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**Nigeria : education, labour market, migration. Annex A to "Dutch labour market shortages and potential labour supply from Africa and the Middle East" (SEO report no. 2019-24)**

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## Nigeria: education, labour market, migration

Annex A to “Dutch labour market shortages and potential labour supply  
from Africa and the Middle East” (SEO Report No. 2019-24)

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## Summary

**Enrolment in both primary and secondary schools has risen substantially over the years, but secondary and tertiary enrolment remains low.** The primary student population increased from just under 4 million students in 1970 to more than 26 million students in 2013. Similarly, at the secondary level, student numbers increased from a base of approximately 360,000 students in 1970 to 12.5 million students in 2013. Likewise, the tertiary sector recorded an appreciable increase in the numbers of institutions, variety of courses and enrolled students in the same period. Despite these increases, only about half of all primary students continue to the secondary level, and less than 15 percent eventually make it to tertiary level. The seeming lack of employment opportunities and other problems identified in the tertiary sector has contributed to a substantial increase in the number of Nigerian students undertaking tertiary education abroad, with the United Kingdom and the United States emerging as the top two destinations.

**Unemployment is high, particularly among youth and higher educated students.** Despite Nigeria's natural resource wealth, many Nigerians appear to have been left behind, primarily because of the shortage of employment opportunities. Unemployment is highest among youth and among those with post-secondary education. Agriculture still has the largest share of employment. Trade emerged as the second most important employment sector providing jobs for Nigerians. Though manufacturing ranks third on the list, the proportion employed in this sector has shrunk to half of what it used to be in the preceding decade. One interesting sector is Information and Communication: while providing less than 1% of all jobs, it contributes more to Nigeria's GDP than manufacturing, due to its high value added.

**Nigeria is an important area of origin, destination, and transit of migrants in Africa.** It is Africa's most populous country, and a country of high migration turnover. The high immigration rate (1.2 million in 2017) is accompanied by an even higher rate of emigration of Nigerians (1.3 million in 2017), resulting in a negative net migration rate. The Nigerian Government formally adopted a National Policy on Migration and its Implementation Plan in May 2015. This occurred in the backdrop of a growing recognition of the strong links between migration and potentially immense national development benefits for the country. For instance, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) stated that the inflow of remittances to Nigeria increased dramatically from \$2.3 billion in 2004 to \$22 billion in 2018; The US, followed by the UK and Cameroon are the top three destinations of Nigerian migrants. In mainland Western Europe, the Netherlands ranks as the fifth destination behind Germany, Italy, Spain and Austria. Noteworthy is the large 'brain drain' of Nigeria-trained medical students and health workers as well as academics who appear to be fleeing Nigeria's struggling tertiary education landscape and unstable labour market prospects. Thousands of them are now gainfully employed in medical jobs abroad, and they tend to prefer the US and the UK to the Netherlands.



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# 1 Introduction

**Nigeria is the 7<sup>th</sup> most populated country in the world and has the second highest projected population increase in the world.** As of 2017, the country had a population of 191 million people and an annual population growth rate of 2.6%. Before 2050, the population is expected to increase by another 220 million (i.e., more than double) through natural increases (Population Reference Bureau 2017).

**Nigeria has the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa in part due to its large population and in part to its natural resource wealth.** It was recently ranked as the largest and fastest growing economy in Africa and 26<sup>th</sup> in the top performing world economies.<sup>1</sup> However, GDP growth, which for many years had grown by more than 5 percent annually, slowed down in recent years. It was briefly negative in 2016, but has hovered between 1% and 2% since then. GDP per capita rose tremendously, from around US\$ 1300 per year per person in 2002 to above \$2500 in 2014 and 2015. Since then, GDP per capita came down to \$2412 in 2017. In terms of GDP per capita, Nigeria is the 17<sup>th</sup> richest country in Africa (IMF 2017).

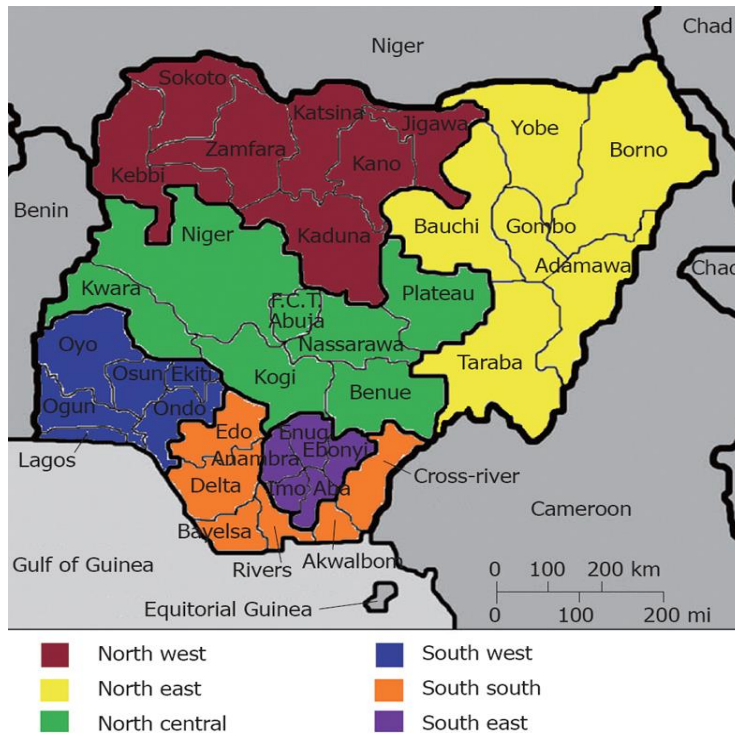
**Nigeria scores relatively low on the United Nations' Human Development Index (HDI), which combines measurements of life expectancy, education and per capita income.** The country's current HDI rank is at 152 out of 188 countries and territories. This is only a small improvement since 2005, when it ranked 158.

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<sup>1</sup> Kwanga (2015). Some statistics changed after 2014, when Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in conjunction with some governmental agencies, conducted an economy rebasing exercise to re-align the nation's economic performance.



Figure 1.1 Nigeria and its six geo-political zones



Source: <http://www.efarmers.ng/en/blog/an-overview-of-nigerias-agricultural-products-1>

**Administratively, there are three tiers of government in Nigeria.** These are the federal, state (36 States and Federal Capital Territory Abuja), and 774 local government areas. For ease of comprehension of the country's socio-economic and geographic diversity, the country is conveniently divided into six geopolitical zones – North East, North Central, North West, South East, South South, and the South West (see Figure 1.1).

**The federal government accounts for a large chunk of formal sector employment.** It implements a 6-3-3-4 education system (6 years of primary education, 3 years of junior secondary school, 3 years of senior secondary education and 4 years of university/ polytechnic/college education). But there seems to be an unwitting focus on the 'six' as outcomes will show in later sections of this report. The country is also a key point of origin, transit and destination of migrants.

**In 2017, the Nigerian government launched the Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan.** This plan highlighted key strategies to drive inclusive growth aiming at a real GDP growth of 7%, reducing the inflation rate to 9.9% and bring back unemployment from 14.2% to 11.2% (CBN, 2017). This comes in the heels of Nigeria Vision 20:2020, which had as one of its strategic objectives to improve the nation's prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and creating employment in a sustainable manner (IBE 2010)

**Despite the tremendous national wealth, poverty among Nigerians has soared.** Nigeria is now deemed to have the highest rate of extreme poverty globally, when it outstripped India as the country with most people in extreme poverty in July 2018 (Beaumont and Abrak 2018). Yet, Nigeria is just about approximately 15% of India's 1.3 billion people.

**Nearly half of the Nigerian population is estimated to live in extreme poverty.** This is unlikely to change in the near future, given the projected phenomenal population increase. According to UNDESA, Nigeria will maintain a young population structure where more than 40% of the country's population are presently aged under 15 years (Population Reference Bureau, 2018). This disproportionately young population challenges the ability of Nigerian society to adapt to ongoing demographic changes. Moreover, it increases the difficulty associated with the provision of public services in health and education. In addition, it puts stress on job availability and GDP growth. All of these are factors that are likely to encourage further migration abroad.

**Table 1.1** Background statistics of Nigeria and others

Country	Population 2018	Pop under 15	Net migration	GNI per capita
<b>Nigeria</b>	195.9	44%	(-0)	\$5,680
<b>Ghana</b>	29.5	39%	-1	\$4,490
<b>Tunisia</b>	11.6	24%	(-0)	\$11,490
<b>Jordan</b>	10.2	35%	0	\$9,110
<b>Netherlands</b>	17.2	16%	5	\$52,640

Source: Population Reference Bureau 2018  
GNI – PPP (purchasing power parity) 2017



## 2 Education system

### 2.1 Introduction

**Education has been at the top of the priority lists of various Nigerian governments.** The “National Policy on Education,” published in 1977 was revised in 1981 and 1990, to ensure that the education sector is supportive of government’s development goals policies and to try to address the perceived needs of the government in power (Moja 2000). The policy document addresses the issues of imbalance in the provision of education in different parts of the country with regard to access, quality of educational resources and girls’ education.

**Nigeria has a 6-3-3-4 formal education structure.** Primary school has an official entry age of six years, spanning a duration of six levels. Secondary school is divided into two: the lower secondary and upper secondary school, often referred to as junior secondary school (JSS 1-3) and senior secondary school (SSS 1-3). Basic education includes early childhood education, primary, and lower secondary education. At the end of JSS 3, students sit for the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE)/Junior Secondary School Examination. At the end of SSS3, they take the National Examination led by the West African Examination Council (WAEC). A school year includes three terms and lasts a total of ten months (UNESCO IBE 2010).

Responsibility for education service delivery is shared between Federal, State, local government, communities and private organisations. At the higher level, the Federal Ministry of Education is responsible for ensuring that the states’ policies and procedures operate within the parameters of national policy as adapted for local needs, while the National Council of Education coordinates policy at the political level.

### 2.2 Key characteristics of the education system<sup>2</sup>

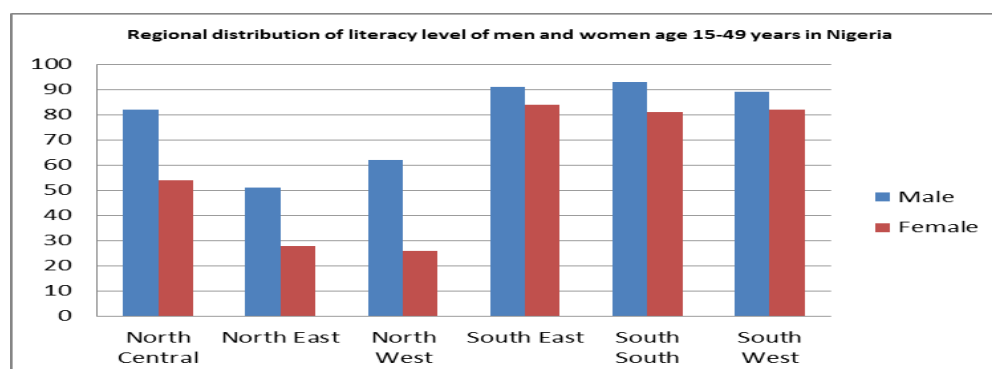
#### 2.2.1 Literacy

**Literacy rates are highest in southern part of the country, but on average tend to be much higher for men than for women** (Figure 2.1). In the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted in 2013, literacy status was determined by assessing men and women’s ability to read all or part of a sentence on a set of cards that had simple sentences printed in three major Nigerian languages: Igbo, Hausa, and Yoruba. Literacy rates were found to be higher for both sexes in the South, and to be particularly low for women in the North. The gap in literacy levels between women and men was most pronounced in the North Central, North East, and North West zones (Figure 2.1). Female literacy was highest in the South East (84%) and lowest among those in the North West (26%).

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<sup>2</sup> There are gaps in the availability of indicators for certain time periods. In this section, we aim to minimise such gaps by using data from a multiplicity of sources, such as the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS 2013), UNESCO/IndexMundi, the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, and other sources.

Figure 2.1 Males more literate than females in Nigeria



Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2013).

## 2.2.2 Enrolment in primary education

The number of students enrolled in primary education in Nigeria has risen substantially over the years. At the primary level, numbers increased from just under 4 million students in 1970 to more than twenty-six million students in 2013.

Table 2.1 Number of students in primary schools is increasing in Nigeria

Year	Number of primary school pupils
1970	3,515,827
1977	6,165,547
1978	8,100,324
1984	14,654,800
1990	13,607,250
2000	19,151,440
2005	21,115,430
2010	21,558,460
2011	23,668,900
2012	24,822,370
2013	26,167,540

Source: Index Mundi, adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics<sup>3</sup>

**Gross enrolment is very high for primary education.** The most recent data indicate that about 94% of all children eligible for compulsory basic schooling are enrolled in primary schools in the year 2013. In fact, available data shows that 100% coverage was achieved in the years 2004 and 2005. The gross enrolment ratio<sup>4</sup> is the ratio of total enrolment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown. In a 43-year period 1970-2013, the highest value attained was 112.81 in 1983 from a base of 40.8% in 1970.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/nigeria/progression-to-secondary-school#SE.SEC.PROG.ZS>

<sup>4</sup> Combined gross enrolment ratio in education: For the tertiary level, the population used is that of the five-year age group following on from the secondary school leaving. Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Institute for Statistics (2012). <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>

**Table 2.2** Gross enrolment rate at primary level is nearly universal

Gross enrolment (%)	
Year	Primary
1999	93.8
2003	99.1
2004	100.3
2005	100.9
2010	84.7
2011	90.3
2013	93.7

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics

### 2.2.3 Completion

While primary enrolment rates are high, primary completion rates are much lower. Data obtained from the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report indicates that only 68% of the gross number enrolled in primary school eventually completed primary school in the data evaluation period. In the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, Nigeria out-performed its regional neighbors (Ghana and Senegal) in terms of completion rates, but it still remained far below the completion rates recorded in countries like Tunisia (94%) and Jordan (98%).<sup>5</sup>

**Table 2.3** Primary completion rates better for Nigeria than sub-regional neighbors

Country	Primary completion ratio (end 2015) (in % of age group)			Completion Rate (in % of age group)
	Total	Male	Female	Total
Nigeria	94	94	93	68
Ghana	108	107	109	66
Senegal	82	78	87	50
Tunisia	114	116	113	94
Jordan	97	97	98	98
Netherlands	105	105	104	...

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (2016)

**Statistics on completion and dropout rates in Nigeria are to be interpreted with caution.** While the dearth of systematically collected data pervades the public service system, anecdotal evidence indicates that several students attempt entrance exams into secondary schools from Primary 5. When such students pass the exams, they get enrolled in secondary schools (skipping

<sup>5</sup> The primary completion rate, or gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education, is the number of new entrants (enrolments minus repeaters) in the last grade of primary education, regardless of age, divided by the population at the entrance age for the last grade of primary education. As documented in the UNESCO GEM Report, data limitations preclude adjusting for students who dropout during the final year of primary education.

Primary 6). Many of such students also get enrolled in privately-run secondary schools. Thus it may appear on public records that several students did not complete primary education, whereas in actual fact, they are already enrolled in the next higher level of education. Such data are not captured in regular surveys that are designed only to obtain information from public schools. Therefore, the primary completion rate may be misleading.

