

Nigeria

MIGRATION PROFILE

*Study on Migration Routes
in West and Central Africa*



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Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG)



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1. Introduction

The Federal Republic of Nigeria (also known as Nigeria) is located in West Africa, between Benin in the west, Cameroon in the east, and Niger and Chad in the north. The country also borders the Gulf of Guinea and has a large coastline to the south of 853 km. It is one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest economies, with oil exports driving the country forwards. In the past ten years, its growth has been driven by agriculture, telecommunications, and the service industry. However, this has not translated into a decline of poverty levels. In fact, close to 60 per cent of Nigeria's population live in extreme poverty (CIA, 2017). The country's Human Development Index ranking stands at 152, with a score of 0.527.



Nigeria's population is an estimated 190.6 million (CIA, 2017) and has a life expectancy of 53.1 years (UNDP, 2016). Migration in Nigeria has increased in the past decades, taking a dramatic turn in recent years in light of insurgency of Boko Haram and the ensuing humanitarian disaster.

According to UN DESA (2015) statistics, the total number of Nigerian nationals abroad is 1,093,644, with its distribution represented on Figure 1. As one can see, Nigerians are mostly drawn to developed nations with the United States (22%) and the United Kingdom (20%) dominating the ranking. Other countries of destination for Nigerian emigrants include Cameroon (7%), Ghana (6%), Italy (5%), Benin (4%), and Ivory Coast (4%) (UN DESA, 2015).¹ Nigerian emigration is employment-driven, whilst being highly selective to educated and skilled professionals who are attracted to more developed regions (IOM, 2014).

Nigeria as a destination country hosted 1,199,115 foreign nationals in 2015, according to UN DESA (2015). The distribution of country of origin of these migrants is represented in Figure 2, showing that Nigeria mostly attracted migrants from neighbouring countries such as Benin (29%), Ghana (19%), Mali (13%), Togo (12%), and Niger (9%) (UN DESA, 2015). Nigeria attracts migrants for its perceived relatively higher incomes and demand for labour (European Commission, 2009).

Table 1: Nigeria Key Demographic and Development Indicators

| Indicator | Nigeria |
|--|---------|
| Total area, in sq km ^a | 923,768 |
| Population (2015), in million ^b | 190.632 |
| Urban Population (2016), % of total ^c | 49.4 |
| Population Growth Rate, annual (2016) % ^c | 2.4 |

¹ Note that migration statistics from UN DESA (2015a) illustrate mixed migration stocks and may include some, but not all, of refugees in/from a given country. For further information visit: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

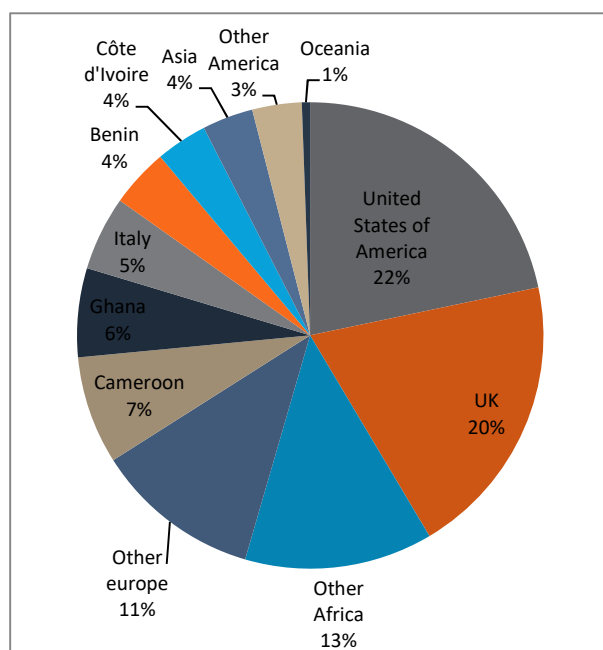
Ethnic Groups^a

Hausa and the Fulani 29%
 Yoruba 21%
 Igbo (Ibo) 18%
 Ijaw 10%
 Kanuri 4%
 Ibibio 3.5%
 Tiv 2.5%

