



Nigeria has a long history of **corruption and violence** which has left much of Nigeria's population impoverished. Farmers have clashed with **Fulani herdsmen** over land. More recently, terrorist group **Boko Haram** have ravaged large parts of northern Nigeria, killing thousands and displacing millions, they currently are the deadliest terrorist group according to the Global-Terrorism Index.

Key Info

Size: 923,768 km²
Population: 202 million
Continent: Africa
Abuja: Capital city
President: Muhammadu Buhari
Goodluck Jonathan: Former President, widely considered to be corrupt
Boko Haram (BH): Terrorist organisation
Fulani Herdsmen: Terrorist organisation, most part of the Hausa Muslim ethnic group
Borno State: North-eastern state of Nigeria
Adamawa State: North-eastern state of Nigeria
Yobe State: North-eastern state of Nigeria



Key dates

1472: Portuguese reach Nigerian coast
1960: Independence from Britain
1966: Jan - Military government implemented after coup
1967-1970: Civil war known as the Biafran War
1999: Parliamentary and presidential elections
2000: Islamic Sharia law adopted by several northern states; deadly clashes between Christians and Muslims
2002: riots causing hundreds of deaths due to ethnic and cultural clashes
2009: Boko Haram began violent campaign
2010: Goodluck Jonathan succeeds Presidents Yar-Adua after he dies, Jonathan wins Presidential elections in 2011
2013: May - Government declares state of emergency in northern states, sends troops to fight off BH
2014: Nov - BH switches allegiance from al-Qaeda to Islamic State group
2015: March- Muhammadu Buhari elected President
2018: Aug - BH escalate attacks, target army bases
2019: Feb - Buhari is reelected as President, opposition, Atiku Abubakar sues, alleging electoral fraud
 Sept - Presidential Election Tribunal rejects Abubakar's petition

Boko Haram

Since 2009, Boko Haram have been on a **violent campaign** in the **north-east**, attacking homes, schools and places of worship, **targeting Christians** in particular. Tens of thousands have been **killed** and over one million have been **displaced**.

Boko Haram means '**western education is forbidden**' and the group have forced the closure of over 1,500 schools, destroying over 900 others. Additionally, they often **abduct** young boys to use as soldiers and young girls to marry off.

Famously, in April 2014, 276 school girls were captured from a school in **Chibok**, Borno state. Over the past five years some of the girls have been released, 112 are still missing.

Fulani Herdsmen

Fulani Herdsmen are a lesser known force in Nigeria. Found across **west and central Africa**, they are a **nomadic** and **semi-nomadic** Muslim group who graze their herds wherever they go, often getting into **violent conflicts with other farmers**, usually Christians. They **kill indiscriminately**, including children, the elderly and have reportedly murdered pregnant women.

The **Nigerian government** has been criticised for its **lack of action** against Fulani herdsmen and have been accused of using the conflict to advance their own agenda.

Humanitarian Situation

Between January 2013 and March 2019, **3,600 children have been detained by Nigerian armed forces** for their suspected involvement with non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram. Children as young as five are kept for months, even years, with **little or no evidence**, undergoing **harsh beatings** for trivial actions, such as moving positions whilst sleeping. Additionally, the Red Cross reported that there were **22,000 people registered missing** in 2019; the world's highest figure. It is said that 60 percent of those were minors at the time of their disappearance.

There are currently around **1.9 million internally displaced Nigerians** in camps, mostly in the northeast. Here, conditions are **cramped** and often **flood** which leads to the quick spread of **disease**. There is currently a **cholera epidemic** in Adamawa State where refugee camps are abundant, with 739 reported cases as of Sept 2019. Throughout the 20 states however, there have been a reported 43,996 cases and 836 deaths. Nigeria also has the **second largest HIV epidemic globally**, and 51 percent of the HIV burden of the African region.

Due to many areas in the northeast being extremely hard to reach, Humanitarian Needs Overview estimated that **5.3 million** people are in need of **health intervention** and **3 million** are in need of **food assistance**.

HART's Partners in Nigeria

Jos Diocese Emergency Relief

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.

Bari School & Clinic and Ningi School

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

