

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



UNITED NATIONS  
NIGERIA



# COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS

FEBRUARY 2022



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# Foreword

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Nigeria, I am delighted to share with you our Common Country Analysis (CCA) for Nigeria. In this report, we aim to provide an objective baseline measure of the situation in Nigeria and offer data-driven insights to guide the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023 - 2027. While the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs remain our North Star, the CCA is the torch to illuminate our path for gaps and obstacles along the way.

As Africa's largest country by both population and size of the economy, Nigeria is critically important to the success of the 2030 Agenda, both on this continent and globally. As it stands, Nigeria is not on track to reach many of its SDGs by 2030, a situation compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, there are significant challenges to achieving the agenda and accelerated and transformational efforts are required if we are to meet this great nation's development aspirations.

The UN System in Nigeria consists of 26 UN agencies working in unison to deliver as one for the Nigerian people. The System's full resources have been utilised to produce the CCA which will inform how and where the UN can best make catalytic impact in this large and diverse country of more than 200 million people. Tailor made approaches will be formulated based on the context provided by this report.

We can measure the progress of Nigerian development by understanding the dynamics across the 5Ps: prosperity, people, peace, planet, and partnerships. The 5Ps highlight how the individual SDGs are part of an intertwined framework and that they must balance and support each other. The CCA is a planning tool that will help identify interlinkages and single out solutions.

I would like to thank the Government of Nigeria and our wide array of partners who provided essential inputs and specialist knowledge towards the production of this extensive report. It was truly a collective endeavour. We are now undertaking the next step to outline how the UN can support Nigeria and its people to meet the 2030 Agenda through the UNSDCF 2023-2027. I look forward to continued partnerships and laudable contributions from diverse stakeholders and interlocutors.

Regards,

**Matthias Schmale**  
**Resident Coordinator a.i.**  
**United Nations Nigeria**

# Executive Summary

The Nigeria Common Country Analysis (CCA) is the UN system's independent, impartial, and collective assessment and analysis of Nigeria's progress, gaps, opportunities, and bottlenecks. The CCA underlines the UN's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN norms and standards, and the principles of the UN Charter. This CCA describes the progress that has been made and the challenges that persist. The document attempts to identify the key structural issues that can be overcome to accelerate efforts to meet the SDGs. The CCA is primarily for the UN's internal use in developing the cooperation framework with Nigeria.

Nigeria, being Africa's largest country by both population and size of the economy, is systematically important. Nigeria's population is currently growing at 2.59% annually and is estimated to reach 400 million people by 2050, which will make it the world's third most populous country. The implication is that global efforts to meeting the SDGs depend significantly on Nigeria's progress. The demographics of Nigeria's population with 63% of the population currently 24 years or younger, and with 49.3% female, means that progress towards the goals depends to a large extent on the fate of its women, children, and young people.

In general, Nigeria is not on track to meet many of the SDGs by 2030 and will require accelerated efforts. Although there are improvements across many of the goals, the improvements are not happening fast enough to meet the 2030 targets. In some cases, progress towards the goals has even reversed. These trends are, however, country wide averages with significant variation across Nigeria's 36 states, partly due to Nigeria's scale and an array of different

historical, geographical, socio-economic, and political contexts. This variation highlights the importance of subnational analysis and policy and the implication that a national one-size-fits-all SDG strategy might not be appropriate.

The variation also highlights a key challenge in Nigeria which is the infrequency or absence of disaggregated data across many of the goals. On a national level, the absence of an updated census makes development planning challenging. There are, however, efforts being made to conduct a new census, to increase the availability of key data, and to realign the country's statistical system towards the SDGs.

The progress towards the goals has also been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which has had both direct and indirect effects on lives and livelihoods. Although the direct effects, with an official death toll of over 2,600 as at September 2021, are relatively low, the indirect effects on the health system and on broader livelihoods have been significant.

## Economy, Poverty, Inequality, and Food Insecurity

The economy, which had already been in a challenging situation pre-pandemic, went into recession in 2020 with a 1.8% GDP contraction. The responsive policy efforts by the government, combined with support from the international community, however, saw growth recover quickly to 3.4% in 2021. Despite this recovery, the combination of the recession with six prior years of negative per capita growth meant that the effect on livelihoods was severe. As at the end of 2020, average incomes adjusted for purchasing power were 10.9% lower than they were in 2014. The unemployment rate has been rising from 14.2% in 2016



to 23.1% in 2018 and further to 33.3% at the end of 2020. Recent reports show that during the pandemic over 25% of jobs were lost with millions of Nigerians dropping out of the labour force completely. Existing gender gaps in employment have been increasing during the pandemic with female unemployment rising to 35.2% compared to 31.8% for males. Youth unemployment is particularly challenging with 53.4% of young people in the labour force unemployed and with 31.4% of youths not in education, employment, or training prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is evident that the economy is not creating enough jobs to curb rising unemployment. Prior to the pandemic about 5.3 million people entered the labour force between the third quarters of 2017 and 2018, with the economy creating only 265,718 new full-time jobs for them over the same period. These poor job creation numbers are driven by low productivity in key agricultural and manufacturing sectors, and the continued exposure to crude oil through its dominance in exports and government revenue. The dependence on crude oil is likely to be even more challenging in the next decade due to the global effort towards net-zero carbon emissions.

Due to methodological challenges, it is difficult to state the trajectory of poverty in Nigeria. While the official pre-pandemic poverty rate of 40.09% in 2019 amounting to an estimated 82.9 million people is much lower than the previous rate of 62.6% measured in 2010, the two measures of poverty cannot be directly compared due to a change in methodology. It is also reasonable to expect the poverty rate to have worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The poverty rate also varies significantly within the country with a range of 4.5% to 87.7% depending on the state. This spatial variation in poverty is driving the trends in income

inequality. A significant gap in the poverty statistics is the absence of gender disaggregated poverty rates.

Undernourishment and food insecurity are rising, and longer-term measures of malnutrition such as stunting remain stagnant. There has been a deterioration in some states with Borno standing out. The prevalence of stunting increased from 27% to 45% between 2013 and 2018, likely due to the conflicts in the region. On the positive side, the prevalence dropped significantly in Kaduna state from 57% to 47% over the same period. This again highlights the importance of subnational analysis. The underlying challenges of food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition are linked to the dynamics in the agriculture sector where productivity remains low, combined with policy choices which have sought to limit the importation of food and have resulted in higher food prices. The violence and conflict, with the attendant displacement of people, are also having a negative impact. The high levels of poverty and rising hunger also highlight challenges with the shock responsiveness and reach of social protection mechanisms which cover only 13% of people living in Nigeria.

### **Access to Basic Services, Education, and Health**

Nigeria has a rapidly urbanizing population and a rapid growth in the number of cities but without a commensurate growth in infrastructure and basic services. This has resulted in a growing housing deficit, the growth of slums, and under-provision of essential urban infrastructure and services. These challenges feed into additional challenges regarding access to basic services. Although there have been improvements over the last decade, most of the Nigerian population still does not have access based on the SDG standards. Only 9% of households had access



to all three WASH services (water, sanitation and hygiene).

The trends are similar regarding health indicators. Under-five and neonatal mortality rates have reduced over the last decade, although not fast enough to meet the SDG targets. There are, however, states within Nigeria that are on track to meet the targets such as Ogun state which had reduced under-five and neonatal mortality to 30 and 15 per thousand as at 2018, respectively. On the other hand, some states show health statistics that would rank close to the worst in the world. Kebbi state, for example, had under-five mortality rates of 252 per thousand and neonatal mortality rates of 55 per 1000. States such as Kaduna and Niger even showed reversals over the period. Most of the state-level variation is driven by broader socio-economic factors and wealth. Improvements have been made in some areas such as vaccinations where the percentage of children who received none of the basic vaccinations declined from 29% to 19% between 2003 and 2008, for instance. Accelerated efforts are, however, still required across these underlying drivers of health outcomes.

The average trends on access to education are stagnant. The average duration of schooling is 8.2 years, with 8.7 for boys and 7.6 for girls. Incorporating quality, however, reduces the effective time in school to 4.3 years. Only 66% of public-school students could read at least one of three words and only 78% could add single digits after completing the equivalent of grade four. Only 61.2% of children from 3 to 5 years of age were developmentally on track, although this is higher than the 57.4% it was in 2011. Finally, the number of out-of-school children is estimated to have increased from 10.5 million to 13.2 million as at 2018. The stagnation in education outcomes is likely driven by broader economic stagnation, rising insecurity

especially in already challenged states which target schools, COVID-19 pandemic as well as public spending choices and priorities.

In understanding human development trends, two familiar patterns must be taken into consideration. The first is the dominance of out-of-pocket expenditure with most Nigerians left to finance access to education, health, and basic services on their own. When combined with the high rates of poverty and inequality, it implies that millions of poor people are being left behind. The second is the importance of state and local government spending choices and capacity to deliver and improve basic, education and health services.

### Governance, Security, and Rule of Law

On governance, Nigeria continues to make strides on some areas, with key challenges in others. The support for democracy remains strong and the trust of Nigerians in the democratic process is resilient. This has likely been strengthened by the transition between political parties in 2015. There are, however, concerns with the electoral process. Trust in the capacity of INEC to conduct free and fair elections is low and declining. Democracy and electoral conduct at the local government level is a lot more complicated and opaque, with the quality of elections falling far short of national levels.

Efforts have been made to improve public accountability and transparency with public procurement reforms being continuously implemented and efforts made to measure more systematically and tackle corruption. Despite these efforts, Nigeria still ranks poorly in perceived corruption.

Challenges remain with policing and the criminal justice system, as well as demonstrating the commitment to human rights. Despite efforts at



improving the legal framework for accountability, impunity remains a serious challenge. There is a high likelihood that extrajudicial killings, excessive use of force and other severe human rights violations by security personnel will continue if the overall security situation does not improve, further deepening the public trust deficit. This distrust culminated in the 2020 #ENDSARS protests which, although initially focused on police brutality, demonstrated the scale of the chasm between citizens' perception of the performance of police and issues around police corruption and brutality, specifically targeted at young people.

Decades of underinvestment in the education and health of many Nigerians, in tandem with long running challenges with broad-based growth and job creation, have combined with other governance challenges to create an environment with significant security, governance, and political obstacles to development. The situation appears to have metastasized from conflict focused in the North East and the Niger Delta to different forms of violence and conflict across almost the entire country. With regard to the North East, some gains were made between 2015 and 2016 and more recently as a result of stabilisation and DDR (disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration). At the same time the non-international armed conflict continues, and has included attacks on NGOs and humanitarian hubs, limiting the capacity of partners to help affected peoples. "Banditry" and kidnappings for ransom have also placed the North West region of Nigeria have significantly aggravated the chronic development challenges in the region. Challenges in the Niger Delta remain, especially with regard to attacks on critical infrastructure and general safety, although efforts made to tackle the crisis appear to be improving some of the outcomes. The violence between

herders and farming communities has escalated and is spreading southward from the Middle Belt. In 2020, deaths from violence against civilians in the Middle Belt outpaced those from the conflict in the North East. The past few years have also seen a rapid increase in the number of abductions. These abductions have been linked to the preponderance of armed groups sometimes associated with large forest areas, most of which are ungoverned. In recent times, the abductions have involved the targeting of schools with an escalation in high-profile mass kidnappings of school children. In the South East and parts of the South South, agitation by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), hinged on perceived institutionalized discrimination and neglect of the region, has led to a recent deterioration of the security situation in that region with attacks on security personnel and installations. Similar dynamics appear to be springing up in the South West as well.

### Climate Change, Adaptation and Resilience

Nigeria is highly exposed to the projected impacts of climate change with its effects already apparent. In 2020, 22 Nigerian cities recorded temperatures over 40°C for a combined average of about 27 days. In the same year, 17 states experienced high 1-day rainfall values of 100mm and above. Flash floods, river floods, coastal floods, coastal erosion, ocean surges and swells, windstorms, dust storms are occurring with more frequency in various parts of Nigeria. At the same time, desertification and deforestation continue to pose a threat to livelihoods.

The changing weather patterns and the attendant disruption to livelihoods will have significant consequences for the lives and livelihoods of the poorest in Nigeria and could severely derail movement towards the SDGs. This is particularly because



Nigeria's agricultural sector, which contributed to about 22% of the GDP and 45% of total employment, relies on good weather and well-functioning soils and biodiversity including forests and agro-silvopastoral systems.

Other climate related challenges also persist. Issues with land degradation and desertification are present as well as challenges with deforestation and the reduction in forest cover. Nigeria also remains a hub for illicit wildlife trade. In recent years, air pollution, both in urban areas and rural areas, has become more prominent as well.

### Gender, Youth, and People With Disabilities

Nigeria has a comprehensive legal framework related to gender equality with laws passed to regulate violence against persons. Efforts are, however, still being made to have these laws domesticated across states although significant progress has been made. Regardless of this, the trends in relation to gender-based violence appear to be getting worse, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the positive side, trends on early marriage, although still relatively high, are reducing. The same is the case for trends with regard to female genital mutilation. Subnational indicators, however, show that the improvements are not universal, with the situation deteriorating in some states.

Gender disparities also continue to persist in key areas such as on sexual and reproductive health. Some 80% of young men are able to make decisions about their own healthcare, compared to less than 40% of young women. The gender disparities are to some extent driven by gender biased social norms.

The participation of women and youth in governance has deteriorated in recent years. The proportion of

seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments has decreased in the last electoral cycle, from 6.9% in 2015 to 4.4% in 2019, placing Nigeria towards the very bottom of world rankings. The situation is similar for youth. For example, in the 9th National Assembly elected in 2019, only 27 of the 360 elected members of the House of Representatives were under 40. The perception of the exclusion of youth in governance may be one of the factors behind the increasing frequency of protests by youth and on youth related issues since 2017. The most influential of these were the #EndSARS protests in 2020 against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Nigeria Police Force with allegations against them of extortion, excessive force, and human rights abuses.

The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 was signed in 2019 and looks to deal with challenges relating to persons with disabilities such as access to education and healthcare, and infrastructure compliance amongst others. Other challenges, however, remain with weak enforcement, inadequate funding, negative attitudes, and beliefs and prejudices present.

### Financing Landscape

Nigeria faces significant challenges to financing the SDGs with estimates ranging from \$35bn to \$67bn in annual requirements to meet the SDGs by 2030. The financial resources available for meeting the SDGs have plateaued in the last decade. Limited success in increasing domestic private financing, combined with high levels of poverty, spatial inequality, and overall low levels of public finances, means that many are being left behind.

The trends in domestic public finances have worsened in recent times. The Nigerian government continues to be faced with a tightening fiscal space with general



government revenue declining from 22.25% of GDP in 2006 to 5.54% in 2016, and with federal government revenue at 2.7% of GDP prior to the pandemic in 2019. Although there have been reforms to improve revenue, specifically from non-oil sources, these have yet to yield significant results. The fiscal space is constrained further by rising debt sustainability risks. As with other development indicators, significant variation persists across state governments in their internally generated revenue with some revenue per person ranging from NGN 980 per year to NGN 28,728 per year. Expenditure trends are similarly challenging with allocation to social sectors, such as education, health, and social protection, below the recommended thresholds as a share of current spending. Information on expenditure at the local government level is largely absent even though roughly 20% of federally collected revenues are distributed to local governments.

In recent years, international private flows, specifically remittances, have become an important source of financing for the SDGs. Foreign direct investment, however, appears to have stagnated below long-term trends which were already lower than peers. An important factor to consider is the categorization of

Nigeria as a middle-income country based on its macro-economic indicators; this has cut off official development assistance to states with high poverty levels and with average incomes below the global low-income line.

### National Vision

Nigeria remains committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and this is apparent in the integration of the SDGs in its own development plans. The new National Development Plan which runs from 2021 to 2025 is consistent with the SDGs. The Nigeria Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Plan 2020 – 2030 also seeks to mobilize action through key initiatives to bridge the gaps in the current planning structure, specifically through the integration of the SDGs into national and sub-national development planning processes, and the realignment of the national statistical system with the requirements of the SDGs, ensuring the production of timely data to gauge progress and identify shortcomings.



# Introduction

The CCA is the UN system's independent, impartial, and collective assessment and analysis of Nigeria's progress, gaps, opportunities, and bottlenecks. The CCA underlines the UN's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN norms and standards, and the principles of the UN Charter. This CCA describes the progress that has been made and the challenges that persist and attempts to identify the key structural issues that can be overcome to accelerate efforts to meet the SDGs. The CCA is primarily for the UN's internal use in developing the cooperation framework with Nigeria.

The CCA was developed via a collaborative process driven by the Programme Management Team of the UN Country Team in Nigeria. UN agencies worked jointly to produce diagnostic papers on the SDGs and key thematic areas. The diagnostic papers were then synthesized to produce the draft CCA with support from external research assistants. This was improved through a series of eight workshops which brought together UN agencies, government, academia, the private sector, and civil society partners. The workshops were grouped as follows: Economy; Demographics and Human Capital Development; Governance; Gender and Social Inclusion; Youth; Persons with Disabilities; Climate and the Environment; and Financing and Public Sector Resource Management. External consultants also supported the process as research assistants.

The collaborative nature of the development of the CCA, and the incorporation of key inputs from a wide array of partners has helped improve the quality of the CCA and is a significant innovation in the CCA process.



# Development Context



## Background and Setting

Nigeria is estimated to be the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of size of both the economy and the population. Nigeria’s population at the end of 2020 is estimated to range from 200.96 million<sup>1</sup> to 206 million<sup>2</sup>. Nigeria has a young population with people aged 0 – 14 years making up 43.2% of the population, and with 63% 24 years old or younger. Females also make up an estimated 49.3% of the population. This implies that roughly 81% of the population are either female, youth, or children. The implication is that for Nigeria to meet the SDGs requires a specific focus on these key groups. Nigeria’s population estimates are, however, limited by the absence of an official census since 2006. This has implications for many SDG indicators that are indexed to the population and makes development planning significantly more difficult. However, plans are currently underway to conduct a census by 2022.

With a current total fertility rate of 5.42 children per woman, a crude birth rate of 38.1 per thousand and a death rate of 12.0 per thousand in 2019, Nigeria’s population is currently growing at 2.59% per year<sup>3</sup>. This makes Nigeria the fastest growing population of any country with at least 100 million people. However, both the birth and death rates have been falling slowly over the last decade. Based on current trends, Nigeria’s population is expected to reach 401 million by 2050. This will make it the third most populous country in the world. This implies that Nigeria’s prosperity, or lack of it, will have implications for the prosperity of Africa and the world, and for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

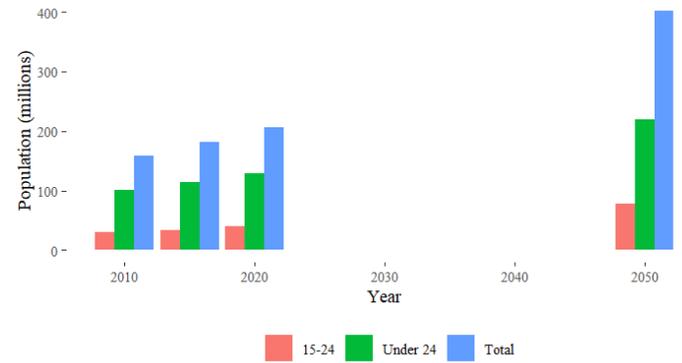


Fig 1: population and youth population. Source: World Population Prospects 2019

The trends on population growth demonstrate a common theme across many of the SDG indicators, which is the significant amount of variation within the country.

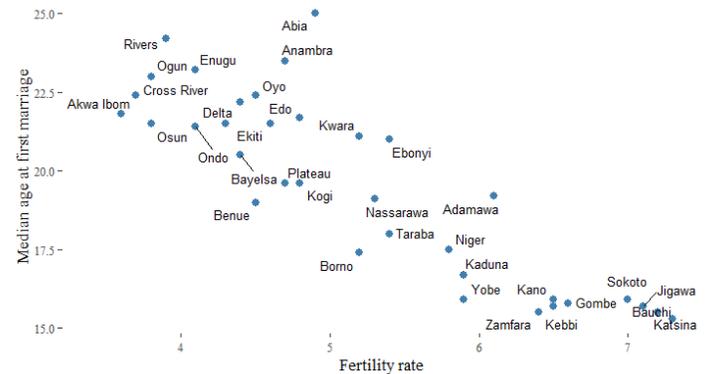


Fig 2: Median age at first marriage of women aged 25 – 49 vs fertility rates. Source: NDHS 2018

Fertility rates vary from as low as 3.4 in Lagos state to as high as 7.3 in Katsina state. This variation is driven by complex and long-running historical and socio-economic factors which have changed only very slowly and impact many SDGs. As shown in figure 2, the median age of first marriage of women aged 25 to 49 is correlated with fertility rates within the country. This

<sup>1</sup> World Population Prospects 2019

<sup>2</sup> National Population Commission – 2020.

<sup>3</sup> World Population Prospects 2019



demonstrates a recurring narrative across many SDG indicators in Nigeria, with cross-cutting issues such as gender and early marriage highlighting the importance of a systems approach to analysing progress and improving outcomes.

The internal variation in outcomes within Nigeria is in some ways captured by the governance structure. Nigeria is a federation consisting of three tiers of government: federal, state, and local governments. There is separation of powers and functions between the tiers. Each of the 36 states has an elected governor and an elected state assembly of between 24 and 40 members depending on the size of the population in each state. The third tier comprises of 774 local government areas (LGAs). All elected officers have four-year terms with the president, state governors, and local government chairpersons allowed to serve a maximum of two terms.

Nigeria also presents a complex social set-up with more than 250 ethnic groups, as well as religious complexity that is more diverse than the frequently touted “Muslim North” and “Christian South”. Significant populations in the North of the country self-identify as Christian and significant populations in the South identify as Muslim. There are also pockets of people with traditional African beliefs and other religious leanings. The combined ethnic and religious cleavages, however, still serve as an important backdrop in the political and local governance sphere.

From a legal standpoint, Nigeria operates a mixed system consisting of English common law, Islamic Law<sup>4</sup>, and traditional law. However, it has a written constitution which is the supreme law of the land. The laws include the criminal code, applicable throughout

the country, and the penal code, applicable in some of the northern parts. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, followed by Acts of the National Assembly. These take precedence over any other state laws, bye-laws, regulations or directives emanating from an existing law.

In terms of legislative powers, the Constitution vests legislative powers on the National Assembly. The Constitution provides for an exclusive list of matters where only the National Assembly can make laws. In the concurrent list, the National Assembly and State Assemblies can make laws on the same matter, however, Acts of the National Assembly override that of states where there is a conflict.

The key takeaway, with regard to the 2030 Agenda, is that Nigeria is set to be one of the largest countries in the world and, therefore, systematically important both in Africa and beyond. Nigeria is, however, a mosaic of different socio-economic and cultural contexts with a lot of commonalities, but also with different trajectories with regard to meeting the SDGs. A one-size-fits-all approach for the entire country is unlikely to be as impactful as approaches that are tailored to meet the specific state and regional contexts.

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<sup>4</sup> Sharia law adopted and practiced in 12 northern states (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara).



# Economic Development and Poverty Reduction



Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) has increased consistently from 0.51 in 2014 to 0.539 in 2019, although the pace of improvement has slowed since about 2015. Despite the improvements, Nigeria still falls in the low human development category ranking 161 out of 189 countries. The HDI is much lower at 0.348 if adjusted for inequality. The slowing improvement in the HDI is linked to a decline in its economic fortunes in recent years.

Over the last decade, the Nigerian economy has witnessed a slowdown in economic growth. There have been two recessions, in 2015-2017 and in 2020, with the economy still recovering from the first before going back into recession due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy has recovered quickly from the COVID induced recession although there is a risk of a return to pre-COVID growth sluggishness.

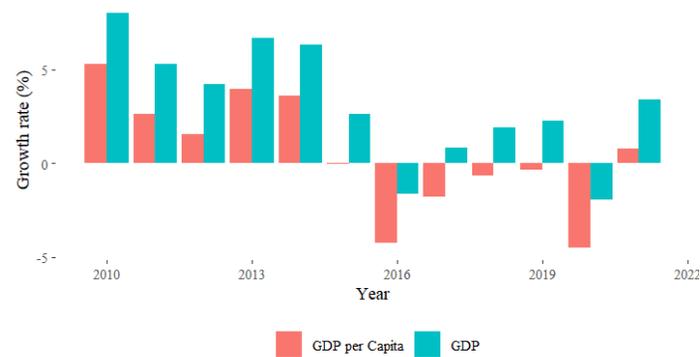


Fig 3: Real GDP growth rates. Source: NBS and World Population Prospects 2019

Although there have been periods of positive economic growth, it has mostly been below the estimated

population growth rate. The result is that per capita growth or average incomes have been falling for six consecutive years from \$5,516 in 2015 to \$4,917 in 2020<sup>5</sup>. This has had severe implications for meeting the SDGs as income and wealth are two key cross cutting issues that are crucial for progress.

The underlying challenges with the economy have not changed significantly over the last decade. The economy remains exposed to vulnerabilities due to the influence of the crude oil market. Although the share of the crude oil industry as a percentage of overall GDP has declined from about 15% in 2010 to 8% in 2020<sup>6</sup>, crude oil still accounts for a large share of all goods exports, foreign exchange inflows, and government revenues.

In the last decade, crude oil exports have accounted for over 90% of all exports and over 86% of all foreign exchange inflows<sup>7</sup>. The consequence of this high exposure to crude oil is that shocks in international markets have resulted in severe local economic shocks. These economic shocks are usually accompanied by government revenue shocks as that is also exposed to crude oil prices<sup>8</sup>. This in turn hinders the government's ability to respond to the economic shocks. One of these crude oil shocks, combined with the policy response, was responsible for the economic decline that started in 2016 from which Nigeria is still attempting to recover.

In the past few years, other macroeconomic vulnerabilities have emerged that threaten to further

<sup>5</sup> GDP per capita PPP (constant 2017 international \$) - International Comparison Program, World Bank | World Development Indicators database, World Bank

<sup>6</sup> Source: UN comtrade database

<sup>7</sup> UN comtrade database and CBN Balance of Payments.

<sup>8</sup> Please see Chapter on Financing Landscape for a more detailed discussion.



limit the potential for a broad economic recovery. Inflation, specifically food inflation, has risen to multi-year highs, rising from under 10% in 2015 to above 20% in 2021. Inflation is particularly important as it has a significant impact on poverty, growth, food security, and job creation. The exchange rate remains volatile and susceptible to bouts of rapid overnight devaluations. Indicators from the trade and current account balance demonstrate relatively high risks for future instability. The current account has been negative for three consecutive years and the trade balance, which is historically positive due to crude oil exports, has been negative since 2019 despite a recovery to crude oil prices. Key challenges also exist in the fiscal space with weak revenue mobilization and emerging debt challenges<sup>9</sup>.



Fig 4: Inflation and Food inflation. Source: NBS

The macroeconomic vulnerabilities have been partially driven by unconventional policies aimed at limiting import demand and easing government funding gaps with monetary financing. These measures were exacerbated by the emergency demands due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fragile macroeconomic environment is a key concern and,

going forward, efforts will need to be made to limit the potential negative impact on growth which may slow or derail the momentum towards meeting the SDGs.

### Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic further derailed the economy, partly due to some of the policy measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus, but also due to the impact of the pandemic on crude oil prices. Although, the economy has proved more resilient than expected with the recession not as severe as forecasted, and with a recovery in 2021.

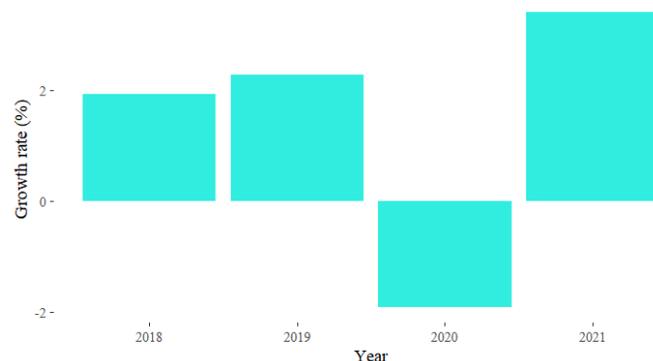


Fig 5: Real GDP Growth. Source: NBS

Despite the better than expected economic outcomes, the impacts during the slowdown were substantial. About 72% of businesses closed during the lockdowns in 2020 with 11% remaining closed as at mid-2021<sup>10</sup>. During the lockdowns in April 2020, only 43% of people who were working before the pandemic were still working<sup>11</sup> with the outcomes worse for women. Although this had recovered to 88% by December 2020, it does demonstrate some of the lasting impacts.

The effects of the pandemic cascaded across most spheres of Nigerian life with households attempting to

<sup>9</sup> This is discussed in more detail in the Financing Landscape.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP & NBS (2021): The Impact of COVID-19 on Business Enterprises in Nigeria.

IN NIGERIA

<sup>11</sup> NBS: Nigeria COVID-19 NLPS 2020 Round 7 and 8.



cope in different ways. Around 58% of households experienced income shocks between July and December 2020 with 26% reducing their food consumption as a result, and with some individuals moving back in with parents or other households to pool incomes and manage risks.

The pandemic also impacted education and health with school attendance for household members aged 5-18 falling to 59% as at October 2020 compared to 74% in January 2019<sup>12</sup>. About 1 in 5 households with children 0-5 years old who needed or were due for immunizations were not able to get their children vaccinated<sup>13</sup>. The socio-economic impacts of the pandemic also likely played a role in the social unrest witnessed in 2020.

The impacts were, however, not all negative. Innovations in the digital economy were witnessed with about 15% of businesses able to expand their operations by leveraging digitally connected platforms. Regardless of these silver linings, dealing with the cascading impacts of the pandemic across the SDGs will be crucial for meeting the 2030 Agenda.

### Impact of Global Net-Zero Targets on Nigeria

A second important challenge for Nigeria over the next few decades involves Nigeria’s exposure to crude oil in the context of the global push towards net-zero emissions which prioritises a reduction in the use of fossil-fuels. This push, which involves ending funding for fossil fuels including crude oil and natural gas, is likely to erode Nigeria’s export earnings over the coming decades. Nigeria’s vulnerabilities are, therefore, likely to be more exposed if extensive mitigation

measures and transition arrangements are not put in place.

Although Nigeria has committed to reductions in emissions as part of its National Determined Contribution, the impact of global efforts on Nigeria will need to be carefully managed as it will have implications for Nigeria’s ability to meet the SDGs, especially given Nigeria’s size and importance in the African context.

### Poverty and Inequality Landscape

The situation with regard to poverty in Nigeria is difficult to ascertain. Based on new data released by the NBS in 2019, the overall poverty rate at 40.09% is much lower than previously thought. This rate amounts to 82.9 million people living on less than \$1.60 per day which is significantly lower than the previous rate of 62.6% measured in 2010.



Fig 6: Trends in monetary and multi-dimensional poverty. Source: NBS and OPHI

However, due to a change in methodology, both measures of poverty cannot be directly compared. Hence, it is difficult to state the trajectory of poverty in Nigeria. The updated poverty rate also excludes Borno state which could not be completely surveyed

<sup>12</sup> NBS: Nigeria COVID-19 NLPS 2020 Round 6.

<sup>13</sup> NBS: Nigeria COVID-19 NLPS 2020 Round 3.



due to security challenges in the region.

An extra 31.9% of the population (66 million people) were reported as being vulnerable to poverty with consumption of between \$1.6 and \$3.2 a day. Most of Nigeria's poor people live in rural areas, with more than half of Nigeria's rural population (52.1%) living below the national poverty line compared to just 18% of the urban population

A significant gap in the poverty statistics is the absence of gender disaggregated poverty data. Poverty data in Nigeria is typically collected by household and, therefore, does not include poverty estimates for individuals. Although some data is reported by gender of the head of household, this is unlikely to be directly useful for gender poverty analysis as it likely selects for richer female-headed households. For example, according to the 2019 poverty estimates, the poverty rate for female-headed households with less than a primary education was 34.72%, compared to 66.17% for male-headed households.

With regard to children, a Monetary Child Poverty Analysis by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (MFBNP) and the NBS found that 47.4% of children (below 18) live below the national poverty line<sup>14</sup>. 22.9% of children in urban areas and 59.5% of children in rural areas live below the national poverty line.

The trends in multidimensional poverty are, however, positive with national multidimensional poverty estimated as declining slowly from an estimated 54.1% in 2011 to 46.4% in 2020<sup>15</sup>. However, at the current trajectory, the country is not expected to meet the zero-poverty goal by 2030.

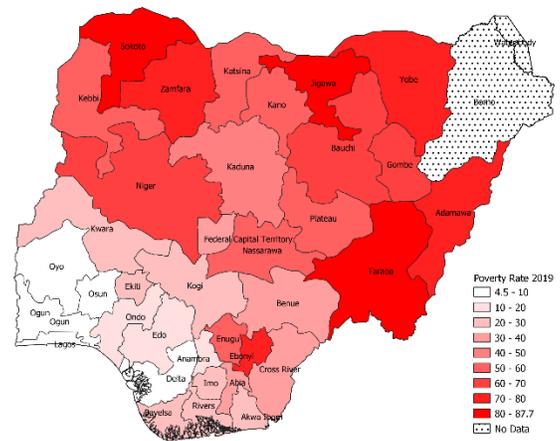


Fig 7: State level poverty rate. Source: NLSS

There are important disparities among the states with poverty varying from 4.5% in Lagos to 87.7% in Sokoto and Taraba for the overall population. These disparities, which on average flow from south to north, are replicated for many SDG indicators demonstrating the cross-cutting importance of increasing real average incomes and reducing poverty reduction on broader SDG attainment. They also highlight a familiar theme on variation in challenges to meeting the SDGs with the implication that a national one-size-fits-all SDG strategy might not be appropriate. For instance, the more urban states with officially low poverty rates face significant challenges with regard to urban poverty as opposed to more rural states with different challenges.

Finally, all the official data on poverty was collected before the COVID-19 pandemic which is expected to have had significant impacts. The World Bank estimates that the pandemic pushed an extra seven million people in Nigeria into poverty<sup>16</sup>. The absence of frequently updated poverty data is challenging for development planning purposes.

<sup>14</sup> Draft Situation Analysis of Children in Nigeria 2020 and Preliminary estimates of Monetary Child Poverty Analysis in Nigeria, 2020

<sup>15</sup> OPHI

<sup>16</sup> World Bank – Nigeria June 2021 Development Update.



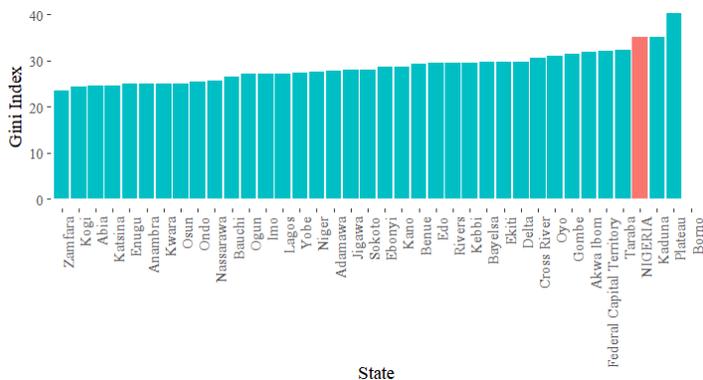


Fig 8: Gini index by state. Source: NBS/NLSS

Income inequality also remains a concern and has adversely affected efforts at poverty reduction. Although the GINI index officially decreased from 43 in 2009 to 35 in 2019, similar challenges of data comparability make it difficult to gauge the trajectory. Recent numbers, however, highlight the dominance of spatial inequality as the major underlying factor behind inequality in Nigeria, with national inequality significantly higher than within-state inequality for almost all states<sup>17</sup>. The spatial inequality in household income mirrors that in spending on education, health, and infrastructure amongst others. Inequality in key areas important for economic development, combined with relatively low government financing<sup>18</sup>, is likely to perpetuate the spatial inequalities within the country, and result in regions being left even further behind. Although issues of equity and fairness abound, especially given that even the relatively better off regions in the country are some way off middle-income status, the challenge of accelerating progress in the worse-off regions without hindering improvements in the relatively more well-off ones will need to be overcome.

<sup>17</sup> National Bureau of Statistics: 2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive Summary

<sup>18</sup> This is discussed in more detail in the Financing Landscape chapter.

## Social Protection

At present, there is no official or reliable data on the proportion of the population covered by social protection floors or systems. The national social investment programme aims to cover around 22.5 million<sup>19</sup> but it is not clear how many people are reached. Regardless, the target is much lower than the 83 million considered poor.

The latest ILO Social Security Inquiry performed in collaboration with the government of Nigeria in 2019<sup>20</sup> showed that social protection mechanisms legally cover 13% of people living in Nigeria. Most of the individuals covered fall under the three main contributory social security schemes which cover health, employment injury, survivor and old age contingencies: The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the Pension Commission (PenCom) and the National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSTIF). NHIS currently covers less than 5% of the total Nigerian population, but has been working on extending its coverage through a decentralized agenda in the past few years. Since 2018, 34 out of 36 Nigerian states have created their own State Health Insurance Scheme (SHIS).

With 90% of the workers operating in the informal economy and 40% of all residents living below the national poverty line, many people in this “missing middle” have either no means to contribute to their own social protection or find themselves willing but unable to contribute because the scheme is not

<sup>19</sup> VNR, 2020

<sup>20</sup> ILO – Social Security Inquiry (Draft).



accessible to them by law or not appropriate to their situation.

In recent years, government and development partners in Nigeria have sought to improve the social protection instruments, with “Shock Responsive Social Protection” a key addition as part of the on-going National Social Protection Policy review.

### Food Security and the Agriculture Sector

Nigeria does not appear to be making progress towards the zero-hunger goal. The trends for undernourishment have worsened from 7.9% in 2014-2016 to 14.6% in the 2018-2020 period<sup>21</sup>. Absolute figures also show a similar trend as about 29.4 million people were undernourished in the 2018-2020 period. Similar patterns are apparent with regard to food security where the percentage of the population living under moderate or severe food insecurity has risen from 36.5% in 2014-2016 to 57.7% in 2018-2020. This implies that slightly more than half of Nigerians, or over 100 million people, report at least a moderate form of food insecurity. The northern part of Nigeria remains a hotspot for acute food insecurity at crisis and emergency levels, as per the biannual Cadre Harmonise analysis. The Cadre Harmonise report analyses senatorial zones or local government areas and estimates current levels of food insecurity in October and March of each year, and projects food insecurity figures for the lean season between June and August. For the 2021 lean season, it was estimated that 12.8 million people would be food insecure at crisis and emergency levels throughout northern Nigeria, which marks an increase of 48% compared to figures published for the same period in 2020. Moreover,

almost one in every three people in conflict affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe faced acute food security crisis or emergency, and consequently required humanitarian assistance for survival.

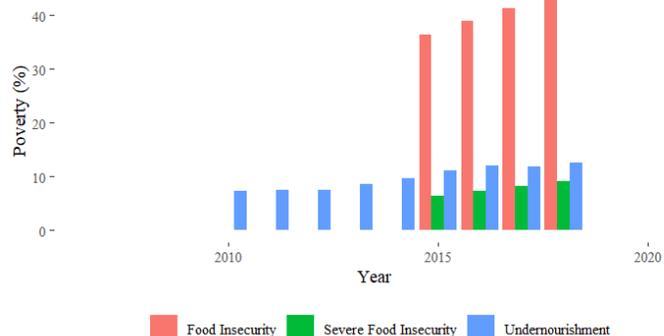


Fig 9: Undernourishment and Food Insecurity. Source: FAOStat

The present food security challenges are likely to limit the efforts in improving the longer-term nutrition challenge, particularly with regard to stunting and wasting. Nigeria has the second highest burden of stunted children in the world, with a national prevalence rate of 36.8% of children under five stunted in 2018 and with 17.1% severely stunted<sup>22</sup>. Although there has been some volatility, the presence of stunting has not declined over the past decade. Wasting has, however, showed significant decline dropping from 18% in 2013 to 6.8% in 2018, although wasting is more sensitive to short-term malnutrition. Micronutrient deficiencies such as anaemia, vitamin A deficiency, zinc deficiency, however, persist with far-reaching consequences for child and maternal mortality, cognitive capacity of children and immune strengthening. The girl child’s risk of malnutrition is more acute as gender roles place them at a secondary level in the provision of food, care, and health at home. Adolescent girls, especially in northern Nigeria, carry a

<sup>21</sup> The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018



higher burden of undernutrition, with deficiencies worse for pregnant women and girls.

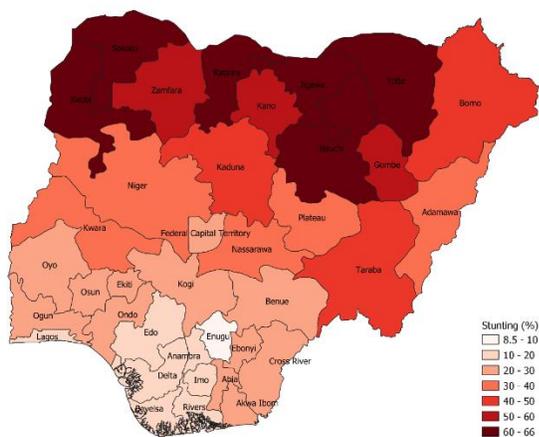


Fig 10: Percentage of children under age 5 who are stunted. Source: NDHS 2018

As with other SDG indicators, there is a significant amount of variation in stunting and wasting with prevalence significantly higher in northern parts of the country. There is, however, some variation in the trends of stunting between 2013 and 2018 with Borno state deteriorating significantly from 27% to 45%, likely due to the protracted security challenges. Kaduna state, on the other hand, showed significant improvements from 57% to 47%. This internal variation also highlights the need for disaggregated analysis as, even though the national rate of stunting has been stable, internally there have been significant changes. It also highlights the impact of security challenges on the SDGs. With the security challenges expanding beyond the North East<sup>23</sup>, it demonstrates the risk of derailment if the security challenges are not resolved.

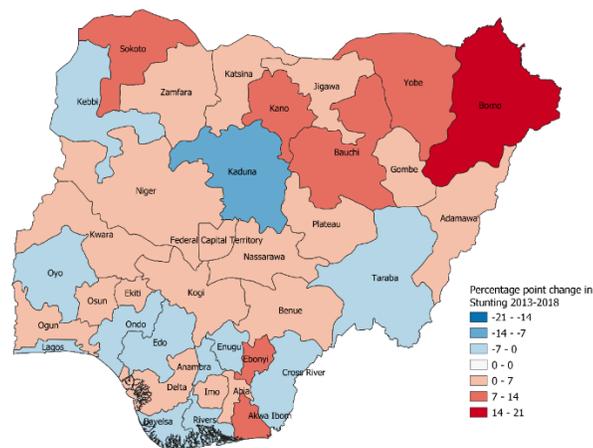


Fig 11: Change in prevalence of stunting, 2013 to 2018. Source: NDHS 2013 and 2018

The prevalence of stunting, wasting, and being underweight is nearly twice as high among children in rural areas (45%, 8%, and 27%) compared to urban areas (27%, 5%, and 15%) again highlighting the linkages between food security and poverty.

The challenges with malnutrition and food insecurity are in part linked to the dynamics in the country's agricultural sector. The sector is still one of the largest in the country accounting for 26% of GDP at the end of 2020 and 48% of all employment at the end of 2017<sup>24</sup>. However, much of this agriculture is small scale and at a subsistence level. These small-scale producers on average own 0.5ha farmlands, compared to the global standard for small-scale farmers which is 10ha.