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Human Development Index (2015), <i>country rank out of 188^d</i> | 0.527 152 |
| GDP Based on PPP per Capita, <i>current international dollars per capita^c</i> | 6.121 |
| Life Expectancy at Birth (2015), <i>years^d</i> | 53.1 |
| Unemployment (2016), <i>% of labour force^c</i> | 13.9 |
| Youth Unemployment (2016), <i>% ages 15-24^c</i> | 25.2 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Headcount (2010), <i>%^d</i> | 50.9 |
| Gini Coefficient (2010-2015) ^d | 48.8 |
| Foreign Direct Investment (net inflows, 2016), <i>current USD millions^e</i> | 853.87 |
| Net Official Development Assistance Received (2015), <i>current USD millions^c</i> | 2.431.600 |
| Personal Remittances Received (1994), <i>current USD thousand^c</i> | 550.000 |

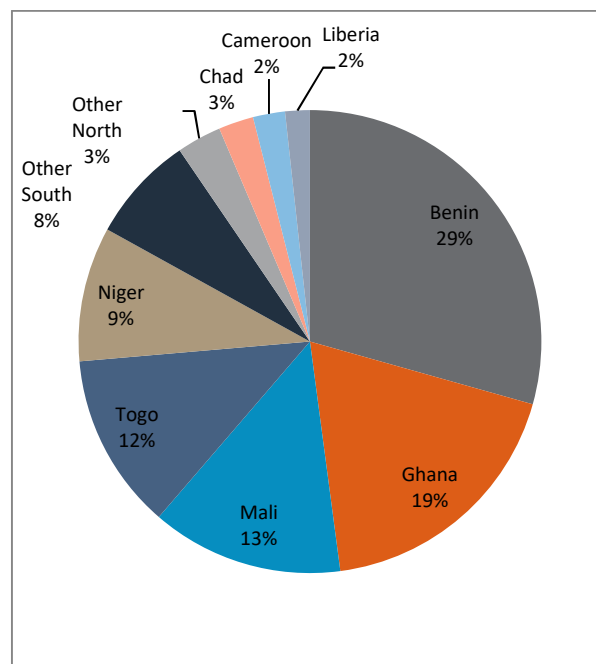
^a CIA, 2017; ^b UN DESA, 2015; ^c World Bank, 2015; UNDP, 2016

Figure 1: Destination of migrants from Nigeria, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015

Figure 2: Origin of migrants in Nigeria, 2015

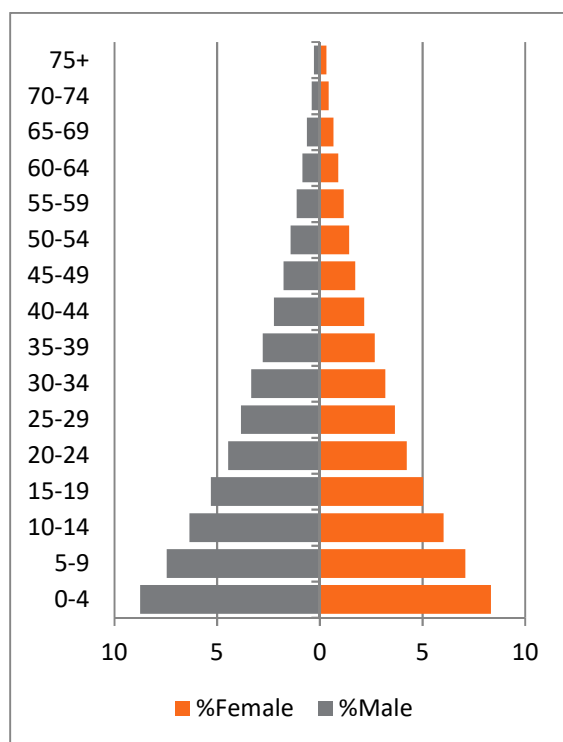


Source: UN DESA, 2015

Outbreaks of intra-state violence have been the main push factor for migration from Nigeria. The Boko Haram crisis which started in 2009 has been the worst of these, with terrorism activities reaching unprecedented levels in the past few years (BBC, 2016). Besides this, unemployment and low per capita income also act as main push factors for Nigerian emigrants (IOM, 2014). The continuous outward migration of highly skilled professionals causes a brain drain, which negatively impacts the country's development prospects (Afolayan, Ikwuyatum & Abejide, 2009).

