



Nigeria SDGs Progress Report



December, 2024

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Foreword

The development and finalisation of Nigeria's first-ever Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Progress Report heralds the phase of accelerated implementation of the SDGs between 2025 and 2030 as enshrined in the country's transition strategy. The third phase of the SDGs Implementation plan aims to arrive at a place where 'no Nigerian is left behind'. The **SDGs Progress Report 2024** provides an objective assessment of the progress achieved through the collective efforts of SDG stakeholders across all 17 Goals and selected indicators.

To lay a solid foundation for monitoring and evaluating the progress Nigeria has achieved, we developed the SDGs Indicators Baseline Report of 2016, with the National Bureau of Statistics serving as the coordinating agency. The report provided the country with reliable baseline data derived from various sources including the Nigerian Living Standard Survey (NLSS), the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), General Household (Panel) Survey, and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), among others. Nigeria has also twice developed and presented its Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2017 and 2020, further demonstrating our commitment to the SDGs.

Nigeria currently faces significant economic difficulties stemming from ongoing but necessary reforms, as well as different levels of insecurity across many regions of the country. Despite these challenges, the commitment to SDGs implementation across federal ministries, departments and agencies, sub-national governments, development partners, civil society organisations, the legislature, private sector groups and the organised labour is commendable. The modest achievements reported in certain indicators have provided valuable insights into how results can be achieved within a challenging operational environment.

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 induced global economic crisis, the fragile global supply chain caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, rising inflation across countries, unsustainable debt burdens, terrorism, banditry, natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change have exacerbated poverty and internal displacement, impacting on the ability of countries including Nigeria to make significant progress on critical SDG indicators.

Nonetheless, this report highlights areas of progress, including reductions in under-five mortality rates, increased net attendance ratios in primary schools, improved access to sanitation facilities, marginal reductions in female genital mutilation, rapid growth in the ICT sector, improvements in solar energy capacity, expanded access to financial services for unbanked Nigerians, and significant growth in diaspora remittances. Conversely, the stagnation or regression reported in other indicators underscores the need for renewed commitments and accelerated actions by all SDG stakeholders. It is imperative that all levels of government allocate additional resources to priority SDGs, addressing the gaps identified in this report.

Massive investments, improved efficiency, innovations, application of ICT and more effective partnerships are required to drive critical transitions across critical sectors such as social protection, food security, maternal and child health, gender equality, environmental protection, energy, digital infrastructure and more to unlock progress across the Goals.

His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Acknowledgements

The "Renewed Hope Agenda" of the current administration, led by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, presents a strategic opportunity to align Nigeria's development priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This agenda articulates eight key priorities: reforming the economy to deliver sustained inclusive growth; strengthening national security to foster peace and prosperity; boosting agriculture to achieve food security; unlocking energy and natural resources for sustainable development; enhancing infrastructure and transport as enablers of growth; prioritising education, health, and social investments as essential pillars of development; accelerating diversification through industrialisation, digitisation, creative arts, manufacturing, and innovation; and improving governance for effective service delivery. I commend Mr President and his administration for the steadfast commitment to this transformative vision.

The preparation of Nigeria's SDGs Progress Report was made possible through the unwavering support of the leadership and staff of various ministries, departments, and agencies at both federal and state levels. Their dedication ensured effective resource mobilisation, implementation, and supervision across sectors. The National Bureau of Statistics deserves special recognition for providing the essential statistical data required for this report. I extend my gratitude to all who contributed to this monumental effort.

The partnership between the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided the necessary technical and financial resources for this report. I wish to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. Mohamed Malick Fall, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for his ongoing leadership and guidance in the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria. Special thanks are also due to Ms. Elsie Attafuah, the UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria, for her exceptional leadership and steadfast commitment throughout this process. I also acknowledge the technical leadership of our respective teams, including Engr. Ahmad Kawu, Dr. Bala Yusuf-Yunusa; and Rose Keffas, from my office; and Dr. Tony Muhumuza, Precious Akanonu, Oyintare Abang, Clare Henshaw, and Grace Arinze Ononwu, from UNDP.

The Core Working Group provided technical guidance and quality-assurance for this report. Their exceptional dedication ensured the production of a high-quality report that reflects the collective efforts of SDG stakeholders.

Special acknowledgement is also due to Dr. Babatunde Ipaye, the lead consultant, whose professionalism in synthesising data, and undertaking extensive stakeholder consultations resulted in this coherent and insightful document. Finally, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our development partners, civil society organisations, private sector groups and sub-national stakeholders for their contributions to the preparation of this report and the overall implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria. Together, we continue to make meaningful strides toward achieving sustainable development in Nigeria.

Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, OFR
Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANC	Antenatal care
BCG	Bacillus Calmette Guerin
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CHE	Current Health Expenditure
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 19
CRA	Child Rights Act
CSOSG-SDGs	Civil Society Organisations Strategy Group on SDGs
DMC	Domestic material consumption
EFInA	Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting
Fintech	Financial Technology
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GVAP	Global Vaccine Action Plan
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IPTp	Intermittent preventive treatment
iSDG	Integrated Sustainable Development Goals
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGA	Local Government Area
LICs	Low-Income Countries
LMICs	Lower-Middle-Income Countries
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
MNCH	Maternal, new born, and child health
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MtCO ₂ e	Metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCC	Nigerian Communications Commission
NCF	Nigerian Conservation Foundation
NDHS	Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NLSS	Nigerian Living Standard Survey
NSPP	National Social Protection Policy
ODF	Open Defecation Free

OOP	Out-of-pocket expenditure
OPV	Oral Polio Virus
OSSAP-SDGs	Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs
PE	Polyethylene
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PEWASH	Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
PP	Polypropylene
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
PoU	Prevalence of Undernourishment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPR	SDG Progress Report
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States Dollar (also denoted with '\$')
VNR	Voluntary National Reviews
WASH	Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

Executive Summary

The implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria commenced in 2016, succeeding the activities previously carried out under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Over nearly eight years, the country has made notable progress in some areas, while others have seen little or no improvement, or even regressed. As the global SDG deadline of 2030 approaches, Nigeria faces a critical juncture, requiring decisive action and innovative strategies to accelerate progress and address persistent obstacles.

The “Renewed Hope Agenda” of the present administration, redefined at the cabinet retreat in November 2023, outlines eight priority areas to reinvigorate the country’s commitment to sustainable development.

Globally, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of regular and inclusive reviews of progress made at national and sub-national levels, based on the 230 key performance indicators, and additional context-specific indicators. This progress report provides a comprehensive assessment of Nigeria’s performance against key SDG indicators, drawing from a range of federal and sub-national data sources. It also documents lessons learned over the implementation period and highlights challenges requiring urgent attention. In addition, a National Stakeholders’ Meeting convened experts, policymakers, and civil society representatives to deliberate on actionable recommendations for accelerating progress.

Key findings

- The three dimensions of the SDGs – *economic, social and environmental* – have been **integrated into national and sub-national government plans and annual budgets**. Core areas such as food security, agriculture, energy, infrastructural development, industry, macroeconomic stability, and inclusive growth feature prominently in the National Development Plan (2021 – 2025) and Nigeria’s Agenda 2050.
- Nigeria developed and presented the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** twice at the High-Level Political Forum (UNHLPF) held in July 2017 and 2020.
- The Federal Government, in partnership with UNDP and the European Union, developed and launched **Nigeria’s Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)** for Sustainable Development on the side-lines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in September 2022.
- Between 2016 and 2023, OSSAP-SDGs executed a number of **special intervention projects** across different sectors. These projects include building and furnishing 8,008 classroom blocks, rehabilitating 305 additional classrooms, building 195 health centres (including primary health care centres and mother and child hospitals), and supplying 199 intensive care and rural ambulances. **Other intervention projects** executed include building 66 vocational and skills acquisition centres, supplying 1,294 transformers, installing 19,266 solar-powered streetlights, building 300 homes for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), building 343 transit homes and installing 973 solar and hand-pump boreholes.

- The 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Survey revealed that there is **worsening poverty** with 63 percent (133 million people) of Nigerians considered multidimensionally poor. Regional disparities persist with 65 percent of the poor living in the North and 35 percent (nearly 47 million) in the South. Poverty levels vary significantly across states, from 27 percent in Ondo to 91 percent in Sokoto state. Moreover, while multidimensional poverty affects 67.5 percent of children and adolescents aged 0-17, this share drops to 58.7 percent among people aged 18 and above.
- The proportion of household members with **access to improved sanitation facilities** increased from 35.9 percent in 2016 to 57.5 percent in 2021 according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) reports.
- **Social protection coverage remains low**, with only 11 percent of residents covered by at least one programme according to the 2022 ILO Social Protection report. Nigeria's government spending on essential services, such as education, health, and social protection, is low relative to its needs and in comparison to other countries. The 2021 MICS reveals that only 21.9 percent of people living in households receive some form of social transfer or benefit, but among the two lowest wealth quintiles, this figure drops to 17 percent.
- In 2021, 73.4 percent of household populations experienced food insecurity. The **prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity doubled** between 2015 (34.7 percent) and 2021 (69.7 percent). Similarly, the Cadre Harmonisé across 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) indicates a sharp rise in the number of food insecure people between October to December, from 17.01 million people in 2022, to 25 million people in 2024.
- **Undernutrition remains a challenge**, particularly for Nigeria's younger populations. Stunting among children under-five children increased from 36.8 percent in 2013 and 2018 to 40 percent in 2023-2024, according to the National Demographic and Health Survey.
- **Progress on maternal health has declined** with the proportion of women who had antenatal care (ANC) provided by skilled providers go down from 67 percent in 2018 to 63 percent in 2023-2024, according to the NDHS. Skilled attendant at delivery also increased marginally from 45 percent in 2018, to 46 percent in 2023-2024.
- **Nigeria recorded slight improvements on child health** with a decline in under-five deaths from 132 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 110 per 1,000 live births in 2023-2024. Infant mortality rate slightly improved from 67 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 63 per 1,000 live births in 2023-2024. Neonatal mortality also increased slightly from 39 to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Under education, **primary school net attendance ratio increased** from 60.9 percent in 2016 to 68.4 percent in 2021. However, secondary school net attendance slightly declined from 46.9 percent to 46.7 percent during the same period.
- **Digital infrastructure in Nigeria is advancing rapidly**. The ICT sector's contribution to GDP grew from 9.88 percent in Q4 of 2021, to 18 percent in Q2 of 2022, according to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

