

Responses to Information Requests - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Nigeria: The socio-economic situation, including demographics, employment rates, economic sectors, and crime rates, as well as access to education, health care and housing, particularly for the cities of Lagos, Ibadan and Benin City (2018–November 2020)

1. National Overview

According to a country information report on Nigeria by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Nigeria is divided into 36 states, in addition to Abuja, which is the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 2.6). The World Bank states that the total population in Nigeria was 200,963,599 in 2019 (World Bank 2019a). The World Bank cites 2018 statistics from the UN Population Division as indicating that 51 percent of Nigerians live in urban areas (World Bank 2019b).

According to the *World Factbook* by the US CIA, Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups; based on 2018 estimates, the composition of the ethnic groups is as follows: Hausa at 30 percent, Yoruba at 15.5 percent, Igbo (Ibo) at 15.2 percent, Fulani at 6 percent, Tiv at 2.4 percent, Kanuri/Beriberi at 2.4 percent, Ibibio at 1.8 percent, Ijaw/Izon at 1.8 percent, and other at 24.7 percent (US 27 Oct. 2020). Minority Rights Group International (MRG) estimates the composition of ethnic groups as follows: Hausa/Fulani at 29 percent, Yoruba at 21 percent, Igbo (Ibo) at 18 percent, Ijaw at 10 percent, Kanuri at 4 percent, Ibibio-Efik at 3.5 percent, Tiv at 2.5 percent, Edo (Bini) at less than 1 percent, and Nupe at less than 1 percent (MRG Jan. 2018). The *World Factbook* reports that Nigeria has over 500 indigenous languages (US 27 Oct. 2020). The same source states that the languages in Nigeria include English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani and "over 500 additional indigenous languages" (US 27 Oct. 2020). MRG indicates that the main languages of Nigeria are English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Pidgin, Fulani and Ijaw (MRG Jan. 2018). In correspondence with the Research Directorate, the Executive Director of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) [1] indicated that "all the [residents of] cities speak English and '[P]idgin', in addition to their local languages" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020).

A 2018 estimate from the *World Factbook* found that 53.5 percent of the population are Muslim, 10.6 percent are Roman Catholic, 35.3 percent adhere to other denominations of Christianity, and 0.6 percent follow other religions (US 27 Oct. 2020). Similarly, MRG indicates that the three main religions in Nigeria are Islam (51 percent), Christianity (47 percent), and traditional religions (1 percent) (MRG Jan. 2018).

An August 2020 report on the labour force by Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), responsible for providing "reliable and timely information" to the government and policymakers, indicates that the unemployment rate in Nigeria was 27.1 percent in the second quarter of 2020, compared to 23.1 percent in the third quarter of 2018 (Nigeria Aug. 2020, 7, 2). According to the same source, the

unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 to 34 was 34.9 in the second quarter of 2020, compared to 29.7 percent in the third quarter of 2018 (Nigeria Aug. 2020, 2). An NBS report on poverty and inequality indicates that the national "poverty headcount ratio" [2] was 40.1 percent for the period from September 2018 to October 2019 (Nigeria May 2020, 5).

The Executive Director of ANEEJ stated that "[t]here are no ready jobs for people who relocate to the city, they have to search for openings and apply. ... However, skilled people with experience stand higher chances of getting jobs" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). Further and corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Section 18(3) of the constitution provides the following regarding education:

Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy; and to this end Government shall as and when practicable provide

1. free, compulsory and universal primary education;
2. free secondary education;
3. free university education; and
4. free adult literacy programme. (Nigeria 1999)

Sources indicate that the aforementioned section of the constitution was not enforceable, but a 2017 decision of the Federal High Court ruled that section of the constitution justiciable (*The Guardian* 2 Mar. 2017; *Vanguard* 9 Mar. 2017). The Australian DFAT report indicates that the adult literacy rate in Nigeria is 51 percent (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 2.22). The same report cites data from UNICEF and the Nigerian government as indicating that "30 percent of pupils drop out of primary school and only 54 percent transit to Junior Secondary Schools, mainly due to economic hardship, child labour and early marriage for girls" (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 2.24). UNICEF reports that although primary education is "officially free and compulsory in Nigeria," around 10.5 million of the country's children aged between 5 and 14 are not in school; factors such as gender, geography and poverty, contribute to the "pattern of educational marginalization" (UN n.d.). The Executive Director of ANEEJ stated that "[p]rivate schools are everywhere for those who can afford [them]" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020).