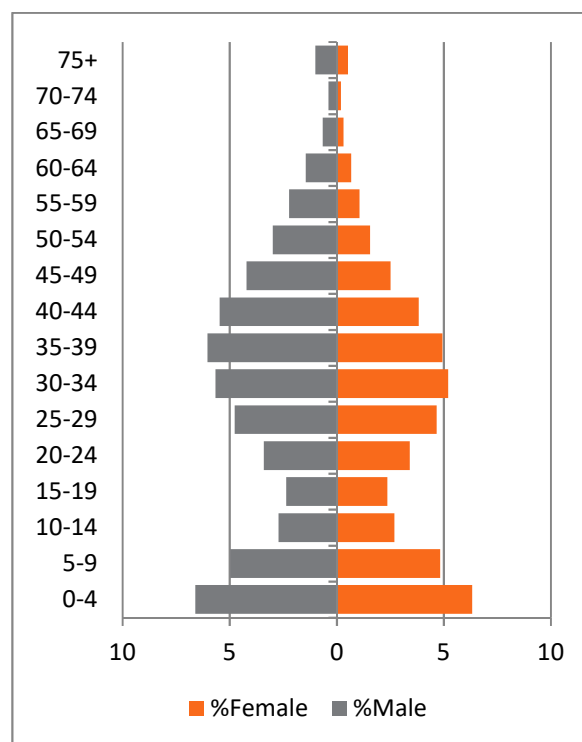
On the other hand, pull factors for migrants to come to Nigeria revolve around the perception of higher income and better working conditions than in their respective country of origin (European Commission, 2009). Another factor is the strong socio-cultural ties between groups in the region of Lake Chad, making regional migration a preferred course of action over long-distance migration (Afolayan, Ikwuyatum & Abejide, 2009). To understand this pattern of migration, one can compare the population pyramids of the local population and the migrant stock as shown in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. The Nigerian population is concentrated in the youngest age groups, indicating a high fertility rate and low life expectancies. On the other hand, however, there is a distinctive difference in the bulk between the age groups between the late 20s and early 40s in the migration stock. This might be due to the past labour migration (i.e. made up of individuals of working age) from neighbouring countries that makes for the majority of Nigerian migration stock.

Figure 3 - Population pyramid of Nigeria, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015

Figure 4 - Population pyramid of Nigeria's migrant stock, 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015

However, regular migration trends have been overshadowed by the mounting humanitarian crisis that sweeps the northeast of the country due to Boko Haram activities. The main areas affected by the crisis are the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. UN OCHA (2016a) estimates that, in these regions, there are 14 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. This has led to massive forced displacement of Nigerians, within the country, the region, and to further destinations. Such crisis has

made Nigerians the highest ranked nationality of refugees entering Europe in 2017, accounting for 15 per cent of the total stock. Arrivals in 2017 increased 22 per cent from 2016, demonstrating increasingly aggravated situation (RMMS, 2017). The conflict is far from resolved, as suicide bombings and attacks in Nigeria and neighbouring countries have doubled in the course of the year (UNHCR, 2017f). To worsen the situation, Nigeria faces massive public health issues. Lassa fever has spread to seventeen out of thirty-six provinces, causing the death of 109 people as of July 2017. The country also faces outbreaks of cholera and hepatitis E. Moreover, food security is poor in the affected areas, and the humanitarian crisis will likely spread such epidemics (WHO, 2017).

2. Forced Migration/ Displacement

2.1. Refugees in Nigeria

Nigeria hosted refugees, especially from Liberia, in the 1980s and 1990s due to crises and conflicts in neighbouring countries (Afolayan, Ikwuyatum, & Abejide, 2009). However, it currently has a small population of only 1,367 refugees (UNHCR, 2017a). Little is known about these refugees.

Table 2: Refugees in Nigeria, mid-2016

| Country of Origin | Refugees |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Dem. Rep. of the Congo | 547 |
| Central African Rep. | 149 |
| Mali | 136 |
| Ivory Coast | 117 |
| Other | 272 |
| Total | 1,221 |

Source: UNHCR, 2017i

2.2. Refugees from Nigeria

The Boko Haram insurgency has caused massive displacement and humanitarian crises in the Lake Chad Basin region, where Nigeria is located. Estimates show that, throughout the region, over 2.5 million people have been forcibly displaced. Moreover, this trend is expected to continue. Boko Haram continues their activities in the region, engaging in terror, forced recruitment, suicide bombings, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The situation is further complicated by the region's fragile socio-economic context, chronic poverty, harsh climate conditions, health epidemics, and limited access to basic services (UNHCR, 2017g).