- **Nigeria has the highest number of child brides in Africa**, with 22 million girls being married before the age of 18. The median age of marriage is lowest in the North-West and North-East regions, at 15.8 and 16.8 years respectively. Rural girls are more likely to marry early compared to their urban counterparts.
- **Progress on female genital mutilation or cutting has been slow.** The MICS reports show that incidences have dropped from 18.4 percent among women aged 15-49 in 2016 to 15.1 percent in 2021. Despite this overall decline, 6.7 percent of girls aged 15-19 still undergo FGM/C. Nigeria is therefore far from achieving global elimination goals.
- Access to electricity in Nigeria remains a significant challenge, with only 60 percent of Nigerians having access as of 2022. This leaves around 92 million people without electricity, making Nigeria **the country with the largest energy access deficit globally.**
- As an alternative source of power, **solar energy capacity has significantly improved** in Nigeria over the last few years, increasing from 4 megawatts in 2014 to 112 megawatts in 2023.
- Ranking 23rd in Africa, **Nigeria's GDP per capita remains low.** In the last eight years, it has declined significantly from \$2,679.6 in 2015 to \$1,621.1 in 2023.
- The 2022 Nigeria Child Labour Survey found that 50.5 percent of **Nigerian children are engaged in economic activities**, with 39.2 percent involved in **child labour** and 22.9 percent in **hazardous work**. Male (39.6 percent) and rural (44.8 percent) children are disproportionately affected.
- **Nigeria has become the hub for financial technology – fintech** innovation. The sector has revolutionised payment systems, making financial services more accessible to unbanked Nigerians. In 2020 alone, the sector raised approximately \$439 million, accounting for 20 percent of all capital raised by African tech start-ups. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital financial services.
- **Household disposable income in Nigeria has declined** from \$419.50 in 2019 to \$209.4 in 2024. The disposable income per capital has also reduced from \$2.06 in 2019 to \$1.68 in 2020, \$1.37 in 2023 and is projected at \$0.91 in 2024.
- **A significant portion – 53 percent of Nigeria's urban population lived in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing** in 2023, a rise from approximately 30 percent in 2015.
- **Nigeria faces significant climate risks**, including flooding, erosion, landslides, tidal waves, sandstorms, oil spillage, insect infestations, and other forms of natural and man-made disasters. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reports that 68 deaths occurred and 129,000 people were displaced due to the 2020 flood incidences. Nigeria ranks as the second-highest country globally for climate risk to children¹, and ranks 180 out of 192 countries in 2022 for climate-response readiness².

¹ www.unicef.org/media/105376/file/UNICEF-climate-crisischild-rights-crisis.pdf/.

² <https://gain.nd.edu/ourwork/country-index/rankings/>.

- **Diaspora remittances increased** from \$19.7 billion in 2016 to \$24.3 billion in 2018, dropping during the COVID-19 pandemic to \$17.2 billion in 2020 before **recovering** to \$20.16 billion in 2022.

Implementation Challenges

- Shrinking fiscal space has constrained the effective implementation of projects and programmes at all levels of governance
- Weak collaboration among state MDAs on SDG activities hinders progress at the sub-national level
- Limited resources for awareness creation at state and local government levels impact stakeholders' roles and expectations
- Poor culture of administrative record keeping and reporting at the LGA and community levels impacts the quality, timeliness and completeness of routine service data
- Non-prioritisation and misallocation of limited development resources across federal and state MDAs
- Pockets of insecurity, COVID-19 and climate change have combined to slowdown progress on the SDGs in Nigeria.

Recommendations

- Sub-national governments should recommit to accelerated and sustained actions to deliver on the SDGs by 2030
- Effective advocacy for improved public funding and innovative financing, including public-private partnership for SDG implementation
- State governments must ensure effective implementation of SDG-based development plans. States that are yet to integrate the SDGs into their medium and long-term development plans are urged to do so
- State governments must strengthen the State Bureau of Statistics to deliver timely, credible and disaggregated data on the SDGs into the National Statistical System (NSS). Effective data management and the use of SDG trackers and dashboards will enhance evidence-based decision making
- Key stakeholders, federal and state MDAs, CSOs, the organised private sector, academia, religious and community leaders must mobilise their resources to enhance community awareness and participation in the implementation of the SDGs. This should include the implementation of a need-based capacity building plan at the state, LGA and community levels.
- Leveraging ICT and the use of modern technology to improve implementation efficiency and service delivery.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. Background

Launched by the United Nations and key stakeholders in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisions a future that is economically sustainable, socially inclusive and environmentally resilient. This vision is expressed in the framing of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets and 230 key performance indicators. The SDGs represent a universal call to action to end poverty in all its forms, safeguard the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030.

In alignment with this global commitment to leave no one behind, Nigeria adopted the UN 2030 Agenda as a vehicle for eradicating poverty, securing a healthy planet for future generations, and fostering a peaceful, inclusive society as a foundation for ensuring a life of dignity for its citizens.

To facilitate effective implementation, Nigeria established relevant institutional frameworks at both national and sub-national levels. These include the Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) model, the re-alignment of the National Statistical System with the requirements of the SDGs, and the design of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). These processes have largely been driven by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs); established in 2016 to coordinate national implementation of the Goals.

Accordingly, Nigeria began implementing the SDGs in 2016 as the immediate successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Early activities conducted during the transition phase included:

- conducting a comprehensive data mapping exercise to identify sources for SDG indicator data
- implementing awareness programmes at national and sub-national levels
- developing a robust statistical system for monitoring and reporting on SDG progress, with the National Bureau of Statistics acting as the coordinating agency.

To lay a solid foundation for monitoring and evaluating the progress, Nigeria published its SDGs Indicators Baseline Report in 2016. This report presented robust, comprehensive statistical information reflecting Nigeria's unique context. The report also provided the country with reliable and comprehensive baseline data from various sources such as the Nigerian Living Standard Survey (NLSS), the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), General Household (Panel) Survey, and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

In nearly eight years of implementation, Nigeria has recorded progress in some prioritised SDGs, while others have shown stagnation or regression. The country has twice presented its Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2017 and 2020. The 2017 VNR highlighted institutional mechanisms for effective implementation, while the 2020 VNR focused on development priorities under the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) and the three cardinal objectives of the last administration: economic growth, security, and anti-corruption.

The “Renewed Hope Agenda” of the current administration was redefined at the cabinet retreat held in November 2023. The eight priorities of the new administration align significantly beyond the prioritised goals of the last administration. They include:

- reforming the economy to deliver sustained inclusive growth
- strengthening national security for peace and prosperity
- boosting agriculture to achieve food security
- unlocking energy and natural resources for sustainable development
- enhancing infrastructure and transport as enablers of growth
- advancing education, health, and social investments as essential pillars for development
- accelerating diversification through industrialization, digitization, creative arts, manufacturing, and innovation
- improving governance for effective service delivery.

These priorities are expected to drive Nigeria's next phase of commitment to the SDGs and contribute meaningfully to their achievement.

1.2. Partners’ Commitment

The United Nations agencies in Nigeria and other partners are committed to supporting federal and sub-national governments in their efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. These Goals, addressing critical development challenges, align closely with Nigeria’s national development plans and the sectoral plans of the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government.

Nigeria has continued to demonstrate its commitment to achieving the Global Goals through leadership and ownership of the implementation process. The UN in Nigeria, in particular, is strengthening its support through provision of technical assistance to OSSAP-SDGs and relevant line ministries in an effort to ensure that development planning and budgeting align with the SDG framework.

1.3. Justification

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member-states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of their progress at national and sub-national levels. Countries thus have the overall responsibility of reporting regular and inclusive progress on the implementation of the Global Goals based on the 230 key performance indicators, as well as any additional context-specific indicators. In this vein, the Nigeria SDGs Progress Report will help to track progress, document lessons learned and identify key challenges within national and sub-national contexts. The National Stakeholders Meeting further provides an opportunity to articulate key recommendations for follow-up actions.

1.4. SDGs Progress Report development process

To fulfil the mandate of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) on Monitoring, Evaluation, Documentation and Reporting on the SDGs in Nigeria, the office alternates between preparing the Voluntary National Review and the SDGs Progress Report (SPR).

The SPR is a biennial publication that reports on the overview of progress on the status of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and sub-national levels. The consultancy for the development and finalisation of the 2024 SPR was commissioned through a technical partnership between UNDP and OSSAP-SDGs. The Nigeria SPR will be utilised to inform progress on the key development priorities as outlined in the Nigeria Medium term Development Plan (2021-2025). It will also provide credible, evidence-based quantitative assessments of SDG achievements and integration efforts.

