



Humanitarian
Aid Relief Trust

NIGERIA

FACT SHEET 2020/21



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

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.

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:** Mar. – 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

Islamist Fulani herdsmen

Islamist 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 Islamist 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% 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% 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

