



## COUNTRY PROFILE



A. FLEURET, USAID/NIGERIA

USAID is helping farmers' organizations, like this group in Kano, Nigeria, to plant and harvest higher-yielding crops. These women have boosted their incomes by producing more cowpeas than in previous years.

### OVERVIEW

The greatest constraints to development in Nigeria are deeply entrenched poverty and unemployment. These conditions breed disaffection in youths, provide an entry point for Islamic extremism, entice corruption, and promote ineffective governance. In its development partnership with Nigeria, the United States seeks to strengthen social stability through improved social services, support transparent and accountable governance, promote a more market-led economy, and enhance Nigeria's capacity as a responsible regional and trade partner. These goals support the Government of Nigeria's National Economic and Empowerment Strategy, the Seven-Point Agenda, and Vision 20:2020. Given Nigeria's size and limited resources, USAID focuses on the impoverished Muslim north and the oil-rich Niger Delta.



### PROGRAMS

#### PEACE AND SECURITY

To promote peace and security in Nigeria, USAID is increasing the capacity of government institutions, civil society, political parties, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders to prevent, manage, and mitigate the impact of conflict. Innovative youth programs and interfaith dialogue have reduced the potential for violent clashes.

#### GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

USAID assistance advances the rule of law by strengthening the capacity and transparency of the justice system and building judicial independence at the federal level. To advance good governance and anti-corruption reform, USAID will support the creation of more responsive national and local governance structures, improve service delivery, and strengthen budget management capacity and fiscal oversight. The United States works directly with a diverse representation of Nigerian civil society organizations, building their internal management capacity and strengthening their ability to engage with the government on issues of fiscal accountability, budget monitoring, and transparency within extractive industries. Since the 2007 elections, USAID has working to improve the organizational development of political parties, support the independence of the electoral commission, and encourage civil society input into electoral and constitutional reform dialogue to promote credible elections in 2011.

#### NIGERIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960  
Population: 148 million (2008)  
GDP per person: \$1,148 (yr)  
*Source: U.S. Department of State*

#### USAID IN NIGERIA

[www.usaid.gov/ng](http://www.usaid.gov/ng)



## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Nigeria cannot sustainably establish stability and economic growth while its people lack fundamental health and education services. USAID is supporting increased access to quality family planning and reproductive health services. Maternal and child health efforts focus on routine immunization, polio eradication, birth preparedness, maternity services, and obstetric fistula repairs. In response to the more than 300,000 Nigerian children who die from malaria each year, the United States is increasing access to proven preventive and curative interventions— insecticide-treated bednets, net re-treatment kits, and malaria treatment for children and pregnant women. Nigeria also has one of the largest tuberculosis burdens in Africa. To reduce death and disability, especially in the vulnerable co-infected HIV/AIDS population, USAID is working to double the case detection rate and halve the incidence of tuberculosis by 2018.

In education, USAID programs support equitable access to quality basic education through teacher training, support for girls' learning, infrastructure improvement, and community involvement, focusing on public schools, as well as *Islamiyyah* schools, which provide both secular and religious education. U.S. assistance also fosters higher education partnerships between American and Nigerian universities, especially those in the north and the volatile Delta regions.

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

To improve the enabling environment for agriculture and microfinance, USAID programs are accelerating the uptake of proven agricultural production, processing, and marketing technologies and stimulating job creation through agribusiness enterprises. U.S. assistance also focuses on expanding investment opportunities, which are hindered by limited access to market-driven commercial financial services, including microfinance. USAID is helping to develop a policy environment for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and expand access to market-driven vocational and technical training linked with private sector employment opportunities. The United States is also supporting customs regulation and policy reform to encourage internal and external trade, encouraging the use of U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act incentives for trade with the United States, and developing private sector capacity to meet international trade and export standards.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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