## 2.2.4 Attendance

**The net attendance ratio (NAR) for pupils in primary schools is relatively better in southern Nigeria compared to northern Nigeria, and in urban areas relative to rural areas.** The NAR is an indicator of participation in schooling among children of official school age (6-12 years). By definition, the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent. Across Nigeria's geopolitical zones, the North East has the lowest NAR at the primary (44%) a, while the South East has the highest NAR (81%). Statistics in Table 2.4 also shows that at the primary level, the NAR in urban areas (71%) is higher than in rural areas (52%). **There are also differences in net attendance ratios for males and females at the primary level.**

**Table 2.4 Northern Nigerian zones have lower school attendance ratios**

	Net attendance ratio: Primary (%)			Gender parity index (Gpi)
	Male	Female	Total	
<b>Residence</b>				
<b>Urban</b>	73.1	69.4	71.2	0.95
<b>Rural</b>	54.7	48.8	51.8	0.89
<b>Zone</b>				
<b>North Central</b>	69.6	66.2	68	0.95
<b>North East</b>	46.7	41.5	44.1	0.89
<b>North West</b>	50.7	43.8	47.2	0.86
<b>South East</b>	82.3	80.3	81.4	0.98
<b>South South</b>	76.4	73.4	74.9	0.96
<b>South West</b>	70.5	69.5	70	0.99

Source: NDHS (2013)

**The net attendance ratio (NAR) for pupils in secondary schools is also relatively better in southern Nigeria compared to northern Nigeria.** The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the persons of school in population age range 13 to18 years population that are attending secondary schools. By definition, the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent.

## 2.2.5 Quality of education

**One indication of the relatively poor quality of primary education is the large number of students per teacher in Nigeria.** At 58 students per qualified teacher, this pupil-teacher ratio is highest in Nigeria compared to other countries in West Africa. The UNESCO GEM report defined qualified teachers according to national standards, based on headcount of pupils and teachers. In

comparison, primary school teachers in Tunisia or Jordan are responsible for three times fewer students. The teaching burden is thus less for Tunisian and Jordanian teachers than for Nigeria.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 2.5 Pupil-teacher ratio worse in Nigerian Primary Schools**

• Country	• Pupil-teacher ratio Primary 2015		
	• General	• Qualified	• Trained
<b>Nigeria</b>	• ...	• 57,6	• ...
<b>Ghana</b>	• 30,6	• 57,1	• 54,6
<b>Senegal</b>	• 32,1	• 32,1	• 47
<b>Tunisia</b>	• 15,7	• 16,3	• 15,8
<b>Jordan</b>	• 16,9	• 16,9	• 16,9

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report

The pupil-teacher ratio appeared to be better in the period 2004 to 2010 when figures oscillated around 37 students per teacher in Nigerian primary schools (Table 2.6). The highest it came to around that period was 46 students per teacher in 2007 (compared to the less burdensome 32.2 students per primary school teacher in 1978). Conditions in classroom appeared to have taken a turn for the worse in 2015. New statistics provided by UNESCO indicate that a primary school teacher now copes with nearly twice the number of students in the preceding 10 years.

**Table 2.6 Pupil-teacher ratio better in the period 2004-2010**

Number of pupils per teacher	
Year	Primary school
<b>2004</b>	35.8
<b>2005</b>	36.9
<b>2006</b>	40.4
<b>2007</b>	46.1
<b>2010</b>	37.6

Source Adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

**With the substantial increase in primary enrolment, there has also been a visible increase in the proportion of trained teachers in primary schools.** Availability of trained teachers is another important marker of quality of education. Trained teachers at the primary level of education are presented below as the percentage of school teachers who have received the minimum organised teacher training (pre-service or in-service) required for teaching in Nigeria. Though there is a lack of more recent data, information gleaned from UNESCO Institute for Statistics showed that the proportion of trained teachers increased from 51.2% in 2006 to 66.2% of all teachers in 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Trained teachers are defined as those who have received at least the minimum organised and recognised pre-service and in-service pedagogical training required to teach at a given level of education. Data on trained classroom teachers are not collected for countries whose education statistics are gathered through the OECD, Eurostat or the World Education Indicators questionnaires.



## 2.2.6 Secondary education

The proportion of female enrolment relative to males does not appear to differ much among the countries presented in Table 2.7. However, in absolute terms, the total number of students enrolled in Nigerian secondary schools exceeds the numbers recorded in selected comparator countries.

**Table 2.7** Nigeria and other West African countries have similar female enrolment but lower completion rates than selected countries in the Middle East

Country	Total Enrolment Sec '15		Completion 2010-15	
	Total	% Female	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
<b>Nigeria</b>	12,533,000	47	52	50
<b>Ghana</b>	2,512,000	48	52	45
<b>Senegal</b>	1,136,000	49	21	9
<b>Tunisia</b>	1,008,000	...	69	44
<b>Jordan</b>	749,000	50	89	59
<b>Netherlands</b>	1,613,000	49	94	79

Source: Adapted from UNESCO GEM Report

**Completion rates are also a bit better in Nigeria than for its sub-regional neighbours.** Completion rates are also better than Tunisia at the upper secondary school level in the 2010-2015 assessment period, but much lower than the outcomes recorded at this level in Jordan and the Netherlands. And, that is as far as Nigeria's success goes at the secondary level. As shown earlier, only half of those that scale the primary level obtain or are served with secondary education.

**There is inadequate statistics on progression of students from primary to secondary level in Nigeria.** The most recent data obtained from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics however show that there was a near doubling in the proportion of students that progressed from primary to secondary level in the 10-year period 1999 to 2009. Progression to secondary school refers to the number of new entrants to the first grade of secondary school in a given year as a percentage of the number of students enrolled in the final grade of primary school in the previous year (minus the number of repeaters from the last grade of primary education in the given year).

**Table 2.8:** Progression to secondary school is on the rise with female proportion edging males.

Year	% Female	% Male	Total
<b>1999</b>	34.1	33.4	33.7
<b>2009</b>	61.0	59.8	60.4

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics

**In a 43-year period (1970 to 2013), the share of primary school students that transitioned to secondary school increased from just 10% in 1970 to nearly 50% in 2013.** The relative success in enrolment at the primary level is linked to successive governments' efforts to support provision and accessibility of primary education in Nigeria. However, this overt focus might have contributed to the relative neglect of the other levels of education service provision in the country. While the number of primary pupils was around 26 million as of 2013, slightly less than half of this number were found in secondary school in the same year.

**The number of students enrolled in secondary education in Nigeria has risen substantially over the years.** Similar rise in number of enrollees is observed at the secondary level from a base of approximately three hundred and sixty thousand students in 1970 to as much as 12.5 million students in 2013.

**Table 2.9** Number of students in secondary schools increasing in Nigeria

Year	Number of secondary school pupils
1970	356,565
1977	745,717
1978	904,931
1984	3,393,186
1990	3,125,192
2000	4,104,345
2005	6,397,581
2010	9,056,768
2011	9,591,205
2012	10,212,250
2013	12,532,750

Source: Index Mundi, adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics<sup>7</sup>

Despite the big increase in the numbers of students enrolled in secondary schools, available data indicates that just over half (55.7%) of all persons eligible for secondary education were enrolled in secondary schools as of 2013. Though enrolment coverage has left millions of persons of relevant secondary school-going age behind, the 55.7% coverage (in 2013) is double the gross proportion in 1999 when it was 23.4%.

**Table 2.10** Gross enrolment rates in secondary education more than doubled since 1999

Year	Gross enrolment (%)
1999	23.4
2003	...
2004	34.8
2005	34.7
2010	43.8
2011	45.2
2013	55.7

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics

The doubling of gross enrolment in the 1999-2013 period is also a big increase compared to the earlier reported enrolment rate of 4.4% in 1970. However, a rate of 56% does mean that nearly one half of secondary school age children are still not enrolled in secondary school.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/nigeria/progression-to-secondary-school#SE.SEC.PROG.ZS>

**There are differences in net attendance ratios for males and females at the secondary level.** The results in Tables 2. show that, at the secondary level, the NAR in secondary schools located urban areas (64%) is almost double the NAR in rural areas (37.8%). Across Nigeria's geopolitical zones, the North East has the lowest NAR at the secondary levels (29%), while the South East has the highest NAR at approximately 70% in secondary schools. The very low NAR in the North East might have been caused by the Boko Haram insurgency that has made the zone insecure due to wanton destruction of lives and properties, and abduction of girls in secondary schools.

**Table 2.11 Northern Nigerian zones have lower school attendance ratios**

	Net attendance ratio: Secondary (%)			Gender parity index (Gpi)
	Male	Female	Total	
<b>Residence</b>				
<b>Urban</b>	66	62.1	64	0.9
<b>Rural</b>	43.1	32.6	37.8	0.8
<b>Zone</b>				
<b>North Central</b>	57.3	51.5	54.5	0.9
<b>North East</b>	34.6	23	28.5	0.66
<b>North West</b>	39.8	25.3	32.5	0.63
<b>South East</b>	70.1	69.2	69.6	0.99
<b>South South</b>	67.7	63.3	65.4	0.93
<b>South West</b>	67	69.3	68.1	1.03

Source: NDHS (2013)

**Gender gaps are also higher in the North.** The Gender Parity Index (GPI) indicates that there are fewer females in secondary schools compared to males in Northeast and Northwest zones. In the southern zones, the gender gap is narrower. In Nigeria, it is only in the South West zone that there are more females (103 for every 100 males) at the secondary level.

**The pupil-teacher ratio improved in secondary education, due to a large increase in the number of secondary school teachers in Nigeria.** The number of teachers was 390,427 as of 2010, which was a big improvement on the total number of 16,686 teachers of 1977 (UNESCO Institute of Statistics). Particularly at the senior secondary level, the number of students per teacher consistently decreased, based on UNESCO data available for the 2004-2010 period. The advantage is that students at the secondary level potentially stand to receive better attention given the smaller numerical burden that teachers have to teach.

**Table 2.12** The pupil-teacher ratio has improved significantly for lower and particularly upper secondary school

Year	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
2004	42.4	38.6
2005	37.5	44.4
2006	33.0	30.4
2007	30.2	26.4
2010	31.1	17.6

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

**Along with the increase in junior secondary enrolment, there has also been a visible increase in the proportion of trained teachers in lower secondary schools.** Availability of trained teachers is one of the important markers of the quality of education. Trained teachers at the secondary education level are presented below in Table 2.13 as the percentage of school teachers who have received the minimum organised teacher training (pre-service or in-service) required for teaching in Nigeria.

**Table 2.13:** The share of trained teachers in Nigeria increased for lower secondary schools, but experienced a major drop in upper secondary schools.

Year	Proportion of teachers with minimum training	
	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
2006	70.7	69.2
2010	85.0	18.5

Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics. <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/nigeria/trained-teachers-in-upper-secondary-education#SE.SEC.TCAQ.UP.ZS>

**The share of trained teachers at the upper secondary level experienced a surprising drop between 2006 and 2010, which is likely related to competition with private schools.** As Table 2.13 shows, the share of trained teachers in this segment declined from 69% in 2005 to less than 20% of teachers in 2010. This drop is likely explained by the fact that statistics used by international agencies only refer to public schools, while Nigeria experienced an unprecedented rise in the number of privately run educational institutions (Arinze, 2016). The Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics (2014-2016) reports that, out of 17,739 senior secondary schools in the country, the privately established ones constituted 55% of the total in the period 2014-2015 (see Table 2.14).

**It is likely that qualified teachers have moved from public to private schools in recent years.** Private secondary schools pay better salaries and are therefore more attractive for already trained teachers in the public system to retire from public schools and move over to private schools. Even though there are more private than public schools, students registered in private senior secondary schools constitute only 22% of all students in senior secondary schools in Nigeria. This points to

a much lower student-teacher ratio (and therefore better working conditions) in private senior secondary schools.

**Table 2.14 Public and private senior secondary schools in Nigeria 2014-2015**

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of students		
		Male	Female	Total
Public	8,008	2,079,119	1,755,981	3,835,100
Private	9,731	561,216	539,423	1,100,639
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,739</b>	<b>2,640,335</b>	<b>2,295,404</b>	<b>4,935,739</b>

Source: Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics (2014-2016)

**Another measure of quality of education is related to knowledge acquisition on sustainable development and global citizenship.** One indicator used by the Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics in this area is the proportion of students and youth with ‘adequate understanding of issues relating to global citizenship and sustainable development.’

**Table 2.15 Knowledge acquisition on sustainable development and global citizenship**

Country	Scientific literacy 2015			HIV/AIDS & Sex education 2010-16			International*	ODA** scholarship (US\$)
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
<b>Nigeria</b>	...	...	...	27	34	24	76000	52,611,860
<b>Ghana</b>	...	...	...	22	27	20	12000	63,954,880
<b>Senegal</b>	...	...	...	28	33	27	11000	59,217,120
<b>Tunisia</b>	34	35	33	...	...	...	18494	14,248,958
<b>Jordan</b>	50	41	60	...	...	...	22255	40,784,830
<b>Netherlands</b>	82	81	82	...	...	...		

Source: Adapted from UNESCO GEM Report.

\* International = number of internationally mobile citizens enrolled in tertiary education elsewhere in 2015

\*\* ODA = Volume of official development assistance flows on education for scholarships 2015;

**In the period 2010-2016, Nigerian students performed lowly in the theme of HIV/AIDS and Sex Education, but this performance was similar to the ones recorded for Ghana and Senegal in the sub-region.** It was observed that countries that are not in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) were measured along another theme - Scientific Literacy. Students in Tunisia performed least at 34%, half of Jordan students passed, while the success rate for students in the Netherlands was 82%. The relative lack of specialised science facilities in West Africa and shortages of classrooms are identified by Verspoor and Bregman (2008) as challenges to quality of secondary school education in Africa. This may have accounted for the differential in thematic assessments as presented in the table below.

## 2.2.7 Vocational education

Institutions of higher learning in Nigeria are not limited to universities alone; there are others in a broad category referred to as Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The TVET institutions under the purview of NBTE comprises Polytechnics, Monotechnics, Innovation Enterprise Institutions referred to as IIEs, Vocational Enterprise Institutions referred to as VEIs and Technical College.

**Table 2.16 Nigerian TVET Institutions in three broad categories**

TVET	Type	Number
Vocational (236)	Vocational Enterprise Institutions (VEIs)	82
	Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IIEs)	154
Technical (117)	Technical Colleges	117

Source: Nigeria Board for Technical Education, <https://net.nbte.gov.ng/Federal%20Polytechnics>

**Various institutions in Nigeria offer vocational education.** Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): The Federal Government established the National Board for Technical Education by Act 9 of January 1977. In August, 1985 and January 1993 respectively, the Federal Government enacted Act 16 (Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act) and Act 9 (Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) (Amendment) Act). Functions of the Board have been extended to include accreditation of academic programmes in all Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) institutions. Act No.9 of 1st January 1993 further empowered the Board to recommend the establishment of private Polytechnics and Monotechnics in Nigeria.

