

# NIGERIA

MARCH – MAY 2019 BRIEFING



## Humanitarian Figures

### 7.1 million

People in Nigeria are in need of life saving assistance in 2019, the [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) has projected.

### 2.7 million

Women and children are in need of immediate nutrition services. Acute malnutrition in children remains highly concerning, with [over one million](#) having malnutrition rates exceeding the WHO threshold of [10 per cent](#).

### 1.8 million

People, including [440,000 women](#), [364,000 men](#), [614,000 girls](#) and [516,000 boys](#) are internally displaced, with 94 per cent of the displacement attributed to ongoing hostilities.

### 1.7 million

Estimated people in the Bay States are currently estimated to be food insecure and considered to be facing emergency situations 2.7 million people are projected to be food insecure across Nigeria. [All figures sourced by OCHA.](#)

## Highlights

- > President Muhammad Buhari is sworn in for second term
- > Anti Boko Haram militia frees almost 900 child soldiers
- > 100 Christians killed and hundreds injured in attacks by the Fulani militia

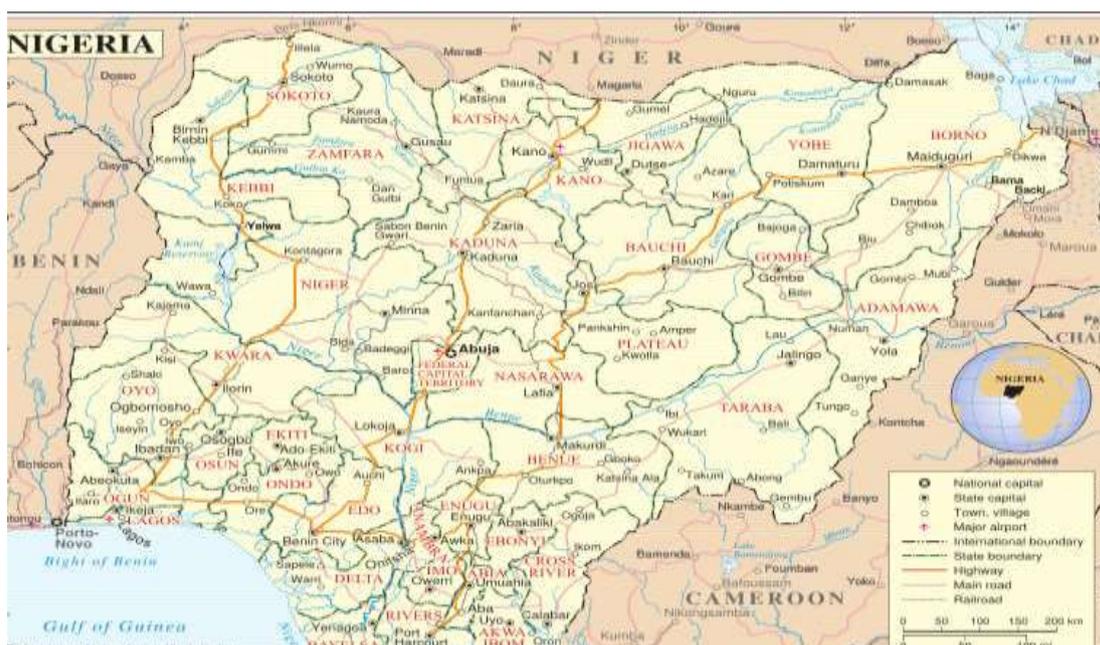
## Key Developments

- > A recent spike in violence in northwestern parts of Nigeria has forced an [estimated 20,000 people to seek refuge across the border in Niger since April, according to the UN Refugee Agency](#). The UNHCR has been working with the Niger authorities to provide basic assistance and register new arrivals, reporting that 18,000 people have gone through the registration process so far.
- > In April, [at least 100 Christians were killed](#) and hundreds of others injured in attacks led by the Fulani militia. According to a [Human Rights group](#), 750-800 Christians were killed by jihadist groups in Nigeria in the first four months of 2019. As the attacks have spread further south, the massacres average at six to seven deaths each day, the report finds.
- > [894 children, including 106 girls](#) who were recruited by pro-government forces have been released, according to the United Nations. The children, who were enlisted to support regular soldiers in the fight against Boko Haram were freed at a ceremony in the north-eastern town of Maiduguri on May 10. The Civilian Joint Task Force said they were released as part of its "[commitment to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children.](#)"

## Context

As more people become displaced due to ongoing conflict, northeast Nigeria remains in a humanitarian crisis stemming from the threats made by Boko Haram. [A lack of state presence](#) has allowed criminal networks to operate freely for decades, however since the emergence of the Islamist militia nine years ago there have been countless insurgencies, forcing households to leave their homes and relocate to camps and host communities for IDPs. More recently, this displacement has been exacerbated by clashes between semi-nomadic cattle herders, mostly of Fulani ethnicity, and sedentary farmers.

