



# Nigeria



## Introduction to NIGERIA

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA is Africa's most populated country, and has been independent from the British since 1960. It is also one of the continent's most influential nations, especially in music, literature, and the arts. But post-colonial ethnic and religious tensions have led to years of strife and instability for this West African country.

## The NIGERIAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	149,229,090
<b>Children under 15:</b>	61,866,687
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	46.94 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$2,300
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	63.81%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	9 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	68%
<b>Internet users:</b>	11 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	62.988 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani

### Risk issues impacting children:

UNICEF does not currently offer children at risk statistics for this country.

## More about NIGERIA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Abuja
<b>Type of government:</b>	Federal Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	923,768
<b>General terrain:</b>	Southern lowlands merge into central hills and plateaus, mountains in southeast, plains in north
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Crude oil, coal, tin, rubber, wood, hides, textiles
<b>National motto:</b>	"Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Murtama Mohammed International in Lagos

## Reaching NIGERIA

*Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached*

### Major religions:

Muslim	- 50%
Christian	- 40%
Indigenous	- 10%

### Christian groups:

Independent	- 31.7%
Protestant	- 27.5%
Roman Catholic	- 23.3%
Anglican	- 17.6%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	67 (32.7% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.064
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	2,775,394
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	5,600
<b>Per million:</b>	39.62
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	50,000
<b>Per million:</b>	353.72
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	144,700

## Children's ministry in NIGERIA

**Overview:** • Children's ministry is active in Nigeria. Many churches have evangelism programs for children, and many different groups in the nation are participating in ministry to children.

- Though there has been an increase in trained teachers working in the nation, it can still be difficult to find workers who will commit to long-term ministry to children.
- Nigeria has many strong denominations and is sometimes challenged when it comes to finding ways to work collaboratively.
- Many churches and ministries struggle financially and children's ministries are only given a very small budget.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**144,700** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**61,688,687** children for Christ