According to sources, health insurance coverage is limited in Nigeria (*The Guardian* 18 Jan. 2018; Awosusi, et al. 1 Sept. 2015). A 2015 article published in the *Lancet*, an independent medical journal (*The Lancet* n.d.), states that "[l]ess than 5% of Nigerians have health insurance coverage; most enrollees are in the formal sector with very poor coverage in the informal sector" (Awosusi, et al. 1 Sept. 2015). Similarly, according to a 2018 article in the *Guardian*, a Nigerian newspaper, "only about 3% of Nigerians have access to medical care. About 97% of Nigerians are uncovered and among these are the less privileged and other vulnerable groups. These less privileged and vulnerable groups are not protected from financial hardship of huge medical bills" (*The Guardian* 18 Jan. 2018). Further information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Sources report that Nigerians can relocate internally "freely" (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 5.25) or without a permit (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). The Australian DFAT report states that the process of relocating can be more difficult for non-

indigenes due to "language, religious and cultural differences, particularly between northern and southern states" (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 5.25). The Executive Director of ANEEJ indicated that relocation to Lagos city, Benin City and Ibadan is based on "individual capacity (money)" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). The same source added that those who relocate "would face hardship if they do not have means of livelihood and if they also do not have relatives or friends to support them in terms of shelter, feeding and other basic necessities" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). The source further indicated that "[a]ccommodation, health care, and education is available and accessible to people who relocate, but it is not supported by government," noting that "[a]ccommodation is available for those who relocate to [Lagos, Ibadan and Benin City] as long as they can afford it" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020).

For information regarding indigeneship in Nigeria, see Response to Information Request NGA106361 of October 2019.

2. Lagos

According to World Population Review, an independent organization that provides accessible data and analysis through graphs and other visualizations (World Population Review n.d.), Lagos city, located in Lagos State, is a port city and the most populous city in Nigeria (World Population Review 2020). Sources indicate that the population of the "urban agglomeration" [3] of Lagos is estimated to be above 14 million (UN 2018; US 27 Oct. 2020), while the Australian DFAT report states that the government of Lagos state estimates the city's population at 21 million (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 2.10).

According to sources, Yoruba is the dominant ethnic group in Lagos (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020; US 10 June 2020, 4; World Population Review 2020); however, over 250 ethnic groups are present in Lagos including Hausa, Igbo, and Fulani (World Population Review 2020). The Executive Director of ANEEJ indicated that Yoruba is the main language used in Lagos and Pidgin is commonly used (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020), while other sources indicate that Yoruba, Pidgin and English are typically used in Lagos (Danladi June 2013, 11, 13; Information Nigeria 27 July 2015).

A 2016 article by the BBC notes that Christians form the majority in the city of Lagos (BBC 20 June 2016), while the US Department of State's *International Religious Freedom Report for 2019* indicates that Christians and Muslims reside in "approximately equal numbers" in Lagos state (US 10 June 2020, 3).

According to the August 2020 NBS report, Lagos state reported an unemployment rate of 19.5 percent in the second quarter of 2020 (Nigeria Aug. 2020, Table 7), compared to 45.2 percent in Akwa-Ibom state, 43.7 percent in Rivers State and 48.7 in Imo State [4] (Nigeria Aug. 2020, Table 7). The NBS report on poverty and inequality found that between September 2018 and October 2019, the poverty headcount ratio of Lagos state was 4.5 percent (Nigeria May 2020, 9). An October 2020 NBS report states that Lagos State has the "highest" internally generated revenue [5] in Nigeria (Nigeria Oct. 2020). The Australian DFAT report indicates that Lagos state generates approximately 30 percent of its revenue internally (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 2.29).

African Business, a magazine profiling a range of sectors and industries, describes

Lagos as an "economic hub" and "Nigeria's financial capital" (*African Business* 21 July 2015). The Executive Director of ANEEJ indicated that Lagos is a "highly commercial city" (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). An article by the *Financial Times (FT)*, an international business publication, describes Lagos city as the "most productive and dynamic part of Nigeria's economy," and adds the following:

The city is the centre of most of the country's manufacturing and home to a pan-African banking industry as well as a thriving music, fashion and film scene that reverberates around the continent. More recently, it has become a tech hub to rival Nairobi's so-called Silicon Savannah. (*FT* 25 Mar. 2018)