To track the progress made across key indicators of the SDGs in Nigeria, a mixed-method approach for data collection was adopted including:

- Desk review of published and unpublished documents from OSSAP-SDGs, relevant MDAs, and national surveys
- Field work involving development, pretesting and finalisation of data collection tools for both quantitative and qualitative data
- Quantitative data abstraction from programmatic, sectoral and survey reports
- Qualitative data collection through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with mapped stakeholders at the federal and sub-national levels.

After data analysis, the initial draft of the SPR was developed and shared with the Core Working Group for review. This was followed by circulation to key SDG stakeholders for comments and feedback in preparation for the National Stakeholders Meeting.

The National SDGs Stakeholders Consultative meeting held on 8-9 October 2024 at the Reiz Continental Hotel in Abuja facilitated stakeholder review, input, and dialogue on the draft report. The progress reported in the draft report across the 17 Goals was evaluated through group work sessions, sectoral level dialogues, plenary sessions and online submissions. Additional tools were shared with state participants to document lessons and challenges of SDGs implementation.

The final draft of the SDGs Progress Report was developed based on the comments and feedback provided at the National Stakeholders Meeting and the technical inputs from key partners. The development process is summarised in *figure 1* below.

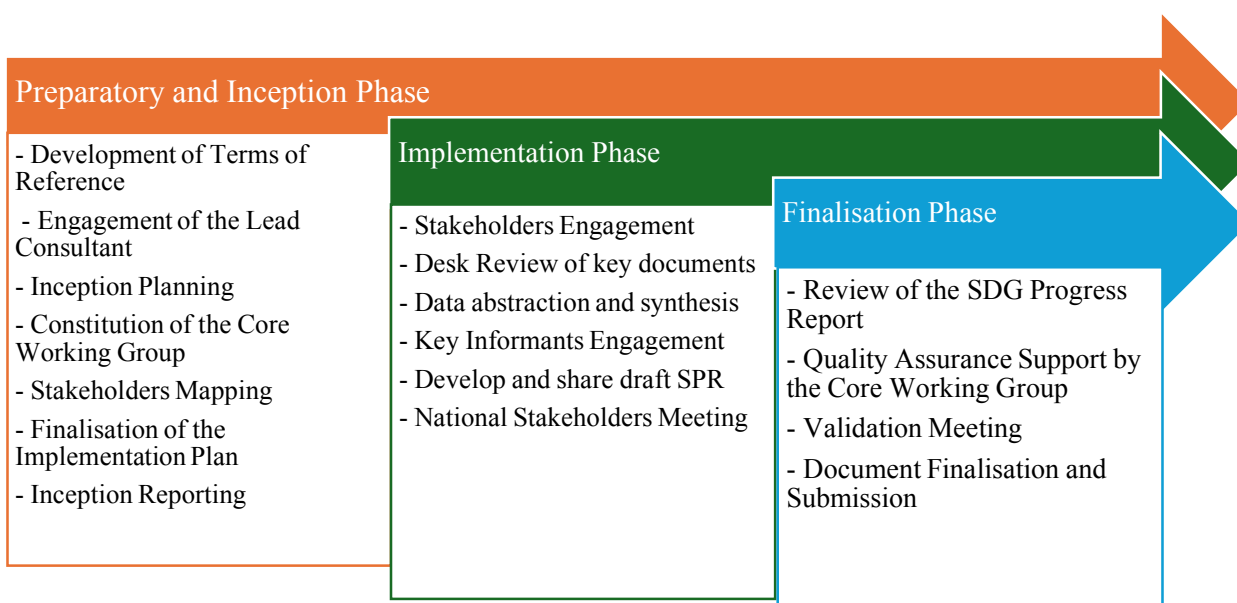


Figure 1: SDGs Progress Report Development Process

Chapter 2: Situation Analysis

2.1. The Global Level

Globally, progress towards achieving the SDGs has largely stagnated since 2020, impeded by interconnected challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, geo-political tensions, climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss, and pollution, all of which vary across regions. On average, only 16 percent of the SDG targets are on track to be met globally by 2030, with the remaining 84 percent showing limited progress or even regression³. Geo-political dynamics have exacerbated this situation, driving up food and energy prices, and triggering a global cost-of-living crisis affecting billions of people⁴.

The disparity in SDG performance across countries remains stark. Nordic countries continue to lead on SDG achievement, with BRICS countries making significant progress, while low-income and vulnerable countries lag behind. As reported in the *Sustainable Development Report 2024*, Finland ranks first in country-level SDG performance, followed by Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and France. The poor performance of the low-income countries (LICs)

³ See Sustainable Development Report 2024, available at <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/>.

⁴ See The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special edition, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/>.

and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) on the other hand, may be attributable to weak institutions, limited access to affordable long-term capital, conflicts and poor governance.

While the immediate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may have subsided, the world is still reeling from its long-term health and economic impacts. Childhood vaccinations have seen the largest decline in three decades, while deaths from tuberculosis and malaria deaths have risen compared to pre-pandemic levels. The disruption to education led to widespread learning losses. The pandemic interrupted three decades of steady progress of poverty reduction with the number of people living in extreme poverty increasing for the first time in a generation. It has also caused the largest rise in between-country inequality in three decades.

By the end of 2023, over 100 million people had been displaced globally due to war, conflict and human rights violations, including 35 million refugees – the highest figures on record. Climate change has compounded these crises, with greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) raising global temperatures of 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. This has resulted in catastrophic heatwaves, droughts, flooding, frequent wildfires, and rising sea levels, threatening hundreds of millions of people in coastal communities.

Developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges as they contend with external debt, inflation, rising interest rates, trade tensions, and constrained fiscal capacity. Reforms of global governance and international financial institutions are urgently needed to allow for more opportunity, voice and participation of developing countries.

“Unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda will become an epitaph for a world that might have been.”

António GUTERRES,
Secretary-General of the United Nations

2.2. Nigeria’s Key Institutional Achievements on the SDGs

Nigeria’s transition strategy from the MDGs to the SDGs focused on three phases: building on existing foundations (2016-2020), scaling up SDGs implementation (2021-2025), and accelerating implementation efforts (2026-2030) to ensure ‘no Nigerian is left behind’.

In the period covered by this review, OSSAP-SDGs has worked with key partners to ensure integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs into the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020 of the Federal Government. Many of the core areas such as food security, agriculture, energy, infrastructural development, industry, macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth were given due attention in the National Development Plan 2021-2025 and Nigeria’s Agenda 2050. The domestication and customisation of the Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDGs) Simulation Model enabled MDAs to channel resources towards the SDGs.

Key achievements include presenting two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2017 and 2020 to the UN High-Level Political Forum, highlighting policy, institutional and regulatory mechanisms for creating the enabling environment for SDG mainstreaming into national policies, plans and programmes.

Additionally, in September 2022, Nigeria successfully launched its Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for sustainable development on the side-lines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This effort was spearheaded by OSSAP-SDGs, in partnership with UNDP and the European Union. The design and implementation of the INFF is currently being driven by the Federal Ministries of Finance, and Budget and Economic Planning, with OSSAP-SDGs as the secretariat. Several coordination platforms including the Presidential Council on the SDGs, the Development Partnership Forum on SDGs, Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs, the Civil Society Organisations Strategy Group on SDGs (CSOSG-SDGs) and the SDGs Standing Committees of the National Assembly have been established to enhance collaboration.

Between 2016 and 2023, OSSAP-SDGs has executed a number of special intervention projects to support the efforts of the different MDAs. These include building and furnishing 8,008 blocks of classrooms, rehabilitating 305 additional classrooms, constructing 195 health centres (including primary healthcare centres and mother and child hospitals), and the supply of 199 intensive care and rural ambulances. In addition, 66 vocational and skills acquisition centres were constructed; 1,294 transformers supplied; 19,266 solar-powered streetlights constructed; 300 homes built for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); 343 transit homes built, and 973 solar and hand-pump boreholes constructed amongst other interventions.

2.3. Lessons and challenges across the states

The findings from key informant interviews conducted as part of the National Consultation on the implementation of the SDGs are listed below.

2.3.1. Lessons learned

- Significant progress across SDGs requires an integrated approach addressing economic, social and environmental dimensions concurrently
- Stakeholders involvement has increased awareness and compliance. This reinforces the role of citizens in sustainable development initiatives
- Stakeholders involvement has increased awareness and compliance. This reinforces the role of citizens in sustainable development initiatives
- Despite several efforts at creating awareness on the SDGs, many citizens have little to no knowledge of the goals across many states. This may be due to high illiteracy levels and ineffective communication methods
- New development issues continue to emerge in many states despite progress made in achieving the SDGs
- Disaggregated service-level data is essential for decision making, as aggregated national data often lacks specificity for implementation
- Adoption of digital and other modern technologies has led to more efficient public service delivery and uptake.

2.3.2. Implementation Challenges

- Shrinking fiscal space has constrained the effective implementation of projects and programmes at all levels of governance
- Weak collaboration among state MDAs on SDG activities hinders progress at the sub-national level
- Limited resources for awareness creation at state and local government levels impact stakeholders' roles and expectations

- Poor culture of administrative record keeping and reporting at the LGA and community levels impacts the quality, timeliness and completeness of routine service data
- Non-prioritisation and misallocation of limited development resources across federal and state MDAs
- Pockets of insecurity, COVID-19 and climate change have combined to slowdown progress on the SDGs in Nigeria.