Overall growth in the agriculture sector has slowed in recent years with average growth dropping from around 5% a year between 2000 and 2010 to between 2% and 3% in the last few years. Much of the growth in the agriculture sector, even during the faster growth years, was driven by an increase in land use. The total crop area harvested increased by 46% between 2010

<sup>23</sup> This is discussed in more detail in the governance section.

<sup>24</sup> National Bureau of Statistics.



and 2019<sup>25</sup>. The productivity levels for most of the major crops, however, remained stagnant and, in some cases, fell as farmers moved into marginal lands.

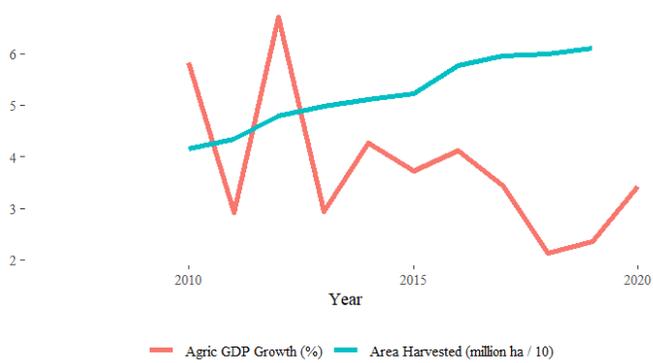


Fig 12: Agriculture GDP growth and Area Harvested. Source: NBS and FAOStat

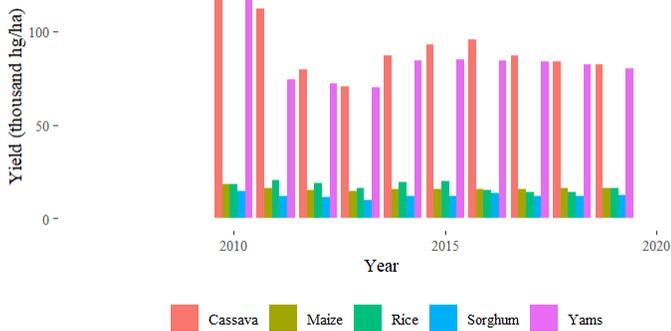


Fig 13: Major crop yield. Source: FAOStat

The low productivity is perhaps signified by the low investment in productivity-enhancing infrastructure. As at 2018, only about 5% of all cultivated land was irrigated with most still depending almost completely on rainfall.

The combination of low farm sizes, low productivity, and high employment in agriculture means that a lot of small-scale farmers remain on the fringes of poverty and hunger.

<sup>25</sup> Source: FAOStat.

The interactions between small-scale agriculture and poverty are apparent in the spatial distribution of poverty and farm employment across states in Nigeria as shown in figure 14. States with higher employment in agriculture also have high rates of poverty with a few exceptions. The dynamics are similar with regard to female employment in agriculture but complicated by other differences in gender-related factors such as access to land and discriminatory social norms.

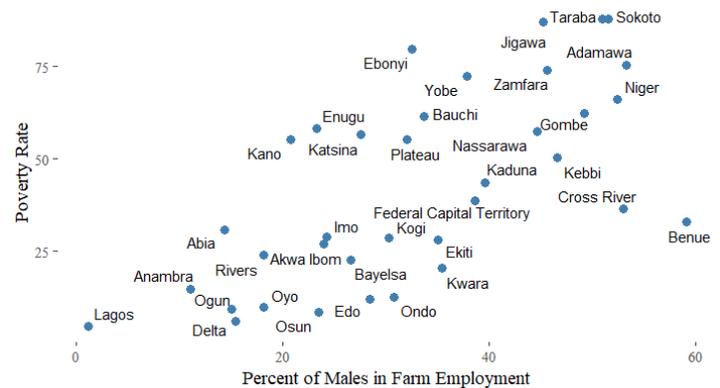


Fig 14: Poverty Rate vs Share Employed in Agriculture. Source: NBS

The correlation between employment in agriculture and poverty presents an interesting conundrum for poverty and hunger fighting strategies. The potential for poverty reduction through improved agricultural productivity is apparent as Nigeria’s productivity levels across many crops are very low by global standards. Global and local trends, however, suggest that sustained poverty reduction will require improvements in non-farm labour and non-agricultural enterprises to boost non-farming related incomes<sup>26</sup>. A two-pronged approach of improving agricultural productivity as well

<sup>26</sup> “Is growing your own food necessary for dietary diversity? Evidence from Nigeria” – Olabisi, Obekpa, and Liverpool-Tasie. Food Policy. 2021.



improving options for non-agricultural employment are necessary.



Fig 15: Yields on Maize and Rice Paddy in 2019. Source: FAOStat

Several factors lie behind Nigeria’s low agricultural productivity. Challenges with land tenure play a key role in limiting private investment in rural agriculture. According to Nigerian law, rural land is administered by traditional authority. In practice this often means rural smallholder farmers have minimal tenure security as land use rights are not documented. This problem is demonstrated in the gender disparities in land use and ownership. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women found that women owned less than 7.2% of the total land mass and that their land rights in rural areas are not guaranteed<sup>27</sup>. According to the Nigeria Agricultural Gender Profile, “Land ownership and control are still dominated by men in terms of average land size apportioned to farming activities, with widespread disparity across communities and states. For example, in Taraba State, average holdings are 7.5 hectares (ha) for men and 0.8ha for women; Abia State showed equal average holdings for both sexes. However, women in Katsina State had slightly higher average land size (0.8

ha) compared with men (0.6 ha). Most men acquired land through inheritance, while women mostly obtained theirs through lease or purchase”.

Other issues plaguing the agriculture sector and food systems include poor agricultural practices such as the indiscriminate use of fertilizer and chemical pesticides, poor processing techniques leading to food spoilage and waste, and cropping systems that deplete soil nutrients. Transportation and logistical challenges also contribute to high post-harvest losses reducing incomes for already poor farmers and reducing overall food availability. According to the Food Waste Index Report 2021, Nigeria has the highest household food waste estimate of all the countries examined.

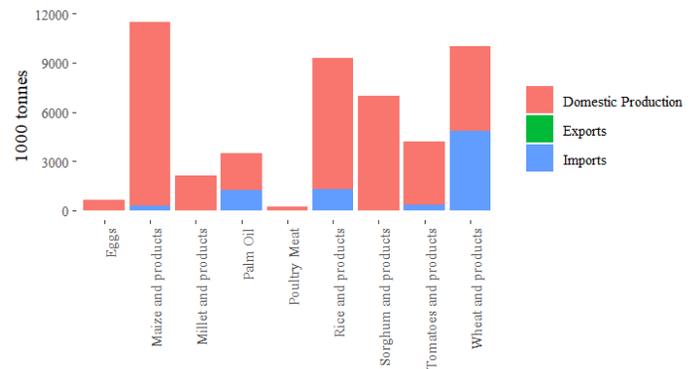


Fig 16: Food Balance Sheet 2018. Source: FAOStat

Finally, insecurity and displacement are having significant impacts on food systems as they disrupt regular farming activities especially amongst the poor and most vulnerable, and limit access to valuable agricultural land.

In recent years, prohibitive policies towards food importation have had implications for food security primarily through its effect on rising prices and availability. Food prices are systematically important as the average Nigerian household spent 56% of their

<sup>27</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2017)



total expenditure on food, with the North East and the North West spending 64%<sup>28</sup>. As is apparent from figure 16, significant demand and supply gaps across many major food crops currently exist, especially for key cereals like rice and wheat which ordinarily would be filled by imports. Restrictions of food imports combined with the demand and supply gaps have had consequences for food prices and poverty.

Central Bank restrictions on the use of foreign exchange for food imports and other measures to limit international food trade, such as the land border closure in 2019 exacerbated already difficult food affordability and availability challenges. This combination of factors limiting international and regional food trade, as well as disruptions from COVID-19 and increasingly volatile rainfall, may have been responsible for the acceleration of food inflation between 2019 and 2021.

As shown in figure 4, food inflation rose from an average of about 10% between 2010 and 2015 to over 20% as at May of 2021. This has had the consequence of reducing affordability of food and increasing poverty and hunger. According to higher frequency surveys by the NBS, the percentage of households who had to skip a meal increased from 27.3% in January/February of 2018 to 74.7% in April/May 2020 during the peak of the disruptions from COVID-19. Although this eased to 56.1% by November of 2020, the level of food insecurity is not expected to have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The livestock sector remains a key focus area for Nigeria, partly due to the security dimensions and its

role in underlying conflicts in the region<sup>29</sup>. The sector continues to grow relatively consistently with the number of cattle increasing from 15.1 million heads in 2000 to 20.7 million heads in 2019)<sup>30</sup>. But there has been little or no transformation in the sector, especially with regard to cattle where most are still reared by nomadic herders. The sector is still plagued by issues ranging from inadequate resource management infrastructure to the absence of cold-chain logistics. The National Livestock Transformation Plan (NTLP) designed by the government to transform and modernize the sector is currently being implemented. As at the middle of 2021, 20 states had submitted their commitments to implementing the NTLP with all 19 states in the North considered frontline states with varying degree of implementation.

In recent years, other factors have also been detrimental to food and nutrition security and the agriculture sector. The worsening security challenges have displaced farmers from lands that would ordinarily be used for production<sup>31</sup>. Natural hazards like floods and droughts have also become more commonplace as the consequences of climate change are becoming more apparent<sup>32</sup>. In the past five years, there has been more erratic rainfall patterns and changing temperatures. Some parts of the country have witnessed higher temperatures which reduced crop yields, and more than normal rainfall which led to flooding and damaging crops. Other parts have witnessed lower than average rainfall which is equally problematic given the dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

<sup>28</sup> Consumption Expenditure Pattern in Nigeria 2019 – National Bureau of Statistics

<sup>29</sup> Discussed in more detail in the governance chapter.

<sup>30</sup> FAOStat.

<sup>31</sup> Discussed in more detail in the governance chapter.

<sup>32</sup> Discussed in more detail in the Climate Change and the Environment chapter.



## Jobs and Unemployment

At the time of the previous CCA in 2016, the unemployment rate stood at 14.2%. This increased to 23.1% in 2018, when the most recent labour force survey ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic was conducted<sup>33</sup>. Young people have been particularly affected throughout the period. The unemployment rate for people between the ages of 15 and 24 has increased from 25.2% in 2016 to 36.5% in 2018<sup>34</sup>. This high youth unemployment rate combined with data on education enrolment and training shows that as at 2019, 31.39% of youth, or about 12.8 million, were not in education, employment, or training prior to the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>35</sup>.

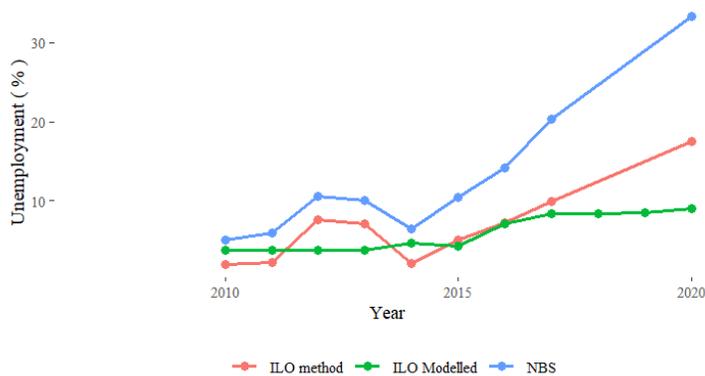


Fig 17: Unemployment. Source: NBS and ILO<sup>36</sup>

The situation deteriorated significantly during the pandemic partly due to some of the containment measures introduced. According to an Abridged Labour Force Survey under COVID-19, the unemployment rate in Nigeria rose to 33.3% at the end

of 2020 with another 22.8% considered underemployed. The youth unemployment rate stood at 53.4% with another 19.8% considered underemployed. Taken together, some 74% of young people in the labour market were considered either un- or under-employed by the end of 2020. The rates for those between the ages of 25 and 34 stood at 37.2% and 21.6% respectively.

The effects of worsening unemployment affected females more than males. Although there were gender employment gaps prior to the pandemic, these gaps increased significantly. As at the third quarter of 2018, the unemployment rate for females stood at 26.6% compared to 20.3% for males. Importantly, there were 31.98 million males employed in full time jobs, whereas only 19.35 million females were similarly employed. This was partly due to the lower participation rate in the labour market with 39.7 million males and 29.9 million females. However, females were also more likely to be employed in part-time jobs. This is perhaps due to the skewness of female participation in unpaid home care work which restricts full-time participation in the labour market. The gender gaps worsened during the pandemic with female unemployment rising to 35.2% compared to 31.8% for males, and underemployment rising to 24.2% compared to 21.8% for males as at the end of 2020, with the female labour force reducing by 26% compared to a reduction of 21% for males. Information on gender wage gaps is unavailable.

The underlying factors behind rising unemployment, even in spite of the pandemic, are an economy that has

<sup>33</sup> National Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>34</sup> National Bureau of Statistics

<sup>35</sup> International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database.

<sup>36</sup> The ILO methodology for measuring unemployment differs from that of the NBS because of definition issues. Whereas the NBS only counts individuals as employed if they worked for 20

hours or more a week, the ILO counts those who did at least one hour of work a week as employed. The 'ILO method' is also published by the NBS while the 'ILO modelled' is produced by the ILO.



been in per capita decline for six years and a constant stream of entrants into the labour force. Prior to the pandemic, about 5.3 million people entered the labour force between the third quarters of 2017 and 2018, with the economy creating only 265,718 new full-time jobs for them over the same period<sup>37</sup>. Growth in key labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture and trade has also slowed in recent years, putting even more pressure on the labour market. Other salient labour market issues such as the skills-matching between educational institutions and businesses, and the relatively high informality in the economy, are likely contributors to the unemployment problem.

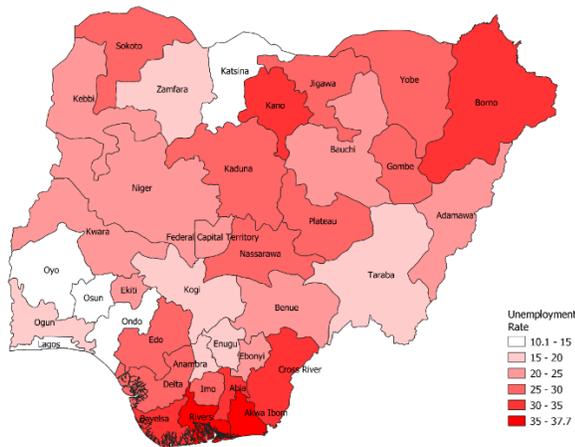


Fig 18: Unemployment by state. Source: NBS

As with other socio-economic indicators, there is significant variation across states. At the state-level, the highest unemployment rates were recorded in Imo (56.6%), Adamawa (54.9%) and Cross River (53.6%). The lowest rates were recorded in Osun (11.7%), Benue (12%) and Zamfara (13%).

An underlying issue is the interaction between the regional context specific factors behind high unemployment. In the Niger Delta, the crude oil industry is the major sector in many of the states (59.8% of GDP in Akwa Ibom, 68.4% in Bayelsa, 49.3% in Delta, 14.55% in Ondo, and 9.11% in Edo<sup>38</sup>) but it is capital intensive, thus employing a minimal amount of labour. The side effects of the crude oil industry, such as pollution, as well as climatic conditions, have also limited the opportunities for subsistence agricultural employment. This has had implications for livelihoods and stability in the region and demonstrates the need for economic diversification. The impact of the conflict in the North East and violence in other parts of the North is also becoming apparent as farmlands become increasingly inaccessible and with agriculture typically the largest employer.

According to ILO estimates based on the 2019 General Household Survey, the share of informal employment in non-agricultural employment was around 83.7%. Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 were most affected with 93.3% in informal employment. In terms of educational attainment, figures from 2016 and 2018 indicate that people with post-secondary education tended to be more affected by unemployment than those with lower levels of education.

The current officially published labour statistics, although very important, do not cover all areas of labour utilization. Underemployment rates, which measure people who are working part time, are published but data on underutilization with respect to skills and jobs, and other time-related employment, for instance, are unavailable. Development of more labour

<sup>37</sup> NBS Labour Force Reports

<sup>38</sup> 2017 State GDP – National Bureau of Statistics.



utilization indicators will be required to fully understand the dynamics in Nigeria’s labour market.

## Manufacturing and Employment

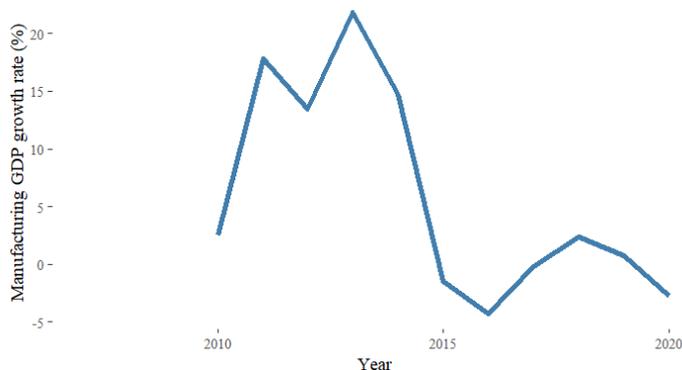


Fig 19: growth in manufacturing sector. Source: NBS

Nigeria’s manufacturing sector showed a marginal increase with regard to its share of the economy over the last decade. In 2010, the manufacturing sector accounted for roughly 7% of GDP. This increased to 10% of GDP during the 2014/2015 period before pulling back to about 9% of GDP in 2020. The increase between 2010 and 2015 is likely linked to the generally strong economic growth pre-2014, with the post-2014 economic challenges having an outsized impact on manufacturing. The manufacturing sector is important for employment dynamics especially in urban areas. As at 2017, it accounted for 7% of all employment and 13.5% of all non-agricultural employment. The sector has potential for improvement as it still lags some global peers such as Egypt (16%), Indonesia (20%), Malaysia (21%), and Vietnam (16%)<sup>39</sup> with regard to its share of GDP. This potential is apparent in the low level of

Nigerian manufactured exports where it accounts for only 11% of merchandise exports compared to 45% in Egypt, 46% in Indonesia, 70% in Malaysia, and 85% in Vietnam. Unlocking the potential for manufacturing exports from Nigeria has the potential to create significant jobs and reduce the unemployment challenges.

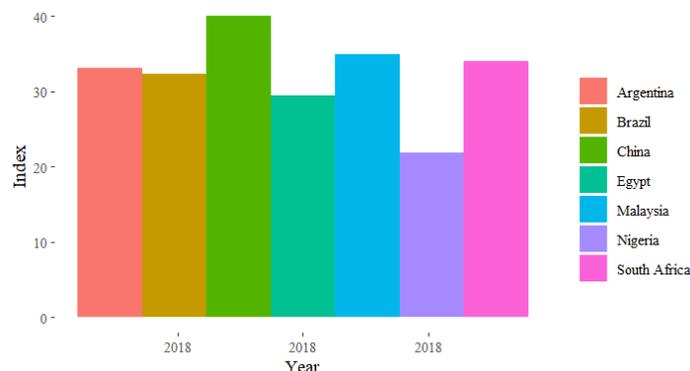


Fig 20: Productive Capacities Index 2018. Source: UNCTAD

The potential for improvement is also apparent in Nigeria’s productive capacity, as measured by UNCTAD’s Productive Capacity Index, which is significantly lower than those of its cohort economies with an overall rating of 20.26. It is also important to note that this rating has mostly remained unchanged since 2016.

<sup>39</sup> World Bank staff estimates through the WITS platform from the Comtrade database maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division.



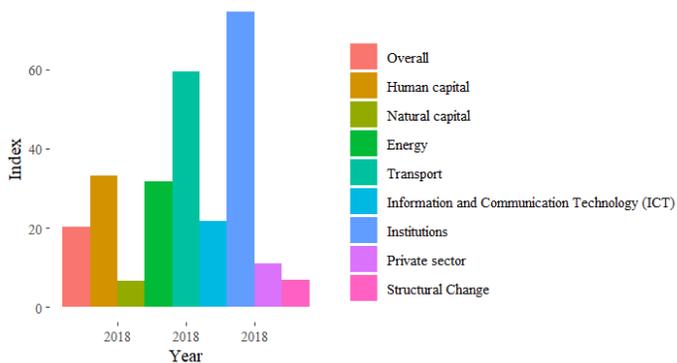


Fig 21: Productive Capacities Index 2018 – Categories. Source: UNCTAD

The rating provides evidence of the difficulties Nigeria is facing in scaling up its output and diversifying its export base. It also points to challenges the country faces as its exports try to compete with these cohort economies.

A look at the breakdown of the PCI shows where Nigeria lags behind and therefore has the potential to improve. Natural capital, structural change, and the quality of the private sector can be key focus areas with humane capital, energy, and ICT also having potential for improvement.

### Other Labour Issues

**Migration** remains a key focus area for Nigeria both internationally and internally. Internationally, the stock of Nigerian migrants abroad has grown significantly from an estimated 610,200 in 2000 to 987,165 in 2010 and 1,438,331 in 2019<sup>40</sup>. Nigeria is also host to significant international migrant populations with the 1,308,568 international migrants resident in Nigeria as at 2020.

Nigeria, however, remains a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, for purposes of labour

exploitation. Owing to migration flows in the subregion, many women and girls and women living in poverty, and increasingly IDPs, are vulnerable to trafficking. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) detected 4,215 victims in the country between 2017 and 2019, but the number of registered cases and successful prosecutions during the same period against the criminal networks involved remains low. Between 2017 and 2019, NAPTIP recorded only 101 national convictions related to trafficking in persons<sup>41</sup>.

Similarly, in 2016 and 2017, Nigerians represented the highest share of smuggled migrants arriving in Italy by the Central Mediterranean Route (i.e., Libya). While this number has significantly decreased since 2019, smuggling networks are still active. As of February 2020, over 50,000 Nigerian migrants were still recorded in Libya according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Moreover, the number of migrant smuggling cases remain low, including in destination countries. In 2019, Eurojust registered 187 migrant smuggling cases, including 101 ongoing from previous years<sup>42</sup>.

The budgetary allocation for the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons has been reduced owing to broader economic challenges and there are only eight shelters for victims of trafficking in the entire country<sup>43</sup>.

Internal migration in Nigeria is also likely significant although with official data not available due to the long period since the previous census. This internal migration is likely to have been influenced by the security challenges in parts of the country. This

<sup>40</sup> United Nations Population Division – Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

<sup>41</sup> NAPTIP annual reports

<sup>42</sup> UNODC Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants (2018), IOM, Eurojust Annual Reports

<sup>43</sup> CEDAW (2017)



migration is likely to impact social cohesion especially in communities with already existing tensions. In 2018, nearly 40% of respondents of a survey strongly supported the statement “When faced with threats to public security, the government should be able to impose curfews and set up special roadblocks to prevent people from moving around”, while another 27% generally supported the statement. Only 14.4% of respondents agreed that “Even if faced with threats to public security, people should be free to move about the country at any time of day or night”<sup>44</sup>.

Child labour also remains a challenge. In 2017, the NBS reported that 50.8% of Nigerian children between 5-17 years were involved in child labour, with the North Central region having the highest burden. This was followed by North West, South South, South East and South West<sup>45</sup>.

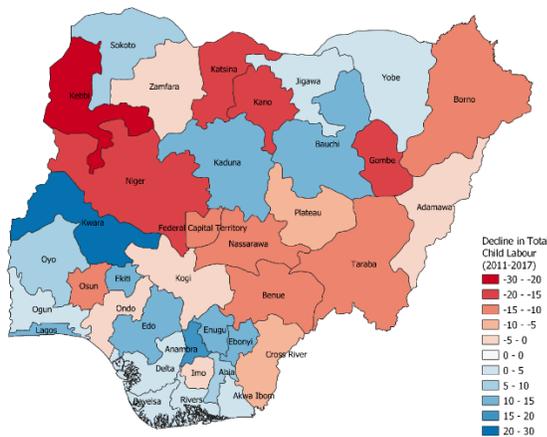


Fig 22: Decline in Total Child Labour 2011 – 2017. Source: MICS

According to MICS 2017, the proportion of children engaged in economic activities classified as child

44 Afrobarometer Survey – Nigeria Round 7 – 2018

<sup>45</sup> NAPTIP annual report 2019. Child labour in Nigeria is the employment of children under the age of 18 in a manner that prevents or restricts them from basic education and development and deprives them of their childhood. It refers to

labour varies with age: 43.2% of children age 5-11 years, 10.9% of children age 12-14 years, and 1.6% of children aged 15-17 years. The highest proportion of child labour and children working under hazardous conditions is in North Central with 56.8% and 49.6% respectively. The South West has the lowest proportion of child labour and work under hazardous conditions with rates of 38% and 25.4% respectively. About 32.8% of children aged 5-17 years in Nigeria are engaged in some form of child labour<sup>46</sup>. Compared to the fourth round of MICS conducted in 2011, the percentage of children involved in child labour between the ages of 5 and 11 (57% in 2011) and between the ages of 12 and 14 (17% in 2011) has decreased. Despite the decrease in the national numbers, variation persists within the country with pockets of places where total child labour increased between 2011 and 2017<sup>47</sup>. NAPTIP’s data shows that 14% of rescued victims were child domestic labourers and 7.4% of investigated cases concerned offences of ‘employing a child as a domestic worker and inflicting grievous bodily harm’<sup>48</sup>.

Finally, the question of home-based and unpaid care work is likely prevalent but with little official information. This is particularly relevant as unpaid care work is largely dominated by women and is not reflected in national statistics. It is perceived to be less valuable than paid work and it is ignored and not considered to be “work” even by the women and men who engage in and benefit directly from these activities. Two separate studies, on Gender and Sustainable Agriculture in Borno and a Rapid Gender Assessment conducted by UN Women in collaboration with CARE and Oxfam in the North East in 2018 and 2020,

work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous or harmful to children and interferes with their schooling. See <https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

<sup>46</sup> MICS, 2017

<sup>47</sup> MICS

<sup>48</sup> Section 23, TIPPEA Act



respectively, revealed that women are overwhelmingly involved in household tasks simultaneously with other productive activities. Women in the target communities worked about 16 hours per day – cooking, bathing children, washing plates, doing general cleaning of the house, doing farm work, preparing meals, cleaning the kitchen, washing clothes, and preparing children for bed – while the men worked fewer than six hours per day, with plenty of hours to rest and meet with other men at the *majalissa*. Women’s burdens were also exacerbated by the conflict in the area as there are now additional responsibilities related to the survival of the family – women are often breadwinners and heads of households. This dominance by women is probably driven by social norms which increase responsibility for women and girls as care givers.

### Other Economic Structural Issues

Although there are still significant challenges, Nigeria has made some improvements in the quality of transport infrastructure. In the last decade, Nigeria has invested heavily in rail transport infrastructure which has seen the re-opening of some rail lines after many years of dormancy. Investments have also been made in air transport infrastructure with an attendant increase in air traffic. These improvements are captured in the logistics performance index where its overall score has risen from 2.43 in 2010 to 2.56 in 2018. Although this is higher than the lower middle-income country score of 2.37 and sub-Saharan Africa at 2.2, Nigeria still lags behind continental leaders like South Africa and Rwanda. In recent years, congestion

at the seaports has become a major challenge leading to long delays in trade and significant extra costs. Similar dynamics are apparent in the Rural Access Index which measures the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road. In Nigeria, only 25.5% of the rural population lived within two kilometres of an all-season road as at 2014, compared to 55.3 in Rwanda, 41.9 in Liberia, 31.5 in Sierra Leone, and 21.6 in Ethiopia<sup>49</sup>.

Challenges remain with regard to access to electricity. Although the percentage of people with access to electricity increased to 55.4% in 2019 compared to 48% in 2010, a significant proportion of the population still has no access. In 2019, 89 million people had no access to electricity with about 80% of these living in rural areas<sup>50</sup>. Reliability issues also continue to plague the electricity sector with frequent power outages. The average household connected to the grid reported having electricity for 6.8 hours a day in 2019. This has resulted in the continued use of generators with attendant consequences for health and the environment. In 2019, 25% of all households owned a generator with the average household using a generator for 4.1 hours a day. The IMF (2021) suggests large investments are needed in the power sector to increase access and keep up with population growth. “Electricity consumption per capita is estimated to grow from 348 kWh in 2019 to 635 kWh by 2030 driven by increased access. To expand installed capacity by 22.4GW, at a unit cost of US\$2,184 per kW (including generation, transmission, and distribution costs), Nigeria will have to invest an aggregate of US\$49 billion in 2020–30 which on an annual basis is

<sup>49</sup> Rural Access Index (RAI) - <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/rural-access-index-rai>

<sup>50</sup> NBS: General Household Survey 2018/2019



equivalent to 1% of GDP, including replacement costs”<sup>51</sup>.

There is, however, the potential for improved access through renewable energy especially via solar power. This is true in northern Nigeria where, as with many parts of the Sahel, solar energy resources are abundant. When combined with the spatially disaggregated nature of many rural communities off-grid solar solutions have the potential to accelerate electricity access especially when linked to productive activities in the food production value chain, including agriculture, fisheries and pastoralism, to increase food productivity, reduce post-harvest loss and promote food processing

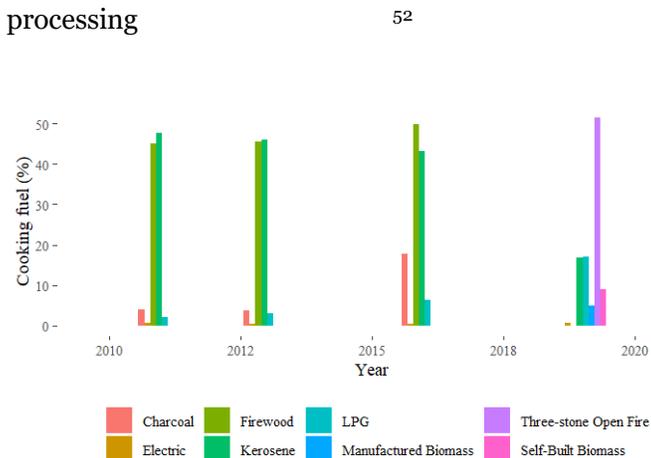


Fig 23: Source of cooking fuel. Source: NBS

With regard to energy use for cooking, Nigeria has witnessed rapid transformations in the primary energy source. There has been a significant increase in the use of LPG and a significant decline in the use of kerosene. This is likely due to the complete deregulation of kerosene prices which has resulted in price increases relative to other sources. A side-effect has, however, been an increase in charcoal use. Overall, firewood and other biomass continues to be the primary source of

<sup>51</sup> Nigeria - Additional Spending Toward Sustainable Development Goals - Mauricio Soto, Mariano Moszoro, and Julieth Pico - Technical Report April 2020

energy for cooking, particularly in rural areas. The transitions demonstrate the role that policy can play in driving changes in the energy mix.

Another area that has seen continued transformation is in access to mobile phones and communications. The proportion of households that had access to mobile phones increased from 56.3% in 2011 to 75.8% in 2019, with 75% of population covered by a 3G mobile network, up from 30% in 2014. The improvement in connectivity opens many possibilities for innovative solutions to help meet the SDGs.



Fig 24: Asset ownership

Similar trends are present for most, although not all asset classes. The proportion of households that own a fridge, television, or other relatively low-priced assets has increased over the last decade. However, in the last few years there has been a small decline in ownership across almost all asset classes measured.

<sup>52</sup> UNISS - UNSP



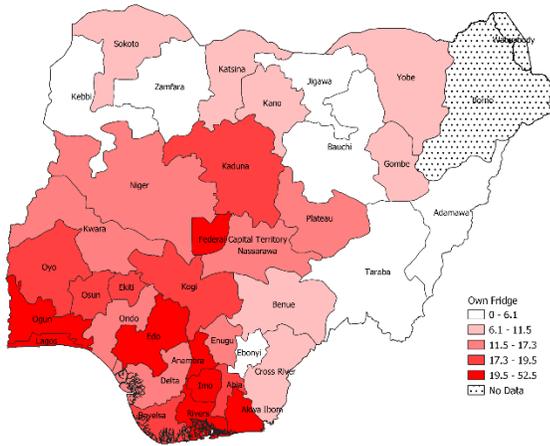


Fig 25: Asset ownership by state: Fridge. Source: NBS

The portion of households that own assets from mobile phones to cars has decreased marginally with the decrease larger for high-value assets. The portion of households that owned a vehicle, for instance, dropped to 8.5%, lower than it was in 2011<sup>53</sup>. This highlights the real impact of declining income per capita on broad household wealth.

Despite the longer-term growth in asset ownership nationally, the spatial inequality remains apparent. Fig 25 shows the spatial distribution of the percentage of households which own a fridge. The south to north inequality describes the underlying trend that is replicated across many SDG indicators. This within-country variation is important as it helps properly understand the reality behind the national numbers.

<sup>53</sup> Nigeria General Household Survey 2018/2019



# The Human Dimension



This section discusses the longer term-factors that drive overall development outcomes in the long term. The section discusses how people in Nigeria live and access basic services, where they live and patterns of migration, and how they invest in education and health. Although there are specific challenges in these key areas, there are some common trends.

The first common trend is the pace of improvement which in general is not fast enough to meet the SDG targets. Accelerated action is, therefore, required. The second is the variation in outcomes within the country with longer-term socio-economic inequality still driving most of the differences across states, although with some changes. This is particularly important because in the Nigerian context, state and local governments have the major responsibility for action in meeting SDG targets, but with governance especially at the local government level requiring significant improvements. The third trend is the dominance of out-of-pocket expenditure in financing access, with broad government spending both at the national and sub-national levels very low, and with other shared financing options mostly unavailable. The combination of out-of-pocket financing, spatial inequality, and poverty means that many states are at risk of being left even further behind.

### Urbanization and Rural-Urban Life

Nigeria has a rapidly urbanizing population with urban populations growing at 4.1% per year<sup>54</sup>. This is almost double the national population growth rate. The urbanization has been accompanied by a rapid growth in the number of cities, a growing housing deficit and,

<sup>54</sup> World Bank / United Nations Population Division's World Urbanization Prospects –2018 Revision

therefore, growth in slums and under-provision of essential urban infrastructure and services.



Fig 26: Urbanization and Slum Dwelling. Source: UN-HABITAT

This trend is important as Nigeria is expected to be the third most populous country in the world by 2050, and the share of the population living in cities is expected to rise to 70% from 9.4% in 1950 and 52% in 2020. A large and dispersed rural population is also expected to present similar challenges.

Nigeria's urban slum population is currently estimated as 53.3% of the total urban population, smaller than 73% in 1990. This trend, however, appears to have reversed in recent years with small increases observed since 2013. Despite this percentage decline, there has been growth in the absolute slum population from 21.8 million in 1990 to 57.7 million in 2018<sup>55</sup>. Accompanying the growth in the slum population is a rapidly rising housing deficit, the impact of which is felt more in cities than in rural areas.

The challenges in the North East have also resulted in an influx into major cities by people fleeing insurgency affected areas. This has increased the need for "urban management" and has put pressure on already

<sup>55</sup> UN-HABITAT



inadequate basic services with some cities already in crisis mode.

The issues with regard to slum dwelling and housing delivery are cross-cutting in nature. Land administration and titling remains mostly inefficient and cumbersome with little coordination or standardization of systems across states. As at 2018, 71.4% of people who owned their dwelling did not have any legal documents detailing their ownership<sup>56</sup>. Land reforms have, so far, been few and far between. The land tenure security and transfer issues combined with limited access to long term financing and broader macroeconomic challenges have resulted in mortgage financing being almost non-existent. This has severely limited the opportunity for house financing, especially in urban areas. The scale of the challenge requires more structural interventions to improve the underlying factors driving low housing delivery.

The absence of a structured governance framework for urban centres in Nigeria has also remained a fundamental issue affecting large metropolitan areas which straddle multiple local government areas. Without provision for coordination and integration among constituent local governments, most cities lack the capacity to effectively deliver basic services.

Rural areas are not exempt from these challenges. Large and dispersed rural populations imply that the cost of providing access to infrastructure and basic services is typically more expensive. This combined with broadly lower incomes in rural areas means that the opportunity for privately financed solutions are limited.

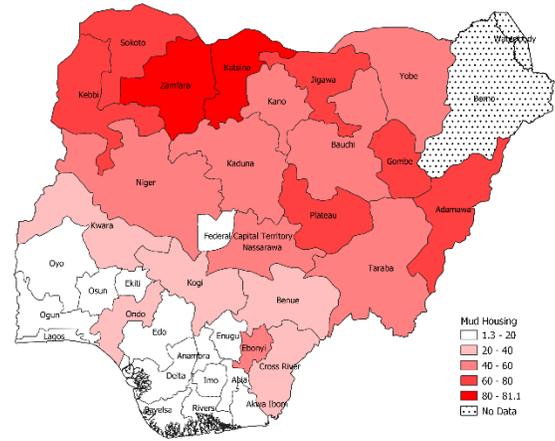


Fig 27: Percent of households living in housing with mud walls. Source NLSS

Quality housing issues are similarly challenging in rural areas. For instance, as of 2018, some states had more than 80% of the population living in houses with mud walls<sup>57</sup>. Although the environment is likely an additional driver of this indicator, it does show that housing in rural areas needs to be incorporated into any strategies to improve housing delivery and quality.

### Access to Basic Services

The challenges with regard to housing and urban planning feed into challenges related to access to basic services, specifically access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Although there have been improvements over the last decade, most of the Nigerian population still does not have access based on the SDG standards. Only 9% of households had access to all three WASH services, with 15% in urban areas and 6% in rural areas. As with other SDG indicators, access to these services varied significantly across the country driven partly by socio-economic indicators. 25% of the richest quintile of households had access to all

<sup>56</sup> Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018/2019.

<sup>57</sup> National Living Standards Survey 2019



three services, while only 3% of the poorest quintile had access. However, the numbers even within the richest quintile demonstrate the difficulty with relying on out-of-pocket financing of access to WASH services. With these services, collective action is required for a variety of reasons. However, such action via government managed public provision is severely lacking.

The challenges with public supply and enforcement of standards are perhaps apparent in the availability of WASH services in schools and health facilities. Only 3% of schools and 4% of health facilities had basic gender-sensitive and disability-friendly WASH services in line with the SDG requirements. Only 33% of schools had access to basic water supply, with only 26% had basic sanitation services, and only 10% had hygiene services. Similarly, only 55% of health facilities had access to basic managed water supply, with only 10% having basic sanitation, and with 20% having basic hygiene services.

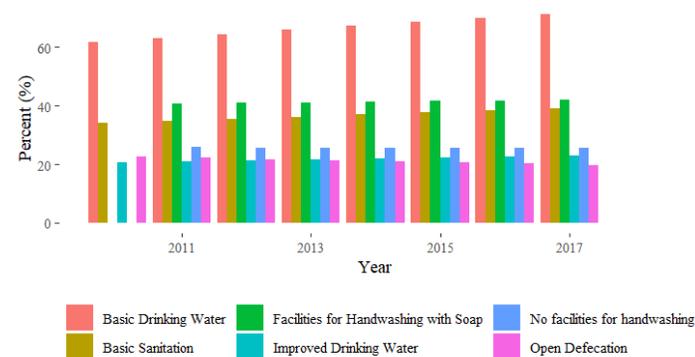


Fig 28: WASH Statistics. Source: MICS

Meeting the SDGs related to WASH will require Nigeria to improve its capacity to supply these key public services as alternative options will be difficult.

In Nigeria, most of these key services, especially safely managed water supply services, are the responsibility of state and local governments, hence improving governance at the state and local levels will be key<sup>58</sup>.

The IMF estimates that Nigeria will require an aggregate of US\$23 billion over 2020–30, i.e., 0.55% of annual GDP, to provide basic access to water and sanitation. Providing safely managed water and sanitation will require an additional 2.5% of annual GDP<sup>59</sup>.

Making substantial progress in the WASH SDGs can have a positive impact on equity. The World Bank (2012) estimates that annual losses from poor sanitation—access time, premature death, productivity losses, and healthcare—are equivalent to 1.3% of GDP per year<sup>60</sup>. These costs tend to be higher for the most vulnerable. Improving WASH systems, although initially high in fixed costs, will have a positive impact on the poor, specifically women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

### Access to Clean Water

In general, there has been an improvement in the share of people accessing both basic water supply services (70% in 2019) and safely managed water services (14% in 2019). This has translated to real gains in absolute terms with about nine million people gaining access to basic water supply services between 2018 and 2019, and 21 million more people gaining access to safely supplied water services between 2016 and 2019<sup>61</sup>. Despite this improvement, trend analysis between

<sup>58</sup> Local Governance discussed in more detail in the Governance: Local governance section.

<sup>59</sup> Nigeria - Additional Spending Toward Sustainable Development Goals - Mauricio Soto, Mariano Moszoro, and Julieth Pico - Technical Report April 2020

<sup>60</sup> ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF POOR SANITATION IN AFRICA - <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/855961468297356898/pdf/681260WSPoESIo000Box367907BoPUBLICo.pdf>

<sup>61</sup> MICS.



2016 and 2019 shows that, at the current rate, Nigeria will not meet the SDG 6.1 target by 2030, with at most 50% of the population having access at that time.

The challenges are systemic with less than one in ten persons having access to piped drinking water supply services within their premises. This has worsened since 2015 when 12% had access. Issues also persist with regard to availability, accessibility and sufficiency of water supplied due to challenges relating to urban public utilities. Although nearly half the population live in areas served by SWAs, only a small portion are provided with full services. Only 16 states have fully functional urban water utilities, and the capacity utilization of waterworks was critically low at 35%. 25% of public systems are non-functional, while only 33% have water management committees, and only 6% have tariff systems in place.

As at 2019, only a third of the population were using improved drinking water supply services within their household premises, with daily availability at 68%, and only 3% of water facilities available for at least 6 hours daily<sup>62</sup>. The average per capita share of water supply in Nigeria is 9 litres per person per day which is currently below the 15 litres per person per day humanitarian threshold.

Issues regarding location of water facilities and water collection times have also resurfaced. Though the average water collection time reduced by about 5 minutes between 2018 to 2019, up to half of household members reported that they are dissatisfied with their water services, with reasons attributed mainly to the location and time spent in fetching water<sup>63</sup>.

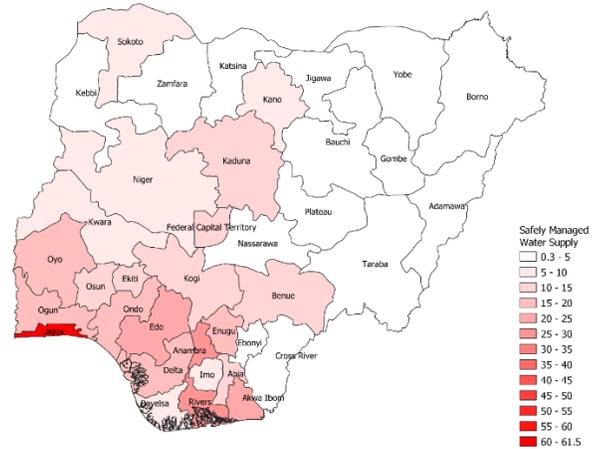


Fig 29: Access to Safely Managed Water Supply Services. Source: NORM II.

Water quality status has improved between 2016 and 2019. In 2016, 77% of the population accessed contaminated water from their household's drinking water source, while 9 out of 10 persons (91%) were found to consume drinking water contaminated by E. coli within their households. Results from the NORM II indicated that up to two-thirds of the population drink contaminated water at source (66%) and within their households (63%). Although the numbers are still high, the trends are positive.

