

Nigeria is resource-rich but has a long history of corruption and violence which has left much of Nigeria's population impoverished. For generations, farmers have clashed with Fulani herdsmen over access to land and the Fulani are currently ranked the fourth deadliest group in the Global Terrorism Index. More recently, terrorist group Boko Haram have ravaged large parts of northern Nigeria, killing thousands and displacing millions.

Key individuals, Groups & Places

- Muhammadu Buhari:** President
- Goodluck Jonathan:** Former President whose administration was widely described as corrupt
- Fulani herdsmen:** Terrorist group
- Boko Haram:** Terrorist group
- Borno State:** Area of north west Nigeria and location of Boko Haram activity
- Abuja:** Capital city

Key dates

- 1960:** Gained independence from British Empire and subsequently there was much political instability, corruption and military takeover
- 1999:** New constitution formed and elections held
- 2001:** Sharia law adopted in some northern states leading to religious tensions and fatal violence
- 2009:** Boko Haram began violent campaign
- 2010:** Goodluck Jonathan elected President
- 2012:** State of emergency declared in relation to Boko Haram violence
- 2015:** Muhammadu Buhari elected President



Boko Haram

Since 2009 Boko Haram has been trying to enforce its own interpretation of Sharia law in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. They regularly attack homes, schools and places of worship, particularly targeting Christians. Tens of thousands of people have been killed by the Boko Haram insurgency and more than 1 million people have been displaced.

The name Boko Haram means 'western education is forbidden' - the group has destroyed over 900 schools and forced the closure of over 1,500 schools.

Fulani Herdsmen

A lesser known force of violence in Nigeria, the Fulani are nomadic and semi-nomadic herdsmen found across west and central Africa. They herd animals across farmlands and grazing areas and often clash violently with farmers. They are associated with the Hausa ethnic group and together make up 29% of Nigeria's population. Conflict is often borne out of tensions between the mainly Muslim Fulani and mainly Christian farmers. In 2014 the Fulani were ranked the fourth deadliest terrorist group in the world, above Boko Haram.

Humanitarian Situation

There is widespread poverty across Nigeria with 5.2 million people food insecure, 3.4 million acutely malnourished, and 450,000 people suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Nigeria is currently struggling to improve sanitation conditions particularly in IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camps where there have been outbreaks of cholera in Borno State since August 2017. There have so far been 44 deaths and 2,300 confirmed or suspected cases. There are a total of 1.7 million IDPs in Nigeria which puts huge numbers at risk of cholera

Nigeria is also undergoing a HIV epidemic with 3.2 million people living with HIV, 220,00 new cases of HIV each year, and 160,000 AIDS related deaths (2016).

HART's Partners in Nigeria

The Christian Institute in Jos, Plateau State

The Christian Institute offers courses in healthcare, theology, communications and computing. There are several hundred students and 40 highly qualified staff. Plateau State is where the majority Muslim north meets the majority Christian south.

The Anglican Diocese of Jos

Another joint faith initiative which aims to reconcile Muslim and Christian communities for a broad range of activities including skill sharing, training, sporting competitions and the generation of small businesses. This project is located in Mai Adiko, Rayfield, a neighbourhood in Jos that suffered heavily from the violence. Canon John Hassan co-ordinates the project.

School and Clinic in Bari, Kano State

In the village of Bari, in Kano, HART supports a school and clinic. Despite being located in a deeply divided region, both the clinic and the school continue to serve Christians and Muslims. Around 90% of the patients at the clinic are Muslim.

Some useful links for more information:

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - www.unocha.org/nigeria

Human Rights Watch - www.hrw.org/africa/nigeria

Amnesty International - www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/nigeria/report-nigeria

Humanitarian Response - www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria

UN Development Programme - www.ng.undp.org

'The War Against Boko Haram' documentary - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kimbo5c0Ak

If you have any queries, please visit www.hart-uk.org or contact office@hart-uk.org