians living in a household covered by the program in the previous 12 months.¹⁰⁶

- 8.1.6 Joseph Ochogwu, director of research and policy analysis at the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, an institute under Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is 'primarily a research centre, a think-tank and an agency to strengthen Nigeria's capacity for the promotion of peace and conflict prevention, management and resolution'¹⁰⁷, in an article on the Institute of Development Studies website, dated 25 May 2023, stated:

'Nigeria's social protection policy environment is still at a rudimentary stage with national and sub-national structures now gradually institutionalising social assistance. This is at a relatively slow pace compared to the scale of the crisis [in north-eastern Nigeria]. Understanding how some of these changes are likely to improve effectiveness of social assistance delivery is key to increasing knowledge, learning and experience sharing of actors.

'... Though social protection is becoming a major national policy focus of the national government, there is yet to be any special consideration for crises-affected areas and how best to deliver social assistance to these communities.'¹⁰⁸

- 8.1.7 With regard to the National Social Security Commission, the Nigerian private newspaper, Vanguard, in an article dated 20 July 2022, stated:

'The Senate yesterday passed a bill to establish the National Social Security Commission.

'The piece of legislation seeks to put in place a National Social Security protection funding to cater for the needs of the unemployed, old-aged and underaged children below 18 years from broken marriages.

'Also covered in the bill are survivors resulting from the death of the family's bread winner ...

'... Chairman of the Committee, Ibrahim Shekarau (NNPP – Kano Central) said that the bill seeks to provide the Legal and Institutional framework for the establishment of the National Social Security Commission for the regulation, management and administration of various social services and benefits to Nigerian citizens.

'He said, "Ultimately, the Bill Seeks to provide a comprehensive Legal and Governance framework for the proper administration and management of all-inclusive, integrated, preventive, promotive and transformative National

¹⁰⁶ BTI, '[BTI 2024 Nigeria Country Report](#)', 19 March 2024

¹⁰⁷ IPCR, '[Home](#)', no date

¹⁰⁸ Ochogwu, J, IDS, '[Unpacking the politics of social assistance...](#)', 25 May 2023

Social Security regime that provides flexible sustainable periodic social benefits and grants to eligible indigent Nigerian Citizens that are within the scope of the Social Security (Minimum standards) Convention, 1952 (NO 102) of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and particularly Contingencies arising therefrom.”

‘Shekarau explained that, “the proposed Social Security Commission under this Bill shall provide indigent Nigerians Citizens with comprehensive preventive and/or curative Medicare, from sicknesses resulting from any morbid condition of whatever cause.”¹⁰⁹

- 8.1.8 With regard to cash transfers, the World Bank, in a press release dated 16 December 2021, stated:

‘The World Bank today approved an [US]\$800 million [GBP632.64 million¹¹⁰] credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for the National Social Safety Net Program Scale-Up (NASSP-SU). The credit will finance a significant expansion in the coverage of shock responsive safety net support for poor and vulnerable Nigerians under the existing National Social Safety Nets Program of the government and strengthen the national safety net delivery system.

‘The double-digit increase in prices, especially of food and essential commodities over the last year, at a time when incomes have been flat or declining, has pushed millions of Nigerians into poverty and reduced the welfare of many more...

‘The approved credit will enable the Government of Nigeria to cushion the impact of these shocks on the population by financing the provision of targeted time-limited cash transfers to 8.2 million poor and vulnerable beneficiaries and their families, identified from the National Social Registry (NSR) in rural areas and the Rapid Response Registry (RRR) in urban areas. Additionally, it will also ensure that the about 2 million current poor and vulnerable beneficiaries of the regular cash transfer program under the NASSP continue to be supported for at least two years between the NASSP and the recently approved NASSP-SU. The project will strengthen the national safety net delivery system to ensure timely support to the beneficiaries and enhance its shock-responsiveness.’¹¹¹

- 8.1.9 Vanguard, in an article dated 29 June 2022, reported:

‘The federal government has said over 2 million households in the country were at the moment benefitting from its conditional cash transfer programme.

The government also said over 20 million persons were indirect beneficiaries of the programme in the 2 million households.’¹¹²

- 8.1.10 The same article quoted Dr Umar Buba Bindir, National Coordinator of the National Social Investment Programmes, as saying the government was spending between 12 billion and 15 billion naira (GBP11.79 million and

¹⁰⁹ Vanguard, ‘[Senate passes bill to establish National Social Security...](#)’, 20 July 2022

¹¹⁰ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 14 December 2023

¹¹¹ World Bank, ‘[Nigeria to Scale-up Delivery of Social Assistance...](#)’, 16 December 2021

¹¹² Vanguard, ‘[2 million households currently benefitting...](#)’, 29 June 2022

13.75 million¹¹³) a month feeding schoolchildren¹¹⁴.

- 8.1.11 For information on the National Health Insurance Scheme, see [Healthcare](#).
- 8.1.12 Civil society organisations that provide social support include the Centre for Happy Elderly People (CHEP), a non-governmental organisation based in Lagos State with ‘a commitment and dedication to advancing the cause of the elderly in Nigeria’, whose activities include ‘advocacy, enlightenment campaigns [and] workshops’ as well as operating a care home¹¹⁵.
- 8.1.13 The Joint National Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD) is ‘an umbrella organisation ... currently composed of six disabled groups which are the Blind, the physically disabled, the deaf, the intellectually impaired, those with spinal cord injuries, and leprosy victims’¹¹⁶. It operates in all 36 Nigerian states and the FCT, and its activities include fundraising and ‘training of members on livelihood schemes and relevant skills in collaboration with relevant government agencies’¹¹⁷.
- 8.1.14 The Child and Youth Protection Foundation (CYPF) is an Abuja-based NGO whose projects include an Education Support Scheme that supports families by paying children’s school fees and providing mentoring¹¹⁸.
- 8.1.15 Lagos Food Bank Initiative is ‘a non-profit, nutrition-focused initiative committed to fighting hunger, reducing food waste and solving the problem of malnutrition ...’¹¹⁹ Its activities include providing food during school hours to children in low-income communities¹²⁰ and a job placement programme ‘to reduce unemployment and underemployment by providing job opportunities and resources to beneficiaries to enable them to become self-reliant and gainfully employed’¹²¹.
- 8.1.16 The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO) ‘represents over 3495 organisations ranging from small groups working at the local level, to larger networks working at the national level’¹²². For more information on civil society organisations offering social support, see the NNGO’s [Directory of NGOs listed by state](#) and [Directory of NGOs listed by theme](#).

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9. Food security

- 9.1.1 The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), established by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) as a ‘leading provider of early warning and analysis on acute food insecurity around the world’¹²³, showed projected acute food insecurity for the medium term (February to

¹¹³ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 15 December 2023

¹¹⁴ Vanguard, ‘[2 million households currently benefitting...](#)’, 29 June 2022

¹¹⁵ CHEP, ‘[About](#)’, no date

¹¹⁶ JONAPWD, ‘[Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities – Home](#)’, no date

¹¹⁷ JONAPWD, ‘[Programs](#)’, no date

¹¹⁸ CYPF, ‘[Education Support Scheme](#)’, no date

¹¹⁹ LFBI, ‘[About Us](#)’, no date

¹²⁰ LFBI, ‘[EDUFOOD](#)’, no date

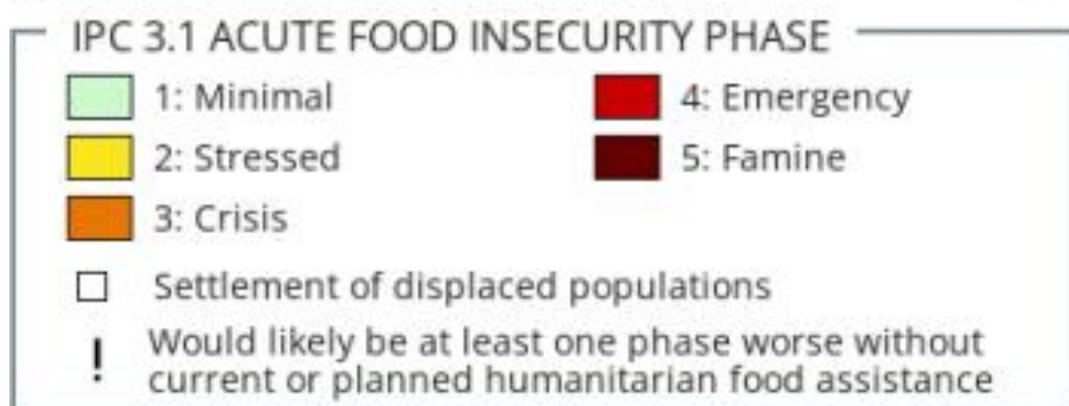
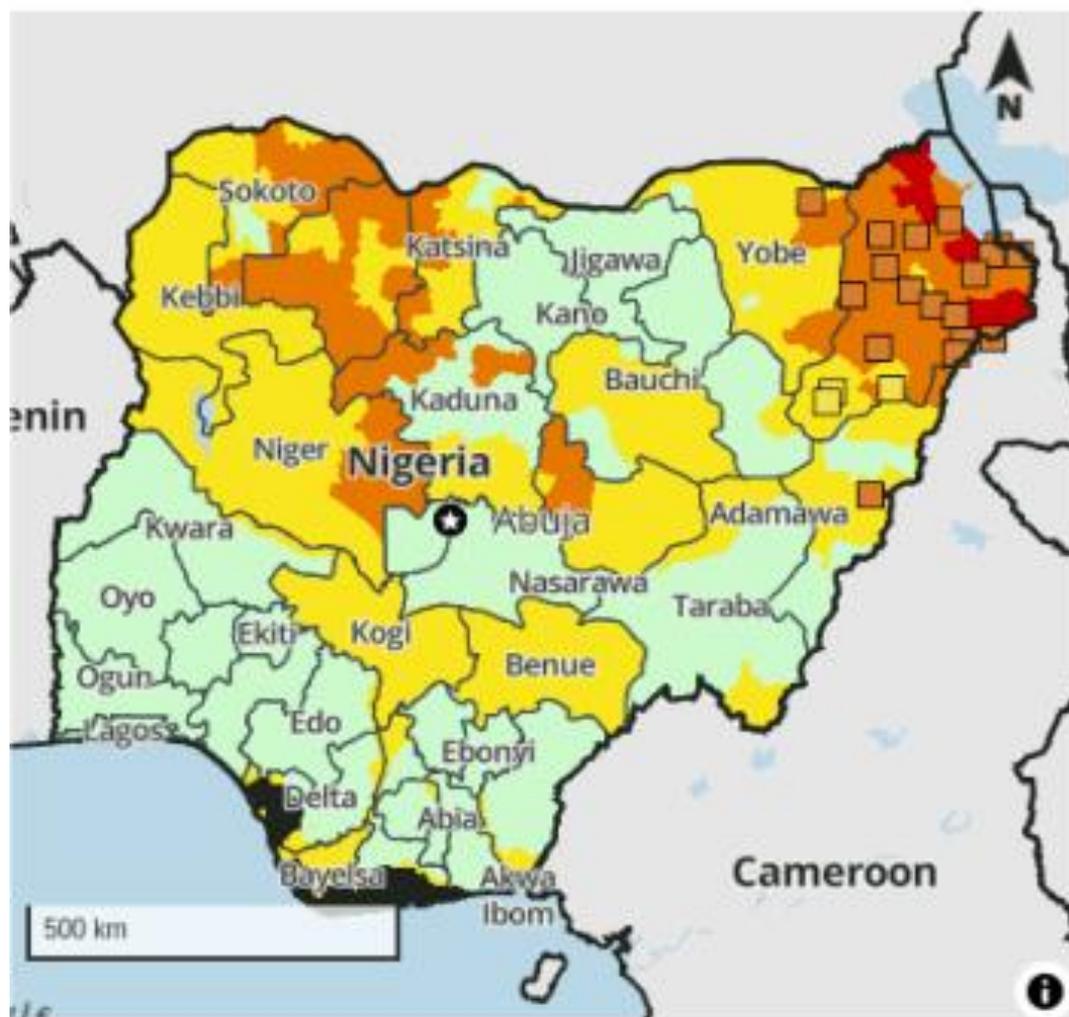
¹²¹ LFBI, ‘[Job Placement Programme](#)’, no date

¹²² NNGO, ‘[Who We Are](#)’, no date

¹²³ FEWS NET, ‘[About FEWS NET](#)’, no date

May 2024), in an undated map reproduced below¹²⁴. It is based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale for Acute Food Insecurity. Details providing an explanation and definition of the 5 classifications on the scale are on the [IPC page](#) of the FEWS NET website.

Projected food security outcomes, February - May 2024



¹²⁴ FEWS NET, [‘Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...’](#), no date

- 9.1.2 The World Food Programme, in their ‘Country Brief for Nigeria’, dated October 2023, stated: ‘In 2024, 26.5 million people across 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) of Nigeria are projected to face crisis or worse levels (IPC Phase 3 and 4) of food insecurity.’¹²⁵
- 9.1.3 The OCHA situation report 2023, referring to Cadre Harmonisé (CH), ‘a food and nutrition analysis, conducted in March and October every year ... cover[ing] 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory, led by the Government and supported by the United Nations (UN) system’¹²⁶, stated: ‘The CH analysis identified continuing conflict, effects of climate change, record-high inflation and the rising cost of food, agricultural inputs and essential non-food commodities among the key drivers of Nigeria’s food and nutrition crisis ... The growing inflation continues to strain poor and vulnerable people’s ability to procure food.’¹²⁷
- 9.1.4 The same report noted: ‘Concerned about the food crisis in the country, the Nigerian Government in July [2023] declared food insecurity a national emergency. The Government ordered the immediate release of fertilisers and grains to farmers and households to mitigate the effects of the fuel subsidy removal. It also announced steps to boost security to protect farmers from attacks.’¹²⁸
- 9.1.5 With regard to the North East, the World Food Programme, in an undated page on their website titled ‘Emergency – North Eastern Nigeria’ (WFP North East webpage), stated: ‘Northeast Nigeria, the main area of WFP’s support, bears a heavy burden of food insecurity. Up to 4.4 million people in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe will require food assistance during the June-August 2024 lean season, with over 1 million people facing emergency levels of hunger.’¹²⁹
- 9.1.6 The FEWS NET reported: ‘In inaccessible areas [of the North East], particularly in Bama, Marte, Guzamala, and Abadam local government areas (LGAs), households will have limited mobility, poor access to functional markets, limited to no harvests, and depleted coping capacity and likely face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes through May 2024.’¹³⁰
- 9.1.7 With regard to reasons for food insecurity in the BAY states, the OCHA situation report 2023 stated: ‘Access to farmland is still limited in many areas because of insecurity ... Over the past year, dozens of farmers have lost their lives, and others have been abducted or injured trying to eke out a living by venturing outside the security perimeters of Borno’s garrison towns.’¹³¹
- 9.1.8 The WFP website stated: ‘Widespread flooding, dry spells and desertification in the northeast are resulting in decreased crop production and limited grazing land for livestock.’¹³²

¹²⁵ WFP, ‘[Nigeria](#)’, October 2023

¹²⁶ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), 20 November 2023

¹²⁷ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), 20 November 2023

¹²⁸ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), 20 November 2023

¹²⁹ WFP, ‘[North Eastern Nigeria](#)’, no date

¹³⁰ FEWS NET, ‘[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)’, (Key Messages), no date

¹³¹ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), 20 November 2023

¹³² WFP, ‘[North Eastern Nigeria](#)’, no date

- 9.1.9 With regard to the effects of flooding, the OCHA situation report 2023 noted that during flooding in Adamawa State between May and October 2023, 19,000 hectares of farmland were ‘damaged’. It reported: ‘Thousands of farmers have lost their farms and crops while herders have lost their livestock.’¹³³
- 9.1.10 For further information on:
- inflation and removal of the fuel subsidy, see [Economy](#)
 - insecurity, including attacks on farmers, see [Insecurity and crime](#)
- 9.1.11 With regard to returnees, the IDMC report 2021 noted, ‘As a result of limited opportunities for income generation, around a quarter of [the 105] returnees surveyed by IOM reported often having to reduce the quantity or quality of food they ate ...’¹³⁴
- 9.1.12 For more information on employment among returnees, see [Employment](#).

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Section 10 updated: 15 December 2023

10. Housing and living conditions

10.1 Housing

- 10.1.1 The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, in a report dated 3 January 2020 (UN SR report 2020), based on a visit to Abuja, Lagos and Port Harcourt in September 2019, commented: ‘The housing sector in Nigeria is in complete crisis’¹³⁵, also noting: ‘... housing conditions in Nigeria, particularly for those living in poverty, are grossly inadequate. The Special Rapporteur observed inhumane and insufferable housing conditions, unacceptable in the twenty-first century, particularly in an oil-producing country that has consistently shown strong economic growth.’¹³⁶ The report described the situation as a ‘human rights crisis ... resulting in human suffering and premature death’¹³⁷.
- 10.1.2 The same report stated that when the Special Rapporteur visited informal settlements in the 3 cities, she ‘observed living conditions that constitute an assault on human dignity, perhaps the most severe she has witnessed during her mandate’¹³⁸. It reported that the homes ‘offered very little protection from the heat and the heavy rainfall that characterize the tropical climate in Nigeria’¹³⁹.
- 10.1.3 World Bank data showed 51% of the urban population were living in ‘slums’ in 2021¹⁴⁰.
- 10.1.4 UN-Habitat, in a report ‘Country Brief Nigeria 2023: Achieving sustainable

¹³³ OCHA, [‘Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023’](#) (pages 2-3), 20 November 2023

¹³⁴ IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Unemployment), July 2021

¹³⁵ OHCHR, [‘... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...’](#) (page 5), 3 January 2020

¹³⁶ OHCHR, [‘... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...’](#) (page 3), 3 January 2020

¹³⁷ OHCHR, [‘... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...’](#) (page 7), 3 January 2020

¹³⁸ OHCHR, [‘... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...’](#) (page 8), 3 January 2020

¹³⁹ OHCHR, [‘... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...’](#) (page 9), 3 January 2020

¹⁴⁰ World Bank, [‘Population living in slums...’](#), no dateS

urbanization', dated July 2023, stated:

'Several critical challenges have characterized Nigeria's high urbanization rate, notably: Rapid growth of informal settlements and slums; high rural-urban migration exacerbated by climate and conflict-induced displacements, insecure land tenure, poor infrastructure, lack of basic urban services, substandard building materials, and increasing air pollution arising from the use of fossil fuels for cooking, lighting and vehicular locomotion, flash floods, mudslides and other climate induced hazards.'¹⁴¹

10.1.5 With regard to housing type, the NBS, in a report 'Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2020' (NBS Living Standards Survey 2020), dated July 2020, stated:

'More than 42 percent of households in Nigeria reside in compound houses, 21.4 percent live in separate houses and 16.3 percent in apartments. Survey indicates that both in rural and urban areas the major share of households resides in compound housing, 35.3 and 47.5 percent in urban and rural areas respectively...

'Two room dwellings are occupied by 31.9 percent of households; in one-roomed housing reside close to 24.5 percent of households.'¹⁴²

10.1.6 For information on affluent neighbourhoods, see [Poverty, wealth and inequality](#).

10.1.7 With regard to homelessness, the UN SR report 2020 stated 'During the Special Rapporteur's visit, government officials and civil society organizations acknowledged homelessness as a growing problem, although no statistics had been collected to quantify its extent. The Special Rapporteur observed people living under bridges in Lagos and many in informal settlements in conditions equivalent to homelessness. In most cities, few or no emergency shelters were available.'¹⁴³

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10.2 Construction

10.2.1 The NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 stated:

'About 60.7 percent of households reside in a housing with cement or concrete walls, that share is higher in urban areas, 86.4 percent and 43.8 percent in rural areas. However, 31.5 of households live in houses made of mud walls. In Zamfara state more than 81 percent dwell in houses with mud walls.

'Roofing in 57.8 percent of households is made of corrugated iron sheets, followed by zinc sheet for 18.3 percent of households. Roofing made of thatch is observed in 13 percent of households among rural residents.

'In 70.3 percent of household the flooring material is made of cement or concrete. However, mud and straw/sand flooring reported among 14.1 and 5.6 percent of households respectively.'¹⁴⁴

¹⁴¹ UN-Habitat, '[Africa Region Country Profiles](#)', July 2023

¹⁴² NBS, '[Living Standards Survey](#)' (page 75), July 2020

¹⁴³ OHCHR, '[... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...](#)' (page 10), 3 January 2020

¹⁴⁴ NBS, '[Living Standards Survey](#)' (page 75), July 2020

10.2.2 Udo and others reported:

'House types vary by geographic location. In the coastal areas the walls and roofs are made from the raffia palm, which abounds in the region. Rectangular mud houses with mat roofs are found in the forest belt, although the houses of the more prosperous have corrugated iron roofs. In the savanna areas of the central region and in parts of the north, houses are round mud buildings roofed with sloping grass thatch, but flat mud roofs appear in the drier areas of the extreme north. Some mud houses are also covered with a layer of cement. Larger houses are designed around an open courtyard and traditionally contained barrels or cisterns in which rainwater could be collected.'¹⁴⁵

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10.3 Ownership, rent and affordability

10.3.1 The NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 stated 'More than 54 percent of households own the dwelling in which they reside, while 25.8 percent rent the housing. The share of renters is 49.2 percent in urban areas, whereas in rural areas only 10.4 percent rent the dwelling. The largest share of households who rent is in Lagos – 68.3 percent and lowest is in Zamfara and Jigawa – 1.4 percent.'¹⁴⁶

10.3.2 Voice of America (VOA), a media outlet funded by the US Congress¹⁴⁷, in an article dated 25 February 2022, reported:

'The World Bank says 22 million people in Nigeria do not have the housing they need, the highest number in the world.

'For years Nigerian authorities have been pledging to address the issue but without much result. In 2019, government officials pledged to supply 1 million affordable houses each year to help meet the demand.

'Housing development advocate, Festus Adebayo said the housing programs are not keeping up with Nigeria's population growth each year, though...

'Experts say unless more houses are built, the gap will only widen, and millions will lack affordable shelter.'¹⁴⁸

10.3.3 Udo and others reported:

'... 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.'¹⁴⁹With regard to rent, BusinessDay, a Nigerian privately-owned news outlet, in an editorial 'Rent: the monster in most Nigerian households' (BusinessDay editorial 2022), dated 19 August 2022, stated:

¹⁴⁵ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Housing), updated 15 December 2023

¹⁴⁶ NBS, [Living Standards Survey](#) (page 75), July 2020

¹⁴⁷ VOA, '[Mission and Values](#)', no date

¹⁴⁸ VOA, '[Millions in Nigeria Struggle for Affordable Housing...](#)', 25 February 2022

¹⁴⁹ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Housing), updated 15 December 2023

'A Pison Housing Company report on 'The State Real Estate Market in Nigeria' estimates that 80 percent of the country's 200 million population lives in rented accommodation, spending over 50 percent of their income on house rent.

'... [E]ven in the hinterlands of the country's big cities, especially Lagos, renters in the last 12 to 24 months have seen over 40 percent increase in their last rent ...

'In low- and mid-income locations of Lagos such as Surulere, Yaba, Ilupeju, Gbagada, Egbeda, Ejigbo, Okota, the situation is worse. In these locations, landlords are brazen in increasing rents. In most of these locations, tenants have seen over 50 percent rise in rent.'¹⁵⁰

- 10.3.4 With regard to documentation, the NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 stated: 'Most households - 71.4 percent who own the dwelling do not have any documents/certificate of occupancy; 13.2 percent have title deed and only 8.1 percent have [a] certificate. The highest prevalence of ownership certificate is in Lagos – 22.9 percent.'¹⁵¹

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10.4 Access for women and non-indigenes

- 10.4.1 The BBC, in an article dated 14 May 2021, reported: 'Lagos's property market is notoriously crowded, but it's also patriarchal; in general landlords do not like renting to single women.' The article explained that 'many' women use a male friend or relative to pretend to be in a long-term relationship with them and deal with the landlord on their behalf. However, 'New tech start-ups have begun offering accommodation solutions that bypass more traditional rental structures – including the preference to do business with men. Some landlords are also becoming more pragmatic.' The article noted, however, that 'This shift is taking time.'¹⁵²
- 10.4.2 For information on provision of shelter for female victims of trafficking, see Country Policy and Information Note [Nigeria: Trafficking of Women](#).
- 10.4.3 The DFAT Nigeria report 2020 stated that moves by state and local governments to compel non-indigenes to return to regions where their ethnic groups are indigenous can include 'destruction of their homes'¹⁵³.
- 10.4.4 For more information on evictions, see [Forced evictions](#), below.
- 10.4.5 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 referenced correspondence with a lecturer in political science at Redeemer's University in Nigeria. It quoted the lecturer as having stated that non-indigeneity can influence access to employment, among other services, 'depending on political connections'¹⁵⁴. It did not provide further information about this statement.
- 10.4.6 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 also quoted correspondence with a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in October 2023 in

¹⁵⁰ BusinessDay, '[Rent: the monster in most Nigerian households](#)', 22 February 2022

¹⁵¹ NBS, '[Living Standards Survey](#)' (page 75), July 2020

¹⁵² BBC, '[The megacity where single women lie to rent flats](#)', 14 May 2021

¹⁵³ DFAT, '[Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#)' (section 3.3), 3 December 2020

¹⁵⁴ IRBC, '[RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#)' (section 4), 10 November 2023

which the professor reported that non-indigeneity influences access to housing, among other services.¹⁵⁵

10.4.7 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 reported:

'The [Obafemi Awolowo University] Professor stated that non-indigeneity has "forced many" to change their name, learn the local language, and change religion to secure accommodation, and, in some communities, non-indigenes can only hold land through a lease (2023-10-17). Sources indicate that access to land in Nigeria can depend on a person's indigenous status (Mang 2019-10-08; International Crisis Group 2018-07-26, 9). Mang [an academic at the Nigerian Army University Bui, Borno State] stated that

"the housing policy in Nigeria is not generally adhered to properly, (except maybe in the federal capital, Abuja). ... [T]he Land Use Act, which rests the power and authority over land in the hands of the states, also recognizes the authority of ethnic traditional rulers over lands seen as "custodial to ethnic groups." Groups with such custodial rights have tended to restrict access to land and development of housing most especially within their spheres of ethnic or religious influence. It cannot be said though that this follows in all cases, but areas where there have been constant ethnic and religious contestations have in most cases within Nigeria, tended towards polarized housing, where people from similar religions or ethnicities clump together, most especially where there have been cases of strife. In these cases, indigeneship, or religion could play a vital role in choices of either buying land or a house. (2019-10-08)¹⁵⁶

10.4.8 For information on access to housing for LGBTI people, see the Country Policy and Information Note [Nigeria: Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression \(SOGIE\)](#).

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10.5 Electricity

10.5.1 The NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 stated:

'More than 63 percent of households have access to electricity from any source. Access varies by geographic location: in Taraba state only 19.2 percent of household report having electricity, while in Lagos 98.7 of household have electricity. Among those who indicated having electricity 82.2 percent reported national grid as a main source and about 16 percent have generator powered electricity.