Regional disparities persist within Nigeria regarding access to safely managed water supply services. Rural populations are four times less likely to have access to safely managed water services compared to urban households, with the poorest 22 times more deprived compared to the richest households. Finally, only one in every five water systems have provision for people living with disabilities.

<sup>62</sup> NORM – Note: Measured for the two weeks preceding the survey.

<sup>63</sup> NORM



## Access to Sanitation

Access to basic sanitation services has improved but, at the current pace, will not meet the target for 2030 with the country set to have provided access to only about 65% of the population. Trends in ending open defecation have shown negligible changes since 2015 with only a slight reduction in the number of people defecating in the open. So far, only 33 out of 774 LGAs since 2015 have met ODF targets. The country will need to achieve 125 ODF LGAs per year to meet the 2025 targets, or 63 LGAs per year to end open defecation by 2030. As at 2015, only 160,000 new toilets were provided per year, which was enough sanitation facilities for only 5.8 million people. Approximately 3.3 million toilets are needed per year to reach 55 million people with sanitation facilities by 2025.

As with other indicators, disparities exist across the country. In 2019, rural populations were three times more likely to defecate in the open and less likely to access basic sanitation services than urban households. The poorest populations were nine times more likely to defecate in the open than their richest counterparts. 32% of household latrines had slabs/platforms or drop holes that were not safe for children to use, while 52% were not safe for persons living with disabilities. Gender divides in the use of latrines persist with adult men more likely than adult women to use the toilets.

About 157 million Nigerians are off the SDG sanitation targets as only 1 in 5 Nigerians use safely managed sanitation services. These proportions have remained unchanged since 2018. Similar to piped water supply, flush to piped sewage services were severely lacking

nationally with as little as 5% of the population using this form of sanitation service.

Progress is most lacking in SDG 6.3. From 2015, there was a decline in the treatment of wastewater which is a key source of water pollution. This is particularly the case in some major cities such as Lagos. Wastewater from industrial effluents, agricultural processes and domestic usage are not treated.

## Access to Hygiene

Trends regarding access to hygiene services have suffered a setback in recent years. In 2019, only 16% of the population had access to basic hygiene services, down from 21% in 2018 and 32% in 2011<sup>64</sup>. 84.4% of the population, or 167 million people, did not have access to a handwashing facility at their households with water and soap. The poorest households were twice as unlikely to have access to these services compared to richer counterparts. Handwashing was not being practiced correctly with only one in ten household heads able to correctly demonstrate proper handwashing techniques with soap and running water.

In 2019, 95% of the population were not likely to practice handwashing at critical times due to a lack of education about proper handwashing, poor understanding of the linkages between their health and hygiene practices, and a lack of enabling factors such as improved water facilities close to the household, availability of soap, amongst others.

These statistics with regard to handwashing are, however, likely to improve as a result of the efforts made to improve hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>64</sup> MICS, NORM.



## Health and Health Systems

Health and health systems are systemically important as they impact all the SDGs. The Nigeria health systems are governed based on the Nigeria Health Act of 2014 which provides the legal framework in which health systems operate. The Act creates a disaggregated structure with roles and responsibilities distributed between the federal, state, and local governments. Federal agencies do not have the constitutional authority to impose policies on state and local governments. At the same time, states and local government are not obliged to synchronize their policies with their peers or with the federal government. The outcome of this structure is a diverse health sector environment with differing needs and differing outcomes. In terms of responsibility, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) is responsible for policy development and technical support to the overall health system, international health regulations, the national health management information system, and the provision of health services through the tertiary hospitals and national laboratories. The State Ministries of Health (SMOH) are responsible for secondary hospitals and for the regulation and technical support for primary health care services. The LGAs are responsible for the primary health care services, which are organized through wards.

### Maternal and Child Health

Nigeria's maternal and child health outcomes remain poor, partly due to weak health systems and socio-economic factors. The country remains one of the

worst-performing in Africa. On some indicators metrics have remained stagnant, while matters have worsened on others with few improvements. The national maternal mortality ratio was estimated at 576 per 100,000 live births in 2013 and this decreased only marginally to 512 in 2018<sup>65</sup>. In fact, Nigeria currently accounts for about 20% of global maternal deaths. Despite efforts to improve skilled birth attendance at delivery, health facility delivery remained static between the two demographic health surveys at 39% in 2008 and 38% in 2013. The low rate of skilled birth attendance at delivery contributes to the high maternal mortality. In order to achieve universal access to sexual, reproductive, maternal and new-born care, midwifery services in Nigeria must respond to an estimated 12.8 million pregnancies every year by 2030, more than half of which will take place in rural areas. With the current deficit and projections of future needs, Nigeria will require an additional 3,500 midwives annually for the next 15 years to meet the needs of the population in the year 2030<sup>66</sup>.

In addition, Nigeria has a high incidence of obstetric fistula with 13,000 new cases annually and 150,000 women and girls suffering with untreated fistula, a disproportionate 7.5% of the global burden. Although there have been some improvements, accelerated efforts are required if the country is to meet the maximum 70 per 1000 maternal death target and end obstetric fistula by 2030.

Under-five mortality rates worsened over the same period rising from 128 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013 to 132 in 2018, with a significant difference between males (137) and females (127). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), half of all under-five deaths in 2019 occurred in just five

<sup>65</sup> Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey

<sup>66</sup> State of the World Midwifery Report 2014



countries with Nigeria being one of the five. Nigeria and India alone account for almost a third of all deaths. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate increased from 37 deaths per 1000 live births in 2013 to 39 in 2018.

The national numbers, however, mask significant variation within the country. A look at state level data shows that some states are on track to meet some of the maternal and child health targets.

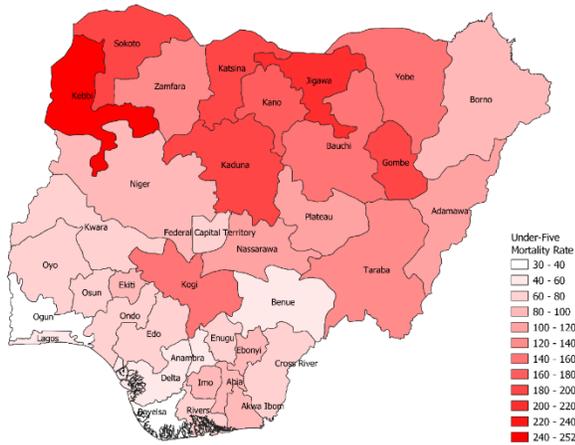


Fig 30: Under-Five mortality rates. Source: NDHS

Ogun state, for instance, was able to reduce under-five mortality to 30 deaths per 1000 in 2018 and neonatal mortality rates to 15 per 1000, which are both very close to the SDG targets. On the other hand, some states show health statistics that would rank as close to the worst in the world. Kebbi state, for example, had under-five mortality rates of 252 per thousand and neonatal mortality rates of 55 per 1000. That data also suggests that some regions are being left behind. Whereas the South West region was able to reduce the under-five mortality rate from 90 deaths per thousand in 2013 to 62 in 2018, the North West showed an increase from 185 deaths to 187 deaths over the same period.

Inter-agency estimates show similar trends with most of the country reducing under-five mortality but with some states in the North West and North Central showing an actual reversal with worsening outcomes<sup>67</sup>.

The underlying factors behind the slow improvement in the health statistics are partly due to the slow changing socio-economic factors, although some key indicators with regard to access have improved.

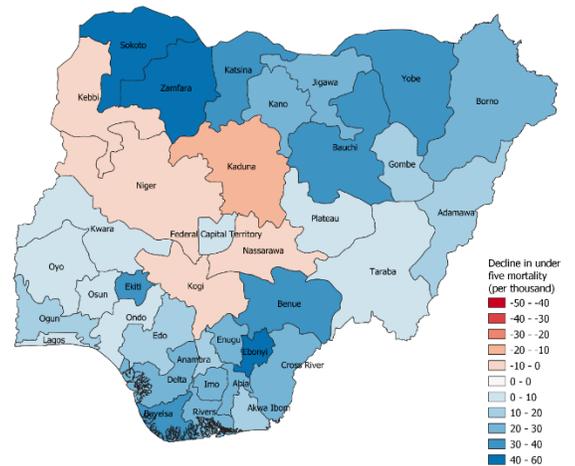


Fig 31: Decline in under-five mortality 2010 – 2019. Source UN IGME

In the five years prior to 2018, 67% of women aged 15 to 49 who gave birth received antenatal care, with 57% having at least four visits. This was up from 61% and 51%, respectively. 39% of births were delivered at a healthcare facility, up from 36% in 2013. The contraceptive prevalence rate among married women between ages 15 to 49 years was reported at 17%, with only 12% users of modern contraceptive methods, contributing to the high prevalence and risk of maternal death including obstetric fistula in Nigeria. Anaemia during pregnancy accounted for 20% of indirect causes of maternal deaths and poor birth outcomes. 58% of women were anaemic in 2018 with rural women (62%) more likely to be anaemic than urban women (54%). Marginal improvements have

<sup>67</sup> UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation.



been made on most other indicators of maternal health but, at the current pace, Nigeria will not meet SDG targets by 2030.

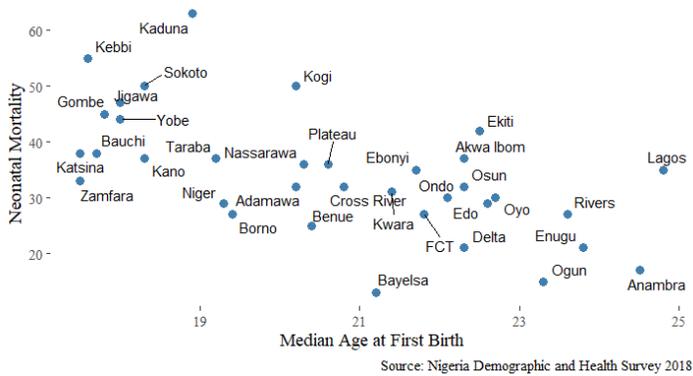


Fig 32: Neonatal Mortality and Median Age at First Birth. Source: NDHS 2018.

Socio-economic factors and social norms also continue to play an important role. As shown in Figure 32, neonatal mortality rates are correlated with the median age of first birth, highlighting a repeating trend of the impact of early pregnancy on child and maternal health outcomes and a potential entry point for catalytic impact across the related SDGs.

With regard to children, diarrhoeal diseases, pneumonia and malaria remain the major diseases. In 2018, Nigeria registered 162,000 deaths of children under five years of age due to pneumonia<sup>68</sup>. This is the highest number of global pneumonia child deaths. The treatment for pneumonia has more than doubled in the past five years, from 35% in 2013 to 75% in 2018<sup>69</sup>. In addition, a growing trend is registered for treatment of diarrhoeal diseases with ORS over the past decade, from 26% in 2008 to 40% in 2018. With regard to malaria, the use of insecticide treated nets has increased on average. 61% of households own at least

one insecticide-treated net, up from 36% in 2013. The perception of the effectiveness of malaria treatments has also increased significantly to 82% for men and 96% for women.

Improvements have also been made with immunization coverage. 31% of children aged 12 to 23 months have received all eight basic vaccinations, up from 23% in 2008. The percentage of children who received none of the basic vaccinations declined from 29% to 19% during the same period. Although these are improvements, they still fall short of the SDGs. Socio-economic factors still appear to be a key determinant of probability of vaccination.

### Other Diseases: HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria, NCDs, and NTDs

Malaria remains the major disease affecting the general population. In 2019, an estimated 51.7% of the population who reported having health issues within 30 days of the survey reported having malaria<sup>70</sup>.

Mortality due to HIV has been on the decline falling from 44.2 per 100,000 in 2011 to 27.05 in 2018. Despite this reduction in mortality outcomes, challenges persist. For instance, only one in three boys and one in four girls had comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS<sup>71</sup>, with less than a quarter of young people having done a test (23% for females and 16% for males). Adolescent girls and young women are particularly vulnerable having the highest number of new HIV infections compared to other gender-age cohorts. The implication is that, despite the reductions in mortality, efforts are still needed to address gaps in meeting

<sup>68</sup> UNICEF analysis produced in September 2019, based on WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) interim estimates and the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation estimates for the year 2018.

<sup>69</sup> NDHS 2018.

<sup>70</sup> Nigeria Living Standards Survey (2018/2019).

<sup>71</sup> NAIIS 2018, NDHS 2018.



targets. The general assumption among some stakeholders in the national HIV response is that food and nutrition are no longer key issues in the national HIV response because PLHIV are not diagnosed at full blown AIDS stage, as compared to the past, and ART has improved the health status of PLHIV. However, this assumption may not hold true in the humanitarian context in the North East, which is characterised by high levels of malnutrition and food insecurity, even prior to the conflict. The conflict in the North East and the constant movement of internally displaced persons, including PLHIV on treatment, and the acute and pervasive poverty, hunger, unemployment, and loss of income means that many PLHIV struggle with food and nutrition for themselves and their families, as well as transport costs for clinic visits to access treatment.

With regard to tuberculosis, Nigeria ranks fourth among 30 tuberculosis high burden countries and is highest high burden country in Africa. The country's tuberculosis case detection rate has only moved from 17% to 24% between 2015 and 2020. This is, in part, a result of having only 20% of health facilities able to provide TB services. According to the WHO 2019 Global TB Report, 20% of TB cases in Nigeria are estimated to be attributable to malnutrition, 12% to HIV, 3% to diabetes, and 1% to alcohol use disorder.

Data further indicate that NCDs accounted for about 29% of all deaths in Nigeria with cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) responsible for 11%, cancers 4%, chronic respiratory diseases 2% and diabetes 1%. Estimated premature mortality, which is the probability of dying between ages 30 and 70 years from the four main NCDs, was 22%.

## The Impact of COVID-19

Like most countries around the world Nigeria was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. As at September 2021, Nigeria had over 200,000 confirmed cases cumulatively with over 2,600 deaths in three waves. Although this number is comparably small as a share of the population, it is likely to be an underestimate as testing was not as widespread as other countries. At its peak, Nigeria was conducting about 0.08 tests per thousand people compared to 1.1 per thousand in South Africa, 0.17 in Ghana, 0.16 in Kenya and 19 in the United Kingdom. Regardless, the scale of testing improved from the early days of the pandemic and the test positivity rates, which peaked at about 25% in June of 2020, have remained under 10% since March of 2021 through the third wave. Nigeria has also rolled out a vaccination campaign with over 2% of the population having received at least one dose of the vaccine as at September 2021.

Much of the success in limiting the direct health effects of the pandemic is due to the coordinated government response. A public health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) led by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) was set up immediately after the first confirmed COVID-19 case was detected. The EOC comprised of development partners within the health sector and organizations across relevant sectors. In addition, a presidential task force on COVID-19 was set up to lead the multi-sectoral response. The EOC also put data at the heart of its response, sought to protect health workers and prevent hospital infections, and launched a national information campaign to limit the spread of false information and provided official updates.

Regardless of the relatively low direct health impacts, the pandemic is expected to have widely affected much of the health sector indirectly and had negative health consequences. As at July 2020, one in five households



with children under five, who needed or were due for immunizations, were not able to get their children vaccinated<sup>72</sup>. Emergency funding that was repurposed from other health uses towards the COVID-19 response likely had an impact on other health statistics. The impacts of the lockdowns probably also had negative consequences due to the increased difficulty in accessing health facilities.

### Drug Use and Other Related Health Issues

New surveys have detailed the extent of tobacco and drug use in Nigeria. Among the general population, nearly 15% of the adult population has smoked or used a tobacco product, whereas 7% of men and 1% of women were currently smoking or using tobacco products<sup>73</sup>. This is higher than the comparable 5.6% of adults who used tobacco products in 2012<sup>74</sup>. The data suggests that the trends in tobacco product use are increasing.

The situation with drug use is similarly concerning. The prevalent rate of drug use was 14.5% in 2018 which was almost three times the global average. This implies that there were over 14 million drug users in Nigeria in the year of the survey with the number estimated to increase to 35 million by 2050. The dichotomy between females and males is like that of tobacco use with one in four drug-users a female. Cannabis is the most commonly used drug, although about one in three cannabis users surveyed indicated that they felt they would need some form of health intervention to stop their use. The second most used category of drugs are pharmaceutical opioids and other pharmaceutical psychotropic substances which are being used for non-medical purposes. This puts Nigeria in a similar

position with North America which is experiencing an opioid crisis.

### Mental Health Issues

There is a general neglect of mental health issues in Nigeria with data severely lacking. Mental health facilities are mostly underfunded, under-equipped, and under-staffed. Family and patient associations focusing on mental health issues are largely non-existent. Although some non-governmental organizations conduct some activities, there are no formal coordination structures. This is followed by a general poor perception about mental health issues. There is no coordination in the public awareness campaigns and public education on mental health and mental disorders. There does, however, appear to be an increasing trend in suicides with suicides per 100,000 people rising from 9 in 2010 to 9.9 in 2016<sup>75</sup>.

The mainstreaming of mental healthcare seeking behaviour as well as its provision still have a long way to go. There are several private sector organisations providing mental health services, but these often come at significant cost. A few mental health non-governmental organisations have leveraged new media platforms to provide free services, but they are currently reaching a very small part of the target population.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) issues have also not received adequate attention with inadequate data on CAMH needs. The issues are more acute in Nigeria's northern regions, particularly in the North East where many children have been killed and displaced by the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency. According to a report by UNICEF, only 5,129 children that have been forced out of school by terror attacks are

<sup>72</sup> NBS – COVID-19 Impact Monitoring Survey Round 3

<sup>73</sup> 2018 National Drug Use Survey.

<sup>74</sup> Global Adult Tobacco Survey – Factsheet Nigeria 2012.

<sup>75</sup> WHO/Global Health Observatory



receiving mental healthcare in the North East. Wide societal issues such as child poverty, child malnutrition, child labour, child marriage and general child abuse put Nigerian children at significant risk of mental health issues.

### Non-Medical Deaths

The trends with regard to road traffic accidents have been falling on average from about 25 fatalities per 100,000 in 2010 to less than 21 in 2019, although the number has increased in absolute terms. Fatalities tend to involve more males than females with a two to one ratio, with 45% of crashes affecting the economically active population between the ages of 15 and 64<sup>76</sup>. The challenges with systematic data collection also suggest the numbers are likely to be underestimated. Efforts are, however, being made to improve the quality of data collection and to harmonize efforts through the National Committee on Crash Information System (NACRIS). Major causes of road accidents include inappropriate speed, driving under the influence of alcohol, impairment while driving due to the consumption of drugs, distraction through use of mobile phones while driving, sleepiness and fatigue, and failure to take safety precautions such as using seat belts or wearing helmets<sup>77</sup>.

### Social Norms and Health Access

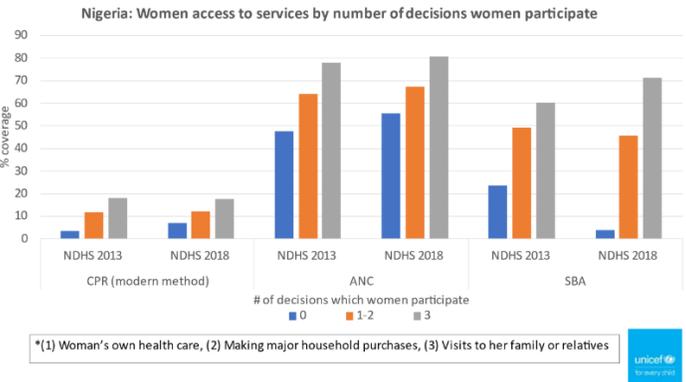


Fig 33: Women’s access to services by number of decisions. Source: NDHS

Nigeria is a mostly patriarchal country with various social norms that encourage gender imbalance in favour of men. The utilization of healthcare services by women is one area that is influenced by gender norms. For instance, in some parts of the country it is well documented that women need the permission of their husbands to take decisions on accessing healthcare even in emergency situations. This has resulted in delays in seeking care with often dire consequences. Women with poor decision-making autonomy had higher chances of childbirth with no assistance. With many women needing to wait for their husbands to provide resources for care in a health facility, the importance of financial imbalances in the household is also apparent.

Aside from directly influencing their health, women’s decision-making power in the home has an effect on the health of their children. Women who had influence in decision making in the home had about half the number of mortalities of children under five compared to women who did not have this capacity<sup>78</sup>. Husbands’ disapproval can be a major

<sup>76</sup> World Bank Road Safety Country Profile 2016.  
<sup>77</sup> Road Safety Annual Report – 2018- OECD / International Transport Forum.

<sup>78</sup> NDHS 2018



reason for non- and partial immunization of children under five years old.

### Early Warning and Disease Surveillance

NCDC implements the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system for monitoring and responding to the outbreak of communicable diseases across the country. This system was adopted by WHO member states in 1998 and is designed to increase efficiency in the management of disease outbreaks by streamlining surveillance activities. An advantage of this system is that it tries to avoid replicating efforts on disease surveillance and focuses on the LGA level as the hub for integrating surveillance functions.

Surveillance activities are carried out at various levels including national, state, local, health facility and community levels. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the NPHCDA, the NCDC coordinates surveillance on the national level for communicable diseases. Disease Surveillance and Notification Officers (DSNO) are on the state level and they work with the state epidemiologist, as well as the Director of Public Health at the State Ministry of Health on disease surveillance. On the LGA level, the LGA DSNOs, health educator, medical officers or PHC coordinators as well as counsellors help with carrying out disease surveillance. There are other health facilities that contribute to surveillance such as NGOs, FBOs, and inpatient facilities. Surveillance on the community level is critical and is often carried out by Community Health Influencers and Promoters (CHIPs), birth attendants, village health agents, community leaders,

extension workers, and a host of other healthcare professionals or promoters.

The design of the IDSR incorporates the indicator-based and event-based surveillance which supports the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS). The event-based surveillance is particularly crucial to early warning and facilitates disaster risk management. A challenge with the implementing the IDSR in Nigeria is the efficient assigning of functions to appropriate levels of surveillance, including what capacities are needed. There is also a need to strengthen laboratory capacity and the management of information produced by laboratories. The IDSR is also dependent on the efficient and timely functioning of the different systems which necessitates their strengthening.

### Health Financing

Access to and financing of healthcare remain largely unequal with access and quality positively correlated with wealth. Out of pocket spending on healthcare is the main financing source accounting for 77% of healthcare funding in 2017, up from roughly 60% in 2000<sup>79</sup>. This is higher than the recommended WHO target of 12-15% and puts Nigeria third highest in the world with regard to out-of-pocket expenditure shares.

The high out of pocket expenditure masks significant internal inequality with higher income households much more capable of financing and, therefore, accessing health care compared to lower income households. Though resource pooling through health insurance appreciably grew over the years, it is still in its infancy.

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<sup>79</sup> World Health Organization Global Health Expenditure Database



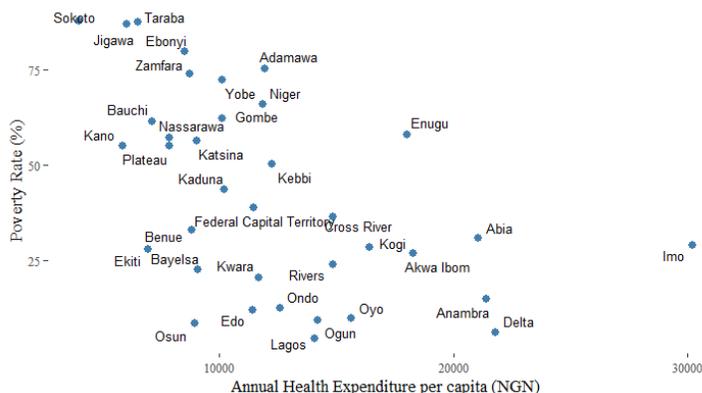


Fig 34: Poverty rate and Health Expenditure per capita. Source: NBS, NLSS, NPC.

This is particularly important as government funding of healthcare is very low at 3.89% as at 2018<sup>80</sup><sup>81</sup>. This scenario puts almost 83 million Nigerians who live below the country’s poverty line at high vulnerability risk as they are mostly unable to pay for their health care needs, particularly women and children who are at risk of being left further behind.

### Education

The fourth SDG aims to ‘ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’. This goal is important because it serves as one of the key foundations for future prosperity and health which is key to attaining other SDGs.

### HCI Trends

The Human Capital Index (HCI) captures the overall trends in human capital accumulation, of which, education is the key pillar. It estimates the chances of children surviving through infancy, going through education and realizing their full professional and

economic potential as adults. As at 2020, the likelihood that a child born in Nigeria will meet the described criterion is 0.36, implying nearly 2 in 3 children born in the country will not have a chance to experience their full professional and economic potential. This score has increased only marginally since the first edition of the index in 2018 where Nigeria had a 0.34 score. The index places Nigeria 168<sup>th</sup> out of 173 countries ranked using a similar methodology.

The HCI shows that 9 in 10 children in Nigeria survive infancy and will be ready to start school, with the statistic similar for boys and girls. By 18 years the average child is expected to have had 8.2 years of schooling but with gender gaps, with 8.7 years for boys and 7.6 for girls. That gives more than a one year of schooling advantage to boys – highlighting the cumulative effect of gender-based challenges that expose girls to missing school including menstruation, early marriages, etc.

With regard to learning outcomes, the harmonized test scores standardized for grade six for Nigeria is 325 (329 for boys and 321 for girls), measured on a scale of 300-625. The test scores reveal a further gender gap between boys and girls. The test scores also demonstrate the distinct challenges of learning versus attendance with Nigeria at the near bottom of the scale in learning outcomes. Adjusting years of schooling by learning outcomes implies an effective duration of schooling of 4.3 years. This implies that half the time children spend in school does not count as learning. Among its peers, Nigeria trails in the region, with a 3-

<sup>80</sup> World Health Organization Global Health Expenditure Database

<sup>81</sup> Discussed in more detail in the Financing Landscape.



point difference in the likelihood of children living to their full potential<sup>82</sup>.

In terms of early childhood health, learning, and psychosocial wellbeing as at 2017, 61.2% of children from 3 to 5 years of age were developmentally on track. This was significantly higher than the 57.4% it was in 2011<sup>83</sup>. Around 90% of male and female children under five were developed physically or in the area of health, with slightly less than the 93% for boys and girls reported in the SDG baseline report for 2011 (NBS et al. 2011 & 2016). This contrasts with figures from the NDHS which found that the prevalence of stunting among children under five was at 37% in 2018.

According to the MICS5 2016-17, approximately two-thirds (62.8%) of Nigerian children have an adult household member who engages with them on four or more activities that promote learning and school readiness. In addition, 10.8% of biological fathers and 28.1% of biological mothers are involved in activities that support early learning. However, only 5.6% of Nigerian children live in households where there are at least three children's books accessible to the child. This survey also found that 3 in 5 children aged 36-59 months were developmentally on track in at least three of the four early childhood development areas, while one third of children were left with inadequate care either by being left alone or in the care of another child (NBS 2018).

### Attendance and Enrolment

Nigeria still has significant challenges with regard to out-of-school children. The number of out-of-school children was estimated to have increased from 10.5 million to 13.2 million as at 2018, with the conflict in

the North East a major driver. On average there have been improvements in the rate of attendance and enrolment, but these improvements have not been fast enough to meet the 2030 Agenda. Attendance in school for males and females between the ages of five and 14 stood at 78.4% and 78.7%, respectively, as at 2018<sup>84</sup>. This was up from 71% for males and 67.9% for females. The data also suggests a closing of the gender gap, at least nationally. A small reversal in progress was also observed between 2013 and 2018 perhaps due to the worsening average incomes.



Fig 35: School Attendance. Source: NBS / NLSS

The state of matters with regard to enrolment at the secondary school level is a little bleaker. As at 2018, enrolment rates in primary school were 87.1%, junior secondary school were 67.6%, and senior secondary school were 63%. This suggests that dropout rates were still significant. The gender gap in enrolment also remained with a constant three or four percent gap between males and females at all three levels of schooling.

As with other socio-economic data, the national observations hide significant variations within the country. Attendance in the southern parts of the country remains consistently higher than in the north,

<sup>82</sup> Nigeria ESA Report, August 2020

<sup>83</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

<sup>84</sup> Nigeria General Household Survey 2018/2019



with some states lagging far behind. In Kebbi and Yobe states, for instance, only 43% and 33% of males of primary school age attended school, respectively. The data was significantly worse for females where only 29% and 30.6% of girls of primary school age attended school<sup>85</sup>.

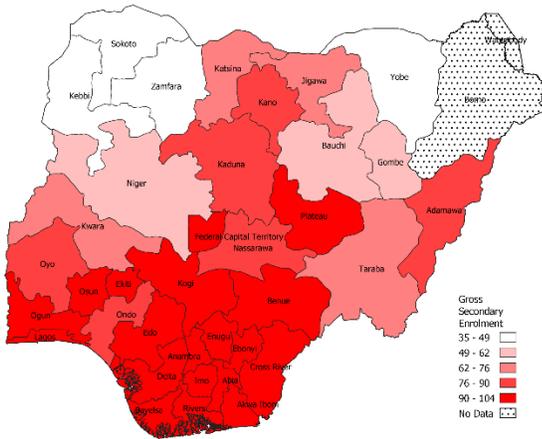


Fig 36: Secondary school enrolment. Source: NBS / NLSS

### Primary Completion and Transition to Secondary School

Trends for primary school completion and transition to secondary school have been a bit more volatile. Between 2007 and 2011, surveys showed significant increases in primary school completion across most of the country with national rates increasing from 36% to 73%. This, however, suffered a setback with the completion rate falling to 63% in 2017.

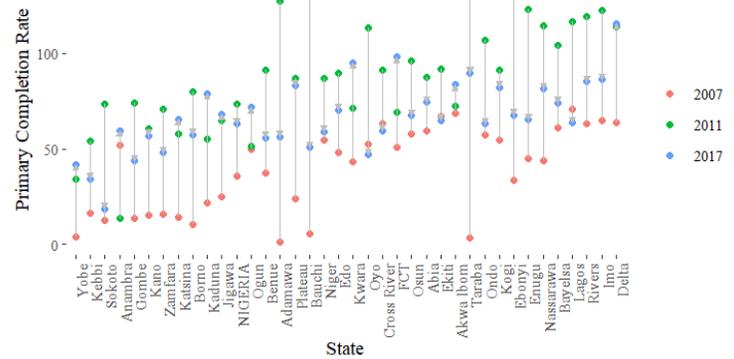


Fig 37: Primary School Completion Rates 2007, 2011, and 2017. Source: MICS.

The inverse of the trend is observed for transition into secondary school. The rate of transition to secondary school fell from 92.8% in 2007 to 70.6% in 2011 and 49% in 2017. This suggests that the push to increase attendance at the primary school level may be having some desired impacts but many of those children do not continue on to get a secondary education. The variation within the country mimics the national trend with increases across almost all states between 2007 and 2011 with a subsequent pullback in 2017 in some states.

### Quality of Education

The quality of education, measured in terms of student learning outcomes, is poor. In 2015, only 66% of public-school students could read at least one of three words and only 78% could add single digits after completing the equivalent of grade four<sup>86</sup>. This fell in 2020 to 61% of students who were literate in grade 4, 69% who passed the basic numeracy test, and 29% who passed the basic comprehension test.

<sup>85</sup> Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018

<sup>86</sup> NEDS 2015



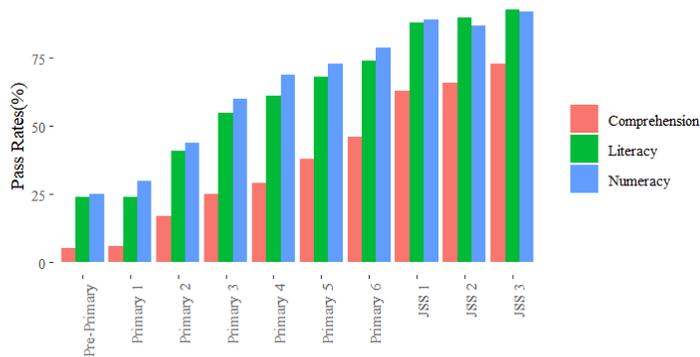


Fig 38: NEDS 2020 results for literacy, comprehension, and numeracy. Source: NEDS 2020.

The implication of these statistics is that almost half the time children spend in school does not count towards their actual learning outcomes, especially those in public schools. These poor learning outcomes, and the gaps between public and private schools, persist through the end of secondary school. The challenges with regard to education are cross-cutting in nature. Teachers often lack formal qualifications or do not know the required content or do not have the skills for effective teaching. School curricula are also frequently outdated and school infrastructure is lacking in many areas.

### Skills and Technical Education

A major component of Nigeria’s education policy is on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) which seeks to tackle challenges around shortages of skilled workers. There are, however, still significant challenges around linkages to the labour market with mismatches apparent. Some reforms have, however, been implemented including the teaching of pre-vocational courses and mandatory vocational lessons in schools. Efforts have also been made to introduce students to entrepreneurship, alongside specific trade disciplines. Other reforms include the establishment

of the Vocational Enterprise Institutions (VEI) and Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEI); the setting up of open, distance and flexible e-learning (ODFEL) for TVET, among others. Incorporating the private sector into TVET policy and planning and ensuring that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups are not left behind should be key focus areas going forward.

### Other Education Issues

**The conflict** in the North East and the increasing security challenges in the North West and North Central are likely taking a toll on attendance rates in schools. An evaluation funded by UNICEF, investigated schooling patterns for IDPs in 2017. Of the 3.2 million IDPs and returnees, school-aged children between the ages of 6 and 17 made up 33% (15% girls and 18% boys). The limited data available showed that in the three states in the North East, around 54% of primary and secondary school children who were internally displaced were out of school<sup>87</sup>. The spate of kidnappings in the North West, where by June 2021 over 800 students had been kidnapped from schools<sup>88</sup>, is likely to have longer term impacts on willingness to attend schools. As at 2018, 43% of males and 56.8% of females above six years old who never attended schools listed “parents not interested / opposed to schooling” as the primary reason for never attending<sup>89</sup>. The kidnappings targeting schools may have consequences for the willingness of parents to allow their children attend schools.

<sup>87</sup> UNICEF 2019

<sup>88</sup> Reuters June 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

<sup>89</sup> Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018 – 2019.



**The COVID-19 pandemic** is also likely to have resulted in permanent learning losses. Like many other countries, the decision to close schools and educational institutions in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 has led to an increase in the number of children, youth and adults not attending schools. Well established school calendars were disrupted, with few private schools able to commence online teaching for the third-term of the 2019/2020 academic session. Evidently, these disruptions were felt most by the poor and vulnerable and is likely to have widened inequalities in the educational outcomes. There are also questions on the quality education as a result of the shift to e-learning. Costs of data subscription and the ICT requirements – phones, laptops, etc - were some of the likely underlying drivers of that inequality. Finally, girls were likely disproportionately affected due to the increased likelihood of early marriage and teen pregnancy, as well as extra burdens from household work.

**Family Life HIV Education (FLHE)** is the Nigerian education sector's response to HIV, adolescents' sexual reproductive health and gender-based violence. Despite the mainstreaming of FLHE in core subjects' curricula and institutionalization in pre-service teacher training since 2004 and 2009 respectively, findings from the Nigeria Demographic Health Survey (NDHS, 2018) revealed low comprehensive knowledge of HIV. Only 38.5% of people 15–24 years demonstrated the desired level of knowledge and rejected major misconceptions about HIV and AIDS, 34% for males and 43% for females. Poor SRH and education outcomes underscore the importance of Family Life HIV Education (FLHE) linked to adolescents' sexual reproductive health (ASRH) services.

The informal Quranic educational system referred to as **Almajiranci** continues with sparse data on the scale but estimates of between five and ten million children involved, making up a significant portion of the out of school children in northern Nigeria. Under this system, male children and teenagers are sent away by their parents to join a Quranic school that is often in a different locality. Some parents of these children reported that they enrolled their children into the system to reduce feeding costs for their families, or to protect them from attacks or recruitment attempts by violent extremists in their locality. Their living conditions are, however, usually very poor with children exposed to different levels of deprivation and with their activities often involving begging. This exposes them to criminal elements and makes them vulnerable to instrumentalization, hinders their development and learning outcomes, and sometimes exposes them to exploitation. The government has in the past implemented programmes to reform the system, but this has been met with difficulties. Resolving this challenge and ensuring these children, who are typically from some of the poorest households, do not continue to be left behind is a key challenge for Nigeria.

In recognition of the plurality of cultures and norms within Nigeria, the National Commission for **Nomadic Education** (NCNE) was set up in 1989 to cater to the needs of its nomadic populations with the goals of integrating nomads into national life through functional education and to raise the productive and income level of nomads. According to the unpublished NCNE 2020 Annual Report, there are currently 4,375 Nomadic Centres across the 37 States and FCT in Nigeria. The total enrolment in these centres is 1,150,940, with 412,110 males and 738,830 females. The current dropout rate stands at 14.3% for females



and 8.3% for males. The average dropout rate is put at 10.5% for both boys and girls. Also, according to the 2019/2020 annual school census report for Kaduna State, there are 365 nomadic schools in the state with an enrolment of 84,175 students.

In order to adapt to the transhumance lifestyles of nomadic populations, the NCNE came up with a programme that used radio to deliver educational content. An assessment of the programme carried out in 2016 found that it was 75% successful, with 60% of the learners reporting that they were inspired to embark on social action activities. The more recent spike in small- and large-scale banditry in Nigeria has brought nomadic education back into the public discourse as it is a medium- to long-term tool for curbing youth restiveness among nomads.

### Financing Landscape

Wide disparities persist across the country with regard to how education is financed with many households opting for privately financed options. Attendance in privately funded schools is highest in the South West where 57.5% of males and 62.9% of females reported as attending private schools. This is compared to 14.6% and 12.7% for males and females respectively in the North West. Similarly, the amount of money spent per student by households in the South West was N49,593, significantly larger than the N8,519 spent per student in the North West. In essence, many parts of the country with significantly higher poverty rates are being left even further behind partly due to the inability of households to self-finance investments in education. In 2018, “school being too expensive” was cited as the

second highest reason why people aged six and above never attended school.

### Cross-Cutting Human Dimension Issues

The state-level correlations across indicators again demonstrate the cross-cutting nature of SDGs and highlights the importance of **integrated broad-based interventions**. As in figure 39 above, stunting is strongly correlated with secondary enrolment, which in turn is strongly correlated with poverty and out-of-pocket spending in all key human development sectors. This implies that the broad socio-economic factors are still the underlying drivers of these outcomes, and approaches to accelerate improvement in those underlying socio-economic factors are the likely best bet for faster movement towards meeting the SDGs.

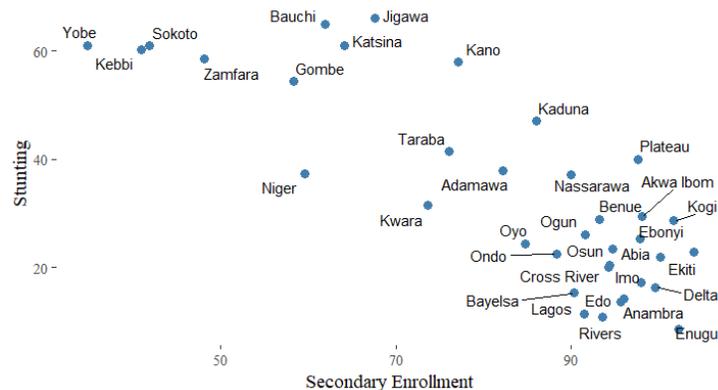


Fig 39: Stunting vs Secondary Enrolment. Source: MICS and NBS / NLSS

The myriad of **violence and security challenges**<sup>90</sup> has the potential to roll back any gains made across all key dimensions. The challenges essentially limit the capacity of households or the government to deliver these services while also negatively impacting their livelihoods. These disruptions which occur at a key

<sup>90</sup> Discussed in more detail in the section on governance.



stage in the lives of many children may permanently limit the potential for a whole generation. Tackling the underlying security challenges, therefore, must be seen as a fundamental part of accelerating action towards the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, across all three dimensions, **out-of-pocket expenditure in financing access is dominant.**

This is largely due to the inability of governments, especially at the state and local levels, to adequately provide basic services. The combination of out-of-pocket expenditure and high poverty rates in many areas means that many people are being left behind. Lower income households who cannot spend as much as their peers, and faced with absent or limited government provision, are left with no alternatives. These dynamics are also spatial in nature with spending and poverty patterns varying significantly across states, and with states and local governments in poorer areas faced with few financing options. The implication is improving the capacity of the federal government to support the provision of these services in the poorer areas will be important if no one is to be left behind.



# Governance, Political and Institutional Development



Nigeria is a federation consisting of three tiers of government, namely the federal, state, and local governments with separation of powers and functions between the tiers. Nigeria operates an executive presidential system of government with executive powers vested on an elected president, elected governors of 36 states, and elected local government officials. Each of the 36 states also has an elected state assembly of between 24 and 40 members depending on the size of the population of the state. All elected officers have four-year term tenure except for the local government officials whose term ranges from two to three years depending on the law existing in the state. The third tier comprises 774 LGAs. There is a two-term constitutional limit on the tenure of the President and the Governors.

The three arms of government are independent of each other but work in synergy in maintaining peace and harmony. At the federal level, the Executive arm is headed by the President assisted by a Vice. The National Council of States, which comprises the President, Vice President, all former Presidents, current and all former heads of the Legislature and the Judiciary, as well as all State Governors, is the highest policy making body. The Executive Council comprises appointed cabinet ministers and meets weekly to consider policy issues and approve government programmes and projects.

The second arm of the government is the National Assembly (Legislature). Nigeria operates a bicameral legislature system made up of the upper and lower chambers. The upper house – the Senate - is made up of 109 elected members led by the President of the Senate and a lower chamber - House of Representatives - made up of 360 members led by the Speaker of the House. The National Assembly, in

addition to its main function of making laws for good governance of the country, performs oversight functions over ministries and parastatal organizations of government.

The third arm of the government is the Judiciary which consists of the federal and state courts. The federal courts include the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, as well as the Federal High Court. At the state level, there are High Courts, the Customary Courts of Appeal, and Sharia Courts of Appeal. The Judiciary is headed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria. The Supreme Court is the apex court, while the Court of Appeal adjudicates on appeals arising from lower courts. The judiciary, for all intents and purposes, is the temple of justice and is expected to be independent and neutral and, therefore, an important arbiter for settlement of disputes and correction of wrong doings – the administration of justice.

Although the Judiciary is the arm of government responsible for upholding the constitution and protecting the rights of Nigerians, this institution has faced challenges in carrying out this mandate. Judicial reform has been a core issue under wider public service reform, with the goal of addressing challenges such as the prevalent corruption which have long reaching implications for access to justice.

Beyond the formal governance structure, Nigeria presents a complexly structured social set-up with more than 250 different ethnic groups, most with some sort of traditional authority, with competition between groups commonplace. This competition adds a layer of complexity that occasionally breeds social insecurity and serves as a backdrop for the ‘logistic or contingency for power’. The manifestations and impacts of Nigeria’s diversity became even more apparent under the democratic civil administration since 1999 with



various minority ethnic groups, both from a national and local context, jostling for domination and railing against marginalization, with political elite sometimes exploiting ethnic identity issues for personal benefits. These sentiments constitute stumbling blocks to the fight against corruption, democratization, and development – the root of ethnic and tribal jingoism, and religious bigotry in Nigerian politics.