**Vocational and technical colleges comprise nearly half (47.9%) of all post-secondary institutions.** Despite the strong increase in the number of universities established in Nigeria in the past decade, universities represent just about a quarter of post-secondary institutions. It would be fair to infer that the proportion of enrolment of students follow the same pattern, perhaps even worse for university enrollees as current statistics indicate that only 12% of students that graduated from secondary schools are admitted into Nigerian universities in 2015. Also in 2015, 76000 Nigerians were recorded to have enrolled in universities abroad. The country sends the most students overseas of any country on the African continent, and outbound mobility numbers are growing at a rapid pace. Data from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) show that the number of Nigerian students abroad increased from 26997 to 71351 in the period 2005-2015.

**Table 2.17 Demand for tertiary education high in Nigeria 2012-2013**

University ownership	Number of universities	Number of students		
		Male	Female	Total
Federal	28	487,706	273,657	761,363
States	38	243,384	171,942	415,326
Private	50	39,203	33,750	72,953
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>770,293</b>	<b>479,349</b>	<b>1,249,642</b>

Source: Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics 2014-2016

## 2.2.8 Tertiary education

**There is a large pool of high school graduates from which universities can meet their student enrolment requirements.** Tuition fees are comparatively low for state-funded universities. Nigeria attaches great importance to equity in admission to federal universities and it put in place a national policy for federal universities that ‘emphasizes the extension of educational opportunities to indigenes of geopolitical regions officially designated as “educationally disadvantaged” (Akpan and Akinyoade (2009).’

**Nigeria’s first institution of higher learning was established in 1932 when the British administration founded the Yaba Higher College in Lagos.** The number of higher institutions increased to 8 in 1962 (two years after independence) and by 2005, Federal and State universities had risen to 80. Since 2005, there has been a doubling (to 164) of the numbers of universities in the country given rapid expansion in the number of private universities in the bid to increase access to university education in the country.

**Table 2.18 Higher (post-secondary) institutions in Nigeria**

Category	Type	Number
<b>Universities (164)</b>	<b>Federal</b>	42
	<b>State</b>	47
	<b>Private</b>	75
<b>Polytechnics (121)</b>	<b>Federal</b>	28
	<b>State</b>	43
	<b>Private</b>	50
<b>Specialised Institutions (27)</b>	<b>Specialised institutions</b>	27
<b>Colleges (72)</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	34
	<b>Health</b>	38

Source: Collated from National Universities Commission, <http://nuc.edu.ng/nigerian-universities/federal-universities/>

**The tertiary gross enrolment rate has nearly doubled but remains low at 11.8% in 2011.** This doubling in the share of students that pursue higher education is partly related to the expansion in the number of newly established tertiary institutions in the past ten years. While the rate of 11.8% has been a tremendous increase over the 0.7% rate in 1970, a shortage of intake capacity remains for eligible students at secondary and tertiary levels. As described further below, only 4% of high school graduates (around age 20-24 years) gain admission into Nigerian universities. This service gap, in addition to quality issues, may be responsible for the tens of thousands of Nigerians registered in universities abroad (see table 2.19). In 2012, students of Nigerian origin studying abroad were estimated to be spending \$1 billion annually (Bamiro, 2012).

**Table 2.19** Gross enrolment rat the tertiary level has doubled but remains low

Gross enrolment (%)	
Year	Tertiary
1999	6.8
2003	11.2
2004	11.4
2005	12.1
2010	10.8
2011	11.8
2013	...

Source: Adapted from UNESCO Institute for Statistics

**Access to higher education remains a major development challenge in Nigeria.** Although the Nigerian tertiary system experienced tremendous growth in the past four decades, assessment of the student population profile continues to reveal rooted class, gender and other disproportions. For instance, the 2012-2013 overall data for university students show that 61% are males. Gender disparity is more striking at the federal universities where approximately two-thirds of students are males; gender parity is not found across the three types of university ownership but it appears to approach some kind of parity (53%) of males in privately owned universities. At the regional level, the proportion of females in universities are quite low for the ones located in northern Nigeria.

**Table 2.20** Gender disparity in student enrolment in selected universities 2004-2005

	University	Zone	# enrolled	% female
1	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	North West	29,633	8
2	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University	North East	7,069	18
3	Federal University of Technology, Minna	North Central	15,095	35
4	Abia State University	South East	16,913	50
5	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	South South	36,188	54
6	University of Lagos	South West	27,532	45

Source: Adapted from Akpan and Akinyoade (2009)

**Despite the proliferation of tertiary institutions and the millions enrolled as university students, a scrutiny of the system shows problems of access and quality of instructions.** Focusing on access, Saint, Hartnett and Strassner (2005) showed that only 4% of high school graduates (around age 20-24 years) gain admission into Nigerian universities. Although this is now measured at about 12% (see Table 2.19), a large number of Nigerians are still not served tertiary education. Limited access to university education is deemed by Osipian (2013) to have “contributed to the use of bribes and personal connections to gain coveted places at universities, with some admissions officials reportedly working with agents to obtain bribes from students.”

### 2.2.9 Polytechnics (non-university tertiary technical education)

The term ‘polytechnic’ is generally used in Nigeria to refer to non-university tertiary technical education training institutions. These can comprise Polytechnics, Colleges of Science and Technology, and Institute of Science and Technology. They offer a wide variety of



technological, science and business oriented educational training leading to the award of National Diploma (ND), Higher National Diploma (HND) and Post-HND in Nigeria.

**Polytechnic studies are organised in a two-tier system.** The first tier consists of the first two levels of one year of study each (referred to as ND1 and ND2), which on completion the graduates are awarded ND certificate. Similarly, the second tier is made up of two (2) levels of one year of study each (HND1 and HND2), and students on successful completion are awarded the HND. In-between the ND and HND programmes, the student must undertake a one-year industrial attachment referred to as Industrial Training (IT), in their field of specialisation. In general, the curriculum is designed to expose students to high level classroom theories, workshop practical, and industrial experiences.

**Nigerian polytechnics offered 143 different programmes in the 2014/15 academic session.** In that academic year, nearly 300,000 students were enrolled in polytechnics. For students at the Higher National Diploma (HND) level, the out-turn according to programmes they graduated from in 2015 is presented below.

**Fewer female students than males were enrolled in polytechnics in the 2014-2015 academic session.** This is a pattern akin to gender differentials in Nigerian universities. Also, Table 2.21 shows that about two-third of students in polytechnics were in the first tier (pursuing a National Diploma, or ND).

**Table 2.21 Fewer females were enrolled than males in Nigerian polytechnics (2014-15 academic session)**

Programme	Gender		Total	% of total
	Male	Female		
Pre-ND	2,184	911	3,095	1%
ND	116,339	77,196	193,535	66%
HND	55,582	41,580	97,162	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,105</b>	<b>119,687</b>	<b>293,792</b>	
<b>% Gender</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: NBTE (Kaduna), 2017

**In 2014-2015, nearly 40,000 students graduated with a Higher National Diploma.** As Table 2.22 shows, around 60% of these were male. In the 149 courses assessed, the share of female graduates was particularly high in Pharmaceutical Technology (86.2%), Nutrition & Dietetics (79.4%), Hospitality Management (74.5%), Food Technology (70.8%), Fashion Design & Clothing Technology (91.7%), and Science Laboratory Technology (Biology – 83.3%).

**Table 2.21 Graduates with a Higher National Diploma (HND) from Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology by Programmes (2014/15 Academic Year)**

Courses	Number of HND Graduates 2014-2015		
	Male	Female	Total
Accountancy	2,918	2,279	5,197
Agric. Engineering	408	183	591
Architectural Technology	458	99	557
Art & Industrial Design	74	55	129
Banking & Finance	938	811	1749
Bilingual Secretary Studies	3	6	9
Science Laboratory Technology	10	50	60
Building Technology	519	85	604
Business Administration & Management	2,427	1,893	4,320
Ceramic Technology	18	3	21
Chemical Engineering Technology	141	53	194
Science Laboratory Technology	32	52	84
Civil Engineering Technology	1,217	173	1,390
Computer Engineering Technology	250	128	378
Computer Science	1,509	1,229	2,738
Cooperative Economics & Management	208	147	355
Crop Production Technology	37	20	57
Electrical Electronics	2,379	269	2,648
Environmental Health Technology	22	7	29
Estate Management	800	464	1,264
Fashion Design & Clothing Technology	1	11	12
Fisheries Technology	40	30	70
Food Technology	124	301	425
Forestry Technology	11	5	16
Foundry Technology	10	0	10
Geological Technology	28	32	60
Graphic Arts	14	4	18
Horticulture & Landscape Technology	3	2	5
Hospitality Management	123	359	482
Human Resource Management	52	47	99
Industrial Maintenance Engineering Tech	21	10	31
Insurance	58	81	139
Journalism	32	18	50
Leisure & Tourism Management	63	85	148
Library & Information Science	87	116	203
Local Government Studies	22	15	37
Marketing	909	903	1,812
Mass Communication	699	1,021	1,720
Mathematics/Statistics	261	166	427
Mechanical Engineering	1,056	89	1,145
Metallurgy	80	5	85
Mineral Resources Engineering Tech.	110	23	133
Music Technology	6	3	9
Nutrition & Dietetics	14	54	68
Office Technology & Management	572	1,205	1,777
Pest Management Technology	9	7	16
Pharmaceutical Technology	4	25	29
Science Lab Technology (Physics/Elect.)	14	4	18
Polymer Technology	23	12	35
Printing Technology	58	33	91
Production & Operation Management	62	56	118
Public Administration	1,172	743	1,915
Purchasing & Supply	243	221	464
Quantity Survey	342	149	491
Science Lab Technology	1,465	1,508	2,973
Social Development	175	37	212
Soil Science & Technology	15	15	30
Statistics	566	292	858
Surveying & Geoinformatics	209	87	296
Textile Technology	10	5	15
Urban & Regional Planning	412	167	579
Welding & Fabrication Engineering Tech.	17	27	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,560</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>39,539</b>

Source: Adapted from Digest of TVET, NBTE (Kaduna) Nigeria 2017

## 2.3 Key challenges

**Three key challenges for Nigeria's education system are (a) the lack of qualified trained teachers; (b) the substandard performance of students at the secondary level, and (c) low completion rates despite increases in enrolment rates.** In addition, a major challenge is the lack of reliable data, including data for more informed analysis and international comparisons.

**While Nigeria's education system grew rapidly in the late seventies and early eighties, the growth thus far was mainly in absolute numbers at the primary level.** Far fewer students still attain tertiary education, and the quality of education is generally low. Studies show that the expansion program has not been matched by a comparable increase in funding to ensure the maintenance of good quality of education.

**Other problems have also arisen due to political economy factors and governance issues.** According to Olowu et al (2018), there is a complex combination of the need for greater access to education on the part of the society, on the one hand, and political pressure on politicians to satisfy their constituencies on the other hand, in return for continued political support. Political decisions are therefore often taken in a number of areas, including recruitment of academic staff and administrative appointments, as well as revision of admission policies (for instance, the quota system of national representation in enrolment in federal educational institutions often overrides merit as an admission criterion).

**The use of bribes and personal connections to gain coveted places at universities also needs to be contextualised.** The Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) was established in 1978 by the Federal Government to annually organise national entrance examination into Nigerian universities. Prospective students were, in addition, required to tender certified evidence of good pass in at least five subjects taken at the secondary level. In the midst of the potentially robust system is the 'quota system', to give extra opportunities to enable persons from 'educationally disadvantaged' States to gain access to 'Federal' schools (that are supposedly better funded and equipped). The downside of the latter is that it sometimes resulted in 'denial' of access to applicants that would have otherwise entered their schools of preference purely on merit. Thus, the tension created between the aggrieved leads to using 'other means' to secure admission.

**At the State level, schools owned by States are officially allowed to give admission preferences to applicants of the same state of origin as the school, which reduced the need to resort to 'bribes or personal connections'.** However, the wide-held opinion that State-owned schools are less funded, thus are of lesser quality than Federal schools have over time increased the desire and struggle to enter federal schools. This has led to overcrowding at Federal universities, resulting in lower quality.

**The combined problems of access and quality in Nigerian universities have contributed to the numbers of Nigerians seeking educational opportunities abroad.** Nigeria is the number one country of origin for international students from Africa (WENR, 2017). Favourite destinations include the UK (17,973 Nigerian students in 2015), Ghana (13,919 students in 2015), followed by those in the US. Despite falling to the third place, the US is a highly popular destination with

numbers of registered Nigerian students rising from 3,820 in 2000/01 academic session to 10,674 in 2015/16.

**The most popular fields of study among Nigerian students in the U.S. are continually listed as engineering, business, physical sciences, and health-related fields (WENR, 2017).** Nigerian students are currently the 14<sup>th</sup> largest group among foreign students in the United States, and contributed an estimated USD \$324 million to the U.S. economy in 2015/16. Other countries of interest for Nigerian students are Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa among many others.

**Table 2.23 Top field of study for Nigerian students in the US**

Year	Field of study			
<b>2015-16</b>	Engineering (22.1%)	Business (15.3%)	Physical/Life Sciences (13.1%)	Health Professions (12.6%)
<b>2014-15</b>	Engineering (22.5%)	Business (14.1%)	Health Professions (12.9%)	Physical/Life Sciences (12.2%)
<b>2013-14</b>	Engineering (23.9%)	Business (14.2%)	Health Professions (12.7%)	Physical/Life Sciences (12.7%)

Source: WENR 2017, Education in Nigeria

**In the short term, any oil price-induced economic slowdown is likely to affect outbound student mobility.** On the one hand, a sharp drop in the oil price is likely to increase unemployment at home, implying more interest in going abroad. On the other hand, it is estimated that approximately 40% of Nigerian students abroad rely on scholarships backed by oil and gas revenues. These schemes may be down-scaled back or scrapped in the event of a drop in fiscal revenues arising from lower oil prices.

## 2.4 Summary

Universal primary education has been a stated priority of every Nigerian government since its introduction in the mid-70s, though actual commitment of the different governments to the scheme substantially varied. Over the years, legislation that spells out the responsibilities of different levels of government and those of various stakeholders have been passed; initiatives such as the re-instatement of the National Primary Education Commission and other management structures from 1993 have been undertaken in order to improve the management of the education system, and, some basic steps to promote increased access to education, improve quality in higher education, technical and vocational education, and teacher training have been undertaken since 1990.

The numerical strength of students enrolled in academic institutions increased at all levels, but the proportional performance in relation to number of persons that should have been covered under formal education is not impressive. Millions of children are still not served of the required education which Nigeria needs so desperately to lift its economy to the higher level desired. In addition, despite regular policy review, attention at implementation appears to favour primary education to the detriment of other levels. There is big scope for improvement of completion rates, teacher training, and improvement of zonal balance where the Northern sections appear to need more attending for the improvement of social and economic indicators.



## 3 Labour Market

### 3.1 Introduction

The Federal Government of Nigeria adopted a National Employment Policy (NEP) in 2017. This NEP is framed in the context espoused by the ILO (2015): A vision and a practical plan for achieving a country's employment goals ... it is not just a job creation programme. It takes into account a whole range of social and economic issues. It affects many areas of government — not just the areas in charge of labour and employment—and every part of the economy. It brings together various measures, programmes and institutions that influence the demand and supply of labour and the functioning of labour markets.