'However, those who connected to national grid, report having electricity only for 6.8 hours per day; those who use generator use it for 4.1 hours per day. In addition, those who have grid electricity say that they have experienced 10 blackouts in the past 7 days with average duration of 12 hours.¹⁵⁷

10.5.2 The same source provided a table to show access to electricity and primary source of electricity, which is reproduced below¹⁵⁸:

¹⁵⁵ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

¹⁵⁶ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

¹⁵⁷ NBS, [Living Standards Survey](#) (page 76), July 2020

¹⁵⁸ NBS, [Living Standards Survey](#) (page 87), July 2020

Table 7.10: Access to Electricity and Primary Source of Electricity (in percent to total number of households)

Strata	Access to electricity	PRIMARY SOURCE					
		National Grid	Mini Grid	Generator	Solar home system/ Solar lantern	Rechargeable battery/ Inverters	Other
NIGERIA	63.7	82.2	1.4	15.9	0.2	0.4	0
Urban	90.6	91.6	0.5	7.5	0.1	0.3	0
Rural	46	70	2.4	26.7	0.3	0.5	0
Abia	91	86.1	1.3	12.6	0	0	0
Adamawa	31.5	77.8	0	22.2	0	0	0
Akwa Ibom	70.2	60.7	0	39	0.2	0	0
Anambra	90.9	92.2	0	7.6	0.1	0	0
Bauchi	25.8	88.9	0	7.7	3.3	0	0
Bayelsa	73.8	46.2	30.2	23.6	0	0	0
Benue	40.3	74.6	0	25.4	0	0	0
Borno							
Cross River	50.9	48.8	0	50.4	0.8	0	0
Delta	77.1	57	1.3	36.2	0.2	5	0.3
Ebonyi	38.4	55.3	0	44.7	0	0	0
Edo	80.1	70.7	1.1	25.7	0.3	2.3	0
Ekiti	75.3	90.8	0	9.2	0	0	0
Enugu	74	87	0	12.3	0.7	0	0
Gombe	38.2	96	0	4	0	0	0
Imo	69.6	55.3	0	44.4	0	0.3	0
Jigawa	24.9	82	0	17.2	0.8	0	0
Kaduna	53.3	93.5	0	6.5	0	0	0
Kano	49.7	99.4	0	0.6	0	0	0
Katsina	31.7	89.8	0	8.9	1.2	0	0
Kebbi	33.7	90.4	0	9.6	0	0	0
Kogi	72.1	82.6	0	17.2	0	0.2	0
Kwara	78.2	93.1	0	6.3	0	0.6	0
Lagos	98.7	98.6	0	1.3	0.2	0	0
Nasarawa	43.5	83.6	0	14.1	1.7	0.6	0
Niger	53.2	96.2	0	3.8	0	0	0
Ogun	83	80.9	0	19.1	0	0	0
Ondo	65.8	69.3	0	29.8	0	0.8	0
Osun	70	94.4	0	5.5	0	0.1	0
Oyo	74.1	89	0	10.2	0.3	0.5	0
Plateau	39	71.5	3.6	24.3	0.5	0	0
Rivers	87.9	68.3	10.2	21.5	0	0	0
Sokoto	40.1	94.6	0	5.4	0	0	0
Taraba	19.2	57	1.4	40.9	0.8	0	0
Yobe	22.5	98.2	0	1.8	0	0	0
Zamfara	19.3	91.8	0	8.2	0	0	0
FCT	69.5	85	0	14.8	0.2	0	0

10.5.3 The following table shows the average number of hours of electricity per day¹⁵⁹:

¹⁵⁹ NBS, [Living Standards Survey](#) (page 88), July 2020

Table 7.12: Average Number of Hours of Electricity Per Day in the Past 7 Days (in percent of households with electricity)

Strata	National Grid		Generator		Other	
	Day	Between 6pm & 10pm	Day	Between 6pm & 10pm	Day	Between 6pm & 10pm
NIGERIA	6.8	1.8	4.1	2.7	11	3
Urban	7.2	1.8	4.6	2.9	9.7	2.9
Rural	6.1	1.8	3.9	2.7	11.5	3.1
Abia	3.6	1.6	1.6	3	3.1	3
Adamawa	14.7	2.9	6	2.8		
Akwa Ibom	3.1	1.2	4.4	3	12	4
Anambra	4.4	1.7	2.4	1.6	15	3
Bauchi	2.7	1.2	1.2	2.2	0.3	4
Bayelsa	3.5	0.9	10	3.3	9	2.1
Benue	8.8	2.2	5.6	2.4		
Borno						
Cross River	4.8	1.6	5.4	3.3	8	3.2
Delta	9.1	2.8	3.5	3.4	5.8	3.5
Ebonyi	2.9	1.4	1.2	1.7		
Edo	5.7	1.7	4.8	3.1	7.2	3.8
Ekiti	4.6	1.9	1.7	1.9		
Enugu	9.9	2.7	5.6	2.9	13.9	4
Gombe	7.5	1.8	2.8	2.1		
Imo	2.9	0.8	4.2	2.7	2	0
Jigawa	5.2	2.5	7.2	1.9	8	4
Kaduna	7.9	2	1.3	1.2		
Kano	6.8	2.3	4	4		
Katsina	8.3	2.7	6.9	2.1	10	4
Kebbi	15.1	3.5	5.1	2.7		
Kogi	6.8	0.9	3.4	1.8	8	4
Kwara	4.2	1.1	6.2	3	5	2.2
Lagos	7.4	1.6	4	1.9	12	4
Nasarawa	11.7	2.6	4.1	2.5	10.8	2.7
Niger	8.4	2.8	5.1	3.7		
Ogun	5.2	1.3	3.8	2.2		
Ondo	8	1.9	3.4	2.9	2	2.2
Osun	10	1.7	4.8	2.5	0	0
Oyo	7.7	1.2	4.7	2.6	14.2	3.7
Plateau	5.5	2.5	0.9	2.2	6.9	2.8
Rivers	5.9	1.5	3.7	3	18.4	3.5
Sokoto	3.7	2.1	3.1	2.2		
Taraba	13.5	3.3	5.5	3.4	11.5	4
Yobe	17.3	3.4	8.2	3.4		
Zamfara	13.2	2.7	7.8	2.5		
FCT	5.7	1.7	1.4	2	12	4

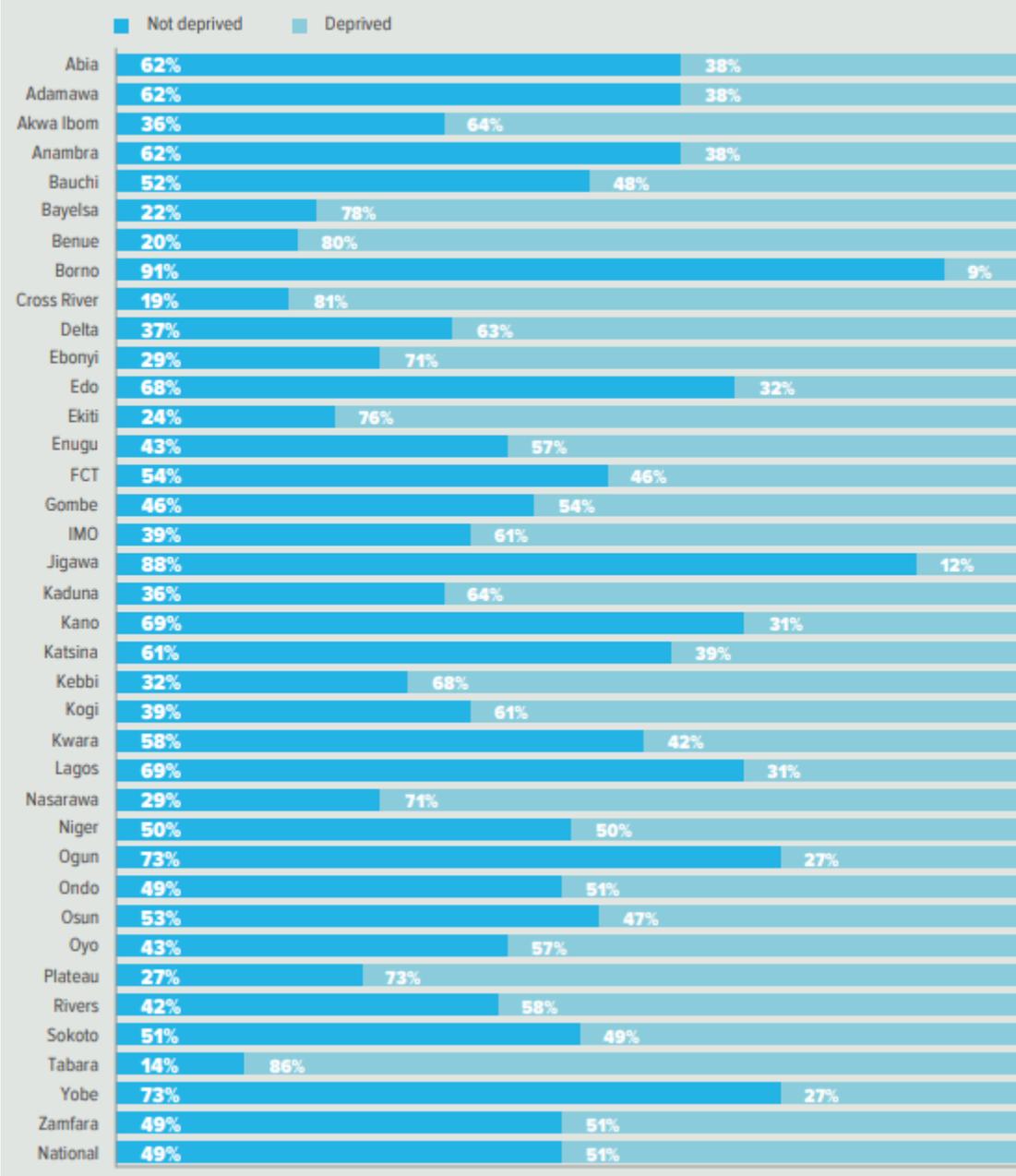
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10.6 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

10.6.1 The NBS MPI 2022 showed the distribution of households by deprivation in access to clean drinking water as follows¹⁶⁰:

¹⁶⁰ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 69), November 2022

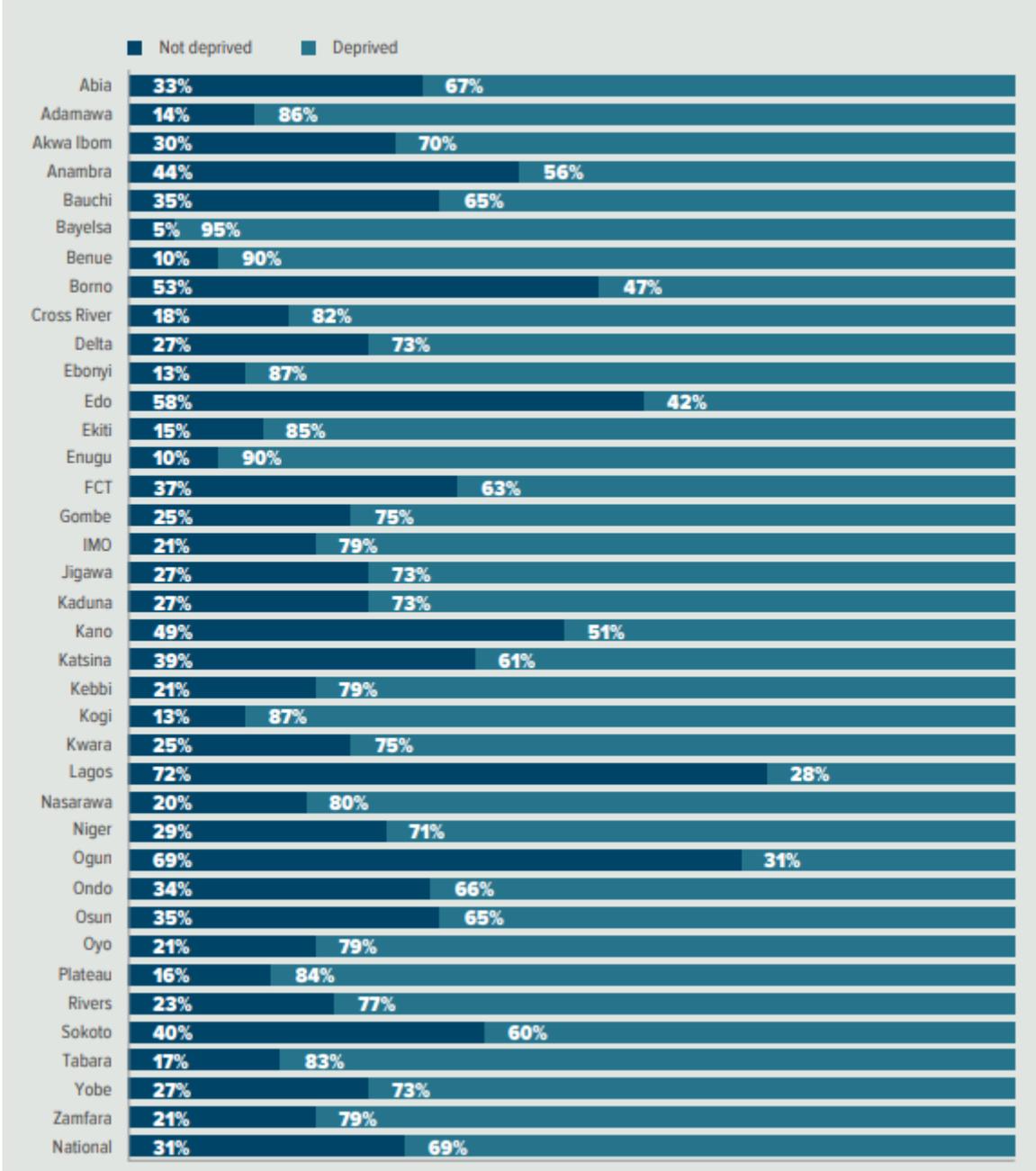
Figure 29: Distribution of households by deprivation in access to clean drinking water



10.6.2 The same source showed the distribution of households by deprivation in sanitary facilities as follows¹⁶¹:

¹⁶¹ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 68), November 2022

Figure 28: Distribution of households deprived in sanitary facilities, by State



10.6.3 The OCHA situation report 2023 stated that as of 20 November 2023, 3.05 million people were targeted by the UN and its partners for WASH assistance in the North East¹⁶².

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10.7 Forced evictions

The UN SR report 2020 stated: ‘... [M]illions of Nigerians live in informal settlements without security of tenure, which makes them vulnerable to forced evictions. The Special Rapporteur witnessed the great levels of anxiety this causes to families, many of which are repeatedly subjected to forced evictions and live in constant fear that a new eviction could come with

¹⁶² OCHA, [‘Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023’](#) (page 12), 20 November 2023

little or no notice.¹⁶³

10.7.1 Similarly, Amnesty International, in its report 'Nigeria: Human rights agenda 2023,' (AI Nigeria agenda 2023), dated 15 November 2023, based on various sources, claimed:

'Regarding violations of the right to adequate housing, between 24 July to 1 August 2023, the Lagos State government forcibly evicted thousands of residents of Oke-Eri, Oluwaseyi, Cornerstone, Ogo-Oluwa and other communities of Oworonshoki, without consultation and adequate notice and left more than 7,000 buildings either burned or demolished... Residents were not provided with any alternative accommodation and were therefore rendered homeless.

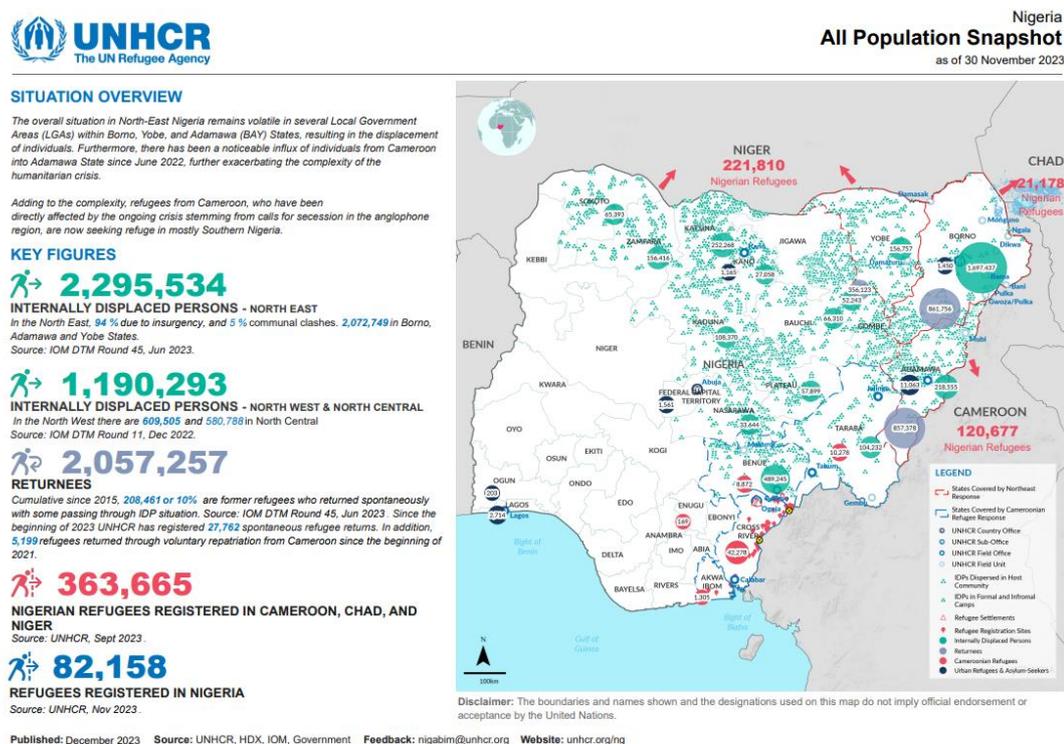
'In February 2022, Rivers State authorities forcibly evicted thousands of residents of waterfront communities from their homes in the Diobu part of Port Harcourt, Rivers State again leaving them homeless. The area is home to an estimated population of 60,000 people.⁵³

'In the Federal Capital Territory, communities such as Durumi 3, Iddo Sarki, Nepa Junction Gudu, Mpape, Katampe and Lugbe have been subjected to forced evictions, while several others are under threats ...'¹⁶⁴

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10.8 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

10.8.1 The UNHCR map below, published December 2023, shows displacement within Nigeria and of Nigerians to neighbouring countries¹⁶⁵:



¹⁶³ OHCHR, '... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...', 3 January 2020

¹⁶⁴ AI, 'Nigeria: Human rights agenda 2023', 15 November 2023

¹⁶⁵ UNHCR, 'Nigeria: All Population Snapshot...', December 2023

- 10.8.2 The OCHA situation report 2023 stated that in November 2023, 1.85 million people were targeted by the UN and its partners for ‘shelter/NFI’ (non-food items) support¹⁶⁶.
- 10.8.3 The Protection Sector North-East Nigeria (PSNE), representing 14 UN partners including the UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council, assessed 21,932 mostly vulnerable households in the BAY States in the north-east and reported the findings in its Protection Monitoring Interactive Dashboard, variously updated. Filtering the results to ‘IDPs’ in ‘all [BAY] states’ in ‘November 2023’ showed that of 2,414 households, or 13,804 individuals, reached for assessment, 55% were living in an official camp, 30% were living in host communities, 15% were living in informal/spontaneous camps and 1% were in transit. As regards shelter type, 53% were in a makeshift shelter, 45% were in ‘proper shelter house’ and 3% were classed as ‘No shelter/living in the open’¹⁶⁷.
- 10.8.4 With regard to camp conditions for displaced persons in Borno State, the UNHCR Maiduguri report 2023 stated: ‘Notably, in places such as Bama, Monguno, Banki, Gwoza, and Pulka [in Borno State], which are already contending with overcrowded camps, are continuously receiving new arrivals (refugees and refugee returnees) from different locations. These newcomers are compelled to reside in congested reception centres...’¹⁶⁸
- 10.8.5 With regard to flooding, the report noted that in Adamawa State between May and October 2023, ‘Heavy rainfall coupled with the release of water from Cameroon’s Lagdo Dam caused the flooding that submerged some villages along the banks of the Benue River.’¹⁶⁹
- 10.8.6 The same report stated:
 ‘The Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) is coordinating the assessment and response to the flooding. According to the agency, over 5,000 households in remote communities have lost their homes and urgently need shelter ...
 ‘Humanitarian actors are complementing the Government’s efforts through the implementation of the flood preparedness and response plan in the BAY states ... A shortfall in funding is however constraining the implementation of the flood response plan.’¹⁷⁰
- 10.8.7 With regard to documentation, the UNHCR Maiduguri report 2023 stated that of the 4,048 displaced and host households assessed in the BAY States in July and August, ‘83% reported that they do not have HLP [Housing, land and property] documents such as sales agreements, documents from traditional authority, customary certificates of occupancy and ... statutory certificates of ownership.’¹⁷¹

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¹⁶⁶ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 14), 20 November 2023

¹⁶⁷ PSNE, ‘[Nigeria: Protection](#)’, variously updated

¹⁶⁸ UNHCR, ‘[Protection Monitoring Report...](#)’ (section II: Population Movement), 2 November 2023

¹⁶⁹ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 2), 20 November 2023

¹⁷⁰ OCHA, ‘[Nigeria Situation Report, 20 November 2023](#)’ (page 3), 20 November 2023

¹⁷¹ UNHCR, ‘[Protection Monitoring Report...](#)’ (section XII: Housing...), 2 November 2023

11. Healthcare

11.1 Healthcare system

11.1.1 For detailed information on the healthcare system and treatment of specific conditions and diseases, see the Country Information Note, [Nigeria: Medical treatment and healthcare](#), and the [EU Asylum Agency's MedCOI Report: Medical Country of Origin Information Report on Nigeria, April 2022](#).

11.1.2 The ILO, in an undated entry on the Nigeria section of its Social Protection website, stated: '...[A] major reform of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was initiated through the approval of the National Health Insurance Authority Act (2022) which makes health insurance mandatory for all Nigerians and establish the vulnerable group fund (VGF) with the aim of providing coverage for those who do not have capacity to pay.'¹⁷²

11.1.3 The German Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, BAMF), in 'Briefing Notes' dated 13 November 2023, based on various sources, stated: 'Nigeria's public health system is generally considered to be underfunded and disadvantaged by a very limited infrastructure in some areas. There is also a substantial disparity between urban and rural areas with regard to the available levels of healthcare.'¹⁷³

11.1.4 Pacific Prime, a global health insurance brokerage, stated in an entry on its website, dated 2023:

'Nigeria's healthcare system has deteriorated over many years because of a lack of resources, neglect, and an insufficient number of Nigerian doctors and trained medical professionals. Highly-trained medical professionals often leave the country in order to pursue their profession in countries with better infrastructure or higher wages. This trend further reduces the ability of Nigeria's public healthcare system to provide stable and sustainable healthcare services to its population.

'Furthermore, shortages of medical supplies, poor hygiene conditions, and detrimental diseases make standards even lower. Many diseases that are rarely seen in developed countries – such as cholera, tetanus and even polio – can still lead to deaths in Nigeria, as many healthcare facilities in the country cannot cope and contain the diseases.

'The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in Nigeria

'The NHIS is a public health system that was officially established in 1999 with the purpose of providing universal coverage. However, due to many flaws over the years, the ability of the system to provide free and good quality healthcare for the entire population has been fairly limited. Private healthcare is also available to extend treatment for the population but is only available to those that can afford the costs.

'Public healthcare services in Nigeria

'Public hospitals in Nigeria are overcrowded and numerous infectious diseases develop and spread around due to a lack of hygiene. The mortality rate is high in public hospitals as Nigerians die from diseases, such as

¹⁷² ILO, '[Social Protection Platform](#)', no date

¹⁷³ BAMF, '[Briefing Notes...](#)', 13 November 2023

cholera, tetanus, and polio. Poor hospital management is mainly to blame, but poor funding overall means the system as a whole struggles to gain complete control of infections.

‘With that said, it is also worth noting that the Nigerian government is taking steps to improve the health of its citizens by supplying vaccinations and implementing much needed public health initiatives... For those that can afford it, going to a private hospital or clinic is definitely better in terms of treatments and safety.

‘Private healthcare services in Nigeria

‘...[C]onditions in private hospitals are still below the standards of most Western hospitals.

‘Although being able to treat common health problems, the lack of up-to-date equipment and facilities makes treating and diagnosing certain complex illnesses nearly impossible...’¹⁷⁴

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11.2 Impact of insecurity

11.2.1 Insecurity Insight, a humanitarian-to-humanitarian association¹⁷⁵, in a report ‘Nigeria – Violence Against Health Care in Conflict’, dated 2022, based on various sources, stated:

‘The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 43 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Nigeria in 2022, compared to 56 in 2021. In these incidents, 37 health workers were kidnapped, seven others were killed, and health supplies were looted from pharmacies and health centers. This undermined health care providers’ ability to maintain safe staffing levels to effectively meet patient needs and stock health facilities with the necessary supplies. At least 17 incidents took place in Nigeria’s northeastern Borno and Yobe states, with 26 reported elsewhere

‘... . In contrast to the looting of medical supplies, which is concentrated in the north of the country, health worker kidnappings and killings were widespread across the country...

‘ISWAP [Islamic State’s West African Province] fighters were frequently named as perpetrators of incidents in Borno and Yobe states, with one attributed to Boko Haram in Borno. Nigerian Armed Forces personnel were named as perpetrators of two incidents... 1 Members of the Eastern Security Network, a paramilitary organization of the Indigenous People of Biafra separatist group, kidnapped a nurse outside her pharmacy in Enugu in October. 2 Other perpetrators of attacks were not identified...’¹⁷⁶

11.2.2 The same report stated:

‘A joint study by IRC [International Rescue Committee], GZDI [Goggoji Zumunchi Development Initiative], and FSACI [First Step Action for Children Initiative] in September 2022 in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states revealed the impact of attacks on health facilities and the kidnapping of health staff in

¹⁷⁴ Pacific Prime, ‘[Nigeria Health Insurance](#)’, 2023

¹⁷⁵ Insecurity Insight, ‘[Our vision and mission](#)’, 2022

¹⁷⁶ Insecurity Insight, ‘[Nigeria factsheet](#)’ (pages 3-4), 2022

northeastern Nigeria. The study included the perspectives of 477 frontline health workers on the main risks they face and the impact of attacks on health care. In all three states, respondents identified kidnapping as the main risk to their safety. They said that attacks by armed groups on health infrastructure and fighting they encountered on their way to or from facilities pose additional significant risks. According to the study, 13% of health facilities were heavily damaged and put out of action as a result of such violence by the end of 2022. In addition, the violence exacerbated the serious shortage of skilled health workers, particularly doctors, nurses, and midwives, because many are reluctant to work in inaccessible rural areas due to ongoing armed conflict.

‘The suspension of health services, absence of staff, and shortage of medical supplies as the result of violent attacks have had a direct effect on communities’ access to health care. After almost half of the reported incidents, communities faced additional difficulties accessing the health services they needed. An immediate impact reported by respondents in the joint study included the unwillingness of the population to visit health services or stay overnight out of fear of attacks. After an incident, it is common for a health facility to close or significantly reduce its services, forcing communities to delay seeking assistance. During protection monitoring activities in the affected areas, communities highlighted the lack of updated information as a main barrier to accessing health care: if a hospital closes, people do not know where else they can go to seek services.’¹⁷⁷

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11.3 Access for non-indigenes

- 11.3.1 Quoting correspondence in 2019 between the IRBC Research Directorate and Henry Gyang Mang, an academic with the Department of Military History of the Nigerian Army University Biu, Borno State, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 stated: ‘Mang noted that health care is “one of the few” services that is available without [ethnic] discrimination ...’¹⁷⁸
- 11.3.2 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 quoted correspondence with a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in October 2023 in which the professor stated that non-indigeneity influences access to healthcare, among other services.¹⁷⁹ The response did not provide further detail about this statement.
- 11.3.3 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 also referenced correspondence between the IRBC’s Research Directorate and a lecturer in political science at Redeemer’s University in Nigeria. It quoted the lecturer as stating that non-indigeneity can influence access to employment, housing, education or health services ‘depending on political connections’¹⁸⁰. It did not provide further information about this statement.

¹⁷⁷ Insecurity Insight, ‘[Nigeria factsheet](#)’ (page 6), 2022

¹⁷⁸ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

¹⁷⁹ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

¹⁸⁰ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

12. Education

12.1 Education system and funding

12.1.1 As part of Education Research in Conflict and protracted Crisis (ERICC), a research programme funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the ERICC Research Programme Consortium, a global partnership led by the International Rescue Committee, in a working paper on Nigeria dated 1 September 2023 (ERICC working paper 2023), based on various sources, stated:

‘Nigeria operates a 6-3-3-4 system of education comprising six years of primary school, three years of junior secondary school (JSS), three years of senior secondary school (SSS) and four years of tertiary education. Basic education ... is made up of the six years of primary school and three years of JSS. The 2004 Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act governs the delivery of basic education and states that it should be universal, free and compulsory. In practice, though, it is none of these.