2.3.3. Key Recommendations

- Sub-national governments must recommit to accelerated and sustained actions to deliver on the SDGs by 2030
- Effective advocacy for improved public funding and innovative financing, including public-private partnership for SDG implementation
- State governments must ensure effective implementation of SDG-based development plans. States that are yet to integrate the SDGs into their medium and long-term development plans are urged to do so
- State governments must strengthen the State Bureau of Statistics to deliver timely, credible and disaggregated data on the SDGs into the National Statistical System (NSS). Effective data management and the use of SDG trackers and dashboards will enhance evidence-based decision making
- Key stakeholders, federal and state MDAs, CSOs, the organised private sector, academia, religious and community leaders must mobilise their resources to enhance community awareness and participation in the implementation of the SDGs. This should include the implementation of a need-based capacity building plan at the state, LGA and community levels.
- Leveraging ICT and the use of modern technology to improve implementation efficiency and service delivery.

Chapter 3: Nigeria SDGs Progress: Unveiling the data

3.1. Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life” – Nelson Mandela

Extreme poverty includes persons living below the national and international poverty lines

Nigeria’s poverty headcount levels are expected to increase, with the World Bank estimating that 38.8 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2024⁵. The 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Survey revealed that 63 percent of Nigerians

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview/>.

(approximately 133 million people) are multidimensionally poor. Of this population, 65 percent live in the Northern region, while 35 percent (nearly 47 million people) live in the South. Poverty levels vary significantly across states, with the incidence of multidimensional poverty ranging from a low of 27 percent in Ondo to a high of 91 percent in Sokoto⁶. Moreover, while multidimensional poverty affects 67.5 percent of children and adolescents aged 0-17, this share drops to 58.7 percent among people aged 18 and above. Between 2015 and 2022, Nigeria's economic growth rates decreased, and GDP per capita flattened due to a combination of monetary and exchange rate policy distortions, increasing fiscal deficits occasioned by lower oil production and a costly fuel subsidy programme, increased trade protectionism, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rising insecurity, displacement of farming populations, high unemployment rate, low consumer spending and purchasing power, an absence of proportional minimum wage adjustments to counter inflation, high levels of illiteracy, and several other factors including adverse climate shocks continue to drive the poverty levels upwards despite some efforts of government at poverty alleviation.



Recent macro-economic reforms present an opportunity for structural adjustments to restore economic growth. If leveraged effectively, these reforms could serve as a launching pad for a renewed social compact to drive Nigeria's poverty alleviation and economic development.

Access to basic services by population living in households must be improved

Between 2016 and 2021, Nigeria made gradual progress in ensuring access to economic resources and basic services for poor and vulnerable people:

- The proportion of household members using improved sanitation facilities increased from 35.9 percent in 2016 to 57.5 percent in 2021, according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey reports.
- Similarly, in 2021, 71.5 percent of household members accessed improved sources of drinking water either in their dwelling/yard/plot or within 30 minutes round-trip collection time⁷.

Despite these gains, progress remains slow and uneven across regions, underscoring the need for more targeted interventions to ensure equitable access.

⁶ <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/news/78/>.

⁷ See 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Report, available at <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys/>.

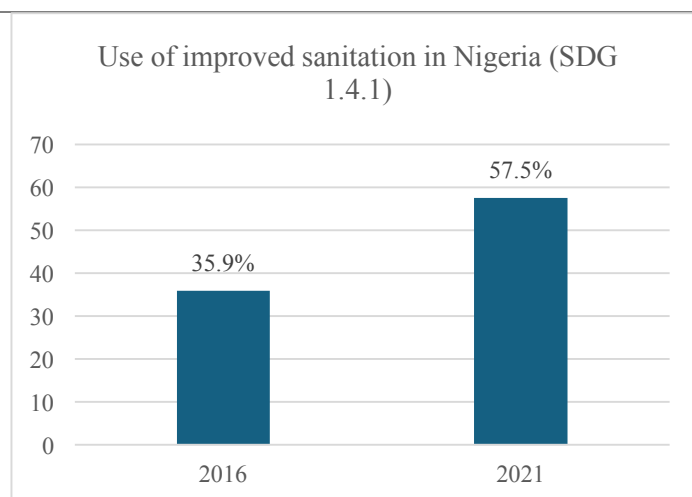


Figure 2: Proportion of household members using improved sanitation facilities

Social protection for the poor and vulnerable is still a challenge

Social protection coverage in Nigeria remains significantly low, with only 11 percent of the population benefiting from least one programme according to the 2022 ILO Social Protection report⁸. To address this, the Federal Government established the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), which has been domesticated in several states. A social assistance coordination platform was then established to provide oversight of a large-scale social safety net programme at the federal and state levels, covering more than 8 million households, as of 2022. The establishment of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development (FMHDS), aimed to institutionalize social protection in the country, but its impact remains marginal.

Despite these strides, the commitment by the past administration to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty remains unfulfilled. The 2021 MICS revealed that 21.9 percent of households received some type of social transfers or benefits in the three months preceding the survey, but among the two lowest wealth quintiles, this figure dropped to 17 percent. Efforts to scale up these programmes must address funding gaps, inefficiencies, and targeting challenges.

Nigeria suffered great economic loss attributed to disasters

⁸ <https://www.ilo.org/media/105591/download/>.

In recent years, Nigeria has recorded significant economic losses due to disasters such as floods, landslides, and oil spills. The 2022 floods, described as the worst in decades, affected 33 of the country's 36 states, 64 percent of households and causing an "unprecedented disruption and destruction," according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report. In 2023, several hundreds of lives were lost and an assessment conducted by the NBS in collaboration with the World Bank, placed the cost of the destruction at a range of \$3.79 billion to \$9.12 billion⁹. Annual floods continue to devastate communities, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced disaster risk management systems and climate-resilient infrastructure in Africa's most populous nation.



Government spending on essential services - education, health and social protection is below expectations

Nigeria's spending on essential services such as education, health, and social protection, remains insufficient relative to its needs, and in comparison to other countries. In 2020, only 4 percent of government spending was allocated to health, which was far below the 15 percent target set by the Abuja Declaration. Health expenditure as a share of GDP was 3.38 percent in 2020 and 4.08 percent in 2021.

The social sectors received less than one-quarter of the national budget allocation in 2021. Of the budgetary allocation to social protection in 2016, only 23 percent of allocated budget was spent. However, the budgetary allocation to social protection increased remarkably by 58.05 percent between 2019 and 2020 largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While it reduced again after the crisis, the Federal Government has committed to introducing a Universal Child Benefit, as well as to increasing social protection public spending by 2 percent. *Table 1* below shows the trend of government spending on social protection, health and education.

⁹ <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2023/12/01/750362/>.

Year	Social Protection Spending	Budgetary allocation to health (% of total budget)	Budgetary allocation Education (% of total budget)
2016	N500 billion	N250 billion (4.13%)	N480.3 billion (7.92%)
2017	-	N304 billion (4.09%)	N448.4 billion (6.03%)
2018	-	N356 billion (3.91%)	N651.2 billion (7.14%)
2019	N712.41 billion	N373 billion (4.18%)	N634.6 billion (7.12%)
2020	N1.13 trillion	N414 billion (3.94%)	N607 billion (5.78 %)
2021	N205 billion	N550 billion (4.20%)	N771.5 billion (5.90%)
2022	N514.74 billion	N725 billion (4.23%)	N932.8 billion (5.39%)
2023	N382.36 billion	N1.07 trillion (5.23%)	N1.07 trillion (5.21%)
2024	N262.83 billion	N1.34 trillion (4.64%)	N1.59 trillion (5.52%)

Table 1: Federal government spending on social protection, health and education 2016 – 2023.

3.2: Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



“Import restrictions intended to protect domestic agriculture have, paradoxically, contributed to higher food prices and greater market volatility.”

Food insecurity is rising everywhere

In 2021, 73.4 percent of households in Nigeria experienced food insecurity in the 12 months preceding the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. The World Bank’s annual prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population as obtained from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) data shows an upward trend of 34.7 percent in 2015 to 47.1 percent in 2018 and 69.7 percent in 2021, revealing a doubling of the food insecurity in six years as indicated in *figure 3* below.

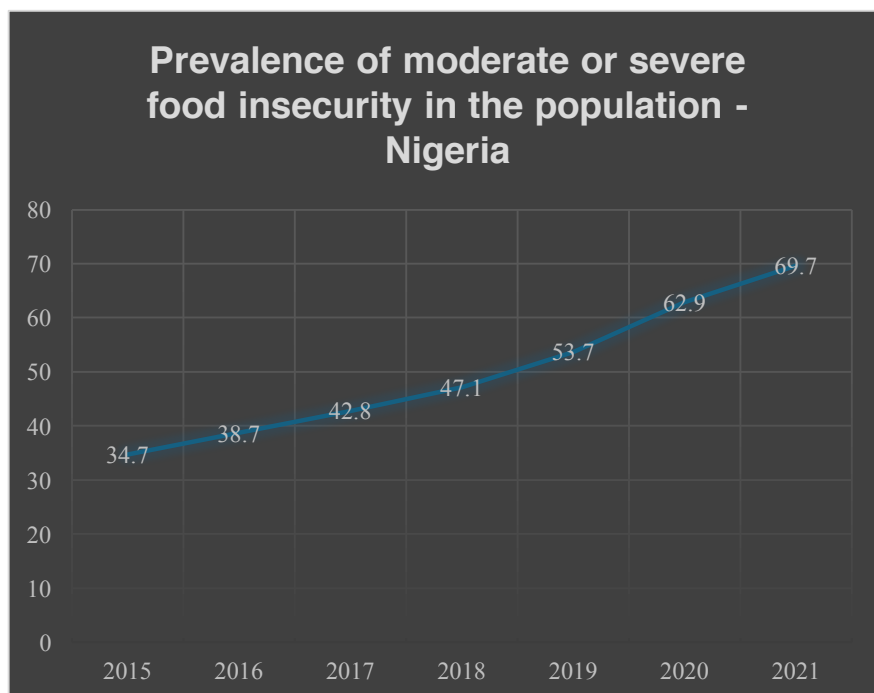


Figure 3: Trend of food insecurity in Nigeria

The deteriorating security situation in key agricultural states like Borno, Zamfara, and Benue has left vast swathes of farmland abandoned. FAO reports a stark decline in planting and harvesting cycles, with staple crops like maize, rice, and millet experiencing critical shortages. Cropland Change Analysis conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), reveals that Nigeria has faced substantial internal displacement and adjustment to cropland areas, primarily driven by widespread flooding, and intensified by ongoing security challenges over the years. In 2023 for instance, Katsina, Sokoto, and Borno states were the most affected by cropland decrease in comparison to the previous year, with around 70 percent of villages recording medium to significant decrease.