The majority of refugees in the region come from Nigeria, some escaping Boko Haram captivity and others fleeing deplorable conditions that internally displaced persons (IDPs) experience within the country (UNHCR, 2017a). UNHCR (2017e) data from June 2017 estimate 207,227 Nigerian refugees abroad, spread through Niger (51%), Cameroon (45%), and Chad (4%). The humanitarian response to support these refugees and IDPs is coordinated under UNHCR's Regional Refugee Response Plan, which has provided multi-sectoral assistance to over 200,000 refugees in the region over the first

quarter of 2017. The effect of the crisis has devastated North eastern Nigeria, continuously aggravating food security and malnutrition levels (UNHCR, 2017b). However, funding for humanitarian assistance is far from required levels. By July 2017, US\$40.6 million were received accounting for only 23 per cent of all funds required to provide humanitarian assistance (UNHCR, 2017h).

The area now faces the challenges of many Nigerian refugees returning from neighbouring countries to Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. Those areas have difficult living conditions characterized by chronic food insecurity, high malnutrition rates, and high exposure to epidemics. Often, these factors lead returnees to continue in situations of forced displacement within Nigeria (UNOCHA, 2016c). Since April 2017, forced and voluntary returnees from Cameroon have arrived back to Nigeria, leading UNCHR to plead for the country to keep to their international commitments (UNHCR, 2017a). The displacement of returnees contributes to the gravity of the situation of IDPs in Nigeria. The management of this situation is a challenge for local authorities and international partners. UNHCR has made great advocacy efforts to ensure that the return processes are conducted in safe and dignified conditions, particularly in line with the Tripartite Agreement signed between the agency and the governments of Nigeria and Cameroon (UNHCR, 2017c).

Table 3: Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Nigeria, mid-2016

| Country of Destination | Refugees | Asylum Seekers |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Niger | 82,534 | 0 |
| Cameroon | 67,081 | 0 |
| Italy | 12,004 | 16,437 |
| Chad | 6,518 | 819 |
| Other | 13,096 | 40,588 |
| Total | 181,233 | 57,844 |

Source: UNHCR, 2017i

2.3. Internal Displacement in Nigeria

Latest UNHCR (2017b) data from June 2017 show that Nigeria has 1,884,331 IDPs, displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency. A large majority of IDPs in Nigeria escape attacks from the three main regions of action from Boko Haram, fleeing to urban centres for relative safety. Such movement causes overcrowding in already poorly managed urban situations and puts basic services under major strain. Certain urban centres like Maiduguri, the capital of Borno, saw their population double in size from one million to two million people over the extent of the crisis, leading the local government to encourage people to leave the city and return to their places of origin (UNOCHA, 2016a). Data shows that the largest populations of IDPs are concentrated in three main regions: Borno (79%), Adamawa (8%), and Yobe (6%) (IOM, 2017).

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the main drivers of mobility are people returning to places of origin and IDPs in search of better livelihood opportunities. Other reasons are the availability of newly secured areas and continued migration from villages to towns in view of

continued Boko Haram attacks. In 2017, Borno was the place of origin of 87 per cent of IDPs and almost all of these relocated within Borno. Within Nigeria, the majority (63%) of IDPs tend to stay with host communities, with friends and relatives, or in abandoned housing. A minority (37%) lives in camp-like displacement settings (IOM, 2017). In order to respond to this ongoing crisis, UNHCR requested international funding which is in dreadfully low levels. With a total of US\$12 million funded, UNHCR only managed to guarantee 16 per cent of all necessary funding by July 2017 (UNHCR, 2017h).

There are several key issues that involve the IDP population of Nigeria. First, a DTM survey showed that the majority of IDPs state that food remains the predominant unmet need of IDP sites (IOM, 2017). Second, with children making up 55 per cent of IDPs, specific protection and services are required. Assessments by UN OCHA demonstrate that 38 per cent of IDP sites have no formal or informal education facilities. Third, 98 per cent of IDP sites were spontaneously settled, leading to the need for site planning, coordinated assistance, and the establishment of minimal infrastructure for this community (UNOCHA, 2016a). Additionally, IDP camps are susceptible to security attacks from insurgents, with camps being attacked by suicide bombers; these sorts of attacks killed at least eight people in July 2017 (Al Jazeera, 2017).