‘Education is in principle state-funded ... but there is a strong and growing private sector presence throughout the four educational stages. There is also a significant non-formal education sector, which includes vocational learning centres and, particularly in the north of the country, schools delivering Islamiyya, Qur’anic and Tsangaya education (ITQE). In these, children receive a religiously oriented educational experience that does not always include the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy.’¹⁸¹

12.1.2 The same working paper observed: ‘Education expenditure as a percentage of Nigeria’s total expenditure on essential services has been declining steadily since its peak of 9.26% in 2015 (UNESCO-UIS, nd). In 2021, education expenditure was at 5.14%, a proportion virtually unchanged from that of 2020, and the lowest for all African countries for which there was data ...’¹⁸²

12.1.3 With regard to the language of instruction, the Guardian, a Nigerian privately-owned newspaper¹⁸³, in an article dated 25 June 2023, noted, ‘Nigeria’s National Policy on Education states that children should learn to read in the language of their immediate environment.’¹⁸⁴

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12.2 Participation in education

12.2.1 The BTI report 2022 stated: ‘School enrollment is about 84% at primary school level, 42% at secondary and just 10% at the tertiary level.’ It noted an ‘extreme north-south dichotomy’ and stated: ‘School enrollment in the south is 70% and in the underdeveloped and poverty-stricken north only 30%. While school attendance in the south is, on average, 10 years, attendance in

¹⁸¹ ERICC, ‘[The evidence for improving education...](#)’ (section IA), 1 September 2023

¹⁸² ERICC, ‘[The evidence for improving education...](#)’ (section IB), 1 September 2023

¹⁸³ Reuters Institute, ‘[Nigeria](#)’, 23 June 2021

¹⁸⁴ The Guardian (Nigeria), ‘[How UNICEF is revving up efforts...](#)’, 25 June 2023

the north is only 4 – 7 years.¹⁸⁵

12.2.2 The NBS, in a report ‘2021 MICS statistical snapshots’ (2021 MICS results), dated August 2022 and featuring results of the 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted between September and December 2021, showed state data for completion of primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school in a table, which is reproduced below¹⁸⁶:

State Data in Completion Rates

State	Primary (age 6-11)	Lower Secondary (age 12-14)	Upper Secondary (age 15-17)
National	73	68	54
Abia	94	93	76
Adamawa	73	59	47
Akwa Ibom	94	84	67
Anambra	99	94	90
Bauchi	30	25	17
Bayelsa	86	86	75
Benue	74	70	45
Borno (7 LGAs)	51	48	37
Cross River	93	82	60
Delta	92	88	69
Ebonyi	96	92	87
Edo	90	86	78
Ekiti	95	91	71
Enugu	95	88	73
Gombe	50	49	37
Imo	98	89	83
Jigawa	38	31	19
Kaduna	71	60	49
Kano	69	64	49
Katsina	63	47	32
Kebbi	40	32	24
Kogi	84	78	63
Kwara	81	71	66
Lagos	98	89	85
Nasarawa	69	62	47
Niger	59	59	50
Ogun	86	80	62
Ondo	91	87	73
Osun	92	84	72
Oyo	91	82	64
Plateau	79	70	51
Rivers	96	93	76
Sokoto	36	33	22
Taraba	63	58	38
Yobe	40	40	31
Zamfara	45	43	36
FCT	91	86	67

¹⁸⁵ BTI, ‘[BTI 2022 Nigeria Country Report...](#)’, 2022

¹⁸⁶ NBS/UNICEF, ‘[2021 MICS statistical snapshots](#)’ (page 50), 24 August 2022

- 12.2.3 Vanguard, a privately-owned news outlet¹⁸⁷, in an article dated 11 October 2023, quoted UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative Cristian Munduate as saying, ‘Nigeria, alarmingly, accounts for 15% of out-of-school children worldwide.’¹⁸⁸
- 12.2.4 With regard to reasons for non-participation in education, Khalimath Oyekan, Ayodotun Ayorinde and Oreoluwa Adenuga, in an Insight Note for the RISE (Research on Improving Systems of Education) Programme, a global research endeavour¹⁸⁹, dated 28 March 2023, based on various sources, stated: ‘Factors that contribute to the incidence of out of school children include but are not limited to early/child marriage, economic barriers, conflict, socio-cultural norms, and lack of inclusive policies/practices in schools...’¹⁹⁰

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12.3 Access for non-indigenes

- 12.3.1 International Crisis Group, ‘an independent organisation working to prevent wars and shape policies that will build a more peaceful world’¹⁹¹, in a report, ‘Stopping Nigeria’s Spiralling Farmer-Herder Violence’, dated 26 July 2018, stated that those recognised as indigenous to a state ‘are granted preferences in education’¹⁹².
- 12.3.2 Quoting correspondence in 2019 between the IRBC Research Directorate and Henry Gyang Mang, an academic with the Department of Military History of the Nigerian Army University Biu, Borno State, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 stated:
- ‘Mang noted ... regarding education, “most” states opt to subsidize education only for their own indigenes which in “some cases” can result in non-indigenes paying “up to 25 and 50% more (2019-10-08).’¹⁹³
- 12.3.3 The DFAT Nigeria report 2020 stated that when non-indigenes remained in an area despite moves by a state or local government to compel them to return to a region where their ethnic group was indigenous, such individuals were sometimes denied scholarships¹⁹⁴.
- 12.3.4 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 quoted correspondence with a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in October 2023 in which the professor stated that non-indigeneity influences access to education, among other services.¹⁹⁵ The response did not provide further detail about this statement.
- 12.3.5 For more information on ethnicity and indigeneship, see [Ethnicity, Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#) and [Appendix A: City and state information](#)

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¹⁸⁷ Reuters Institute, ‘[Nigeria](#)’, 23 June 2021

¹⁸⁸ Vanguard, ‘[Nigeria accounts for 15% out of school children worldwide](#)’, 11 October 2023

¹⁸⁹ RISE, ‘[About RISE](#)’, no date

¹⁹⁰ Oyekan, K, and others, RISE, ‘[The Problem of Out-of-School...](#)’ (Key points), 28 March 2023

¹⁹¹ ICG, ‘[Preventing War. Shaping Peace](#)’, 2024

¹⁹² ICG, ‘[Stopping Nigeria’s Spiralling Farmer-Herder Violence](#)’, 26 July 2018

¹⁹³ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

¹⁹⁴ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 3.3), 3 December 2020

¹⁹⁵ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

12.4 Internally displaced children

- 12.4.1 The ERICC working paper 2023 reported: ‘There are no specific policies for the education of internally displaced children. Across Nigeria, most displaced individuals stay in internally displaced person (IDP) camps, from where the children access host community schools. Only a few IDP camps have schools.’¹⁹⁶

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12.5 Digital learning for children

- 12.5.1 UNICEF Nigeria, in a press release dated 2 September 2023, reported that the Nigeria Learning Passport, a digital learning platform launched in March 2022 by the Federal Ministry of Education and UNICEF, had reached 500,000 users across 18 states, including more than 162,000 children aged 5 to 9 and almost 112,000 aged 10 to 14. The same source stated that the platform provided more than 15,000 curriculum-aligned resources in English, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba and was accessible free of charge on Airtel devices under a partnership with telecommunications company Airtel Africa¹⁹⁷.
- 12.5.2 Noting that such public-private partnerships ‘have ensured that the digital learning divide is being bridged, and every child, regardless of connectivity access, has an opportunity learn’, the press release reported: ‘UNICEF and partners are investing in necessary infrastructure like data, computers, smart devices, internet access, and teacher capacity development, to bring digital learning to every child and young person in Nigeria.’¹⁹⁸

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12.6 Girls

- 12.6.1 The NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 provided the following table showing net attendance by school level and sex¹⁹⁹:

¹⁹⁶ ERICC, ‘[The evidence for improving education...](#)’ (section IB), 1 September 2023

¹⁹⁷ UNICEF Nigeria, ‘[FME and UNICEF Celebrate 500.000 Registered Users](#)’, 2 September 2023

¹⁹⁸ UNICEF Nigeria, ‘[FME and UNICEF Celebrate 500.000 Registered Users](#)’, 2 September 2023

¹⁹⁹ NBS, ‘[Living Standards...](#)’ (page 20), July 2020

Table 2.5: Net Attendance by School Level and Sex (in percent of population of school age)

Strata	Primary			Junior Secondary			Senior Secondary			All		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
NIGERIA	66.2	65.5	65.8	38.7	37.8	38.2	32.2	35.4	33.8	71.6	71	71.3
Urban	76.8	77	76.9	51.5	50.9	51.2	48	48.5	48.3	84.2	85	84.6
Rural	61.3	60	60.7	31.8	30.5	31.2	24.1	27.4	25.7	65.4	63.8	64.6
Abia	81.5	82.6	82	55.6	55.3	55.5	50.9	57.6	54.4	87.4	88.7	88.1
Adamawa	65.7	65.5	65.6	28.9	24.2	26.8	22.1	25	23.4	71.6	68.2	70
Akwa Ibom	77.3	74.1	75.8	46.8	62.7	53.1	45.8	53.2	50	84.9	85.8	85.3
Anambra	78	82.9	80.3	48.9	47.9	48.5	37.7	42.3	40	85	89.5	87.1
Bauchi	56.3	51	53.6	18.6	16.5	17.5	11.7	17.1	14.7	52.5	51.1	51.8
Bayelsa	78.4	75.4	76.9	57.1	55	56.2	43.9	50.5	47.4	83.3	79.6	81.5
Benue	69.9	64.7	67.3	30.7	35.1	32.6	25.8	28.3	26.9	79.5	75.7	77.7
Borno												
Cross River	70.5	75.9	73.1	43.9	51.8	47.9	50.2	43	46.9	83.7	81.5	82.6
Delta	72.9	78.8	76.2	48.9	46.6	47.7	30.7	54	43	85.7	89.5	87.7
Ebonyi	79.1	70.9	75.1	32.2	31.7	31.9	25.1	23.6	24.3	86.1	78.4	82.3
Edo	78.8	77.9	78.3	39.5	50.9	45.3	43	49.4	46.3	85	86.5	85.8
Ekiti	79.2	81.2	80.1	54.4	54.5	54.5	54.9	55	55	86.9	89.9	88.2
Enugu	81.1	81.8	81.5	59.7	52.8	56.3	40.8	43.7	42.2	87.9	90.2	89.1
Gombe	49.1	48.4	48.8	21.6	21.4	21.5	23.2	20.9	22.3	52.3	50.7	51.5
Imo	80.5	82	81.2	58.7	59.3	59	46	47.7	46.9	89	89.8	89.4
Jigawa	61.7	64.8	63.2	23.8	25.3	24.5	17.3	16.2	16.8	56.5	59	57.7
Kaduna	60.8	67.1	64	36.1	35.8	35.9	21.5	26.4	23.8	68.7	73.3	71
Kano	63.6	56.9	60.3	36.7	32.4	34.5	30.7	32.8	31.8	66.8	62.9	64.8
Katsina	61.4	60.5	60.9	19	14	16.3	12.6	22.9	16.9	58.7	56	57.4
Kebbi	43	29	36.1	11.1	11.8	11.5	11.6	16.8	14	42.8	30.7	37
Kogi	73.7	80	76.6	39.4	40.6	40	40.1	39.9	40	83.3	82.1	82.7
Kwara	64.2	62.9	63.6	40.5	32.6	36.3	29.3	38.6	33.9	66	69.1	67.5
Lagos	82	81.7	81.8	59.6	55.2	57.4	50.5	41.7	45.9	88.9	88.4	88.7
Nasarawa	65.7	72	68.9	41.1	36.5	38.9	28	29.6	28.8	74.4	74	74.2
Niger	55.5	42.8	49.7	19.9	19.8	19.8	19	16.1	17.7	56.8	45.5	51.7
Ogun	77	77.1	77.1	52.3	49.2	50.8	44	43.5	43.8	83.9	83.6	83.7
Ondo	66.5	75.2	71.1	34.7	48.2	41.4	33.8	30.1	32	77.7	84.2	81
Osun	75.2	79.4	77.1	63.1	53	57.8	48.9	49.4	49.2	82.4	87.3	84.9
Oyo	70	70.9	70.4	52.9	54.7	53.8	48.2	49.9	49.1	78.8	78.7	78.7
Plateau	78	77.8	77.9	41.9	39.6	40.6	32.5	26.6	29.9	83.4	83	83.2
Rivers	75.1	80.6	77.8	57.7	52.8	55.2	49.8	55.7	52.7	82.8	88	85.4
Sokoto	40.4	34.1	37.5	17.3	10.8	14.9	10.1	13.8	11.7	40.9	32.5	37.2
Taraba	56.5	54.1	55.3	27.5	27.1	27.3	19.9	21.7	20.8	61.8	57.6	59.7
Yobe	33	30.6	31.7	18.4	15.3	16.9	15.9	22.8	18.8	36.5	32.8	34.7
Zamfara	41.1	39.6	40.4	15.7	14.7	15.3	18.7	18.6	18.6	44	41.6	42.9
FCT	86	83.8	84.9	42.1	39.7	41	43.9	25.9	35	90	86.2	88.2

12.6.2 The Federal Ministry of Education’s National Policy on Gender in Education (2021) set out policy objectives that included ‘Ensuring equitable access to empowering and inclusive education for all by the year 2030.’²⁰⁰

12.6.3 UNICEF Nigeria, in ‘Cheat Sheet: Girls Education’, dated June 2022, based on various sources, listed ‘Barriers and Bottlenecks’ in relation to educational

²⁰⁰ FME, ‘[National policy on gender in education...](#)’, 2021

opportunities for girls in Nigeria:

- '1. Poverty is among the most significant barriers as school fees are prohibitive and contributes to families' decisions to keep girls' home from school.
- '2. Social and gender norms place a low value on education, especially for girls and promote boy-child preference. At least 1 in 4 girls are forced into early marriage and even more in the Northwest (39%)³.
- '3. Insecurity, including attacks on schools and abduction of school children, as well as gender-based violence at school place girls at even greater risk of harm.
- '4. Poor learning outcomes contribute to drop out, and girls who marry or have children lack support and pathways to return to school.
- '5. Lack of WASH facilities, including sex-segregated toilets and menstrual hygiene management, as well as long distances to schools, exclude girls.
- '6. Insufficient recruitment and supply of trained female teachers especially at junior secondary level.'²⁰¹

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12.7 Disabled children

- 12.7.1 The USSD human rights report 2022 stated that the law provides people with disabilities 'the right to education without discrimination or segregation'²⁰². However, the same source stated: 'A report from the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities stated primary and secondary students with disabilities were confined to understaffed and underequipped schools.'²⁰³
- 12.7.2 The USSD human rights report 2023 noted: 'Children with disabilities faced significant hurdles obtaining educational services. Inclusion programs in mainstream schools were rare.'²⁰⁴
- 12.7.3 The Nation, an independent Nigerian news outlet, in an article dated 4 December 2023, quoted the British High Commissioner to Nigeria as saying that only 12 percent of Nigerian children with disabilities were in education²⁰⁵.

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12.8 Higher education

- 12.8.1 The BTI report 2022 stated: 'Currently, 79 private universities in the country compete with 89 federal and state tertiary institutions. Among the private tertiary institutions several are run by megachurches, such as the Winner's Chapel and the Redeemed Christian Church of God.'²⁰⁶
- 12.8.2 Times Higher Education (THE), a privately-owned, London-based company

²⁰¹ UNICEF Nigeria, '[Cheat Sheet – Girls Education](#)', June 2022

²⁰² USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 7), 20 March 2023

²⁰³ USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 6), 20 March 2023

²⁰⁴ USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 7), 22 April 2024

²⁰⁵ The Nation, '[Only 12% of Nigerian children with disabilities are in school...](#)', 4 December 2023

²⁰⁶ BTI, '[BTI 2022 Nigeria Country Report...](#)' (page 14), 2022

that provides higher-education news and ranks universities worldwide²⁰⁷, in an entry on its website dated 11 October 2023, included two Nigerian universities – the Christian private Covenant University and the public University of Ibadan – among its top 1,000 universities globally and noted that ‘the country has a blossoming higher education sector’²⁰⁸.

- 12.8.3 The same source stated: ‘Although only 15 universities feature in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the country is home to almost 130 institutions. Some of these are owned by the federal and state governments, while 50 are privately owned.’²⁰⁹
- 12.8.4 The Guardian (Nigeria), in an article dated 13 July 2023 (Guardian higher education article 2023), quoted a 2022 report by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board as stating that more than 1.85 million students were enrolled in tertiary institutions – 65% at federal universities, 29% at state government-owned universities and 6% at private universities²¹⁰.
- 12.8.5 With regard to funding, Premium Times, a privately-owned news outlet, in an article dated 16 June 2023, reported that President Bola Tinubu had signed into law a bill establishing a system of interest-free tertiary education loans. Those eligible for the loans are Nigerians with an annual income or family income of less than 500,000 naira (GBP444.01²¹¹) studying at public universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and vocational schools established by the government²¹².
- 12.8.6 The Guardian higher education article 2023 reported that there had been widespread fee hikes among federal and state universities, stating: ‘Many institutions have increased their fees by 100 to 200 per cent, which may force some indigent students out of school.’ It noted students at state government-owned Ambrose Alli University in Ekpoma, Edo State, had recently staged a protest against a rise of nearly 300% in registration fees, which made some courses more expensive than at private universities. The article reported that the institutions blamed the increases on inadequate government funding and inflation²¹³.

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13. Insecurity and crime

13.1 Overview

- 13.1.1 A map showing Nigeria’s security threats, dated 30 March 2021 and produced by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) using composite data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and United States National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Maritime Safety Information dated 2018 to 2021, is reproduced below²¹⁴:

²⁰⁷ THE, ‘[Times Higher Education home](#)’, 2023

²⁰⁸ THE, ‘[Best universities in Nigeria 2024](#)’, 11 October 2023

²⁰⁹ THE, ‘[Best universities in Nigeria 2024](#)’, 11 October 2023

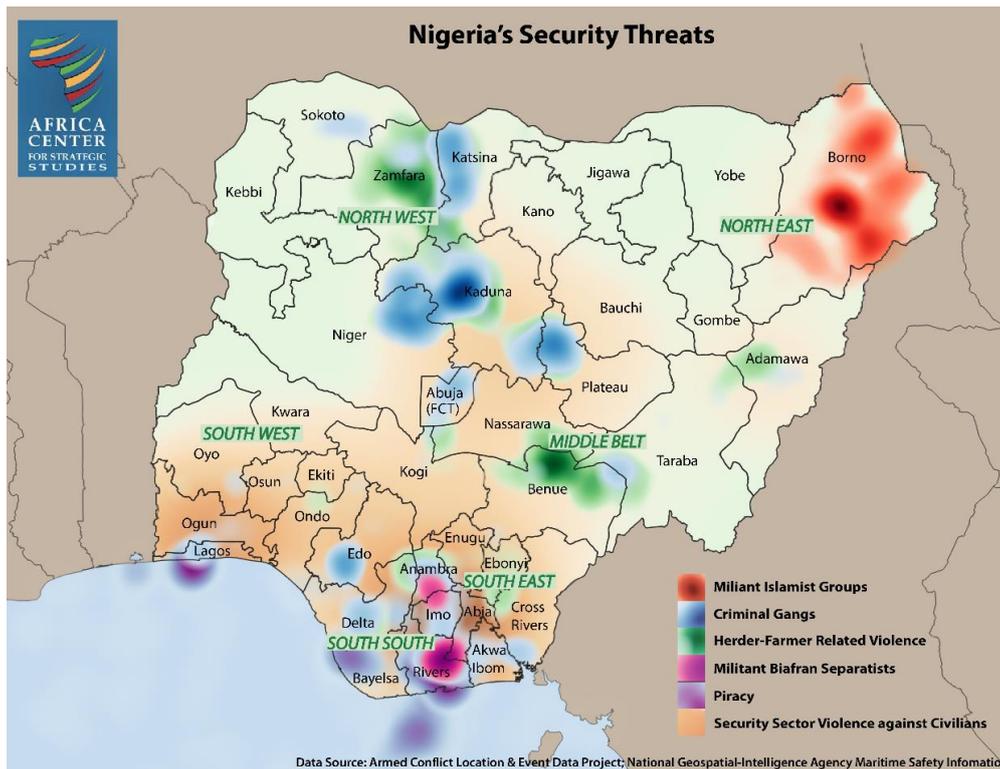
²¹⁰ The Guardian (Nigeria), ‘[Tough times for students, parents...](#)’, 13 July 2023

²¹¹ Xe.com, ‘[Currency converter](#)’, converted 12 December 2023

²¹² Premium Times, ‘[All you need to know about Nigeria’s new student loan law](#)’, 16 June 2023

²¹³ The Guardian (Nigeria), ‘[Tough times for students, parents...](#)’, 13 July 2023

²¹⁴ ACSS, ‘[Nigeria’s Diverse Security Threats](#)’, 30 March 2021



- 13.1.2 Nextier is an Abuja-based ‘multi-competency firm focused on solving complex development problems’ that works with the Nigerian government, the private sector, development agencies and others²¹⁵. Their ‘Annual Review of Nigeria’s Violent Conflict Profile 2022’ (Nextier review 2022), dated 21 April 2023, is based on various sources including data from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database, which collates information from traditional and new media, and ‘secondary data sources includ[ing] published governmental, commercial, and non-profit reports and online sources’²¹⁶. It stated: ‘Over 60,000 lives were lost to Nigeria’s security challenges in the last decade ... Violent conflicts such as insurgency, banditry, farmer-herder disputes, gang wars and separatist agitations have continued to afflict the country ... These issues have led to killings, property destruction, worsening poverty, and displacement.’²¹⁷
- 13.1.3 It further stated: ‘During the review period [January to December 2022], banditry was Nigeria’s leading security challenge ...’²¹⁸
- 13.1.4 The Nigeria Watch project, hosted by the French Institute for Research in Africa at the University of Ibadan’s Institute of African Studies and supported by the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development²¹⁹, documents violence in Nigeria. In its ‘Thirteenth Report on Violence in Nigeria 2023’ (Nigeria Watch report 2023) it reported that the states recording the most fatalities in 2023 were those ‘grappling with issues relating to insurgency and banditry’²²⁰.

²¹⁵ Nextier, ‘[About](#)’, no date

²¹⁶ Nextier, ‘[2022 Annual Review of Nigeria’s Violent Conflict Profile](#)’ (page 11), 22 April 2023

²¹⁷ Nextier, ‘[2022 Annual Review of Nigeria’s Violent Conflict Profile](#)’ (page 12), 22 April 2023

²¹⁸ Nextier, ‘[2022 Annual Review of Nigeria’s Violent Conflict Profile](#)’ (page 13), 22 April 2023

²¹⁹ Nigeria Watch, ‘[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)’ (page 5), 2023

²²⁰ Nigeria Watch, ‘[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)’ (page 7), 2023

- 13.1.5 For more information on state fatality rates, see [Fatalities by state](#).
- 13.1.6 The HRW report ‘Nigeria–Events of 2023’, released in January 2024, noted:
‘Multiple armed groups continue to kill and jeopardize the livelihood of millions across the country. In the Northwest, gangs of so-called bandits carry out widespread killings, kidnappings, sexual violence, and lootings, while in the Northeast, there has been a resurgence of attacks by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), a breakout faction of Boko Haram.’Decades long intercommunal conflict between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt and Northcentral region continue to claim lives, while the authorities struggle to contain the clashes around land and other resources, which are exacerbated by ethnic and religious tensions.

‘In their responses to the security crisis across the country, security forces continue to be implicated in gross human rights abuses, including indiscriminate airstrikes, while the authorities have repeatedly failed to hold officers responsible for the abuses accountable through the justice system.’²²¹
- 13.1.7 The USSD human rights report 2023 stated:

‘Nonstate actors committed arbitrary and unlawful killings, disappearances, physical abuse, and other mistreatment. Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa continued attacks on civilians, military, police, humanitarian, and religious targets; unlawfully recruited and forcefully conscripted child soldiers; and carried out scores of attacks on population centers in the North East region. Abductions by Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa continued. Both groups subjected many women and girls to gender-based violence, including forced marriages, sexual slavery, and rape ... Individuals believed to be associated with the Eastern Security Network, the armed wing of the separatist group the Indigenous People of Biafra, staged attacks on security personnel, civilians, and government offices, including police stations in the South East region. Criminal gangs killed civilians and conducted mass kidnappings that particularly targeted school-age children in the North West region ...’²²²

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13.2 Intercommunal conflict

- 13.2.1 The DFAT Nigeria report 2020 stated: ‘There is a long history of tension between some ethnic groups, which occasionally results in cases of localised violence.’²²³
- 13.2.2 The IRBC RIR of November 2023, referring to correspondence between the IRBC’s Research Directorate and a lecturer in political science at Redeemer’s University in Nigeria in October 2023, stated: ‘The Lecturer noted that indigeneity can play a role in intercommunal conflict and “inspires or fuels communal mobilization for public protests, which may turn violent, in inter-communal conflict” and that indigeneity influences “reprisal mentality”

²²¹ HRW, [‘Nigeria – Events of 2023’](#), 11 January 2024

²²² USSD, [‘Nigeria’](#) (Executive summary), 22 April 2024

²²³ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 3.4), 3 December 2020

(2023-10-18).²²⁴

- 13.2.3 Quoting from correspondence with a professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in October 2023, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 stated: ‘The Professor noted that indigeneity plays a role in intercommunal conflict, “especially” when it has a “religious undertone,” particularly in northern and eastern regions, further noting that different ethnic groups “mostly” live in specific areas and could be attacked or could mobilize to defend themselves on the basis of ethnicity (2023-10-17).’²²⁵

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13.3 Nationwide fatalities

- 13.3.1 Nigeria Watch documents deaths resulting from intentional or unintentional violence, including accidents, from sources that include national daily newspapers, the police, hospitals and human rights organisations. It does not identify the status of casualties as civilians or combatants²²⁶. The Nigeria Watch report 2023 stated that, including 1,565 road fatalities documented in 2023: ‘Nigeria lost **11,794** individuals to violence in 2023 ... a reduction from the 15,493 deaths recorded in 2022.’²²⁷. For more details on the project’s methodology, see [Nigeria Watch methodology](#).
- 13.3.2 ACLED, an NGO specialising in disaggregated conflict data collection, analysis and crisis mapping, gathers data that ‘contains disaggregated incident information on political violence, demonstrations, and select related non-violent developments’. ACLED researchers ‘collect and review the latest reports from selected local, national and international sources, including media, vetted social media accounts, government and NGO reports, and partner organizations. ACLED researchers work to triangulate reports when and where possible, but they do not independently verify events or gather first-hand information on the ground.’²²⁸
- 13.3.3 ACLED’s datasets on violence against civilians, where ‘an organised armed group deliberately inflicts violence upon non-combatants’ – ‘Abduction/force disappearance’; ‘Attack’; ‘Sexual violence’ – for 1 January 2023 to 29 February 2024 documented **2,212 ‘events’ and 3,224 fatalities**²²⁹.
- 13.3.4 The ACLED dataset for all forms of political violence – Battles; Explosions/Remote violence; Violence against civilians; Protests; Riots; and Strategic developments (‘Strategically important instances of non-violent activity by conflict actors and other agents within the context of conflict or broader political disorder’)²³⁰ – involving combat and civilian actors for 1 January 2023 to 29 February 2024 documented a total of **5,618 ‘events’ and 10,282 fatalities**²³¹.

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²²⁴ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4.1), 10 November 2023

²²⁵ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4.1), 10 November 2023

²²⁶ Nigeria Watch, ‘[Methodology](#)’, no date

²²⁷ Nigeria Watch, ‘[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)’ (page 6), 2023

²²⁸ ACLED, ‘[Quick Guide to ACLED Data](#)’, updated March 2023

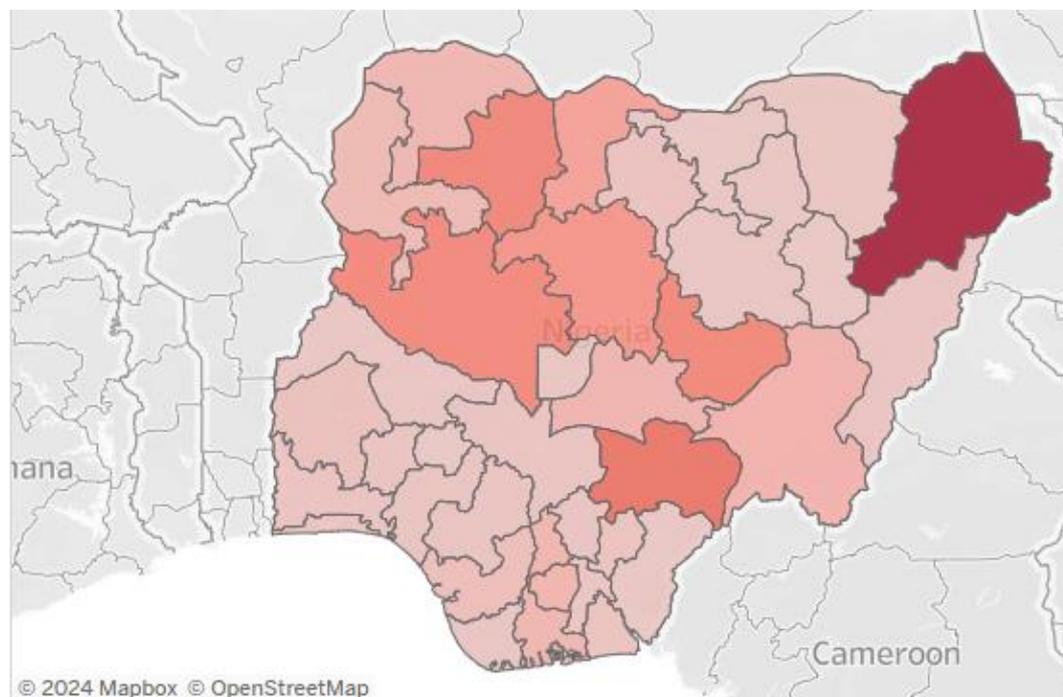
²²⁹ ACLED, ‘[Dashboard](#)’, accessed 29 March 2024

²³⁰ ACLED, ‘[Quick Guide to ACLED Data](#)’, updated March 2023

²³¹ ACLED, ‘[Dashboard](#)’, accessed 29 March 2024

13.4 Fatalities by state

13.4.1 The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a US-based independent, non-partisan membership organisation, think tank and publisher²³², in its Nigeria Security Tracker, which catalogued and mapped political violence based on a weekly survey of Nigerian and international press until updates were discontinued on 1 July 2023, provided the following map²³³ of deaths by state, filtered to show data from 1 January to 1 July 2023:



Legend



13.4.2 The data presented in the CFR security tracker 'included violent incidents related to political, economic, and social grievances directed at the state or other affiliated groups (or, conversely, the state employing violence to respond to those incidents)'²³⁴.