The worsening socio-economic situation in Nigeria has had some effects on political and institutional development. Deprivation leaves a portion of the electorate vulnerable to political manipulation which challenges the democratic process. There continue to be two major parties in Nigeria and flawed internal dynamics within these parties often lead to the emergence of cohorts of political candidates that exacerbate the growing apathy among the electorate. Nigeria's political institutions are still overly dependent on the economic power of candidates and are still plagued with political patronage issues.

## Justice and Human Rights

Despite enormous efforts to improve the institutional and normative framework to enhance the respect of human rights, some serious challenges remain which will require continued attention and response in line with Nigeria's obligations under national and international human rights standards. One of these challenges is impunity which is often referred to as a main cause of conflict and instability in the country. Limitations on access to justice often results in community self-help measures which lack the guarantees and protection afforded by the rule of law

and lead to arbitrariness and human rights abuses and violations and, ultimately, prolonged conflicts.

In Nigeria, the judiciary is saddled with the responsibility for delivering an effective judicial system that meets the demands of a modern society. The judicial system, however, is beset with significant challenges. Lack of access to justice means that disputes frequently remain unresolved and often escalate into conflicts as people find it difficult to obtain justice and live in peace. The judicial system is often very slow and inefficient in its prosecution of crimes. Additionally, those convicted of crimes also do not seem to have access to timely response towards their trial. In 2019, 70.5% of the prisoners were awaiting trial in the Nigerian prisons<sup>91</sup>. The lack of preparedness of law enforcement in handling cases in a timely manner delays the processing of cases and impacts the overall function of the judicial system inhibiting its important role in broader governance challenges. For instance, other actions related to alleged Boko Haram associates in detention and in the calls of GBV, exhibits weaknesses in handling the trials in a survivor-centred fashion.

In 2019, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions wrote that 15 years on from the last visit in 2006, “the remarkable inadequacies of almost all levels of the Nigerian criminal justice system”, in particular the absence of systematic forensic investigation, the absence of coroners' inquiries, the repeated practice of adjournments “handed out with reckless abandon, resulting in thousands charged with capital offences being left to rot in prison” and the widespread practice of detention without charge were still prevalent.

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<sup>91</sup> United Nations Nigeria, “Brief 8, Impact on Human Rights, The Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria”, 28 May 2020



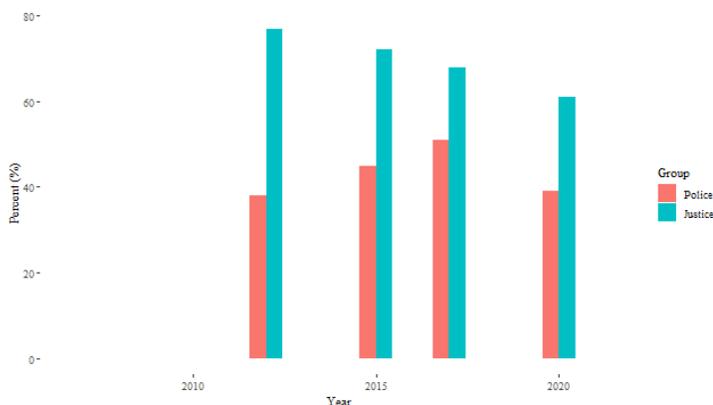


Fig 40: Incidence of Bribery by Police and to get Justice. Source: Afrobarometer.

The challenges with the criminal justice system result in most Nigerians opting for other options for justice. For instance, according to the 2020 Afrobarometer survey, almost 40% of Nigerians said they had to pay a bribe to get justice from the formal courts, while over 60% thought they would have to pay bribes to get the police to act.

Despite efforts at improving the legal framework for accountability, impunity remains a serious challenge. During the previous cycle of the Universal Periodic Review on Nigeria, a number of recommendations were made on improving the effectiveness, accessibility and fairness of the justice system as well as conducting independent investigations into allegations of human rights violations<sup>92</sup>. Should the situation not improve, there is a high likelihood that extrajudicial killings, excessive use of force and other severe human rights violations by security personnel will continue, further deepening the public trust deficit. With a deteriorating security situation, it is also likely that the military even more frequently will be drawn into carrying out general policing functions for which it is neither trained nor

equipped, thereby increasing the risk of human rights violations.

In 2020, #ENDSARS protests, initially focused on police brutality, demonstrated the scale of the chasm between citizens' perception of the performance of police and issues around police corruption and brutality, specifically targeted at young people. Although the protests metastasized into broader issues of socio-economic injustice and signalled citizens' broiling discontent of the state's adherence to its objectives.

Ensuring justice is key to peace and development and is vital for victims of human rights violations to seek redress and remedy. However, in its 2019 concluding observations, the Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of political influence and corruption in the judiciary, the limited role of the National Judicial Council in the appointment of judges and delays in the administration of justice linked notably to a lack of resources and personnel. In this regard, the Human Rights Committee recommended that Nigeria "take measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, ensure fair trial standards and reduce delays in the administration of justice, inter alia, by providing adequate resources and staff"<sup>93</sup>. On funding, Nigeria has one of the lowest shares of budget allocation to the justice sector of the sub-region with about 0.6%<sup>94</sup>. Ensuring the independence of the judiciary in all its forms will be crucial in building its capacity to play its important adjudicatory role within the democratic dispensation in Nigeria and enhance public perception of the said role.

<sup>92</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Nigeria, A/HRC/40/7, 26 December 2018, paras. 148.159-148.162; 148.165; 148.167-148.170; 148-173-148.180

<sup>93</sup> CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2, paras. 38-39.

<sup>94</sup> Information available from <https://www.budgetoffice.gov.ng/index.php/2021-appropriation-act/2021-appropriation-act/download>.



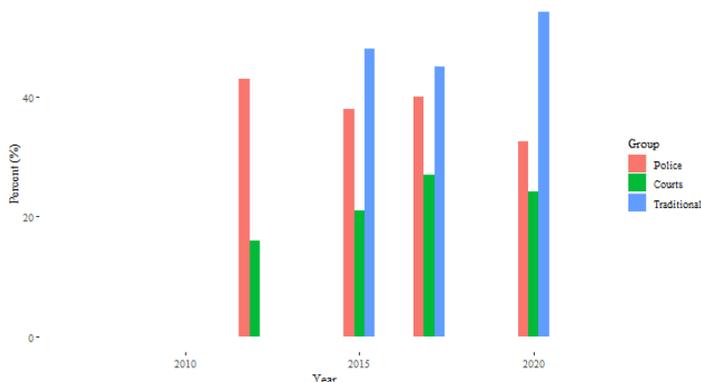


Fig 41: Trust in institutions. Source: Afrobarometer.

to ensure biometric registration of all residents. However, birth and death registries are still inadequate. According to the Demographic Health Survey conducted in 2018, only 42.6% of children under age 5 have their births registered with civil authorities<sup>95</sup>. Insufficient legal frameworks, complex and cumbersome registration processes, lack of coordination and quality assurance mechanisms, and insufficient financial and human resources contribute towards the low rate of birth registration in Nigeria.

### Compliance with International Norms and Standards

Nigeria is a member of regional, continental and UN inter-governmental mechanisms. The country has ratified the nine core human rights treaties<sup>96,97</sup>. Nigeria has ratified 40 ILO conventions and 26 of these are currently in force. Some of the conventions in force include the conventions on forced labour, equal remuneration, discrimination, minimum age, protection of wages, among others.

Nigeria has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the interstate communication procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The country has accepted only two individual complaints procedures namely, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons

In rural areas, traditional institutions still serve as the de facto justice system with majority of residents resorting to traditional authorities to settle disputes in lieu of the police and the formal judicial system. Although these traditional institutions are an important part of the landscape of justice, the ethnic nature makes it difficult for these traditional institutions to serve as impartial arbiters in cases of inter-ethnic disputes. In recent years, the gaps in preference for traditional institutions and the formal justice have widened even further. The gaps in traditional judicial systems combined with the challenges in the formal policing and judicial systems exposes the systemic gaps in dispute resolution, especially with the increasing incidence of inter-ethnic disputes in rural areas.

Some systemic challenges also inhibit the capacity of the judicial system to deliver justice and enforce the rule of law. Identity tracking systems have recently been introduced with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) putting in systems

<sup>95</sup> UNFPA, “Nigeria: Demographic and Health Survey”, 2018 accessed at

<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR359/FR359.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> UN Treaty Body Database

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=127&Lang=EN](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=127&Lang=EN)

<sup>97</sup> These include, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. Nigeria has successfully domesticated international and African refugee conventions into the National Commission for Refugees Act.



with Disabilities. It has not accepted the following individual complaints procedures: Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At the regional level, Nigeria has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention). However, the country has not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa and The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons. A Partners Dialogue on Human Rights Priorities organised by UN agencies and Nigeria's human rights agencies and stakeholders resulted in the identification

of some other challenges and recommendations for the way forward.

The key challenges in Nigeria include the inadequate domestication of international and regional human rights treaties and inconsistencies between customary practices and statutory law. Although Nigeria has ratified international human rights treaties, the country is lagging in its reporting obligations and the implementation of recommendations emanating from international and regional human rights mechanisms. Nigeria has established an inter-ministerial National Working Group on Treaties Reporting located at the Federal Ministry of Justice. The National Working Group has the mandate to coordinate reporting to treaties mechanisms and implementation of recommendations emanating from regional and international human rights mechanisms. The National Working Group will benefit from a fully capacitated secretariat with the knowledge and tools to implement its mandate and collaborate closely with civil society, the National Bureau of Statistics and national SDG coordination structure. Nigeria has not issued a new National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights since the conclusion of an earlier Plan (2009-2013). Since 2016, Nigeria was reviewed by three treaty bodies, namely the Human Rights Committee, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The country issued a standing invitation to UN special procedures mandate holders in 2013. Since 2014, the country has hosted 8 mandate holders<sup>98</sup>. Nigeria has been reviewed thrice under the Universal Periodic

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<sup>98</sup> Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Special rapporteurs on the right to health, on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes & consequences, joint visit; Special

Rapporteur on human rights of IDPs, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and Special Rapporteur on Housing.



Review of the Human Rights Council (UPR), namely in 2009, 2013 and 2018. During its third UPR process, Nigeria received 290 recommendations out of which it supported 240. The supported recommendations related to legal and general framework of implementation, universal and cross-cutting issues, civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, women's rights, and rights of other vulnerable groups and persons.

There is a need for the UN to provide immediate support to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in order to finalise the National Action Plan. This is in line with the recommendation that UN support should be on the basis of national plans and international treaties.

## Democratic Institutions and Elections

### Elections and Election Management Bodies

The conduct of elections at various levels demonstrates the progress made in consolidating democracy but there are serious concerns regarding good governance. The trust of Nigerians in the democratic process is resilient and may have been increasing in recent years. This has likely been strengthened by the transition between political parties in 2015.

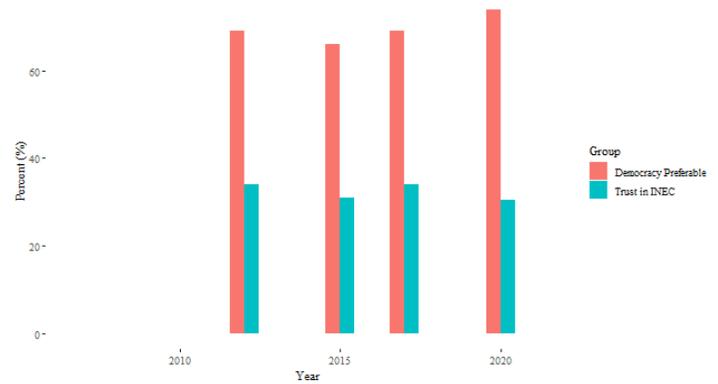


Fig 42: Trust in Democracy and INEC. Source: Afrobarometer

Serious concerns, however, remain in the electoral process with trust in the capacity of INEC to conduct free and fair elections low and declining. In 2020, less than 30% of the population indicated that they completely trusted INEC's ability to conduct free and fair elections. This indicates an overall lack of trust in the process and an incentive to use different means, including violence, to win elections. In recent years, INEC has introduced some key innovations in the electoral process with the introduction of biometric voter registration, and more recently, the legal basis for the electronic transmission of results.

The situation at the local government level is a lot more complicated and opaque, with the quality of elections falling far short of national levels. Local government elections are conducted by state electoral officials and the relatively lower profile has allowed electoral malpractices to become rife in some states. In many states, local elections are not held resulting in state governments appointing chairpersons to run the local government affairs.

The deterioration in the security situation across the country may have implications for the conduct of free and fair elections in 2023. The ability of the police and other security forces to secure election infrastructure



and to safeguard the credibility of the process may require significant support.

Democracy must be strengthened by allowing and creating the fora for full and effective participation of the people. Civil society organizations must be given the freedom to constructively criticize and meaningfully contribute to the governance of their country. Legitimate protests to register citizens' dissatisfaction with government policies should be encouraged within the limits of the law.

Elected officials must build trust and confidence with their constituents through transparent and accountable policies and actions. The separation of powers between the three arms and tiers of the government should be demonstrated through respect for the rule of law and efficient discharge of their constitutional duties.

The regular occurrence of election-related violence remains a concern which has implications for acceptability of the outcomes of electoral processes and, ultimately, democratic consolidation in the country. In this regard, employing effective mitigation measures prior to and during the upcoming general elections to prevent and minimize instances of electoral violence will be crucial in creating the enabling environment for an inclusive, transparent and credible process and will enhance the acceptability of its outcome. Collaboration between the relevant national entities and other stakeholders will be important in this regard with focus on potential hotspot states. Promoting peaceful electoral processes will also require sustained high-level political engagement by the UN and other actors with the respective political actors, national

institutions and civil society organisations with the aim of addressing potential impediments linked to intra party and inter party politics. Such initiatives should equally go beyond the capital and focus on some of the potential hotspot states.

### Political Party Development

The colonization of what is now known as Nigeria has created lot of developmental and leadership challenges in the administration of the modern Nigerian state today. One event worthy of note in the history of colonial Nigeria was the forceful amalgamation of over three hundred and fifty different ethnic nationalities as one political unit which now constitutes the Nigerian state. This exercise undertaken by the British was solely done for administrative and commercial interests. By this singular exercise, they created a nation polarized by ethnic group and increasingly in the quest to outdo and outplay each other in politics, commerce and relevancy<sup>99</sup>. These different ethnic groups were then dominated by the consciousness of fear, suspicion, domination and the acts of scheming and manipulating for positions and recognitions, so as to take leadership roles and control of resources through political power in the nation. Hence, ethnicity was noted in the formation and subsequent development of political parties in the nation, particularly in colonial Nigeria and beyond. This has been the crux and the genesis of Nigeria's ethnicized society, hence relationships are now fostered based on ethnic divide with fear, suspicion and domination in the minds of all the ethnic groupings. This has encroached into the fabric of the Nigerian society including politics.

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<sup>99</sup> Ethnicity and Development of Political Parties in Nigeria - Samuel Uwaifo and Ekondo Bank. Babcock university



Ethnicity impacts negatively on the Nigerian political system. It constitutes a major source of political violence and killings usually because of disagreements among and within ethnic groups. These disagreements bring social insecurity and political instability which in the long run frustrates progress, development and growth that may occur.

The adoption and creation of a credible electoral process to accommodate people of all creeds, race, ethnicity, religious, economic, political, and social standing in the society will allow for peace, stability, and tranquillity in the nation which in turn will also help eliminate poverty, underdevelopment, corruption, economic depression, political instability, and social insecurity.

Government, as part of its social responsibility and contract to its citizenry, ought to engage in massive political education and social enlightenment to bring Nigerian citizens to the knowledge, consciousness and the political awareness of their rights and duties. There is also a need for religious leadership which will, among other things, stem the ethnicity menace in the nation. Politicians should also avoid ethnic sentiments in their political activities and should foster peace and mutual co-existence and cooperation among citizens.

There are rising pressures on the electoral systems with debates around power sharing and rotation. The 2014 CONFAB under the leadership of President Goodluck Jonathan was conducted to solve some of the nation's problems including power sharing and rotation which are now hugely debated between the Southern Governors Forum and the Northern Elders Forum.

A recommendation of the CONFAB stated -

*“2014 NC: Recommended that the presidential power should rotate between the North and the South and*

*among the six geo-political zones while the governorship will rotate among the three senatorial districts in a state.*

*2005 NPRC: The principle of power rotation should be enshrined in the Constitution so that executive positions rotate at federal, state, and local governments. The office of the president, governors and local government should rotate in such a way that all the geo-political zones in the federation, states, local governments, should have a chance to produce a president, governor, and local government. It should not however be included in the constitution because of the emotive nature of the issue. There should be legislation by the National Assembly to ensure that the office of the president should rotate between the north and the south as well as amongst the geo-political zones of the country based on equity, justice, and fairness. The principle should be applicable to states and local government on senatorial basis for the governorship and at ward or district for the position of chairperson of LGs.*

*1994/1995 CC: Rotational Presidency should be enshrined in the Constitution. The same logic should apply to rotation of the governors and chairpersons of LGs. It recommended multiple vice presidents with a way to ensure that at least one comes from the same zone as the president.”*

There were 92 political parties in Nigeria, however, the INEC chairman, Yakubu Mahmood, deregistered 74 of them in preparation for the 2023 elections, following their poor performance at the 2019 elections and stating that they did not satisfy the requirements of the Fourth Alteration to the Constitutional Electoral Act



2010 (as amended). Nigeria now officially has 18 political parties<sup>100</sup>.

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, prominent Nigerians have established a new political party, Rescue Nigeria Project (RNP), to give Nigerians alternative platform to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)<sup>101</sup>.

## Conflict Peace and Security

Decades of underinvestment in the education and health of many Nigerians, in tandem with long running challenges with broad-based growth and job creation, have combined with other governance challenges to create an environment with significant security, governance, and political challenges. In 2016, when the last CCA was conducted, the major challenges were limited to the North East and Lake Chad regions where the focus was on terrorism and actions against extremist Islamic groups, and the Niger Delta, where the focus was on militancy and crude-oil related conflicts. The security challenges have, however, broadened significantly since then.

Violence and insecurity continue to affect many Nigerians differently. Manifestations of violence and insecurity not only vary state to state, but also differentiate geopolitically. Reports by government, multilateral and research institutions highlight terrorism, access to land or resources, cultism, criminality, ethnicity, politics, religion and personal disputes as some of the major drivers of conflict.

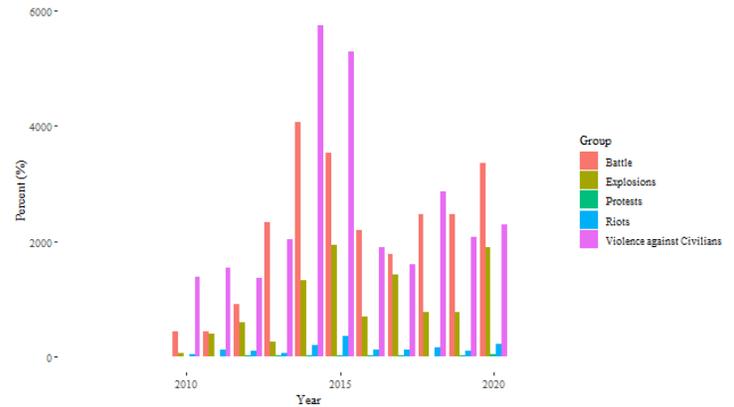


Fig 43: Violent deaths by Type. Source: ACLED

In terms of casualties from the various conflicts, the situation eased significantly after the 2015 elections and the resumption of a new administration. Since 2016 there has, however, been a near continuous deterioration in the scale of conflict and associated casualties.

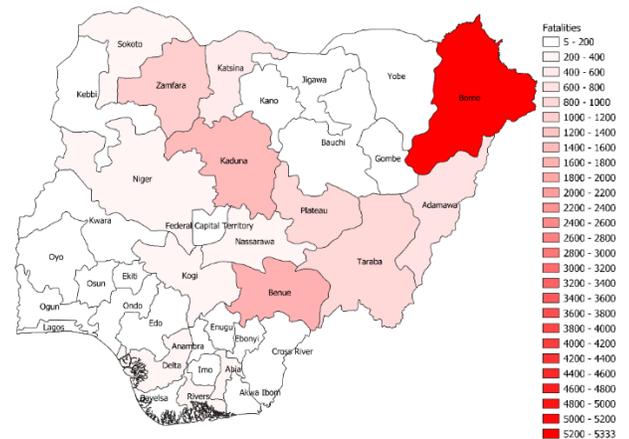


Fig 44: Fatalities from violence against civilians 2016 to 2020. Source ACLED.

The situation also appears to have metastasized from conflict focused in the North East and the Niger Delta to different forms of violence and conflicts across almost the entire country. These conflicts have led to

<sup>100</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/376095-updated-inec-deregisters-74-political-parties.html>

<sup>101</sup> <https://guardian.ng/politics/jega-utomi-duke-others-float-new-political-party/>



large-scale forced displacement, particularly focused in the North East of the country, but also expanding to the Middle Belt.

Addressing the diverse forms of violence and conflict will require a comprehensive and sustainable approach that targets and responds to the structural causes of conflict and leverages on concentric partnerships at local, state and federal levels. Institutionalising and operationalising a national peace infrastructure could be useful in the long-term approach towards conflict prevention, management and resolution in the country. In addition to humanitarian assistance, it is important to identify development-oriented responses to forced displacement including support to strengthening national services and self-reliance in displacement hosting areas.

### Terrorism in the North East

Nigeria comes third behind just Afghanistan and Iraq in the Global Terrorism Index 2019 ranking with a score of 8.3. It has maintained this position since 2015<sup>102</sup>. This is primarily due to terrorist activity currently posed by Jamā'atu Ahli is-Sunnah lid-Da'wati wal-Jihād (JAS) and Islamic State in West African Province (ISWAP) which poses a threat to public safety, particularly in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states and neighbouring countries.

Although some gains were made between 2015 and 2016, the conflict has deteriorated in recent times and has included attacks on NGOs and the humanitarian hubs, limiting the capacity of partners to help affected peoples.

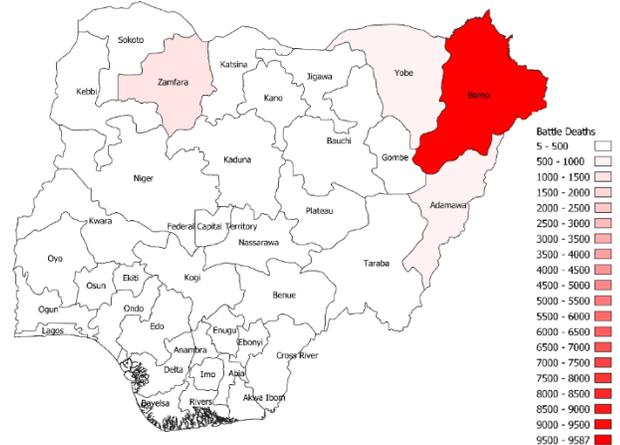


Fig 45: Battle deaths by state 2015 to 2020. Source: ACLED

The activities of insurgents in the North East and the broader Lake Chad Basin remains a major threat to both national and regional security. Despite continued efforts by successive governments in Nigeria in collaboration with neighbouring countries to significantly downgrade the capability of the insurgents, they have remained resilient and continue to orchestrate complex and sophisticated attacks with extensive use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other explosive ordnances. They, at times, target the civilian population. At least 945 civilians have been killed by IEDs with another 1,617 injured in 905 incidents since 2016<sup>103</sup>. These attacks continue to contribute to a worsening of the humanitarian situation with adverse impact on the protection of civilians and the respect for human rights and the rule of law.

<sup>102</sup> IEP, "Global Terrorism Index 2020: Measuring the impact of Terrorism"

<sup>103</sup> UNMAS- INSO Database.



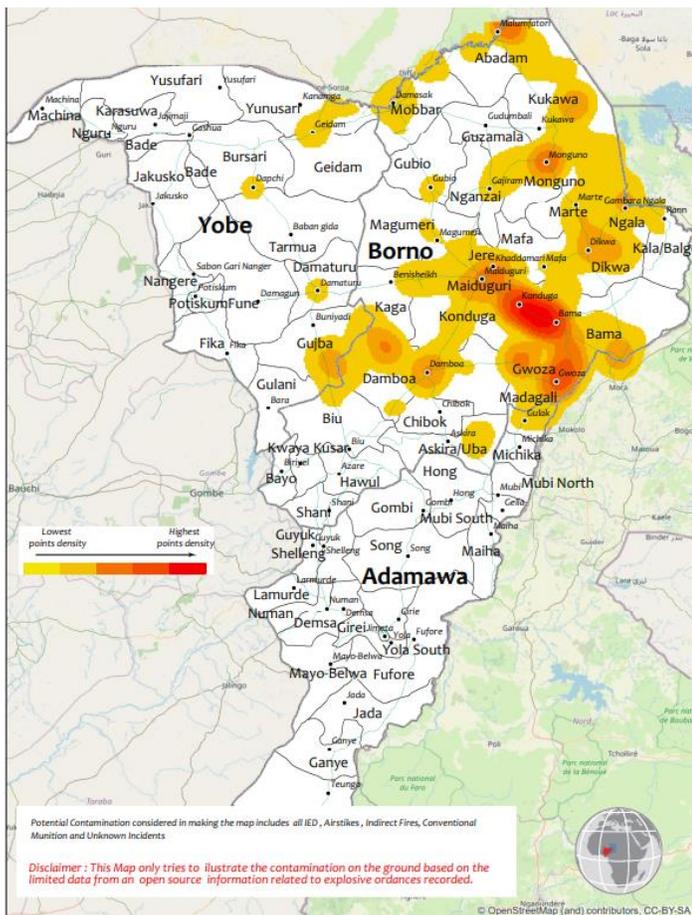


Fig 46: Potential Contamination 2020-October 2021. Source: UNMAS

The massive displacements caused by the activities of insurgents in Nigeria (with Borno state being the epicentre) and in countries within the Lake Chad Basin have increased the vulnerability of affected populations especially women and children, hence making them susceptible to recruitment by violent extremists, disease including the COVID-19 pandemic, and increased hardship.

Addressing the complex issue of insurgency will continue to require a holistic approach that leverages on the peace and development nexus. Enhanced complementarity between national strategies and regional frameworks that reinforce synergies between the security, development and humanitarian response models supported by a human rights-based approach will remain relevant. This calls for greater collaboration and coordination between federal and

state authorities, as well as between Nigeria and her neighbours given the key leadership role Nigeria plays in addressing this threat within the Lake Chad Basin. In this regard, Nigeria's leadership on the security front through the Multi National Joint Taskforce (MNJTF) and in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience of Boko Haram affected areas (RSS) will be vital in addressing the different challenges associated with preventing and countering violent extremism in Nigeria and in the Lake Chad Basin.

### Militancy in the Niger Delta

Although challenges in the Niger Delta remain, especially with regard to attacks on critical infrastructure and general safety, efforts made to tackle the crisis appear to be improving some of the outcomes. Between 2007 and 2009, militancy cut Nigeria's oil production to as low as 700,000 barrels per day, in some instances, from as high as 2.2 million. The 2009 Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) which was modelled after the United Nation's Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programme worked in reducing the scale of insecurity in the region. The programme supports ex-militants with stipends and provides some vocational and university level training, as well as support to impacted communities. Historical tensions and the proliferation of armed groups, however, result in a situation that has the potential for rapid deceleration in peace and security. Spill over effects of militancy into other organized crime also remain a key challenge.

### Farmer-Herder Violence

The violence between herders and farming



communities has escalated in recent years and is spreading southward from the Middle Belt. In 2020, deaths from violence against civilians in the Middle Belt outpaced those from the conflict in the North East. This demonstrates its increasing importance. The challenges with administering justice and the access to light weapons have incentivized various involved parties to resort to self-help with armed vigilante groups being formed across the region and an associated uptick in fatalities.

The continuing nature of the conflicts has also resulted in increasing political disagreement between various political actors, most recently between the federal government and a coalition of governors in the south who announced a ban on open grazing. Although the conflict is sometimes described as a one-sided affair with herdsmen often tagged as the aggressors, the data shows a more complicated narrative with multiple actors and multiple casualties.

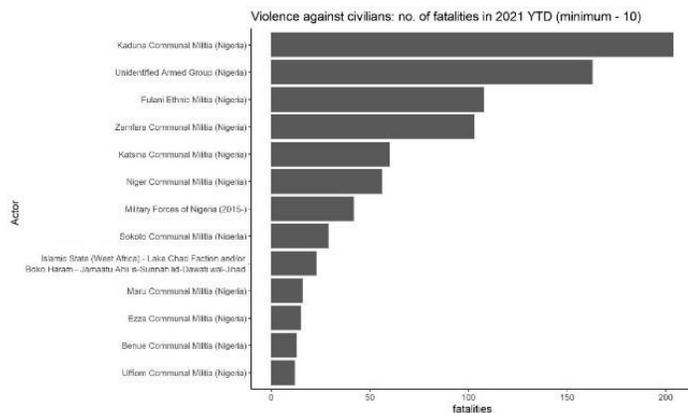


Fig 47: Violence against civilians by group – Minimum of ten fatalities. Jan to May 2021. Source: ACLED

The underlying factors behind the conflict are the increasing competition for land and water, continued expansion in land use by farmers (which has increased from 41.7 million hectares in 2000 to 60.9 million

hectares in 2019), and continued growth in the cattle population (which has increased from 15.1 million herds in 2000 to 20.7 million herds in 2019)<sup>104</sup>. The expansion in farmlands and other urban dwellings has led to blocking of transhumance routes.

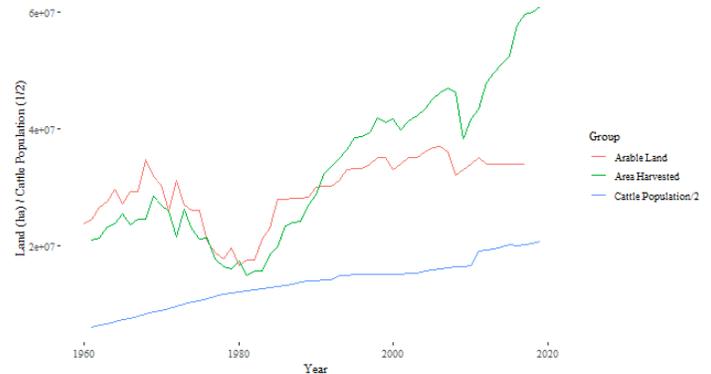


Fig 48: Land Use: Arable Land, Area Harvested, Cattle Population. Source: FAOStat

For example, the Bobi grazing reserves in Niger state which was equipped by the federal government with facilities for pastoralists has been partly turned into farmlands.<sup>105</sup> Climate change has also played a part in exacerbating the conflict. The absence of rural land tenure enforcement, and weakness in non-ethnic rural justice and dispute resolution systems remain as enablers of the violence. Reform in these important areas remains absent, incentivizing the use of violence as an alternative. Finally, banditry and cattle rustling has added a layer of criminality to a challenging situation.

Given the cross-border dimension of this challenge<sup>106</sup>, national initiatives could be complemented by ongoing regional efforts on best practices and experience sharing between member states in West Africa aimed

<sup>104</sup> FAOStat.

<sup>105</sup> Pastoralism and Security in West Africa and the Sahel – UNOWAS Study 2018

<sup>106</sup> Discussed in more detail in Cross-boundary, regional and Sub regional perspectives section.



at finding durable solutions to this continuing security threat.

### Banditry/Kidnapping for Ransom in the North West

The past few years have seen a rapid increase in the number of abductions. These abductions have been linked to the preponderance of armed groups, sometimes associated with large forest areas most of which have little or no formal government presence. In recent times, the abductions have involved the targeting of schools with an escalation in high-profile mass kidnappings of school children.

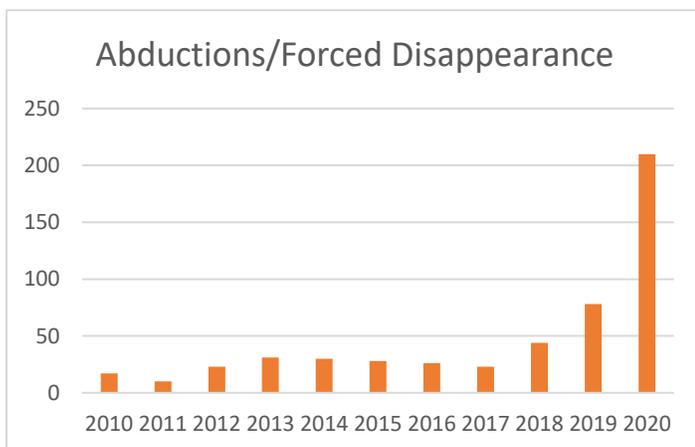


Fig 49: Abduction/Forced Disappearance Incidents. Source: ACLED

Importantly the geographic spread of incidents of abductions has increased rapidly. As at 2015, most of the abductions were isolated to the North East and terrorist activities, and the Niger Delta where crude oil sector employees were targeted.

More recently, cases of abductions have escalated in almost all the geopolitical zones with almost all states witnessing at least one abduction incident in 2020.

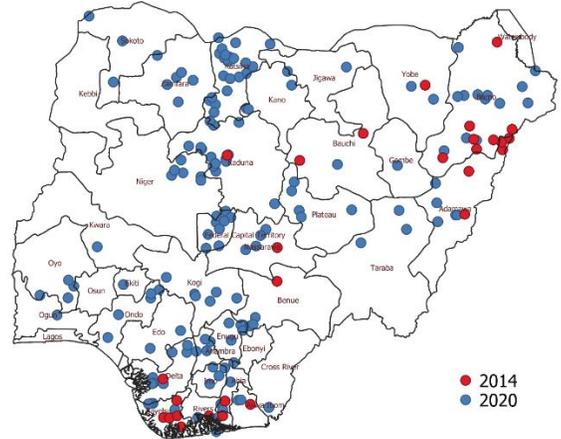


Fig 50: Location of reported kidnappings. Source: ACLED.

The increase in abductions is likely linked to the deterioration in socio-economic indicators, the challenges due to COVID-19, the general state of insecurity with various armed groups operating across the country, and significant gaps in law enforcement and justice with multiple incidents of ransoms being paid and with few perpetrators caught or convicted.

With regard to the spate of kidnappings in some parts of the North West, there are fears of possible linkages between armed criminal groups in the North West and insurgents in the North East which would constitute a major concern. The use of forest areas by bandits and kidnappers might also accelerate the decline in forest areas in Nigeria. This will have implications for initiatives geared towards increasing forest cover such as the Great Green Wall initiative.

### Separatist Tensions in the South East

In the South East and parts of the South South, agitation by IPOB for a separate state remains a serious national challenge. IPOB's separatist agitation is hinged on perceived institutionalized discrimination



and neglect of the region that previously, unsuccessfully, sought independence in Nigeria's civil war between 1967 and 1970. Government, in 2017, relying on the Terrorism Prevention Act declared IPOB a terrorist organization and proscribed it. Recently, IPOB established the Eastern Security Network (ESN) to counter the depredations of armed herders in communities in the region. The Government accuses IPOB and ESN of responsibility for recent deterioration of the security situation in the South East and South South and have deployed a massive security operation 'Operation Restore Peace' to stabilize the region and respond to the threat posed by separatist groups. IPOB denies responsibility for attacks on security personnel and installations. The security response to agitation by IPOB has been characterized by violations and abuses of human rights including extra-judicial executions, collective punishment, excessive use of force, torture and arbitrary detention in conditions often amounting to enforced disappearance.

### Children in Armed Conflicts

The instrumentalization and victimization of children in the North East is another outcome of its governance challenges. The protracted conflict in the region has had far-reaching implications on the communities located there. One of these is the recruitment of children into the conflict as child fighters. Children have not only been recruited by the violent extremist groups, but also victimized by state-backed security forces that are responding to the conflict.

The United Nations has confirmed the recruitment and use of children by Boko Haram fighters and violations against children in the North East have been recorded. Children have been killed, used as suicide bombers,

abducted, and sexually abused. They have also been forcibly recruited as combatants and non-combatants. A UNICEF report details that 3,601 children (mostly between the ages of 13 and 17) have been affected by violations as a result of the Boko Haram crisis in the North East between 2013 and 2017.

Children are not only victimized by Boko Haram but also by the Nigerian military. A report by Human Rights Watch asserts that thousands of children – some as young as five years old - have been arrested by the Nigerian military for suspected involvement with Boko Haram. Some of these children were detained for years in squalid conditions in places like Giwa barracks, and few of them were ever charged with crimes. The UN reports that about 3,617 children were detained by the Nigerian army between January 2013 and March 2019. However, by 2018, 2,200 children had been released with about 418 still in detention. There have been calls for the release of all detained children without criminal charges.

Children have also been recruited by the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF). This action caused the CJTF to be listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General's Annual Report for Children and Armed Conflict for the recruitment and use of children. The CJTF has since been delisted after evidence of a decrease in the recruitment of children following the signing and implementation of an action plan to end child recruitment.

The large numbers of children that have been victimized in different ways as a result of the Boko Haram conflict necessitates a tailor-made approach for the deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of children. These approaches need to be further tailored for male and female children, as they sometimes experience this victimization in different



ways. Girls are sometimes raped, forced to marry, and made to bear children without any medical attention.

It is essential that governance reform in Nigeria includes improved protection of the rights of children, especially in the context of armed conflict.

### Organized Crime, Piracy, and Illicit Arms

Nigeria continues to struggle with illicit financial and arms flow, stolen assets and prevalence of organized crime. According to ENACT's Organized Crime Index, Nigeria scored 7.7 out of 10 in 2019 making it one of the most dangerous countries regarding criminal activities in Africa.

The number of incidents of piracy have been growing in recent years, and the epicentre of global piracy has gradually shifted into the Gulf of Guinea, adding further to the multi-dimensional security threats faced by the region. The number of incidents related to maritime crime and piracy in and out of Nigerian waters was 123 in 2016, 119 in 2017, 110 in 2018, 84 in 2019 and 22 until May 2020. Although numbers have been decreasing, until 2016 piracy attacks were mainly targeting vessels for oil theft. Now kidnapping for ransom is the main business model of pirates raising an eye on securitization issues in the region.

Forestry crime is losing Africa millions in revenue, threatening the livelihoods of those who depend on forest-resources, contributing to climate change and adding to the root causes of extreme poverty and social vulnerability. For example, pangolin scales trafficking has been on the rise. In 2015, only two tons of pangolin scales were seized which increased to 51 tons in 2019 suggesting an active market and proliferating business markets around wildlife and

forest crimes<sup>23</sup>. The rise in poaching and trading of animal parts such as elephant tusks and rhino horns are disturbing. The World Bank estimated the value of illegally traded species at \$200 billion in 2019, when all wildlife, including fish and timber are included.

### Public Accountability and Transparency

#### Corruption

The fight against corruption, which is one of the main thrusts of the government, has continued to make some progress but not without challenges. The major anti-corruption agency (the EFCC), which remained without substantive leadership for over five years, was under investigation for alleged bad practices in 2020. Whilst citizens have demonstrated their strong support and commitment to the fight against corruption, several factors continue to affect the crusade, including lack of transparency and accountability by public officials and public institutions. Civil society organizations have continued to demand accountability, but the results are not commensurate with the expectations. Nigeria continues to do poorly in the perception of corruption index with a score of 25 out of 100 and ranking 149<sup>th</sup> of 180 countries surveyed<sup>107</sup>. This score is lower than the high of 28 out of 100 in 2016. Efforts are, however, being made to estimate actual corruption as perceptions may sometimes not give an accurate picture. The prevalence of corruption is a coefficient of a weakening economy and the overall malfunctioning of institutions of governance.

<sup>107</sup> Transparency International – Corruption Perception Index



Despite the promulgation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA, 2015), overall criminal justice administration has remained slow with fewer positive outcomes. Several high-profile corruption cases have been pending for a long time and a few that were concluded were challenged at higher courts of jurisdiction with some judgments were revised<sup>108</sup>. In a foreword to a “Compendium of High-Profile Corruption Cases”, Professor Itse Sagay, Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee against Corruption observed that the “high profile cases of corruption in Nigeria illustrate and confirm the pervasiveness and overwhelming level of public corruption in Nigeria. Sadly, the clear consequences of corruption in Nigeria and the obviously vigorous prosecution of the culprits have not resulted in a decline in the rate and volume of corruption. The reason for this may lie in the fact that less than 5% of high-profile public officers prosecuted for corruption have so far been convicted. The major deterrent is the adverse publicity that prosecution brings to such people”.

In December 2019, UNODC, with the support of the Government of the UK, collaborated with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in the conduct of a second comprehensive experience-based corruption survey<sup>109</sup> in Nigeria interviewing 33,000 households across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The survey is a follow up to the first survey<sup>110</sup> conducted in 2016 with funding from the European Union. The results of both surveys provide crucial measures and trend analysis that helps assess actual impact of the Nigerian Government’s efforts to curtail corruption, while at the

same time identifying any remaining gaps and proposed remedial actions. The corruption survey reports indicate an increased public interest in corruption and anticorruption issues.

The findings indicate that, although still relatively high, the prevalence of bribery in Nigeria has undergone a moderate (30.2%) yet statistically significant decrease since 2016, when it stood at 32.3%, showing some positive progress in government anticorruption initiatives

### Procurement Reforms

In the early 2000s, public procurement in Nigeria went through a set of reforms following an assessment that procurement fraud was contributing significantly to corruption and poor development outcomes particularly through substandard infrastructure. The Country Procurement Assessment Report (CPAR) that was the result of workshops and a consultative process highlighted the major challenges with the procurement process. The Assessment Report stated that the country was losing 60 kobo from every N1 of public funds to underhand practices. It further showed that an average of US\$10 billion was being lost annually to gaps in the award and execution of contracts. The objective of the reforms was, therefore, to reduce corruption and improve efficiency in the expenditure of public funds.

The procurement reforms were rolled out as part of a wider economic reform agenda and were intended to restore transparency and accountability in the award

<sup>108</sup> The Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA), launched a 4th Edition of A Compendium of 100 High-Profile Corruption Cases in Nigeria to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2020.

<sup>109</sup> Corruption in Nigeria: Patterns and trends (UNODC/NBS 2019) - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/corruption/nigeria/Corruption_in_Nigeria_2019_standard_res_11MB.pdf)

[analysis/statistics/corruption/nigeria/Corruption\\_in\\_Nigeria\\_2019\\_standard\\_res\\_11MB.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Statistics/Nigeria/Corruption_Nigeria_2017_07_31_web.pdf)

<sup>110</sup> Corruption in Nigeria: Bribery public experience and response - [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Statistics/Nigeria/Corruption\\_Nigeria\\_2017\\_07\\_31\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Statistics/Nigeria/Corruption_Nigeria_2017_07_31_web.pdf)



and execution of government contracts. A Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) was set up in 2001 as a key component of the reform process. The reforms were eventually institutionalized with backing legislation when the Public Procurement Act was signed into law in 2007. With regulatory framework in place and increasing awareness of its stipulations, the process of public procurement has improved in Nigeria. Several MDAs now have dedicated procurement desks to ensure they abide by the provisions of the regulations. However, the challenge of non-compliance persists, as stated in annual reports by the Bureau of Public Procurement. There is a need to consolidate and build on the progress that has been made so far with procurement reforms.