The goal of Nigeria's National Employment Policy (NEP)<sup>8</sup> is to create an enabling environment for productive and employment-intensive economic growth “through a combination of wage employment and self-employment.” Nigeria has ratified ILO Convention No. 122 on Employment Policy, which stipulates that, “each Member shall declare and pursue, as a major goal, an active policy designed to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment.” As a macroeconomic challenge, the NEP recommends a multi-pronged approach to the generation of sufficient job opportunities from all sectors of the economy.

Currently, two-thirds of Nigerian adults (age 15-64 years) are working, but they tend to be employed in low productivity, low income jobs. Agriculture retains the largest share of proportion employed (including self-employment) but accounts for only 21% of national GDP. Nigeria's population is expected to increase from the current 195 million to 263 million by 2030. According to the World Bank (2016), 40 to 50 million additional jobs will be needed to sustain the growing population and national economy.

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<sup>8</sup> The themes covered by the NEP in Nigeria include:

1. Human capital development, employability of labour force and skills acquisition
2. Private sector growth, cooperatives, MSMES and job creation
3. Sectoral value-chains and employment generation
4. Prospects of environmentally friendly (Green) Jobs
5. Labour-based public works projects and employment creation
6. Infrastructural development and maintenance as a key strategy in job creation in the economy
7. Vulnerable groups (i.e., women, youth people with disabilities) in employment generation
8. The governance of labour migration and employment generation
9. Macroeconomic policies and job creation
10. Creating sustainable and decent jobs
11. Strengthening labour inspection to enforce existing labour laws in the country
12. Creating safe environment for employment generation
13. Vocational Skills Acquisition/upgrading and certification
14. Licensing of Private Employment Agencies
15. Employment of People with disabilities
16. Implementation plan, including monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools with proposed timelines for policy review.

**Table 3.1** Apart from agriculture, Nigerians are mainly employed in trade and manufacturing.

Employed %	Sector	Nominal GDP%
48.2	Agriculture	24.4
13.9	Trade	17.9
0.2	Mining & Quarrying	11.2
6.9	Manufacturing	8.6
6.4	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	4.2
3.2	Transportation & Storage	1.4
0.8	Accommodation & Food Services	1.4
0.6	Information & Communication	8.7
3.5	Education	2.3
2.8	Human Health & Social Services	0.7
0.1	Real Estate	7.5
13.4	Others*	11.7

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Statistics, Employment by Sector Report – Q3 2017  
 Others\* - Arts & entertainment, Financial & Insurance Services, Construction, Water Supply & associated Services, Administrative & Support Services

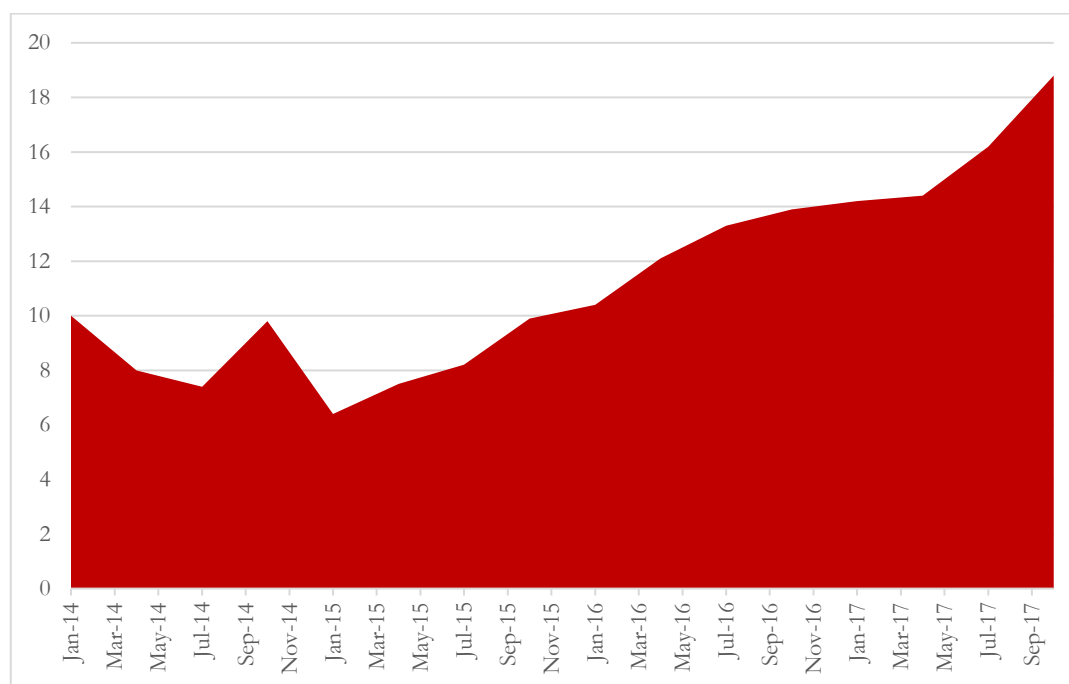
**Many farmers in the agricultural sector are self-employed and work at a subsistence level—highlighting the scope for raising agricultural productivity** (World Bank, 2016). Since private sector wage work is at a very low base, agriculture will remain the largest employer in the medium term. However, when some people leave agriculture, the household enterprise sector will be their immediate base of continued employment.

**Apart from agriculture, trade is the second most important sector that provides jobs for Nigerians.** Manufacturing ranks third on the list, but the employment share of this sector has shrunk to half of what used to obtain in the preceding decade. The share of accommodation and food services is also seen to have declined considerably from the third position it held in 2010. One interesting sector is Information and Communication; although it provides job for less than 1% of people, it however contributes more to Nigeria’s GDP than manufacturing. Education as well as Human Health & Social Services contributed significantly to the GDP, particularly so with the expansion of space given to private entities to provide services in education and health.

## 3.2 Unemployment

**The unemployment rate in Nigeria has tripled in the past three years.** In 2011 it reached a record low of around 4 percent, and during 2011-2014 it broadly remained below 10 percent. Since early 2015, however, unemployment has gradually increased to a record high of 18.8 percent in the third quarter of 2017 (latest data available). The total number of people in full-time employment (at least 40 hours a week) declined from 52.7 million in Q2 2017 to 51.1 million in Q3 2017.

**Figure 3.1** Nigeria has witnessed a steady increase in unemployment in recent years



Source: NBS (2018), adapted from <https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/unemployment-rate>

**Unemployment increased substantially in recent years, from 10% at the beginning of 2014 to 19% in 2018.** In numerical terms, people within the labour force who were unemployed increased from 13.6 million to 15.9 million in Q3 of 2017; while for the underemployed, their number increased from 17.7 million respectively in Q2 2017 to 18.0 million in Q3 of 2017.

**Like in other countries in the region, unemployment is highest for young Nigerians aged 15-24 years.** Employment statistics provided by the National Bureau of Statistics Nigeria (January 2018) show that in the third quarter of 2017, the unemployment rate for young people stood at 33.1% for those aged 15-24 years, and 20.2% for those aged 25-34 years. Less than three years earlier, youth unemployment was still at 11.7% in January 2015. In the period 2014-2017, the youth unemployment rate in Nigeria averaged 22%.

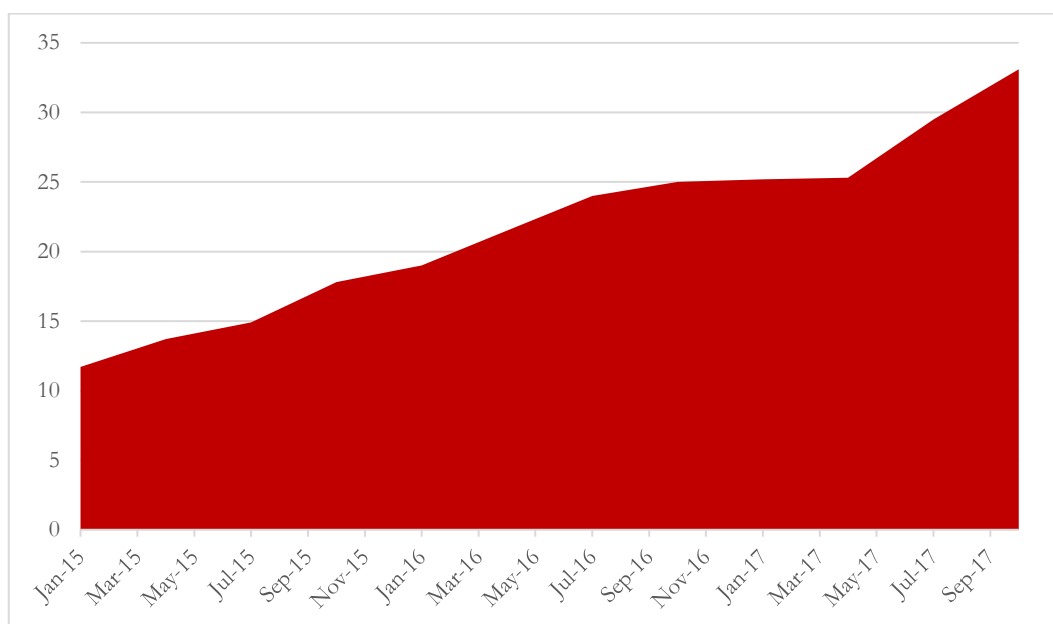
**Table 3.2** Unemployment is highest for 15-24 year olds in Nigeria

Age group	Nigeria: labour statistics by age group, 2017Q3		
	Unemployed	Underemployed	Combined
<b>15-24</b>	33.1	34.2	67.3
<b>25-34</b>	20.2	22.3	42.4
<b>35-44</b>	11.7	17.0	28.7
<b>45-44</b>	12.0	12.0	23.9
<b>55-64</b>	12.7	15.7	28.4

Source: NBS (2018). The NBS classifies anyone working less than 20 hours a week as unemployed, 20-39 hours a week as underemployed, and 40 hours a week as fully employed.



**Figure 3.2** Youth unemployment has tripled from 11% in early 2015 to 33% in Sept 2017.



Source: NBS (2018).

**Youth unemployment in Nigeria is now one of the highest in Africa.** As Table 3.3 shows, it is only higher in South Africa, where over half of all youth are unemployed. This is an ironical statistic for the two countries recognised as having the biggest economies in Africa

**Table 3.3** Youth unemployment in Nigeria is one of the highest in Africa

Country	Unemployment %	Date
<b>Nigeria</b>	33.1	Sept 2017
<b>Tanzania</b>	13.7	Dec 2014
<b>Cape Verde</b>	32.4	Dec 2017
<b>Algeria</b>	26.4	April 2018
<b>Morocco</b>	28.8	Jun 2018
<b>South Africa</b>	53.7	Jun 2018

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/country-list/youth-unemployment-rate?continent=africa>

**An additional one third of Nigerian youth are ‘underemployed’, i.e., engaged in work for 20-39 hours a week.** In the third quarter of 2017, underemployment among 15-24 year old Nigerians was 34.2%. Generally, underemployment rates are relatively stagnant across all age groups when compared with the previous quarter. As of Q3 2017, 67% of young people in the labour force aged 15-24 years were either underemployed (engaged in work for less than 20 hours a week) or unemployed (willing and actively seeking to work).

**The unemployment data for Nigeria, as for many other African countries, should be interpreted with caution.** Employment data are very hard to obtain in Nigeria, even from statutory institutions and agencies established for gathering socio-economic data. Available unemployment registers are limited to urban areas, coupled with the observation that not all those searching for employment attempt to register. Thus there is a reliance on cross-sectional household surveys, which are often inconsistent and full of errors. This paucity of data has negative

implications for understanding the structure and composition of the labour market, and challenges the way policy makers arrive at (un)informed decisions on how to support young people in the labour market (Asaju et al., 2014 and Iwayemi, 2014). However, while the exact level of unemployment may be subject to measurement errors, the consistent increase in recent unemployment rates is undeniable and very unlikely to be the result of measurement bias.

**Unemployment rates and underemployment rates are somewhat higher for Nigerian women, even though they are 45% of the labour force.** During the third quarter of 2017, 21.2% of women within the labour force (aged 16-64 and willing, able, and actively seeking work) were unemployed. This is 4.7 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for men (16.5%), and 2.4 percentage points higher than the total labour force unemployment rate at 18.8%. In the same time period, 16.5% of men in the labour force (aged 16-64 years and willing, able, and actively seeking work) were unemployed. Overall, women constitute around 45% of the total labour force in Nigeria as of 2017. This is a slight increase from 42% in 1991.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 3.4 Women are more likely than men to be unemployed or underemployed**

	Third quarter 2017 labour statistics by gender	
	Unemployment (%)	Underemployment (%)
<b>Male</b>	16.5	20.5
<b>Female</b>	21.2	21.8

Source: NBS data January 2018

**Unemployment is also higher among Nigerians who have attained post-secondary education.** In the third quarter of 2017, unemployment among post-secondary graduates was 31.8%. According to NBS (2018), graduates tend to prefer white collar jobs, which are more difficult to find than rural, seasonal, low skilled and lower paying blue-collar jobs. In 2017Q3, 16% of rural and 23% of urban dwellers within the labour force were unemployed. Unemployment is increasing at a slightly faster rate for urban dwellers than it is for their rural counterparts.

**Table 3.5 Unemployment rates are highest for those with post-secondary education**

Education	Third quarter 2017 labour statistics by education level	
	Unemployed (%)	Underemployed (%)
<b>None</b>	18.6	24.5
<b>Below primary</b>	23.2	9.6
<b>Primary</b>	13.5	15.8
<b>Secondary</b>	16.2	22.9
<b>Post-secondary</b>	31.8	18.3

Source: NBS (2018)

<sup>9</sup> Indxmundi, Nigeria - Labour force, <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/nigeria/labour-force>, accessed August 13, 2018

Table 3.6: Overview of Nigerian employment statistics

Nigeria Labour	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit
Unemployment Rate	18.8	16.2	19.7	5.1	percent
Population	190.89	185.99	190.89	45.14	Million
Living Wage Family	131700	131700	131700	131700	NGN/Month
Living Wage Individual	40100	40100	40100	40100	NGN/Month
Employed Persons	69090	70354.9	70665.9	66951	Thousand
Employment Change	187226	155444	499521	79465	Jobs
Employment Rate	81.2	83.8	93.6	81.2	percent
Unemployed Persons	15998	13585.2	15998	4672	Thousand
Wages High Skilled	57200	57200	57200	57200	NGN/Month
Wages Low Skilled	25500	25500	25500	25500	NGN/Month
Youth Unemployment Rate	33.1	29.5	33.1	11.7	percent

Source: TRADING ECONOMICS, Economic Indicators - <https://tradingeconomics.com/countries>

### 3.3 Key challenges

**There is a critical need to improve basic skills levels.** Thirty percent of youth (aged 15-24 years) have not completed more than primary education; illiteracy rates are high in certain geographical pockets and among girls. Without quality basic education, a large share of young Nigerians will be trapped in low productivity work and will be unable to have productive farms or profitable microenterprises.

**According to the World Bank (2016), 40 to 50 million additional jobs are required to employ Nigeria's rapidly growing population.** The latest World Bank Group (2016) report for Nigeria provides an in-depth analysis of Nigeria's labour market, noting the diversity across geographic areas, sectors, and demographic groups. The report noted that 'business as usual' gross domestic product (GDP) growth is fostering the emergence of 'two Nigerias' - one in which high and diversified growth provides more job and income opportunities to a small share of the population, and one in which workers are trapped in a low-productivity and traditional subsistence activities. To create an inclusive job market that offers gainful employment for women and youth, the report recommends Nigeria needs to improve skills, raise the productivity of agriculture, and improve its business climate.