Public health is another major concern for the IDP population in Nigeria. The Borno State Health Sector (2017) estimates that, in affected regions, there are 6.9 million people in need of health care with main concerns including a spread of hepatitis E and the limited availability of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has already identified a hepatitis E outbreak in part of the Borno State and has scaled up its medical responses. A problem, however, arises from insufficient number of latrines leading to disease outbreaks. Reports show that 279 people share each latrine, when the minimum accepted sanitation standard determines a maximum of 20 people (MSF, 2017). A new challenge for IDP protection is the upcoming raining season, which will make several areas of the regions unreachable and will strand IDP populations (MSF, 2017). This situation also increases the risk of epidemic outbreaks (Borno State Health Sector, 2017). IOM assessments of the damage caused by rain show that, out of forty-four camps, eight sustained damages of varying degrees (IOM, 2017).

In 98 per cent of IDP sites, all IDPs intended to return to their place of origin, with lack of safety cited as the main reason preventing return (IOM, 2017). Moreover, lack of information often leads to misinformed migration decisions making IDPs vulnerable to multiple displacement. Return migration must be prepared for in a dignified and safe manner (UNOCHA, 2016b).

3. Regular/ Labour Migration

3.1. Immigration

Data on labour immigration in Nigeria is not readily available, yet studies indicate that the majority of labour migrants are employed in the informal sector. Professions that migrants may occupy are that of general managers, corporate managers, physical science positions, clerical staff, and positions in

the mining, construction, and transportation industries (IOM, 2014). Immigrants to Nigeria mainly come from other countries in the region, such as Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo, and Niger (UN DESA, 2015).

3.2 Emigration

Data on emigration is difficult to collect due to the problematic techniques to assemble data from destination countries. Still, one can infer that, over the years, labour migrants from Nigeria tend to go to developed countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Nigerian migration to less developed countries has slowed down with less positive selection (Afolayan, Ikwuyatum & Abejide, 2009; IOM, 2014). Other countries of destination for Nigerian emigrants include Cameroon (7%), Ghana (6%), Italy (5%), Benin (4%), and Ivory Coast (4%) (UN DESA, 2015).²

The country also faces high levels of skilled emigration, representing high percentages of the emigrant stock. According to the World Bank (2016), 51 per cent of Nigerian migrants have tertiary education. This often follows sector-specific migration, which can lead to brain drain and be damaging for local communities in the country. In Nigeria, the medical sector suffers from this deficiency, with a high migration of physicians especially to oil-producing countries, such as Gulf States of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia (MTM i-Map, 2011; IOM, 2014).

An important side effect of long drawn labour emigration is the creation of an international Nigerian diaspora, which is estimated to range from 18 to 20 million (IOM, 2014). Individuals within the Nigerian diaspora tend to be the most educated and relatively affluent among migrant populations, highly qualified with skills in engineering, medicine, education, law, and information technology. As such, diaspora engagement becomes a policy priority in migration management, especially in terms of Nigeria's development (IOM, 2014). With regards to remittances, Nigeria's inward remittances flows were US\$9.59 billion in 2009, compared to US\$66 million in outward remittances in the same period (World Bank, 2011). Notably, the World Bank has estimated that inward remittances will reach US\$22 billion by the end of 2017 (Adeyemo, 2017).

4. Internal Migration

Internal migration is a common phenomenon in Nigeria, especially from rural to urban areas. This movement is induced by poor agricultural productivity, low incomes, scarcity of fertile lands, and poor socio-economical structure in rural areas; these factors push individuals to move to more urban areas of Nigeria. Some rural to rural migration is also present, from scarce to resourceful areas. State capitals emerge as centres of development and have acted as popular migration destinations. Due to the lack of urban planning and proper infrastructure in urban areas of Nigeria, this migratory movement contributes to congestion, inadequate housing, and the growth of slums in urban areas. Migrants, as a result, often find themselves in highly vulnerable situations (European Commission, 2009).

² Note that emigration statistics from UN DESA (2015) illustrate mixed migration stocks and may include some, but not all, refugees from Nigeria.

The flows of internal migrants in Nigeria show that the preferred destination for migrants is the north-central zone, followed by south-south, south-west, and south-east regions of the country. The Internal Migration Survey conducted by Nigeria's National Population Commission (NPC) in 2010 showed that 23 per cent of the sampled population of Nigeria were migrants, demonstrating the scale of this trend. The same survey showed that there were more female migrants than male migrants (51% and 49%, respectively), whilst there are more male return migrants than female return migrants (61% and 39%, respectively). A possible reason for this returnee differential is that, due to cultural roles, men are seen as heads of families being more likely to return to their place of origin to perform their roles in the home (IOM, 2014).