A 2015 report by Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung [6] states the following on manufacturing in Lagos State:

Manufacturing in Lagos forms a significant part of Nigeria's economic landscape ... Metropolitan Lagos accounts for over 53% of manufacturing employment in Nigeria, significantly contributing to the 7% of national GDP constituted by manufacturing. ... Manufacturing industries in Lagos State include food, beverages and tobacco, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, rubber and foam, cement, plastic products, basic metals and foam, steel and fabricated metal products, pulp and paper products, electrical and electronics, textile manufacturing, furniture and wood products, motor vehicles and miscellaneous assembly. (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung 2 July 2015)

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), a news agency established by the Nigerian government (Devex n.d.), Lagos state became an oil producing state in 2018 (NAN 7 Feb. 2020). Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

According to the Lagos state government website, "Lagos is arguably the State with the highest number of public schools, students and teachers" (Lagos 13 Mar. 2018). The same source indicates the following:

Lagos provides free education to over [o]ne [m]illion pupils/students in 1,010 primary schools with a population of about 497,318 pupils; 670 Junior and Senior Secondary Schools with a population of about 564,758 students and 5 Technical and Vocational Schools across the state. (Lagos 13 Mar. 2018)

Further and corroborating information on access to education in Lagos state or Lagos city could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Information regarding access to health services in Lagos city could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this response.

According to sources, Lagos has a housing problem (EU Nov. 2018, 39; Al Jazeera 2 June 2019; BBC 23 Jan. 2017). Sources indicate that Lagos has a housing deficit of 2.5 million units (Bloomberg 20 Dec. 2019; *Business Day* 23 Aug. 2017). Al Jazeera reports that there is gender discrimination for individuals searching for housing in Lagos and adds that "[w]omen living outside their fathers' or husbands' houses is considered inappropriate in some sections of Nigerian society, so single women looking to rent a property are often rejected or subjected to more rigorous screenings" (Al Jazeera 2 June 2019). For additional information regarding gender-

based discrimination in access to housing in Nigeria, see Response to Information Request NGA106362 of November 2019.

According to the NBS report on 2017 crime statistics, out of a total of 134,663 cases of crime reported across Nigeria, Lagos state had the "highest percentage share of total cases reported with 50,975 (37.9%) cases recorded," including 18,926 cases of offences against persons, with assault (8,236 cases) and "[g]rievous [h]arm [w]ounding" (6,523 cases) as the most common, 24,989 cases of offences against property, with theft (12,724 cases) and "[f]alse [p]retence & [c]heating/[f]raud" (5,623 cases) being the most common crimes, and 7,060 cases of "[o]ffences [a]gainst [l]awful [a]uthority," with "[b]reach [o]f [p]eace" as the most common crime (6,183 cases) (Nigeria June 2018, 1, 74-75).

The Australian DFAT report explains that individuals "can have difficulty moving to a new state without familiar connections or financial means" and can "face official discrimination when attempting to access government services including university places or employment in the civil sector"; however, these "restrictions do not apply in the larger urban centres of Lagos" and Abuja (Australia 9 Mar. 2018, para. 5.24). Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

3. Ibadan (Capital of Oyo State)

Ibadan is the third most populous city in Nigeria (Bruce 18 Dec. 2019). Sources estimate its population at 3.5 million (UN 2018; US 27 Oct. 2020).

Encyclopaedia Britannica indicates that Oyo State is mainly inhabited by the Yoruba people (*Encyclopaedia Britannica* 21 June 2013). The Executive Director of ANEEJ similarly reported that the dominant ethnic group residing in Ibadan city is the Yoruba (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). The same source further indicated that the main language used in Ibadan is Yoruba and that Pidgin is also commonly used (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). Corroborating information regarding the specific languages spoken in Ibadan could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

According to sources, Christianity and Islam are the predominant religions in Ibadan (BlackPast.org 7 Mar. 2011; Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020).

The August 2020 NBS report states that Oyo State had an unemployment rate of 16.4 percent for the second quarter of 2020 (Nigeria Aug. 2020, 71). The NBS report on poverty and inequality found that between September 2018 and October 2019, the poverty headcount ratio of Oyo state was 9.8 percent (Nigeria May 2020, 9). The October 2020 NBS report found that among Nigeria's 36 states and the FCT, Oyo state had the sixth-highest internally generated revenue (Nigeria Oct. 2020, 40).