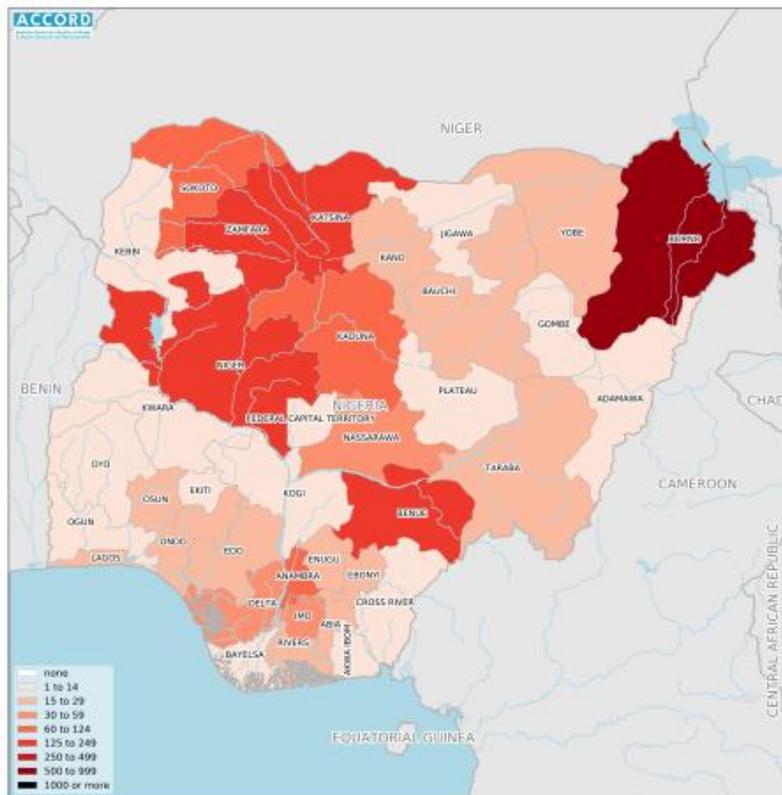
13.4.3 The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) used ACLED data to produce maps showing conflict-related fatalities by state covering the first and second quarters of 2023, respectively, which are reproduced below:

²³² CFR, '[FAQs](#)', no date

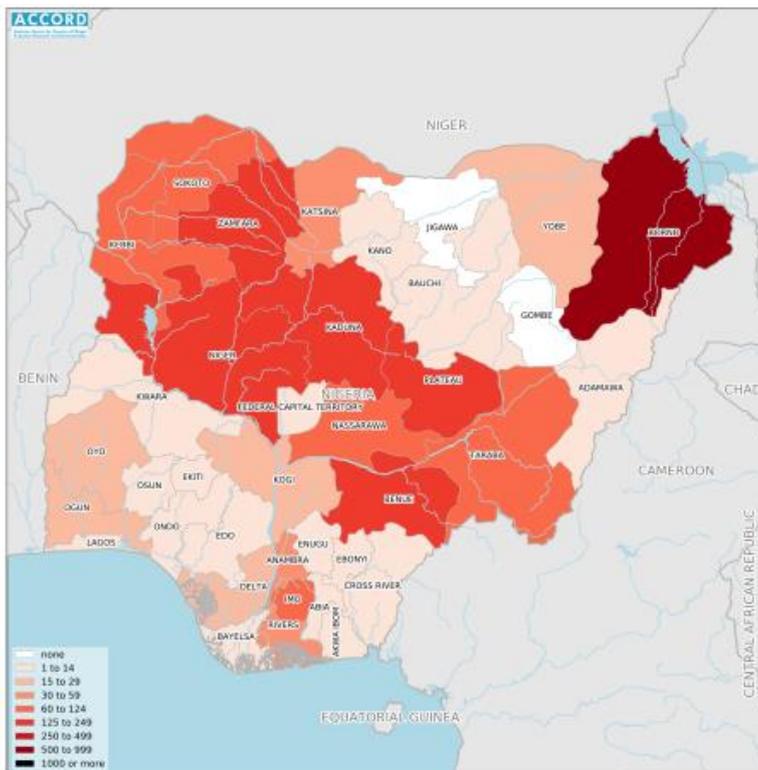
²³³ CFR, '[Nigeria Security Tracker](#)', updated 1 July 2023

²³⁴ CFR, '[Nigeria Security Tracker](#)', updated 1 July 2023

- First quarter of 2023²³⁵



- Second quarter of 2023²³⁶



²³⁵ ACCORD, '[Nigeria, first quarter 2023: Update on incidents...](#)', 4 September 2023

²³⁶ ACCORD, '[Nigeria, second quarter 2023: Update on incidents...](#)' 6 September 2023

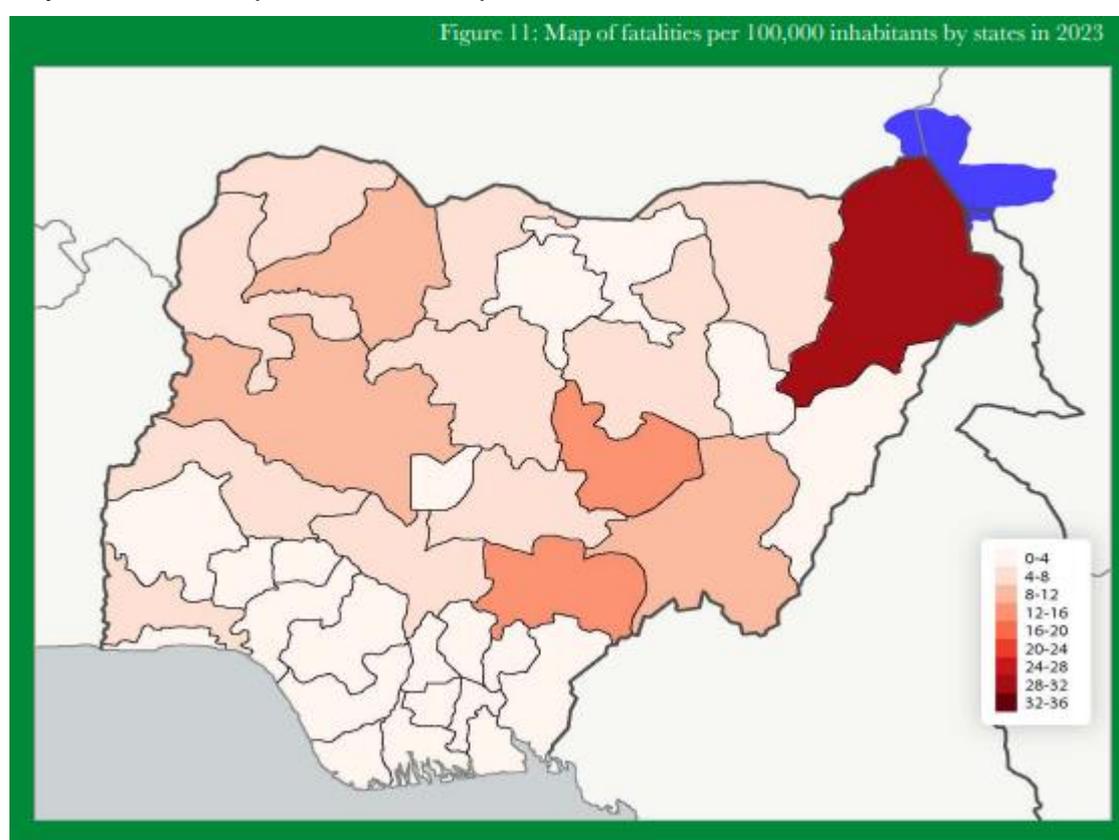
13.4.4 For information on ACLED definitions and methodology, see [Overview](#), above, and ACLED's [Quick Guide to ACLED Data](#).

13.4.5 The Nigeria Watch report 2023 stated:

'Borno State recorded the highest number of fatalities (2,123), followed by Benue (872), Niger (731), Plateau (708), Kaduna (672) and Zamfara (573) ...

'The North accounted for about 75% of the fatalities reported in Nigeria in 2023. These deaths were primarily attributed to insurgency, rural banditry, land conflict and counter operations by government security forces. In the South, the prevalence of lethal violence was associated with [secessionist] pro-Biafra agitation, crime, and ethno-communal conflicts'²³⁷.

13.4.6 The Nigeria Watch report 2023 showed fatality rates per 100,000 inhabitants by state in a map²³⁸, which is reproduced below:



13.4.7 The report stated:

'In 2023, Borno State ranked as the most dangerous state in Nigeria, registering 29.03 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants, primarily due to the Boko Haram conflict (see Figure 11). Following closely were Plateau (14.29) and Benue (12.68) states. In stark contrast, Ekiti emerged as the most peaceful state, reporting only 0.73 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants. Other states with low fatality rates included Kano (1.12), Akwa Ibom (1.25) ... and Oyo (1.3).'²³⁹

²³⁷ Nigeria Watch, '[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)' (page 17), 2023

²³⁸ Nigeria Watch, '[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)' (page 17), 2023

²³⁹ Nigeria Watch, '[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)' (page 17), 2023

13.4.8 For more information on:

- Islamist extremist groups, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Nigeria: Islamist extremist groups in North East Nigeria](#)
- separatist groups, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Nigeria: Separatist groups in the South-East](#)
- kidnap and fatality data disaggregated by incident type, see the [Nextier review 2022](#), [Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs COI report \(January 2023\)](#), [Nigeria Watch report 2023](#) and [ACLEED dashboard](#)

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14. Freedom of movement: rights and practice

14.1 Constitutional and legal rights

14.1.1 Freedom House, in 'Freedom in the World 2023 – Nigeria' (FH report covering events in 2022), described freedom of movement as 'legally guaranteed'²⁴⁰.

14.1.2 The USSD human rights report 2023 stated: 'The constitution and law provided for freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, and authorities generally respected these rights.'²⁴¹

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14.2 Internal migration

14.2.1 The DFAT Nigeria report 2020 stated:

'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; herdsman 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.'²⁴²

14.2.2 United Nations Nigeria, in a report 'Internal migration trends in Nigeria', dated 7 December 2023, based on the findings of the 2021 MICS survey and other sources, stated: '... [T]here is a significant degree of internal migration within Nigeria with nearly 60% of women and almost 50% of men sampled having migrated at some point.' The report noted that around 50% of women who had never married had migrated at some point²⁴³.

14.2.3 The report stated:

²⁴⁰ FH, '[Nigeria: Freedom in the World 2023 Country Report](#)' (Section G1), 2023

²⁴¹ USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 2), 22 April 2024

²⁴² DFAT, '[Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#)' (section 5.31), 3 December 2020

²⁴³ UN Nigeria, '[Internal migration trends in Nigeria](#)' (pages 2, 12), 7 December 2023

‘... Most migrants, however, move within the states where they are located. Over 80% of women and men who migrated said that they moved from somewhere within the state they are currently located.

‘In general, there appears to be a pattern of migration with people first moving from rural areas to smaller towns and then to larger cities.’²⁴⁴

14.2.4 While noting that there are strong migration links among states that border one another, the report stated: ‘Regardless, Lagos and FCT have the strongest pull for migrants.’²⁴⁵

14.2.5 With regard to drivers of internal migration, the same report observed: ‘A significant driver of internal migration appears to be economic opportunities, as people move from rural to urban areas in search of better employment prospects.’ The report cited marriage and conflict as additional likely drivers as well as potential factors such as environmental and social reasons. It also observed: ‘... internal migration is not only rural-urban in nature. It is rural-rural, urban-urban, rural-urban, and urban-rural, and likely with all different drivers.’²⁴⁶

14.2.6 Udo and others reported:

‘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.’²⁴⁷

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14.3 Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes

14.3.1 The DFAT Nigeria report 2020 stated:

‘... [S]tate 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 private-sector hiring patterns and the segregation of urban neighbourhoods.’²⁴⁸

²⁴⁴ UN Nigeria, ‘[Internal migration trends in Nigeria](#)’ (page 3), 7 December 2023

²⁴⁵ UN Nigeria, ‘[Internal migration trends in Nigeria](#)’ (page 6), 7 December 2023

²⁴⁶ UN Nigeria, ‘[Internal migration trends in Nigeria](#)’ (pages 2, 10), 7 December 2023

²⁴⁷ Udo and others, EB, ‘[Nigeria ...](#)’ (Settlement patterns), updated 15 December 2023

²⁴⁸ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 3.3), 3 December 2020

- 14.3.2 The same report stated: ‘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.’²⁴⁹
- 14.3.3 The report also stated:
 ‘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).²⁵⁰ The DFAT Nigeria report 2020 stated that Certificates of State of Origin were ‘prima facie evidence of the state of origin which a person claims, and ... a general means of identification’, adding that the certificate may be required for various administrative purposes, including scholarship schemes, employment/ job placements, admission into educational institutions, or political appointments’²⁵¹.
- 14.3.4 The same source stated: ‘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.’²⁵²
- 14.3.5 For information on other types of documentation, see [Documentation](#).
- 14.3.6 The FH report covering events in 2022 stated: ‘Despite constitutional safeguards against ethnic discrimination, many ethnic minorities experience bias by state governments and other societal groups in areas including employment, education, and housing.’²⁵³
- 14.3.7 Udo and others stated: ‘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 ...’²⁵⁴
- 14.3.8 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 referenced correspondence between the IRBC’s Research Directorate and a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria in October 2023. It reported: ‘When asked by the Research Directorate if non-indigeneity can influence access to employment,

²⁴⁹ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 5.32), 3 December 2020

²⁵⁰ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 5.55), 3 December 2020

²⁵¹ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 5.51), 3 December 2020

²⁵² DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 5.55), 3 December 2020

²⁵³ FH, ‘[Nigeria: Freedom in the World 2023 Country Report](#)’, 2023

²⁵⁴ Udo and others, EB, ‘[Nigeria...](#)’, updated 15 December 2023

housing, education or health services the Professor responded that it does ...²⁵⁵ The response did not provide further detail about this statement.

14.3.9 The same source further stated: ‘The Professor noted that obstacles faced by non-natives moving to cities such as Abuja, Lagos, or Port Harcourt, such as finding a place to live or gaining employment, are not specific to non-indigenes but experienced by those relocating to a new city (2023-10-17).’²⁵⁶

14.3.10 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 also referenced correspondence between the IRBC’s Research Directorate and a lecturer in political science at Redeemer’s University in Nigeria. It quoted the lecturer as stating that non-indigeneity can influence access to employment, housing, education or health services ‘depending on political connections’²⁵⁷. It did not provide further information about this statement.

14.3.11 The USSD human rights report 2023 stated:

‘The law prohibited ethnic discrimination by the government, but most ethnic groups claimed marginalization in terms of government revenue allocation, political representation, or both. Federal and state governments made some efforts to enforce the law.

‘All citizens had the right to live in any part of the country, but state and local governments frequently discriminated against ethnic groups not indigenous to their areas, occasionally compelling individuals to return to a region where their ethnic group originated but where they no longer had ties. State and local governments sometimes compelled nonindigenous persons to move by threats, discrimination in hiring and employment, or destruction of their homes. Those who chose to stay sometimes experienced further discrimination, including denial of scholarships and exclusion from employment in the civil service, police, and military.’²⁵⁸

14.3.12 For more information on:

- definitions of indigeneship, establishing indigeneship and Certificates of State of Origin, see the [IRBC RIR of November 2023](#)
- non-indigenes’ access to services, see [Housing and living conditions](#), [Healthcare](#), [Education](#) and [Employment](#)

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14.4 Restrictions on movement because of insecurity

14.4.1 The FH report covering events in 2022 stated: ‘... [S]ecurity officials frequently impose dusk-to-dawn curfews and other movement restrictions in areas affected by communal violence or militant activities.’²⁵⁹

14.4.2 Similarly, the USSD human rights report 2023 stated: ‘In areas subject to frequent attacks or depredations by Boko Haram, ISIS-WA, or groups associated with them, residents often found themselves subject to roadblocks, searches, and other restrictive security measures by authorities

²⁵⁵ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

²⁵⁶ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

²⁵⁷ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

²⁵⁸ USSD, ‘[Nigeria](#)’ (Section 6), 22 April 2024

²⁵⁹ FH, ‘[Nigeria: Freedom in the World 2023 Country Report](#)’ (Section G1), 2023

and other armed groups.’ The report did not provide further information about the frequency of attacks or the frequency of imposition of security measures²⁶⁰.

14.4.3 For more information on the security issues, see [Insecurity and crime](#) above.

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14.5 Road and rail flashpoints for attacks

14.5.1 Vanguard, in an article dated 31 July 2022, identified what it termed the ‘top 177 highways of terror’, 177 major roads across Nigeria’s six regions which it named as ‘flashpoints for kidnapping, banditry and other violent acts’. These included roads such as the Brinin-Gwari to Funtua road in Kaduna State, which it described as a ‘no-go area’, and Bomadi-Ohoror Road in Delta State, where ‘the activities of bandits and herdsmen who kill and maim commuters have become worrisome’²⁶¹.

14.5.2 For the full list of roads, see the [Vanguard highways article](#).

14.5.3 The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, in undated travel advice for British citizens travelling to Nigeria on its website, stated:

‘Terrorist groups have ... constructed bogus vehicle checkpoints on major supply and commercial routes, such as the A3 Maiduguri-Damaturu road.

‘... There are frequent reports of carjackings, some involving armed gunmen, on Nigeria’s urban and rural road networks.

‘... Criminal groups may kidnap victims by stopping cars on major highways, including the:

- Abuja-Kaduna highway
- Enugu-Awka-Onitsha expressway in Anambra²⁶²

14.5.4 Premium Times, in a February 2024 article, reported that terrorists had killed 9 market traders on a road leading from Jibia in Katsina State and stated: ‘Jibia to Batsari, Batsari to Katsina, Jibia to Katsina, and Kankara to Sheme, are some of the roads most vulnerable to attacks in Katsina State’²⁶³.

14.5.5 With regard to rail, Qatari state-owned news broadcaster Al Jazeera, in an article dated 29 March 2022, reported that the previous day ‘a train heading for the northern city of Kaduna from Nigeria’s capital Abuja was ambushed by suspected bandits who bombed its tracks. Dozens of passengers were abducted and an unconfirmed number of people were killed during the attack.’ It noted: ‘Monday’s train attack was the second in six months on the same route after explosives were laid on the tracks last October.’²⁶⁴

14.5.6 The BBC, in a January 2023 article, reported that security forces had rescued 6 of the 32 people kidnapped 2 days earlier at a railway station in Edo state. It quoted an Edo state government spokesperson as saying that people had started using the train as the local road had become ‘a no-go

²⁶⁰ USSD, ‘[Nigeria](#)’ (Section 7), 22 April 2024

²⁶¹ Vanguard, ‘[Banditry, Kidnappings, Killings: N/Central, N/West, S/West top 177...](#)’, 31 July 2022

²⁶² UK FCDO, ‘[Safety and security - Nigeria travel advice](#)’, no date

²⁶³ Premium Times, ‘[Terrorists kill nine traders in Katsina highway attack](#)’, 12 February 2024

²⁶⁴ Al Jazeera, ‘[Who are the ‘bandits’ terrorising Nigeria’s ‘Wild Wild West’?](#)’, 29 March 2022

area, with huge ransoms being collected from families of [kidnap] victims'²⁶⁵.

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14.6 Women

- 14.6.1 With regard to limitations on women's free movement, the USSD human rights report 2023 stated: 'In the northern part of the country, societal and cultural norms prevented women from leaving the house unaccompanied ...'²⁶⁶ It did not provide further information.

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14.7 IDPs

- 14.7.1 The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD) adopted a policy on IDPs, dated 1 September 2021, which stated in section 3.1.1.1:

'IDPs shall have:

- i. The right to seek safety in another part of the country and be received without discrimination of any kind; ...
- iv. The right to be protected against forcible return to or relocation in any place where their life, safety, liberty and/ or health would be at risk.'²⁶⁷

- 14.7.2 With regard to freedom of movement within and outside camps for displaced persons and host communities in the BAY States in northeast Nigeria, the UNHCR Maiduguri report 2023 stated:

'The forcibly displaced population and the members of the host communities continue to face challenges of free movement within the camps/sites and to locations outside of their settlements. While most households reported that they can move freely outside the camps/sites, the situation is not the same for men, women, girls, and boys.'

It noted that 33.33% of men and 66.67% of women reported they had no freedom of movement within their current location, while 19.05% of men and 80.95% of women reported having no freedom of movement outside their current location. The report did not provide figures for children²⁶⁸.

- 14.7.3 The report further stated 'The NSAG [Non-State Armed Groups] presence and activities (29%), have been attributed as the leading cause of movement restrictions followed by ongoing military actions against the Non-State Armed Groups (16%), the presence of landmines ERW [Explosive Remnants of War]/UXOs [Unexploded Ordnance] (14%) and curfews [and travel restrictions] in place [10%] ...'²⁶⁹

- 14.7.4 For further information, see [Insecurity and crime](#) and IDPs in [Demography](#).

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²⁶⁵ BBC, '[Nigeria kidnappings: Security forces rescue six victims...](#)', 9 January 2023

²⁶⁶ USSD, '[Nigeria](#)' (Section 7), 22 April 2024

²⁶⁷ Nigeria FMHADMSD, '[Nigeria: National Policy on Internally Displaced ...](#)', 1 September 2021

²⁶⁸ UNHCR, '[Protection Monitoring Report...](#)' (section VI: Freedom of Movement), 2 November 2023

²⁶⁹ UNHCR, '[Protection Monitoring Report...](#)' (section VI: Freedom of Movement), 2 November 2023

15. Documentation

15.1 Identity Documentation – general

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- 15.1.2 The Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023, based on various sources, noted:
‘There are numerous different documents in Nigeria that are used for identification. The most important of these are the National Electronic Identity Card (“e-ID card”), passport, driving licence and birth certificate ... Any Nigerian can apply for and obtain these documents if the conditions are satisfied ... These documents are necessary to access services such as health care and education ... In some areas, such as several municipalities outside Maiduguri, the absence of civil authorities hinders access to government services. This affects, for example, applications for birth certificates, identity cards and property documents ...’²⁷⁰

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15.2 National Identification Number (NIN)

- 15.2.1 NGConsulate, an integrated information portal on Nigerian diplomatic and consular missions around the world²⁷¹, in an undated entry on its website, stated ‘The National Identification Number (NIN) is mandated for all Nigerian citizens and legal residents in the territory of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The number consists of 11 non-intelligible numbers as the main unique component of the Nationall [sic] ID Card issued on completion of enrolment into the Nigerian National Identity Database (NIDB) ...’²⁷²
- 15.2.2 For information on Certificates of State of Origin, see [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#) and the [IRBC RIR of November 2023](#).

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16. Conditions for returnees

16.1 Returning to Nigeria

- 16.1.1 The DFAT report 2020 noted:
‘Thousands of Nigerians enter and leave the country every day. According to the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, Nigeria received a total of 11,494 returnees in 2018, of which 10,180 were from Libya. There is no evidence of any stigma attaching to such returnees.
‘Nigerian nationals may return voluntarily to any region of Nigeria at any time by way of the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme, run

²⁷⁰ Netherlands MoFA, ‘[General Country of Origin Information Report...](#)’ (section 2.2), January 2023

²⁷¹ NGConsulate, ‘[About Us](#)’, no date

²⁷² NGConsulate, ‘[Nigeria National Identification Number \(NIN\)](#)’, no date

by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and co-funded by the European Refugee Fund. The Programme provides assistance with obtaining travel documents, booking flights, and organising re-integration assistance in Nigeria, and is open to those awaiting an asylum decision or the outcome of an appeal, as well as failed asylum seekers. Upon arrival, returnees can receive immediate assistance such as food, medical screening, overnight accommodation and money (up to 100 Euros) [GBP85.54 at the rate prevailing on 27 February 2024²⁷³] for basic needs and transportation. Returnees can also receive in-kind re-integration assistance and skills training.

'The government allocated 100 billion naira (around AUD400 million) [GBP51.43 million at the rate prevailing on 27 February 2024²⁷⁴] in its 2019 Budget to projects that included re-integration efforts for returnees. Some states also offer monthly stipends for returnees. In August 2019, the government established the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, which aims to better coordinate rehabilitation and re-integration efforts.

'Nigerian citizens returning from overseas with a criminal record can be charged under Decree 33 of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act (1990). Decree 33 provides for the prosecution of Nigerian returning to Nigeria with criminal convictions from overseas, including those with drug convictions and other serious crimes (including money laundering, fraud, armed robbery and rape). The minimum sentence under Decree 33 is five years' imprisonment. In practice, DFAT understands the Nigerian Government has rarely given effect to Decree 33.'²⁷⁵

- 16.1.2 The Netherlands MoFA, in a 'Country of origin information report Nigeria' (Netherlands MoFA COI report 2021), dated March 2021, based on various sources, stated:

'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 ...'²⁷⁶

- 16.1.3 The Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023 noted: 'Confidential sources who were consulted stated that they were not aware of any cases of returning migrants having problems with the authorities on arrival in Abuja or Lagos ... However, one confidential source stated that the authorities sometimes questioned people on their return if they had left the country as an irregular migrant or if they were victims of human trafficking. The treatment by the authorities in certain states could also differ from Abuja or Lagos ...'²⁷⁷

- 16.1.4 See also the [Nigerian Immigration Service \(NIS\)](#) website.

²⁷³ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 27 February 2024

²⁷⁴ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 27 February 2024

²⁷⁵ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 3.3), 3 December 2020

²⁷⁶ Netherlands MoFA, '[Country of origin information report Nigeria](#)' (section 5) March 2021

²⁷⁷ Netherlands MoFA, '[General Country of Origin Information Report ...](#)' (section 5.1), January 2023

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16.2 Support for non-indigenes who relocate

- 16.2.1 Referring to the IRBC Research Directorate’s correspondence with academic sources, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 stated: ‘Sources indicated that there are no supports available to non-indigenous people who are relocating ([Redeemer’s University, Nigeria] Lecturer 2023-10-18; Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria] Professor 2023-10-17). Mang [of Nigerian Army University Biu, Borno State] states that for “most” Nigerians, there is “very little” assistance for individuals relocating and financial problems are the largest obstacle (2019-10-08).’²⁷⁸

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16.3 Sustainability of reintegration

- 16.3.1 The IDMC report 2021 stated:

‘As part of the Global Compact for [Safe, Orderly and Regular] Migration, [a UN agreement on a common approach to managing international migration], states [including Nigeria] have committed “to create conducive conditions for personal safety, economic empowerment, inclusion and social cohesion in communities, in order to ensure that reintegration of migrants upon return to their countries of origin is sustainable.”⁵⁰ In practice, many returning migrants face significant challenges.

‘Nearly three quarters of the returning migrants who participated in this study received some form of formal reintegration assistance upon return to Nigeria, most of whom received support from IOM...