5. Irregular Migration

5.1. Human Smuggling

According to UNODC (2017), migrant smuggling is defined as "a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a State of which the person is not a national or a resident." Smuggling differs from human trafficking in three main ways having to do with consent, exploitation, and transnationality. More specifically, this means that migrants engage with their smugglers in a consensual manner; smuggling also occurs transnationally and ends upon arrival at the destination. Victims of trafficking, however, are typically trafficked against their will or have been coerced into giving consent and must endure ongoing exploitation. Moreover, trafficking can occur both internally and internationally across borders (UNODC, 2017).

For the case of Nigeria, there is little (especially recent) information, however, on smuggling practices and networks. Still, it is expected that smuggling plays a role in trafficking operations. IOM (2006) suggests that "Nigerians are one of nine nationalities from outside the European Union involved in significant organized criminal activities in Europe. The Nigerian groups are very loosely and flexibly organized and are mainly active in financial fraud, drugs trade, human smuggling and trafficking in persons" (p. 8). It is suggested that Nigerian smugglers, for example, control a significant portion of human smuggling that takes place between Morocco and Spain (IOM, 2006).

5.2. Trafficking in Human Beings

Nigeria is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to human trafficking. According to the US State Department's 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, Nigeria is a Tier 2 Watch List country. The country does not fulfil the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but it makes significant efforts to do so. The Nigerian government has recently made efforts to combat human trafficking "by investigating, prosecuting, and convicting traffickers; conducting anti-trafficking training for law enforcement officials; and repatriating some Nigerian trafficking victims identified abroad" (US Department of State, 2017, p. 304).

During 2016, Nigeria identified a significant number (599) of individuals who had become victim to crimes of labour trafficking. In addition, Nigeria identified 529 additional sex trafficking victims. In total, 1,128 VoTs were identified. During the previous period, only 943 victims were identified. Despite this increase in identification, only two traffickers were convicted for these crimes in 2016.

Moreover, the Nigerian government reduced funding for its National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) during the same period. An IOM review of the work done by NAPTIP in 2013 showed that a majority (65%) of cases were successfully investigated. A total of 23 per cent of all cases investigated involved sexual exploitation, followed by 19 per cent of cases involving child abuse, and 13 per cent encompassing child labour. The US Department of State (2017) suggests that, during the most recent reporting period, 654 investigations, 24 prosecutions, and 23 convictions were carried out within regards to trafficking offenses by NAPTIP. Twenty-two of the convictions resulted in prison time ranging from 18 months to 14 years; one convicted trafficker was allowed to pay a fine rather than going to prison, despite this alternative being removed from Nigerian law in 2015. During the previous period, 507 investigations, 32 prosecutions, and 24 convictions were carried out (US Department of State, 2017). Despite an increase in the number of investigations, the number of prosecutions and convictions remained relatively stable. Most of the identified victims were trafficked by the northern and western land borders through neighbouring countries, such as Niger, Mali, and Benin (IOM, 2014). Despite its efforts, Nigeria has not improved its trafficking situation since 2016, bringing it down from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watch List. Moreover, it should be noted that Nigeria was ranked as a Tier 1 country in 2010 and 2011 (US Department of State, 2017).

Victims of trafficking in Nigeria work in rural areas and, though to lesser extent, also in urban areas. Women and girls are commonly forced to domestic servitude and sex trafficking, while boys tend to fall under conditions of forced and bonded labour in a range of industries (e.g. mining, agriculture, textile manufacturing). Boys attending Quranic schools are also often forced into begging. Nigerian traffickers are also reported to have acted as orphanages, maternity homes, or religious centres (called “baby factories”) “where women are held against their will, raped, and forced to carry and delivery a child” (US Department of State, 2017). Victims of trafficking (VoTs) from Nigeria are taken to other countries in West, Central, and North Africa (e.g. Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, and Cabo Verde) as well as to Middle East, Central Asia and Europe (e.g. Italy, Austria, Russia). During the US Department of State’s most recent reporting period, Nigerian VoTs were identified in more than 29 countries globally.