The Fulani herdsmen have historically grazed their cattle in the area of the Lake Chad basin however the [landlocked lake has shrunk](#) from 22,000 square kilometres in the 1960s to fewer than 1,500 today due to changing climate patterns. This has forced the herdsmen to migrate southwards, triggering disputes with farmers. It has also been [observed that religion has played a part](#) in the conflict between the herdsmen and the farmers, as the former are predominantly Muslim, whilst the latter are Christian. Significant challenges facing Nigeria pertain to ongoing conflicts, and are exacerbated by poverty, climate change and underdevelopment. It is therefore necessary that the Nigerian government cooperate with humanitarian organisations to ensure one hundred percent of aid is received by those affected, and to eventually reach a solution to the complex situation.



### Political Map of Nigeria

Located in northern central Africa, the Lake Chad Basin currently faces insecurity, affecting areas of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Yobo, Borno and Adamawa states of north-east Nigeria host the largest amount of individuals and households affected by conflict.

HART partners are located in Jos, the capital of Plateau state; and Bari, south of Kano state capital.

## Trafficking Crisis in Nigeria

On April 16, [a report](#) from the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons identified Nigeria as a source, transit and destination country for victims of trafficking. The vast majority of these trafficked persons are falling prey to traffickers in transit countries, such as Libya, and are subject to all forms of human rights violations, [including torture, rape, extortion, forced labour and sexual labour amounting to trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery](#), the report finds. Internal trafficking, mainly from rural to urban areas is reportedly rampant in Nigeria, mainly affecting women and girls for the purpose of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, and men and boys for the purpose of begging, labour exploitation and street vending.

## Former President Criticises 'Fulanisation' of Nigeria

Former president Olusegun Obasanjo has expressed his fears for the country and raised alarm on what he has [observed as ongoing attempts to 'Fulanise' Nigeria](#). Obasanjo said "It is no longer an issue of lack of education and lack of employment for our youths in Nigeria which it began as. It is now West African Fulanisation, African Islamisation and global organised crimes of human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking, gun trafficking, illegal mining and regime change." [The two-term former president also commented](#): "Both Boko Haram and Fulani herdsman's acts of violence were not treated as they should at the beginning. They have both incubated and developed beyond what Nigeria can handle alone. They are now combined and internationalised with ISIS in control."

## Forbes Claims Nigeria is Africa's 'Money Losing Machine'

Nigeria currently sits on 40 billion barrels of oil reserves and \$48 billion worth of investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector, but Africa's largest economy is [mired in problems, the Forbes report reads](#). "Nigeria has never been a particularly business-friendly place," says David Bruckmeier, a sub-Saharan business intelligence analyst at London-based political risk firm AKE Group. "Outright hostile action against major foreign investors is rare, but bureaucracy, pervasive corruption, an unfavourable tax system and disputes with investors hurt investment," he says. The [Forbes report](#) states it is the government's fault that Nigeria's economy is prevented from growing.

## UK Government Asked to Acknowledge True Basis of Attacks on Christians

On Thursday 9th May, Baroness Cox (crossbench) asked the British Government to acknowledge that the [scale and asymmetry of attacks against Christians in Nigeria has an ideological basis](#). Since the Fulani insurgency began, thousands of Christians have been targeted and killed. On her most recent visit to the Middle-Belt Region, Baroness Cox collected first-hand evidence and testimonies from survivors to bring the killings to the attention of the mainstream media, which continues to characterise the attacks as ethnic riots. The oral question can be [watched here](#).

## **April**

[Violent attacks in Nigeria drive thousands out](#)

[Nigeria identified as a source and destination country for victims of trafficking](#)

[100 Christians killed and hundreds more injured in Extremist attacks](#)

## **May**

[Almost 900 child soldiers freed from fight against Boko Haram](#)

[Former Nigeria President raises alarm on extremist threats facing the country](#)

[Forbes report blames the government for Nigeria's slowing economy](#)