### Local Governance

Governance determines the efficiency and quality of public service delivery, and more so on the local level. Given that local governments are the closest to the citizens, they are arguably critical to the protection and improvement of their lives and livelihoods. The federal government sits in Abuja, Nigeria's capital city, while the state governments are usually stationed in the capital cities of their respective states. This makes these entities somewhat removed from the development needs and realities of the populace, especially when compared to local governments that can sometimes be found at the community level. Local governments are the centre of local governance and ought to be the main drivers of equitable and sustainable development as well as providers of access to basic public services.

Therefore, an ideal situation would involve near seamless communication and coordination between the three tiers of government, including the flow of

information and resources needed for development. However, this is not the case. Local governance in Nigeria is plagued with several issues that have radically undermined its capacity to deliver on any developmental gains for communities.

As it is currently set up, local governments are expected to receive resources from the federal government. According to the established revenue sharing formula, 52.68% of the Nigerian government's revenue is allocated to the federal government, 26.72% is shared among the states, and 20.60% to the local governments. A separate 13% derivation fund is allocated to oil-producing states.

One of the challenges facing local governance in Nigeria is the lack of autonomy in financing. Although the constitution provides for resources to be allocated to local governments, this is not usually the case in practice. States often receive a combined allocation including the resources for the local government areas within their states. Although these funds ought to be subsequently distributed to local governments, they are sometimes withheld by the state governments. The politics of local governance in Nigeria means that the heads, referred to as Local Government Chairpersons, are mostly not incentivised to go against the state governments to demand their rightful allocations. Many local government elections consistently experience the lowest voter turnout rates with low political participation. This creates room for electoral processes that result in the election of political cronies that may have little interest in insisting on due process in local government financing. Due to low political participation, there are sometimes little differences between local council members that have been elected or that have simply been selected by the state government.



This challenge is tied to the broader issue of weak institutions at the local level which manifests in other ways including poor development planning, and a lack of evidence-based policy programming. Officials at the local government level sometimes lack the capacity to carry out development planning that is based on the assessed needs of the areas they cater for. This is also related to the challenge of data collection and monitoring of development processes. Local government officials are, therefore, unable to sufficiently plan, budget for, and deliver social services in ways that have been tailored to suit different demographics and localities under their coverage. They also have minimal capacities in resource mobilisation for development financing outside statutory allocations. Poor institutions, therefore, contribute to the lack of funds, but also to the insufficient capacity.

Again, corruption is one of the challenges facing local governance. This once again ties into the poor democratic accountability at the local level which results in a lack of government responsiveness. The political economy of elections in Nigeria means there is disproportionate democratic attention on the federal and state levels. There is also poor awareness among the populace of what governance activities are the mandates of the local, state and federal governments which contributes to the reduced interest in holding local government officials accountable. Even when this interest exists, there are often no platforms or mechanisms to exercise this right.

However, it is important to note that the capacity and performance of local governments across the country varies. Variations are often directly linked to the quality of the state governments, and their willingness to create the needed fiscal and policy space for local government officials to perform.

Strategies aimed at improving local governance in Nigeria will have to first clarify the activities, performance and constraints of officials in the different LGAs. It is based on this assessment that measures addressing the push and pull drivers of governance effectiveness can be implemented. These measures can include advocacy for increased autonomy coupled with capacity building on resource mobilisation, public education on local governance, and expert engagement with and navigation around inept political officials to embed capacities within their offices that can drive development agendas.

### Disaster Risk Governance

Nigeria is prone to natural hazards such as storms, desertification, flood, drought, landslides, and coastal erosion that often lead to disasters as a result of improper mitigation. Some non-natural hazards such as oil spills, when insufficiently addressed, lead to the destruction of farmlands and fishing sites. The situation is worsened by existing socio-economic deprivation and political instability that drive the emergence of conflict, which is then exacerbated by natural hazards and resulting resource scarcity. This makes parts of Nigeria particularly susceptible to displacement driven by a confluence of disasters and conflict.

In 2017, Nigeria prepared a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which is designed to run from 2015 to 2030. The implementation of this framework is, however, challenged by poor governance, inadequate institutional capacity and insufficient data.



Disasters are managed at the national and subnational levels through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Local Emergency Management Agency (LEMA). A study carried out in 2019, however, found that the legislation backing Nigeria's disaster risk management system focuses more on the establishment and functioning of the agency, rather than procedures for preventing, minimizing or mitigating the risk of disasters in the country.

Additional gaps in the enabling legislation are the lack of provision for resource mobilization by the nodal agency, and low power to mandate the integration of disaster risk reduction measures in the operations of other government agencies. System wide coordination of disaster preparedness and response should include ministries and agencies that cover transport, communication, agriculture, land, livestock, water resources and others. Financing challenges also impact the ability of the agencies to carry out the relevant research needed to inform their activities, and to properly disseminate campaign materials in languages spoken within their jurisdiction. Financing challenges are more pronounced at the subnational levels, and some SEMAs do not have enabling legislation. Developments in disaster management at the global level includes advancement in disaster law that emphasizes the need for legislation to play a central role in disaster response, management, and prevention. This also includes other aspects of risk management such as mitigation, emergency response, compensation, and rebuilding<sup>111</sup>.

Nigeria's disaster management system is, therefore, faced with some challenges such as inadequate backing of legislation, insufficient financing, lower than expected collaboration among national and subnational agencies, as well as inadequate collaboration with other stakeholders. Communities are not sufficiently involved in the design and management of early warning systems as well as in efforts targeted at disaster preparedness and response. Protecting the lives, livelihoods and properties of Nigerians from disasters can only be possible with higher capacity national and subnational disaster management systems.

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<sup>111</sup> Mashi, S. A., Oghenejabor, O. D., & Inkani, A. I. (2019). Disaster risks and management policies and practices in Nigeria: A critical appraisal of the National Emergency

Management Agency Act. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 33, pp 253-265.



# Climate Change and the Environment



Consistent with many parts of Africa, Nigeria's economy is tied to the health and productivity of its ecosystems and the wider natural environment. The country is one of those highly exposed to the projected impacts of climate change. Its coastal areas, farmlands, and other sensitive ecosystems are at high risk from sea-level rise, shifting rainfall patterns, and overall planetary warming. The country's tourism sector is already being threatened by its impacts on destinations such as the coastal areas, mountains, as manifested through climate-induced habitat and biodiversity losses and shifting paths for migratory species.

Environmental value chains realized through nature-based facets such as tourism activities, renewable energy, and riverine and coastal ecosystems would be crucial for the country's efforts to lift its 83 million Nigerians that live below the poverty line out of poverty. Climate adaptation, resilience and mitigation actions are also essential to the country's cushioning of its populations from the fast-shifting climatic conditions. These dynamics are even more relevant now than ever, as the Government seeks to build back better from widespread ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis offers Nigeria a singular opportunity to focus more on greener, cleaner and more sustainable pathways for the future of its citizens.

### Climate Change in Nigeria: From Global to Local Trends

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6) was published in August 2021 and provides updated information on the global climate change trends. The report asserts

that human influence has undoubtedly exacerbated the warming of the atmosphere, ocean and land. Consequently, widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. The report also argues that the recent changes across the climate system have occurred at a scale that is unprecedented in the past millennia to many centuries. Changes to the climate driven by human activity are already resulting in weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Some evidence of these changes includes heat waves, heavy rainfall, drought, and tropical cyclones. The estimate of the strength of the causal relationship between human activities and these extreme events has been increased since the publication of the 5th Assessment Report (AR5).

The AR6 projects that surface temperature will continue to rise, and there would be an increased frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic Sea ice, snow cover and permafrost with many changes irreversible for centuries to millennia. Developing countries are more vulnerable to the impact of climate change and have been the hardest hit so far. This is primarily because their vulnerability to the damaging effects of a climate change-driven hazard is coupled with their reduced capacity to cope with these effects.

Nigeria has not been left out in the climate change trends that have been observed in Africa and West Africa. In 2020, 22 Nigerian cities recorded temperatures over 40°C with a combined average of about 27 days. In the same year, 17 states experienced high 1-day rainfall values of 100mm and above. In



2020, the states that were worst affected by flooding included Kebbi, Niger, Kwara, Kogi, Edo, Anambra, Delta, Kano, Jigawa, Rivers, Bayelsa and Adamawa. Windstorms are also affecting IDP shelters in Nigeria's North East.

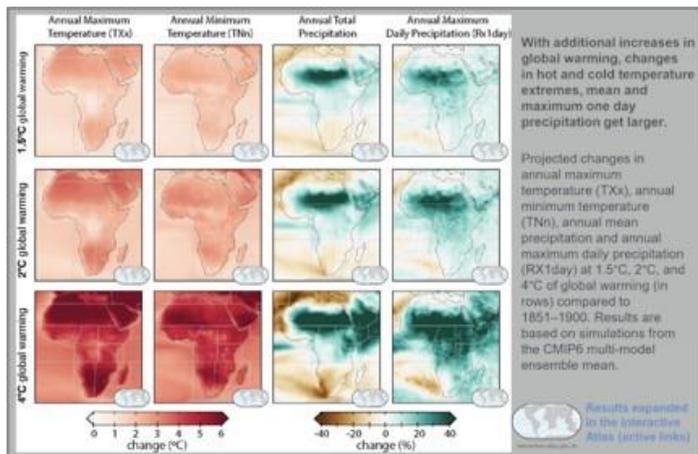


Fig 51: Projected changes in temperature and rainfall in Africa

Other fast onset events such as flash floods, river floods, coastal floods, coastal erosion, ocean surges and swells, wind storms, dust storms occur in various parts of Nigeria. At the same time, desertification continues to pose a threat to the livelihoods of more than 40 million people. The states that are affected states are Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Yobe. These states constitute about 35% of the country's total land area.

Most of the flooding that currently takes place in Nigeria is caused by rising waters from the main channels of the River Niger and River Benue during heavy rainfall. These channels cut across the six geopolitical zones, and the flooding of coastal areas has become an annual event that results in high management costs. Although some parts of the country

are faced with increased flood risks, some other parts – such as in the extreme north – are instead faced with severe water stress due to shorter raining seasons, intense evaporation and long dry spells.

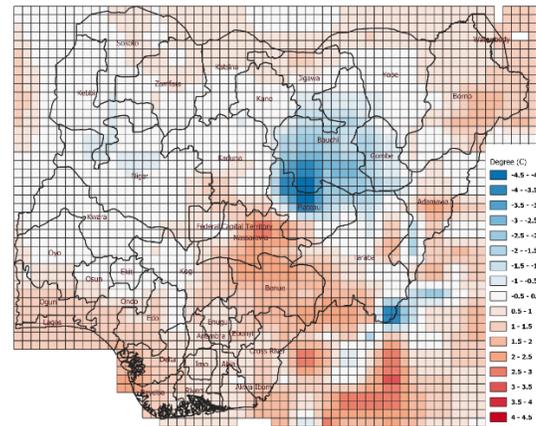


Fig 52: Temperature Deviation (2016-2020) from Long Term Mean. Source: Physical Sciences Library

Flooding and droughts threaten Nigeria's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Both of these climatic events negatively affect the country's economy, social life, environment, and health <sup>112</sup>. Their impacts on water resources, agriculture, ecotourism activities, public health, and cost of doing business, are projected to rise. Being one of the most common environmental disasters in Nigeria, increased incidences of flooding have been attributed to the country's changing climatic conditions.

The changing weather patterns and the attendant disruption to livelihoods will have significant consequences for the lives and livelihoods of the

<sup>112</sup> Echendu, A. J. The impact of flooding on Nigeria's sustainable development goals (SDGs). *Ecosyst. Heal. Sustain.* **6**, (2020).



poorest in Nigeria and could severely derail the potential for meeting the SDGs.

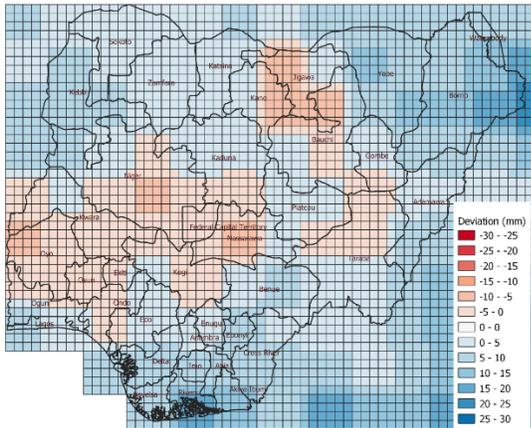


Fig 53: Rainfall Deviation (2015-2019) from Long Term Mean. Source: Physical Sciences Library.

Consequently, climate risk and vulnerability analysis should form the basis of development planning at all governance levels. This is as a result of the impact they can have on the management of water and other natural resources. There are available climate change financing solutions, including funds such as the Green Climate Fund, National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), National Adaptation Plans (NAP), among others. Improved collection and management of climate change data is also critical, as this allows for effective monitoring of developments as well as modelling of future events using Geo Spatial Actions.

### Impact on Agriculture

As of 2019, Nigeria's agricultural sector accounted for 22% of the GDP and 45% of total employment. However, most of the country's agriculture relies on good weather and well-functioning soils and biodiversity including forests and agro-silvopastoral

systems. These systems are increasingly vulnerable to climate change with changing rainfall and temperature patterns, with the impacts already present.

For instance, in 2020, the Chairman of the Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria Kebbi State reported that at least two million tons of rice were washed away by floods. Farmers in Kano, Enugu, Jigawa and Nasarawa also reported damages. Shorter rainy spells and prolonged dry spells that last about 30 days have had devastating consequences for farmers with serious impacts on their livelihoods, and for those of the general population through higher food with other potential spill over effects.

The livestock sub-sector is also at risk mostly due to their reliance on the natural environment for livestock fodder and water. Limited access to agricultural extension services, especially in the northern part of the country that hosts most of Nigeria's livestock, means a climate-induced proliferation of livestock pests and diseases could quickly devastate the country's livestock farmers. Their vulnerability to being left behind, through these circumstances, is exacerbated by the prevalent levels of poverty coupled with limited chances to venture into alternative livelihood options.

### Heat Extremes and Meningitis

Climate change has also had an impact on health-related issues in Nigeria. In 2020, according to the NCDC, an outbreak of cerebral meningitis led to the death of 269 people within six months across 15 states, including the capital. This outbreak of cerebrospinal meningitis has been linked to prolonged heat waves in the country.

### Floods and Displacements



Floods have not only led to the displacement of persons from their homes but have also affected shelters at temporary camps for IDPs. Coupled with warmer temperatures, flooding facilitates the spread of diseases and infections such as malaria fever, pneumonia and dysentery.

### **Harmattan and Air Transport Disruptions**

The dust haze that accompanies the harmattan period in the months of January and February greatly affected the aviation industry. The main challenge was the reduction of horizontal visibility to a low of 200m which caused flight delays or outright cancellations. Flight operations were disrupted at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, as well as at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport in Abuja. This led to huge losses being suffered by airline operators, passengers and the aviation agencies in that period.

The impact of climate change on road transport was driven by heavy rainfall in 2020. Heavy rains led to submerged roads and the collapse of bridges around the country, causing motorists to get trapped or stranded. Heavy rainfall was also the cause of road accidents that led to the loss of lives. In addition, flood-driven gully erosion destroyed roads and houses in the south-eastern parts of the country.

### **Climate Change and Conflict**

Harmful effects of climate change and variability in Nigeria continue to be manifested in the state of its economy, society and the environment. Various expert reports<sup>113</sup> have demonstrated clear links between the phenomenon and the dwindling capacity of the country's natural capital to sustain the goods and

services accrued to populations. The resultant surge in competition to access and control its facets such as water, wood, and pasture resources continues to intensify in areas experiencing intensified situations of climatic variability, including in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country.

Major conflicts between nomadic herdsman and crop farmers in Nigeria and the wider West Africa region, for instance, have infamously captured global attention. Local expert groups indicate that between 2010 and 2015, 850 cases of violent conflicts between herdsman and farmers in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria were recorded. These conflicts sadly led to a loss of 6,500 lives, while also displacing 62,000 others from their homelands, in addition to fuelling the country's revenue loss of US\$13.7 billion.

The knock-on effects of these situations include aggravating the challenges in reducing poverty and inequality and exacerbating social pressures. For instance, there has been increasing marginalization of women and girls in the conflict-affected parts of the country. This is especially due to prevailing customary laws that continue to bestow land tenure rights to male relatives, such as husbands, with women being indirect beneficiaries and losing out more as land and resources get scarcer. Climate-induced conflicts that lead to loss of lives of men involved in the fights could mean the women losing access to land or livestock when others grab land and property from them, as recently observed by the charity Human Rights Watch.

Details from UNEP-IOM joint 2020/2021 reports from the northern parts of Nigeria covering the areas affected by humanitarian crisis, displacement and migration have arisen from conflicts associated with

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<sup>113</sup> Stopping Nigeria's Spiralling Farmer-Herder Violence: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/262-stopping-nigerias-spiralling-farmer-herder-violence>



climatic pressures, among other causes and underlying drivers, has had adverse impacts on food security including the Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states, with sizeable populations of IDPs.

The double tragedy of climatic crises and conflicts in Nigeria demand strategic interventions that go beyond politics and militarization. This includes recognizing and giving more policy attention to underlying causes and drivers of the conflicts that affect the country's rural herding and crop farming communities, with a view to averting more violent conflicts. Multi-stakeholder cooperation and support would also go along way including the planning and implementation of climate resilience and natural resources sustainability solutions. Among them is targeted cross-border engagements with Nigeria's neighbouring countries, with support of the international partners. Similar UNDP-led interventions with high-level political and policy engagements have borne fruit in some parts of East Africa, for example, in responding to cross-border conflicts among communities in the poorest and most climate-stricken parts of Uganda-Kenya border<sup>114</sup>. Other partners that could contribute to meaningful efforts include the local and international media operating in Nigeria, particularly on their need to focus on informing the public about the real issues and not sensationalized and emotive narratives of ethicized herders versus crop farmers.

### Forests and Biodiversity Conservation

Various national reports on Nigeria's state of biodiversity, including the fifth national report of 2015, show more than 65% of the country's population are directly dependent on nature-based enterprises and

goods with links to biodiversity. However, human activities such as deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss continue to take a toll on these benefits, with knock on effects on livelihoods and the economy. The net effects of these ecological pressures are compounded by the impacts of climatic variability and change, affecting both the terrestrial, aquatic, and marine ecosystems. About 70-80% of the country's original forests, including coastal and mangrove forests, have disappeared through unsustainable logging and agricultural expansion to pristine ecosystems<sup>115</sup>. This is in addition to untenable urban development and expansion coupled with their accompanying infrastructural systems such as road networks and industrial growth.

Despite the ensuing challenges, the Nigerian authorities are making considerable attempts to conserve its ecosystems and biodiversity. For instance, Nigeria's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2020 remains unequivocal on the sustenance of its land-based resources. The strategy considers the protection of ecosystems' balance and biodiversity through a raft of technical and policy interventions. Enhancing this is the country's commitments on climate action and pollution control. At the national level, Nigeria's conservation and sustainable use of land-based biological resources form a fundamental part of the strategic policy on the environment. This is epitomised by its current national policy on the environment that was reviewed in 2006/7 to further reinforce biodiversity conservation. Developed in 1989 following the promulgation of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) decree no.58 of 1988 and revised in 1999, the policy is

<sup>114</sup> The Kenya-Uganda Cross-Border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development  
<https://www.ke.undp.org/content/kenya/en/home/projects/t>

[he-kenya-uganda-cross-border-programme-for-sustainable-peace-an.html](https://www.ke.undp.org/content/kenya/en/home/projects/t/he-kenya-uganda-cross-border-programme-for-sustainable-peace-an.html)

<sup>115</sup> UN REDD programme [un-redd.org](http://un-redd.org)



recognised as one of the cornerstones for conservation. It provides a strategy for the implementation of the policies on environmental protection, natural resources conservation and sustainable development. The 1999 National Policy on Conservation of Biological diversity is aimed at integrating biological diversity considerations into national planning, policy and decision making and conserving and enhancing the sustainable use of the nation's biological diversity. However, and following the formation of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV) in 1999, FEPA was absorbed, and the Ministry became the highest policy-making body responsible for addressing environmental issues in Nigeria, including conservation of biodiversity.

Nigeria also has organized systems of managing and conserving wildlife-rich areas and other ecologically sensitive environments, mostly administered at the state levels, though with limited systems for shared environmental information to fast-track informed decision-making. Key among the other challenges is inadequate capacity to effect law enforcement interventions in addition to insufficient infrastructural systems that could spur the development of wildlife economy, including self-organized enterprises at state and local levels, as part of the socio-economic recovery interventions to curb the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the cooperative management interventions that could be applied at state-to-state levels include national-level progress of Nigeria's cooperation with countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger in effecting joint management of the Lake Chad Basin. The country could also leverage experiences and lessons learned from its participation

in, and as a member of, the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Additionally, and in line with SDG 15.b.1, Nigeria's official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems have been on a rising trend between 2000 and 2018, which marked the highest levels at USD 81.99 million. These conservation resources could be augmented with the opportunities under domestic resource mobilisation option within Nigeria's reach, including through the participation of its private sector and other non-state actors. These situations indicate Nigeria continues to demonstrate consistent leadership in managing pressures on terrestrial ecosystems at national and sub-national levels. The United Nations' Global Forests Goals Report 2021<sup>116</sup>, a first evaluation of where the world stands on implementing the 'United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030', shows that Nigeria aims to increase forest cover from 6% to 25% by 2030.

Nigeria is also one of West Africa's states that has consistently demonstrated clearly defined actions in the protection of biodiversity since its ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994. It has, for instance, been consistently preparing and implementing a series of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) for over nearly 20 years with the current one being for the period 2016 to 2020. This is in addition to its continued commitments under the World Heritage Convention, which feeds into positive conservation outcomes on land-based ecosystems through its listed 14 sites, that include Cross River-Korup-Takamanda (CRIKOT) National Parks, submitted for listing in June 2020.

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116 [Global Forests Goals Report 2021:](https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Global-Forest-Goals-Report-2021.pdf)  
[https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-](https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Global-Forest-Goals-Report-2021.pdf)

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## Land Degradation and Desertification

Reports from the Nigerian Government and its partners show land degradation and desertification as some of the critical threats to the country's progress on sustainable development. A 2018 multi-partner report on 'Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme' showed land degradation has massively affected all the country's ecological zones. Part of the contributing factors include overexploitation of land resources, unsustainable land-use practices, and deforestation.

Key among the drivers of these situations include unsustainable land management practices, especially in Nigeria's farmlands and rangelands. In addition to these are sprawling urbanisation and deforestation which deprive the land of its vegetation cover. These challenges are more prominent in the South East. In these areas, massive soil losses covering vast swaths of land have been reported. Land degradation manifested through massive gullies and proliferation of invasive plant species, for instance, have been implicated in deteriorating land productivity in Nanka, Agulu and Oko in Anambra state, Okigwe in Imo state, and parts of Abia, Enugu, and the Ebonyi states. Healthy and productive lands are also critical for effective adaptation to climate change in Nigeria.

Equally, desertification with inextricable ties to land degradation in Nigeria's arid, semi-arid and sub-humid dry areas, continues to abound. The phenomenon is attributed to shifting climatic circumstances and anthropogenic activities that

adversely affect the integrity of natural ecosystems. Reports show sand movements which are typical to Nigeria's tropical arid environment have become a common feature in desertification frontline states such as Sokoto, Kebbi, Jigawa, Borno, and Yobe.

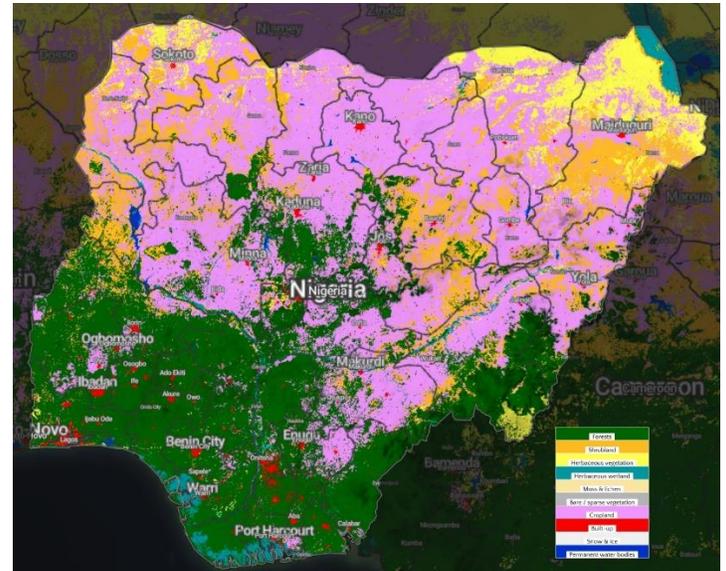


Fig 54: Land Cover -2019. Source: Copernicus Global Land Service<sup>117</sup>

The resultant desertification phenomenon remains a significant challenge in northern Nigeria, including in the country's Sudano-Sahelian belt. The environmental fragility of these areas and consequent impacts is evidenced by their high levels of habitation and human settlements. These areas support a considerable proportion of Nigeria's livestock populations and crop production. A continued rise in desertification thus signifies grim situations for communities and for the wider progress of Nigeria.

Emerging evidence also continues to associate pandemics of zoonotic bases to land degradation and other forms anthropogenic perturbations on ecosystems.

<sup>117</sup> Copernicus Global Land Service. Accessed September 2021.  
- <https://land.copernicus.eu/global/products/lc>



It would thus remain incumbent upon the Nigerian authorities and its partners to be aware and continuously work on measures to address the land degradation challenges. The current decade dubbed the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and the associated flagships such as Africa's Great Green and the UN System action on GGW, and AFR100 offer immense opportunities, including on the policy and technical fronts. Through these initiatives Nigeria can enhance its commitments and speed up implementation on the ground to halt and reverse deforestation, desertification and land degradation and build resilient and sustainable livelihoods through sustainable and resilient nature-based value-chains and explore further action to effectively address the growing challenge of land degradation in its territory<sup>118</sup>.

Nigeria has been one of the pioneers in combating desertification and land degradation (target 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3). The country was at the forefront of championing, together with other Sahel countries and African Union Commission, with support of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the launch of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, instituted in 2007 at the margins of the Food Security Summit. Nigeria since then has been supported by FAO with funding from the EU in developing its Great Green Wall Strategy and action plan adopted in 2012, set up its national agency for the GGW, joining the Pan African Agency of the GGW. Implementation started on the ground with support from EU-ACP-FAO Action against desertification programme that led to supporting communities in large scale restoration of degraded land and livelihoods. The UN system under the coordination of UNCCD, UNEP and FAO have developed a UN System Action

Plan on the Great Green Wall to coordinate UN efforts in support of the GGW in the countries including Nigeria. The GGW is considered also to be a flagship programme under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration co-led by UNEP and FAO. However, the programme may be very limited in scope as it covers only three out of eleven target states in Nigeria. There are also challenges related to funding from the UN side especially because funds are no longer available from the EU. To compound this, the government has not developed a new action plan that addresses the funding issue and is also not directing funds to the agency for programme activities. Regardless of these challenges, the initiative has seen some results with five million hectares of degraded land restored and 20,000 jobs created in the process since 2007<sup>119</sup>. There is also a pending World Bank programme that may be able to offer funding of around USD 500 million.

### Deforestation

Based on the FAO Global Forest Assessment 2020, it was reported that Nigeria's forest resources area (target 15.1 and 15.2) has declined from 26,526,000 ha in 1990 to 21,627,000 ha in 2020 due to deforestation from agriculture, industrial development and over-exploitation leading to forest and land degradation. The report stated that Nigeria has recorded annual deforestation of 5%. This was mainly driven by a huge dependence on wood fuel for cooking and lighting, especially in rural areas with limited access to alternatives, as well as land clearance for settlements, agriculture, and big infrastructure projects, as well as unsustainable and often illegal logging.

<sup>118</sup> UNEP and FAO. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

<sup>119</sup> 2021 State of Climate Services: Water - WMO



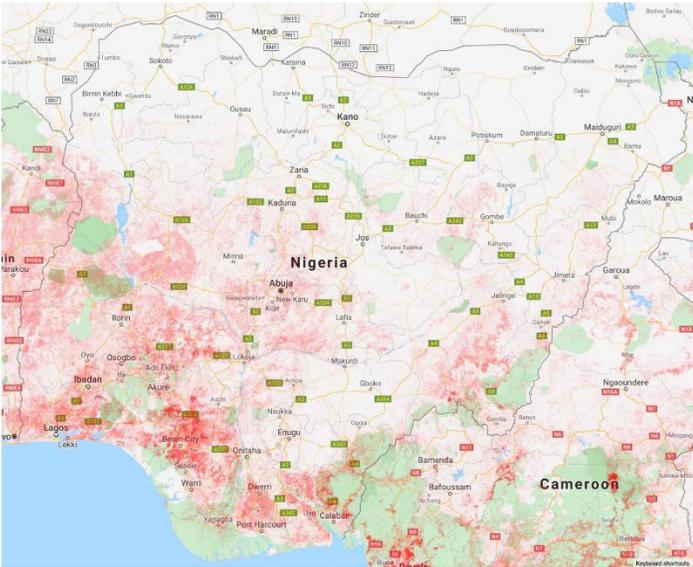


Fig 55: Forest Cover Loss 2000 - 2019. Source: Global Forest Change<sup>120</sup>

As of today, forests occupy less than 8% of the total land area of 923,763 km<sup>2</sup> and the forest sector contributes about 2.5% to the Gross Domestic Product. These resources provide employment for over 5 million people through the supply of timber and non-timber products (flora and fauna). Over 800,000 people are working in the log processing industries, especially in the southern forest zones of the country. The resources abound in the rain forests (high and low), savanna (derived and guinea), plantations and trees on farmlands.

Current reports from the IUCN-managed World Database of Protected Areas (PAs) show the existence of 1,000 protected area records in Nigeria. Out of these, 988 are national-level protected areas with 12 designated under international and regional agreements and conventions. Also, of the 1,000 protected areas, six (1%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment. Its terrestrial PAs cover 13.93% of the country's landmass,

with an equivalence of land area of 127,359km<sup>2</sup>. Reports further show that only 1.6% of the PAs have had management effectiveness evaluations. Under SDG 15.4.1, the country's "coverage (percentage) by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity" stood at about 74.17%, by the end of 2019. The proportion indicates a rise from its 2000-2004 levels which stood at 56.91%. This is in addition to a relatively constant proportion of species under the Red List Index, standing at 0.86%. This status could have, however, been precipitated by limited data to evaluate species performances against the Red List criteria.

### Wildlife and Illicit Trade

Nigeria's wildlife populations and the number of species are dwindling. This is partly because the country is a primary transit hub for several illicit wildlife and forest products, in particular for the global illegal pangolin trade, sourced primarily from Central Africa. According to a report by the UNODC, in 2019 alone, at least 51 tons of pangolin scales that were seized globally originated from Nigerian ports. This was a massive rise from the 2 tons recorded in 2015. Also, more than half of all seizures of pangolin scales worldwide were traced back to Nigeria in 2019. Illicit trade in wildlife is incentivized by limited prosecutions of wildlife crimes.

There are other wildlife species that are being traded unsustainably. Since 2011, great volumes of rosewood (locally named "kosso") were exported from Nigeria to Asia. As a result of this, in October 2018, the CITES Standing Committee recommended that parties

<sup>120</sup> High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change - M. C. Hansen et al. Science. Brighter red dots symbolize faster deforestation.



suspend commercial trade in kosso from Nigeria until the country carried out a non-detriment findings assessment for trade in the species.

The wildlife economy in Nigeria is largely untapped. In Nigeria, the country's natural capital endowment, that includes wildlife and landscapes, contributes to the sustenance of its economic growth and employment opportunities. Its nature-dependent tourism sector plays a crucial role in the country's development. And as per the SDG indicator 8.9.1, the country's 2019 estimates show the contribution of travel and tourism to GDP (percentage of GDP) for Nigeria was 5.1%. However, the sector's contribution to the national GDP has been fluctuating over the years, with most of it being reported in the period 2000-2019, closing at 5.1%. At the sub-national level, in areas such as Cross-River state that are rated as one of the leading tourists' destinations in the country, Nigeria derives vast amounts of earnings from wildlife tourism activities. The enterprise continues to have positive multiplier effects on the economy, including through the expansion of infrastructure and hospitality services.

A key pressure affecting wildlife conservation is porous borders that facilitate the illicit trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products that stifles local conservation efforts. The loss and degradation of habitats also diminish the carrying capacity of conservation areas. There are also human-wildlife conflicts that are exacerbated by the inadequate strategic policy interventions at national and sub-national levels. Pollution is another big issue and affects the productivity of conservation areas alongside climatic shifts. Wider capacity gaps continue to affect the legal, policy and institutional structures for wildlife conservation.

The current situation of wildlife conservation in Nigeria has resulted in few individual and institutional beneficiaries at the downstream levels. There is also limited revenue being ploughed back to either protect threatened species or self-sustain the conservation enterprises, with most players depending on donor funding.

However, there are ongoing efforts to improve wildlife conservation and curb illicit trade in Nigeria. To begin with, political will has increased and the country has adopted the Nigerian Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Act of 2004 and its 2016 amendment which meet the requirements to successfully implement CITES in the country. There has also been some progress in land restoration with 1,056 hectares of degraded land being restored in 2017 and 500 hectares planted with local tree species. Nigeria is also reviewing the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) in line with CITES recommendations. Another positive development is the recently commenced 2020-22 partnership between UNODC and the German government which is aimed at strengthening Nigeria's response to the trafficking of wildlife and forestry products.

Some opportunities exist in the conservation of wildlife in Nigeria. Targeted investments can be promoted in inclusive eco-enterprises along the local supply chains. These could include eco-lodges and smallholder agro-value chain that especially benefit communities within and around the conservation areas. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including private sector involvement, can be pursued. An example of this is technological innovations for wildlife protection and surveillance systems. Furthermore, there is a need to develop robust data and information management systems to enhance evidence-based policy interventions. Legal, policy and institutional capacity gaps should be



enhanced to stop them from undermining actions against wildlife and forestry crimes.

## Pollution and Health

Preventing, controlling and managing pollution is central to improving health, human well-being and prosperity. Good environmental quality and its positive implications for reducing inequity, ill-health, poverty and vulnerability are a powerful motivation for moving towards a pollution-free planet at Nigeria's national, sub-national, and local levels.

### Air Pollution

National reports on the condition of the Nigerian environment show that air pollution continues to plague many Nigerian cities. For instance, various reports coupled with real-time open data from UNEP's air quality monitoring platform (<https://www.iqair.com/unesp>) have revealed that the concentration of particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the air is much higher than WHO guidelines in most cities. Thus, the state of air quality in Nigeria puts millions of lives and labour productivity across the country at risk. Official records show its key economic hub, Lagos, for instance, has high rates of illness and premature deaths which have been attributed to unhealthy air. A 2020 Lagos study done by the World Bank on the 'Cost of Air Pollution', shows illness and premature deaths due to ambient air pollution led to losses of US\$2.1 billion in 2018, representing about 2.1% of Lagos State's GDP. The study further shows that, in the same year, air pollution caused an estimated 11,200 premature

deaths, being the highest reported figures in West Africa<sup>121</sup>.

As the country's population grows, projections show a high likelihood of more pollution from the country's transportation and industrial sectors. The country suffers from both the impacts of indoor and ambient air pollution. Its primary sources of indoor air pollution include wood fuel in household cooking and poorly ventilated houses, with the consequences being felt in both the rural areas and informal urban settlements. On the other hand, the country's ambient air pollution mostly emanates from transportation emissions, power-based generators and industrial sectors. Pollutants emitted from these sectors include nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, ozone, air toxics, and fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of fewer than 2.5 micrometres (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Such pollutants are considered dangerous as they can easily pass lung barriers and enter the bloodstream, contributing to mortality and morbidity. While the WHO guidelines for the annual mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration level is 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, Nigeria's cities such as Lagos has recorded levels of 68 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, putting it in a similar array with notoriously polluted megacities such as Beijing, Cairo and Mumbai.

Notably, the key sources of pollution in Nigeria are areas that can quickly be addressed through targeted policy action. For example, its transport sectors, which constitutes the country's main sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, can be addressed through land use planning, urban design and urban-focused regulatory interventions. Lagos, a city faced with limited transport options, has quadrupled the vehicles in it between 2010 and 2020. Its immediate impacts are epitomized by a city commute that averages four hours per day, making it

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<sup>121</sup> Croitoru, L., Chang, J. C. & Kelly, A. (2020). The Cost of Air Pollution in Lagos. *The World Bank*.



the highest in the world. Available data shows that every kilometre of road has about 227 vehicles clogged in it. Most of them are more than 15 years old and have huge reliance on old emission technologies and fuel with high sulphur levels, 200 times higher than US standards for diesel.

Gas flaring from oil exploration in the Niger Delta and industrial emissions from the country's industrial sectors in such areas as Apapa, Ilupeju, Ikeja and Odogunyan in Lagos are fertile grounds for pollution. The areas harbour industries and markets associated with high levels of pollution including those for cement, chemicals, furniture, refinery, and steel. In the Niger Delta, cities like Port Harcourt have been plagued with a soot problem – a kind of particle pollution resulting from oil production in the locality.

Unreliable supply of electricity is cited as another critical factor in the country's quest to wean itself off the air pollutants. The situation leaves most players in the country's commercial and institutional sectors to install large diesel-based backup generators, the third source of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Such generators are especially notorious given their poor gasoline combustion and lubricating oil, especially with their proximity to populated human settlements.

Of note is the continued persistence of subsidies for fossil fuel consumption. Heavy reliance on government-subsidized fossil fuels has for long been one of Nigeria's critical political issues. For instance, in 2018 alone, the FGN is estimated to have spent N490–N670 billion (US\$1.6–2.2 billion) on subsidizing gasoline consumption. Most of the benefits have gone to middle- and upper-income households and have consequences for energy use choices and air pollution.

Other contributions to Nigeria's air quality deterioration include emissions linked to the open

burning of waste due to the limited supply of waste management infrastructure. Illegal dumping of garbage in environmentally sensitive ecosystems and settled areas also increases the impacts of emissions associated with toxic pollutants. Poorly managed and congested cargo transportation to and from the Nigerian ports is another significant challenge for its air quality. Reports indicate that, on each day, about 5,000 highly polluting diesel trucks seek access to the docks or park around for months, picking up or waiting for their loads, causing heavy congestion and pollution. The country's ports data shows that 2017 alone registered at least 33 million metric tons of cargo through its two major ports of Apapa and Tin Can, with huge and poorly managed trucks being used in serving the cargo links.

Nigeria has, however, shown positive progress in its contribution to regional and global actions. It has subscribed to various multilateral environmental agreements on sound management of chemicals and waste. It continues to work closely with its development partners to strengthen its national institutions' technical and financial capacity on these areas, and in line with SDG 12.4.1. However, there is limited data on the country's interventions related to recycling efforts, and the management of food losses and food waste, hazardous waste, greening of its procurement sector, among others. The management of landfills, including the handling of electronic waste, is another important aspect of air pollution management.

Intervention opportunities include addressing the gaps in institutional and policy frameworks covering key sources of pollution that can be addressed quickly through targeted policy action. This could include policies targeting the country's transport sector which constitutes its main source of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. This can be



approached through land use planning, urban design and urban focused regulatory interventions. There are also opportunities to improve institutional capacity to build evidence through the monitoring and application of tools. There is also a need for strong systems for data, information and knowledge sharing for decision-making support. Close monitoring of data on air pollution facilitates early response that can help reduce it. In addition, air quality networks need to be strengthened in order to foster a community of practice.

### Fresh Water Supply and Ecosystems

The water management issues are not limited to the agriculture sector but have consequences for urban life. Water bodies in Nigeria are heavily polluted with untreated sewage, used plastic bottles, nylons and household solid waste, which finds their way into it either directly or through runoffs <sup>122</sup>. Limited improvement in the water supply systems drives the high prevalence of E. Coli contamination of water, a common problem in the country with 91% of water supply affected, mainly due to rampant open defecation. The situation is worse in urban areas, particularly in informal coastal settlements with high population densities such as Makoko, Iwaya, Ilaje, Amukoko, Okobaba, Ijora Oloye, and Ogudu in Lagos. Andoni, Bundu, Captain Amangala, Emenike, Marine Base and Rex Lawson in Port Harcourt. In these communities, water bodies serve as conduits for transporting waste and often pose severe health risks to women and children who depend on them for their livelihood.

Other key challenges facing water resources management in Nigeria are fragmented and uncoordinated water resources development, insufficient data and lack of cooperation on co-riparian use of international waters (National Water Resources Policy, 2016 and Water Policy, 2004). Others include expansion in agricultural and industrial activities as well as their associated consumption and production. Thus, the current demand for water in Nigeria outstrips supply.

### Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Nigeria's aquatic and marine ecosystems are crucial to its socio-economic progress. The country is endowed with vast marine and coastal resources. The coastline extends inland by about 15 km in the Lagos area, 150 km in the Niger Delta and 25 km east of the Delta. The Niger Delta constitutes a dominant feature of its coastal environment, covering an area of about 70,000 km<sup>2</sup>, making it a significant wetland with significant global standing. Current estimates show at least 20% of the country's population reside within a close range of these marine and coastal environments, including in the areas such as Lagos, Port Harcourt, and Benin City. Tourism activities and extraction of oil and gas are some of the vital economic pursuits in Nigeria's coastal areas.

However, pollution events, coupled with shifting climatic conditions, among other externalities, threaten to disintegrate the integrity of these vital ecosystems. In Nigeria, the pollution of freshwater resources is ubiquitous and a national concern. This

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<sup>122</sup> National Water Policy, 2004 and Water Resource Policy, 2016



problematic pollution is mainly associated with land-based activities, including its crude oil, agricultural, and urban development pursuits, as well as its approach to the management of wastes and hazardous chemicals. Nigeria is projected to be among the leading African countries grappling with a massive load of municipal waste by 2025 if no urgent innovative measures were to be put in place. This situation is tied to the country's move towards SDG 14 targets, but also others including SDGs 6, 12, and 15. As a response strategy, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment continues to explore a wide range of waste management interventions. Most of them are aimed at transforming the value chain of wastes, including through circular economy strategies.

Recognizing the enormity of the solid waste, especially the plastics that threaten the health and productivity of its marine and coastal ecosystems, Nigeria has moved to include policy actions. In 2019, the country put in place legislative interventions that seek to curb the proliferation of single-use plastic bags in the country. The legislation outlines the responsibilities of the key stakeholders in the plastics sector, including on the side of government, consumers, and businesses. The move adds to the country's other initiatives that seek to promote environmentally responsible progress in Nigeria, through the integration of robust, sustainable consumption and production measures. It also aligns well with the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution that seeks to address pollution associated with single-use plastics by encouraging governments and the private sector to adopt robust interventions that get to benefit nature, people and economies.

Other measures adopted by the Nigerian authorities in the quest to foster the SDG 14 targets include area-based conservation implemented through the country's Marine Protected Areas (MPA). The

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) shows Nigeria's MPAs constitute 1% of all its protected areas. Therefore, the aforementioned interventions, most of which are indirect, continue to contribute to Nigeria's efforts towards the sustainable use and conservation of its marine resources. Its efforts rank it with an overall score of 61 and ranked at number 169 under the Ocean Health Index's (OHI) listed 221 EEZs. Accordingly, the near-term future state of Nigeria is estimated at roughly 1% compared to a global estimate of about 10%. The estimate of the future state is a function of 4 dimensions, namely: status, pressures, resilience components, and 5-year trend of status components. OHI is a multi-stakeholder scientific assessment tool which seeks to catalyse policy interventions for the protection of marine ecosystems.