Also of increasing concern is the continued forceful recruitment of children as twelve years of age for purposes of being children soldiers by Boko Haram civilian vigilante groups (like the Civilian Joint Taskforce) and the Nigerian Security forces. These children have also been forced into supporting military operations in positions of cooks, porters, cleaners, messengers, and guards. Moreover, according to the US Department of State (2017), there were increased reports of governmental involvement in trafficking operations: “Government officials – including military, police, federal, and state officials – were involved in the widespread sexual exploitation of Borno State women and girls displaced by Boko Haram, at times forcing women and girls in IDP camps to provide commercial sex acts in exchange for food” (p. 304). Officials in IDP camps have also been involved in the sexual exploitation of IDPs. Despite these occurrences, the Nigerian government has taken few steps to eliminate trafficking offences carried out by officials (US Department of State, 2017).

6. Migrant's Vulnerabilities and Protection Issues

The main migrant vulnerabilities of Nigerian nationals abroad and that migrants face in Nigeria can be generally grouped in the following ways:

- Humanitarian vulnerability due to forced displacement within the country and in neighbouring nations: This encompasses proper housing, food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of basic resources, strengthening of host communities and more (UNOCHA, 2016a & UNHCR, 2017b,g,h)
- Epidemic health concerns due to forced migration: With the lack of proper hygiene conditions, due to overcrowding of facilities and the nature of epidemic diseases, migrants face epidemics and major health concerns. Examples are hepatitis E, Lassa fever and cholera (Borno State Health Sector, 2017; MSF, 2017)
- Abduction and recruitment of child soldiers: Nigeria faces a recent deteriorating condition on trafficking and the use of child soldiers by Boko Haram, civilian groups and security forces. Children in forced displacement situation, especially boys, are more vulnerable to this practice, requiring especial protection needs (US Department of State, 2017).
- Overpopulation in urban areas: Constant migration flows to urban areas, first through rural-urban economic migration and now with forced displacement crisis, leads to overpopulation in these areas. This leads to the depletion of already scarce resources placing migrants at vulnerable situations (IOM, 2014 & UNOCHA, 2016a)
- Special needs of current and future returnees: 98 percent of IDPs claim that they intend to return to their place of origin and Nigeria already sees hundreds of cases of returnees from neighbouring countries. This migration movement requires the communities to be ready to receive back millions of Nigerians, otherwise migrants are vulnerable to continuous displacement and lack of livelihood opportunities (UNOCHA, 2016b).

7. Relevant National Policies and Stakeholders

Nigeria has an extensive law and policy framework that manages migration. In 2015, Nigeria made remarkable progress in migration management by approving its National Migration Policy (NMP). This document provides an appropriate legal framework for monitoring and regulating internal and international migration as well as data collection. The NMP addresses issues of diaspora mobilization, decent treatment of migrants, border management, and forced displacement management of IDPs, refugees, and asylum-seekers. Moreover, the document spans several themes such as the intersections of migration and poverty, gender, human security, smuggling, human trafficking, return, re-admission, reintegration, border management, health, education, data, and more (IOM, 2015). A distinctive feature is the stress that the NMP places on migration administration structure, guaranteeing effective governance structure, and a coherent migration policy. Under the coordination of the Technical Working Group on Migration and Development, the government is able to establish a structure where actors can work together, thereby reducing overlaps and encouraging collaboration (Hilary-Ogbonna, 2015).

Nigeria has also ratified a number of international conventions, such as the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and a number of ILO conventions. Moreover, it has incorporated the Protocol to

Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol) into legislation through its Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law, Enforcement and Administration Act of 14 July 2003. This act extends the powers of NAPTIP to cover internal trafficking and exploitive child domestic labour. Other important pieces of legislation are the Child Rights Act of 2003 prohibiting child exploitation and trafficking and the Labour Act CAP L1, LFN, 2004 prohibiting child labour. Moreover, Nigeria is an active member of ECOWAS, of which freedom of movement is a guiding principle (IOM, 2014).

To combat human trafficking on a national level, the Nigerian government amended the 2003 Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act in 2015, increasing penalties for offenders. This anti-trafficking prohibits all forms of trafficking in Nigeria and prescribes minimum penalty of five years for offenders. The main government actor who responds to trafficking is the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP); the agency provides police, immigration, and social services personnel with specialized treatment. NAPTIP further conducts extensive national and local programming through local and national media, warning about dangers of trafficking (US Department of State, 2017).