**Despite the increase in population and the changing dynamics of employment, economic growth in Nigeria has been less inclusive and jobless in character.** Many Nigerians have not benefitted from economic growth, primarily because of the shortage of employment opportunities.

**With its youthful population, Nigeria has one of the largest working-age populations in the world.** Routine job surveys conducted by NBS show that the Nigerian economy has continued to create employment in recent years. However, most of these jobs are created in the informal sector. For instance, 54% of the 1.2 million jobs created in 2013 came from the informal sector; the formal sector (private) accounted for 37%, while 9% was generated in the public sector (World Bank, 2014).

**The employment problem in Nigeria often manifests itself in ‘under-employment’ in the informal sector.** Unable to get jobs in the organised sector, unemployed Nigerians are forced to eke out a living in overcrowded petty occupations either working for informal enterprises or setting themselves up as hawkers and providers of casual services. Typically, they have low incomes and little real work. Despite being ‘employed’, they are perpetually in poverty because their income falls below the cost of living and, decent employment remains one of the unmet socio-economic needs in Nigeria. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2010 estimated that about 54.6 million people are engaged in the informal sector of the Nigerian economy; they are almost evenly distributed by gender as females and males are noted to constitute 50.1% and 49.9% respectively. And, when it comes to working without pay, as well as doing casual work, the study shows that women were more involved than men.

**The constraints to inclusive growth are directly related to poor physical infrastructure, poor human capital formation (particularly in the educational system), and the inability to transform output growth to job creation.** The major constraints to private sector-led investment in employment-intensive industries in Nigeria include:

- Poor physical infrastructure (roads, railway system, electricity, internet broadband and communication technology and water management)
- Inefficient institutional infrastructure (particularly the unstable democratic or political party structures, insecurity in northern parts of the country)
- High cost of finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Hiccups in kick-starting formal social protection systems.

**Improving basic infrastructure and access to finance should be at the top of the policy agenda.** These two are considered the most important constraints by firms of all kinds and sizes. Raising agricultural productivity – incorporating small farmers in value chains, raising access to markets, inputs, technology - would both help raise income opportunities for small holder farmers, and simultaneously tap into the significant potential for domestic agriculture and agribusinesses in Nigeria.

**The World Bank report offer a series of solutions to address Nigeria’s job challenges:**

- In education, Nigeria needs to improve basic skills levels and build better policies and programs that would boost access and market relevance of technical vocational education and training
- In agriculture, increase access to markets, inputs, credit, and technology.
- In commerce, to improve operational climate for private businesses to grow and increase their employment capacity.
- Setting a coherent institutional framework and institutional for social safety nets towards preventing people from falling into poverty and protect economic development over the long term.



## 4 Migration

### 4.1 Introduction

**Nigeria is an important area of origin, destination, and transit of migrants in Africa** (Akinyoade, 2012a). It is a country of high migration turnover; the high immigration rate is accompanied by even a higher rate of emigration of Nigerians, resulting in negative net migration rate. Recent data obtained from UNICEF on Nigeria's Migration Profile indicated that the country's international migrant stock (that is - international migrants resident in Nigeria) 2017 was 1.2 million, while 1.3 million were emigrants. This resulted in a net migration of -100,000 (UNICEF, 2018). Interestingly, despite being over a million, immigrants are still less than 1% of the country's total population.

**Internally, a large number of Nigeria's population is also on the move.** The Internal Migration Survey conducted by the National Population Commission in 2010 showed that 23% of the sampled population of Nigerians are migrants, having changed residence within 10 years, and 2% are return migrants.

**In mid-2017 when the number of refugees worldwide reached 18.5 million (about 7 percent of international migrants), Nigeria, CAR, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan were identified as major refugee and internal displacement hotspots in Sub-Saharan Africa.** Total forced displacement in Nigeria stood at 1,782,490 persons in 2017, making Nigeria the most affected country by forced displacements in West Africa. About 85% of these persons had been displaced by Boko Haram group's insurgency. In January 2018, over 80,000 new displacements were observed as a result of clashes between farmers and herders in Adamawa State, while in Borno State, more than 4,000 people were displaced due to attacks and military operations (World Bank KNOMAD group 2018).

**The Nigerian Government formally adopted a National Policy on Migration (NPM) and its Implementation Plan in May 2015.** This was achieved within the framework of the National 10th European Development Fund project: "Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria<sup>10</sup>" with full technical support from the IOM and UNODC. In the backdrop was a growing recognition of the strong links between migration and potentially immense national development benefits for Nigeria, a major country of origin, transit and destination in terms of global migration. In West Africa, only 5 of the 15 countries have a draft migration policies.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/promoting-better-management-of-migration-in-nigeria-by-combating-and-reducing-irregular-migration.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://theglobepost.com/2018/08/08/migration-oamd-morocco/>

## 4.2 Migration stock

The number of international migrants residing in Nigeria tripled from 447,411 in 1990 to approximately 1.24 million persons in 2013. Nigeria's international migrant stock<sup>12</sup> estimated at 1,199,115 persons in 2015 constituted less than 1% (0.658%) of Nigeria's resident population. This proportion is the highest the value of international migrant stock that the country has ever had, while its lowest value was 0.397% in 2000.

In general, migrants are more likely to be male, irrespective of the age group under consideration. With a structure similar to the national population, children aged under 15 years constituted approximately 45% of international migrant stock in 1990, but in 2013, the proportion had gone down to approximately 35%. Those in the working age band 20-49 years constitute about slightly more than half (54%) of all international migrants in 2013.

Table 4.1 International migrant stock by age and sex in Nigeria

	1990			2000			2013		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	57,695	54,523	112,218	67,157	70,715	137,872	80,832	88,000	168,832
5-9	27,429	25,966	53,395	47,831	50,457	98,288	67,613	75,918	143,531
10-14	14,742	14,072	28,814	38,093	40,538	78,631	55,526	62,816	118,342
15-19	15,078	14,743	29,821	28,109	30,687	58,796	49,430	54,907	104,337
20-24	21,814	20,245	42,059	29,129	30,092	59,221	46,625	48,755	95,380
25-29	30,601	23,149	53,750	38,286	31,917	70,203	52,002	48,607	100,609
30-34	27,066	15,737	42,803	40,505	25,694	66,199	57,674	45,530	103,204
35-39	19,519	9,557	29,076	38,329	20,365	58,694	61,832	39,725	101,557
40-44	13,750	6,062	19,812	29,119	13,897	43,016	56,522	31,649	88,171
45-49	8,104	3,660	11,764	18,625	9,109	27,734	46,476	23,834	70,310
50-54	6,587	3,037	9,624	13,531	6,760	20,291	34,171	17,887	52,058
55-59	2,824	1,387	4,211	7,681	4,099	11,780	25,184	13,674	38,858
60-64	2,631	1,455	4,086	6,594	3,972	10,566	15,617	9,402	25,019
65+	3,653	2,325	5,978	5,801	4,034	9,835	13,531	9,853	23,384
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,493</b>	<b>195,918</b>	<b>447,411</b>	<b>408,790</b>	<b>342,336</b>	<b>751,126</b>	<b>663,035</b>	<b>570,557</b>	<b>1,233,592</b>

Source: UNDESA: <https://esa.un.org/MigGMGProfiles/Indicators/files/Nigeria.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> The number of people born in a country other than that in which they live. It also includes refugees. International migrant stock (% of population) - <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/nigeria/international-migrant-stock#SM.POP.TOTL.ZS>

## 4.3 Migration flows

### 4.3.1 Migration outflows

**Top destination countries for Nigerian migrants are Cameroon, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom.** This can be seen from an analysis of Nigerian migrants by selected regions and countries of residence in the period 1990-2013. The data for the US are remarkable as they show a four-fold increase (since 1990) in the number of Nigerians registered as living in the country. One likely explanation is the US Diversity Visa lottery programme from which many Nigerians benefitted in the period under consideration. It is shown in table 4.2 that many Nigerian emigrants also settle in West Africa particularly in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

**Table 4.2** America is the favoured destination of Nigerian migrants

Major region	Major country	1990	2013
Western Africa	Cote d'Ivoire	31,352	43,761
	Benin	19,972	42,575
	Ghana	14,876	32,380
	Niger	38,336	20,062
	Togo	14,041	16,183
	Liberia	2,037	5,152
	Others	6,868	9,419
Southern Africa	South Africa	8,985	18,659
	Others	108	679
Northern Africa	Sudan	23,071	15,275
	Others	2,697	4,601
Central Africa	Cameroon	105,140	115,621
	Gabon	7,363	22,779
	Chad	14,822	13,199
	Others	1,679	3,152
Northern Europe	United Kingdom	47,412	184,314
	Ireland	837	18,540
	Others	1,192	8,404
Southern Europe	Italy	11,859	48,073
	Spain	711	36,885
	Others	1,137	4,370
Western Europe	Germany	13,230	22,687
	Austria	4,673	7,583
	The Netherlands	1,421	7,002
	France	2,710	5,394
	Others	2,262	6,009
Eastern Europe		1,665	3,166
North America	United States	63,702	252,172
	Canada	3,121	19,325
	Bermuda	25	187

Source: Extracted from Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM Nigeria 2016 adaptation of UN Population Division 2013



**Another source of information indicates that the Nigerian-American population in the US grew 10-fold from 25,000 in 1980 to 376,000 in 2016.** Many of the incoming Nigerian migrants were recorded as entering the US for higher education. It is estimated that one-third of Nigerian-Americans aged over 25 years holds a graduate degree. Typical sectors in which Nigerians tend to work in the US include medical health (doctors), legal field (lawyers), engineers, and academia (45% work in education services, including top universities). Nigerians have been observed to enter the medical field in the U.S. at an increasing rate, and often find employment as doctors or medical researchers. Also, a growing number of Nigerian-Americans are becoming entrepreneurs and managers of companies. In 2015, the median household income of Nigerian-Americans was reported to exceed that of the US, at \$62,351 per year compared to \$57,617 for the US.<sup>13</sup>

**Back in 2007, the structure of outflow was different in that Sudan hosted about a quarter of the over 1 million Nigerian nationals that lived abroad** (DRC, 2007). At that time, however, important places of destination for Nigerians were also the United States (14%) and the United Kingdom (9%).

**The preference for the US and the UK stems from a variety of reasons, including English language, business opportunities, academic pursuits, and social networks.** Some Nigerians also prefer such popular destinations because of increased chances of meeting Nigerians already settled in those two countries are higher than elsewhere.<sup>14</sup> The importance of ethnic networks is well documented here.<sup>15</sup>

**A Gallup poll (2015) indicated that 2.5% (approximately 4 million) of Nigerians expressed the wish to move permanently to another country in the next 12 months.**<sup>16</sup> The propensity to emigrate is particularly high among the highly skilled. It is generally difficult to obtain information on the skills level of emigrants, but estimates obtained from 2000 show that 10.7% of the highly skilled population who were trained in Nigeria work abroad, mostly in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. While in OECD countries, Nigerians appear to work predominantly in the health sector (21%), followed by the real estate<sup>17</sup> and wholesale sectors (both with 12%). Over 80% of Nigerian immigrant population in the United States are highly skilled; and in Europe, just about half (46%) of Nigerian immigrants are highly skilled. Also, according to Docquier and Marfouk (2006), 64% of the Nigerian emigrant population have tertiary education. In the field of medicine, 14% of physicians who trained in Nigeria worked

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/the-most-successful-ethnic-group-in-the-us-may-surprise-you/86885>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/05/nigerians-crave-live-overseas/> and <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39268088>

“Scattered evidence on the origin of Nigerian immigrants in Europe and the US strongly suggests that the majority originate from the relatively developed and densely populated southern provinces. The Ibo from the southeast and the Yoruba from the southwest, and, to a lesser extent the Edo and the Ogoni ethnic groups, seem to constitute the majority of Nigerian migrants in the UK (Hernandez-Coss, et al. 2007). The majority of Nigerians trafficked to Europe seem to originate from Edo state, and Benin City in particular. Edo and, to a lesser extent, the Delta states are known as the main origin areas of sex workers. The Hausa and other northern groups seem relatively more oriented towards migration to the Gulf states” (de Haas 2007).

<sup>16</sup> In statistically un-weighted terms, 2.5% of Nigerian population amounts to roughly 3.8 million people.

<sup>17</sup> However, it is not clear from the data if this mean construction or cleaning or being involved in brokering properties

abroad, with 90% of them living and working in the United States and the United Kingdom (Clemens and Pettersson, 2007).

**In April 2018, no less than 5,250 Nigerian-trained doctors and nurses were noted to be working with the British National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom (UK).** This figure, released by the British government, means that “Nigerian medics constitute 3.9 per cent of the 137,000 foreign staff of 202 nationalities working alongside British doctors and nurses.”<sup>18</sup> According to Muanya (2018), most Nigerian doctors and nurses leave for the UK because of better conditions of service. This migration is estimated to have worsened the doctor-patient ratio in Nigeria from 1:4,000 to 1:5,000, tilting it further from the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) recommended ratio of one doctor to 600 patients (1:600). Nigerian-trained doctors are also found in large numbers practicing in the U.S., South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the Caribbean and others.

**The trend in bleeding of Nigeria’s medical practitioner sector trend, which has worsened the doctor-patient ratio, causes longer waiting times in Nigerian hospitals.** Additional negative implications of this are a rise in outcomes of fatal disease, and more frequent medical errors by over worked doctors. While the physician-patient ratio is 1:300 in the UK, Saffron Cordery (the Deputy Chief Executive of NHS Providers) announced in June 2018 that the UK is set to exclude foreign medical staff from the government’s visa cap.<sup>19</sup> In February 2018, the British National Health Service (NHS) had vacancies for 35,000 nurse vacancies and nearly 10,000 doctors.

**There has also been a steady rise in the number of Nigerians emigrating for educational purposes.** The latest data from UNESCO on the global flow of tertiary-level students suggests that nearly 90,000 Nigerian students are abroad. (Table 4.3)

**Table 4.3 Nigerian tertiary students favour the UK, the US and Malaysia**

<b>Top 5 country areas of destination</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	16,072
<b>United States</b>	11,167
<b>Malaysia</b>	11,052
<b>Ghana</b>	9,127
<b>Benin</b>	7,809
<b>Total (including other destinations)</b>	<b>89,094</b>

Source: UNESCO 2018. Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students<sup>20</sup>

**The United Kingdom is the top destination for Nigerian students abroad, taking in nearly 20% of them.** Other top destinations are the US, Malaysia, and naturally West Africa (notably Ghana and Benin). The numbers of Nigerian students in the US have been increasing gradually, currently standing at 11,167. In the US, the number of Nigerian students increased from 9494 in

<sup>18</sup> <https://guardian.ng/features/health-sector-dips-as-more-nigerian-doctors-move-abroad/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/06/uk-considers-relaxing-visa-rule-for-nigerian-doctors-nurses/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

the 2014/2015 academic session to 10674 in the 2015-2016 session (WES 2017). For the UK, the Economist Intelligence Unit (2009) projected that the Nigerian student population in the United Kingdom will increase to 30,000 by 2030.

