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**.

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**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 Adikko, 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.

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**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
- **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](http://www.hart-uk.org) or contact [office@hart-uk.org](mailto:office@hart-uk.org)