## Solid Waste

Nigeria features in the list of African countries projected to have high amounts of municipal waste by 2025 if urgent innovative measures are not put in place. This situation is tied to the country's move towards SDG 14 targets, but also SDGs 6, 12, and 15. Nigeria is a one of the world's largest crude oil and petrochemical producers and in the last few decades the plastics industry has become a key part of the economy. The industry has facilitated innovations in the delivery of clean water to household, through plastic sachets, and its impact can be seen throughout society. This influence has, however, brought to the fore the question of what to do about plastics waste and other related environmental concerns. As at 2016, only 6.2% of solid waste was collected and managed in controlled facilities. Water bodies in Nigeria are heavily polluted with untreated sewage, used plastic bottles, nylons and



household solid waste which finds their way into it either directly or through runoffs.

The situation is worst in urban areas particularly in coastal informal settlements with high population densities such as Makoko, Iwaya, Ilaje, Amukoko, Okobaba, Ijora Oloye, Ogudu Village in Lagos, Andoni, Bundu, Captain Amangala, Emenike, Marine Base and Rex Lawson in Port Harcourt. In these communities, water bodies serve as conduits for transporting waste and often pose a serious health risk to women and children who depend on them for their livelihood. Effective urban planning and urban waste management systems are crucial to ensuring access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in Nigeria.

As a response strategy, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment continues to explore a wide range of waste management interventions. Most of them are aimed at transforming the value chain of wastes, including through circular economy strategies. Recognizing the enormity of the solid waste, especially the plastics that threaten the health and productivity of its marine and coastal ecosystems, Nigeria has moved to include policy actions. In 2019, the country put in place legislative interventions that seek to curb the proliferation of single-use plastic bags in the country. The legislation outlines the responsibilities of the key stakeholders in the plastics sector, including on the side of government, consumers, and businesses. The move adds to the country's other initiatives that seek to promote environmentally responsible progress in Nigeria, through the integration of robust, sustainable consumption and production measures.

### Electronic Waste

Electronic waste is a growing problem in Nigeria. UNEP estimates show the country processes more than

half a million tonnes of discarded appliances annually. In 2017, Nigeria generated 290,000 tonnes of electronic waste, representing a 170% increase from its 2009 levels. The country also receives over 60,000 tonnes of used electronics and electrical equipment from other countries through Lagos ports. This is in addition to other unaccounted volumes which find a way into the country through its land-based borders. Data shows at least 25% of this equipment gets into the country when they are already running out of their usefulness, thus increasingly being discarded or dismantled. Improper handling of such wastes releases heavy metals and toxic chemicals which compromise the quality of the country's air, soil and water and increases the health risk associated with it.

The need for a robust transformation of Nigeria's e-waste sector is underscored by the position of electronic equipment in the country's economy. The country's informal e-waste recycling value chain also employs at least 100,000 Nigerians. But, unfortunately, many of these workers are exposed to hazardous chemicals and other substances that predisposes them to health issues and premature death, given their vast reliance on rudimentary means of recycling.

### Policy Landscape

Climate action is one of Nigeria's key issues on the national political agenda. The country is one of those that are highly exposed to the projected impacts of climate change. Its coastal areas, farmlands, and other sensitive ecosystems are at high risk from sea-level rise, shifting rainfall patterns, and overall planetary warming. The country's tourism sector is already being threatened by its impacts on destinations such as the coastal areas and mountains, as manifested through



climate-induced habitat and biodiversity losses and shifting paths for migratory species. An example of the adverse effect of climate change in Nigeria is Lake Chad whose water has been reduced to less than 10%. To safeguard and sustainably manage the hydrological, biological, and cultural resources of the Lake Chad Basin, thereby contributing to reducing poverty and promoting peace, multi-partner-led actions are ongoing. They include a UNESCO-established BIOPALT (Biosphere and Heritage of the Lake Chad) Project, which involve multifaceted activities ranging from the establishment of an early warning system for droughts and floods, to the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

Besides, and while being aware of the climatic challenges, Nigeria contributes to the regional and global efforts for climate action. The country, for instance, continues to be an active State Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), since its ratification 1994. Additionally, the country subscribed to the Kyoto Protocol in 2004 and the Paris Agreement in 2017. It has been regularly filing its national communications to the UNFCCC Secretariat, including in 2020 through its third report. It also continues to make biennial updates on its state of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), with its 2018 update being among them. Nigeria's 2015 National Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments expand from its 2012 Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy which sought to foster low-carbon, high growth economic development and build a climate-resilient society.

### Status of Climate Adaption

Nigeria's mitigation and adaptation efforts are guided by the National Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (NCCPRS). The policy was adopted in 2012, with its aim being to better frame and implement the GHG reduction options, in addition to fostering a low-carbon high economic growth and building a climate-resilient society. These climate strategies are reflected in Nigeria's Third National Communication to the UNFCCC Secretariat in March 2020. The country's overriding policy position is to put climate change mitigation and adaptation at the same level of prioritisation.

In terms of reconciling environmental sustainability with the country's development priorities, Nigeria has an Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2004 which makes it mandatory for proponents of all new significant development activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of their proposed projects. The implementation of these measures is overseen by the Environmental Assessment Department under the Environment Ministry. The mainstreaming of climate change adaptation activities at national and sub-national levels is promoted through the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (NCCPRS) and in development plans of various ministries, departments and agencies. Climate-related and environmental activities contribute to the majority of the SDGs. The implementation and progress of the SDGs in Nigeria is coordinated by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President.

However, and despite its progress, Nigeria has some areas with weak alignment. These include monitoring and reporting its implementation of the NDC. This limits the fast-tracking of progress in the country's



pledged actions for emissions reduction and efforts to cushion its populations from the projected impacts of climate change.

### **Nationally Determined Contributions**

Nigeria's commitment to climate action is high on its political agenda. The country submitted its revised NDC to the UNFCCC on July 2nd, 2021, following an earlier version made in 2015. Through the revised NDC, the country highlights the vulnerability of its people and multiple sectors to the impacts of climate change. It also points out its huge proportion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to other countries in the Africa region and highlights the earmarked interventions for bringing down the emissions to tolerable levels. One of the indicated avenues for actualizing this intention is a commitment to grow a diversified economy coupled with expansion of non-oil revenue. This is set to yield multiple co-benefits that include job creation and addressing poverty. The country also continues to make considerable investments in agricultural and climate-friendly energy sectors. Compared to its 2015 commitments, the revised NDC represents the country's enhanced ambition for climate action. Additional areas being targeted in the quest to reduce emissions include the waste management sectors and a target to increase unconditional contributions to 20% below the business-as-usual involvements by 2030. This is in addition to a 47% contribution to conditional international support of about 100 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> below the 2018 levels in line with the global community's 1.5C pathway. The country has set out itself to rally multiple partners, other countries, and the private sector to support its ambitious climate targets. Nigeria also plans to continually assess and report on its climate action progress and has indicated

readiness to submit a new NDC to the UNFCCC by 2025.

### **Green Economy and Transition Issues**

Nigeria's sustainable development targets are, in many ways, tied to the availability of stable funding streams. Aware of this demand, the Nigerian authorities continue to streamline their national budgeting to the priorities of the global community's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is in addition to aligning the budgets with its own national development policies and priorities. These areas include Nigeria's environmental sustainability frontiers. Accordingly, Nigeria's environment and climate actions are some of the national portfolios that gain from various sources of domestic and external financing. This, however, still has many options for backstopping and improvement, including through innovative financing.

In March 2019, for instance, the country's Federal Ministry of Environment highlighted a number of critical areas for budgetary prioritisation during its consultations with House of Representatives Committee on Environment and Habitat in Abuja. These include pollution control, ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation and climate action. Notably, at this moment, the Ministry also pointed out that the country's inadequate budgetary provision to environment portfolio continues to hinder its efficiency in the implementation of environmental protection measures. The Ministry cited the remediation of hydrocarbon impacted sites in Ogoniland, and the fixed income security issued to finance projects, as well as climate actions, as some of the areas have been poorly implemented due to inadequate funds. This is despite the country's environment pillar being hinged on three federal-level policy objectives that include National Environment



Management, Pollution Control, Waste to Wealth, Industrial Oil Management and Climate Change adaptation.

Inflows from external sources also continue to benefit Nigeria's environment and climate action, with an increasing focus on the country's options for building back better from the socio-economic ramification of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include resources directed to various projects at country and regional level by its development partners, including through the UN entities and international financial institutions. For instance, Nigeria's waste management sector, which continues to face enormous challenges, has recently had an increasing inflow of funds. In June 2019, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), jointly with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) directed US\$ 15 million towards the transformation of its e-waste sector through the creation of a robust a circular system at the national levels.

Its climate actions have also not been left behind. The country's climate actions continue to receive millions of US dollars aimed at enhancing the country's adaptive capacity and resilience to the potential impacts of climate change. The latest has been a UNEP and Green Climate Fund of US\$ 2.7 million secured in the last quarter of 2019 and directed to the strengthening of Nigeria's capacity to advance the National Adaptation Planning process. This is in addition to more inflows directed to its clean energy transition which recently received a US \$350 million facility from the World Bank and an additional US\$200 million facility from the African Development Bank towards off-grid development as part of the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP). These inflows are expected to leverage at least US\$81 billion in additional funding from Nigeria's private sector.

Nigeria is engaged with other 5 GGW countries and FAO in developing a CF multi-country project on scaling resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall, support large scale restoration, sustainable value chains development for non-wood forest products such as gum Arabic and capacities enhancement in climate action. Other areas include biodiversity conservation, resource efficiency, air quality and clean mobility, as well as the management of hazardous wastes and chemicals, among others whose external grants to ongoing projects that have started in the recent past exceed US\$ 50 million.



# Gender Dimensions



Gender Equality is ensuring that women and men, girls and boys have equal conditions, treatment and opportunities for realizing their full potential, human rights and dignity, and for contributing to (and benefitting from) economic, social, cultural and political development. Attaining gender equality is such a critical goal not only because it a fundamental human right, but it is a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

The fortunes of Nigeria are inextricably linked to the fortunes of women in Nigeria. Dealing with the challenges that affect women across multiple streams, such as on unemployment where it is currently higher for women compared to men even before including issues such as gender pay gaps and unpaid care work. Access to important assets such as land are also still skewed against women, and there are still significant gender gaps in education and health. These gaps have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are other issues with regard to the goal of gender equality which will be the focus of this section.

## Gender Based Violence

<sup>123</sup> Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2013 and 2018.

GBV remains high and looks to have increased since the last CCA. The proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older who had been subjected to physical violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey increased from 28% in 2013 to 31% in 2018<sup>123</sup>.

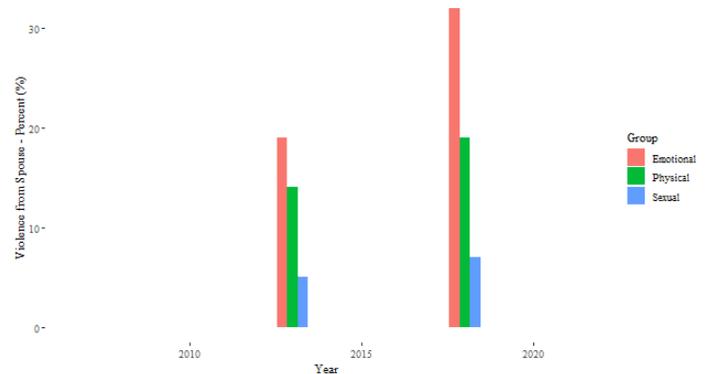


Fig 56: Violence by spouse. Source: NDHS

Similar increases were observed for emotional and sexual violence over the same periods. 29.5% of women aged 15-49 declared having been subjected to violence by an intimate partner, current or former, in the previous year. Similar trends were also observed in violence committed by a spouse. Evidence suggests that these trends in GBV have worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

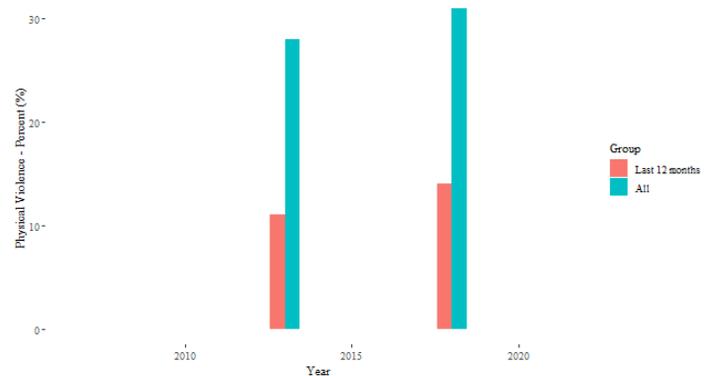


Fig 57: Percentage of women who have experienced any physical



violence (committed by a husband or anyone else) since age 15. Source: NDHS

According to a Nigeria Police report, between January and May 2020, 799 abusers/suspects were arrested by the police, 52 cases were said to be under investigation, while 631 were charged to court. From cases collated by the FMWA, about 3,600 cases of Violence Against Women and Girls were reported during Covid-19 lockdown. The insecurity in the North East is also expected to have worsened these trends.

Actions have been taken at country level and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) has been collaborating with international partners to track, document and disseminate information on GBV. The Ministry also collaborated with the GBV sub-sector working group to increase access to comprehensive and well-coordinated GBV response services. The European Union/United Nations Spotlight Initiative is working to address and prevent GBV in selected states. The project is helping to strengthen law and policies on GBV. The project is also helping to strengthen institutions that are responsible for GBV responses, while working to improve prevention and services, data collection and supporting women's rights organizations to provide better services for survivors and communities. There are also efforts/actions to address gender-based violence in electoral process in line with the Independent National Electoral Commission's 2015 Gender Policy. Such action includes the establishment of the Women's Situation Room which tracks and document incidences of violence against women candidates, voters, and electoral officers.

## Early Marriage

Globally, Nigeria has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence of child marriage with 43% of girls married by age 18 and 18% married before the age of 15<sup>124</sup>. On the positive side, the proportion of women under 15 who were married has decreased slightly at 8% in 2018 compared to 12% five years before. The trends for women married before the age of 18 has similarly reduced from 48% to 43%.

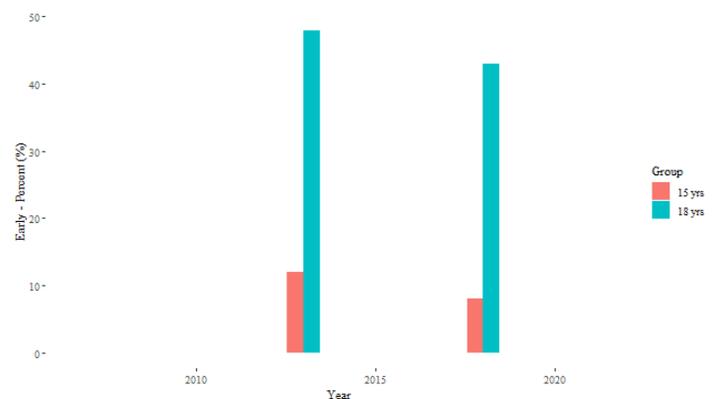


Fig 58: Early Marriage. Source: NDHS.

Although there have been reductions, a high proportion of girls are still submitted to CEFM, and Nigeria still has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence of child marriage<sup>125</sup>. Early marriage forces girls into adulthood before they are emotionally, mentally, socially and physically matured, leading to an array of harmful effects on their health, education, economic and social development, thereby limiting the future opportunities of the girl child.

Early marriage contributes significantly to the high childbearing rate among adolescents in Nigeria, with 8% of adolescent girls married before age 15 and 23% in union (married or living together with partner). The

<sup>124</sup> UNICEF – State of the World's Children 2019 and Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018.

<sup>125</sup> UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2019



rate of early marriage and childbearing is much higher in northern Nigerian than the south, and among the low educated compared to those with higher education, as well as among the rural-based young people compared to their urban peers.

Pregnant adolescents in Nigeria have a lower level of utilization of maternal health services compared to older women and experience a higher level of maternal morbidity and mortality. Obstetric fistula is a severe maternal condition that results from prolonged labour and its risk is higher among adolescents compared to older women. The typical profile of an obstetric fistula patient in Nigeria, as the National Strategic Framework on the Elimination of Obstetrics Fistula (2019-2023) notes, is “a young, poor, illiterate rural girl who had been given out in marriage at a very early age, became pregnant soon after, had no benefit of antenatal care, laboured at home for days and ended up with a stillbirth and obstetric fistula”.

Nigeria relies on the Child Rights Act (CRA) which was passed into law at Federal level in 2003 and has equally been domesticated by 24 states and in the Federal Capital Territory. The CRA’s sections 21, 22 and 23 discuss the prohibition of marriage or betrothal of persons under the age of 18. While the CRA has provided an effective overarching institutional framework, ongoing efforts need to focus on its implementation and monitoring. Currently, 18 states have domesticated the CRA with on-going advocacy to the remaining states.

## Female Genital Mutilation

The attitude towards FGM is also changing, albeit

slowly. In 2018, among women who have heard of FGM, 78% believed it was not required by their religion and another 67% believed that it should not be continued. This is compared to 68% and 64% respectively in 2013. The prevalence of FGM is also on the decrease. In 2018, 20% of women aged 15 to 49 were circumcised, down from 25% in 2013. 20% of women aged 15-49 years have been circumcised with 86% of women aged 15-49 years that were circumcised at less than 5 years of age. However, the declining trend is apparent with 13.7% of women aged 15 to 19 in 2018 compared to 15.3% for the same cohort in 2013<sup>126</sup>.

Regardless of the trends, Nigeria still accounts for the third highest number of women and girls that have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) reported at 20% prevalence<sup>127</sup>. Harmful practices still occur in the context of limited knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services, with complications of early childbearing and obstructed labour such as obstetric fistula. An estimated 20,000 new cases of obstetric fistula occur every year.

There is variation in the prevalence of FGM within Nigeria with the South West and South East particularly high. There have been reductions in most of the highly prevalent states although with two outliers, Kaduna and Yobe, where FGM is high and the prevalence rose significantly between 2013 and 2018.

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<sup>126</sup> NDHS

<sup>127</sup> Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018



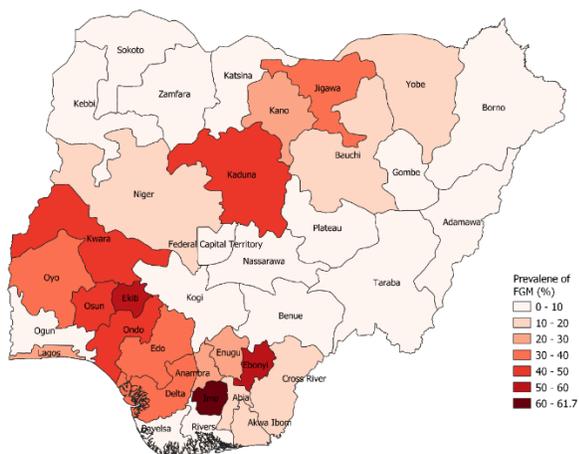


Fig 59: Percent of women age 15 to 49 who are circumcised. Source: NDHS.

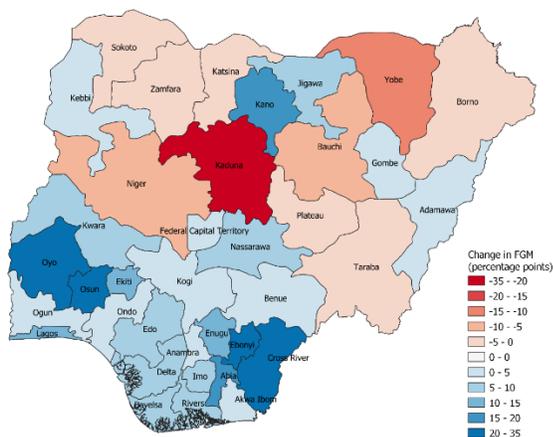


Fig 60: Decline in Prevalence of FGM among women aged 15 to 49. Source: NDHS

The Nigerian Government’s response includes efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework such as: the Violence Against Person Prohibition (VAPP) Act enacted at the national level in 2015; the National Policy on the Elimination of FGM/C; and the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, a Road Map and National Priority Actions to End Violence Against Children (VAC) which have been adopted and are being supported for implementation. Ongoing efforts to

increase access to quality accessible and affordable services include the National Health Act 2014, as well as the One PHC per ward initiative of the Federal Government.

### Legal Frameworks in Place to Promote, Enforce and Monitor Equality and Non-Discrimination Based on Sex

Nigeria has a comprehensive legal framework related to SDG-5 and it is also among the 189 countries that adopted the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on women’s rights (BDPfA). At federal and subnational levels, Nigeria has passed laws regulating violence against persons. Some of these are:

1. The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015)
2. Child Rights (2003)
3. Trafficking in Persons (2003)
4. CEFM (1991, 2005)
5. Female Genital Mutilation (1999, 2000)
6. Equal Opportunities (2007,2013)
7. Domestic Violence (2004,2005)
8. Reproductive Health (2001, 2003, 2005), etc.

In addition, Nigeria adopted in 2006 the National Gender Policy. The policy is robust and adequately provides policy direction for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Notwithstanding, the legal framework has not undergone significant changes since the SDGs were adopted in 2015 and there are still gender discriminatory laws that need addressing. However, there is a draft policy being developed for the 2021 to 2026 period. Given Nigeria’s federal structure, there are still some gaps with regard to passing the laws



at the state level with implementation at that level key to progress. Regarding the existing laws, the National Beijing + 25 Review states that the next action to be executed is to “monitor, track and document progress with [their] implementation.” Indeed, implementation has so far been uneven and gender specific commitments in laws and policies have not been met with equally robust policy-related gender results. There is also room for improvement as to the domestication of major treaties such as the BDPfA.

There are, however, also some discriminatory laws which still exist in Nigeria due to inter-related factors including politics, socio-cultural and religious norms. Aspects of Nigerian law and its constitution condone discrimination and inequalities, including:

The amended 1999 Constitution, Section 26, provides that The President may confer Nigerian citizenship on ‘any woman who is, or who has been married to a citizen of Nigeria’. Therefore, women cannot transfer their Nigerian citizenship to their spouses.

The Labour Act Section 55(1) prohibits a woman from being employed in night work in a public or any agricultural undertaking, with the exception in Section 55(7) of female nurses and women in management positions who are not engaged in manual labour. Section 56(1) also prevents women from engaging in any underground work in any mine.

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act, 2002, Article 5(1) states that ‘all female applicants shall be unmarried at the point of entry, and shall upon enlistment, remain unmarried for a period not less than two years’.

The Penal Code section 282 provides that a husband cannot be charged with marital rape. Once the marriage is subsisting and the wife has attained

puberty, then any sexual intercourse with her is never rape.

The Marriage Act Section 18 stipulates that the written consent of the father of either party to an intended marriage is required if he or she is under 21 years of age. It is only if the father is dead, or of unsound mind, or absent from Nigeria that the written consent of the mother may be required. Therefore, the consent of a present law-abiding mother is second to an absent father, incarcerated in a Nigerian prison.

In the ‘Criminal Code,’ there are differing punishments for the offence of assault against men and women. Section 353 provides that a person who unlawfully and indecently assaults a man is guilty of felony and liable to imprisonment for three years. On the other hand, Section 360 provides that a person who unlawfully and indecently assaults a woman is guilty of misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for two years. Also, Section 357 provides that a husband cannot be charged with marital rape.

The Evidence Act Section 211 provides that ‘when a man is prosecuted for rape, or for an attempt to commit rape, or for indecent assault, it may be shown that the women against whom the offence is alleged to have been committed was of a generally moral character’.

The Police Act Section 127 prevents married women from seeking enlistment in the Nigerian police force. Also, when an unmarried policewoman is pregnant, she would be discharged from the police force, and can only be re-instated on the approval of the Inspector General of Police.

In the Value Added Tax Act, female hygiene products are currently not exempted from VAT under the First Schedule to the Act, as they are not considered as either medical, pharmaceutical or baby products. However,



the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Circular No.9701 exempts sanitary towels et cetera from VAT.

## Women in Governance

The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments has decreased in the last electoral cycle, from 6.9% in 2015 to 4.4% in 2019, and places Nigeria towards the very bottom of the world’s ranking in this regard (185th out of 190 countries with available data). While electoral participation among women has increased over time, at times even surpassing that of men, the number of women in political and public office has not nearly followed the same trend.

The 2006 National Gender Policy aimed to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and established a 35% minimum threshold for women’s participation in politics whether in appointive or elective positions. Most political parties “have taken steps to encourage women political participation through affirmative action, including reserving some party offices for them and giving women aspirants nomination forms free of charge.”

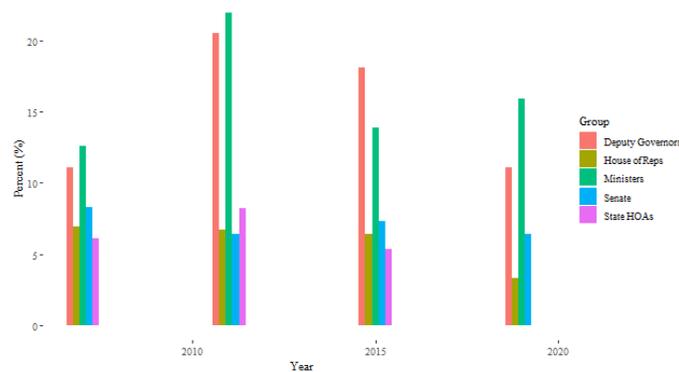


Fig 61: Political Participation.

However, despite these measures and commitments from the government in 2015, women have not exceeded a ratio of 16% in appointive positions – which further reduced to 14% in 2017. The number of women in other parts of the government has either remained low or decreased over time: 27% of judges of the Court of Appeal are women in 2020, while 38% of the judges of the National Industrial Court are women, the Chief Justice of the Federation and the President of the Court of Appeal were both women as of 2014 – they are now both men.

Some tools to increase women’s representation have been implemented, such as the Nigerian Women’s Trust Fund (2011), which provides resources to female political aspirants, women’s political empowerment offices, which consists of an ongoing interface to provide support to women politicians in the states and rural areas, and the ‘100 Women Lobby Group,’ which engages with all three tiers of government on women’s visibility and participation. In addition to those initiatives, there has been increased collaborating by relevant stakeholders to increase women’s participation in electoral processes. The advocacy for more gender sensitive internal political party regimes needs to be sustained to ensure progress.

Regarding women’s representation in managerial positions in the private sector, no up to date data is available. There needs to be more private sector engagement to ensure data availability. Progress on these two indicators has been hampered by various similar factors. Firstly, women have been, and still are, facing resistance regarding their political and managerial participation and empowerment due to gender stereotypes, social norms, and cultural barriers. Indeed, women are constrained by gender roles which place the responsibility of household chores and childrearing on them, with little support from spouses.



There are also issues of money, politics and electoral violence. A lot of women have been physically, psychologically and mentally threatened and harassed during election and, because of this, a lot of them decide against contesting in an election or withdrawing their candidacy. Women's participation is also constrained by a hostile atmosphere that offers little or no encouragement to women, where electoral rules are frequently unfavourable, and where there is a general disapproval from men of the ability and capacity of women to hold leadership positions.

Security issues, or the perception of the political terrain as threatening, also hinder women's participation. Finally, the male-dominated establishment is reluctant to appoint women into positions of leadership, even when they are known to be competent and capable. The combination of these factors strongly affects women's willingness and readiness to seek positions of authority. Women who do get into leadership positions tend to be more educated, come from a higher socio-economic background and be exceptionally well-connected. There is thus an intersectionality dimension to women's political and managerial participation in Nigeria whereby different characteristics (gender, socio-economic background, and most probably other factors) combine to limit access to the average woman.

The representation of females in the security sector is also one of the weakest and even more so in leadership roles at security sector institutions. There is need to continue to invest in affirmative action and increase female representation in underrepresented sectors by establishing policies that promote recruitment, retention, promotion of women.



# Youth



With the creation of the 2019 National Youth Policy, Nigeria officially revised the age bracket of its population regarded as youths from 18 to 35 (from the 2009 policy) to 15 to 29. However, this revision has not caused a radical shift in government policy. Several government actors and projects still use the previous classification as a reference point, thus, youth in Nigeria can be regarded as individuals between the ages of 15 - 35 years old.

The youth bulge and the demographic dividend present both an opportunity and a challenge. With an estimated youth population (15 to 24 years of age) of about 40 million in 2020 and roughly 20% of the population, the potential impact the youth can have towards meeting the SDGs is significant. At the same time, significant setbacks may be seen if the opportunities for the youth do not materialize.

Young people are central to the demographic dividend and remain players in the advocates of social transformation and development in many spheres. The enormous benefits young people can contribute can only be realized when their rights are protected, and investments are made in their education, employment, health, empowerment and effective civil participation. Several initiatives on youth education and employment have been undertaken in Nigeria, but these need to be deepened in order to achieve the full potential of young people in contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development. The potential for the youth with respect to education is increasingly apparent. As of 2018, only 5.3% of all males aged 15 to 24, and 9.2% of all females in the same category, had

never attended school, <sup>128</sup>129<sup>130</sup>, suggesting that improvements are being made.

A number of policies have been developed by the Nigerian government to address the various challenges affecting the youth. However, these policies are sometimes duplicated and are plagued with implementation challenges, non-integration, financing issues, and a lack of political will to see them through. There are also data gaps in the youth policy space in Nigeria. This includes insufficient data on vulnerable youths such as those not in any kind of education, employment or training; drop-outs from the formal education system; youth living with special needs; and youth in challenging social and environmental circumstances. There is also a need for better data to improve policies for the most at-risk youth including those that have been radicalised and are in armed conflict, those engaging in crime or substance abuse, young people in sex work, and youth that engage in risky behaviours that compromise their health, well-being and development.

## Youth Employment and Underemployment

Perhaps the most pressing issue relating to the youth is employment and underemployment. Since the end of 2014, the youth unemployment rate has risen from 3.7% to 38.5% as at the end of 2020 based on the ILO methodology. According the NBS, youth unemployment has risen from 11.7% to 53.4% over the same period. Only 2.64 million of the 9.85 million youth who were considered part of the labour force were in full time employment. Another 1.95 million were considered underemployed. An estimated 30

<sup>128</sup> NLSS 2018/2019

<sup>129</sup> NDHS 2018

<sup>130</sup> NBS



million youth were not considered as part of the labour force. Youth employment is perhaps one of the most significant challenges currently faced by Nigeria.

### Youth Protests and Political Participation

Citizen participation and inclusive governance are the cornerstone of a democratic system. Nigeria has adopted the National Action Plan on the Implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Beijing Declaration) including at state and sub-zonal level to encourage youth and women to participate in politics and governance.

At all levels, deep inequalities and a lack of political and social inclusion appear to be at the core of the problem. Young people in particular regularly state that their voices are not sufficiently considered, their needs sufficiently understood and met, and that their engagement and empowerment in various processes is still lacking.

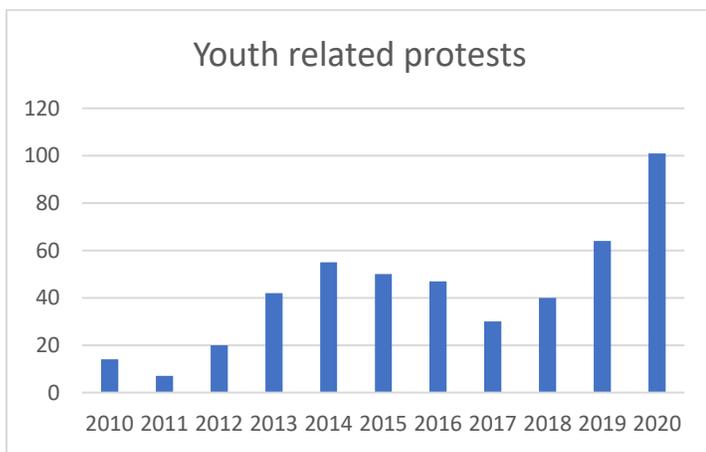


Fig 62: Youth related protests. Source: ACLED

The trends with regard to youth restiveness have roughly mimicked the trends with youth unemployment, with the number of protests by youth and on youth related issues increasing since 2017. Perhaps the most significant of these protests was the #EndSARS protests in 2020. These started out as a series of protests against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Nigeria Police Force, with allegations against them of extortion, excessive force, and human rights abuses. The protests, however, metastasized into action citing broader discontent amongst the youth and the general population, with socio-economic injustice, agitations for good governance, heightened by growing youth unemployment and school closures. Prior to the protests, university students had been at home for seven months due to a strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). The socio-economic disruptions from the pandemic also likely played a key role.

The broader issues of youth restiveness spill over into the appearance of a lack of participation in governance and political processes. For example, in the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly elected in 2019, only 27 of the 360 elected members of the House of Representatives were under 40<sup>131</sup>. Although efforts have been made in recent years to improve youth participation in governance by reducing the minimum age allowed to run for office to 35 for the president, 30 years for governors, and 25 years for national and state assemblies. The amendments to the constitution on minimum age limits were passed in 2018 as the “Not Too Young to Run” bill and set the stage for future improvements in youth participation in governance.

In the interim, the perception of participation of youth in governance is poor. While Government in response

<sup>131</sup> PLAC NG



to the #EndSARS protests has created mechanisms to hold security forces accountable for human rights violations, some of these mechanisms are only of a temporary nature and they are yet to prove their effectiveness. At present, it appears likely that Government will find itself under mounting public pressure and thus could feel tempted to reduce the space for open dissent by adopting increasingly repressive policies, laws and measures. The actions against Twitter and attempts to impose further regulations on the civic space are examples of this.

In the short run, the UN will need to further enhance its advocacy with Government to ensure that reform efforts are pursued with vigour and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The UN, through its various relevant agencies needs to step up its efforts in providing specialized technical expertise to inform reforms, call for more youth empowerment and integration in the government's key development, economic, anti-corruption. Most pressingly, however, the UN needs to employ its full weight and support to ensure that individual high visibility alleged human rights violations, such as the Lekki Toll Gate incident, are fully investigated and perpetrators are held to account. Regaining public trust and the trust of the youth will be absolutely critical to avoid disenfranchising an entire generation.

## Youth and Drugs Abuse

The findings of the Nigeria Drug Use Survey 2018 revealed a drug use prevalence of 14.4% in Nigerians aged between 15 and 64 years, which is almost three times the global drug use prevalence of 5.5%. Drug use was most common among those who were between the ages of 25 and 39 years. The survey also found that a

total of almost 3 million persons were suffering from some form of drug use disorder. Two-thirds of respondents who had ever used drugs reported having serious problems such as missing school or work, doing a poor job at work/school or neglecting their family or children. Nearly one quarter of high-risk drug users had been arrested for a drug-related offence during the course of their drug use. People who use drugs can be particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS [9% of people who inject drugs in Nigeria live with HIV and AIDS] and COVID-19.

Research commissioned by the UNODC found that 13.8% of life time users of drugs are out of school children as compared to 6.4% of the student populations. A joint multi-agency study "National Situation and Needs Assessment of HIV and AIDS, Drug Use and Related Health Services in Nigerian Prisons" revealed that prisons and other closed settings are also at increased risk of HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C infections, due to their own vulnerability and the characteristics of the environment. Therefore, there is need to continue to invest in school-based drug prevention programmes to promote healthy lifestyles in schools, families and communities in Nigeria and develop targeted programming at out-of-school children.

## Youth and Insecurity

The impact of insecurity on young people has led to children experiencing the most severe forms of violence having lasting impacts on their psychological and physiological well-being and at worst leading to their early deaths. Since 2009, Boko Haram and ISWAP, the terrorist and violent extremist groups'



activities mainly in North East have led to over 40,000 deaths and children have been among the most impacted. The UN reports that over 8,000 boys and girls have been recruited and exploited by the groups including subjecting girls to the most severe forms of sexual violence and deploying them on suicide missions. Recent mass kidnappings by criminal groups of school children have also emerged as the most pervasive and intractable forms of crime in Nigeria. The perpetration and persistence of these crimes in a country which already has the largest number of out of school children in the world is going to have serious implications for the education, well-being, security and economic opportunities for its children, adolescents and future youth of the country. Need for efforts aimed at strengthening the resilience of young people and their environment against violence extremist agendas and the influence of criminal gangs, including through the use of evidence-based and targeted sports-based intervention programmes aimed at skills development, youth empowerment and promoting social inclusion.

## Youth and Corruption

According to the findings from the 2019 UNODC/NBS Corruption Survey report, corruption continues to be a major challenge in Nigeria. Bribery prevalence was observed to be highest amongst youths ages 25-34<sup>132</sup>; there was a decrease in the acceptability of bribery to Nigerians (especially amongst youths ages 18-24; at least 64% found bribery from a law enforcement officer unacceptable; but only 1.4% of citizens, incl. youths refused to pay a bribe when asked). Efforts to integrate

specific anti-corruption and ethics/integrity-based contents including the use of UNODC E4J tools is, therefore, encouraged.

## Youth and Child Trafficking, Labour and Exploitation

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that 50.8% of Nigerian children between 5-17 years were involved in child labour with the North Central region with the highest burden followed by North West, South South, South East and South West.<sup>133</sup> NAPTIP's data shows that 14% of rescued victims were child domestic labourers and 7.4% of investigated cases concerned offences of '*employing a child as a domestic worker and inflicting grievous bodily harm*' (section 23, TIPPEA Act). The recruitment of children by either the Nigerian military, CJTF or insurgency groups in the North East continued to be reported. But no data was available in NAPTIP's annual report on investigations or rescued victims in relation to the offence of procurement or recruitment for use in armed conflict (s.19 TIPPEA Act).

As of February 2020, over 50,000 Nigerian migrants were still recorded in Libya, according to IOM, mostly young men but the number of unaccompanied children is increasing.

Nigeria updated and amended its trafficking law in 2015 with the adoption of the TIPPEA Act which covers all forms of trafficking, in accordance with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. A range of other laws are also applicable to trafficking and related offences

development and deprives them of their childhood. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous or harmful to children and interferes with their schooling. See <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

<sup>132</sup> UNODC/NBS Second Corruption Survey report

<sup>133</sup> NAPTIP annual report 2019. Child labour in Nigeria is the employment of children under the age of 18 in a manner that prevents or restricts them from basic education and



including the Criminal and Penal Codes, the Labour Act 1990, the Child Rights Act 2003 (CRA), the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015 (VAPP Act) and the Immigration Amendment Act, 2015. There are multiple policies, action plans, strategies and guidelines in place in Nigeria relevant to tackling human trafficking. The most frequently mentioned included the policies on protection and assistance to victims, the NRM guidelines, child labour policies, labour migration policies and migration policies.

Three key policies are also currently being developed: a National Action Plan against Trafficking in Person, National Policy on Protection and Assistance to trafficked persons and NAPTIP strategy. Although most policies provided frameworks for measuring progress, and included monitoring tools, often little information was available regarding their progress and many stakeholders found that frequently they were not properly funded or operational. Future policy development should involve all stakeholders at the design stage, including civil society, victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants. Also, budgets for implementation of policies and plans, including for civil society, need to include implementation at state and local levels. NAPTIP might also be empowered in future to coordinate development partners at the technical level to ensure that resources and activities better align with the implementation of a national action plan.

## Sexual and Reproductive Health

There are large gender disparities in autonomy on sexual and reproductive health in Nigeria. 80% of young men are able to make decisions about their own healthcare, while less than 40% of young women are

able to do the same. As one of the potential consequences of this, Nigeria has a high burden of unintended pregnancies and induced abortion among the youth. According to the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 19% teenage girls 15-19 years are already mothers or pregnant with their first child. Young mothers are mostly in the northern regions with 29% in the North West and 26% in North East and lowest in southern regions with 11% in the South South and 6% in the South West. The survey showed a direct link between education and childbearing. 44% of teenage girls with no education have begun childbearing, compared to 8% of teenage girls with secondary education and 1% of teenage girls with more than secondary education (*National Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria] and ICF. 2019. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018. Abuja, Nigeria, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: NPC and ICF.*).

One in seven young married women and about 57% of sexually active unmarried women have an unmet family planning need. This is related to the issue of making contraceptives and other family planning methods available, accessible and affordable to young women. Early marriage is still prevalent with one in seven girls married at the age of 15 or under, and 43% married by 18 or under. There is a need to create demand for sexual and reproductive health education in young people, while also making it easier to access these services.



# Leave No One Behind



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**Spotlight Initiative**  
*To eliminate violence against women and girls*



## Persons with Disability

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments. As the CRPD notes, disability needs to be understood as a “complex and dynamic phenomenon arising from the interaction between the individual with a health condition and contextual factors that pose significant challenges to the enjoyment of one’s human rights and reaching one’s full potential.” Contextual factors negatively affecting the health and wellbeing of physically or mentally challenged young people in Nigeria include widespread discrimination, sexual abuse, stigma, social exclusion, lack of supportive facilities for physical movement, restricted access to health services, and limited opportunities for quality education and gainful employment. The 2018 NDHS, based on questions on six core functional domains—seeing, hearing, communication, cognition, walking, and self-care—indicated that 3% of adolescents and 3% of youths have some degree of difficulty in at least one of these domains.

Although some other African countries are more advanced in the protection of what their constitutions provide for persons with disabilities, Nigeria has few laws that can be considered as relevant to the protection of rights of this group. These include the 2012 National Policy on Albinism, 2017 National Policy on Disability, the 2018 Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, the 2010 Lagos State Special Peoples Act and the 1993 Nigerians with Disabilities Decree. There are also a number of other laws at the sub-national level seeking to protect the rights of persons with disability.

The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, signed into law on 17 January 2019, promotes the full integration of persons with disabilities into the Nigerian society. The law prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability with due penalties for contravention and promotes the access of people to health and social services. Section 22 of the law stipulates that the “Government shall guarantee that persons with disabilities have unfettered access to adequate health care without discrimination on the basis of disability, and a person with mental disability shall be entitled to free medical and health service in all public institutions.” The law, among others, provides for a five-year transitional period for modifying public buildings, structures, and automobiles to make them accessible and usable for people with disabilities. The law also establishes the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, with the responsibility to ensure that people with disabilities have access to housing, education, and healthcare.

Some of the challenges facing the proper implementation of this Act include weak enforcement, inadequate funding, negative attitudes, beliefs and prejudices, lack of data and information on living with disabilities for the general public and for policy makers, inadequate help centres for persons with disabilities, poorly designed policies, as well as insufficient political will for the proper implementation of set policies.

A key concern of the Nigerian Disability Act is the design and modification of public spaces to ensure inclusive access for persons living with disabilities. Without doubt, most of the public infrastructure in Nigerian cities does not account for persons living with various disabilities. The Act has stipulated a time



period for making the required changes, after which proprietors will be sanctioned. Although the collection of fines may serve as an incentive to enforce these requirements on private institutions, it is uncertain to what extent government institutions will be compliant. The associated cost of modifying public infrastructure, such as roads and transport infrastructure, to be more PWD-friendly may serve as an obstacle to the expected implementation of these stipulations.

Given that policy making and policy implementation are quite distinct processes in Nigeria, the proper enforcement of laws is often conditional on the incentives facing the regulatory agencies as well as their perception of the importance of the laws. The enforcement of disability inclusion laws in Nigeria are, therefore, sometimes influenced by the wider context of low awareness of, or appreciation for, disability rights and the wide range and manifestations of existing disabilities. Even where disability rights are recognised, there is a tendency to focus on visible disabilities with the exclusion of less visible disabilities that still pose debilitating challenges to persons living with them.