Nigeria now ranks second globally in the number of people facing acute food insecurity, with over 24 million individuals affected, according to the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises. Similarly, the Cadre Harmonisé tool indicates a sharp rise in the number of food insecure people across 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), from 17.01 million people in 2022, 18.6 million people in 2023, to 25 million people between October to December 2024.

Insecurity, particularly the ongoing conflict in North-Eastern Nigeria, has also led to an alarming spike in food prices, compounding the nation's economic difficulties. Food inflation reached 39.53 percent year-on-year in July 2024, driven by both the scarcity of locally produced food and heightened transport costs¹⁰. Returnees and IDPs also show significantly higher levels of deprivation and vulnerability in terms of food consumption, coping, nonmonetary poverty and food stock levels.¹¹

Malnutrition in children under-five is a grave concern

Nigeria is among the top 21 countries contributing to severe child food poverty for children aged five and above. Some 32 percent of children live in severe food poverty (only fed with 0-2 food groups out of eight possible ones) and another 37 percent live in moderate child food poverty (only fed with 3-4 food groups a day)¹².

For children below five years of age, stunting remains a major consequence of chronic undernutrition, presenting a major public health and development challenge in Nigeria. The prevalence of stunted children remains very high with the rate remaining 36.8 percent in the both 2013 and 2018¹³. The 2023-2024 NDHS showed a rise in the percentage of children under-five with stunted growth with a prevalence of 40 percent. There is also a rising prevalence of children who are wasted from 7 percent in 2018 to 8 percent in 2023-2024 and in proportion of children underweight from 22 percent in 2018 to 27 percent in 2023-2024 as indicated in *figure 4* below. The burden of childhood undernutrition in Nigeria is very concerning, particularly in the northern geopolitical zones where nearly 50 percent of all children below 5 years of age are stunted, as reported in the 2021 MICS.

¹⁰ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/nigeria/265-million-nigerians-projected-be-food-insecure-2024/>.

¹¹ mVAM Bulletin — Borno, Adamawa, Yobe <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/north-east-nigeria-mvam-bulletin-borno-adamawa-yobe-july-2023-lean-season-food-security-outlook/>.

¹² <https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-food-poverty-report-2024/>.

¹³ Data compared from National Demographic and Health Surveys 2013 and 2018

Beyond regional variation, more children in rural areas are stunted (45 percent) compared with those in urban areas (27 percent), and the pattern is similar for severe stunting with 22 percent in rural areas and 10 percent in urban areas¹⁴. A mother's level of education is inversely correlated with stunting: ranging from 14 percent among children of mothers with post-secondary education to 29 percent among those with uneducated mothers. A similar inverse relationship is observed between household wealth and stunting. Children in the poorest households are three times as likely to be stunted (55 percent) as children in the wealthiest households (17 percent).



Overall, the nutritional status of children under-five appears to be worsening in the period covered by this review. The proportions of children who are stunted, wasted or underweight continue to rise compared to previous years as indicated in the figure below.

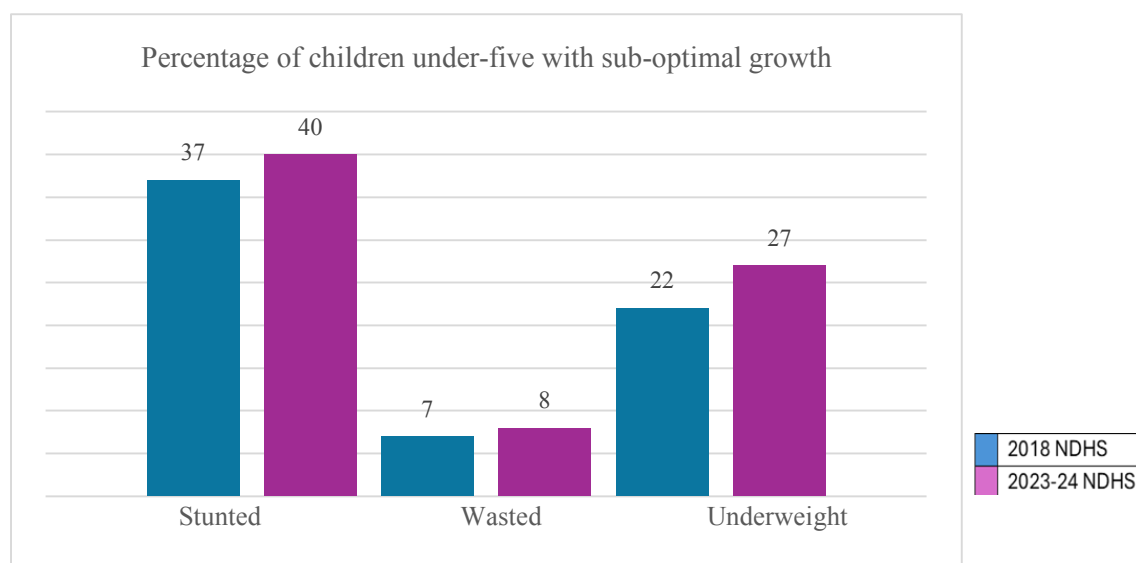


Figure 4: Trends in child growth measures.

Key drivers of malnutrition in Nigeria are multifaceted and include inadequate year-round diets; poor infant and young child feeding practices; high rates of illness; limited access to healthcare; poor water, sanitation, and hygiene practices; armed conflict, particularly in the north; irregular rainfall; high unemployment; and poverty.

Prevalence of undernourishment keeps increasing

The prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) which estimates the proportion of Nigerians whose habitual food consumption is insufficient to provide the dietary energy levels that are required to maintain a normal active and healthy life has been a significant concern. As of 2021, 15.9 percent of the population was undernourished, which is an increase from 9.6

¹⁴ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2021

percent in 2016, 10.6 percent in 2018, and 14.2 percent in 2020. This figure is notably higher than the world average of 10.78 percent.

Several factors contribute to the increasing prevalence of undernourishment in Nigeria including poverty, food insecurity, poor dietary practices, conflict and displacement, cultural practices, climate change, as well as other environmental degradations that impact agricultural productivity. Moreover, the price of a low-cost, healthy diet rose to 32 percent between December 2023 and May 2024 and has continued to rise rapidly since¹⁵.

Income and conditions for small-scale food producers must be improved

About 70 percent of households in Nigeria are engaged in agricultural activities, with a marked difference between rural areas, where over 80 percent participate, and urban areas, where the figure is 40 percent. On average, the cropped land, arable land, total household farm size and cultivated land areas measure approximately 1.5 hectares. In contrast, non-small-scale food producers operate on an average 2.5 hectares, nearly two times the size utilised by small-scale food producers. Less than half of those operating agricultural land have ownership or secure rights, with significantly more men than women holding such rights.

The average annual income of small-scale food producers from agriculture stood at nearly USD 500 between 2018 and 2019¹⁶, representing less than one-third that of non-small-scale farmers. Furthermore, less than 4 percent of Nigerian households have access to piped water in their dwellings, with urban areas faring marginally better than rural counterparts.

¹⁵ <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/>.

¹⁶ Nigeria General Household Survey 2018–2019.

3.3. Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Maternal health outcomes remain poor, falling significantly short of the SDG targets

Maternal, child and new born mortality rates in Nigeria rank among the highest globally, exacerbated by stark socioeconomic inequalities in access to maternal, new born, and child health (MNCH) services. These disparities are also evident in catastrophic health expenditure that burden households.

With the global target set at 70 deaths per 100,000 live births, maternal health outcomes in Nigeria paint a dire picture. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) was estimated at 1,047 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020. This represents a 14 percent rise from the WHO estimate of 917 per 100,000 live births three years earlier. The maternal mortality rate in Nigeria is therefore more than ten times greater than the SDGs' target.

Antenatal care (ANC) uptake in Nigeria remains low. In 2016, the WHO revised ANC guidelines, increasing the recommended minimum number of contacts from four to eight, with the first visit to occur during the first trimester. These contacts are essential to ensuring safe delivery and include critical components such as blood and urine tests and intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp).

Data from the National Demographic and Health Surveys of 2018 and 2023-2024 shows a decline in the proportion of women receiving ANC from a skilled provider from 67 percent to 63 percent, for the respective time periods. Skilled attendance at delivery improved marginally from 45 percent (in 2018) to 46 percent (in 2023-2024). Post-natal checks within the first two days after delivery also increased slightly from 42 percent in 2018 to 43 percent in 2023-2024.

