



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

As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria's prosperity and stability are essential to growth and stability in West Africa and in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole. Nigeria is the fifth largest exporter of oil to the United States, and there is more U.S. investment in Nigeria than in any other country in Africa. Nigeria has supported regional stability through its diplomatic and peacekeeping efforts throughout the continent. USAID's current programs address democracy and governance, agriculture and economic reform, education and health services, and HIV/AIDS.



PROGRAMS

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Nigeria has not yet overcome a legacy of military rule. It continues to struggle to consolidate democratic institutions and the rule of law, reduce rampant corruption, and boost public confidence in the democratic transition. USAID's program works with civil society and selected government institutions to improve the environment for accountable governance and conflict management in Nigeria, as well as preparing for credible national elections in 2007. The program strengthens the advocacy capacity of civil society; introduces policy and legislative reforms within selected government institutions; and helps to support transparent elections in Nigeria. Innovative youth programs and interfaith dialogue have reduced the potential for violent conflict. USAID brought together elected representatives and militant youth from the Niger Delta, the first opportunity many of these youth had ever to present their grievances to such a forum and agree on solutions.

IMPROVING ECONOMIC LIVELIHOODS

Although Nigeria is a major oil producer, oil revenues amount to less than \$150 per capita per year and provide little benefit to the majority of Nigeria's citizens. USAID's agriculture program works with producers, processors, traders, and consumers in specific commodity sectors, including rice, cassava, cereals and legumes, and forest products. The new activities launched in 2005 have already reached more than 15,000 farmers and entrepreneurs with training, technical assistance, and extension services. This work is complemented by economic policy dialogue, budget reform,

NIGERIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960
Population: 139.8 million (2004)
Income per person: \$390 (yr)

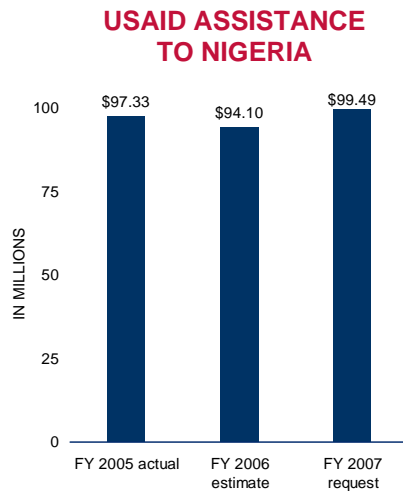
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN NIGERIA

www.usaid.gov/ng



COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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and natural resource management activities that have helped the Government of Nigeria to modernize its budget process, and resource users to curb the expansion of their farms into Nigeria's last remaining tract of primary tropical forest. Support to the financial sector has made credit available to thousands of Nigerian borrowers.

IMPROVING SOCIAL SECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY

Half of Nigerian adults are illiterate, 20 percent of Nigerian children die before reaching their fifth birthday, and the Nigerian population is growing at an unsustainable rate. Recognizing the powerful links between education and health, USAID's integrated, community-driven programs addresses primary education, family planning and reproductive health, and child survival in Nigeria. In the education sector, the program reached 10,000 teachers and almost 500,000 pupils with improved teaching methods and classroom materials, and also worked with parent-teacher associations at 193 schools to rehabilitate school premises, provide clean drinking water, or purchase textbooks. On the health side, USAID efforts contributed to the immunization of 5 million children against polio; 350,000 more children were vaccinated against all common childhood diseases. USAID partners sold 1.3 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets, highly effective in the prevention of malaria, as well as 1.7 million prepackaged malaria treatment kits.

FIGHTING HIV/AIDS AND TUBERCULOSIS

Nigeria accounts for nearly 10 percent of the HIV/AIDS burden in the world, with 4 million of its citizens living with the infection, a number that may more than double by 2010. One million Nigerian children have already been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Fear, stigma and discrimination against these children and people living with HIV/AIDS are high. In response, Nigeria has been designated as one of 15 countries worldwide to be assisted under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. USAID collaborates closely with the Nigerian Government and other U. S. Government agencies in Nigeria to reach 350,000 people living with HIV/AIDS with anti-retroviral treatment; prevent over one million new infections; and provide care and support to 1,750,000 HIV-affected individuals, including those co-infected with tuberculosis.