Encyclopaedia Britannica states that the main economic sectors in Ibadan include agriculture, commerce, handicrafts, manufacturing, and service industries (*Encyclopaedia Britannica* 4 June 2019). Further and corroborating information on the economic sectors of Ibadan could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Information regarding access to education, health services and housing in Ibadan could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this response.

According to the NBS report on 2017 crime statistics, 2,969 cases of crime were reported in Oyo state, including 1,058 cases of offenses against persons, 1,865 cases of offenses against property and 46 cases of offenses against lawful authority (Nigeria June 2018, 92).

4. Benin City (Capital of Edo State)

Sources estimate the population of Benin city at 1.727 million (UN 2018; US 27 Oct. 2020). According to *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the state is "largely inhabited" by the Edo (Bini) people (*Encyclopaedia Britannica* 29 Aug. 2018). Similarly, the Executive Director of ANEEJ indicated that the Edo people are the majority in Benin City and the other dominant ethnic groups in Benin City include Etsako, Esan and Owan (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). The same source stated that the main language used in Benin City is Bini, and Pidgin is commonly used as well (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020).

The Executive Director of ANEEJ indicated that the dominant religions practised in Edo State are Christianity and Islam (Executive Director 27 Oct. 2020). The Organisation of Great Benin Kingdom (OGBK), a "socio-cultural organisation" that organizes seminars, lectures, cultural festivals and investments in the Benin Kingdom (OGBK n.d.a), states that the three types of religion in Edo state includes Christianity, Islam and traditional religion, which is "rooted in an indigenous belief system based on a Supreme Being supported by deities and natural forces" (OGBK n.d.b).

The August 2020 NBS report states that in the second quarter of 2020, Edo state had an unemployment rate of 19 percent (Nigeria Aug. 2020, 53). The NBS report on poverty and inequality found that between September 2018 and October 2019, the poverty headcount ratio in Edo State was 12 percent (Nigeria May 2020, 15). According to the October 2020 NBS report, out of Nigeria's 36 states and the FCT, Edo state had the 10th highest amount of internally generated revenue (Nigeria Oct. 2020, 40). A report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Nigeria [7] commissioned by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office states that Edo State is "known for its cash crops of oil palm, cocoa, and rubber" (PwC 2017, 3, 7). Further and corroborating information on the economic sectors in Edo state or Benin City could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Information regarding access to housing, education and health services in Benin City could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this response.

According to the NBS report on 2017 crime statistics, 1,729 cases of crime were reported in Edo State, including 729 cases of offences against persons, 848 cases of offences against property and 152 cases of offences against lawful authorities (Nigeria June 2017, 125).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

Notes

[1] The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) is an NGO aiming to support "less privileged" and marginalized groups including women, youths and people living with disabilities "in order to increase their participation in the democratic decision-making process" (ANEEJ n.d.).

[2] Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) defines the poverty headcount ratio as the "proportion of population that is living in the households where the value of per capita total consumption expenditure is below or equal to the poverty line" (Nigeria May 2020, 5).

[3] According to the CIA *World Factbook*, an urban agglomeration comprises "the city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory lying outside of, but adjacent to, the boundaries of the city" (US 27 Oct. 2020).

[4] The August 2020 NBS report indicates that state employment can change quickly and "[i]t is[,] therefore, advisable to be cautious in comparing trends, particularly amongst States ... Favorable conditions in one state may lead to an influx of jobseekers in that state and in the process increasing unemployment in the performing state ... This may give a false impression that the state with the lower unemployment rate is performing better" (Nigeria Aug. 2020, 2).

[5] According to Deloitte, a professional services firm, internally generated revenues (IGR) are revenues generated by Nigerian states, independent of funding from the Federal government (Deloitte 21 Feb. 2017).

[6] Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung is a "think tank for green visions and projects"; the organization maintains "close ties to the German Green Party" (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung n.d.).

[7] PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is a network of professional services firm with offices in 155 countries that provides assurance, advisory and tax services (PwC n.d.).

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Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: African Development Bank; African Center for Advocacy and Human Development; Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung – office in Nigeria; International Monetary Fund; Justice & Empowerment Initiatives; professor of sociology at a Canadian university who studies Nigeria; professor of sociology at a Nigerian university who studies development issues in Nigeria; UN – International Labour Organization, UNDP; World Bank.

Internet sites, including: ecoi.net; Edo State Government; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Oyo State Government; UN – International Labour Organization, Refworld, UNDP.