‘Although the economic assistance provided to research participants in the current study varied, it generally involved a cash handout of approximately 100 USD [GBP78.69²⁷⁹] upon arrival to meet the migrants’ immediate needs, followed by vocational training and start-up assistance amounting to approximately 1,000 USD per person in order to set up a new business, often in partnership with other returnees...

‘While many returnees spend the initial cash handout on transport, accommodation or healthcare, other returnees noted that the handout was used instead to repay debts accrued during migration...

‘Perhaps the greatest challenge for returnees is the delay between the initial cash grant and the start-up assistance; in the interval, many returnees find themselves destitute.²⁸⁰ The report did not specify the number of returnees

²⁷⁸ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 4), 10 November 2023

²⁷⁹ Xe.com, [Currency converter](#), converted 13 December 2023

²⁸⁰ IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Reintegration assistance), July 2021

who had become destitute.

- 16.3.2 The same report stated: ‘In IOM’s survey of returnees, around two thirds of respondents reported that they never or only rarely borrow money.⁵²’ It also noted: ‘Over forty percent of returnees surveyed by IOM report receiving financial support from their family.⁵⁴²⁸¹
- 16.3.3 With regard to discrimination and its effects, the same source stated that over half of the returnees surveyed by the IOM reported having experienced at least occasional discrimination because of their status as returning migrants, and that this ‘contributes to feelings of shame among returnees’. However, 85% agreed or somewhat agreed that they feel part of the community where they currently live²⁸².
- 16.3.4 With regard to new displacement or secondary migration, the report noted that poverty, unemployment or insecurity can increase the risk of internal displacement for returning migrants and that 13 of the 105 returnees interviewed had been internally displaced for various reasons following their return.²⁸³
- 16.3.5 The report stated that ‘close to a third’ of the 105 returnees interviewed said they planned to travel abroad once more in the future, although many noted they would travel again only if they could do so through regular means²⁸⁴.
- 16.3.6 Of the returnees surveyed by IOM, 92% said they felt able to stay and live in Nigeria²⁸⁵.
- 16.3.7 For information on:
- unemployment among returnee migrants, see [Returnee migrants](#).
 - the situation for returnee victims of human trafficking, see the Country Policy and Information Note [Nigeria: Trafficking of women](#).

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²⁸¹ IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Social and psychological reintegration), July 2021

²⁸² IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Social and psychological reintegration), July 2021

²⁸³ IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Risk of internal displacement), July 2021

²⁸⁴ IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Risk of internal displacement), July 2021

²⁸⁵ IDMC, [‘Nigeria: returning migrants at risk...’](#) (Aspirations for future migration), July 2021

Annexe A: City and state information

17. Abuja and the Federal Capital Territory

17.1 Geography, population and demography

17.1.1 Abuja is the capital of Nigeria²⁸⁶, located in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)²⁸⁷. For map, see [States and regions](#).

17.1.2 Distances by road (shortest routes):

- Abuja to Lagos: 725 kilometres²⁸⁸
- Abuja to Ibadan: 595km²⁸⁹
- Abuja to Port Harcourt: 643km²⁹⁰
- Abuja to Kano: 430km²⁹¹

17.1.3 Population:

- Abuja: 3.84 million (2023 estimate)²⁹²
- FCT: 3.07 million (not including Abuja) (2020 projected figure for 2022)²⁹³

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17.2 Ethnicity

17.2.1 AllNews Nigeria, a Nigerian privately-owned digital news platform²⁹⁴, in an undated entry on its website titled 'History of Federal Capital Territory (FCT)', stated 'The majority of residents of Abuja are from the Middle Belt region of Nigeria, which includes states such as Nasarawa, Plateau, and Benue. There are also significant populations of Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo people, as well as other ethnic groups from different parts of Nigeria and neighbouring countries.'²⁹⁵

17.2.2 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, stated that the population of the Federal Capital Territory comprises the following ethnic groups: Gwari, Koro, Ganagana, Gwandara, Afo, Bassa²⁹⁶

17.2.3 Hausa and Fulani also live in the FCT²⁹⁷.

17.2.4 The DFAT report 2020 stated that official discrimination against non-indigenes when attempting to access government services, including university places or employment in the civil sector, does not apply in

²⁸⁶ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 12 December 2023

²⁸⁷ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Government), updated 12 December 2023

²⁸⁸ Google Maps, '[Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria to Lagos, Nigeria](#)', accessed 2 April 2024

²⁸⁹ Google Maps, '[Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria to Ibadan, Nigeria](#)', accessed 2 April 2024

²⁹⁰ Google Maps, '[Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria to Port Harcourt...](#)', accessed 2 April 2024

²⁹¹ Google Maps, '[Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria to Kano City ...](#)', accessed 2 April 2024

²⁹² CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 12 December 2023

²⁹³ Nigeria National Population Commission, '[Nigeria Population Projections](#)' (page 174), 5 May 2020

²⁹⁴ AllNews Nigeria, '[AllNews Nigeria Media Team](#)', no date

²⁹⁵ AllNews Nigeria, '[Federal Capital \(FCT\) History ...](#)', no date

²⁹⁶ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Federal Capital Territory \(FCT\)](#)', updated 13 December 2023

²⁹⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Federal Capital Territory \(FCT\)](#)', updated 13 December 2023

Abuja²⁹⁸.

- 17.2.5 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 reported that in correspondence with the IRBC's Research Directorate in October 2023, a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria commented that obstacles for non-indigenes moving to Abuja, among other cities, such as finding accommodation or securing employment, 'are not specific to non-indigenes but experienced by those relocating to a new city.'²⁹⁹
- 17.2.6 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 further stated that in correspondence with the IRBC's Research Directorate in 2019 that was resent to the Directorate in October 2023, Henry Gyang Mang, an academic at the Nigerian Army University Biu, Borno State, commented:
- 'Non-native settlement in states and areas such as Abuja in contemporary times is most convenient for Nigerians with not only a high level of formal education, but also with unique skills. Abuja is an example of a newly created city ... its emergence that is relatively recent makes it a city with so much regulation and control, even to the level of ethnic quotas. Most non-indigenes within Abuja are protected by the authority of the [Federal Capital Development Authority] and by the convenience of the Land Use Act of 1978 (modified in 2004), which rests the federal capital in the hands of the federal government, which gives more room for the practice and appreciation of federal character. This is not the same for other cities.'³⁰⁰
- 17.2.7 For more information on official and societal discrimination based on ethnicity, see [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#).

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17.3 Religion

- 17.3.1 The USSD IRF report 2023 state that Christians and Muslims reside in approximately equal numbers in the North Central region, where Abuja is located. Evangelical Christian denominations are growing rapidly in the North Central region. Abuja has a small Jewish community and a small Ahmadi Muslim presence³⁰¹.
- 17.3.2 Places of worship in Abuja include the Abuja National Mosque (Nigerian National Mosque)³⁰² and the Nigerian National Christian Centre (National Ecumenical Centre)³⁰³.

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17.4 Languages

- 17.4.1 There was no information on languages spoken specifically in Abuja, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)). For nationwide information, see [Languages](#).

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²⁹⁸ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 5.32), 3 December 2020

²⁹⁹ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

³⁰⁰ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

³⁰¹ USSD, '[International religious freedom – Nigeria](#)', 15 May 2023

³⁰² The Muslim Voice, Nigeria, '[The Nigerian Mosque: Abuja National Mosque](#)', 3 January 2023

³⁰³ Christian Association of Nigeria, '[National Christian Centre](#)', no date

17.5 Economic activity, employment and poverty/wealth

17.5.1 The Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, a Federal Government agency whose stated mission is '[t]o proactively position and promote Nigeria as the preferred investment haven'³⁰⁴, stated in an undated entry on its website: 'The strength of Abuja's economy is attributed to its diverse economic activities ranging from construction and real estate, tourism and leisure, agriculture and a dynamic service sector that includes infrastructure development.'³⁰⁵

17.5.2 BusinessDay stated in an article 'The Economics of Abuja: The good, the bad and the ugly' (BusinessDay economics article 2023), dated 18 September 2023:

'Over the years, a steady increase in demand for both residential and commercial properties have resulted in a construction boom that provided jobs for building construction artisans ...

"There is always a construction site to work in Abuja if you know the right people or if you have a history of good performance," Gad Ogwojah, a 21-year-old painter and tiler said ...

"If you get a good recommendation, you'll constantly be working. The problem is that clients or their contractors don't like to pay fair wages," he added."³⁰⁶

17.5.3 Heinrich Böll Stiftung, a German independent foundation with 'close ties to the German Green Party'³⁰⁷, in a 2023 publication 'Abuja: A City for All' (Heinrich Böll Stiftung Abuja publication 2023), stated:

'There is no deliberate economic development program [in Abuja] targeted at economic migrants or vulnerable groups. Nevertheless, economic migrants within the city often find employment in various sectors across different parts of the city, such as furniture making in Idu Industrial Area, agriculture in Kuje, technology hubs along the Airport Road, waste recycling businesses in the designated Gosa landfill area, and building materials trading activities in Jabi.'³⁰⁸

17.5.4 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, in their Federal Capital Territory entry, stated that agriculture is 'the economic mainstay' of the FCT³⁰⁹.

17.5.5 For more information on access to employment for non-indigenes in Abuja, see [Ethnicity](#).

17.5.6 With regard to unemployment and underemployment, the NBS, in a report 'Labor Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report (Q4 2020)', dated March 2021, stated that the FCT had an unemployment rate of 40.40% and an underemployment rate of 13.12%³¹⁰. National figures

³⁰⁴ NIPC, '[About NIPC – Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission](#)', no date

³⁰⁵ NIPC, '[FCT – Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission](#)', no date

³⁰⁶ BusinessDay, '[The Economics of Abuja: The good, the bad and the ugly](#)', 18 September 2023

³⁰⁷ Heinrich Böll Stiftung, '[Who we are](#)', no date

³⁰⁸ Heinrich Böll Stiftung, '[Abuja. A City for All](#)' (page 12), 25 September 2023

³⁰⁹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Federal Capital Territory \(FCT\)](#)', updated 13 December 2023

³¹⁰ NBS, '[Labor Force Statistics](#)' (page 80), March 2021

provided in the same report were 33.3% and 22.8%, respectively³¹¹. The data was presented in line with the NBS' old labour force methodology³¹². The NBS adopted a new methodology beginning with its Q4 2022 and Q1 2023 report³¹³.

- 17.5.7 For more information on methodology, see [Labour force participation and unemployment](#).
- 17.5.8 There was no state-by-state information on unemployment and underemployment using the new NBS methodology, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).
- 17.5.9 With regard to poverty NBS poverty report 2019 classified 38.66% of residents of the FCT as living in poverty³¹⁴. The national figure was 40.09%³¹⁵.
- 17.5.10 The NBS MPI 2022 classified 52.1% of FCT residents aged 0 to 17 and 45.4% of residents aged 18 or over as multidimensionally poor³¹⁶. The national figures were 65.5% and 58.7%, respectively³¹⁷.
- 17.5.11 For more information on NBS methodology and definitions, see [Poverty, wealth and inequality](#).
- 17.5.12 The African Vibes article 2020 described the Maitama district of Abuja as one of the 'wealthiest neighbourhoods in Nigeria'³¹⁸. It did not define 'wealthy'.

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17.6 Housing and living conditions

- 17.6.1 Abuja was one of the cities visited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing in September 2019, after which her report described Nigeria's housing sector as being 'in complete crisis'³¹⁹.
- 17.6.2 For more information on the Special Rapporteur's findings, see [Housing](#).
- 17.6.3 The BusinessDay economics article 2023 stated: 'Despite the [construction] boom [in Abuja], houses in the city are expensive and unaffordable to many who can neither buy nor rent.'³²⁰
- 17.6.4 Chukwuemeka Ifegwu Eke, senior lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Abuja, in an unpublished paper 'Inequality, Conflicts and the Nigerian Economy: The Case of Abuja's slums', dated 8 December 2023, stated: 'Inequality in Abuja is evident in the stark contrast between the affluent neighborhoods and the sprawling slums. The city is home to some of Nigeria's wealthiest individuals, who live in luxurious mansions with access to all amenities. On the other hand, there are vast areas where people

³¹¹ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 3), March 2021

³¹² NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (pages 8 to 10), March 2021

³¹³ NBS, [Press release on the Nigeria Labour Force survey](#), 24 August 2023

³¹⁴ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

³¹⁵ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

³¹⁶ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 30), November 2022

³¹⁷ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 46), November 2022

³¹⁸ African Vibes, '[See These 10 Wealthiest Neighborhoods In Nigeria](#)', 16 October 2020

³¹⁹ OHCHR, '[... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...](#)' (page 7), 3 January 2020

³²⁰ BusinessDay, '[The Economics of Abuja: The good, the bad and the ugly](#)', 18 September 2023

struggle to meet their basic needs, lacking proper housing ...³²¹

- 17.6.5 With regard to the FCT, Amnesty International, in a statement dated 15 November 2023, stated: 'In the Federal Capital Territory, communities such as Durumi 3, Iddo Sarki, Nepa Junction Gudu, Mpape, Katampe and Lugbe have been subjected to forced evictions, while several others are under threats ...'³²²
- 17.6.6 The Heinrich Böll Stiftung Abuja publication 2023 stated that in FCT areas outside Abuja, 'development [is] guided by individual discretion without much regulation, making cheap accommodation readily available. These locations remain major transit or trapping points for migrants to Abuja, who may stay there as long as required to find economic opportunities. Some of the locations include Dutse Alhaji, Gwagwalada, and some parts of Kubwa.'³²³
- 17.6.7 With regard to basic amenities, the NBS living standards survey 2020 reported that 69.5% of households in the FCT had access to electricity. Supply was available for 12 hours or less a day³²⁴.
- 17.6.8 The NBS MPI 2022 reported that 46% of households in the FCT had no access to clean drinking water and 63% had no access to sanitary facilities³²⁵.

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17.7 Healthcare

- 17.7.1 The UK FCDO listed medical facilities, including a children's clinic, in Abuja, in an [entry on its website](#), updated 17 April 2024.
- 17.7.2 The Daily Post, a Nigerian privately-owned newspaper, in an article dated 7 March 2021, reported: '[Then-]President Muhammadu Buhari has directed the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Health Insurance Scheme, FHIS, to ensure that all Abuja residents are covered under the scheme.' It quoted FCT Minister Malam Muhammad Bello as stating that the president's mandate applied to 'every citizen in the FCT, either in the formal or informal sector'³²⁶
- 17.7.3 There was no information on the number of Abuja residents covered under the scheme, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).

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17.8 Education

- 17.8.1 The MICS survey report 2021 stated that, in the FCT, 91% of children completed primary school, 86% completed lower secondary school and 67% completed upper secondary school³²⁷.
- 17.8.2 The University of Abuja (UofA) website stated that the UofA is a federal

³²¹ Eke, CI, '[... Inequality, Conflicts and the Nigerian economy ...](#)' (Introduction), 8 December 2023

³²² AI, '[Nigeria: Human rights agenda 2023](#)', 15 November 2023

³²³ Heinrich Böll Stiftung, '[Abuja, A City for All](#)' (page 11), 25 September 2023

³²⁴ NBS, '[Living Standards Survey](#)' (page 87-88), July 2020

³²⁵ NBS, '[Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#)' (page 68-69), November 2022

³²⁶ Daily Post, '[FHIS: All Abuja residents must have health insurance](#)', 7 March 2021

³²⁷ NBS/UNICEF, '[2021 MICS statistical snapshots](#)' (page 50), 24 August 2022

university with a student body of 55,364 and 3,362 staff³²⁸. A search for 'Abuja' among the private universities listed on the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NNU) website showed 10 private universities in Abuja³²⁹.

- 17.8.3 For information on access to education for non-indigenes in Abuja, see [Ethnicity](#).

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17.9 Social support

- 17.9.1 For nationwide information on social support provided by the state, see [Social support / protection](#).

- 17.9.2 For information on the FCT Health Insurance Scheme, see [Healthcare](#).

- 17.9.3 With regard to civic society support, the Joint National Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD) operates in the FCT (and in all Nigerian states), and its activities include fundraising and 'training of members on livelihood schemes and relevant skills in collaboration with relevant government agencies'³³⁰.

- 17.9.4 The Child and Youth Protection Foundation (CYPF) is an Abuja-based NGO whose projects include an Education Support Scheme that supports families by paying children's school fees and providing mentoring³³¹.

- 17.9.5 Abuja Moms Empowerment Foundation is 'a non-profitable Abuja-based organization providing support to Women and children all around Abuja'³³² whose projects support low-income families, such as by providing school uniforms and shoes for children and monetary grants for widows³³³.

- 17.9.6 Anawim Homes, based in Gwagwalada in the FCT, is an NGO that 'restor[es] the human dignity of the poorest of the poor in our society ... ' whose work includes operating a homeless shelter³³⁴.

- 17.9.7 For information on other civil society organisations operating in Abuja and the FCT, see the NNGO's [NGOs Directory by State](#).

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17.10 Food security

- 17.10.1 A FEWS NET map of projected acute food insecurity for February to May 2024 showed food insecurity in Abuja was classified as 'minimal'³³⁵.

- 17.10.2 The same map showed food insecurity in the FCT was classified as 'minimal' apart from a narrow area along the FCT's border with Kogi and Benue states, which was classified as 'stressed'³³⁶.

³²⁸ UofA, '[About Us](#)', no date

³²⁹ NUC, '[Private Universities](#)', accessed 22 April 2024

³³⁰ JONAPWD, '[Programs](#)', no date

³³¹ CYPF, '[Education Support Scheme](#)', no date

³³² Abuja Moms, '[About Our Organization](#)', no date

³³³ Abuja Moms, '[Projects](#)', no date

³³⁴ Anawim Homes, '[Anawim Homes](#)', no date

³³⁵ FEWS NET, '[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)', no date

³³⁶ FEWS NET, '[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)', no date

17.10.3 For the map and more information, see [Food security](#).

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17.11 Insecurity and crime

17.11.1 Human Rights Watch, in an article dated 9 August 2022, reported:

‘A series of attacks and threats within close proximity of Nigeria’s seat of government in Abuja by Islamist and other armed groups are causing fear and apprehension among citizens in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and across the country, Human Rights Watch said today.

‘The Nigeria Police Force has assured citizens that it has scaled up security in the federal region, which includes Abuja, but these attacks and threats, even to kidnap the president, indicate an alarming deterioration of the nation’s security situation.’³³⁷

17.11.2 The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in ‘General Country of Origin Information Report Nigeria’ (Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023), dated January 2023, covering the period April 2021 to December 2022, based on various sources including information obtained from a fact-finding mission to Nigeria in October 2022, stated:

‘According to a confidential source, the federal government and the states gave priority in terms of the security situation to the country’s political centres, such as Abuja, Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt ... Nevertheless, there were major security concerns in two of Nigeria’s largest cities in 2022: Lagos and Abuja ...

‘Abuja, the national capital, has the reputation of being the best-protected city in Nigeria. Even so, there were several security incidents in 2022... [I]n July 2022, ISWAP carried out an attack on a prison in Kuje, a suburb of Abuja, fifty kilometres from the presidential palace ... On 28 September 2022, ten people, including three women, were kidnapped from the capital ... A month later, in October 2022, several Western embassies issued security alerts, and the US arranged for the family members of embassy staff to return to the US. The Nigerian authorities called the security alerts unnecessary hype, but the police did announce that they were increasing their preparedness ... On 7 December 2022, seven people were kidnapped in an attack on a residential area in Abuja. Two of them managed to escape ...’³³⁸

17.11.3 With regard to kidnappings in Abuja, Nextier, in an article dated 17 July 2023, stated: ‘Data from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database also reveal that kidnap in the capital is rising, with two recorded incidents in May 2023 and three incidents in June 2023. In the latest incident on July 16th 2023, two people were kidnapped in the Mpape area. From January 2021 till June 30th, 2023, 40 kidnapping cases have been recorded in FCT Abuja with 236 victims.’³³⁹

17.11.4 The same source stated: ‘... [R]ecent trends indicate kidnapping incidents [in

³³⁷ HRW, ‘[Nigeria: Insecurity Grips Nation’s Capital](#)’, 9 August 2022

³³⁸ Netherlands MoFA, ‘[General Country of Origin Information...](#)’ (section 1.2.3.7), January 2023

³³⁹ Nextier, ‘[Kidnapping in The Capital](#)’, 17 July 2023

Abuja] have increased in frequency. This can be seen from a comparison of the first six months in 2022 which recorded 48 victims from 9 incidents, while 2023 recorded 89 kidnap victims from 11 incidents between January 1st and June 30th.³⁴⁰

17.11.5 Nextier, in an article dated 9 January 2024, stated:

‘The surge in ransom kidnappings within Abuja, Nigeria’s capital, has plunged its populace into a profound sense of fear and instability ...

‘The uptick in Abuja’s ransom kidnappings manifests in diverse forms, ranging from the notorious “one chance” highway abductions perpetrated by criminals posing as public transport drivers to home invasions, significantly impacting ordinary citizens across society. Recent data from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database highlights 13 kidnap incidents and 80 victims in Abuja reported since October 2023 ...’³⁴¹

17.11.6 The BBC, in an article dated 15 January 2024, reported that a student had been killed after she, her 5 sisters and their father were abducted from their home on the outskirts of Abuja³⁴². It reported in an article dated 22 January 2024 that the father had been released, followed by the sisters upon payment of a ransom, and that Abuja’s police force had set up a special squad to tackle kidnapping gangs³⁴³.

17.11.7 With regard to fatalities, the Nigeria Watch database, filtered for ‘political issue’ fatalities in ‘FCT (Abuja)’ from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, documented **one fatality**. Filtered for ‘land issue’ and ‘cattle grazing’ fatalities in ‘FCT (Abuja)’ during the same period, the database recorded a total of **7 fatalities**. Filtered for ‘crime’ (‘all other fatal criminal incidents except political, religious, market, land, cattle and sorcery issues’³⁴⁴) in ‘FCT (Abuja)’ during the same period, the database recorded **131 fatalities**³⁴⁵. The database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities.

17.11.8 ACLED’s datasets on violence against civilians, where ‘an organised armed group deliberately inflicts violence upon non-combatants’ – ‘Abduction/force disappearance’; ‘Attack’; ‘Sexual violence’ – for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Federal Capital Territory’, documented **80 ‘events’ and 43 fatalities**³⁴⁶.

17.11.9 The ACLED dataset for all forms of political violence – Battles; Explosions/Remote violence; Violence against civilians; Protests; Riots; and Strategic developments (‘Strategically important instances of non-violent activity by conflict actors and other agents within the context of conflict or broader political disorder’³⁴⁷) – involving combat and civilian actors for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Federal Capital Territory’, documented

³⁴⁰ Nextier, ‘[Kidnapping in The Capital](#)’, 17 July 2023

³⁴¹ Nextier, ‘[Abuja’s Kidnapping Quagmire](#)’, 9 January 2024

³⁴² BBC, ‘[Nabeeha kidnap: Nigeria’s first lady ‘devastated’ by death...](#)’, 15 January 2024

³⁴³ BBC, ‘[Abuja sisters’ kidnapping: Nigeria police did not free them...](#)’, 22 January 2024

³⁴⁴ Nigeria Watch, ‘[Methodology](#)’, no date

³⁴⁵ Nigeria Watch, ‘[List event](#)’, accessed 23 April 2024

³⁴⁶ ACLED, ‘[Dashboard](#)’, accessed 22 April 2024

³⁴⁷ ACLED, ‘[Quick Guide to ACLED Data](#)’, updated March 2023

241 'events' and 86 fatalities³⁴⁸.

17.11.10 For information on the Nigeria Watch and ACLED definitions and methodologies, see [Insecurity and crime](#).

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17.12 Freedom of movement

17.12.1 The UK FCDO, in travel advice for UK citizens on its website, updated 26 January 2024, stated: 'Criminal groups may kidnap victims by stopping cars on major highways, including the: Abuja-Kaduna highway'³⁴⁹.

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17.13 Treatment of returnees

17.13.1 The Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023 stated: 'Confidential sources who were consulted stated that they were not aware of any cases of returning migrants having problems with the authorities on arrival in Abuja or Lagos ... However, one confidential source stated that the authorities sometimes questioned people on their return if they had left the country as an irregular migrant or if they were victims of human trafficking.'³⁵⁰

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18. Lagos City and Lagos State

18.1 Geography, population and demography

18.1.1 For map, see [States and regions](#).

18.1.2 The city of Lagos is located in Lagos State in the South West of Nigeria. It is the former capital and the country's largest urban region³⁵¹.

18.1.3 Distances by road (shortest routes):

- Lagos to Abuja: 709km³⁵²
- Lagos to Ibadan: 131km³⁵³
- Lagos to Port Harcourt: 606km³⁵⁴
- Lagos to Kano: 991km³⁵⁵

18.1.4 Population:

- Lagos City: almost 16 million (2023 estimate)³⁵⁶
- Lagos State: 13.50 million (excluding Lagos City) (2020 projection for 2022)³⁵⁷

³⁴⁸ ACLED, '[Dashboard](#)', accessed 22 April 2024

³⁴⁹ UK FCDO, '[Safety and security - Nigeria travel advice](#)', 26 January 2024

³⁵⁰ Netherlands MoFA, '[General Country of Origin Information Report ...](#)' (section 5.1), January 2023

³⁵¹ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Introduction), variously updated

³⁵² Google Maps, '[Lagos, Nigeria to Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria](#)', accessed 26 April 2024

³⁵³ Google Maps, '[Lagos, Nigeria to Ibadan, Nigeria](#)', accessed 26 April 2024

³⁵⁴ Google Maps, '[Lagos, Nigeria to Port Harcourt, Nigeria](#)', 26 April 2024

³⁵⁵ Google Maps, '[Lagos, Nigeria to Kano, Nigeria - Google Maps](#)', 2 April 2024

³⁵⁶ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 12 December 2023

³⁵⁷ Nigeria National Population Commission, '[Nigeria Population Projections](#)' (page 122), 5 May 2020

18.2 Ethnicity

- 18.2.1 The Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an undated 'Culture' section on its website, stated that in the South West region, where Lagos is located, the Yoruba ethnicity is 'predominant'³⁵⁸.
- 18.2.2 Philomina U Ofuafo, lecturer at the University of Lagos' Department of Religious Studies, in an article 'Lagos: the melting pot of African traditional religion and other foreign religions in Nigeria' (Ofuafo 2019), in the journal *Lwati: A Journal of Contemporary Research*, dated 27 September 2019, quoted former governor of Lagos State Akinwunmi Ambode as saying in 2017: 'Our greatness is in our ability to be the melting pot for all cultures and as at today, there is no tribe in Nigeria that is not represented in Lagos. From the Hausa/Fulani to the Igbo to the Kanuri to the Ibibio, the Nupe, the Berom, the Igala, the Urhobo and so on and so forth all have spaces to live and live well in our dear State.'³⁵⁹
- 18.2.3 The Lagos State Government, in an undated entry on its website, stated: 'Lagos State is essentially a Yoruba environment inhabited by its sub-nationality of Aworis and Ogus in Ikeja and Badagry Divisions respectively, with the Ogus being found mainly in Badagry and the Awori forming the indigenous population of Lagos where there are, nevertheless, other pioneer immigrant settlers – Edos, Saros, Brazilians, Kannike/Tapa, etc collectively called Lagosians but more appropriately referred to as the Ekos. For Ikorodu and Epe Divisions, the local populations are mainly the Remos and Ijebus with pockets of Eko-Awori settlers along the entire State coastland and riverine areas. However, despite its Yoruba indigeneity, the State is a global socio-cultural melting pot attracting Nigerians, Africans and foreigners alike ...'³⁶⁰
- 18.2.4 With regard to ethnic enclaves, Taibat Lawanson, professor of urban management and governance at the University of Lagos, in a podcast transcript (ACRC podcast transcript 2022) dated 6 December 2022 on the website of the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC), a UK FCDO-funded consortium led by the University of Manchester³⁶¹, observed: 'With regards to ethnicity, I will say that what we find is that while the city is the cosmopolitan and heterogeneous city, it's also the city that manifests spatially as an agglomeration of ethnic enclaves, whereby you find the Hausa-Fulani-speaking people in Obalende and Agege. You find the Igbos in the Ojo Alaba area, you find the Niger Delta people living close to the waterfront communities of Ajegunle, Ajeromi-ifelodun and the like, you find Ijebu people living in Somolu ...'³⁶²
- 18.2.5 In relation to discrimination, the DFAT report 2020 stated that official discrimination against non-indigenes when attempting to access government services, including university places or employment in the civil sector, does

³⁵⁸ Nigerian MoFA, '[Culture](#)', no date

³⁵⁹ Ofuafo, PU, *Lwati*, [Lagos: the melting pot ...](#) (pages 150, 151), 27 September 2019

³⁶⁰ Lagos State Government, '[About Lagos](#)', no date

³⁶¹ ACRC, '[About](#)', no date

³⁶² ACRC, '[Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#)', 6 December 2022

not apply in Lagos³⁶³.