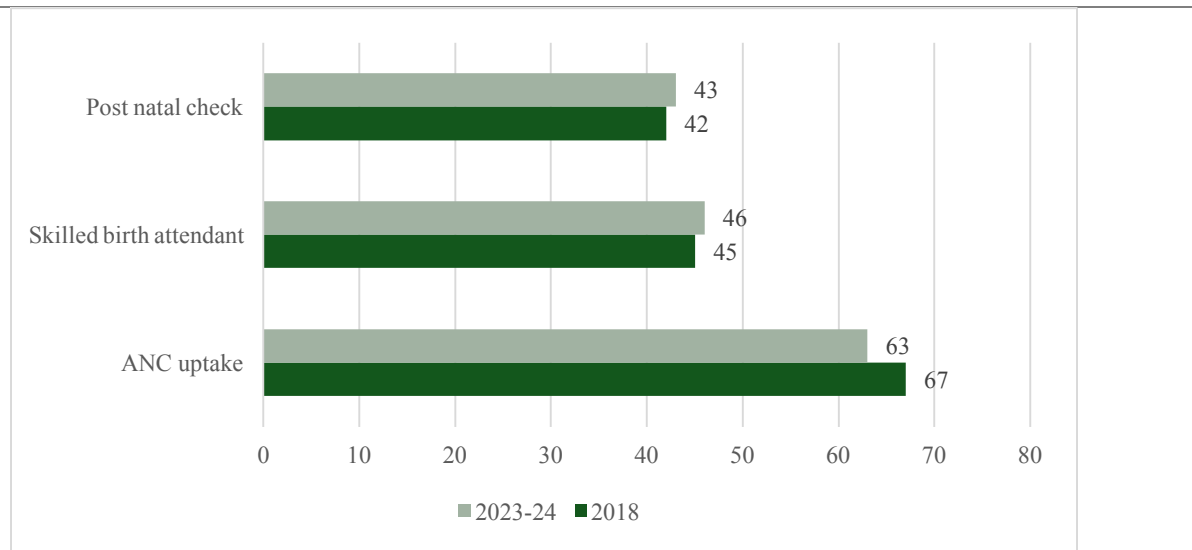


Figure 5: Trends in maternal care indicators

Only 52 percent of pregnant women had four or more antenatal care visits, 68 percent took iron-containing supplements, and 58 percent received tetanus toxoid to protect their babies against tetanus¹⁷. These figures vary significantly across states, underscoring regional disparities.

Family planning uptake remains low

Despite its well-documented benefits — such as improved maternal and child health, reduced poverty, and enhanced gender equality — family planning uptake in Nigeria remains limited. Contraceptive prevalence rose from 13.4 percent in 2016 to 21.7 percent in 2021, according to the MICS. However, more recently, the NDHS surveys show a marginal rise in contraceptive prevalence from 17 percent in 2018 to 20 percent in 2023-2024. The unmet need for family planning — defined as the percentage of fecund women aged 15-49 years who wish to delay or stop childbearing but are not using contraception — rose from 19 percent in 2018 to 21 percent in 2023-2024.

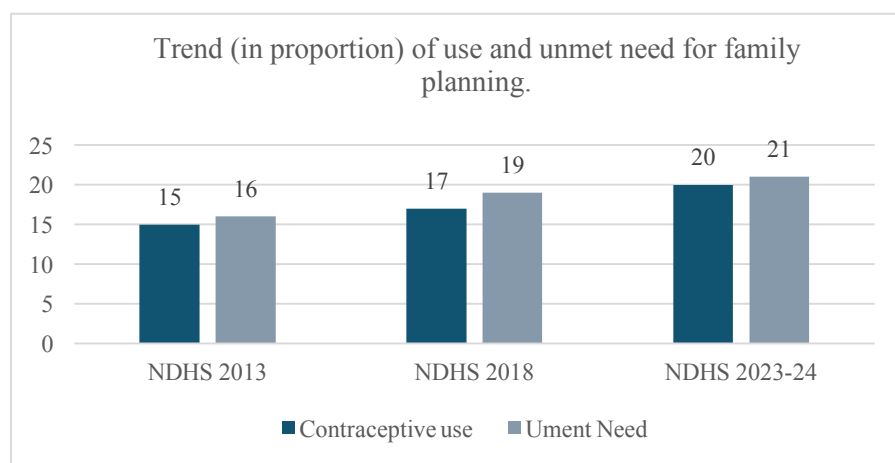


Figure 6: The percentage of women aged 15–49 using or needing contraceptive methods.

¹⁷ See NDHS 2023-2024

Challenges mitigating the uptake of family planning services in Nigeria include:

- Client-related challenges – low education levels, desire for more children, uncertainty about its need, partner disapproval, previous side effects, religious beliefs, culture disapproval, age, marital status, and wealth index
- Health service-related challenges – service costs, difficulty accessing services, and procurement difficulties
- Perceptions among men – assumption that family planning will promote female promiscuity.

Child health services outcomes have shown very slow progress

Nigeria's National Child Health Policy outlines a comprehensive framework for protecting and promoting the health of children. It also provides holistic and integrated strategies for child health, including the key elements for promoting the health and development of children. Despite this, high morbidity and mortality rates remain significant public health challenges.

Despite numerous interventions to reduce under-five mortality in Nigeria, the rate remains alarmingly high, with the country ranking among the top five globally for under-five mortality in 2019¹⁸. The slow pace of decline in under-five mortality could jeopardize the achievement of the Goal to end preventable under-five deaths by 2030, with the target set at reducing under-five mortality to at least 25 per 1,000 live births by the same year.

In the period under review, Nigeria recorded slight improvement in the key SDG indicators related to child health with a decline in under-five deaths from 132 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 110 per 1,000 live births in 2023-2024¹⁹. Infant mortality rate recorded a slight improvement from 67 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 63 per 1,000 live births in 2023-2024. The neonatal mortality rate however recorded a slight increase from 39 to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births within the same period.

It is important to note that the national average masks variations across Nigeria's states, regions, and socio-economic strata. While the national under-five mortality rate was 110 per 1,000 live births in 2023-2024, regional and state disparities are notable. The North-West region has an average under-five mortality rate of 140 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 42 per 1,000 live births in the South-West region. The South-South region recorded an infant mortality rate of 14 per 1,000 live births compared with the North-East region with a rate of 65 per 1,000 live births in 2023-2024. State-level variations are even more concerning, with under-five mortality ranging from 14 per 1,000 live births in Kwara and 15 per 1,000 live births in Ondo, to 161 per 1,000 live births in Jigawa and 157 per 1,000 live births in Gombe (NDHS, 2023-2024).

The 2021 MICS showed similar variations with under-five mortality rates of 123 per 1,000 live births in rural areas and 67 per 1,000 live births in the urban areas of Nigeria. The under-five mortality rate for the poorest socio-economic group was 133 per 1,000 live births, compared to 47 per 1,000 live births for the wealthiest group. Variations in child health outcomes based on other factors as recorded by the 2021 MICS are shown in *figure 7* below.

¹⁸

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9706907/#:~:text=Nigeria%20is%20among%20the%20top,under-five%20mortality%20in%20Nigeria/>.

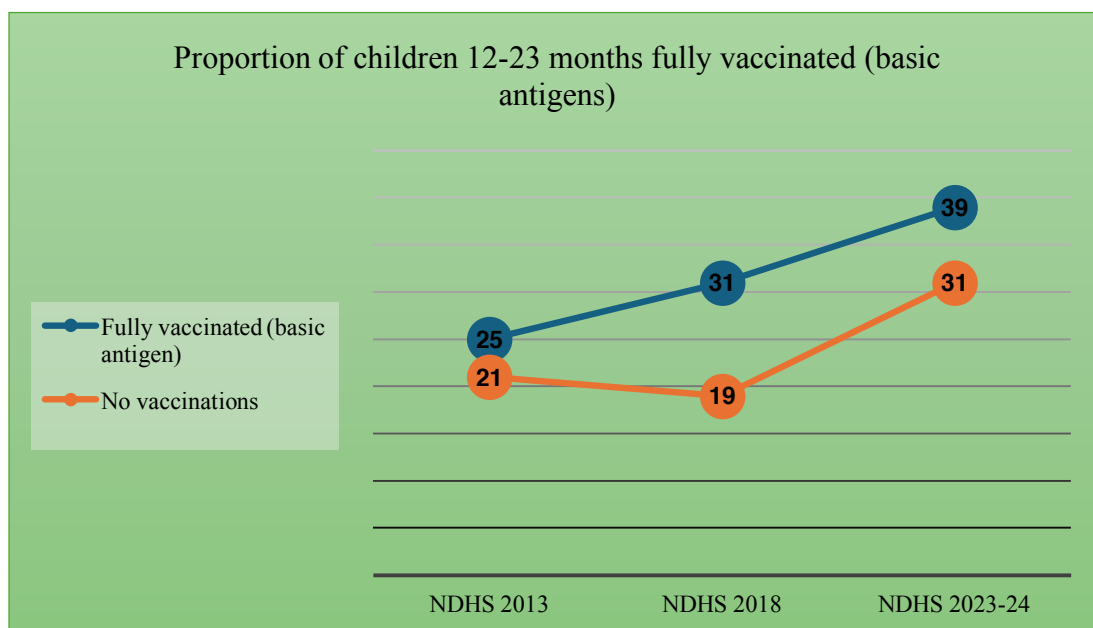
¹⁹ Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) 2023-24.