Lack of significant data limits analysis of trends with regard to persons living with disabilities. Most officially published statistical data does not include data disaggregated to include persons with disabilities. Efforts are required to improve on that front. This could potentially include the examination of some of the standard surveys carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics to better capture the situation and needs of the broad spectrum of Nigerians with disabilities. This will include their employment situation and experiences with job seeking for members of the group that are in the labour force. A 2005 survey carried out by the Leprosy Mission Nigeria on persons with disabilities in Kogi and Niger states

found that 61% of the respondents were unemployed due to their disability. It is only with adequate data on these issues that policy making, and implementation can be more targeted, and impact can be better measured.

There is a need to increase public awareness on disability inclusion in Nigeria. This should necessarily include hidden or non-visible disabilities such as learning and other development disorders that require accommodation within the educational system. Other non-visible health-related disabilities such as chronic pain, mental illness and other chronic illnesses need better protection under existing labour laws. Public awareness campaigns will seek not only to educate the general populace on these issues, but also people with disabilities that may be unaware of their rights and the available tools to fight the discrimination they are faced with. Public awareness can further assist with the enforcement of existing laws, especially with campaigns targeted at public officials tasked with this responsibility.

There have been similar initiatives and campaigns in the past, carried out by agencies such as the National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, as well as several international organisations. In 2019, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) also created awareness on the political participation of persons with disabilities by publishing an electoral framework to protect their rights.

Regardless, on a project-based level, efforts are made to deliberately include persons with disability as key stakeholders. For instance, at the subnational level, most states in Nigeria have set up skills acquisition centres to train the youth, women and those living with disability. Social protection, which is a key element to



addressing poverty in both short and long term as it enhances the capacity of poor and vulnerable persons to manage economic and social risks, has worked to include people living with disability as a key stakeholder. Removing barriers to education and employment will contribute greatly to disability inclusion in Nigeria.

## Internally Displaced Persons

The Boko Haram insurgency has continued to displace settlements thereby increasing the number of internally displaced and impoverished people. Other security challenges, including kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery and banditry, and the farmer herder conflicts have compounded the security situation, especially in the northern parts of the country.

By January 2020, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), due to crisis related to the presence of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG's), climate change, underdevelopment and extreme poverty, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria were hosting an estimated 4,672,045 affected individuals, including IDP's, refugees (both in- and out-of-camp), returnees (former IDP's and returnees from abroad), and Third Country Nationals (TCN's). From the affected population, 78% (3,654,242 individuals) were located in Nigeria, while 11% resided in Cameroon (523,073 individuals), 6% in Niger (260,553 individuals) and 5% in Chad (234,177 individuals). Almost 2.5 million Nigerian refugees have fled to the other LCBR countries<sup>134</sup>. Women and children make up 80% of the internally displaced population.

DTM report number 33 reflects trends from the six most affected north-eastern states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. According to the report, "the estimated number of IDP's identified was 2,118,550 or 436,058 households. The number represents an increase of 30,426 persons (2%) against the last assessment (Round 32) conducted in June 2020, when 2,088,124 people were recorded as displaced. The findings confirm a recent trend of number of IDP's plateauing over the last few assessments". The most conflict-affected state of Borno continues to host the highest number of IDP's at 1,566,011. Reasons for displacement remain unchanged: the main reason is the ongoing conflict in North East Nigeria (92% of cases), followed by communal clashes (7% of cases), and natural disasters (1% of cases).

Furthermore, for the North West and North Central regions, assessments conducted by IOM's DTM between 19 August and 28 September 2019, identified 540,049 IDP's (88,631 households) across the eight states covered. "The most affected states were Benue (which hosts 160,547 IDPs, or 30% of total IDPs), Plateau (96,460 IDPs, or 18% of total IDPs) and Katsina (68,966 IDPs, or 13% of total IDPs). The majority (53%) of displaced individuals were female. Most IDPs (56%) were children, half of which were children under five years old. Displaced households were, on average, composed of five members. The overwhelming majority of IDPs (82%) lived in host communities, while 18% lived in displacement camps".

There are approximately 2.9 million IDPs in Nigeria, the majority of them in the North East (2.1 million), 1.9 million of them in BAY states (Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe), due to conflicts between Government forces and

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<sup>134</sup> IOM DTM



NSAGs. There are also IDPs in North West Nigeria (0.4 million) due to armed banditry and communal clashes, as well as IDPs in North Central/Middle Belt Nigeria (0.3 million) due to communal clashes between farmers and herders.

The farmer/herder conflicts in the Middle Belt region have also led to displacements in the affected states. According to (IOM DTM R3) reports, as of March 2020, the Middle Belt crises has caused displacement of 303,844 IDPs in the three states of Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau, of which 57% are estimated to be below 18 years; 38% between 18 and 59 years; and 5% above 60 years. In May 2021, the Benue State Emergency Management Agency said it had recorded over 1,000,000 displaced persons from 17 of the 23 LGAs, with 326 households displaced from Guma LGA between 26th April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May making it the most affected LGA 135. The state governor indicates this has likely risen to 1.5 million as at September 2021. The IDP population is expected to increase if no deliberate effort is made to address the causes of farmer/herder conflicts and intercommunal violence.

In 2002, the then National Commission for Refugees (NCFR)'s mandate was enlarged by a Presidential Directive to include migrants and IDPs, changing its name to the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). Nigeria is a state party to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) since May 2012, while the Federal Executive Council endorsed the IDP policy on 1st September 2021. In

accordance with National Policy on IDPs, Government is considered the primary duty bearer with the responsibility for protection of IDPs. The country is, however, yet to domesticate the Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

Of note are the findings of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (2017) to wit: the situation of internally displaced persons remained grave and responses must be stepped up and better coordinated. Credible evidence of widespread human rights violations against internally displaced persons and other members of the civilian population by non-state armed groups and state actors alike required recognition of the situation as a human rights crisis requiring urgent and ongoing measures to protect all civilians from violence and abuse.

The COVID-19 pandemic adds another layer of complexity to the multi-faceted challenges confronting the displaced population. In the absence of mitigation measures targeting the affected population, vulnerable individuals and households have resorted to negative coping mechanisms that may reverse the minimal gains made by humanitarian actors, thereby further exposing vulnerable individuals and households to heightened protection risks, including sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and increased poverty levels. This will adversely affect the protection environment which is already impacted by developmental and socio-cultural challenges.

To ensure an improved humanitarian intervention, it is important to enhance coordination mechanisms which put government in the driver's seat and for the

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135 IOM Flash Report:  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/iom-nigeria-flash-report-50-population-displacement-north-westnorth-central-nigeria>



international community to develop an overarching protection and solutions response which will restore the dignity of the affected population and ensure the full enjoyment of their rights.

Other UNODC<sup>136</sup> research on the prevalence of drug use among IDPs, migrants and out of school youths<sup>137</sup> also revealed important statistics. The study on IDPs<sup>138</sup> found that 25.4 % of them were using different categories of drugs,<sup>139</sup> and 4.5 % were suffering from drug use disorder. The study on migrants<sup>140</sup> reported a high percentage of drug use in people during the migration phase (61.3%).<sup>141</sup>

## Persons with Albinism

According to the Albino Foundation, Nigeria has one of the highest populations of people living with albinism in the world with an estimate of about two million. A significant proportion of people living with albinism in Nigeria face discrimination. There have been situations of infanticide on babies born with albinism, and children with albinism are sometimes excluded from education by their families who view their education as a waste of resources. As a result of the poor configuration of social institutions, people with albinism are likely to face injustices throughout their lives. The ridicule, neglect, domestic abuse, and

bullying faced by children with albinism has a negative effect on their academic performance and interest in education. Some work environments can also be unsuitable to people living with albinism. As a result of this, many people living with albinism are ill-equipped with social and economic tools needed to lead productive lives. A 2014 study found that 41% of people living with albinism in Nigeria have mental health issues resulting from the discrimination they face.

Nigeria's disability-related regulation should include provisions for people with albinism. There's a need for better awareness of the condition and how the needs of members of this population should be catered to across public and private institutions and service providers. Nigeria's health infrastructure must also properly recognize the needs of this group.

Nigeria has a National Policy on Albinism that was adopted in 2012 in response to the violence and discrimination against persons with albinism<sup>142</sup>. In 2019, a technical committee was inaugurated to review the policy and ensure that it comprehensively addressed the systemic exclusion of people with albinism.

## Discrimination and Minority Groups

<sup>136</sup> In total 13 researches were conducted on different drug related matters in Nigeria during 2016-2019.

<sup>137</sup> Bulletin on Narcotics, Volume LX11, 2019: Drugs in the Nigerian Population, (a compendium of 09 research articles)

<sup>138</sup> Prevalence and Pattern of substance use among internally displaced persons in north-central Nigeria; Kurkat Maigida & Abraham Hassan.

<sup>139</sup> Among the participants, 17.5 % had used alcohol, 8.1 % had used tobacco, 4.8 % had used opioids, and less than 1 % had used cannabis, tranquilizers, amphetamines, hallucinogens or solvents.

<sup>140</sup> The Prevalence of Drug Use and Illicit Trafficking Among Irregular Migrants Returnees in Nigeria, by Molobe Ikenna Daniel.

<sup>141</sup> The study showed that 234 ( 61.3%) of the respondents have used drugs during their migration. Drug use was predominant among those in the younger age group (26 – 30) accounting for 48.5%. Among male respondents, about three quarter 170 (71%) of them used drugs, while about 64 (44%) among female respondents also used drugs.

<sup>142</sup> 2012 National Policy on Albinism in Nigeria: Implementation Guidelines. Available at: <https://albinofoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/National-Policy-on-Albinism-Implementatio-Guideline.pdf>



Nigeria is a multi-ethnic federal state with a multiplicity of minorities spread across the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Minorities in Nigeria face discrimination in access to services and in emasculated opportunities to practice language, religions and culture.<sup>143</sup>

The quota system came into being prior to Nigerian independence in 1960 and the federal character principle was first officially recognised in the 1979 Constitution. The federal character principle demands that positions to be filled at the federal level must reflect the federal character of the country. This requires fair representation of all the zones, states and LGAs of the country. Linked to the federal character is the quota system where a fixed number of positions in the public service or openings in academic institutions is reserved for states or LGAs. These policies are apparently special measures, aimed at facilitating and enhancing national unity and equal participation in government as well as fairness in the sharing of goods and services for sections considered disadvantaged. As a result, admission, recruitment, promotion and appointment is based on these principles. In other words, advancement in the public institutions, which ought to be the drivers of development, is not based on merit or competence. However, the absence of any form of evaluation or assessment of the impact of these measures over several years have transformed them

into permanent new sources of discrimination against hitherto perceived advantaged groups or regions.

These principles have played out visibly in the admission system into Federal Unity Schools. Several studies have shown that the implementation of the quota system and federal character principle in the educational sector creates a scenario of ethnic/state discrimination contrary to the provisions of the Constitution<sup>144</sup>. The continuation of the quota system and federal character principle remains a major barrier to learning in Nigeria and has been successfully challenged in the courts as inequitable in regulating access to education but continue to be practiced. Anecdotal information indicates regional disparities in the quality of graduates from Nigerian universities with those from advantaged states worse off and ironically favoured in employment and recruitment into public service.

## LGBTQI

There is in Nigeria, as in many African countries, a culture of controversy for same-sex relationships. It is often seen either as a spiritual affliction or a medical condition that needs to be resolved medically. While nothing in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria permits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation, the current legal framework, aided by the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act endorses human rights violations

<sup>143</sup> In one of numerous examples, the Zuru in Kebbi state occupy 4 Local Government Areas, Fakai, Sakaba, Wasagu/Danko and Zuru respectively but have been denied the possibility to practice their culture and teach their religion and language in schools.

<sup>144</sup> Segun Joshua, Ronald E Loromeke and Ilemobola P. Olanrewaju, "Quota system, federal character principle and admission to Federal Unity Schools: Barriers to learning in

Nigeria", International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies, 2014 (Vo.2 No.2) pp.1-10. See also <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/sanusi-quota-system-has-killed-northern-nigeria/zdybw3y>; <https://www.thecable.ng/landmark-ruling-lagos-court-puts-quota-system-federal-character-jeopardy>



against LGBTQI persons, who are sometimes denied access to services and even subject to hate crimes. Repeated recommendations in the UPR cycle have targeted the situation of LGBTQI urging Government to review the legal framework to exclude discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

## Older Persons

The legal framework for the protection of older persons is poor. Nigeria has not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons. Recently, the Senate adopted legislation on the protection of older persons, but this requires presidential assent to become effective. The precarious position of older persons is exacerbated by the poor management nationwide of pensions that has seen pensioners owed entitlements for years in a country that has no established social protection mechanism for the vulnerable.

## Indigenes and Settlers

This dichotomy between indigenes and settlers is a major cause of instability and tension albeit linked to state creation. Nigerian citizens are classified as indigenes of states or settlers or "foreigners" in states other than those of their progeny. This discrimination is at the root of inter-ethnic clashes in the country. In practice there are no citizens of Nigeria with equal access to services nation-wide and in all states, but indigenes of states in a context where access to social goods is dependent on ethnic roots and state of origin. It is immaterial how long you have lived in a part of

Nigeria or if you cannot trace your roots after you have been born, bred and established in a place. Once you are known to have your roots from a different ethnic group or state, you are a foreigner in every other state other than that of your origin with all the negative consequences.

## People Living with HIV/AIDS

Despite recent improvements in coverage of HIV services in many parts of the country, evidence continues to show that certain groups are being left behind and may have poor access because of social, legal, cultural and policy constraints. These groups include, sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender women and persons with disabilities and indigent women. While HIV prevalence in Nigeria is 1.4% among persons of reproductive ages, 15-49 years, the prevalence among females is almost double of the male at 1.9% female and 1.1% for males. Adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 10-24 have the highest number on new HIV infections and this age group has the highest gender disparity in infections. Despite this, girls are less knowledgeable about HIV, with one in four girls reporting comprehensive knowledge on the disease as opposed to one in three boys.

The seroprevalence estimation of key populations conducted in some states of the country also indicates large proportions of MSM, FSW and PWID are living with the virus. The Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (2014) appears to have exacerbated the already hostile legal and policy environment against persons of differing sexual orientation provided by the penal code inherited from the colonial era.



Stigma and discrimination remain major impediments to the HIV response in Nigeria, adversely affecting people's willingness to be tested and their adherence to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). The 2011 Stigma Index study revealed that HIV stigma is prevalent and an ongoing part of daily life for people living with HIV. There are no programmes or to address stigma and discrimination at national and sub-national levels.

One of the major barriers to accessing HIV prevention programmes for men who have sex with men (MSM) are laws that criminalise their activities. Statutory prohibition of same-sex relations is not only limiting access to HIV prevention programming for key populations but causing nationwide stigma and discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation. To identify and address issues surrounding legal barriers, the 2014 Legal Environment Assessment for HIV/AIDS Response in Nigeria led by National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA)<sup>145</sup> revealed, among other things, that the lack of respect for fundamental human rights is a key factor for the disproportionate prevalence of HIV among key and vulnerable populations. This assessment necessitated the development of a National Plan of Action.<sup>146</sup> The Plan of Action guides coordinated efforts to remove legal and human rights barriers to HIV services in Nigeria, especially among key and vulnerable populations thereby fast-tracking the achievement of the 90-90-90 targets and ending AIDS by 2030.

## Refugees

Nigeria is a party to all international and regional refugee and human rights instruments relevant to the protection of refugees without reservations, namely the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Nigeria is also a party to the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. These are domesticated through the National Commission for Refugees Act, which also establishes the Commission with clear responsibility for protection of refugees that extends throughout the country. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) was originally established as National Commission for Refugees by Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act) in fulfilment of the Federal Government's obligation under Resolution 319(IV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations and Article 35 of the United Nations 1951 Convention. The NCFR Act provides the legal and administrative framework for refugee management. It also sets out guidelines for application and determination of refugee status in Nigeria. The Federal Government expanded the mandate of the Commission to cover issues relating to IDPs and the coordination of Migration and Development in 2002 and 2009 respectively.

Violent clashes in Cameroon between the military and armed separatists have driven thousands of Cameroonians over the border into Nigeria since 2017. The displaced, most of whom are women and children, face a grave situation in both countries. Having fled with very little, their presence in host communities is straining food resources and already limited health, education and WASH facilities. As the conflict persists

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<sup>145</sup> <https://naca.gov.ng/legal-environment-assessment-on-hiv-aids-in-nigeria-2015/>

<sup>146</sup> <https://hivlawcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/undp-rba-hhd-2016-nigeria-removing-legal-and-human-right-barriers-to-hiv-and-aids.pdf>.



in Cameroon, it is anticipated that the influx into Nigeria will continue.

As of August 2021, Nigeria is host to approximately 73,000 refugees and asylum seekers. The majority are Cameroonian refugees from anglophone regions of Cameroon (approximately 67,000), 50% of them being children, primarily residing in the Nigerian states of Cross River (38,025), Taraba (17,663), Benue (9,961) and Akwa-Ibom (1,216). Using an out of camp approach, refugees live among host populations and in four settlements also fully integrated within the surrounding community. UNHCR provides basic assistance and services to 42% of Cameroonian refugees who primarily live in the four refugee settlements, with 58% living in host communities and receiving minimal assistance. Refugees and the host population face a variety of vulnerabilities in multiple sectors. These include food insecurity, lack of income generating activities due to limited access to key livelihood assets and supporting systems, price inflations, limited access to essential services and systems. In addition, there are 4,482 urban refugees from different countries living mainly in Nigerian cities. The ongoing violence in Cameroon continues to drive the civilian population to seek refuge in Nigeria. In 2021, new arrivals have continued, with approximately 4,000 individuals entering Nigeria primarily in Taraba state, about 500 entering Benue state in May and another 400 individuals arriving in Benue state at the end of September.

Nigeria has maintained an open-door policy to refugees. Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria are granted Temporary Protection Status renewable every two years. Refugees in Nigeria enjoy rights including freedom of movement and the right to live and work in Nigeria. Refugees are included in the national education system on par with nationals and have

access to national health services. Nevertheless, refugee hosting areas are in local government regions that have weak and over-stretched social services, limited economic opportunities further impacted by COVID-19, and limited access to electricity, water, sanitation and health services. Enrolment rates among refugee school-aged children remains low at 34% for primary and 18.5% for secondary school. The main challenges for refugees seeking employment or engaging in business are discrimination and socio-cultural barriers.

In December 2019, in line with the principles outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), Nigeria made four pledges at Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to (1) include refugees, IDPs, returnees and their host communities in National Government development plans; (2) to strengthen its protection capacity; (3) to ensure the availability and access to durable solutions for refugees and IDPs; and (4) to continue playing an active and constructive role in regional and sub-regional efforts to address the root causes of displacement. Nigeria has taken a comprehensive approach to include refugees, IDPs and returnees in their pledges, aligning approaches wherever possible. The significant level of inclusion afforded with this approach provides a solid basis for development engagement in hosting areas, supporting local government service delivery and capacity, with a focus on ensuring self-reliance. Taking such a humanitarian/development nexus approach to the refugee response in Nigeria provides a significant opportunity to prevent the creation of a chronic humanitarian situation.

## Stateless Persons



Nigeria acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in 2011. However, the two Conventions on statelessness have not been domesticated. Meanwhile, there are risks of statelessness identified in Nigeria. As highlighted in a report for UNHCR on statelessness in West Africa, the categories of people most at risk of statelessness in West Africa - and Nigeria - can be grouped under three broad headings: migrants and other forcibly displaced; cross border populations; and vulnerable children (e.g., foundlings, abandoned children). In the context of Nigeria, where a certificate of indigeneity issued by a LGA is critical proof of citizenship, IDPs would be an additional category at risk, especially children who have been separated from their parents and who lack the knowledge that would enable them to show their connection to a particular LGA. In each individual case, the degree of risk of statelessness varies with those who are poor and lack other resources, including connections to influential people, are at heightened risk.

Nigeria signed the Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness in ECOWAS Member States in 2015, wherein it committed to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) to eradicate statelessness in Nigeria in close consultation and cooperation with a multi-stakeholder, including civil society, national human rights institutions, academia, and various government departments and agencies.

Joint advocacy by key stakeholders with the Ministry of interior and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (MHSSD) resulted in the adoption in November 2020 of the National Plan of Action for the Eradication of the Statelessness in Nigeria by the Federal Executive Council. The actions therein are consistent with

Nigeria's international obligations, commitments, and strategies within the overall strategic directions of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness (2014-2024). Considering that statelessness is a human rights issue, a humanitarian issue, a development issue, as well as a peace and security issue, addressing statelessness will go a long way towards realizing the SDGs in the context of Nigeria's National Development Agenda. Thus, there are linkages between Nigeria's development agenda and the eradication of statelessness.



# Multidimensional SDG Risk Analysis

Risk Area	Description / Analysis of Risk	Assessment	Impact
Democratic Space	Although the support for democracy is strong, confidence by the population in the ability of electoral officials to conduct free and fair elections remains low. The potential for election related violence also remains high. Local elections are not conducted in many states which is a significant gap.	High	Extensive
Displacement and Migration	The escalating incidences of violence and insecurity continues to cause displacement. This combined with regional economic challenges increases the risk of increased internal and external migration with consequences for social cohesion and regional stability.	High	Extensive
Economic Stability	Significant risks to the recovery from the pandemic persist with significant macro-economic vulnerabilities. The implications on an already sub-optimal level of job creation will have implications for livelihoods.	High	Extensive
Environment and Climate	Continued dependence of a large part of the population on agriculture implies annual weather-related risks to livelihoods. Although this risk is rated as medium, the impact of a weather anomaly on the agriculture sector will be extensive with cascading impacts on internal security and food security.	Medium	Intermediate/ Extensive
Food security, agriculture, and land	Rising food inflation, displacement from farmlands due to insecurity, and productivity challenges continue to increase the incidence of food insecurity. With many households spending a majority of their incomes on food, the effects of continued food insecurity can be extensive.	High	Extensive
Internal security	The plethora of security challenges across most of the country in different forms is likely to have extensive impact on Nigeria's progress towards the SDGs, with significant potential for a deterioration in outcomes if the internal security challenges persist.	High	Extensive



Infrastructure and access to social services	Infrastructure remains a challenge with cascading impacts. The government, however, continues to make investments to improve the quality, although challenges persist with financing.	Medium	Extensive
Justice and rule of law	Although there are significant challenges with regard to justice and rule of law, the risk of a significant further deterioration is medium.	Medium	Extensive
Political stability	Nigeria's democracy continues to mature with the attendant political stability that it brings. Although there are elections in 2023 the risk on instability with regard to the transition of power is low. There, however, remains a risk of election related violence which may have wide reaching impacts on livelihoods.	Medium	Extensive
Public health	Significant diseases remain endemic in Nigeria and those continue to have extensive impacts on lives and livelihoods. Although improvements have been made in disease surveillance and the healthcare system, governance challenges especially at the local level result in the continued risk of public health challenges.	High	Extensive
Regional and global influences	Nigeria remains a strong regional and global partner with the likelihood of any significant change in the regional or global influence and cooperation low. Continued economic challenges may however carries the risk of more economic introversion.	Medium	Intermediate
Social cohesion, equality, and non-discrimination	Tensions associated with internal security challenges, elections, and climate-induced competition for resources carry risks for continued internal social cohesion with potential extensive impacts. Prejudice with regard to gender and sexuality remain high.	Medium	Extensive



## Financing

The current fiscal situation of the Nigerian government poses a significant risk to the country's efforts to meet the SDGs<sup>147</sup>. Although not part of the standard multi-dimensional risk analysis, financing poses a significant risk for Nigeria across all SDGs. The low general government revenues and the challenging expenditure on social sector trends when combined with the high rate of poverty and inequality means tens of millions are at risk of being left behind. The size of Nigeria implies that this will put a significant dent in the global efforts to meet the SDGs if efforts are not accelerated.

## Data for Development

Data collection continues to pose a challenge to the Nigerian policy space as it affects policy design, implementation and evaluation. National Population Census provides benchmark data for national planning and it is a key exercise to achieve sustainable development. Census data offers critical information for governments to make decisions about how and where to secure and distribute resources, address inequities, and structure governance systems. In Nigeria, the last national population and housing census was conducted in 2006 and the follow up census due in 2016 is yet to be conducted. National Plans have been based on projections which tend to be inaccurate as the baseline data ages. This situation is compounded by an inadequate vital registration system in the country. The huge financial implication for the census exercise has been cited as a major

challenge, however, in a context of increasingly scarce resources, allocation decisions ought to be informed by evidence. A significant amount of data collection including the census are supported by international donors which means they are sometimes more aligned with donor priorities. The reality of internal variation across most of the SDGs means that data collection, especially disaggregated and at the subnational level is urgently needed if efforts to accelerate action to meet the SDGs are to be successful. Nigeria is making efforts to improve its data collection especially from administrative and local sources and support will be required.

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<sup>147</sup> Discussed in more detail in the Financing Landscape.



# Cross-boundary, Regional and Sub-regional Perspectives



## Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Efforts

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC - in French, Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad, CBLT) was created on 22 May 1964 by the heads of state of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, making it one of the oldest basin organisations in Africa. The LCBC was created with a mandate to manage the waters of Lake Chad and other transboundary water resources in the Lake Chad basin in a sustainable way, to conserve the ecosystem of the conventional basin, and to promote regional integration and safeguard the peace and security in the basin.

Split between the ECOWAS and ECCAS space, the Lake Chad Basin countries find themselves encompassing a region of heightened mobility and porous borders under increasing environmental and security pressure. Over the years, the LCBC partner countries have struggled to fulfil their mission. The main players, including the regional hegemon Nigeria, have invested some political capital in the project, but favour major politically attractive interventions such as refilling the lake from the Ubangui river over structural interventions such as in the area of agricultural adaptation and environmental conservation around the basin's effluents and desilting the Lake to stop water evaporation and increase retention. The rise of Boko Haram put the LCBC at the centre of attention, as the affected states needed a political forum to coordinate joint military efforts and cross-border cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The LCBC provided a cross-regional entry-point and the necessary legal framework to host cooperation and channel funds for a Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) between Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad

and Benin. The common threat and first experiences in military cooperation to some extent reasserted the wavering relevance of the organisation and deepened political ties between the basin countries.

Over the last decade, the four riparian countries of Lake Chad (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria), have been experiencing various challenges, exacerbated by repeated incidences of violence from the Boko Haram terrorist group. In response to the crisis, the four affected countries and the Benin Republic, in 2015, resolved to contribute troops, with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC), for the reorganization and operationalization of the MNJTF against Boko Haram. Despite the significant progress made by the MNJTF, there is a consensus by all concerned stakeholders that the overall success of the collective effort will be contingent upon the implementation of an overall stabilization programme by the affected countries. To achieve this, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in partnership with AUC and support from UNDP, developed a Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery & Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS). The Strategy was adopted by the LCBC Council of Ministers on 30 August 2018 and endorsed by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on 5 December 2018. The Strategy seeks to generate policies and programmes geared towards the short, medium and long-term stabilization and development of the Lake Chad Basin region, to anchor on commonalities while taking into account the peculiarities of each of the concerned states in the region, and to address the root causes of the crisis to enhance resilience. Overall, it is expected to consolidate the gains made by the MNJTF in the Boko Haram-affected areas. The strategy is underpinned by a set of nine guiding principles adopted at the First Regional Conference on



“Supporting the development of a framework for a Regional Stabilization Strategy for areas affected by Boko Haram” convened from 2 to 4 November 2017 in N’Djamena, Chad. These principles are expected to guide the implementation of the strategy and includes:

1. National and Regional ownership
2. Leadership: National, Regional and Continental
3. Mutual accountability
4. Cooperation and complementarity
5. Mutually reinforcing partnerships
6. Transformative Approaches to stabilization and development
7. Respect for Regional, Continental & International Human Rights Instruments
8. Capacity building for effective service delivery
9. Gender mainstreaming

For effective coordination, the nine RSS pillars of intervention, have been arranged into three clusters, namely: governance, development/humanitarian, and security/protection to ensure alignment with existing frameworks and mechanisms including the United Nations Country Framework for Assistance, AU Sahel Strategy and the UNISS.

Governance Cluster		Development and Humanitarian Cluster		Security and Protection Cluster	
1	Political Cooperation	4	Humanitarian Assistance	2	Security & Human Rights
5	Governance and Social Contract	6	Socio-Economic Recovery & Environmental Sustainability	3	Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram
		7	Education, Learning & Skills	8	Prevention of Violent Extremism and Building Peace
9	Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth				

Lake Chad Basin, for instance, is the site of a large-scale, complex and protracted humanitarian emergency. Factors contributing to the crisis include conflict, rapid population growth and severe vulnerability caused by the effects of climate change, environmental degradation and poverty. Over the past 60 years, a series of factors have driven things in the wrong direction across the Lake Chad Basin. The first was political and economic marginalization. In all cases, except Chad, capitals are far distant from the lake and its people. Niamey, the capital of Niger, is at best a three-day drive from Diffa, the Nigerien region straddling the lake. Northern Cameroon is not only a long distance from the country’s capital, Yaoundé, but the north and the capital have been at odds politically for decades. The second factor was poor governance. Since independence, all four countries have struggled in terms of socio-economic progress, inequality and rule of law and corruption. A third factor, and one sometimes overlooked by development practitioners, was the overall political and security context. In all four countries, leaders’ overriding concern was with power



politics and security. Given regular power struggles in Chad, for example, it should be no surprise that the political elite in N'Djamena were overwhelmingly focused on staying in power, which often led them to cater to the security services at great cost for an economically poor nation. These three factors – marginalization, governance, and insecurity – have combined with deepening poverty, environmental degradation and a population explosion that eclipses almost anywhere else on earth.

The 7 million people living across the region in the early 1970s had grown to some 30 million just 40 years later. Conservative lifestyle of religious influencers has contributed to the shrinking of Lake Chad, coupled with factors of climate change, marginalization, governance and insecurity. The extremely affected people somehow find themselves at a crossroads where insurgency is seen as an effective remedy for change and survival. This interlink is grounded upon long standing grievances that were not managed. If the shrinking factors are not addressed, it will feed ongoing insurgency. The continuous adoption of Islamic lifestyle in the LCB and the national driving conflict dynamics make it easy for Boko Haram to infiltrate the crisis and create a regional linkage based on existing similarities of grievances, interest and religious fundamentalism.

As aforesaid, implementing the RSS of the Lake Chad Basin remains the most viable approach in addressing the complex and multifaceted challenges in the region. Nigeria's leadership role cannot be over emphasized and must continue especially with regard to the support to the military, humanitarian and developmental initiatives within the context of the implementation of the RSS. Most observers have often stressed on the need for enhanced coordination between countries affected by the Boko Haram

activities, actors supporting these countries including donor countries as a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the RSS. A strengthened Lake Chad Basin Commission renewed political engagement at the highest levels of the respective countries to sustain the political will, predictable funding for the implementation of the RSS and other humanitarian and developmental initiatives, as well as strengthening the peace and development nexus are areas that may need continued attention.

### **Transhumance and Farmer-Herder Crisis in the Regional Context.**

Farmer and herder conflicts witnessed in Nigeria are not just an internal affair but part of a regional challenge as herders frequently traverse across national boundaries. As far as Africa is concerned, the most concerted and serious attention to human suffering or humanitarian response since 2011 has focused on South Sudan, and to some extent Somalia.

Environmental factors such as soil degradation and desertification, and other salient issues, have increased tensions between farmers and herdsmen and resulted in increased conflict situations. These clashes further indicate that reasons for displacement in the Lake Chad Basin region are very much interlinked. Factors related to climate change are feeding into communal clashes as environmental conditions drive herders south in the dry season for pasture, with the conflict severely affecting the relationship between different communities in the region. Community clashes also include clashes over land ownership, as well as religious clashes and associated political clashes (an upsurge in violence could affect national elections



scheduled for February 2023) in mixed ethnoreligious tense areas.

Indeed, desertification, torrid weather patterns, dryness of the rivers, and lack of pastures have pushed herders further south into the Middle Belt region. In these areas, climate change is aggravating poverty due to environmental degradation and other stressors on resources that sustain the livelihoods of both farmer and herder communities. This has a ripple effect on political stability and social cohesion, as politicians often use these grievances to mobilize support along ethno-religious lines in their fight for power, escalating these conflicts to violence. Media coverage often reinforces these divisive narratives through sensational reporting with insufficient analysis or explanation. Incomplete, inaccurate, or biased information often misrepresents the causes of conflict, its manifestations, and impact. Furthermore, the rise of social media and prevalence of fake news further contributes to the escalation of violence by pitting groups against one another<sup>8</sup>. In the absence of mutually agreed upon conflict mediation mechanisms, including sustained community-level dialogue, disputes have increasingly turned violent. The failures of most governments' justice mechanisms to provide justice for farmers have led to the self-armament of both farmers and pastoralist as a means to protect and gain access to resources. The unilateral closure of borders for herders had no impact in the conflict dynamics as factors of climate change, cattle diseases, and insecurity forces herders to move for greener pastures through other porous and virgin migrating corridors into farmlands or green environment.

The interlinkages between climate change and violence were studied in a meta-analysis of 60 of the strongest quantitative studies and found that “for each one standard deviation change in climate toward warmer temperatures or more extreme rainfall, median estimates indicate that the frequency of interpersonal violence rises 4% and the frequency of intergroup conflict rises 14%”<sup>148</sup>. With the ongoing violent conflict, building the capacity to cope with the increasingly frequent and extreme climate shocks and adapt to more variable climate conditions remain a significant challenge for farmer and herder communities and for Nigeria's federal government. Indeed, findings of a 2015 Mercy Corps study in the Horn of Africa showed that stronger relationships between traditionally conflicting groups can better enable communities to employ adaptive capacities in preparation for climate and other shocks and stresses and facilitate quicker recovery from them.

The trans-boundary nature of the challenge implies that regional approaches to finding a lasting solution to the crisis will need to be implemented, incorporating strategies devised by UNISS, UNOWAS. For instance, programmes like the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Resilient Pastoralism Programme by UNISS could be go starting points for integrating regional approaches.

### **Regional and Africa-wide Trade: ECOWAS and AfCFTA and Associated Issues**

The creation of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs), one of which is the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), plays not only a central role in Africa's regional and continental integration agenda but also in

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<sup>148</sup> Hsiang, Burke, & Miguel, 2013



its trade landscape. Under the African Union's Agenda 2063, Africa's RECs are also a manifestation of the continent's goal to transform the continent into a global powerhouse which serves as the building blocks for the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA was launched on January 1, 2021 and has the objective of gradually eliminating 97% of tariff lines for goods and services produced and traded within Africa, and harmonizing trade procedures and standards. This is intended to facilitate the overarching goal of using intra-Africa trade to facilitate industrialisation within the continent.

To date, the Agreement has 54 signatories including Nigeria, 40 countries have complied with their domestic requirements for the ratification and 38 states have deposited their instruments for ratification. The AfCFTA is also predicted to "stimulate intra-African trade by up to \$35 billion per year, creating a 52% increase in trade by 2022; and a vital \$10 billion decrease in imports from outside Africa".

Nigeria has the largest economy and population on the African continent, which makes it an important member of the AfCFTA. Although it is the largest oil producer on the continent (10th in the world), Nigeria's economic growth in recent times comes mostly from its non-oil sectors. Furthermore, the country accounts for approximately 76% of the total officially recorded trade in the continent. However, Nigeria experienced a delay in the signing of the AfCFTA agreement as a result of concerns raised by some key public and private sector stakeholders. These concerns bordered on the vulnerability of Nigeria's large market - one of its main selling points - to capture by other African countries. Current challenges with production, productivity and export growth mean the country may struggle to compete with some more industrialised countries like South Africa. This meant that Nigeria was joining the

free trade area more as a consumer market than a producing one - as far as non-oil goods and services are concerned. The country later signed the agreement after careful engagement with the stakeholders.

Despite these challenges, Nigeria's participation and compliance remains crucial to the AfCFTA. This is also considering its tendency to disobey regional agreements whenever they are perceived to clash with domestic needs. A case in point was the closure of all land borders by Nigerian officials, a few months after the AfCFTA came into force in March 2019.

As the country shares a land border with Benin, Togo, Niger and Cameroon, the border closure had a severe impact on trade between these countries and Nigeria. The stated primary objective of the closure was to curb the smuggling of goods such as rice but inevitably impacted livelihoods in local border communities while contributing to food inflation and shortages within the country. The borders were eventually reopened, without clear communication on whether the objectives of the closure were met. Border closures, driven by various reasons, will go against any agreements promoting fair, free and transparent competition and economic integration which is advocated by the AfCFTA and puts a strain on the sustainability of any bilateral and/or regional relations. Any bilateral and regional ties, such as the ones of the AfCFTA, will only succeed if borders remain open.

The Nigerian market is important to Africa, but the reverse is also the case. In 2020, Nigeria enjoyed a \$4.6-billion trade surplus with Africa, although driven mostly by crude oil exports. Africa takes up a 20% share of Nigeria's exports. The continental market will only grow in importance to Nigeria as it struggles to diversify its exports away from crude oil. The country can only properly reap the benefits of the AfCFTA if it



resolves the challenges faced by its producers and exporters in scaling their activities and improving productivity. Critical infrastructure will also need to be provided and improved, such as road networks and port services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on Africa's socio-economic landscape hitting at the time when the AfCFTA is at its critical phase of implementation. The border closures and travel bans have undermined the expectations of enhanced intra-Africa trade. The coronavirus disease pandemic, while above all a public health crisis, has presented the African continent with unprecedented economic challenges. In order to contain cross-border transmission of the virus, countries have introduced various restrictions to cross-border and transit freight transportation. Almost all African countries, to a differing degree, suspended international flights at some point, introduced 14-day quarantine for entrants into the country, and closed land or maritime borders. Out of Africa's 54 countries, 38 announced land closures in some form, and 17 countries announced maritime border closures. Under a set of strict regulations, these closures were targeted at reducing the movement of people while allowing exemptions for the movement of emergency and essential freight supplies. Such regulations typically cover mandatory testing, sanitizing trucks, limiting the numbers of crew members on trucks, and designating transit resting areas. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reports that trade in merchandise fell globally by 5% in the first quarter of the year and predicts a 27% drop for the second quarter and a 20% annual decline for 2020 (UNCTAD, 2020). Disruptions to cross-border trade present significant challenges for Africa's fight against COVID-19, and risk holding back the continent's progress towards the

Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the aspirations identified in 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want' of the African Union. Bilateral and regional relations were suspended. ECOWAS prepared a set of guidelines for harmonized facilitation of cross-border trade and transport amid COVID-19. The guidelines were reviewed by the ECOWAS Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Transport, Logistics and Trade on 17 June 2020 for adoption by the ECOWAS heads of states.

Furthermore, COVID-19 has pulled the continent into the global economic recession, and this has resulted in a drop in demand for key African commodities such as agricultural products, industrial metal and precious metal. Moreover, the halt on all tariff negotiations has created uncertainty among low developing economies (LDCs) as tariffs account for a sizable percentage of their revenue. Additionally, most African countries depend on agriculture and manufacturing for their export earnings, the closure of borders and decrease in cross-border trade has resulted in food shortages and increased food prices. For the vulnerable and poor, COVID-19 has created a demand risk as there is no efficient sector to promote self-reliance.

The security challenges in Nigeria also have the potential to negatively impact its participation in the AfCFTA. Measures to deal with security challenges might run counter to the spirit of open and fair trade and lead to "tit for tat" measures. An example can be seen in with Nigeria's closure of land borders in 2019 with the need to control the flow of small arms and light weapons one of the reasons given. The vision of a single liberalised market is anchored on a safe and conducive business environment with enabling infrastructure and institutional frameworks. The security challenges, therefore, put this vision at risk.



## Gulf of Guinea Maritime Crime Piracy Issues

With a growing number of incidents of piracy in recent years, the epicentre of global piracy has gradually shifted into the Gulf of Guinea, adding further to the multi-dimensional security threats faced by the region. The number of incidents related to maritime crime and piracy in and out of Nigerian waters was 123 in 2016, 119 in 2017, 110 in 2018, 84 in 2019 and 22 until May 2020. Although the numbers had been decreasing until 2016, piracy attacks were mainly targeting vessels for oil theft, kidnapping for ransom is now the main business model of pirates raising an eye on securitization issues in the region.

## Regional Context for Organized Crime Especially Human Trafficking and Smuggling

The Sahel-Saharan region has always been a trade and migration route. However, factors such as the lack of state authority, the collapse of the traditional pastoral economy, corruption and the presence of arms have created an ideal environment for illicit trafficking. On 25 February 2013, ECOWAS and UNODC jointly released a Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) for West Africa which underscores the need to address methamphetamine production and trafficking in cocaine, heroin, cannabis, firearms and fraudulent medicine. Since 2005, the international community is increasingly concerned about the situation in the region because there is growing evidence of cocaine trafficking from Latin America and the involvement of organized crime networks in the region. Apart from drug trafficking, the region is also witnessing illicit trafficking in human beings (including the smuggling of migrants), fuel,

cigarettes, counterfeit medicine, firearms and toxic waste. In 2009, UNODC estimated that these major illicit flows were worth about US\$ 3.8 billion annually, a figure that is higher than the GDP of several West African countries. UNODC has recorded increases in organized crime in 2020.

The destabilizing effect of such trafficking flows and their impact on development and security in the Sahel and its environs are extremely serious. Criminal activities have reached a level that poses a threat to governance in the entire region. Criminal networks have intensified their operations in the Sahel and expanded their illicit trade activities across the entire region. Coupled with this, the profits generated from drug trafficking, illicit trafficking, organized crime and kidnapping for ransom can be used easily for corruption, which only makes an already precarious situation even worse for instance in Mali.

The Jihadist group in the region, on the other hand, seems to have a stronger link with terrorism as part of their modus operandi. Thus, trade relations and assistance to carry out illicit activities makes Jihadism closest to organized criminal elements. The ISIS franchise in the Sahel has expanded significantly, confounding the efforts of regional armies and a French-led military mission. What is clear from Crisis Group's interviewees is that the global jihadist group played a critical role in rebranding the Lake Chad militants under its franchise and provided them with valuable concrete assistance that strengthened their insurgency. The relations are stronger in the LCB and Central Sahel, likely due to a shared ideology and long-term vision which seems unclear.

In 2020, The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) with the support of the UNODC and funding from the Government of



Switzerland officially kicked-off the process to develop a new National Action Plan against human trafficking in Nigeria. NAPTIP gathered over thirty stakeholders including ministries, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations and international partners for a 3-day workshop in Abuja to set the priorities of the new national action plan. Nigeria has increased law enforcement measures to tackle organized crimes and businesses in 2020. Law enforcement measures include efforts to improve the customs and immigration services in relation to transnational organized crime, installation of detection equipment at airports and seaports, internal security and policing. Such efforts would include extensive training of officers in the face of new threats such as terrorism, improved intelligence gathering and analysis and its effect on prevention if any, improvement of community policing through cooperation with the vigilante services in northeast Nigeria, arrests, re-arrests and prosecutions of criminals including prosecution of suspected military officers aiding Boko Haram. While the collective efforts of Nigeria and other West and Central African states at combating transnational organised crime and the spread of terrorism are yielding some gains, core gaps are recurring in lack of political will, bad governance, and poorly equipped and motivated military and security agencies. This, coupled with other problems such as the porosity of borders and non-involvement of the people, continue to inhibit real progress. Nigeria has increased partnership and collaboration in the area of mitigating SALW through mainstreaming SALW into peace and security programming. Under the direct oversight of the ECOWAS, ECOWAS has been leading states in the region to fully implement the Moratorium on the

Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa and to take small steps to better combat trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and the ECOWAS Conventions on Small Arms. ECOWAS and partners are also taking the lead to influence states in the region to promote the conditions for the safe return of refugees, and disarmament affairs. States are also encouraged to promote conditions for peace, by promoting dialogue and human rights standards. The unregulated and unmanaged structures for SALW management are the key factors that drive its proliferation for years.