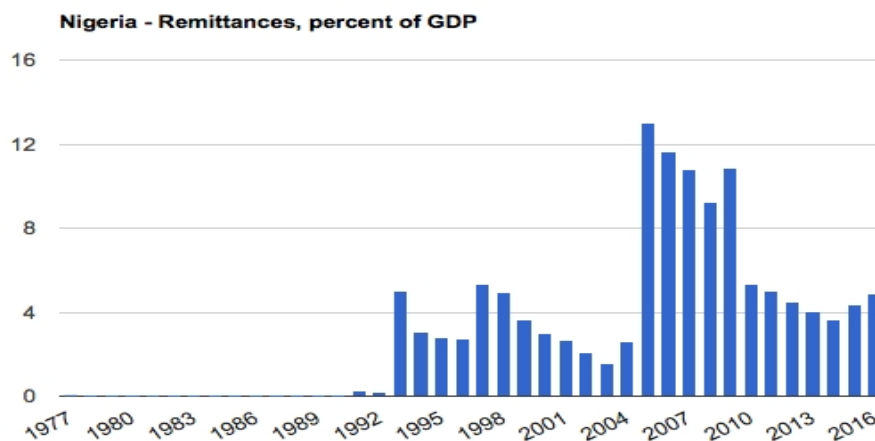
**In interview, Nigerians said there are several reasons why they prefer the UK or the US to European countries such as the Netherlands.** These include (a) local language requirements too strict, (b) difficulties of finding suitable employment in the Netherlands (where the ‘search year’ only tends to lead to low-paid internships); (c) the Netherlands lacks certain social benefits for family members, such as work permits for spouses or subsidised university tuition for children

### Remittances

**In 2016, over \$2 billion was estimated as annual amount of Nigerians’ capital flight in pursuit of education abroad.**<sup>21</sup> During a public lecture given by Lamido Sanusi (former governor of Nigeria’s Central Bank), he noted that: “although there are no comprehensive data on the number of Nigerian students abroad, recent data have shown that there are about 71,000 Nigerian students in Ghana paying about US\$1 billion annually as tuition fees and upkeep, as against the annual budget of US\$751 million for all Nigerian federal universities”<sup>22</sup>.

**The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) stated that the inflow of remittances to Nigeria increased dramatically from \$2.3 billion in 2004 to \$22 billion in 2018** (see also The World Bank, 2018). This increase took place in context of high transfer fees that averaged 10% of the amount transferred. World Bank data on Nigeria shows that from 1977 to 2016, the average value of remittance as proportion of GDP was 3.19 percent with a minimum of 0.01 percent in 1978 and a maximum of 13.04 percent in 2005.

Figure 4.1 Nigeria – Remittances, percent of GDP



Source: The GlobalEconomy.Com, 2018. Nigeria: Remittances, % of GDP sourced from World Bank Data. [https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Nigeria/remittances\\_percent\\_GDP/](https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Nigeria/remittances_percent_GDP/)

<sup>21</sup> Laide Akinboade-Oriero, 2016. Nigerians spend \$2 billion on school fees abroad. Daily Vanguard. February 10, 2016. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/02/nigerians-spend-2bn-on-school-fees-s-abroad/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.afterschoolafrica.com/10032/study-abroad-nigerian/>

**In absolute US\$ terms, Nigeria ranks fifth among the world's top remittances receiving countries** (India \$69 billion, China \$64 billion, the Philippines \$33 billion, Mexico \$31 billion). In Africa, Nigeria is the topmost remittance-receiving country. In the scheme of formal remittance flows into Nigeria,<sup>23</sup> out of the approximately \$20 billion remitted to Nigeria from other countries in 2016, the United States was the biggest remittance source (\$5.7 billion), followed by the United Kingdom (\$3.8 billion), Cameroon (\$2.3 billion), Italy (\$959 million), Ghana (\$800 million), Spain (\$706 million), Germany (\$640 million), Benin (\$597 million), and Netherlands at a distant 20<sup>th</sup> position as Nigerians remitted \$151 million from the Netherlands. From within Africa, the first five important sources of remittance flows to Nigeria were Ghana, Benin, Gabon (\$379 million), South Africa (\$297 million), and Niger (\$281 million). From the Far East, Japan was the biggest remittance-sending country to Nigeria (\$59 billion), but ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the list of countries Nigeria received remittances from in 2016 (Pew Research Centre 2018).

**Diasporan Nigerians who live abroad are also active in transnational transactions and have promoted the flow of trade, capital and technology back to Nigeria.** Apart from the Nigerians in the diaspora, a large number of Nigerians trade across West African countries where they have established temporary residence. Their business ventures in Nigeria as well as in their temporary abode in West Africa make considerable contributions to the local economy by providing a wide assortment of goods and services.

**Despite the acceleration and increase in bulk of formal remittances to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2017 as well as improvement in remittance as a share of GDP, exports, and reserves, there is an existing hypothesis that quoted figures are probably underestimates of the total amount received.** This is because informal remittances are rarely included in official remittance data. For example, in Nigeria, migrants have more incentives to use informal channels to remit money back home due to fluctuations in official exchange rate and the existence of competitive options in the informal market. The KNOMAD group recommended that “improving central banks’ collection of data on formal and informal remittances will improve estimates of actual flows that Sub-Saharan Africa receives from its emigrants’ (World Bank 2018).

**For the period 1990-2017 worldwide, the World Bank estimates that remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries are larger than official development assistance and more stable than private capital flows** (World Bank KNOMAD group 2018). In 2018, remittances to Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs) were expected to grow at about 4.1% in 2018. But the vulnerability of remittance flows to spreading anti-migration sentiments and restrictive migration policies in most of the remittance-source countries in North America, Europe, and Russia tempers the optimism of projections. Other downside risks include policy uncertainty and geopolitical risk, increased restrictions on trade, and a sharper than expected slowdown in potential growth which may derail global growth, and there are no current solutions to the difficulties posed by the de-risking practices of correspondent banks (World Bank KNOMAD group 2018).

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<sup>23</sup> Tracking remittances worldwide is difficult because many countries do not track funds that are sent or received. Based on data it is able to collect, the World Bank has used a statistical model to estimate the amount of money coming from each sending country to each receiving country. Because these numbers are estimates, there is some room for error. For example, the total incoming or outgoing remittances for some countries may not be the same as actual remittances – See Pew Research Centre. Remittance Flows Worldwide in 2016: <http://www.pewglobal.org/interactives/remittance-map/>

### 4.3.2 Migration inflows

**Both emigration and immigration has increased.** Most recent data shows that ‘foreign arrivals’ increased from 803,463 in 2012 to 956,081 in 2013. In the same period, ‘Nigerian arrivals’ increased from 1,495,045 to 1,578,715 (Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM Nigeria, 2016). These figures represented regular travellers.

**Table 4.4** Volume of movements into and out of Nigeria – 2012 and 2013

	2012	2013
<b>Arrivals</b>		
<b>Nigerian arrivals</b>	1,495,045	1,578,715
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	803,463	956,081
<b>Total arrivals</b>	2,298,508	2,534,796
<b>Departures</b>		
<b>Nigerian departures</b>	1,810,816	1,760,530
<b>Foreign departures</b>	839,957	861,240
<b>Total departures</b>	2,650,773	2,621,770
<b>Balance Nigerians</b>	-315,771	-181,815
<b>Balance foreigners</b>	-36,494	94,841
<b>Balance total</b>	-352,265	-86,974

Source: Adapted from Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM Nigeria 2016

**The number of officially recorded migrants in Nigeria increased by nearly 10 times between 1963-2006, from around 100,000 to nearly 1 million.** The latest UN data suggest that the number rose further to 1.2 million in 2017. Data on immigration in Nigeria used in this section were obtained from three major sources: the National Population Commission (NPopC), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the United Nations Population Division. The composition of immigrant groups according to their places of origin are presented below in table 4.5.

**Table 4.5** The number of officially recorded migrants in Nigeria increased to about 1 million

Country of origin	1963 Census		1991 Census		2006 Census	
	Number	% foreigners	Number	% foreigners	Number	% foreigners
<b>Benin</b>	5,214	5.1	100,939	21.2	-	-
<b>Ghana</b>	7,563	7.5	78,706	16.5	-	-
<b>Liberia</b>	712	0.7	8,175	1.7	-	-
<b>Niger</b>	8,807	8.7	37,035	7.8	-	-
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	1,984	2.0	1,623	0.3	-	-
<b>Togo</b>	7,392	7.3	48,993	10.3	-	-
<b>Cameroon</b>	18,434	18.2	10,703	2.2	-	-
<b>Chad</b>	1,626	1.6	11,611	2.4	-	-
<b>ECOWAS</b>	-	-	-	-	513,308	51.4
<b>Other Africans</b>	2,767	2.7	104,816	22.0	158,788	15.9
<b>Non-Africans</b>	46,951	46.3	74,534	15.6	327,177	32.7
<b>Total immigrants</b>	101,450	100.0	477,135	100.0	999,273	100.0

Source: Adapted from Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM 2016

**The composition of immigrants in Nigeria has retained a structure where approximately half of all immigrants are from three countries in West Africa.** Overall, the largest proportion (30.2%) are from Republic of Benin, followed by Ghana, and Togo (1991 census). The breakdown by nationality was not given in the 2006 census; however, available data show that half of all immigrants are from ECOWAS and the proportions of non-Africans have increased to about one-third of all immigrants.

**Nigeria is also noted to be a destination country for highly skilled migration.**<sup>24</sup> A breakdown of the data collated in 2004 (by the National Manpower Board of Nigeria)<sup>25</sup> shows that such “immigrants include general managers (2.7%), corporate managers (0.9%), and physical, mathematical and engineering science professionals (0.43%), and customer service clerks (0.2%). Origins of immigrants working in the professional/technical and related workers' cadre were from Europe (47.4%), while most of the immigrants working in clerical jobs are from the neighbouring ECOWAS countries (42.8%).”

**Nigeria had only 1,679 registered refugees as of April 2014.** Males constituted 57%. The main countries from which refugees originated were Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Chad and Sudan.

**Table 4.6 Nigeria has very few registered refugees and asylum-seekers**

Category	Refugees			Asylum seekers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total</b>	960	719	1679	587	354	941

Source: Adapted from Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM Nigeria 2016 (data for 2014).

**The registered refugee population in Nigeria declined from 9,010 in 2005 to 1,694 in 2013** (UNHCR, 2014). This decline was connected to the departure of refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cameroon. For asylum seekers, it was observed that the largest number of refugees originated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (35.6%), closely followed by Cameroon (32.6%).

**There is no hard data on the number and characteristics of Nigerians who return to the country after some years of sojourn abroad.** However, return migration is common especially among Nigerian professionals, for example “...many physicians who left the country during the hardship occasioned by the structural adjustment of the 1980s have returned and established their own hospitals while others have gone back to their jobs at the universities. Also, university staff who spent one or more years of sabbatical or leave abroad usually return to their jobs after the duration of their leave, although some fail to return” (Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM Nigeria 2016).

**The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) runs an Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme that offers various forms of assistance for vulnerable migrants who wish**

<sup>24</sup> See - Migration in Nigeria: A country profile 2009.

<https://www.iomdakar.org/profiles/content/migration-profiles-nigeria>

<sup>25</sup> Data available is insufficient for making deeper analyses. Country categorisation of these migrants are not readily available; proportions that were presented in the Manpower Board of Nigeria report could not be related to a total figure – thus it was not possible to derive numbers of migrants according to their professions.

**to return to their countries of origin.** Some Nigerian nationals living in host countries have made use of this opportunity. This programme began with a slow start such that in the period 2003-2008, 614 Nigerians were recorded to have used the AVR (IOM, 2009b). However, in 2016, UN data shows that 642 Nigerians abroad made use of the AVR programme.

**The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) is in regular consultative meetings with various partners on the assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) initiative.** This initiative is facilitated by IOM and partly sponsored by the Swiss Embassy. These meetings centre on seeking ways for better involvement of the Nigerian Government for the sustainability of the AVRR programme.

## 4.4 Migration Policy

**The National Policy on Migration (NPM) underscores that effective coordination is key to the successful implementation of the policy,** in particular “the need for the strategy to address policy coherence and development of synergies among the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs)” (Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM 2016). The NPM recognises over 20 national and international organisations are involved in migration management” Drafting of the NPM came in the backdrop of a series of developments in the area of international migration globally, which include:

- the ECOWAS and AU common position on migration;
- a series of Africa–EU Declarations and programmes on migration and development;
- the need to engage the Nigerian diaspora in assisting in the development of the country;
- the huge remittance inflows from emigrants; and
- the increasing challenges posed by irregular migration particularly among the youth who were trapped on the sea or in the deserts attempting to enter Europe clandestinely as well as increase of human trafficking and smuggling/development of organised criminal networks.

**Nigeria’s Migration Policy and its implementation plan provide an appropriate legal framework for monitoring and regulating internal and international migration, and proper collection and dissemination of migration data.** It “also addresses issues related to diaspora mobilisation, border management, decent treatment of migrants, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and the role of civil society in migration management, in order to ensure a more efficient management of migration in Nigeria” (IOM, 2015). Other policy documents that have been developed or are awaiting approval include those for internally displaced persons, diaspora matters, and the assisted voluntary return and reintegration initiative.

**Nigerians in Diaspora Organisations (NIDO) was conceived in the year 2001 while the Global Database was officially launched in February 2009.** The Global Database was described as a “reference global databank of Nigeria talents abroad”. This database is regarded as “a one-stop shop of the huge reserve of human capital of the Nigerian Diaspora”<sup>26</sup> and was jointly developed by NIDO in collaboration with Nigeria’s Presidency and the Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS) at the Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation. The project was also facilitated by several Embassies of Nigeria and High Commissions globally.

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<sup>26</sup> History of the Global Database of Nigerians in Diaspora <http://www.nigeriandiaspora.org/history.aspx>

### **The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)**

NAPTIP was created on the 14th of July 2003 by the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2003 in fulfilment of Nigeria's international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Transnational Organised Crime Convention (UNTOC).

**Nigeria became a signatory to the Transnational Organised Crime Convention and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol on 13th December, 2000.** Article 5 of the Trafficking Protocol enjoins States Parties to criminalise practices and conduct that subject human beings to all forms of exploitation which includes sexual and labour exploitation. Topical among NAPTIP's 23 functions are that it will:

- Co-ordinate and enforce all other laws on Trafficking in persons and related offences.
- Adopt effective measures for the prevention and eradication of trafficking in persons and related offences.
- Establish co-ordinated preventive, regulatory and investigatory machinery geared towards the eradication of trafficking in persons.

Since its inception, NAPTIP has rescued a total of Twelve Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty (12,360) victims, secured Two Hundred and Eighty-Two (282) convictions and Three Hundred and Thirty-Seven (337) convicted persons.<sup>27</sup>

### **Nigeria Immigration Service<sup>28</sup>**

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) is the government agency with the responsibility of migration management in Nigeria. It used to be a department under the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) until 1958. According to the act establishing it, the Nigeria Immigration Service is responsible for:

- The control of persons entering or leaving Nigeria
- The issuance of travel documents, to bona fide Nigerians in and outside Nigeria
- The issuance of residence permits to foreigners in Nigeria
- Border surveillance and patrol
- Enforcement of laws and regulations with which we have been directly charged.

