

Nigeria

June 2023



Country – capital	Federal Republic of Nigeria – Abuja. There are 36 states and 1 territory. ¹
Population	Nigeria is the largest African country, composed of > 250 ethnic groups. Hausa 30%, Yoruba 15.5%, Igbo (Ibo) 15.2%, Fulani 6%, Tiv 2.4%, Kanuri/Berberi 2.4%, Ibibio 1.8%, Ijaw/Izon 1.8%, other 24.9% (2018 est.). Total population 230.8 million (2023). ²
Geography	Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon. ³
Languages	English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, > 500 indigenous languages. ⁴
Writing system	Latin ⁵
Education and literacy	62 % is literate, females much lower than males (52.7% resp. 71.3% est. 2021). ⁶ Gross primary school enrolment rate is 86% in 2018 (64% reaches last grade of primary) . ⁷ Primary education is free and compulsory, but 10.5 million of children aged 5-14 years are not in school. Only 61% regularly attend primary school. In the north, this is 53%, for girls 47.7%, meaning that > half of the girls are not in school. ⁸ School facilities in rural areas are poor. Primary education offers biblical and Islamic studies, English, mathematics, science, and an ethnic language. Secondary education lasts 6 years – schools are privately or state funded. Tuition at elite private high schools is superb by any standards, while at rural secondary schools, teachers are often undereducated and ill-prepared and schools may run out of allocated funds. There are 27 universities and 13 polytechnic colleges. ⁹
Religions	Muslim 53.5%, Roman Catholic 10.6%, other Christian 35.3%, other 0.6% (2018 est.)
Conflict history and overview	Independence in 1960, followed by numerous coups and military rule; civilian governments since 1999. ¹⁰ Nigeria has many long-standing ethnic and religious violent conflicts: militant Islamists (Boko Haram/ISWAP) predominantly active in the North-East Region moving into north- western states; violence related to armed bandits and criminal violence in the North-West and North-Central Regions and street gangs in the South-West Region; conflict between farmers and herders mainly in the Middle Belt but increasingly moving to southern states; communal and ethnic clashes in the North-Central Region and increasingly in the southern states; Biafra separatists in the South-East Region and oil militants in southern Nigeria, particularly the Niger Delta. ¹¹
Humanitarian situation	40.1% of the people live below poverty line. Life expectancy at birth is 61.8 yrs. ¹² In 2022, the worst floods in a decade hit the country between June and November, destroying farmland, houses, IDP camps, triggering 854,000 new IDPs. By the end of 2022, five regions had 3.6 million IDPs due to conflict and violence. ¹³
Human rights situation	Serious human rights violations, not only by terrorist/criminal groups, but also by Nigerian police, army, intelligence e.g: unlawful, arbitrary killings, torture, life-threatening prison conditions, disappearances and abductions, gender-based violence, corruption. ¹⁴
Situation of women FGM/C – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate is 1047 per 100,000 live births, 3 rd place globally (2020). ¹⁵ FGM/C was legally banned in 2015 at federal level - not in all states, and is hardly enforced. Of the women age 15-49, 19.5 % have undergone FGM/C, highest prevalence in South East and South West. ¹⁶ No uniform min. legal age of marriage. 43% of girls in Nigeria are married before their 18th birthday and 16% are married before the age of 15. In North West and North East, 68% resp. 57% of women aged 20-49 were married before 18th. ¹⁷ Women’s situation generally is marginalized. ¹⁸
Situation of LGBTI	The Dec. 2013 federal Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act criminalises consensual same-sex sexual activity nationwide with 14 yrs prison, forbids supporting or promoting LGBTI rights and organizations (10 yrs prison). In the 12 states with sharia, adults convicted of engaging in same-sex sexual conduct may be subject to flogging or execution by stoning. However, this was rarely, if ever, carried out. ¹⁹ Many cases of human rights abuses, violence, discrimination, arbitrary arrest, and unlawful detention of LGBTI persons. Police is one of the main perpetrators. ²⁰
Asylum / migration / (IDPs)	Malta: Nigerian arrivals 2022: 34. ²¹ In 2021 94 persons lodged asylum applications in Malta, in first half of 2022 24. ²²

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- ¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
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 - ⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
 - ⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
 - ⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
 - ⁷ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRR.MA?locations=NG&view=chart>
 - ⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/education>
 - ⁹ <https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/Nigeria/Education-System>
 - ¹⁰ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
 - ¹¹ <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria>; <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/coi-report-nigeria-security-situation-v11-june-2021>; <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nigeria/>
 - ¹² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
 - ¹³ <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria>
 - ¹⁴ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nigeria/>
 - ¹⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/nigeria/>
 - ¹⁶ <https://www.28toomany.org/country/nigeria/>
 - ¹⁷ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/nigeria/>
 - ¹⁸ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nigeria/>
 - ¹⁹ <https://database.ilga.org/criminalisation-consensual-same-sex-sexual-acts>
 - ²⁰ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nigeria/>
 - ²¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/figures-at-a-glance>
 - ²¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=0iecXW>

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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for Blue Door Education. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO, now EUAA) in Malta.