Figure 7: The distribution of under-five mortality rates by sex, region and social status in 2021

Immunisation coverage has improved but is unlikely to reach the global target

Nigeria's national immunisation coverage goal is 90 percent, in line with the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). With an improvement from 31 percent of children aged 12-23 months being fully vaccinated (basic antigens) in 2018 to 39 percent in 2023-2024, it remains below the GVAP target, leaving many children vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases²⁰. Of particular concern is the rise in the proportion of unvaccinated children, which increased from 19 percent in 2018 to 31 percent in 2023-2024, representing some 2.1 million unvaccinated children (zero dose) – representing the highest number globally²¹. The graph below illustrates the trend in childhood vaccinations in Nigeria over the past decade.



²⁰ See Nigeria Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) 2018 and 2023-24

²¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/progress-and-challenges/>.

Figure 8: Trend in childhood vaccination

A fully vaccinated child receives all required antigens including, BCG, OPV0, HepB0, OPV1-3, IPV, Penta1-3, PCV1-3, YF, Meningitis A, and MCV1 in the first year of life. According to MICS 2021, Penta3 coverage for children aged 12-23 months in Nigeria is 36 percent. Vaccination rates are notably higher in the southern regions, with the South-East, South-West, and South-South having coverage rates of 57, 50, and 49 percent, respectively. In contrast, the northern regions have much lower rates, with the North-Central, North-West, and North-East recording coverage rates of 32, 25, and 24 percent, respectively. Only two states, Ebonyi and Enugu, have Penta3 coverage above the 90 percent national target (MICS, 2021).



Out-of-pocket spending as a percentage of total health expenditure remains high

Nigeria's health expenditure remains relatively low by global standards, with out-of-pocket (OOP) payments still constituting a significant share of healthcare spending. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), OOP payments account for 70-80 percent of total health expenditure in Nigeria, meaning a substantial portion of healthcare costs is borne directly by individuals and families at the point of service.

In 2017, an estimated 76.6 percent of Current Health Expenditure (CHE) was financed through OOP expenditures, reflecting a heavy burden of health financing on households. This reliance on personal funds for healthcare remains high, with 75 percent of health expenditure funded through OOP in 2023. This makes Nigeria one of the countries with the highest share of household health expenditures in the world.

3.4. Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Attendance and completion of different school grades have been sub-optimal

Optimal early childhood development requires a stimulating and nurturing environment, access to books and learning materials, interactions with responsive and attentive caregivers, adequate nutrition, access to quality early childhood education, and safety and protection. These factors contribute significantly to developmental outcomes for children.

Progress in early childhood education in Nigeria has been slow. The proportion of children aged 36-59 months who are attending an early childhood education programme increased marginally from 35.6 percent in 2016 to 37.8 percent in 2021, according to MICS. Similarly, the primary school net attendance ratio (SDG 4.1.2) increased from 60.9 percent in 2016 to 68.4 percent in 2021. However, Nigeria recorded a marginal decline in the secondary school net attendance ratio from 46.9 to 46.7 percent between 2016 and 2021.

Regarding the completion of various school grades, Nigeria recorded a decline in the proportion of children entering the first grade of primary school who eventually complete the last grade, dropping from 94.1 to 73.1 percent. In 2021, the proportion of children aged 3-4 years attending an early childhood education programme varied by background characteristics as demonstrated in *figure 9* below.

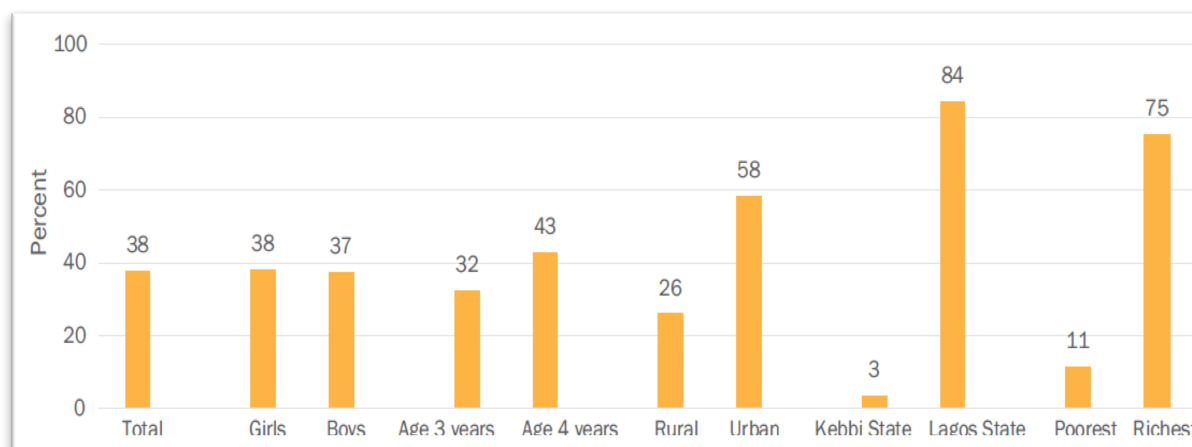


Figure 9: Early childhood school attendance based on background characteristics.
Source: MICS 2021

The school completion rate for children aged 3-5 years, above the intended age for the last grade who have completed that grade, vary across different levels. The completion rates for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools were 73.1, 67.7 and 53.6 percent respectively.

More female children attend secondary school

Although the gender parity index improved from 0.95 in 2016 to 0.99 in 2021, more male children had a higher net attendance ratio than their female counterparts at the primary school level. However, in secondary school education, the gender parity index showed a higher net attendance ratio for female children compared to male children in 2021. The gender parity index for secondary school rose from 0.99 in 2016 to 1.11 in 2021.



ICT skills among men and women is improving amid a persisting gender digital divide

Nigeria's information and communications technology (ICT) sector is growing rapidly. Data from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) shows that the ICT sector contributed 9.88 percent to the total nominal GDP in Q4 of 2021, with this contribution rapidly rising to 18 percent in Q2 of 2022²². The NCC also reports that Nigeria has approximately 85 million broadband subscriptions (44 percent penetration) and 206 million lines in the voice segment (108 percent tele-density) as of June 2022²³. The adoption of advanced technologies like cloud computing and artificial intelligence has risen significantly in recent years. Digital skills, particularly in the social media and e-commerce sub-sectors, have also increased post COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, 11.4 percent of men and 5.8 percent of women aged 15-49 engaged in at least one of nine specific computer-related activities in the three months prior to the MICS survey. A more recent report found that 54 percent of men in Nigeria use mobile internet, compared to 34 percent of women²⁴.



To close the gender digital divide, governments and development partners must design interventions addressing the underlying factors that contribute to this gap. Programmes offering digital and literacy training, skills building, and mentoring can

help build women's and girls' confidence, increase self-efficacy, and demonstrate that they are able to effectively use technology. This in turn, can help position women and girls as role models in their communities, thereby cultivating technology use.

²² <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2023/02/how-technology-can-help-close-nigeria-gender-gap/>.

²³ <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/nigeria-information-and-communications-technology/>.

²⁴ The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2022.

3.5. Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

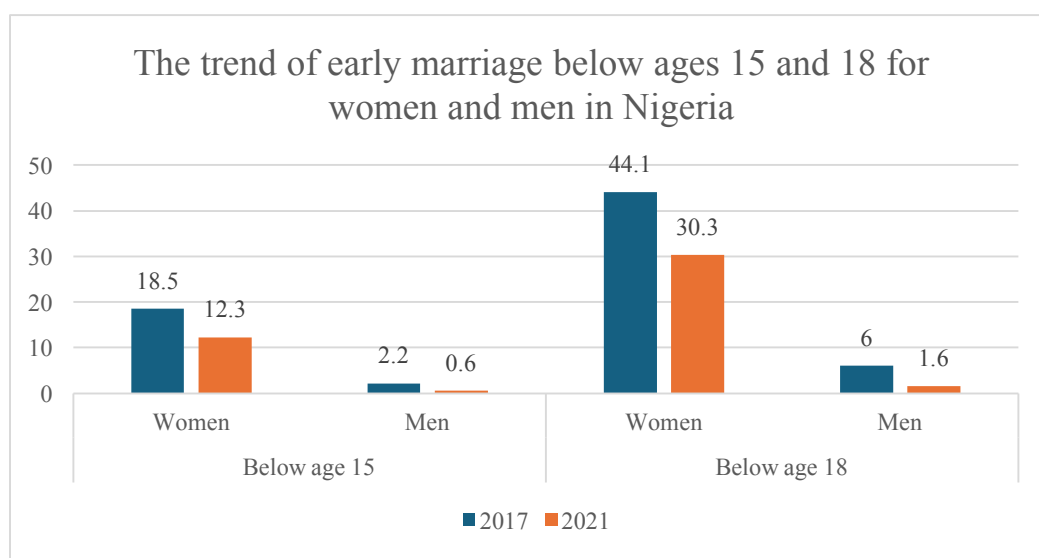


The prevalence of early marriage is declining very slowly

Nigeria passed the Child Rights Act (CRA) in 2003, which governs child adoption and guarantees children’s rights, including prohibiting marriage before the age of 18. However, many states, particularly those with Islamic legal systems, have failed to adopt or implement the federal law. Of the southern states that have adopted this position, none has taken sufficient steps for implementation. As of the time of this report, only three states – Gombe, Bauchi and Adamawa – all in northern Nigeria, have failed to assent to the Child Rights Act.