### **National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)**

The NCFRMI was established by Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act). The Commission is mandated to coordinate the national action for the protection and assistance of: Refugees; Asylum Seekers; Returnees; Stateless Persons; Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); and Migrants. It's mission is to “..integrate the best solutions through effective utilisation of data, research and planning for the Return, Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of all persons of concern<sup>29</sup>.”

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.naptip.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2017-DATA-ANALYSIS-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <https://immigration.gov.ng/nis-core-mandate/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://ncfrmi.gov.ng/the-commission/>



### International organisations operating in Nigeria include IOM, UNODC, ILO, UNHCR.

- **IOM:** “Since 2002, based on a Cooperation Agreement, IOM has been supporting the efforts of the Government of Nigeria to manage migration through capacity-building, advisory services, and technical assistance on migration matters, including migration health and information, assisted voluntary returns, and counter-trafficking.”<sup>30</sup>
- **UNODC:** It’s mission statement is “to support the Nigerian Government and non-state actors in strengthening the rule of law and human security in line with the international treaties against drugs, crime and terrorism.” With special reference to Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, UNODC objective is “to fight against the trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and to promote the protection and re-integration of victims of trafficking.”<sup>31</sup>
- **ILO:** ILO has been collaborating with the Nigerian Government through the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) under the Declaration for a fair and globalisation framework of action.<sup>32</sup> Also, it is fully supporting Nigeria in formulating national policy on industrial relations.<sup>33</sup>
- **UNHCR:** “In Nigeria, UNHCR works with the Government, partners and other United Nations Agencies to uphold the rights and well-being of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugee returnees and asylum seekers in the ECOWAS region.”<sup>34</sup> “As the lead Protection agency, UNHCR Nigeria’s interventions have been concentrated in monitoring and response including provision of sexual and gender-based violence and psychosocial support; provision of material assistance such as shelter and non-food items (NFIs); livelihood and peacebuilding; Camp Management Camp Coordination (CCCM) support; advocacy; capacity building and awareness-raising; return monitoring, registration and vulnerability screening; access to justice; assistance to refugees/asylum seekers and status determination.”<sup>35</sup>

### Nigeria-EU relations on migration

**Migration Partnership Framework (MPF):** In June 2016, the European Union’s (EU) MPF was established with a view to mobilise instruments, resources and influence of both the EU and member states to establish cooperation with partner countries for the sustainable management of migration flows (European Commission, 2017, p. 2). cursory assessment of the EU-Nigeria relations shows a high level of engagement – visits to Nigeria were undertaken at different times by the Secretary of State of Slovakia (on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> EU Nigeria Business Forum November 2016), Italian Minister of Interior, Swedish Minister of EU Affairs and Trade, German Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of State of Portugal, while the Nigerian President visited Germany (all in October 2017).

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.iom.int/countries/nigeria>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/overview.html>

<sup>32</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_mas/---a\\_program/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_561063.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_mas/---a_program/documents/genericdocument/wcms_561063.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/overview.html>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.unhcr.ng>

<sup>35</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/ar/documents/download/62688>

**Key progress<sup>36</sup> made by the Nigerian authorities include:**

- Negotiations on a EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement started in October (2016).
- Liaison officers from Nigeria are supporting identification upon arrival on the Central Mediterranean route.
- EU-Nigeria cooperation platform on migrant smuggling launched in October (2016).
- A European Migration and Liaison Officer will be deployed in early 2017.
- Appointment of points of contact in areas including readmission and smuggling
- Work to enhance best practices for joint return operations.

**Notable EU support has been received in several forms:**

- Three projects approved under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in the field of resilience, and other in the pipeline to address return and reintegration, and anti-radicalisation..
- Protection challenges in Nigeria are being addressed by mobilising different kinds of support (protection concerns are mainstreamed in the EU humanitarian response and specific support related to child protection is provided).
- In the framework of the EDF, cooperation is ongoing or planned in migration management and the fight against trafficking of human beings.

**Other steps anticipated for 2017 and beyond**

- Further develop projects and initiatives addressing trafficking and smuggling including with the support of Europol and the European Border Coast Guard Agency.
- Conclude negotiations on EU-Nigeria Readmission Agreement and foster good practices in the field of return, also by addressing internal constraints.
- Develop initiatives to address root causes of migration and stimulate investments.

**The MPF approach is seen by many African actors as imposing EU interests and undermining African unity and continental ambitions.** Castillejo (2017) opined that “concrete achievements of the migration partnerships have been limited; that the MPF has largely failed to incentivise the cooperation that the EU was seeking; and that the EU’s migration programming in MPF partner countries has suffered from serious flaws”. The MPF was thus criticised in that it “explicitly employs positive and negative incentives to encourage partner countries’ cooperation and places a heavy emphasis on keeping migrants out and sending them back, characteristics that have generated significant controversy.”

**The 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund**

The European Commission provided support to Nigeria under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) with an overall aim to strengthen Nigeria’s national capacity to better manage regular and irregular migration and to harness migration’s development potentials.<sup>37</sup> The three components of this EU-support included:

- Improving governance of migration sector through evidence-based instruments;

<sup>36</sup> European Union. Factsheets on Migration. European External Action Service. [https://cdn1-eeas.fpfis.tech.ec.europa.eu/cdn/farfuture/CHkLpnJOnYoPBbWZpSgplkSHcHnPrRkqN0vLo6NsnY/mtime:1481705113/sites/eeas/files/factsheet-nigeria\\_en.pdf](https://cdn1-eeas.fpfis.tech.ec.europa.eu/cdn/farfuture/CHkLpnJOnYoPBbWZpSgplkSHcHnPrRkqN0vLo6NsnY/mtime:1481705113/sites/eeas/files/factsheet-nigeria_en.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> See Akinyinka Akinyoade. 2012. “Promoting Better Management of Migration in Nigeria.” Proposal for the Inaugural Meeting of The Sector Policy Review Committee (SPRC), submitted to the IOM, Abuja. October 2012

- Improving management of organised labour migration to maximize its impact on development; and
- Strengthening of national capacity to better manage irregular migration, prevent and combat trafficking in persons, including migrant smuggling.

**Two Contribution Agreements were signed for the implementation modalities for these aforementioned components of EU-support.** This was done under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Migration Programme with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC). One important outcome of this support for Nigeria is its National Migration Policy.

### **The Counter Trafficking Initiative (CTI)**

The CTI project was set up to contribute to the establishment of an environment conducive to the direct assistance and protection of trafficked persons, for their equitable, non-discriminatory access to services and follow up in Nigeria. The €2.4 million project was co-financed by the Governments of Italy, The Netherlands, and Norway; the three countries also participated in the periodic monitoring and evaluation for project sustainability and continuity. The main partners in Nigeria included the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Universities of Lagos and Benin, four NGOs (to for legal aid and resource referral), and several communities located in each of the local governments of Edo State (Akinyoade, 2012).

**In the CTI, the Italian Government, represented by Italian Cooperation, donated slightly more than 1 million euros.** This fund created much needed leverage for establishment of the observatories, conduct of research by staff and students associated with the observatories, organisation of ‘Summer School’ for exchange of academic knowledge, procurement of important office equipment, delivery of community projects and building and improving human resource capacity of local partners.

**The Netherlands Government, represented by the Royal Embassy of The Netherlands, also contributed nearly one million euros to the success of the CTI project.** Attention was given to improving investigative capacity and efficiency of law enforcement officers, provision of technical equipment to enhance communications and promote the well-being of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs).

**Norway also contributed to the CTI project.** Faced with an increasing number of Nigerian asylum seekers, they aim to improving their understanding and coping with the phenomenon of trafficking.

### **Specifically, the following were developed:**

- models of integrated network that delivered socio economic protection to VoT and primary prevention services to endemic areas; and,
- models of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms capable of producing evolutionary trends for analysis of systemic change.

## 4.5 Public attitudes towards migration

**Perception of immigrants is generally positive. There is no notable negative public display or systematically orchestrated public hostility to immigrants.** Foreigners groups thrive. For instance, the Nigerwives Nigeria is the Association of foreign women married to Nigerians. The nationwide association started with a group of foreign women married to Nigerians in Lagos in 1979 but became a legal entity with a constitution and its formal registration in 1987. The primary aim of Nigeriwives Association is to assist the integration of foreign wives into the Nigerian society. The Nigerwives Association also assists in tackling most of the immigration problems that the foreign wives may have through its Central Council and the Abuja Liaison officer appointed by the Central Council. Their positive impact is well noted. On its website they write: “Another aim of our Association is to establish or assist in social projects that benefit the communities we live in here in Nigeria. One of such projects is the Braille Book Production Centre in Lagos, which produces Braille Books for Blind children and distributes them all over the Federation. They are also socially visible in their colourful participation in ceremonies such as Naming ceremonies, traditional ceremonies, graduations, weddings, birthdays etc”<sup>38</sup>

**Both internal and international migration have some profound negative effects on the nation’s socio-economic development.** For instance: brain drain that has resulted from significant numbers of highly skilled nationals that have left the country to seek employment or establish businesses abroad, depleting Nigeria of needed skills and manpower needed for the growth of industries, academia and other sectors of the economy; brain waste occurring from skilled migrants of Nigerian origin that are engaging in menial occupations abroad, resulting in deskilling (even if there is a willingness to return to Nigeria).

**However, brain gain can be achieved through the return of individuals who gained skills abroad through temporary migration.** Thus, “the challenge before the Nigerian Government is to reverse brain drain, or at the very least mitigate its effects on social and economic development, while optimizing brain gain and minimizing brain waste of nationals abroad” (Isiugo-Abanihe and IOM Nigeria 2016).

**The potential for Nigerians in the diaspora to contribute to tertiary education in the country is therefore being exploited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).** For example, Nigerian scientists based in the United States have entered into a formal agreement to assist universities in Nigeria for supporting postgraduate programmes, which has been welcomed by academics in Nigeria because of its potential positive multiplier effects (Isiugo-Abanihe & IOM Nigeria 2016). Programmes such as the Linkages with Experts and Academics in the Diaspora Scheme (LEADS) was established by the NUC in academic year 2007 to support the federal government’s efforts to transform the education sector. The major aims of the LEADS include (a) To attract experts and academics of Nigerian descent in the diaspora to contribute – on a short-term basis – to the enhancement of education in the Nigerian university system; (b) To create appropriate engagement positions and job satisfaction for Nigerian academics and experts, so that they are not attracted away or wasted internally, among others.

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<sup>38</sup> <http://nigerwives.wixsite.com/nigeria>



## 5 Conclusions

**Although Nigeria is traditionally an important destination for migrants in the region, emigration has exceeded immigration.** At over 190 million people, the country is the most populous in Africa and it houses over a million foreigners, one hundred thousand shy of the over one million of Nigerians that left the country. Nigeria is the largest source of African immigration to the United States (Migration Policy Institute, 2015). Most studies converge on the finding that Nigerian diaspora is the best educated and they are also substantially more likely than the general US population to be in the labour force and to work in professional or managerial occupations (MPI, 2015; Casimir 2018; Fosco 2018). Casimir traced this development to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 made it easier for Africans to enter the U.S., but mostly as students or highly skilled professionals—not through family sponsorships.

**Nigeria's response to making its teeming population possess the required knowledge and skills to function in a modernising world has been through its education policies.** In practice, a higher level of success have been achieved at the primary level; just about half of primary school leavers enter into secondary education and at the apex, just about 12% eventually have access to tertiary education. The opening up of education service provision to private entities have contributed to significant rise in numbers of universities and polytechnics, offering a wide range of courses. Yet, the numbers appear not to be enough to serve the population of tertiary education seekers. Some have also questioned the quality of tertiary education.

**The outflow of Nigerian students to universities abroad has been spurred by three factors.** First, the failure of Nigeria's education system to meet booming demand. Second, the often poor quality of its universities. Third, the rapid growth in the number of Nigerian families who can afford to send their children overseas. These factors are likely to persist in the short and medium term. It is not likely that any fiscal crisis arising from shocks in the oil sector will lead to a dramatic or prolonged downturn in the number of international students of Nigerian origin.

**The UK continues to retain the number one spot of destination for Nigerian students seeking tertiary education; followed by the US, Malaysia, Ghana, and the Republic of Benin.** Nigerians remits over \$1 billion for meet tuition fees and student upkeep annually. UIS data on the mobility of students shed light on the shifting demand for higher education, particularly in the developing world. Ghana 9,127 and Benin 7,809 more attractive for studies compared to Canada 5,982 and Australia 1,632. Ambassador Perry Calderwood (Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria) had reported that in 2014 there were more than 6,000 Nigerian students and Nigeria was the 8<sup>th</sup> largest source of foreign students in Canada.<sup>39</sup>

**Youth unemployment is high in Nigeria at 33%.** Unemployment is shown to be higher among Nigerians with post-secondary education. One of the reasons for this development is that job-seekers prefer to work or look for work in urban areas despite the relative availability in the rural areas, often described as lacking in necessary amenities to attracting in-migrants.

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<sup>39</sup> AfterSchoolAfrica. <https://www.afterschoolafrica.com/10032/study-abroad-nigerian/>

**In the course of this study, contradictions were encountered in tracking Nigeria's data be it in education, labour and migration.** For instance, data collection agencies agree that the number of Nigerians studying abroad have increased substantially, but these sources differ on levels. On one hand, UNESCO's Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students puts Nigerians studying at the Higher Education level at 16,072 students while the UK Council for International Students Affairs (UKCISA) pegs the number at 12,665. This kind of difference underscore the difficulties of dealing with data on Nigeria; with approximately 4,000 students difference in the numbers offered by different agencies, and this muddles the ability to draw stronger conclusions. For now, conclusions have to be made with caution regarding capital outflow for education, scholarships, and other socio-economic analyses that are linked to Nigerians studying abroad.

**There are gaps in data and institutional performance across agencies active in the migration sector.** Given these gaps, Nigeria's NPM rightly proposes that the application of an evidence-based policymaking approach to migration and migration mainstreaming would require collecting, analysing and incorporating into the policymaking process a number of closely interlinked categories of migration evidence such as: data on migratory trends and migration characteristics; information on how migration impacts various socioeconomic and environmental factors; information on a migration governance framework; and information on previous, ongoing and planned international cooperation initiatives.

**The problems of "mixed flows" and "irregular flows" of persons across national borders have raised new challenges.** Surmounting these challenges require strengthening of the capacity of border management personnel to analyse the evolving dynamics of international migration in Nigeria. There is a need to fill gaps in the migration profile by collecting data on special groups for whom data are not available or at best fragmentary.<sup>40</sup> It should be mandatory for MDAs working in these areas to collate the relevant data which could periodically be accessed by relevant migration coordinating bodies.

**For more robust description and analyses of the prevalence, determinants, and consequences of both internal and international migration in Nigeria, it is necessary to improve accurate and current statistics.** Too many facts about the nature and magnitude of Nigerian migrations and their relations to broader development processes are simply unknown. More statistics would need to be gathered via national censuses, surveys, administrative records and vital registration of demographic events. Nigeria scores low in this performance and the prevalence of surveys by international agencies, serving different needs complicated the analyses of levels and trends. Another recommendation would be to equip the Nigerian Immigration Service or other agencies to process and analyse data derived from immigration entry and exit cards, data derived from registers of Nigerians in the diaspora at the respective missions abroad and from organisations of Nigerians in the diaspora, and other sources. Such investments in better data would allow more empirical research on Nigerian migration and its development implications, which in turn could help to develop more informed policies on the issue.