- 18.2.6 The IRBC RIR of November 2023 reported that in correspondence with the IRBC's Research Directorate in October 2023, a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria commented that obstacles for non-indigenes moving to Lagos, among other cities, such as finding accommodation or securing employment, 'are not specific to non-indigenes but experienced by those relocating to a new city.'³⁶⁴
- 18.2.7 With regard to employment for non-indigenes, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 stated that in correspondence with the IRBC's Research Directorate in 2019 that was resent to the Directorate in October 2023, Henry Gyang Mang, an academic at the Nigerian Army University Biu, Borno State, noted: 'Lagos ... has had a long history of accommodating non-indigenes, mostly the Igbo, who have since the early 1900s lived in the area. ... The Cosmopolitan nature of the city began to raise fears among the Yoruba who saw the potential of losing out, both as an identity group and as a political force. These fears and the subsequent actions, which were taken introduced into the nationalist sphere in Nigeria, the dangerous but pertinent spell of ethnic nationalism.'³⁶⁵
- 18.2.8 For information on insecurity and crime in Lagos City and Lagos State, see [Insecurity and crime](#).

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18.3 Religion

- 18.3.1 Ofuafu (2019) noted: '[Lagos] is perhaps the only state where 12 to 15 religious worship centres – churches and mosques are found on the same street. Amid the expansive influence of Christianity and Islam, traditional religious practices still find a space ...
- 'In actual fact, Lagos is reputed for religious tolerance among and between believers and practitioners of the various faiths ... '³⁶⁶
- 18.3.2 The same source reported: 'Christianity is the most popular and most advertised religion in Lagos.'³⁶⁷
- 18.3.3 The USSD IRF report 2022 stated: 'Christianity is the dominant religion in the South West, including Lagos, which is also home to significant Muslim populations.' The same source reported that Lagos also has a small Jewish community³⁶⁸.

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18.4 Languages

- 18.4.1 The BBC language article 2023 stated: 'Lagos' local language is Yoruba, but

³⁶³ DFAT, [Country Information Reports - Nigeria](#) (section 5.32), 3 December 2020

³⁶⁴ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

³⁶⁵ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

³⁶⁶ Ofuafu, PU, Lwati, [Lagos: the melting pot ...](#) (page 151), 27 September 2019

³⁶⁷ Ofuafu, PU, Lwati, [Lagos: the melting pot ...](#) (page 156), 27 September 2019

³⁶⁸ USSD, ['International religious freedom – Nigeria'](#), 15 May 2023

as it is the country's commercial hub, people who speak other languages have also moved there and still speak their mother tongue.³⁶⁹

- 18.4.2 The same source described English and Pidgin as 'the lingua franca[s] in the ethnically diverse city of Lagos'³⁷⁰.
- 18.4.3 Lawanson, in the ACRC podcast transcript 2022, stated that for those coming to Lagos after fleeing insurgency, '[t]here's a language barrier'. He did not give further information about this statement³⁷¹.

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18.5 Economic activity, employment and poverty/wealth

- 18.5.1 The Lagos State Government, in an undated entry on its website, stated:
'Lagos State plays a pivotal role in the Nigerian economy and as a nation's commercial nerve centre, remains the focal point of economic activities. The Lagos Gross Domestic Product [GDP] accounted for 26.7% of Nigeria's total GDP and more than 50% of non-oil GDP. Over 50% of Nigeria's non-oil industrial capacity is located in Lagos. Lagos is also Nigeria's financial hub with all major banks having their headquarters in the City. It is also home to the Nigerian Stock Exchange [NSE].'³⁷²
- 18.5.2 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, in an entry 'Lagos', updated 11 April 2024, noted that the main business district occupied Lagos Island's southwestern shore and was a centre of 'commerce, finance, administration, and education.' The same source stated: 'The principal manufacturing industries in Lagos include the production of electronics equipment, automobile assembly, food and beverage processing, metalworks, and the production of paints and soap. Textile, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical manufacturing are also economically important. There is a fishing industry as well.'³⁷³
- 18.5.3 With regard to migrants arriving in the city of Lagos, Lawanson, in the ACRC podcast transcript 2022, commented:
'... We find that for those who are coming as economic migrants, particularly those who are coming in from areas in Nigeria, south western region, they are able to effectively integrate into the existing urban system and are largely sucked into the informal economy ... For those who are fleeing insurgency and consider Lagos to be a city of refuge, the situation is a bit different. These are primarily IDPs, internally displaced persons, and they are unable to integrate properly into the urban system, largely because of the fact that their skills are largely rural and agrarian ...'³⁷⁴
- 18.5.4 With regard to unemployment and underemployment, the NBS, in a report 'Labor Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report (Q4 2020)', dated March 2021, stated that Lagos State had an unemployment rate of 37.14% and an underemployment rate of 4.52% (the lowest

³⁶⁹ BBC, '[Nigerian schools: Flogged for speaking my mother tongue](#)', 7 January 2023

³⁷⁰ BBC, '[Nigerian schools: Flogged for speaking my mother tongue](#)', 7 January 2023

³⁷¹ ACRC, '[Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#)', 6 December 2022

³⁷² Lagos State Government, '[About Lagos](#)', no date

³⁷³ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Lagos](#)', updated 13 December 2023

³⁷⁴ ACRC, '[Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#)', 6 December 2022

underemployment rate for any state³⁷⁵)³⁷⁶. National figures provided in the same report were 33.3% and 22.8%, respectively³⁷⁷. The data was presented in line with the NBS' old labour force methodology³⁷⁸. The NBS adopted a new methodology beginning with its Q4 2022 and Q1 2023 report³⁷⁹.

- 18.5.5 There was no state-by-state information on unemployment and underemployment using the new NBS methodology, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).
- 18.5.6 With regard to poverty, the NBS poverty report 2019 classified 4.5% of residents of Lagos State as living in poverty. The national figure was 40.09%³⁸⁰.
- 18.5.7 The NBS MPI 2022 classified 29.4% of people in Lagos State as multidimensionally poor³⁸¹. The national figure was 63%³⁸².
- 18.5.8 For more information on NBS methodology and definitions, see [Poverty, wealth and inequality](#).
- 18.5.9 With regard to wealth, 4 neighbourhoods in Lagos state were among those listed in the African Vibes article 2020 as being the 10 'wealthiest' in Nigeria. They included Banana Island in Lagos State, 'home to some notable Nigerians and corporates in various sectors', and Lekki Phase 1 in Lekki city, 'a prominent residential, commercial, and industrial district in Lagos State ... the heart of relaxation and fun activities for most Lagosians and tourists'. The article did not provide statistics or define wealth³⁸³.
- 18.5.10 For the full list of neighbourhoods, see the [African Vibes article 2020](#).

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18.6 Housing and living conditions

- 18.6.1 Lagos was one of the cities visited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing in September 2019, after which her report described Nigeria's housing sector as being 'in complete crisis'³⁸⁴.
- 18.6.2 The UN SR 2019 report further stated: 'The Special Rapporteur observed people living under bridges in Lagos and many in informal settlements in conditions equivalent to homelessness.'³⁸⁵
- 18.6.3 For more information on the Special Rapporteur's findings, see [Housing](#).
- 18.6.4 The DW video report 2022 stated: 'Makoko, possibly the biggest floating slum in the world, is just a 15-minute drive away from Lagos Island, the central business district where most Nigerian celebrities and billionaires

³⁷⁵ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 4), March 2021

³⁷⁶ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 67), March 2021

³⁷⁷ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 3), March 2021

³⁷⁸ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (pages 8 to 10), March 2021

³⁷⁹ NBS, [Press release on the Nigeria Labour Force survey](#), 24 August 2023

³⁸⁰ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

³⁸¹ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 31), November 2022

³⁸² NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 22), November 2022

³⁸³ African Vibes, '[See These 10 Wealthiest Neighborhoods In Nigeria](#)', 16 October 2020

³⁸⁴ OHCHR, '[... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...](#)' (page 7), 3 January 2020

³⁸⁵ OHCHR, '[... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...](#)' (page 10), 3 January 2020

live.³⁸⁶

- 18.6.5 The World Bank, in a report ‘Lagos Diagnostic Study and Pathway for Transformation – A Rapid Multi-Sector Analytical Review of the Mega-City’, dated 1 June 2023, based on various sources, stated:

‘Lagos is doing poorly in all indicators of livability and services ...

- ... [I]t is ranked among the lowest cities for livability.
- Only 14% of households receive steady, reliable supply of electricity (>8 hours per day).
- Housing deficit of ~3.3 million units, with 50-75% of the population living in informal housing.
- Only 35% of the population has access to the public water supply; only 5% is connected to the public sewerage system.
- Waste collection rate is 20-30% and only 13% of recyclable waste is recycled. Dumpsites, most notably the Olusosun site, are far overloaded.³⁸⁷

- 18.6.6 Bloomberg UK, in an article ‘How Face-Me-I-Face-You Homes Became a Way of Life in Lagos’, dated 5 May 2022, stated:

‘Originally housing for Nigeria’s upper class, these homes have become overcrowded tenements often in disrepair ...

‘It’s a tenement whose vivid name expresses many residents’ love/hate relationship with it: the Face-Me-I-Face-You. Typically a one- or two-story house with rooms grouped around a gloomy central lobby, the structure features rooms whose doors face one another across an axial corridor— so that the first thing neighbors leaving in the morning see is each other. Found in Lagos’ core right to the outskirts of the city, these buildings were originally intended as individual houses for large families; today most are tenements for mixed groups of low-income renters, with shared kitchens and bathrooms in a separate service building behind the main house.³⁸⁸

- 18.6.7 The article further stated that after such houses began to be broken up into smaller units from the 1990s:

‘In time, the Face-Me-I-Face-You came to reflect the rapid, unequal urbanization experienced across Lagos as a whole. They became homes to diverse ethnic groups from around the country migrating to Lagos, leaving tenants previously unfamiliar with each other in a state of social tension ...

‘And yet, while this type of housing is now often overcrowded and in poor condition, it still offers some advantages that aren’t found in contemporary housing. The broad, spacious balconies of older Face-Me-I-Face-You offer possibilities for a vibrant public life — not just owambes [parties welcoming everyone – a feature of the Yoruba culture, according to the article] but daily street leisure and house-to-house conversations. These are absent from many contemporary Nigerian houses, which have small balconies that can’t

³⁸⁶ DW, ‘[Inequality in Nigeria](#)’, 25 August 2022

³⁸⁷ World Bank, ‘[Lagos Diagnostic Study and Pathway ...](#)’, 1 June 2023

³⁸⁸ Bloomberg UK, ‘[History and Design of Lagos ...](#)’, 5 May 2022

truly extend interior spaces and often have high fence walls that keep them isolated.³⁸⁹

18.6.8 Lawanson, in the ACRC podcast transcript 2022, noted that economic migrants largely settled in the city's informal settlements, adding that those fleeing insurgency or terrorism 'tend to agglomerate more in enclaves in informal shack settlements in the city's peripheral areas, thus developing a new set of slums for Lagos.'³⁹⁰

18.6.9 The same source further stated:

'In Lagos we have one or two formal IDP camps and then we have a lot of self-settled IDP communities, as at the last count they were getting close to 18. And that's primarily because IDPs are unable to fully integrate or properly integrate into communities. So you find a situation where they are now constituting the homeless population in our city. Under a lot of the public spaces, under the bridges, by the roadside, you find colonies of these IDPs that settled there. You find also in the city peri urban axis, you find quite a few communities in the Lekki Epe axis and in the Ikorodu and Badagry axis. These colonies of migrants that are settling there and creating new informal settlements, which becomes an urban problem, particularly since a city like Lagos has over 140 slum communities that it's working hard towards regenerating ...'³⁹¹

18.6.10 In the same podcast transcript, Sa'eed Husaini, research fellow at the University of Ghana, Legon and at the independent, non-profit³⁹² Centre for Democracy and Development in Abuja, noted that as well as economic motivations driving migration to Lagos, 'you also have familial motivations ... It's kind of assumed that you will find a family member somewhere in Lagos, if you head there.'³⁹³

18.6.11 With regard to renting, the NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 stated: 'The largest share of households who rent is in Lagos – 68.3 percent.'³⁹⁴

18.6.12 The BusinessDay editorial 2022 stated:

'... [E]ven in the hinterlands of the country's big cities, especially Lagos, renters in the last 12 to 24 months have seen over 40 percent increase in their last rent ...

'In low- and mid-income locations of Lagos such as Surulere, Yaba, Ilupeju, Gbagada, Egbeda, Ejigbo, Okota, the situation is worse. In these locations, landlords are brazen in increasing rents. In most of these locations, tenants have seen over 50 percent rise in rent.'³⁹⁵

18.6.13 The BBC, in an article dated 14 May 2021, reported: 'Lagos's property market is notoriously crowded, but it's also patriarchal; in general landlords do not like renting to single women.' The article explained that 'many' women use a male friend or relative to pretend to be in a long-term relationship with

³⁸⁹ Bloomberg UK, [History and Design of Lagos ...](#), 5 May 2022

³⁹⁰ ACRC, [Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#), 6 December 2022

³⁹¹ ACRC, [Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#), 6 December 2022

³⁹² CDD-West Africa, [About CDD](#), no date

³⁹³ ACRC, [Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#), 6 December 2022

³⁹⁴ NBS, [Living Standards Survey](#) (page 75), July 2020

³⁹⁵ BusinessDay, [Rent: the monster in most Nigerian households](#), 22 February 2022

them and deal with the landlord on their behalf. However, ‘New tech start-ups have begun offering accommodation solutions that bypass more traditional rental structures – including the preference to do business with men. Some landlords are also becoming more pragmatic.’ The article noted, however, that ‘This shift is taking time.’³⁹⁶

18.6.14 With regard to documentation for owners, the NBS Living Standards Survey 2020 stated: ‘The highest prevalence of ownership certificate is in Lagos – 22.9 percent.’³⁹⁷

18.6.15 In relation to evictions, the AI Nigeria agenda 2023 stated:

‘Regarding violations of the right to adequate housing, between 24 July to 1 August 2023, the Lagos State government forcibly evicted thousands of residents of Oke-Eri, Oluwaseyi, Cornerstone, Ogo-Oluwa and other communities of Oworonshoki, without consultation and adequate notice and left more than 7,000 buildings either burned or demolished ... Residents were not provided with any alternative accommodation and were therefore rendered homeless.’³⁹⁸

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18.7 Healthcare

18.7.1 The UK FCDO listed medical facilities in Lagos State, including in Lagos City, in an [entry on its website](#), updated 17 April 2024.

18.7.2 Husaini, in the ACRC podcast transcript 2022, commented: ‘[Lagos] city residents with a high level of income, there are more options ... In terms of the private healthcare market, which has been quite well developed in Lagos over the years. Whereas for migrants or citizens, longer-term residents who aren’t in that income bracket, then the options are a little thinner.’³⁹⁹

18.7.3 Lagos State’s Health Facilities Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA) stated in an undated entry on its website that it ‘is charged with the responsibility of monitoring both private and public health facilities to ensure registration and accreditation of all health facilities in Lagos State’⁴⁰⁰.

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18.8 Education

18.8.1 The MICS survey report 2021 stated that, in Lagos State, 98% of children completed primary school, 89% completed lower secondary school and 85% completed upper secondary school⁴⁰¹.

18.8.2 The NUC website featured entries for federal, state and private universities in Lagos State⁴⁰².

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³⁹⁶ BBC, ‘[The megacity where single women lie to rent flats](#)’, 14 May 2021

³⁹⁷ NBS, [Living Standards Survey](#) (page 75), July 2020

³⁹⁸ AI, ‘[Nigeria: Human rights agenda 2023](#)’, 15 November 2023

³⁹⁹ ACRC, ‘[Migration, politics and urban governance in Lagos](#)’, 6 December 2022

⁴⁰⁰ HEFAMAA, ‘[Home](#)’, no date

⁴⁰¹ NBS/UNICEF, ‘[2021 MICS statistical snapshots](#)’ (page 50), 24 August 2022

⁴⁰² NUC, ‘[National Universities Commission](#)’, no date

18.9 Social support

- 18.9.1 For nationwide information on social support provided by the state, see [Social support / protection](#).
- 18.9.2 With regard to civic society support, the Centre for Happy Elderly People (CHEP) is an NGO based in Lagos State with ‘a commitment and dedication to advancing the cause of the elderly in Nigeria’. Its activities include ‘advocacy, enlightenment campaigns [and] workshops’ as well as operating a care home⁴⁰³.
- 18.9.3 Lagos Food Bank Initiative is ‘a non-profit, nutrition-focused initiative committed to fighting hunger, reducing food waste and solving the problem of malnutrition...’⁴⁰⁴ Its activities include providing food during school hours to children in low-income communities⁴⁰⁵ and a job placement programme ‘to reduce unemployment and underemployment by providing job opportunities and resources to beneficiaries to enable them to become self-reliant and gainfully employed’⁴⁰⁶.
- 18.9.4 The Fair Life Africa Foundation, based in Lekki, Lagos State, is a non-profit NGO whose projects include sponsoring the education of primary and secondary school students and providing scholarships to undergraduates⁴⁰⁷.
- 18.9.5 For information on other civil society organisations operating in Lagos City and Lagos State, see the NNGO’s [NGOs Directory by State](#).

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18.10 Food security

- 18.10.1 A FEWS NET map of projected acute food insecurity for February to May 2024 showed food insecurity in Lagos State was classified as ‘minimal’⁴⁰⁸.
- 18.10.2 For the map and more information, see [Food security](#).

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18.11 Insecurity and crime

- 18.11.1 The Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023 stated:

‘According to a confidential source, the federal government and the states gave priority in terms of the security situation to the country’s political centres, such as Abuja, Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt ... Nevertheless, there were major security concerns in two of Nigeria’s largest cities in 2022: Lagos and Abuja.

‘In Lagos, the authorities announced an operation against bandits in early October 2022 after the commercial centre of Lagos was partially closed in August due to a threat of attacks.150’⁴⁰⁹

- 18.11.2 In an interview with the Guardian (Nigeria), published 22 January 2023,

⁴⁰³ CHEP, ‘[About](#)’, no date

⁴⁰⁴ LFBI, ‘[About Us](#)’, no date

⁴⁰⁵ LFBI, ‘[EDUFOOD](#)’, no date

⁴⁰⁶ LFBI, ‘[Job Placement Programme](#)’, no date

⁴⁰⁷ Fair Life Africa, ‘[Home](#)’, no date

⁴⁰⁸ FEWS NET, ‘[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)’, no date

⁴⁰⁹ Netherlands MoFA, ‘[General Country of Origin Information...](#)’ (section 1.2.3.7), January 2023

African Cities Research Consortium member Adewumi Badiora of Olabisi Onabanjo University in Ogun State stated:

‘Unlike [northern] cities, fact is, we’re living in the most peaceful moment in [the] southwest.

‘Cities like Lagos are considered as one of the fairly peaceful cities in the country. Although, certain violent crimes have become increasingly common in Lagos as well. For instance, there are rising criminal activities like armed robbery, assaults, thefts, Gender Based Violence (GBV), cultism and banditry as well as drug abuse and related harms in Lagos.’⁴¹⁰

- 18.11.3 With regard to fatalities, the Nigeria Watch database, filtered for ‘political issue’ fatalities in Lagos State from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, documented **no fatalities**. Filtered for ‘land issue’ and ‘cattle grazing’ fatalities in Lagos State during the same period, the database recorded a total of **2 fatalities**. Filtered for ‘crime’ (‘all other fatal criminal incidents except political, religious, market, land, cattle and sorcery issues’⁴¹¹) in Lagos State during the same period, the database recorded **131 fatalities**. The database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities⁴¹².
- 18.11.4 ACLED’s datasets on violence against civilians, where ‘an organised armed group deliberately inflicts violence upon non-combatants’ – ‘Abduction/force disappearance’; ‘Attack’; ‘Sexual violence’ – 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Lagos [State]’, documented **33 ‘events’ and 20 fatalities**⁴¹³.
- 18.11.5 The ACLED dataset for all forms of political violence – Battles; Explosions/Remote violence; Violence against civilians; Protests; Riots; and Strategic developments (‘Strategically important instances of non-violent activity by conflict actors and other agents within the context of conflict or broader political disorder’⁴¹⁴) – involving combat and civilian actors for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Lagos [State]’, documented **163 ‘events’ and 49 fatalities**⁴¹⁵.
- 18.11.6 For information on the Nigeria Watch and ACLED definitions and methodologies, see [Insecurity and crime](#).

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18.12 Treatment of returnees

- 18.12.1 The Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023 stated: ‘Confidential sources who were consulted stated that they were not aware of any cases of returning migrants having problems with the authorities on arrival in Abuja or Lagos ... However, one confidential source stated that the authorities sometimes questioned people on their return if they had left the country as an irregular migrant or if they were victims of human trafficking.’⁴¹⁶

⁴¹⁰ The Guardian (Nigeria), [‘Migration stimulates crime, insecurity in Lagos’](#), 22 January 2023

⁴¹¹ Nigeria Watch, [‘Methodology’](#), no date

⁴¹² Nigeria Watch, [‘List event’](#), accessed 23 April 2024

⁴¹³ ACLED, [‘Dashboard’](#), accessed 22 April 2024

⁴¹⁴ ACLED, [‘Quick Guide to ACLED Data’](#), updated March 2023

⁴¹⁵ ACLED, [‘Dashboard’](#), accessed 22 April 2024

⁴¹⁶ Netherlands MoFA, [‘General Country of Origin Information Report ...’](#) (section 5.1), January 2023

19. Kano City and Kano State

19.1 Geography, population and demography

19.1.1 For map, see [States and regions](#).

19.1.2 The city of Kano is located in Kano State⁴¹⁷ in the North West of Nigeria⁴¹⁸.

19.1.3 Distances by road (shortest routes):

- Kano to Abuja: 432km⁴¹⁹
- Kano to Lagos: 994km⁴²⁰
- Kano to Ibadan: 866km⁴²¹
- Kano to Port Harcourt: 1,042km⁴²²

19.1.4 Population:

- Kano City: almost 4.35 million (2023 estimate)⁴²³
- Kano State: 15.46 million (excluding Kano City) (2020 projection for 2022)⁴²⁴

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19.2 Ethnicity

19.2.1 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, in the entry for 'Kano' (Britannica Kano entry), stated: 'Most of the state's inhabitants are Hausa or Fulani, but there are also Nigerians from other parts of the country, Arab traders, and Europeans.'⁴²⁵

19.2.2 Daily Trust, a Nigerian privately-owned news outlet, in an article '5 Most Attractive Property Destinations in Kano' (Daily Trust property article 2023), dated 27 March 2023, stated that Jaba, an area neighbouring Kano's international airport, was '[d]ominated by strangers [non-indigenes], Igbo in particular ...'⁴²⁶

19.2.3 There was no information on official or societal discrimination against non-indigenes in Kano State specifically, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)). For more information on ethnic discrimination, see [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#).

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19.3 Religion

19.3.1 The USSD IRF report 2022 stated: 'Islam is the dominant religion in the

⁴¹⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Kano](#)', variously updated

⁴¹⁸ Tribune Online, '[Nigeria: Who owns the Land?](#)', 27 January 2021

⁴¹⁹ Google Maps, '[Kano City, Kano, Nigeria to Abuja, Nigeria](#)', accessed 26 April 2024

⁴²⁰ Google Maps, '[Kano City, Kano, Nigeria to Lagos, Nigeria](#)', accessed 26 April 2024

⁴²¹ Google Maps, '[Kano City, Kano, Nigeria to Ibadan, Nigeria](#)', accessed 26 April 2024

⁴²² Google Maps, '[Kano City, Kano, Nigeria to Port Harcourt, Nigeria](#)', 26 April 2024

⁴²³ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 12 December 2023

⁴²⁴ Nigeria National Population Commission, '[Nigeria Population Projections](#)' (page 102), 5 May 2020

⁴²⁵ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Kano](#)', updated 27 May 2024

⁴²⁶ Daily Trust, '[5 most attractive property destinations in Kano](#)', 27 March 2024

North West and North East regions, although significant Christian populations reside there as well.⁴²⁷

19.3.2 The BBC, in an article dated 13 March 2024, stated: 'Kano [State] has a majority Muslim population ...'⁴²⁸

19.3.3 For information on religious freedom, see the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report [Religious Freedom in Nigeria's Kano State](#), dated October 2021.

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19.4 Languages

19.4.1 The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in 'Hausa Language Variation and Dialects', an undated entry on its website of African language resources, stated 'The Hausa spoken in Kano, the largest city in the contiguous Hausa-speaking area, and the surrounding regions is usually referred to as "Standard" Hausa. This variety of Hausa is the one used in nearly all printed materials in Hausa, including the Hausa language newspapers of Nigeria. It is also the variety of Hausa most heard in broadcast media ...'⁴²⁹

19.4.2 Muhammad Badamasi Tsaure, of Principal Government Senior Secondary School Tsaure, and Abu-Ubaida Sani, of the Department of Languages and Cultures at Federal University Gusau, Zamfara⁴³⁰, in a paper, based on various sources, presented at the 29th Annual Conference of the Linguistic Association of Nigeria on language and Linguistic Diversity in December 2016, noted that although the Fulani speak Fulfulde, ' ... in northern Nigeria[,] more importantly Kano state, Fulani ... prefer using Hausa in their daily interactions.'⁴³¹

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19.5 Economic activity, employment and poverty/wealth

19.5.1 The Britannica Kano entry stated:

'Modern Kano is a major commercial and industrial centre. Peanuts (groundnuts), a local subsistence crop, are a prime commodity. The second most important traditional export is hides and skins. There is a considerable livestock trade. Pigs, raised on local farms managed by non-Muslims, are shipped to Lagos. Eggs also are supplied to other parts of Nigeria. Traditional industries include leather tanning and decoration, mat making, metalworking, tailoring, and pottery manufacture. Local dye pits for cloth and leather have been used for centuries.

'Much of the city's industry is centred in industrial estates, such as the ones at Bompai, Chawalla, and Sharada. The city's food products include baked goods and pasta, processed meat, crushed bone, canned food, peanuts, peanut and vegetable oils, and soft drinks. Light manufactures include

⁴²⁷ USSD, '[International religious freedom – Nigeria](#)', 15 May 2023

⁴²⁸ BBC, '[Nigerian Islamic police in Kano arrest non-fasting Muslims ...](#)', 13 March 2024

⁴²⁹ UCLA, '[Hausa Language Variation and Dialects](#)', no date

⁴³⁰ Tsaure, MB, and Sani, A-U, '[Indigenous Languages as Medium of Instruction ...](#)', February 2024

⁴³¹ Tsaure, MB, and Sani, A-U, '[The Role of Hausa ...](#)' (section 1.2), December 2016

textiles, knit fabrics, tents, bedding, foam rubber products, clothing, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, soap, candles, polishes, plastics, leather goods, metal and wood furniture, hospital and office equipment, containers and packing cases, wire products, tiles, and enamelware. The heavy industries manufacture asbestos, cement, concrete blocks, metal structural products, bicycles, automobiles, trucks, and chemicals. There is also a steel-rolling mill and a printing plant.⁴³²

- 19.5.2 Auwalu Faisal Koko, post-doctoral researcher at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, Muhammed Bello and Muhammad Abubakar Sadiq, in their chapter of the book 'Integrative Approaches in Urban Sustainability – Architectural Design, Technological Innovations and Social Dynamics in Global Contexts', published 23 February 2023, based on various sources, reported Kano State had experienced 'migration of people in pursuit of jobs without a corresponding increase in new employment opportunities in the city'. They added:

'... [T]he Kano State government and Nigeria's Federal government have, over recent years, established various empowerment programs to confront the challenge of youth unemployment in Kano. Such programs include; the National Enterprise Development Programme (NEDEP), the Youth Enterprise With Innovation in Nigeria (YouWin) program, the Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO), the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), the Agro-processing, Productivity Enhancement, and Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS) Project, the Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP), the Integrated Youth Development Initiative, and recently the N-Power empowerment program. All these programs are geared towards drastically addressing the problem of youth employment through enhanced skills acquisition and job creation. The recently established N-Power empowerment program employs youth in various sectors of the economy, such as agriculture (N- Power Agro), construction (N- Power Build), healthcare (N- Power Health), teaching (N- Power Teach), and taxation (N- Power Tax).