### Nigeria / Cameroon Border Issues

Nigeria and Cameroon share a border that is 1,875 km in length stretching from the Lake Chad region in Nigeria's North East to the Bakassi peninsula in Nigeria's South South geopolitical zone. The two countries have been allies and foes at different times. The economic relationship of both regions dates to the pre-colonial era, prior to the delineation into countries.<sup>149</sup> Today, both countries trade in a variety of commodities and products moving in both direction (Cameroon to Nigeria and Nigeria to Cameroon).

The relationship of both countries became strained in 1981 over border disputes which resulted in the militarization of the oil rich Bakassi peninsula, having been under the administration of Nigeria since its independence in 1960. This resulted in military skirmishes and some mortalities due to the dispute. Both countries subsequently became embroiled in a legal battle at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

<sup>149</sup> Kelechi Johnmary Ani, Gabriel Tiobo Wose Kinge, and Victor Ojatorotu, "Nigeria-Cameroon Relations : Focus on Economic History and Border Diplomacy," *Journal of African*

*Foreign Affairs* 5, no. 2 (November 1, 2018): 147–66, <https://doi.org/10.31920/2056-5658/2018/v5n2a8>.



which resulted in Cameroon being awarded the disputed region in 2003. A commission was then setup to facilitate the transition of the region from Nigeria to Cameroon. Nigeria officially handed over the Bakassi peninsula to the Government of Cameroon on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013. As part of the ICJ judgement, the residents who wished to move to Nigeria were expected to be settled and reintegrated into their new communities and not expected to be discriminated against.

It is estimated that there were over 170,000 returnees from the peninsula after the transfer of the region to the Cameroonian authorities. These returnees are noted to be in IDP camps or IDP-like communities across various states in the country, principally in Akwa Ibom and Cross River states. The communities where these returnees are resettled are noted to lack basic amenities resulting in significant social and economic inadequacies at the individual, family and societal levels. Unfortunately, many of the inhabitants lost their economic livelihood, which were often around fishing and seafood processing, a common profession in the region and found it difficult to fit into their resettled land. In 2017, 97 Nigerian fishermen who ventured into the zone were reportedly killed by Cameroonian forces that were enforcing a tax regime.<sup>150</sup>

Due to its extensive and under-patrolled land border, the Nigeria-Cameroon border has been identified as

one of the routes for small arms trafficking into Nigeria.<sup>151</sup> This is further worsened by the Boko Haram insurgency which operates across the borders of both countries since they began a violent campaign in 2009 aimed at stopping Western education. Both countries have suffered significant casualties with displaced individuals as a result of the insurgency. A multinational joint task force comprising of troops from five countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) was established in 2015 to combat this insurgency. While with good intentions, this task force has been poorly resourced and inefficient.<sup>152</sup> In addition, ongoing insecurity and violence in North-West and South-West Cameroon has driven civilian populations to seek refuge in Nigeria since 2017. Over 67,000 Cameroonians have crossed into Nigeria to date.

There are several opportunities at tourism that have been unexplored as a result of the strife and insecurity between the two countries. This region is unique for its wildlife, especially Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*pan troglodytes ellioti*) which is endemic to the region.<sup>153</sup> However, there is evidence that their numbers have been dwindling over time. In addition, the love for bushmeat in the region has seen the number of various wildlife dwindle over the years and many species might be getting endangered or nearing extinction due to over exploitation.<sup>154</sup>

<sup>150</sup> "Cameroon Forces 'kill 97 Nigerian Fishermen' in Bakassi," *BBC News*, July 14, 2017, sec. Africa, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40607306>.

<sup>151</sup> Caroline Varin and Freedom Onuoha, eds., *Security in Nigeria: Contemporary Threats and Responses* (I.B. Tauris, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781838607609>.

<sup>152</sup> "Better Governance of Underfunded, Poorly Managed Lake Chad Basin Key to Resolving Conflict, Suffering across Region, Speakers Tell Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases," accessed August 29, 2021, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13259.doc.htm>.

<sup>153</sup> Serge Alexis Kamgang et al., "The Relationship between the Abundance of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan Troglodytes Ellioti*) and Its Habitat: A Conservation Concern in Mbam-Djerem National Park, Cameroon," *BMC Ecology* 18, no. 1 (October 1, 2018): 40, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12898-018-0199-3>.

<sup>154</sup> John E. Fa et al., "Getting to Grips with the Magnitude of Exploitation: Bushmeat in the Cross-Sanaga Rivers Region, Nigeria and Cameroon," *Biological Conservation* 129, no. 4 (2006): 497-510.



# Financing Landscape



## Financing Trends

Nigeria faces significant challenges with regard to financing the SDGs. The landscape for financing has evolved significantly over the last two decades as the structure of the economy has changed. As is clear, Nigeria requires accelerated action and sustained efforts to meet the targets. These efforts similarly require significant financing. Estimates of the financing requirement vary. In 2019, the Federal Government estimated that the country would need \$55bn a year. In 2020, UNDP estimated that Nigeria would need an additional \$350bn (\$35bn annually) in financing to meet the SDGs by 2030. While the IMF, incorporating disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, suggests that Nigeria would need additional annual financing of 16.2%<sup>155</sup> (\$67bn in 2020) to meet the SDGs. The common theme across all estimates is that there are significant financing gaps and efforts are required.

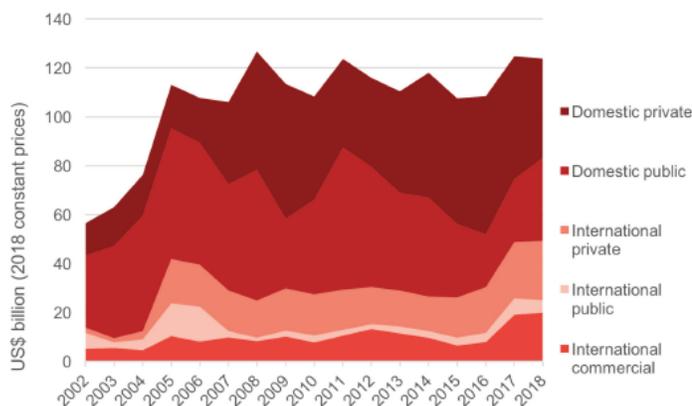


Fig 63: Aggregate Financing Landscape. Source: DFA.

The amount of resources available for meeting the SDGs has, however, plateaued in the last decade,

although there have been structural changes in the sources of financing. The landscape can be structured into five major categories: domestic private financing, domestic public financing, international private financing, international public financing, and international commercial financing.

## Domestic Private Financing

Domestic private financing typically refers to overall resources that are available to residents in Nigeria in a private capacity and includes a range of development finance actors, such as households, philanthropists, civil society and businesses, including their corporate social responsibility activities. The years of relatively high GDP growth and capital accumulation resulted in an expansion in domestic private financing. This now accounts for the largest share of all financing available to meet the SDGs. Financial sector development and increased credit to the private sector have played a significant part in this as well.

A majority of Nigerians currently finance access to key SDG related social services out of pocket. For instance, 77.5% of all health expenditures in 2017 were financed out-of-pocket with very few having access or being part of shared financing schemes<sup>156</sup>. Only 1.2% of Nigerians had access to health insurance in 2017. The same trends are repeated when observing access to education and basic services.

<sup>155</sup> A Post-Pandemic Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals – 2021  
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2021/04/27/A-Post-Pandemic-Assessment-of-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-460076>

<sup>156</sup> Independent Evaluation of the Effectiveness & Impact of the Sustainable Development Goal 3: Healthy Lives in Nigeria - 2020



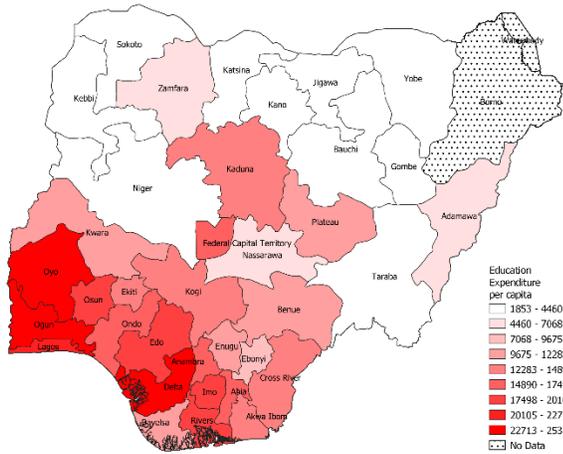


Fig 64: Education expenditure per capita. Source: NLSS Expenditure Tables – 2019

The preponderance of out-of-pocket financing combined with the aforementioned spatial inequality highlights a present challenge with domestic private financing. Many groups risk being left behind if left to their devices alone. For instance, Figure 64 above shows the distribution of spending on education in 2019. States with relatively high poverty rates and already low school attendance and enrolment rates face affordability challenges relative to others. They will be left even further behind without alternative non-self-financed arrangements.

### Domestic Public Financing

The trends in domestic public finances have worsened in recent times. The Nigerian government continues to be faced with a tightening fiscal space. In the decade prior to the last CCA, Nigeria saw fiscal revenue decline from 22.25% of GDP in 2006 to 5.54% in 2016. Although part of the rapid drop was due to the GDP rebasing exercise which saw an increase in the measured value of GDP, the key underlying driver was the growth of the economy and population, as well as stagnation in the crude oil sector which has been the primary source of government revenue. The tightening fiscal space has also been shaped by the crude oil price

crash in 2015 and 2020, which culminated in a recession and drops in overall government revenues.

Nigeria’s fiscal authorities continue to face the long-term challenge of over-exposure to the crude oil market, both from the perspective of the share of government revenue derived from crude oil, and from the perspective of the short-and-medium term volatility in the price and production. In dealing with this challenge, the focus has been to diversify the revenue base by increasing non-oil revenues on the one hand and implementing policies and strategies that limit the effects of shocks to crude oil prices on the other.

Since 2016, some fiscal reforms have been implemented to try to deal with these challenges. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017-2020) set growing non-oil revenues as a major objective. Over the period, actions were taken including: a revision of the National Tax Policy (2016 – 2017), a one-year tax amnesty, the Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme to expand the tax base, increases to excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol, an increase in the VAT rate from 5% to 7.5% starting in 2020, as well as other measures taken in the now annual Finance Bills. This focus is continued in the new National Development Plan for 2021 to 2025.

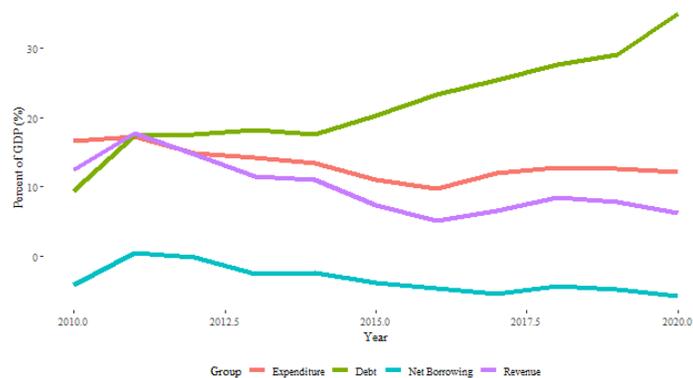


Fig 65: Fiscal Statistics National. Source: IMF



Despite efforts to increase government revenue, and specifically non-oil revenue, the outcomes have not been up to what is required. Overall, federally collected gross government revenue increased from about N6.1tn in 2015 to N8.74tn in 2019 in nominal terms. This implies a growth rate of roughly 9.4% per year. Considering that inflation has been consistently higher over the period, then in real terms federally collected revenue declined. In real terms, general government revenue in 2019 was lower than it was in 2014. The performance of non-oil revenues has been marginally better, although it also still fell in real terms. In nominal terms, it grew from N2.35tn in 2015 to N3.67tn in 2019, implying a growth rate of about 11.8%. Despite efforts to increase revenue the outcomes so far have been largely unsuccessful.

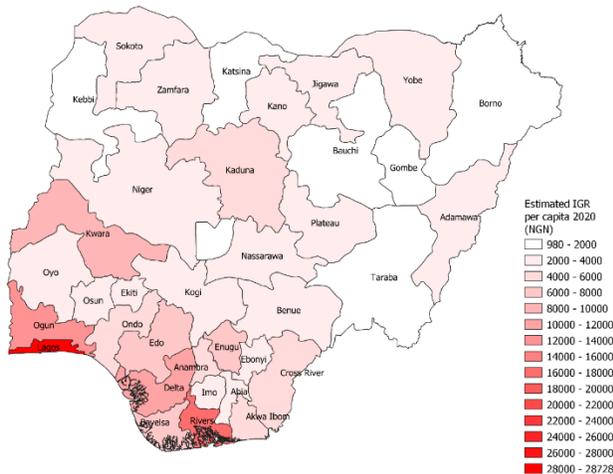


Fig 66: IGR per capita. Source: NBS and NPC

Efforts by subnational governments to increase their internally generated revenue (IGR) have been met with varying outcomes. IGR performance has improved on average. Overall IGR increased from N682bn in 2015 to N1.33tn in 2019<sup>157</sup>. Much of this is, however, down

<sup>157</sup> National Bureau of Statistics – Internally Generated Revenue Report 2019

<sup>158</sup> CBN Data is claims on Federal and State governments. Data for 2020 not available as at the time of this report.

to IGR generated by a few states, with Lagos and Rivers states alone accounting for over 40% of IGR in 2019. Regardless of the improvements, IGR still made up a smaller share of total revenue to state governments, with an average of 35% across states but with 15 states having less than 20% IGR to total revenue.

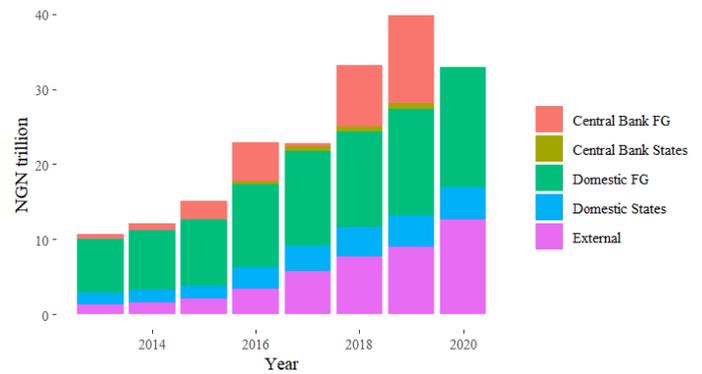


Fig 67: Composition of debt. Source: DMO and CBN<sup>158</sup>

Despite negative real growth in overall federally collected revenue, government expenditure has continued to expand, diverging from revenue. This divergence was partially due to attempts by the government to accelerate the recovery from the 2016 recession. Federal government expenditure increased from N5.2tn in 2015 to N9.5tn in 2019<sup>159</sup> in nominal terms, translating to a 16% increase per year. The consequence of the significantly faster growth in expenditure relative to revenue since 2016 is that fiscal deficits have increased significantly from N1.41tn in 2015 to N4.76tn in 2019. This has led to increasing debt, and further constrained the fiscal space. Overall public debts increased from N12tn at the end of 2015 to N27.4tn at the end of 2019, a 128% increase<sup>160</sup>. Importantly, over the last few years, the deficits have been significantly larger than budget assumptions leading to difficulties in financing. As a result, the

<sup>159</sup> CBN Q2 2020 – Statistical Database

<sup>160</sup> Quarterly public debt reports – Debt Management Office.



government has leaned on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for fiscal support. The credit to the federal government, in the form of direct overdrafts or converted bonds has risen significantly over the period, from N2.5tn at the end of 2015 to N11.7tn at the end of 2019<sup>161</sup>.

Rising debts and slow revenue growth have resulted in an increase in debt servicing costs. Although the debt-to-GDP at 19% in 2020 is relatively low compared to peer countries, the dislocation between tax revenue and GDP means that this statistic is not particularly useful. The share of debt servicing costs-to-revenue, which is a more useful measure demonstrates the increasing debt difficulties, as it increased from 38% in 2015 to 59.5% in 2019 and 97.8% in 2020<sup>162</sup>. The debt positions of states also remain tight on average, although with much variation across states. Total state domestic debt increased from N1.65tn in 2015 to N4.1tn in 2019.

In the near-term, the spending patterns with expenditure growing faster than revenue, and with budget revenue underperforming, combined with already planned deficits implies that the fiscal situation might deteriorate further. Although overall expenditure is not significantly high as a share of GDP compared to peer countries, the major challenge is mobilizing tax revenues and spending effectively and efficiently in ways that maximizes the positive impact on the economy and accelerates efforts to meeting the SDGs.

### Domestic Public Expenditure Trends

Separate from the revenue challenges, there are

specific challenges with regard to spending patterns. The main issues included low budget credibility, insufficient disclosure of funds, poor asset and liability management, anomalies in budget execution, low standards of financial reporting, and a lack of auditor independence although some improvements have been witnessed in macroeconomic and fiscal forecasting.



Fig 68: Budget allocation by sector. Source: MFBNP and UNICEF<sup>163</sup>

At the federal level, budgetary allocations to social sectors have increased over the years in nominal terms with larger shares going to education and health. The economic downturn between 2015 and 2017, however, saw a setback in spending with the share going to social sectors also falling.

However, as share of the budget both still fall short of the Incheon declaration for education and the Abuja declaration for health of at least 15% of the budget. The tight fiscal space and the associated frequently over-optimistic revenue projections have resulted in scenarios where approved budgets are not funded. The implication is that the already low budgetary allocations for social sectors end up being lower compared to actual spending.

<sup>161</sup> CBN Q2 2020 – Statistical Database

<sup>162</sup> Annual Budget Implementation Reports.

<sup>163</sup> MFBNP & UNICEF (2020)- Analysis of Social Expenditure, Budget Processes and Fiscal Space in Nigeria



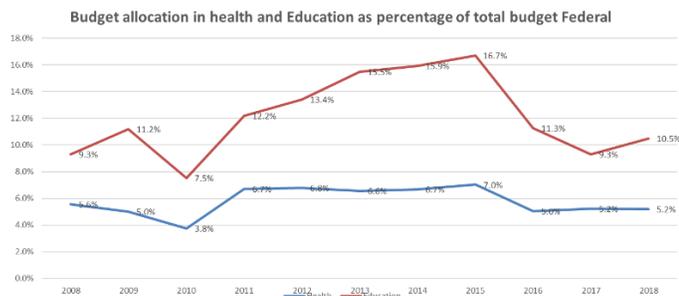


Fig 69: Budget allocation to education and health as a share of the budget. Source: MFBNP and UNICEF.

Although there is significant variation in expenditure patterns across states, the trends with regard to budget performance are similar with spending often lower than budgetary allocations due to funding shortfalls.

The implication of these trends in public expenditure is clear: Solving the financing for SDGs challenge must go hand in hand with improving expenditure and its focus.

### International Flows

In recent years, international flows have become a key source of financing for the SDGs. This has been driven by growth in international private flows, specifically remittances. International private remittances grew from \$17bn in 2005 to \$24bn in 2018, making up 47% of all international resource inflows into Nigeria.

Remittances have been a critical, counter-cyclical source of development finance to Nigeria for the last decade. The cost of sending cash remittances to Nigeria are, however, relatively high at 7.7% in 2020<sup>164</sup>. Although there are countries with higher remittance costs, Nigeria's is higher than some neighbouring

countries with Ghana at 7.43%, Cote D'Ivoire at 4.62%, Cameroon at 3.63% and Togo at 6.05%.

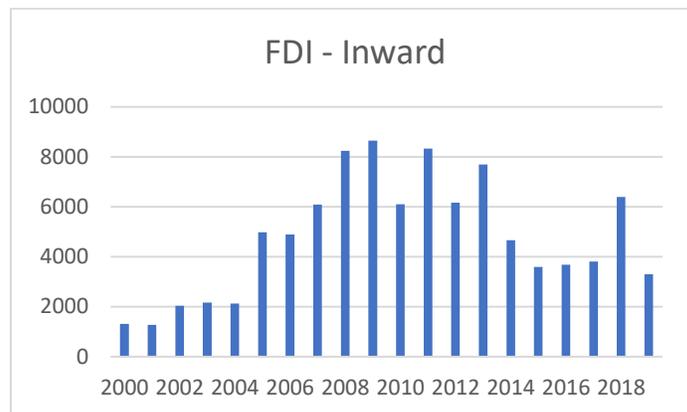


Fig 71: Foreign Direct Investment – Inward. Source: UNCTAD.

International commercial flows, although having grown significantly between 2000 and 2009, have declined in recent years. This decline has coincided with some of the internal challenges Nigeria has had particularly with the increasing security challenges and issues around the ease of doing business and the rule of law. Despite efforts made to improve on the operating environment with several business-focused reforms, the trends in foreign direct investment have remained stagnant in the last few years.

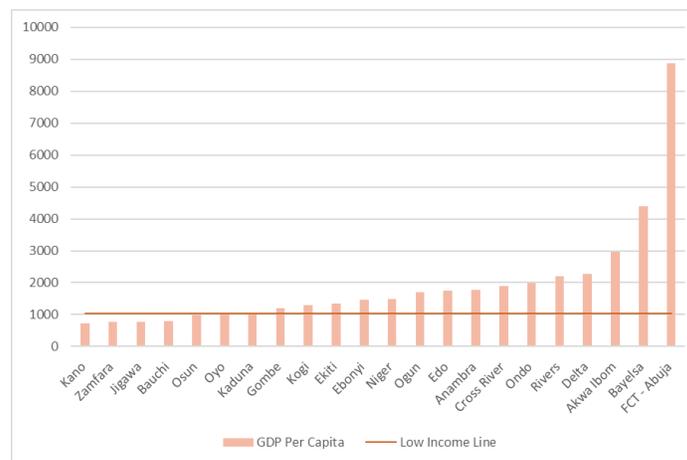


Fig 72: GDP per capita 2017 Nominal USD. Source: NBS, NPC<sup>165</sup>.

<sup>164</sup> World Bank, Remittance Prices Worldwide

<sup>165</sup> Author calculations using N306 exchange rate. Low income line is based on World Bank classifications



With regard to official development assistance, Nigeria's official status as a lower middle-income country, combined with the size of the population, means that international public flows do not make up a significant share of finances available. In 2019, net official development assistance received was equivalent to about 0.8% of GNI<sup>166</sup>, compared to 3.2% in sub-Saharan Africa, and up to 11.9% in Rwanda.

The country ranking, however, does not consider the significant spatial inequality in Nigeria where many states would count at low income if they were countries. As seen in Figure 72, many states with data available are near or below the official low-income threshold. This reality, combined with the overall low levels of general government revenue implies that many low-income, and in some cases, relatively large states are effectively excluded from some types of development assistance due to their being categorized as being in a lower-middle income country.

### Disruptions from COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic appears to have dramatically changed the financing landscape with crude oil prices plummeting to their lowest levels since 2003 at some point. Foreign direct investment to Africa is forecasted to have contracted by between 25% and 40%. The COVID-19 crisis has come at a time when FDI to Nigeria was already in decline. Global efforts towards net-zero is expected to continue that trend as oil and gas were significant sectors for investors. Net remittances, which have typically been counter-cyclical to crude oil prices, were also projected to have fallen by about 25% in 2020 compared to 2018.

These fiscal pressures, however, could provide the opportunity to undertake a comprehensive, long-term overhaul of Nigeria's tax system overcoming longstanding political economy dynamics that undermined previous tax system reform efforts. Addressing short-term SDG financing needs in Nigeria, while awaiting the sustainable increase in tax revenue collection, thus warrants a focus on improving SDG alignment and spending efficiency of available resources, both public and private.

### Key Issues and Opportunities in Financing

Nigeria is implementing a couple of programmes to boost revenue mobilization and to increase financing for the SDGs. Some of these are highlighted below.

#### Integrated Financing Framework (INFF)

Under the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria has made progress in developing the INFF. The INFF guides the FGN in planning and financing processes. It also highlights the need to scale up domestic and private financing. The Covid-19 pandemic has compounded the challenges, while at the same time presenting opportunities for innovative financing that can be harnessed to improve the financing landscape in Nigeria. Some potential innovative options include:

**Impact Investment** requires adopting a conducive regulatory environment and raising awareness of the development potential of impact investment and identifying SDG aligned priority sectors and regions for private sector investment. The establishment of a national advisory board for impact bonds is a right step in the right direction. Continued engagement of the

<sup>166</sup> World Bank



private sector groups such as the impact investment foundation offers options for advocacy and mobilization.

**Diaspora Bonds** – Research has shown that one third of the diaspora has supported Nigeria in ways other sending money home. 12% is reported to have been invested in government bonds to target investment. In 2018, this made 1.2 of the external debt stocks. 70% of people interviewed showed interest in investing in Nigeria. This is an area which Nigeria can explore through schemes to channel diaspora bonds.

**South-South Cooperation** – increasing the number of other players through South-South cooperation and engaging other emerging economies is a potential option.

**Official Development Assistance** (ODA) from bilateral donors and international donors.

**Public Private partnerships** can be an innovative option. In 2009, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved a national policy on PPP and introduced a National Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP) for coordinated implementation of projects to fill the infrastructure gap over the 30-year period (2014 to 2043). Strengthening the regulatory frameworks within FGN and state governments to improve the implementation of PPPs is, however, necessary.

**Harnessing remittances** – the bulk of remittances are used to subsidize households needs – mainly education and health financial needs – these have positive multiplier effects on the economies and human capital over time. Reducing costs and improving SDG impactful options have potential for impact.

## Exploring Potential Options for Financing

In exploring options for financing some key points can be leverage for impact. Some of the are highlighted below.

Tackling challenges with **illicit financial flows**, from corruption, tax avoidance and evasion and others, can create some fiscal space for funding the SDGs. One estimate puts the annual value of illicit financial flows from corporate tax avoidance alone in developing and transition economies in Africa at \$18bn a year<sup>167</sup>. Properly measuring and reversing these flows can increase significantly the stock of financing in both the public and private sector for the SDGs.

The increasing access to **mobile phones and internet connectivity and the digitalization of transactions** has both promise and potential hazards. On the one hand, it may create more room for the formalization of informal transactions which is significant in the Nigerian context as the informal sector is a large portion of the economy. Alternatively, it may lead to risks as companies leverage digital connectivity and the ease of cross-border transactions to change their tax jurisdictions. Taking advantage of the opportunities and managing the risks will be an important challenge in improving financing for the SDGs.

Innovations in **public-private-partnership models** may also be an important option. Understanding how private sector financing can be harnessed to accelerate movement towards the SDGs will be key especially in the Nigerian context where domestic and international private flows are dominant.

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<sup>167</sup> Trade and Development Report 2019 - UNCTAD



Financing options like the **Green Climate Fund** (GCF) which offer long-term financing opportunities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and **green bonds**. Nigeria has some experience in this regard with the government having initiated a US\$ 29.7 million green bond market targeted mostly towards clean energy and national afforestation programmes<sup>168</sup>.

The **Global Environment Facility Fund** (GEF fund) also provides countries options to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements. Through the GEF fund, specifically GEF 6 in 2020, Nigeria received a total financing of US\$102 million to address challenges in priority focal areas. However, the evaluation of the use and sustainability of these funds in Nigeria is yet to be done. This is important in understanding the potential for more flows through these channels.

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<sup>168</sup> <https://www.climatebonds.net/certification/federal-government-nigeria>



# National Vision on 2030 Agenda and Institutional Frameworks



## National Development Plans

### National Development Plan (2021 – 2025)

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021 – 2025, is the successor to the ERGP which elapsed in 2020 and is focused on unlocking the potential of all sectors for a sustainable, holistic, and inclusive national development. The plan has as its objectives: to establish a strong foundation for a diversified economy, robust MSME growth, and a more resilient business environment; invest in critical physical, financial, digital, and innovation infrastructure to build a solid framework and enhancing capacities to strengthen security and ensure good governance; enable a vibrant, educated, and healthy population; invest in the social infrastructure and services required to alleviate poverty; and promote development opportunities across states to minimize regional economic and social disparities.

The plan is clustered around seven focus areas. The **economic growth and development** cluster includes a focus on: macroeconomic stability; agriculture and food security; integrated rural development; manufacturing; oil and gas; solid minerals, mining, and steel development; culture, creative, hospitality, and tourism; and the business environment, trade, and competitiveness. The **infrastructure** cluster focuses on transportation, power and alternative energy, housing and urban development, digital economy, science, technology and innovation, and the financial sector. The **public administration** cluster focuses on defence, peace, and security; governance, institutions and national orientation; and foreign policy and international

economic relationships. The **human capital development** cluster focuses on education and human resources; health; and food and nutrition. The **social development** cluster focuses on water resources and sanitation; environment and disaster management; women and gender equity; population and identify management; accelerating the realisation of demographic dividend in Nigeria; poverty alleviation and social protection; humanitarian affairs; youth development; sports development; employment and job creation; and persons with disabilities. The **regional development cluster** focuses on subnational government cooperation and collaboration. Finally, the plan includes **implementation, communication, financing, and monitoring and evaluation** frameworks.

Two key risks with regard to the plan implementation are the expected change in government after elections in 2023. There is a significant risk of a new government opting to have its own plan, even if there is no change in the political party in leadership positions. Although the key underlying issues are unlikely to change, incorporating this risk is important. A second major risk is with the financing of the plan which depends largely on private sector participation. Managing this process and ensuring private sector participation is a key risk especially in the context of ensuring no one is left behind.

### Sectoral Development Plans

Besides the national development plans, the government has other sectoral plans that seek to tackle specific development challenges.



## **Nigeria Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Plan 2020 – 2030**

Nigeria has moved quickly to adopt the SDGs and incorporate the goals as part of its development planning purpose. This plan provides a coherent and overarching framework within which Nigeria plans to meet the SDGs during the decade of action.

The plan seeks to mobilize action through key initiatives to bridge the gaps in the current planning structure. First, the plan seeks to integrate the SDGs into national and sub-national development planning processes, while ensuring that the social, economic, and environmental dimensions are captured as well as the principle of “leave no one behind”. The plan also seeks to realign the national statistical system with the requirements of the SDGs, ensuring the production of timely data to gauge progress and identify shortcomings. Finally, the plan seeks to implement flagship programmes that can serve as catalysts to states that demonstrate the potential for impact.

### **The National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy**

With poverty continuing to be a significant challenge for Nigeria and because of its central role in meeting the SDGs in general, the government set out a target to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030. Towards this goal the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy was developed. The strategy seeks to stimulate rapid economic growth through policies aimed at specific job-creating sectors.

The strategy is based on four pillars. First, it seeks to entrench macroeconomic stabilization policies to improve the capacity of the economy to absorb shocks and avoid disruptive adjustments. Second, it targets

industrialization, trade, and growth with a focus on job creation, enhanced revenue, and foreign exchange to be channelled towards government services, re-infrastructure, and achieving the SDGs. Third, it seeks to improve on redistributive programmes aimed at reducing the levels of vulnerability, risk, and deprivation by enhancing incomes of the poor through asset creation and financial inclusion. Finally, it seeks structural and institutional reforms to improve the transmission of economic policies including human capital development, governance and public sector reforms, and infrastructure, climate change, and peace and security reforms.

## **Partners and Institutional Frameworks**

*Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs*

Nigeria has a well-developed and properly structured framework for implementing the SDGs at the national level. The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs. The office is responsible for both the horizontal and vertical coherence between development policies, plans and strategies. The institutional mechanisms for overseeing the SDGs are embedded in the Office of the President. Within the Presidency, the Secretariat -- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) acts as the coordinating office for the SDGs in Nigeria. Efforts are also being made to recreate similar structures at the state level.



### *The Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning*

The MFBNP serves as the ministry in charge of planning at the national level, manages the budget processes, and financing. The ministry, therefore, is a key partner in implementing the SDGs. The ministry has a dedicated development coordination office that serves as the interface between the government and development partners.

### *Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs*

The committee consists of the focal points of all government ministries who oversee departmental progress in implementation of the SDGs.

### *Nigerian Governors Forum*

The governance structure in Nigeria with authority distributed between federal, state, and local governments implies that in some instances, responsibility for meeting some of the goals depends on state governments. The Nigeria Governors Forum serves as a framework to improve cooperation among and improve relations with state governors. The forum also serves as a key entry point for engagement at the state level.

### *Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG)*

The PSAG is a group of private sector representatives who serve to mobilize private sector support and input into meeting the SDGs, specifically around convening relevant stakeholders and mobilizing resources.

### *The National Human Rights Council (NHRC)*

The NHRC serves as an extra-judicial mechanism which was set up to safeguard the human rights of the Nigerian population. The NHRC monitors human rights in Nigeria, assists victims of human rights violations, and help in the formulation of government policy on human rights. The NHRC is a key interlocutor on human right issues in Nigeria.

### *Labour Unions*

The tripartite partners, specifically the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) are key labour partners and key institutions in Nigeria's political economy. Engagement with these partners will be key to structural reforms.

### *Civil Society Partners*

A wide array of civil society partners are important partners in accelerating action across all the SDGs. Engaging these partners will be central to mobilizing action. Although there is no umbrella body encapsulating all civil society partners, various coalitions exist and could serve as key entry points.



# Conclusion

Nigeria, to make progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, requires accelerated action and support from the UN system in Nigeria. Leveraging the comparative advantages of the UN system to help Nigeria overcome some of its key development challenges is the focus of the next cooperation framework. A cross-cutting theme across these challenges is the need to focus on **women, children, and youth**, with tackling issues in these three demographic groups key to Nigeria meeting the SDGs.

On the economic front, **improving productivity** across the economy including in agriculture and manufacturing sectors, order to create jobs, tackle food security, and improve livelihoods is a key challenge. Doing this will, however, require action in improving macroeconomic stability and in resolving energy access and security bottlenecks.

Long-term drivers of improvements in livelihoods, however, depend on tackling key challenges in access to basic services and ensuring no one is left behind. In the Nigerian context, reducing the **dependence on out-of-pocket expenditure** and improving options for shared public provision will be key. The peculiarities of Nigeria's governance system, where **state and local governments** are key in delivering these services, demonstrate the need for improvement in governance at those levels.

Other broader governance challenges also exist and continue to be key entry points for UN system support. Improving the **police and the justice system** as well as encouraging continued progress towards **human rights** issues are key if Nigeria is to reduce the escalating cases of violence and insecurity. Improving

the **democratic process** and **reducing corruption** are also key, the latter within the context of improving financing available to accelerate action.

Finally, ensuring that progress is sustainable is essential especially with Nigeria vulnerable to climate change due to the continued dependence of a large part of its population on predictable weather and the health of its ecosystems. **Building resilience** to shocks, supporting **adaptation and mitigation** measures, and supporting Nigeria as it navigates through global efforts to tackle climate change are key potential action points for the UN system.



# Annexure



The **Anchor Borrowers’ Programme (ABP)** run by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) complements the **Growth Enhancement Support (GES)** Scheme of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture by graduating GES farmers from subsistence farming to commercial production through lending and other technical support.

**Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme (CACS)** established by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) promotes

## Other Sectoral Plans and Policies

### *Agriculture*

The **Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk-Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL)** serves as an innovative mechanism targeted at de-risking lending to the agricultural sector.



commercial agricultural enterprises by providing concessionary financing.

The **Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) 2016-2020** was a policy developed to put the sector on a path to growth by focusing on solving core issues at the heart of limited food production, delivery systems and quality standards. The policy focus is to systematically address the challenges so as to enhance agricultural productivity in the following areas: land access, soil fertility, access to information and knowledge, production management, storage processing and marketing trade. This policy looks at the key gaps in agriculture in the country which are linked to the inability to meet domestic food requirements (own production) and inability to export quality levels required for market driven success.

The **National Livestock Transformation Plan** was designed to make the livestock sector “more productive and sustainable” while also addressing some of the underlying issues behind the farmer / herder conflicts. The objective of the plan is to encourage typically nomadic herder to transition to more sedentary, modern, and mechanized livestock agriculture.

#### *Social Protection*

**National Social Protection Policy (NSPP)** is currently being reviewed to synergize and harmonize the different social protection programmes, to improve the infrastructure for delivery of social transfers, and to mobilize financing.

The **Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDS)** created in 2019 is responsible for the implementation of social protection programmes at the federal level in Nigeria, while the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (FMFBNP) takes the lead in the formulation of policy relating to social protection.

#### *Job Creation*

The Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan was developed by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development (FMYS), as a strategy to respond effectively to the youth employment challenge in Nigeria with the major objective of addressing fragmentation and harnessing technical and financial resources for meaningful impact in job creation for youth.

#### *Nutrition*

The **National Zero Hunger Forum** has been established to enhance advocacy and monitor the achievements of states in the Zero Hunger initiative.

**National Policy on Food and Nutrition (NPFN) of 2016** by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning commits the Federal Government to reducing hunger and malnutrition through a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach that includes various interventions at the sub-national and national levels.

The **National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (2014–2019)** was developed by the Federal Ministry of Health as the Health Sector strategy for the implementation of the NPFN. Priority areas are maternal nutrition, infant and young child



feeding, management of severe acute malnutrition in children under five, micronutrient deficiency control, diet related non-communicable diseases and nutrition information systems.

### **The Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Sector Strategy ASFSNS (2018-2025)**

developed as the sector's strategic document to guide the implementation of the National Policy of Food and Nutrition and the Agricultural Promotion Policy. This strategy document has eight priority areas that speak to the approaches that can contribute to improving a nutrition and food-system approach to agricultural programmes and projects.

### **The National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP)**

targets food security, nutrition, and poverty reduction in addition to educational outcomes. The programme currently provides one hot meal to 10 million children in 30 states of the country with food sourced locally from farmers and food producers. This approach of the HGSFP is a food systems approach that seeks to create market for locally grown foods and supplies school children with hot meals that contribute to about 30% of their recommended daily nutrient intake. The HGSFP also serves as a means to mainstream other nutrition sensitive activities such as deworming and handwashing.

## *Health*

### **The 2nd National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDPII) 2018 – 2020**

was developed by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with other government agencies and key stakeholders with the broad goal of guaranteeing the right to health for all Nigerians. The plan focuses on

improving health service delivery through the Essential Package of Health Care Services (EPHS), defining norms and standards of care at various levels of the health care system, accelerating action towards universal health care by strengthening primary health care centers and consolidating the ward health care system and strengthening referrals and emergency medical services, strengthening the supply chain management system to ensure sustainable supply of drugs, vaccines, and commodities, especially live saving commodities. The plan also seeks to review and strengthen community based health care service provision through harmonization of community based health care providers and promotion of community participation; step up actions to expand coverage and reducing financial barriers through social health insurance and improving government funding to the health sector; improve the performance of Health Management Information Systems (HMIS), the generation and use of health data and evidence for decision-making and institute a system for continuous improvement of quality of healthcare; and, finally, to strengthen coordination of the health sector investments and response.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government developed the **Integrated COVID-19 Pandemic Response Plan (NAHC-PRAP)**. The plan seeks to harmonize the strategies of relevant agencies in the health sector at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the private sector health system into a “one response plan” to the COVID-19. The overall goal of the plan is to reduce the health impact of COVID-19, both in terms of direct morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 infections, and by minimizing preventable mortality and morbidity resulting from other causes that could be attributable to the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the health system.



## *Water and Sanitation*

The **National Water Sanitation Policy 2004** provides a framework for the sustainable development and management of appropriate sanitation services and hygiene education at all levels. The policy deals with the lack of specification of roles and responsibilities of communities and individuals and identifies gaps in the financing mechanisms.

The **National Water Resource Policy 2016** is the overarching policy on WASH in Nigeria. The NWRP was designed to integrate and seek the involvement of stakeholders at all levels to achieve sustainable development goals for WASH by 2030. The policy builds on the existing National Water Resources and Environmental Strategy which ensures integrated water resources development and management in the country.

The **National Water Supply Policy 2014** involves the provision of community safe drinking water supply for domestic or commercial use. The policy stipulates that everyone, everywhere shall have equitable access to safe and reliable water supply.

The **Water Resources Roadmap 2016 – 2030** supports the sustainable development of the water sector. It recognizes the support needed from all ministries in achieving the goal of the plan, including the Federal Ministry of Health, Budget and National Planning. It mentions a national multi-sector programme ‘Partnership for Expanded Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (PEWASH)’ which is aimed at improving water supply and eradicating open defecation in the country.

Other policies focusing on water and sanitation include the **National WASH Action Plan 2018; the Partnership for Expanded Water, Sanitation**

**and Hygiene (PEWASH) 2016 – 2030; the National Open Defecation Free Roadmap 2016 – 2025; the National ODF communications campaign – The Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet Campaign** aimed at eradicating open defecation by 2025.

## *Energy*

The **Nigeria Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda (SE4ALL-AA)** targets increasing electricity access to 90% and replacing 80% of traditional firewood consumption with improved cook stoves by 2030. It also aims at using energy efficient lighting in 40% of households by 2020 and 100% of households by 2030. Renewable energy sources are also expected to contribute a 30% share of generated electricity.

The **Rural Electrification Policy (REP)** aims at achieving 60% rural electrification by 2020, by connecting 1.1 million rural households yearly from 2015 through to 2020.

The **Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP)** aims to increase the share of renewable energy to 10% of the total energy consumption in Nigeria by 2025.

## *Industrialization and Innovation*

The **Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), 2014- 2019)** is a five-year plan to build up industrial capacity and improve competitiveness. The plan is focused on manufacturing subsectors where Nigeria has comparative advantage.

The **National Science and Technology Roadmap, 2017-2030 developed** by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology targets the mobilization of Nigeria’s intellectual resources for the growth and diversification of the economy, provision of incentives for all stakeholders, to embrace and engage in science



and technology innovation in order to improve science structures, intensify and develop skills, deploy and commercialize technologies and improve science literacy engagement processes.

The **Nigerian Science Technology and Innovation Policy** has been designed to create harmony in the pursuit of knowledge about the environment through Research and Development (R&D). The plan aims to use S&T knowledge to ensure a better quality of life for the people.

The **National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP), 2015-2043** is a 30-year plan covering the core and non-core infrastructure and has been designed to serve as Nigeria's blueprint for boosting and modernizing the nation's stock of infrastructure.

#### *Planet*

According to the CITES Secretariat, the **Nigerian Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Act** of 2004 and its 2016 amendment meet the requirements for implementing CITES successfully. CITES is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. Other relevant policy frameworks include: the Sea Fisheries Act, the National Environment Standards and Regulations 2007, Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act, the Nigeria Forestry Act, the National Park Service Act.

Nigeria also developed a **Nigerian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2020)**, a **National Forest Policy (2006)**, and a **National Ivory Action Plan in 2014** following CITES recommendations. Considering limited progress in its implementation and in line with CITES recommendations, Nigeria is currently reviewing and updating its **National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP)**. UNODC will support the

development of a National Strategy against Wildlife Crime in 2021.

#### *Migration*

The **Nigeria Migration Policy 2015** is the policy framework for the administration and management of migration for socioeconomic development in Nigeria. This was preceded by the **National Policy on Labour Migration of 2014**. A plan of action for implementation of the policy for 2019 to 2023 has also been launched.