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<sup>40</sup> Such categories include: Nigerians in prison and detention cells overseas, Nigerians with dual citizenship, Nigerian students overseas, child migrants, and migration and gender and human rights issues.

**One wild card that could well intensify patterns of migration everywhere is climate change.**<sup>41</sup> The World Bank warns that over 100 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America could be forced to move within their own countries to escape water scarcity, crop failures, a rise in sea levels, and storm surges (World Bank 2018c). Exact number of people that may be affected in Nigeria is not presently available, however, based on sectoral assessments such as the shrinking of Lake Chad and increasing desertification of Nigeria's northern zones, it will not be out of place to estimate that millions of Nigerians have to migrate out of the slowly but increasingly unproductive northern ecological zones. Possible ways to stem the crisis include cutting greenhouse gas emissions and embedding migration into development planning (World Bank KNOMAD 2018).

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<sup>41</sup> Porter & Russell (2018). See also:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/06/20/business/economy/immigration-economic-impact.html>





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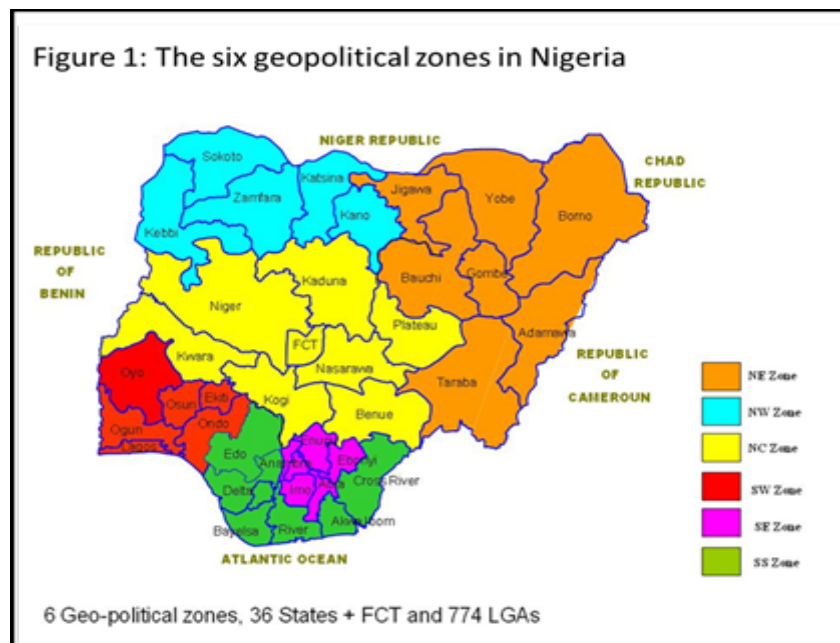
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## Appendix A Selected education statistics

Figure A.1 Nigeria has six geopolitical zones



Source: <http://www.efarmers.ng/en/blog/an-overview-of-nigerias-agricultural-products-1>

Table A.1 Nigerian women have lower literacy rates than men, particularly in the north

	Percentage literate	
	Male	Female
North Central	82	54
North East	51	28
North West	62	26
South East	91	84
South South	93	81
South West	89	82

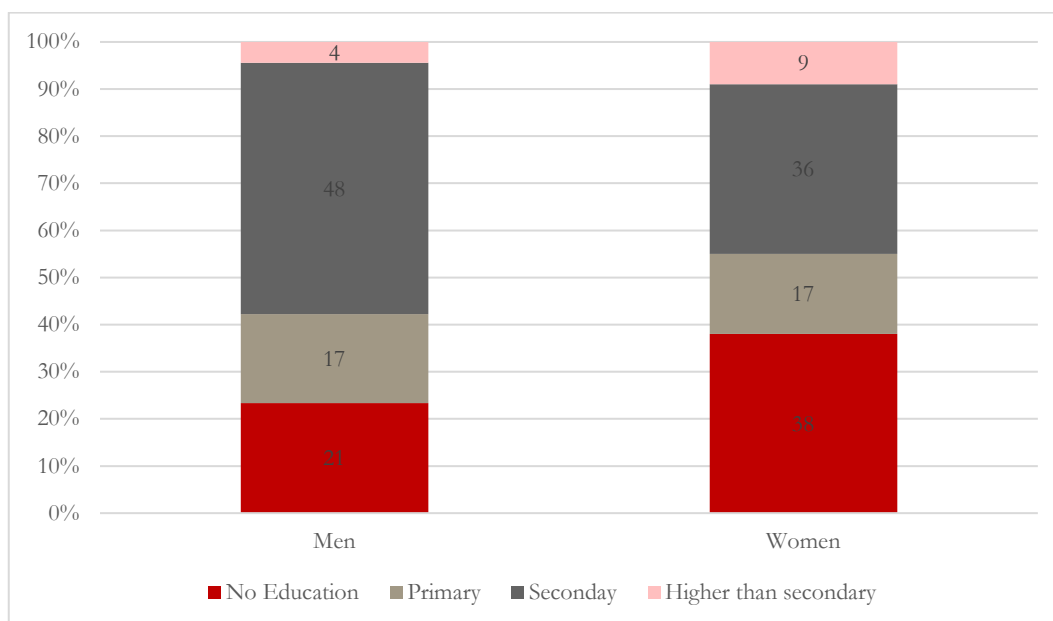
Source: NDHS 2013, Nigeria education indicators for women and men aged 15-49.

Table A.2: General status of education in Nigeria, 2005-2013

Education indicators		Female	Male	Total
Net enrolment, primary	2010	58	70	64
Primary completion rate	2010	69	78	74
Out of school children of primary school age	2010	4,976,710	3,652,168	8,628,878
Gender parity index for gross enrolment ratio, primary	2013			1
Gross enrolment rate, tertiary education	2011	8	12	10
Adult literacy rate, 15+ years, (%)	2008	41	61	51
Gross enrolment in primary education	2005			100.9
	2013			94.1
Gross enrolment in secondary education	2005			34.7
	2013			56.2
Gross enrolment in tertiary education	2005			10.4
	2011			10.2

Source: World Bank: <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/education/country/nigeria>

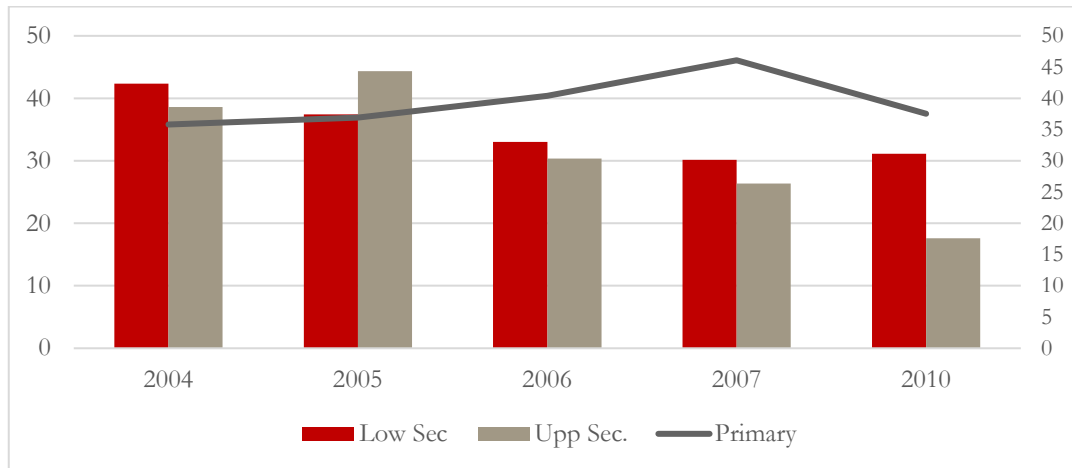
Figure A.2 Men are more likely than women to attend secondary school



Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2013), summary report for men and women aged 15-49.

The 2013 NDHS shows that, among survey respondents, the proportion of females with no education is higher than the proportion of males with no education. As the level of education increases, 62% of males have secondary education and higher, compared to 45% of females in the same education categories. While Figure A.2 shows that women in this particular survey were more likely to be enrolled in higher-than-secondary education, Table A.2 suggests that overall gross enrolment in tertiary education was 8 percent for women, compared to 12 percent for men.

Figure A.3 The pupil-teacher ratio has fallen in both primary and secondary education



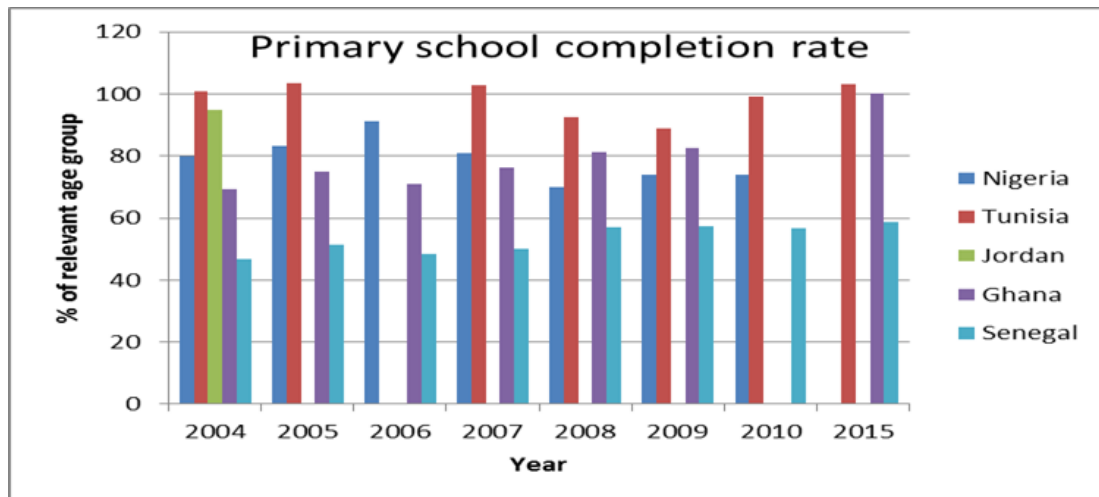
Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

Table A.3 The number of universities in Nigeria has increased rapidly

Year established	Number
1932	1
1948	2
1962	5
2001	51
2005	80
2018	164

Source: Akpan and Akinyoade 2009; National Universities Commission 2018

Figure A.4 Nigeria's primary school completion rate fell in both absolute and relative terms



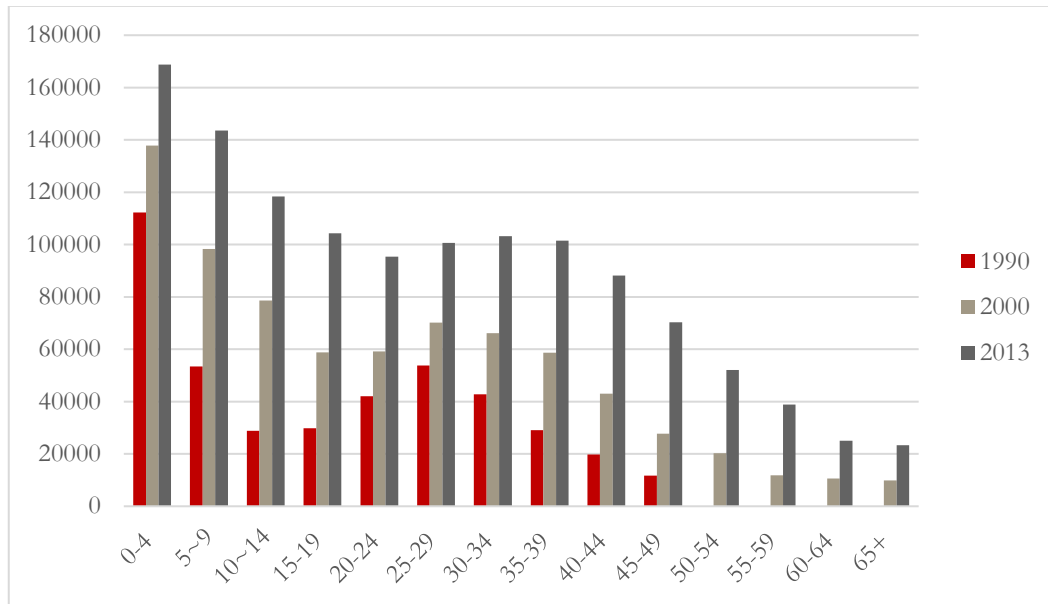
Source: Adapted from World Development Indicators





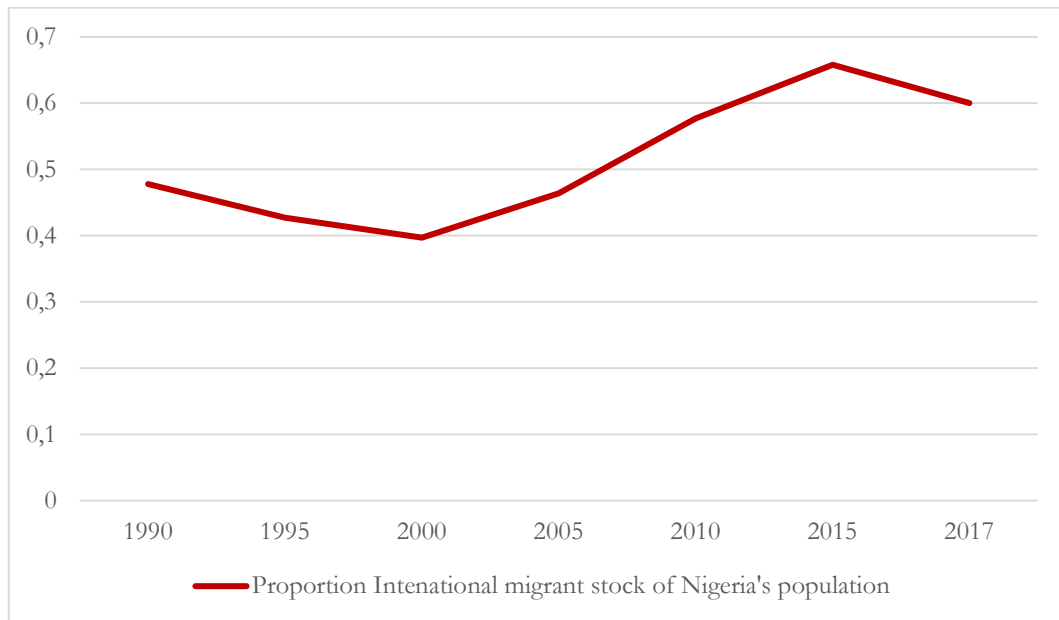
## Appendix B Selected migration statistics

Figure B.1 Migrants in Nigeria are mostly young



Source: Adapted using data from <https://esa.un.org/MigGMGProfiles/Indicators/files/Nigeria.pdf>

Figure B.2 The migrant stock in Nigeria is small, but increasing



Source: Adapted from UNDESA 2017 Statistics