'However, despite these programs and projects introduced by successive federal and state governments, the unemployment and underemployment rate remains significantly high ...⁴³³

- 19.5.3 With regard to unemployment and underemployment, the NBS, in a report 'Labor Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report (Q4 2020), dated March 2021, stated that Kano State had an unemployment rate of 25.36% and an underemployment rate of 31.20%⁴³⁴. National figures provided in the same report were 33.3% and 22.8%, respectively⁴³⁵. The data was presented in line with the NBS' old labour force methodology⁴³⁶. The NBS adopted a new methodology beginning with its Q4 2022 and Q1

⁴³² Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Kano](#)', variously updated

⁴³³ Faisal Koko, A, and others, '[Understanding the Challenges ...](#)', 23 February 2023

⁴³⁴ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 80), March 2021

⁴³⁵ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 3), March 2021

⁴³⁶ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (pages 8 to 10), March 2021

2023 report⁴³⁷.

- 19.5.4 There was no state-by-state information on unemployment and underemployment using the new NBS methodology, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).
- 19.5.5 With regard to poverty, the NBS poverty report 2019 classified 55.08% of residents of Kano State as living in poverty. The national figure was 40.09%⁴³⁸.
- 19.5.6 The NBS MPI 2022 classified 66.3% of Kano State residents as multidimensionally poor⁴³⁹. The national figure was 63%⁴⁴⁰.
- 19.5.7 For more information on NBS methodology and definitions, see [Poverty, wealth and inequality](#).

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19.6 Housing and living conditions

- 19.6.1 The Daily Trust property article 2023 stated: 'According to architects and land and property surveyors, Kano has both formal and informal settlements, and the chances of getting more estates in the state are high as people are migrating from old settlements to the new, modern estates that provide security, serenity and are conducive to better living.'⁴⁴¹
- 19.6.2 The article reported: '... [T]he urban area is situated largely in a densely populated metropolitan area, thereby making the cost of land in areas not considered the heart of the metropolis quite cheap when compared with other states that share similar attractive property choices.'⁴⁴²
- 19.6.3 With regard to informal settlements, the article reported: 'Most of the informal settlements in the state are bedevilled with security challenges, a lack of social amenities, and congestion of structures ... '⁴⁴³
- 19.6.4 Kano Focus, a privately-owned Kano-based online publication 'established with the aim of reporting on developmental issues and encouraging youth participation in democratic governance ... '⁴⁴⁴, in an article dated 21 August 2023, quoted Murtala Muhammad of the Department of Geography, Bayero University Kano, as saying:

'A study has revealed that 40 percent of ... urban Kano, in terms of landmass is informal, which means, it is an area that is lacking in terms of planning.

'And you will notice that this 40 per cent constitutes 70 per cent of the population. This means 70 per cent of people living in Kano metropolis are living in those informal areas ... which means about 10 million people ... [have] no access to good roads, water, waste management and

⁴³⁷ NBS, [Press release on the Nigeria Labour Force survey](#), 24 August 2023

⁴³⁸ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

⁴³⁹ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 30), November 2022

⁴⁴⁰ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 22), November 2022

⁴⁴¹ Daily Trust, '[5 most attractive property destinations in Kano](#)', 27 March 2023

⁴⁴² Daily Trust, '[5 most attractive property destinations in Kano](#)', 27 March 2023

⁴⁴³ Daily Trust, '[5 most attractive property destinations in Kano](#)', 27 March 2023

⁴⁴⁴ Kano Focus, '[About Us](#)', 10 October 2018

sanitation.⁴⁴⁵

- 19.6.5 There was no information on affordability of housing in Kano City or Kano State, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).

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19.7 Healthcare

- 19.7.1 Nigeria Health Watch, a not-for-profit organisation whose stated aims include strengthening the capacity of health sector organisations, in a press release dated 21 January 2020 to mark the release of a report on healthcare in Kano State, stated:

‘... Director of Programmes at Nigeria Health Watch, Vivianne Ihekweazu said, “Results from the PHCs [primary health centres] assessed revealed that many seem to lack some component of the basic requirements as outlined by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) minimum standards for PHCs, however it is evident that significant effort has been made to improve health services in Kano State, as well as increasing funding to the state health budget.”

‘Kano State is one of the few states allocating over 15% of the state budget to health services.’⁴⁴⁶

- 19.7.2 Finelib.com, a privately-owned online Nigeria directory, in an undated entry on its website, listed 39 healthcare facilities in Kano State, including public and private hospitals as well as diagnostic centres and dental clinics⁴⁴⁷.

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19.8 Education

- 19.8.1 The MICS survey report 2021 stated that, in Kano State, 69% of children completed primary school, 64% completed lower secondary school and 49% completed upper secondary school⁴⁴⁸.
- 19.8.2 The university listings on the [NUC website](#) featured entries for federal, state and private universities in Kano State⁴⁴⁹.

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19.9 Social support

- 19.9.1 For nationwide information on social support provided by the state, see [Social support / protection](#).
- 19.9.2 With regard to social protection provided by the Kano State government, Vanguard, in an article dated 11 September 2021, reported: ‘Worried by social issues such as poverty, youth restiveness among others in the state, the Kano State government said it has resolved to commit 10 per cent of its annual budget allocation starting from 2022 for implementation of the social

⁴⁴⁵ Kano Focus, ‘[70 per cent of settlements in Kano...](#)’, 21 August 2023

⁴⁴⁶ Nigeria Health Watch, ‘[Nigeria Health Watch and Connected Development ...](#)’, 21 January 2020

⁴⁴⁷ Finelib.com, ‘[List of Hospitals and Medical Centres in Kano](#)’, no date

⁴⁴⁸ NBS/UNICEF, ‘[2021 MICS statistical snapshots](#)’ (page 50), 24 August 2022

⁴⁴⁹ NUC, ‘[National Universities Commission](#)’, no date

protection policies in the state.⁴⁵⁰

- 19.9.3 There was information as to whether the state government had fulfilled this commitment, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).
- 19.9.4 With regard to civic society support, Kano Community Development Scheme is ‘a non-governmental, non-partisan and non-sectarian initiative’⁴⁵¹ based in Kano City, whose activities include working to reduce ‘the rate of unemployment and related social vices in Kano State’⁴⁵²
- 19.9.5 Nigerian Tracker, a privately-owned online newspaper based in Kano State⁴⁵³, in an article published 6 April 2024, reported that the Bomara Foundation, which ‘has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts in Lagos and Kano states’ for more than 20 years, had distributed aid during Ramadan and supported education by offering scholarships to students⁴⁵⁴.
- 19.9.6 For information on other civil society organisations operating in Kano City and Kano State, see the NNGO’s [NGOs Directory by State](#).

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19.10 Food security

- 19.10.1 A FEWS NET map of projected acute food insecurity for February to May 2024 showed food insecurity in Kano State was classified as ‘minimal’⁴⁵⁵.
- 19.10.2 For the map and more information, see [Food security](#).

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19.11 Insecurity and crime

- 19.11.1 The Netherlands MoFA COI report 2023 stated:
‘According to a confidential source, the federal government and the states gave priority in terms of the security situation to the country’s political centres, such as Abuja, Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt ...’⁴⁵⁶
- 19.11.2 The Guardian (Nigeria), in an article dated 3 November 2023, stated: ‘Joint troops of the Nigerian Army and the Department of State Services (DSS) have successfully averted an imminent attack on Kano State by insurgents.’ Quoting an army statement, the article reported the troops had apprehended ‘suspected Boko Haram Terrorists (BHT) believed to be planning a major operation in Kano.’⁴⁵⁷
- 19.11.3 A United States Department of State ‘Nigeria Travel Advisory’ for US citizens, dated 20 September 2023, placed Kano State in its ‘Level 4: Do Not Travel’ category, stating: ‘The security situation in these states is fluid and unpredictable due to widespread inter-communal violence and armed

⁴⁵⁰ Vanguard, ‘[Kano commits 10% of budget allocation ...](#)’, 11 September 2021

⁴⁵¹ Kano CDS, ‘[About](#)’, no date

⁴⁵² Kano CDS, ‘[Social Issues](#)’, no date

⁴⁵³ Nigerian Tracker, ‘[About Us](#)’, no date

⁴⁵⁴ Nigerian Tracker, ‘[Bomara Foundation Extends Aid ...](#)’, 6 April 2024

⁴⁵⁵ FEWS NET, ‘[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)’, no date

⁴⁵⁶ Netherlands MoFA, ‘[General Country of Origin Information...](#)’ (section 1.2.3.7), January 2023

⁴⁵⁷ The Guardian (Nigeria), ‘[Army, DSS troops avert planned terrorist attack ...](#)’, 3 November 2023

criminality, especially kidnapping and roadside banditry.⁴⁵⁸

19.11.4 With regard to crime, Premium Times, in an article dated 2 May 2024, cited a News Agency of Nigeria report that quoted the Commissioner of Police for Kano State, Usaini Gumel, as telling a press conference to mark his first year in the role: 'As the 45th Commissioner of Police in the Command, communities in the state have had their fair share of security challenges.' The article reported that Gumel referred to armed robbery of mobile phones, 'thuggery' and farmer-herder clashes as a particular 'menace' during the year, and that he further noted:

'Other heinous crimes include kidnapping, the threat of infiltration of bandits along border LGAs [Local Government Areas], especially Falgore and Danshoshiya forests.

'There was also buying and selling of minors, motor vehicle theft, cross-border organised crimes, and illicit drug dealings, among others.'⁴⁵⁹

19.11.5 The article also stated:

'A breakdown of the activities showed the arrest of 337 armed robbery suspects, 66 suspected kidnappers, 90 suspected drug dealers, 83 motor vehicle thieves, 62 tricycle thieves, 86 motorcycle thieves and 200 suspected petty thieves.

'Also arrested were 61 suspected fraudsters, 9 suspected illegal forex hawkers, and 2101 suspected thugs.'⁴⁶⁰

19.11.6 With regard to fatalities, the Nigeria Watch report 2023 stated that in 2023, Kano had a 'low' fatality rate of **1.12 per 100,000**⁴⁶¹.

19.11.7 The Nigeria Watch database, filtered for 'political issue' fatalities in 'Kano [State]' from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, documented **3 fatalities**. Filtered for 'land issue' and 'cattle grazing' fatalities in 'Kano [State]' during the same period, the database recorded **1 fatality**. Filtered for 'crime' ('all other fatal criminal incidents except political, religious, market, land, cattle and sorcery issues'⁴⁶²) in 'Kano [State]' during the same period, the database recorded **26 fatalities**. The database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities⁴⁶³.

19.11.8 ACLED's datasets on violence against civilians, where 'an organised armed group deliberately inflicts violence upon non-combatants' – 'Abduction/force disappearance'; 'Attack'; 'Sexual violence' – for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for 'Kano [State]', documented **9 'events' and 12 fatalities**⁴⁶⁴.

19.11.9 The ACLED dataset for all forms of political violence – Battles; Explosions/Remote violence; Violence against civilians; Protests; Riots; and Strategic developments ('Strategically important instances of non-violent activity by conflict actors and other agents within the context of conflict or

⁴⁵⁸ USSD, '[Nigeria Travel Advisory](#)', 20 September 2023

⁴⁵⁹ Premium Times, '[Police arrest, prosecute 3,000 suspects in one year ...](#)', 2 May 2024

⁴⁶⁰ Premium Times, '[Police arrest, prosecute 3,000 suspects in one year ...](#)', 2 May 2024

⁴⁶¹ Nigeria Watch, '[Thirteenth Report on Violence](#)' (page 17), 2023

⁴⁶² Nigeria Watch, '[Methodology](#)', no date

⁴⁶³ Nigeria Watch, '[List event](#)', accessed 23 April 2024

⁴⁶⁴ ACLED, '[Dashboard](#)', accessed 22 April 2024

broader political disorder'⁴⁶⁵) – involving combat and civilian actors for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for 'Kano [State]', documented **163 'events' and 49 fatalities**⁴⁶⁶.

19.11.10 For information on the Nigeria Watch and ACLED definitions and methodologies, see [Insecurity and crime](#).

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19.12 Treatment of returnees

19.12.1 There was no information on the treatment of returnees on arrival in Kano City or Kano State, in the sources available (see [Bibliography](#)).

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20. Ibadan and Oyo State

20.1 Geography, population and demography

20.1.1 For map, see [States and regions](#).

20.1.2 The city of Ibadan is the capital of Oyo State and is located about 160km from the Atlantic coast⁴⁶⁷.

20.1.3 Distances by road (shortest routes):

- Ibadan to Abuja: 550km⁴⁶⁸
- Ibadan to Lagos: 139km⁴⁶⁹
- Ibadan to Kano: 866km⁴⁷⁰
- Ibadan to Port Harcourt: 580km⁴⁷¹

20.1.4 Population

- Ibadan: almost 3.88 million (2023 estimate)⁴⁷²
- Oyo State: almost 7.98 million (2020 projection for 2022)⁴⁷³

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20.2 Ethnicity

20.2.1 The Oyo State Government, in an undated entry on its website, stated 'The State[,] which is homogeneous, ... is predominantly occupied by the Yoruba people. Within the State however, there are sub-ethnic groups ... The people of Oyo State may be divided into five broad groups which are: the Ibadans, the Ibarapas, the Oyos, the Oke-Oguns and the Ogbomosos.'⁴⁷⁴

20.2.2 Musibau Omoakin Jelili, professor of urban and regional planning at Ladoke

⁴⁶⁵ ACLED, '[Quick Guide to ACLED Data](#)', updated March 2023

⁴⁶⁶ ACLED, '[Dashboard](#)', accessed 22 April 2024

⁴⁶⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Ibadan](#)', variously updated

⁴⁶⁸ Google Maps, '[Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria to Abuja Federal Capital Territory ...](#)', accessed 1 May 2024

⁴⁶⁹ Google Maps, '[Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria to Lagos, Nigeria](#)', accessed 1 May 2024

⁴⁷⁰ Google Maps, '[Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria to Kano City, Kano ...](#)', accessed 1 May 2024

⁴⁷¹ Google Maps, '[Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria to Port Harcourt, Rivers ...](#)', accessed 1 May 2024

⁴⁷² CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 12 December 2023

⁴⁷³ Nigeria National Population Commission, '[Nigeria Population Projections](#)' (page 146), 5 May 2020

⁴⁷⁴ Oyo State Government, '[About Oyo State](#)', no date

Akintola University of Technology in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Ayobami A Ajibade and Abimbola Alabi, in a paper 'Informal urban migrant settlements in Nigeria: environmental and socioeconomic dynamics of Sabo, Ibadan' (Jelili and others 2022), published in GeoJournal in August 2022, based on various sources, stated that Sabo, in the Ibadan North Local Government Area, is a migrant settlement whose residents, according to fieldwork conducted by the authors in 2016, belonged to the Yoruba (43.93%), Hausa/Fulani (33.57%), Igbo (15.36%) or other (7.0%) ethnic groups⁴⁷⁵.

20.2.3 There was no information on official or societal discrimination against non-indigenes in Oyo State specifically, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)). For more information on ethnic discrimination, see [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#).

20.2.4 For information on ethnic clashes in Oyo State in 2021, see [Insecurity and Crime](#).

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20.3 Religion

20.3.1 Robert A Dowd, associate professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, United States, in a paper 'Religious Diversity and Religious Tolerance: Lessons from Nigeria', completed 18 April 2013 and published in the Journal of Conflict Resolution (JCR) in 2016, stated that Ibadan was 'highly diverse' in terms of religion, with a population that was '50 percent Christian and 49 percent Muslim'⁴⁷⁶.

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20.4 Languages

20.4.1 Nina Pawlak, professor in the Department of African Languages and Cultures at the University of Warsaw, Poland, in a paper 'Linguistic Strategies of Adaptation: Hausa in Southern Nigeria', published in Studies in African Languages and Culture in November 2006, based on fieldwork conducted in June 2005 and other sources, stated:

'The dominant language in Ibadan is Yoruba¹⁹. Hausa does not have a function of contact language outside the Hausa settlements, although for the purposes of ... trade some elements of linguistic accommodation between the Hausa and Yoruba communities are noted²⁰ ...

'It is ... English that the Hausa [in Ibadan] prefer to use in their contacts with non-Hausa speakers.'⁴⁷⁷

20.4.2 The Oyo State Government, in an undated entry on its website, stated that the subgroups of Yoruba in the state – the Ibadans, the Ibarapas, the Oyos, the Oke-Oguns and the Ogbomosos – have 'distinct dialect peculiarities'⁴⁷⁸.

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20.5 Economic activity, employment and poverty/wealth

⁴⁷⁵ Jelili, MO, and others, GeoJournal, '[... Informal urban migrant ...](#)', August 2022

⁴⁷⁶ Dowd, RA, JCR, '[Religious Diversity and Religious Tolerance ...](#)', 2016

⁴⁷⁷ Pawlak, N, '[... Linguistic Strategies of Adaptation: Hausa ...](#)', November 2006

⁴⁷⁸ Oyo State Government, '[About Oyo State](#)', no date

20.5.1 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, in their 'Ibadan' entry (Encyclopaedia Britannica Ibadan entry) stated:

'The economic activities of Ibadan include agriculture, commerce, handicrafts, manufacturing, and service industries. Although the city's farming population has declined, it is still large for an urban area. Many cultivators are part-time farmers who augment their earnings with other work.

'Ibadan is an important commercial centre. Virtually every street and corner in the traditional core and the inner suburbs of the city is a market square or stall. Within the city there are many markets ...

'The small businesses in the city engage in corn milling, leather working, wood and steel furniture making, printing, photography, hotel management, and motor and other repairing. There are, however, few modern manufacturing industries ...'⁴⁷⁹

20.5.2 Udo and others stated: 'A more significant number of people have migrated from the southeast to the more industrialized and urbanized western states of Lagos, Oyo, and Ogun ...'⁴⁸⁰

20.5.3 With regard to job-seeking in Ibadan, Vanguard, in an article dated 17 April 2023, stated:

'In a bid to address the menace of unemployment amongst the teeming youths in the country, a platform aimed at intermediating between skilful job seekers and employers for immediate job opportunities, LevelUpNG, has held a summit to create opportunities for job seekers and employers to connect.

'The event which was tagged: 'Level Up Job Fair And Conference', was held at the International Conference Centre of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, yesterday.

'Speaking at the event, Mr Olabode Ajetunmobi, a strategy consultant and founder of LevelUp, said the programme was aimed towards bringing employers and employees together for job opportunities.

"We have 10,000 jobs opening out there and companies who are looking for people who have required skills but we don't have the people that have the skills" [he said].

"We know over one million Nigerian students graduate from universities and polytechnics but do they have the required technical skills to manage the digital economy?"⁴⁸¹

20.5.4 Jelili and others 2022 reported that of 280 people surveyed by the authors in the Sabo migrant settlement in Ibadan in 2016, 35 were students, 61 were apprentices, 15 were civil servants and 3 were farmers. The remaining 55 were classed as 'other'⁴⁸². The survey did not state whether the 'other' category included people who were unemployed.

20.5.5 There was no other, more recent information on occupations among

⁴⁷⁹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, '[Ibadan](#)', variously updated

⁴⁸⁰ Udo and others, EB, '[Nigeria...](#)' (Settlement patterns), updated 15 December 2023

⁴⁸¹ Vanguard, '[Unemployment: Hundreds of job seekers ...](#)', 17 April 2023

⁴⁸² Jelili, MO, and others, [GeoJournal](#), '[... Informal urban migrant ...](#)', August 2022

migrants in Ibadan, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).

- 20.5.6 With regard to unemployment and underemployment, the NBS, in a report 'Labor Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report (Q4 2020)', dated March 2021, stated that Oyo State had an unemployment rate of 17.99% and an underemployment rate of 19.64%⁴⁸³. National figures provided in the same report were 33.3% and 22.8%, respectively⁴⁸⁴. The data was presented in line with the NBS' old labour force methodology⁴⁸⁵. The NBS adopted a new methodology beginning with its Q4 2022 and Q1 2023 report⁴⁸⁶.
- 20.5.7 There was no state-by-state information on unemployment and underemployment using the new NBS methodology, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).
- 20.5.8 With regard to poverty, the NBS poverty report 2019 classified 9.83% of residents of Oyo State as living in poverty. The national figure was 40.09%⁴⁸⁷.
- 20.5.9 The NBS MPI 2022 classified 51.2% of Oyo State residents aged 0 to 17 and 47% of residents aged 18 or over as multidimensionally poor. The national figures were 67.5% and 58.7%, respectively⁴⁸⁸.
- 20.5.10 For more information on NBS methodology and definitions, see [Poverty, wealth and inequality](#).
- 20.5.11 The African Vibes article 2020 described the Alalubosa area of Ibadan as one of the 'wealthiest neighbourhoods in Nigeria'. It did not define 'wealthy'⁴⁸⁹.

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20.6 Housing and living conditions

- 20.6.1 Moruf Alabi, associate professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Ibadan, Taiwo Babalola and Ayobami Popoola, in a paper published in the journal *Cidades Comunidades e Territorios* in 2021, based on various sources, surveyed 248 heads of household from 6 Local Government Areas of Ibadan. They stated:

'The increasing urbanization of Ibadan has led to the migration of its population from the rural regions to the city. As a result, people and developments spread out to the peripheral areas of the city (Owoeye & Ogundiran, 2015). The transition to this zone has been the concern of planners because most of the dwellers in these peri-urban areas are proliferating slum developments as most of them have no secure tenure. An overriding problem facing peri-urban dwellers in Ibadan is the low level of access and high cost of transport to jobs, markets, schools and the centres of administration of public services (Makinde, 2012; Ipingbemi & Adebayo,

⁴⁸³ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 73), March 2021

⁴⁸⁴ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 3), March 2021

⁴⁸⁵ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (pages 8 to 10), March 2021

⁴⁸⁶ NBS, [Press release on the Nigeria Labour Force survey](#), 24 August 2023

⁴⁸⁷ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

⁴⁸⁸ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 46), November 2022

⁴⁸⁹ African Vibes, '[See These 10 Wealthiest Neighborhoods In Nigeria](#)', 16 October 2020

2016) ...

‘ ... [O]ut of the sampled incremental housing units, 81 per cent of units relied on the community and neighbours’ wells as sources of their drinking water, while 19 percent used their own personal wells where domestic and drinking water was fetched from. None of the incremental houses had a personal borehole ...

‘As at the time of the study, 39.5 percent of the respondents had no source of power ... However, 40.5 percent of the houses relied on the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) as a source of power, while 19 percent relied on generating sets as a source of power. When investigating the available toilet types, the pit latrine was the dominant toilet facility available in 67.7 percent of the houses ... Houses that used ventilated-improved-pit and water closet toilets were 8.1 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively. However, a significant number (18.5%) of the housing units had no toilet facilities. This means that the households in those houses practiced open defecation ...’⁴⁹⁰

20.6.2 With regard to tenure, the authors stated ‘ ... 99.2 percent of the respondents reside in owner occupied land and houses ... 99.2 percent of the private land and house owners only had land purchase receipts as a formal proof of ownership ... [N]one of them claimed to have any legal titles like a certificate of occupancy (C of O) or any form of other legal document.’⁴⁹¹

20.6.3 In relation to the Sabo migrant settlement, Jelili and others (2022) stated:

‘ ... [T]he residential land use of the area ... may be roughly ascribed to exclusive use of migrant settlers, though with ... insignificantly few indigenous residents ...

‘The buildings are mostly rented (56.0%) and owner-occupied (19.67%). The conditions of the buildings are such that most of them are having sagging (75.71%) and leaking (20.0%) roofs, while majority (75.18%) use pit latrines with just ... 4.32% having water closet.

‘Though ... a larger percentage of the buildings (55%) [have] their kitchens located within the building, a high proportion ... (45%) still have their kitchens located outside the buildings, with the resultant environmental health implications ... [O]nly 10.0% of the buildings [have] a closed drainage system. 42.5% of the buildings have open channel system while those with no drainage channel at all take the highest proportion of 47.5%.’⁴⁹²

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20.7 Healthcare

20.7.1 The Oyo State Government website provided a searchable list of health facilities in the state⁴⁹³.

⁴⁹⁰ Alabi, M, and others, CCT, ‘[Tenure insecurity ...](#)’, (Volume 43, paragraphs 17, 27, 28), 2021

⁴⁹¹ Alabi, M, and others, CCT, ‘[Tenure insecurity ...](#)’, (Volume 43, paragraph 29), 2021

⁴⁹² Jelili, MO, and others, GeoJournal, ‘[... Informal urban migrant ...](#)’, August 2022

⁴⁹³ Oyo State Government, ‘[... OYO STATE LIST OF HEALTH FACILITY](#)’, 2020

- 20.7.2 Access Beyond Borders, an Ibadan-based NGO⁴⁹⁴, in an undated entry on its website, stated that the Bismo Medical Centre is its ‘primary vehicle for delivering affordable and accessible healthcare services to communities in the Ido Local Government Area of Nigeria,’ adding: ‘Communities such as Arijo, Ayegun, Oke-odan, Ariyibi, Olomo, Olose, Jagun, Oloro, and their environs benefit directly from the services provided by Bismo Medical Centre. This geographical focus ensures that healthcare reaches those who are often left behind.’⁴⁹⁵
- 20.7.3 For more information on NGOs operating in Oyo State, see [Social support / protection](#), below.

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20.8 Education

- 20.8.1 The MICS survey report 2021 stated that, in Oyo State, 91% of children completed primary school, 82% completed lower secondary school and 64% completed upper secondary school⁴⁹⁶.
- 20.8.2 The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, in their ‘Ibadan’ entry, stated: ‘The University of Ibadan (1948) and a technical institute are located in the city, and there are many specialized institutions.’⁴⁹⁷
- 20.8.3 THE, in an entry on its website dated 11 October 2023, ranked the public University of Ibadan among its top 1,000 universities globally⁴⁹⁸.

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20.9 Social support

- 20.9.1 For nationwide information on social support provided by the state, see [Social support / protection](#).
- 20.9.2 With regard to civil society organisations providing social support, the Oyedoyin Care Foundation, based in Oyo, Oyo State, supports widows in the local community by distributing food and providing healthcare⁴⁹⁹.
- 20.9.3 The Christ Foundation, an NGO based in Ibadan, has ‘a focus on all aspects of empowering people with disabilities and their families to lead healthy and productive lives’⁵⁰⁰
- 20.9.4 For information on the Ibadan-based healthcare NGO Access Beyond Borders, see [Healthcare](#), above.
- 20.9.5 For information on other civil society organisations operating in Ibadan and Oyo State, see the NNGO’s [NGOs Directory by State](#).

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20.10 Food security

⁴⁹⁴ Access Beyond Borders, ‘[About Us](#)’, no date

⁴⁹⁵ Access Beyond Borders, ‘[... Bridging Healthcare Gaps ...](#)’, no date

⁴⁹⁶ NBS/UNICEF, ‘[2021 MICS statistical snapshots](#)’ (page 50), 24 August 2022

⁴⁹⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, ‘[Ibadan](#)’, variously updated

⁴⁹⁸ THE, ‘[Best universities in Nigeria 2024](#)’, 11 October 2023

⁴⁹⁹ Oyedoyin Care Foundation, ‘[Homepage](#)’, no date

⁵⁰⁰ Christ Foundation, ‘[The Christ Foundation: About Us](#)’, no date

20.10.1 A FEWS NET map of projected acute food insecurity for February to May 2024 showed food insecurity in Oyo State was classified as ‘minimal’⁵⁰¹.

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20.11 Insecurity and crime

20.11.1 Privately-owned Nigerian newspaper Punch, in an article dated 29 December 2023, quoted Oyo State Police Public Relations Officer Adewale Osifeso as saying:

‘... [T]he state Police command is pleased to inform residents that within the past five months, it has recorded significant successes in reducing crime rates across the state. This was attained through a combination of intelligence-led operations, community engagements, and proactive policing.

‘Within January 1st to this day, 207 armed robbery suspects were arrested, 50 stolen vehicles and 46 motorcycles/tricycles were recovered while 108 firearms and 721 rounds of various caliber of ammunition were retrieved from the possession of criminals.’⁵⁰² It did not provide crime rate figures.

20.11.2 With regard to ethnic clashes, Reuters news agency, in an article dated 14 February 2021, stated:

‘Nigeria’s president appealed for calm on Sunday following reports of intercommunal violence between ethnic groups at a market in the southwestern state of Oyo.