Table 4: Nigeria's Key Migration Policy Response

| Policy | Content |
|--|--|
| Immigration Act, 2015 (Act No. 8 of 2015) | "This Act [which repeals Immigration Act, Cap. I1, LFN, 2004, and the Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. P1, LFN, 2004]. sets out the provisions for matters relating to immigration, passports, visas, resident permits, work permits, and the prohibition of smuggling of migrants into and from Nigeria, and for the protection of and provision of remedies and assistance to, objects of smuggling of migrants offences in Nigeria. This Act also gives effect in the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the provisions of the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime" |
| National Commission for Refugees, Etc. Act (No. 52 of 1989) | "Prohibition of expulsion of refugees. Establishment and functions of the national commission for refugees, the federal commissioner for refugees, refugee appeal board. Determines procedures for seeking refugee status, treatment of members of the family of a refugee, rights and duties of refugees." |
| Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 (Act No. 4 of 2015). | "Establishment of the national agency for the prohibition of trafficking in persons, prohibition of acts of trafficking in persons, offences and penalties, determine jurisdiction, financial provisions, search, arrest and seizure, attachment and forfeiture of assets, treatment of trafficked persons, victims of trafficking trust, mutual legal assistance, exchange of information and extradition." |
| National Policy On Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In Nigeria – 2012 | Outlines rights and obligations of IDPs, government, humanitarian agencies and host communities. Develops policy implementation framework, funding, monitoring and evaluation of these policies. |
| Labour Act (Cap L1 LFN 2004) | Prohibits child labour and forced labour |
| Nigeria National Employment Policy NGA-1998-M-90973). | 4.4 Ensuring Supportive Population, Migration and Regional Development Policies – special focus on rural-urban migration and its development impact. 4.7.4 Development of Human Resources for Occupational Health |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>– in response to brain drain of health workers.</p> <p>4.8 Strengthening of Labour Market Information Systems and Monitoring – encourages federal office of statistics to “carry out specific ad hoc household-based surveys on key employment and labour issues of national concern such as child labour, women labour migration, etc.”</p> |
| Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act, 2004. | “Every Government in Nigeria shall provide free, compulsory and Universal basic education for every child of primary and junior secondary, school age.”, including migrant children whilst exuding Sections 2 and 3 to a child resident outside Nigeria. |
| Nigeria: Act No. 26 of 2003, Child's Rights Act, 2003 | Prohibits child labour, child marriage, forced begging, child soldier recruitment and child trafficking. |
| Nigeria Vision 20: 2020 – Drafted in 2009 | Development strategy for Nigeria, which is relevant to migration for trying to slow rural-urban migration by developing rural areas and control emigration of highly skilled nationals |
| United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990) | <p>International convention covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-discrimination with Respect to Rights • Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families • Other Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families who are Documented or in a Regular Situation • Provisions Applicable to Particular Categories of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families • Promotion of sound, equitable, humane and lawful conditions in connection with international migration of workers and members of their families • Application of the Convention |
| ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment | Allows for entry in ECOWAS states without a visa. Residency in ECOWAS state up to 90 days without a visa. After 90 days, being allowed to apply for permanent residence permit in the country of destination |
| African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) | “Establish a legal framework for preventing internal displacement, and protecting and assisting internally displaced persons in Africa. Provide for the obligations and responsibilities of States Parties, with respect to the prevention of internal displacement and protection of, and assistance, to internally displaced persons” |

Sources: Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2003, 2009, 2012; IOM, 2014, MTM i-Map, 2011, NATLEX, 2014a,b,c,d; 2015a,b; UNOHCHR, 2017.

Gaps

Nigeria’s migration policy has made progress since the approval of NMP in 2015, yet several gaps still stand out. First, the implementation of the NMP in its totality is a great challenge due to the complexity of the policy’s mandate. Capacity-building is vital to approach all the different spheres of migration management and reap the potential development benefits of migration (Hilary-Ogbonna, 2015). Second, recent developments of the trafficking issue have put Nigeria on the Tier 2 Watch List by the US Department of State in 2017. Despite its existing anti-trafficking legislation, Nigeria must make more significant efforts to halt the recruitment of child soldiers and forced labour by, for example, strengthening NAPTIP (US Department of State, 2017). Third, the forced displacement crisis that sweeps the country must be better managed. Millions of Nigerians are displaced in the country or to neighbouring nations and are in need of humanitarian assistance. Coordination with

humanitarian agencies is underway, but the funding gap gives a crucial blow and must be addressed on an international level (UNHCR, 2017h).

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