‘Clashes between traders from the Yoruba and Hausa ethnic groups broke out on Saturday at Shasha market in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo, the state governor’s spokesman said ...

‘Usman Yako, chair of the Hausa traders association at Shasha market, told Reuters by telephone at least 11 people from his ethnic group were killed in clashes at the market on Friday and Saturday that followed an argument between Yoruba and Hausa traders.’⁵⁰³

20.11.3 With regard to kidnapping, Vanguard, in an article dated 20 January 2024, reported: ‘Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has confirmed the kidnap of two persons in the early hours of Saturday in out town of Oyo State by unknown gunmen.’⁵⁰⁴

20.11.4 There was no information on further developments in the case, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).

20.11.5 In relation to a separate incident, Vanguard, in an article dated 21 April 2024, reported that a church pastor and an unspecified number of other passengers aboard a 14-seater bus on the Lanlate-Eruwa Road in Oyo State had been kidnapped, but that some victims had since been rescued⁵⁰⁵.

20.11.6 Punch, in an article dated 22 April 2024, reported that the pastor had

⁵⁰¹ FEWS NET, ‘[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)’, no date

⁵⁰² Punch, ‘[Oyo police arrest 207 suspects, recover guns, others](#)’, 29 December 2023

⁵⁰³ Reuters, ‘[Nigeria’s president calls for calm after clashes ...](#)’, 14 February 2021

⁵⁰⁴ Vanguard, ‘[2 kidnapped in Oyo community](#)’, 20 January 2024

⁵⁰⁵ Vanguard, ‘[Gunmen kidnap RCCG pastor, other bus passengers ...](#)’, 21 April 2024

‘regained his freedom’, without providing further details⁵⁰⁶.

20.11.7 With regard to fatalities, the Nigeria Watch report 2023 stated that in 2023, Oyo State had a ‘low’ fatality rate of **1.3 per 100,000**⁵⁰⁷.

20.11.8 The Nigeria Watch database, filtered for ‘political issue’ fatalities in ‘Oyo [State]’ from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, documented **no fatalities**. Filtered for ‘land issue’ and ‘cattle grazing’ fatalities in ‘Oyo [State]’ during the same period, the database recorded **9 fatalities**. Filtered for ‘crime’ (‘all other fatal criminal incidents except political, religious, market, land, cattle and sorcery issues’⁵⁰⁸) in ‘Oyo [State]’ during the same period, the database recorded **39 fatalities**⁵⁰⁹. The database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities.

20.11.9 ACLED’s datasets on violence against civilians, where ‘an organised armed group deliberately inflicts violence upon non-combatants’ – ‘Abduction/force disappearance’; ‘Attack’; ‘Sexual violence’ – for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Oyo [State]’, documented **12 ‘events’ and 18 fatalities**⁵¹⁰.

20.11.10 The ACLED dataset for all forms of political violence – Battles; Explosions/Remote violence; Violence against civilians; Protests; Riots; and Strategic developments (‘Strategically important instances of non-violent activity by conflict actors and other agents within the context of conflict or broader political disorder’⁵¹¹) – involving combat and civilian actors for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Oyo [State]’, documented **54 ‘events’ and 25 fatalities**⁵¹².

20.11.11 For information on the Nigeria Watch and ACLED definitions and methodologies, see [Insecurity and crime](#).

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20.12 Treatment of returnees

20.12.1 There was no information on the treatment of returnees on arrival in Ibadan or Oyo State, in the sources available (see [Bibliography](#)).

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21. Port Harcourt and Rivers State

21.1 Geography, population and demography

21.1.1 For map, see [States and regions](#).

21.1.2 The city of Port Harcourt is the capital of Rivers State in southern Nigeria⁵¹³.

21.1.3 Distances by road (shortest routes):

- Port Harcourt to Abuja: 622km⁵¹⁴

⁵⁰⁶ Punch, [‘Abducted Oyo RCCG pastor regains freedom’](#), 22 April 2024

⁵⁰⁷ Nigeria Watch, [‘Thirteenth Report on Violence’](#) (page 17), 2023

⁵⁰⁸ Nigeria Watch, [‘Methodology’](#), no date

⁵⁰⁹ Nigeria Watch, [‘List event’](#), accessed 23 April 2024

⁵¹⁰ ACLED, [‘Dashboard’](#), accessed 22 April 2024

⁵¹¹ ACLED, [‘Quick Guide to ACLED Data’](#), updated March 2023

⁵¹² ACLED, [‘Dashboard’](#), accessed 22 April 2024

⁵¹³ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, [‘Port Harcourt’](#), variously updated

⁵¹⁴ Google Maps, [‘Port Harcourt, Rivers, Nigeria to Abuja ...’](#), accessed 3 May 2024

- Port Harcourt to Lagos: 606km⁵¹⁵
- Port Harcourt to Kano: 1,080km⁵¹⁶
- Port Harcourt to Ibadan: 574km⁵¹⁷

21.1.4 Population:

- Port Harcourt: 3.48 million (2023 estimate)⁵¹⁸
- Rivers State: almost 7.48 million (2020 projection for 2022)⁵¹⁹

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21.2 Ethnicity

21.2.1 Chuwuemeka Okpo Oteh, of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Ebonyi State University, in a paper 'The ethnic question and the challenge of development in Nigeria: a study of Port Harcourt, Rivers state' (Oteh 2009), published in the International Journal of Development and Management Review (INJODEMAR) in June 2009, stated: 'The dominant ethnic groups are Abua, Andoni, Ekpeye, Enganni, Ibani, Igbani, Kalabari, Ndoni, Okirika, Ijaw, Ikwerre, Etche, Ogoni, and Ogba/Egbema.'⁵²⁰

21.2.2 Oteh stated that in focus group discussions held with members of 4 ethnic groups in Port Harcourt – Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba and Efik – he had elicited that there were about 15 ethnic groups residing in the city. He further stated: 'The findings [from the focus group discussions] paint a picture of Rivers state [and] Port Harcourt city as one characterized by friendliness, hospitality and harmonized living of the constituent ethnic groups.'⁵²¹

21.2.3 George C Nche, lecturer in the Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, University of Nigeria (Enugu), in a paper 'Cultism in Rivers State: Causes, Faith-Based Organizations' Role and the Setbacks', published in Transformation: An International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies in 2020, based on various sources, stated: 'Rivers State is a home to many indigenous ethnic groups such as Ekpeye, Ikwerre, Okrika, Eleme, Abua, Ibani, Opobo, Kalabari, Egbema, Ogoni, Etche, Ogba and Engenni.'⁵²²

21.2.4 With regard to the situation for non-indigenes relocating to Port Harcourt, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 reported that in correspondence with the IRBC's Research Directorate in October 2023, a history professor at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria commented that obstacles for non-indigenes moving to Port Harcourt, among other cities, such as finding accommodation or securing employment, 'are not specific to non-indigenes but experienced by those relocating to a new city.'⁵²³

21.2.5 With regard to the Igbo, the IRBC, in an archived 'Response to Information

⁵¹⁵ Google Maps, '[Port Harcourt, Rivers, Nigeria to Lagos, Nigeria](#)', accessed 3 May 2024

⁵¹⁶ Google Maps, '[Port Harcourt, Rivers, Nigeria to Kano City, Kano, Nigeria](#)', accessed 3 May 2024

⁵¹⁷ Google Maps, '[Port Harcourt, Rivers, Nigeria to Ibadan, Nigeria](#)', 3 May 2024

⁵¹⁸ CIA, '[Nigeria - The World Factbook](#)' (Geography), updated 12 December 2023

⁵¹⁹ Nigeria National Population Commission, '[Nigeria Population Projections](#)' (page 154), 5 May 2020

⁵²⁰ Oteh, CO, INJODEMAR, '[The ethnic question and the challenge ...](#)' (page 67), June 2009

⁵²¹ Oteh, CO, INJODEMAR, '[The ethnic question and the challenge ...](#)' (page 68, 69), June 2009

⁵²² Nche, GC, Transformation, '[Cultism in Rivers State: Causes ...](#)' (Volume 37(I), page 20), 2020

⁵²³ IRBC, '[RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#)' (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

Request – Nigeria: Information on the demographic profile of Port Harcourt, including the percentage of Igbo residents; whether Igbo who relocated to Port Harcourt experience social, economic or linguistic difficulties,' (IRBC RIR 2010), dated 20 October 2010, stated:

' ... [A] professor of anthropology at the University of Washington, who has undertaken substantial research on the Igbo in Nigeria, provided the following information in 19 October 2010 correspondence with the Research Directorate:

'The Igbo are "very much a minority" in Port Harcourt; the city is dominated by coastal peoples, including the Ikwerre, Ijaw and Ogoni, among others ...

'While there is a "low level of hostility" towards Igbo people in Port Harcourt, an Igbo is unlikely to experience "severe discrimination" or to be "in danger" – with the possible exception of an Igbo who was working for an oil company. Such an individual might be targeted by armed gangs in the city who protest that oil revenues do not go to coastal areas.'⁵²⁴

21.2.6 The IRBC RIR 2010 gave further information provided by the professor:

'It is doubtful that discrimination against Igbo people is so strong that an Igbo could not find some form of employment in Port Harcourt. However, it would still be more difficult for an Igbo to find employment than it would be for an Ikwerre or one of the other coastal peoples.

'In addition, teaching and civil service jobs go to people who were born in the state – with the exception of teaching jobs at federal universities located in the state. Although an Igbo who was born in Rivers State would theoretically be eligible to apply for a civil service or teaching job, in practice the individual may still not be hired, even if he or she has met all the requirements of the job.'⁵²⁵

21.2.7 There was no other, more recent information on the Igbo in Rivers State specifically, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)). For nationwide information on ethnicity and discrimination, see [Ethnicity](#) and [Ethnic discrimination and non-indigenes](#).

21.2.8 For more information on:

- employment in Port Harcourt and Rivers State, see [Economic activity, employment and poverty/wealth](#)
- insecurity in Port Harcourt and Rivers State, including inter-ethnic violence, see [Insecurity and crime](#)

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21.3 Religion

21.3.1 Nche (2020) stated: '[Rivers State] is ... home to many religions with Christianity as the dominant religion. Very few residents are Muslims (Ihejirika, 2009). Among the Christians, Roman Catholics are in the majority. However, there are other Christian denominations/churches such as Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Evangelical and Pentecostal

⁵²⁴ IRBC, ['Nigeria: Information on the demographic profile of Port Harcourt ...'](#), 20 October 2010

⁵²⁵ IRBC, ['Nigeria: Information on the demographic profile of Port Harcourt ...'](#), 20 October 2010

churches that are spread across all the communities in the state.⁵²⁶

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21.4 Languages

21.4.1 Oteh (2009) stated: 'Ijaw and Ikwerre are the most spoken languages although pigin [sic] English is widely spoken.'⁵²⁷

21.4.2 The IRBC RIR 2010 gave information provided by the professor: 'English, which is the official language of Nigeria, is commonly spoken in Port Harcourt. Many people who live in Port Harcourt are highly educated and have learned English at school. If an Igbo can speak English, "language should not be an issue." However, some non-Igbo may prefer to speak in their mother tongue, in which case an Igbo individual would have difficulty communicating with the person.'⁵²⁸

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21.5 Economic activity, employment and poverty/wealth

21.5.1 The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, in the Port Harcourt entry, stated:

'Port Harcourt is one of Nigeria's leading industrial centres. The Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate, 4 miles (6 km) north, is a 2,500-acre (1,000-hectare) site where tires, aluminum products, glass bottles, and paper are manufactured. The town also manufactures steel structural products, corrugated tin, paints, plastics, enamelware, wood and metal furniture, cement, concrete products, and several other goods. Nigeria's first oil refinery (1965) is at Alesa-Elеме, 12 miles (19 km) southeast. Pipelines carry oil and natural gas to Port Harcourt (where there also is a refinery) and to the port of Bonny, 25 miles (40 km) south-southeast, and refined oil to Makurdi in Benue state. Port Harcourt is the site of boatbuilding and fishing industries and has fish-freezing facilities.'⁵²⁹

21.5.2 In the entry for Rivers State, the Editors stated: 'Fishing and farming are the principal occupations of the region. Plantains, bananas, cassava, oil palms, coconuts, rubber trees, raffia, and citrus fruits are grown. Large deposits of crude oil and natural gas in the Niger River delta are the state's major mineral resources ...'⁵³⁰

21.5.3 With regard to employment for non-indigenes, the IRBC RIR of November 2023 stated that in correspondence with the IRBC's Research Directorate in 2019 that was resent to the Directorate in October 2023, Henry Gyang Mang, an academic at the Nigerian Army University Biu, Borno State, noted:

'In Port Harcourt ... most non-natives who thrive in the city are either oil workers or people allied to oil servicing companies. Non-indigenous informal workers who seek jobs in which indigenous peoples are capable of doing are usually frustrated in various informal manners, up to even possible threats by some indigenes. Only niche informal businesses like the sale of livestock

⁵²⁶ Nche, GC, Transformation, '[Cultism in Rivers State: Causes ...](#)' (Volume 37(I), page 20), 2020

⁵²⁷ Oteh, CO, INJODEMAR, '[The ethnic question and the challenge ...](#)' (page 68), June 2009

⁵²⁸ IRBC, '[Nigeria: Information on the demographic profile of Port Harcourt ...](#)', 20 October 2010

⁵²⁹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Port Harcourt](#)', variously updated

⁵³⁰ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Rivers](#)', variously updated

and meat butchering, which has been a preserve of Hausa or Fulani from the north, has been mainly captured in Port Harcourt by non-indigenes.⁵³¹

- 21.5.4 With regard to unemployment and underemployment, the NBS, in a report 'Labor Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report (Q4 2020)', dated March 2021, stated that Rivers State had an unemployment rate of 41.59% and an underemployment rate of 17.63%⁵³². National figures provided in the same report were 33.3% and 22.8%, respectively⁵³³. The data was presented in line with the NBS' old labour force methodology⁵³⁴. The NBS adopted a new methodology beginning with its Q4 2022 and Q1 2023 report⁵³⁵.
- 21.5.5 There was no state-by-state information on unemployment and underemployment using the new NBS methodology, in the sources consulted (see [Bibliography](#)).
- 21.5.6 For information on ethnicity relating to securing employment, see [Ethnicity](#).
- 21.5.7 With regard to poverty, the NBS poverty report 2019 classified 23.91% of residents of Rivers State as living in poverty. The national figure was 40.09%⁵³⁶.
- 21.5.8 The NBS MPI 2022 classified 63.9% of Rivers State residents aged 0 to 17 and 61.3% of residents aged 18 or over as multidimensionally poor⁵³⁷. The national figures were 67.5% and 58.7%, respectively⁵³⁸.
- 21.5.9 For more information on NBS methodology and definitions, see [Poverty, wealth and inequality](#).

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21.6 Housing and living conditions

- 21.6.1 Port Harcourt was one of the cities visited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing in September 2019, after which her report described Nigeria's housing sector as being 'in complete crisis'⁵³⁹.
- 21.6.2 Chinwennwo Phillips Ohochuku and Nkeiruka Okwakpam Adibe, both of the Department of Architecture at Rivers State University in Port Harcourt, in a paper 'Inter-State Migration and Housing Development: A Focus on Rivers State, Nigeria', published in the IIARD [International Institute of Academic Research and Development] International Journal of Geography and Environmental Management in 2022, stated:

'A remarkable feature of the housing situation in Port Harcourt is the slow pace of replacement/refurbishment of the obsolescent stock.

'Undeniably, some gentrification or cellular renewal is occurring in the Main Town and in Diobu; but certainly not at a pace to make any significant

⁵³¹ IRBC, [RIR – Nigeria: Role of indigeneship](#) (section 5.1), 10 November 2023

⁵³² NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 75), March 2021

⁵³³ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (page 3), March 2021

⁵³⁴ NBS, [Labor Force Statistics](#) (pages 8 to 10), March 2021

⁵³⁵ NBS, [Press release on the Nigeria Labour Force survey](#), 24 August 2023

⁵³⁶ NBS, [Poverty and inequality report](#) page 5, May 2020

⁵³⁷ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 30), November 2022

⁵³⁸ NBS, [Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#) (page 46), November 2022

⁵³⁹ OHCHR, '[... Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing ...](#)' (page 7), 3 January 2020

impression on the townscape or provide sufficient rental units of various kinds in the face of massive demand. The bulk of new housing construction is occurring on the city's periphery by (a) speculative developers providing largely rental flats and (b) the rich, building for owner-occupation.⁵⁴⁰

21.6.3 In relation to supply and affordability, Punch, in an article dated 12 April 2024, reported that, in a statement, the Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, said he would work with the Federal Government 'to address the issue of housing affecting low income earners in the state.'⁵⁴¹

21.6.4 The article further stated:

' ... [T]he governor ... said the Rivers State government recently flagged off a 20,000 housing unit project to address the housing needs of low income earners in the state ...

'He stated, " ... [M]edium income earners cannot even afford housing again ...

"We need to make provision for our traders and taxi drivers. We need to make provision for our teachers and other classes of workers. That is what gave birth to that programme. And I am happy to say it today, that the project is ongoing ..."⁵⁴²

21.6.5 In relation to security of tenure, Amnesty International, in an article dated 15 February 2022, stated: 'Rivers State authorities have forcibly evicted thousands of residents of waterfront communities from their homes in the Diobu area of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, in southern Nigeria. The area is home to an estimated population of 60,000 people.'⁵⁴³

21.6.6 With regard to basic amenities, the NBS living standards survey 2020 reported that 87.9% of households in Rivers State had access to electricity. Supply was available for an average of 18.4 hours or less a day, depending on electricity source⁵⁴⁴. The NBS MPI 2022 reported that 58% of households in Rivers State had no access to clean drinking water and 77% had no access to sanitary facilities⁵⁴⁵.

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21.7 Healthcare

21.7.1 Vanguard, in an article dated 21 June 2021 by Paulinus Nsirim, Commissioner for Information and Communications, Rivers State, quoted the state's governor, Nyseom Wike, as saying that the state government had put 40 percent of its 2021 budget into the health sector, adding that he said: 'We have increased the budgetary allocation for the health sector in the 2020 fiscal year. We have placed priority on health. We are expanding our health facilities for the benefit of our people. The issue of health is critical to the development of the state. Without health, other sectors will suffer. Therefore, we will continue to invest in the health sector.' The same source noted that

⁵⁴⁰ Ohochuku, CP, and Adibe, NO, IJGEM, '[Inter-State Migration ...](#)' (No. 1, page 29), 2022

⁵⁴¹ Punch, '[We'll partner FG to provide housing for Rivers people](#)', 12 April 2024

⁵⁴² Punch, '[We'll partner FG to provide housing for Rivers people](#)', 12 April 2024

⁵⁴³ AI, '[Nigeria: 60,000 forcibly evicted in Port Harcourt](#)', 15 February 2022

⁵⁴⁴ NBS, '[Living Standards Survey](#)' (pages 87 to 88), July 2020

⁵⁴⁵ NBS, '[Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index \(2022\)](#)' (pages 68 to 69), November 2022

the Rivers State government was sponsoring 555 medical students studying at universities in the state⁵⁴⁶.

- 21.7.2 BusinessDay, in an article dated 21 November 2022, reported that a new cancer and nuclear medicine centre had opened in Port Harcourt⁵⁴⁷.
- 21.7.3 The Rivers State Ministry of Health Department of Medical Services stated in an entry on its website, dated 2022: 'Inspection and certification of health care facilities are done annually. Facilities that do not meet up with the stipulated Minimum Standard are denied approval and risk being sealed.'⁵⁴⁸
- 21.7.4 The Rivers State government operates a health insurance programme – the Rivers State Contributory Health Protection Programme (RIVCHPP) – whose stated aims include 'Ensuring that all residents, regardless of their socio-economic status, have universal access to quality essential healthcare services, reducing disparities in healthcare access'⁵⁴⁹.
- 21.7.5 The UK FCDO listed medical facilities in Port Harcourt in an [entry on its website](#), updated 17 April 2024.

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21.8 Education

- 21.8.1 The MICS survey report 2021 stated that, in Rivers State, 96% of children completed primary school, 93% completed lower secondary school and 76% completed upper secondary school⁵⁵⁰.
- 21.8.2 The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, in the entry for Port Harcourt, stated: 'The University of Port Harcourt (1975) and Rivers State University of Science and Technology (1972, university status 1980) serve the town ...'⁵⁵¹
- 21.8.3 The university listings on the [NUC website](#) also featured entries for private universities in Rivers State⁵⁵².

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21.9 Social support

- 21.9.1 For national information on social support provided by the state, see [Social support / protection](#). For information on the Rivers State government's health insurance programme, see [Healthcare](#).
- 21.9.2 With regard to civil society organisations providing social support, the Port Harcourt Link Club (PHLC), 'a non-political, non-ethnic and non-religious social-philanthropic organization', stated in an undated entry on its website: 'Our flagship initiatives cover a number of domain areas such as education, environmental sustainability, entrepreneurship, and helping the less privileged.'⁵⁵³
- 21.9.3 Divine Benevolent Care Organization (DBCO) is an NGO that works with

⁵⁴⁶ Vanguard, '[HEALTHCARE: In celebration of a golden era ...](#)', 21 June 2021

⁵⁴⁷ BusinessDay, '[Healthcare boost as Wike's N26bn ...](#)', 21 November 2022

⁵⁴⁸ Rivers State Ministry of Health, '[MEDICAL SERVICES](#)', 2022

⁵⁴⁹ RIVCHPP, '[Rivers State Contributory Health Protection Programme / Home](#)', no date

⁵⁵⁰ NBS/UNICEF, '[2021 MICS statistical snapshots](#)' (page 50), 24 August 2022

⁵⁵¹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Editors, '[Port Harcourt](#)', variously updated

⁵⁵² NUC, '[National Universities Commission](#)', no date

⁵⁵³ PHLC, '[Our Initiatives](#)', no date

‘orphans and vulnerable children, women and widows, youths, the destitute, less privileged, rural dwellers and people living with HIV/AIDS’ through activities such as free medical programmes, food distribution and provision of scholarships⁵⁵⁴.

- 21.9.4 For information on other civil society organisations operating in Port Harcourt and Rivers State, see the NNGO’s [NGOs Directory by State](#).

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21.10 Food security

- 21.10.1 A FEWS NET map of projected acute food insecurity for February to May 2024 showed food insecurity was classified as ‘minimal’ in northern areas of Rivers State and ‘stressed’ in southern areas⁵⁵⁵.

- 21.10.2 For the map and more information, see [Food security](#).

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21.11 Insecurity and crime

- 21.11.1 GlobalSecurity.org, ‘a nonpartisan, independent, nonprofit organization that serves as a think tank, research and consultancy group, and website’⁵⁵⁶, in an article updated on 16 February 2019, stated that in the Niger Delta, where Rivers State is located: ‘... inter-ethnic clashes are common ...’⁵⁵⁷ It did not provide details of the frequency of clashes.

- 21.11.2 For more information on ethnicity in Rivers State, see [Ethnicity](#).

- 21.11.3 A United States Department of State ‘Nigeria Travel Advisory’ for US citizens, dated 20 September 2023, placed ‘Rivers State (with the exception of Port Harcourt)’ in its ‘Level 4: Do Not Travel’ category, stating Crime is rampant throughout Southern Nigeria, and there is a heightened risk of kidnapping, violent civil unrest, and armed gangs.⁵⁵⁸

- 21.11.4 ThisDay, a Nigerian privately-owned news outlet, in an article dated 31 December 2022, quoted Rivers State Commissioner of Police Okon Effiong as saying:

“Within this period of three months between October 5 and December 30 [2022], we have arrested 22 suspected kidnapers, we arrested 27 armed robbery suspects, we have recovered 21 arms, 136 ammunition, 30 live cartridges, 11 live magazine and eight vehicles.

“We rescued 11 kidnapped victims, raided 15 criminal hideouts and arrested 145 persons during the raid, four illegal refining sites discovered and destroyed, 18 suspected kidnapers and armed robbers neutralised during gun battle ...’⁵⁵⁹

- 21.11.5 On kidnapping in 2024, ThisDay, in a January 2024 article, reported: ‘Eight persons have been kidnapped by suspected Fulani herdsmen along the

⁵⁵⁴ DBCO, ‘[About Us](#)’, no date

⁵⁵⁵ FEWS NET, ‘[Food assistance needs remain elevated through harvest...](#)’, no date

⁵⁵⁶ Policy Commons, ‘[GlobalSecurity.org](#)’, no date

⁵⁵⁷ GlobalSecurity.org, ‘[Nigeria - Niger Delta](#)’, updated 16 February 2019

⁵⁵⁸ USSD, ‘[Nigeria Travel Advisory](#)’, 20 September 2023

⁵⁵⁹ ThisDay, ‘[Police Arrest 200 Suspects in Rivers](#)’, 31 December 2022

Obiri-Ikwerre-Airport axis of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.⁵⁶⁰

21.11.6 ThisDay, in an April 2024 article, reported a Channels TV reporter kidnapped near his home in Rivers State on 11 April had ‘regained his freedom’⁵⁶¹.

21.11.7 The Nigeria Watch database, filtered for ‘political issue’ fatalities in ‘Rivers’ from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, documented **3 fatalities**. Filtered for ‘land issue’ and ‘cattle grazing’ fatalities in ‘Rivers’ during the same period, the database recorded **no fatalities**. Filtered for ‘crime’ (‘all other fatal criminal incidents except political, religious, market, land, cattle and sorcery issues’⁵⁶²) in ‘Rivers’ during the same period, the database recorded **92 fatalities**. The database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities⁵⁶³.

21.11.8 ACLED’s datasets on violence against civilians, where ‘an organised armed group deliberately inflicts violence upon non-combatants’ – ‘Abduction/force disappearance’; ‘Attack’; ‘Sexual violence’ – for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Rivers’, documented **58 ‘events’ and 55 fatalities**⁵⁶⁴.

21.11.9 ACLED’s dataset for all forms of political violence – Battles; Explosions/Remote violence; Violence against civilians; Protests; Riots; and Strategic developments (‘Strategically important instances of non-violent activity by conflict actors and other agents within the context of conflict or broader political disorder’⁵⁶⁵) – involving combat and civilian actors for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, filtered for ‘Rivers’, documented **184 ‘events’ and 132 fatalities**⁵⁶⁶.

21.11.10 For information on the Nigeria Watch and ACLED definitions and methodologies, see [Insecurity and crime](#).

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21.12 Treatment of returnees

21.12.1 There was no information on the treatment of returnees on arrival in Port Harcourt or Rivers State, in the sources available (see [Bibliography](#)).

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⁵⁶⁰ ThisDay, ‘[Eight Commuters Kidnapped in Rivers](#)’, 4 January 2024

⁵⁶¹ ThisDay, ‘[Kidnapped Channels TV Reporter Regains Freedom](#)’, 13 April 2024

⁵⁶² Nigeria Watch, ‘[Methodology](#)’, no date

⁵⁶³ Nigeria Watch, ‘[List event](#)’, accessed 23 April 2024

⁵⁶⁴ ACLED, ‘[Dashboard](#)’, accessed 22 April 2024

⁵⁶⁵ ACLED, ‘[Quick Guide to ACLED Data](#)’, updated March 2023

⁵⁶⁶ ACLED, ‘[Dashboard](#)’, accessed 22 April 2024

Research methodology

The country of origin information (COI) 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](#), 2024. Namely, taking into account the COI's relevance, reliability, accuracy, balance, currency, transparency and traceability.

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

Commentary may be provided on source(s) and information to help readers understand the meaning and limits of the COI.

Wherever possible, multiple sourcing is used and the COI compared to ensure that it is accurate and balanced, and provides a comprehensive and up-to-date picture 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](#).

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Terms of Reference

A 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) provides a broad outline of the issues relevant to the scope of this note and forms the basis for the country information.

The following topics were identified prior to drafting as relevant and on which research was undertaken:

- Geography and demography
- Economy
- Freedom of movement
 - Legal provisions
 - Documentation required to enter Nigeria
 - Documentation required within Nigeria
 - Legal, physical or other restrictions on movement
 - Areas of insecurity
- Treatment of returnees on and after arrival
- Access to:
 - Food
 - Housing
 - Healthcare
 - Employment
 - Education
 - Welfare

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Version control and feedback

Clearance

Below is information on when this note was cleared:

- version 3.0
- valid from 15 July 2024

Official – sensitive: Not for disclosure – Start of section

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

Official – sensitive: Not for disclosure – End of section

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Feedback to the Home Office

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](#).

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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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