Early marriage remains widespread in Nigeria; often seen as a way to reduce a family’s financial burden or to strengthen political and social alliances. It also deprives girls of educational opportunities. According to UNICEF, Nigeria has the highest number of child brides in Africa, with 22 million girls married before the age of 18. The median age of marriage varies by region, with the North-West and North-East regions having the lowest, at 15.8 and 16.8 years respectively²⁵. Rural girls are more likely to marry early compared to their urban counterparts.

The proportion of women married before age 15 decreased from 18.5 percent in 2017 to 12.3 percent in 2021. A similar decline was observed for men, with the proportion marrying before age 15 dropping from 2.2 percent in 2017 to 0.6 percent in 2021 (MICS 2021). The percentage of people aged 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18 also showed a similar trend as indicated in *figure 10* below.



25

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/ForcedMarriage/NGO/PopulationCouncil24.pdf/>.

Figure 10: The trend of early marriage in Nigeria

Today, 30.3 percent of girls marry before the age of 18²⁶. Bauchi state has the highest rate of child marriage, with 73.8 percent of women aged 20-24 who were first married before the age of 18, and are in polygynous unions. Additionally, 49.2 percent of women in Bauchi state have spouses who are at least 10 years older.

Trafficking-in-persons requires more concerted action

Nigeria continues to grapple with significant challenges around trafficking-in-persons, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, and child trafficking. Victims of trafficking are predominantly women and girls. The country has remained a source, transit, and destination point for trafficked individuals. Most victims are trafficked internally within Nigeria, and also to countries in Europe and the Middle East. Despite efforts carried out by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), who continued to lead anti-trafficking efforts through investigations, rescues, and public awareness campaigns, more strategies are needed to properly prosecute perpetrators.

Female genital mutilation or cutting is still common in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of FGM/C, accounting for about one in every four global cases²⁷. Prevalence varies across states, with figures ranging from 62 percent in Imo to less than 1 percent in Adamawa and Gombe. The highest prevalence of FGM/C is found in the South-East (35 percent) and South-West (30 percent), while the North-East has the lowest rate at 6 percent.²⁸



Progress in reducing FGM/C has been slow, with prevalence dropping from 18.4 percent in 2016 to 15.1 percent in 2021²⁹. Despite this overall decline, largely due to lower numbers of girls who undergo the procedure among younger generations, 6.7 percent of girls aged 15–19 years still are still subjected to FGM/C. Nigeria thus remains far from achieving the global goal of elimination.

Women's ability to make informed decisions remains limited

A woman's ability to make choices regarding her sexual and reproductive health is a key determinant of her overall health outcomes. However, many women are unable to access sexual and reproductive health services due to harmful and discriminatory social norms and practices, lack of agency, and limited financial resources.

²⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/press-releases/nigeria-takes-bold-steps-end-child-marriage-and-protect-rights-children/>.

²⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9468205/>.

²⁸ [https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/press-releases/unicef-warns-fgm-rise-among-young-nigerian-girls#:~:text=Across%20Nigeria%2C%20disparities%20in%20the,East%20\(6%20per%20cent\)/](https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/press-releases/unicef-warns-fgm-rise-among-young-nigerian-girls#:~:text=Across%20Nigeria%2C%20disparities%20in%20the,East%20(6%20per%20cent)/).

²⁹ Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys 2016 and 2021

The proportion of women making informed decisions about sexual relationships, contraceptive use, and reproductive healthcare declined from 51 percent in 2013 to just 29 percent in 2018, according to the National Demographic and Health Survey. This decline highlights the need for increased investment in girls' education and empowerment programmes.

For women who participate in three major decision areas – managing own health, handling major household purchases and visiting family, the proportion slightly increased from 31.3 percent in 2013 to 33.5 percent in 2018.

Fewer women are in parliamentary positions

In 2024, Nigeria had the lowest proportion of female representation in both the Senate (3.62 percent) and the House of Representatives (4.4 percent). Female representation in Nigeria's national parliament has steadily declined since 2015, dropping from 6 percent in 2015 to 4.2 percent in 2024, as shown in *figure 11* below. After seven general election cycles since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, the number of women in the Senate has decreased to levels previously seen in 1999.

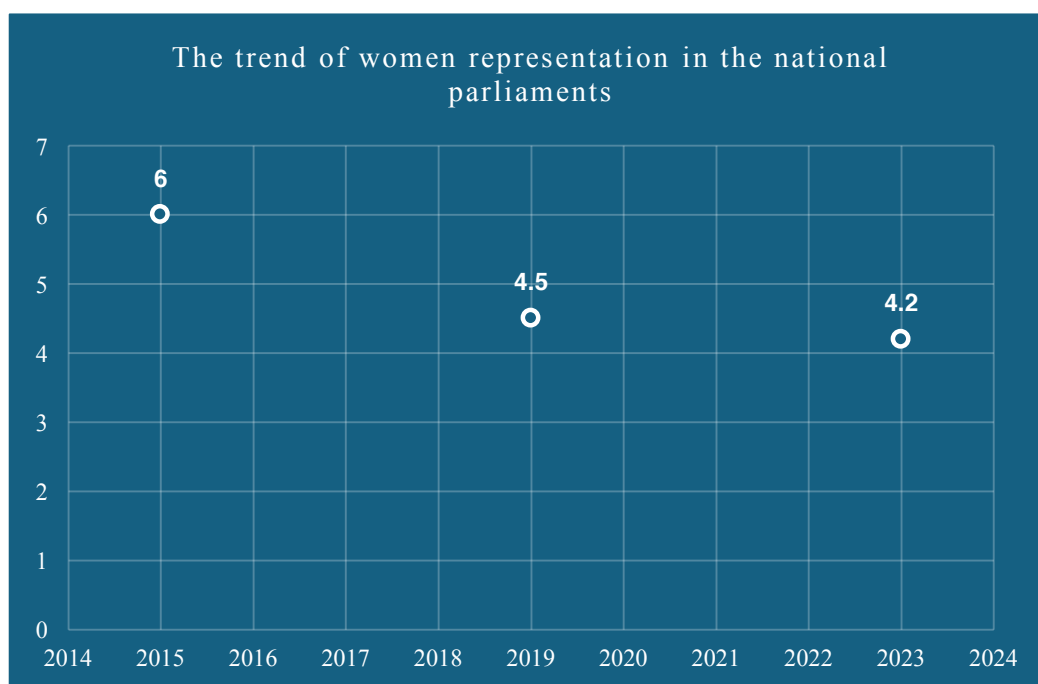


Figure 11: Percentage of women representation in the national parliament

3.6. Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



The use of contaminated drinking water and poor sanitary conditions results in increased vulnerability to water-borne diseases

In 2018, Nigeria launched a 13-year National Action Plan (NAP) to revitalize the country's Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector, aimed at ensuring universal access to sustainable and safely managed WASH services by 2030. Achieving this requires the country to triple its budget or allocate at least 1.7 percent of its current GDP to WASH. However, funding for this sub-sector is weak, and significant household contributions are needed to eliminate open defecation, despite the low income levels of many families.

The use of contaminated drinking water and poor sanitary conditions results in increased vulnerability to water-borne diseases, including diarrhoea; responsible for more than 70,000 deaths of children under-five annually. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the lack of adequate WASH services, as they bear the burden of water collection, often over long distances. This affects their well-being, school attendance, and increases their risk of experiencing gender-based violence. A combination of inadequate infrastructure, a lack of trained human capital, poor investment, and a deficient regulatory environment is responsible for many of the existing gaps.

Access to safe water is still inadequate

Access to clean water is a challenge for many Nigerians, especially in rural areas and among the poorest households. In 2021, 72 percent of Nigerians had access to improved drinking water sources, with a roundtrip collection time (including queuing) of no more than 30 minutes, compared to 64.5 percent in 2016. Urban areas enjoy better access (91 percent) compared to the rural areas with 57 percent access level. More women (40 percent) are responsible for primary water collection than men (30 percent) of the same age. Access to basic water supply services is twice as high for the richest households compared to the poorest.

Inadequate access to water and poor management practices contribute significantly to



Nigeria's water and sanitation crisis. The World Bank estimates that 70 million Nigerians lack access to safe drinking water. Liquid sources are often polluted with hazardous substances, posing health risks to those who consume or use the water. The outdated and inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure, lack of investment, and pollution from improper waste disposal and poor industrial practices remain major challenges to water safety. Nigeria's geography and topography, combined

with poor urban planning, inadequate drainage systems, deforestation, and land-use changes, significantly contribute to frequent and severe flooding. It can also cause water contamination and damage to sanitation facilities, which leads to the spread of water-borne diseases.

Meeting the SDG target for basic sanitation requires more efforts

The Nigerian government launched the Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) and the Open Defecation Free (ODF) road maps in 2016, and the National Action Plan in 2018. The government also declared a state of emergency in the WASH sector in 2018. Despite these measures, only 104 out of the 774 LGAs in Nigeria had been declared Open Defecation Free as of July 2023.

The percentage of households with access to improved sanitation facilities increased nationally to 57.4 percent in 2021³⁰. However, access to improved sanitation varies by region, with the South-East having the highest percentage of households with access at 70.8 percent, and the North-West having the lowest at 39.4 percent³¹.

By the end of 2021, one in every four people in Nigeria had access to at least basic sanitation, while one in every five people still practiced open defecation. About 29 percent of Nigerians had a handwashing facility on their premises with soap and water, a significant improvement from the 12.4 percent reported in 2016³². *Figure 12* below shows the proportion of population with access to sanitation.



³⁰ See Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2021

³¹ *ibid*

³² See Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016

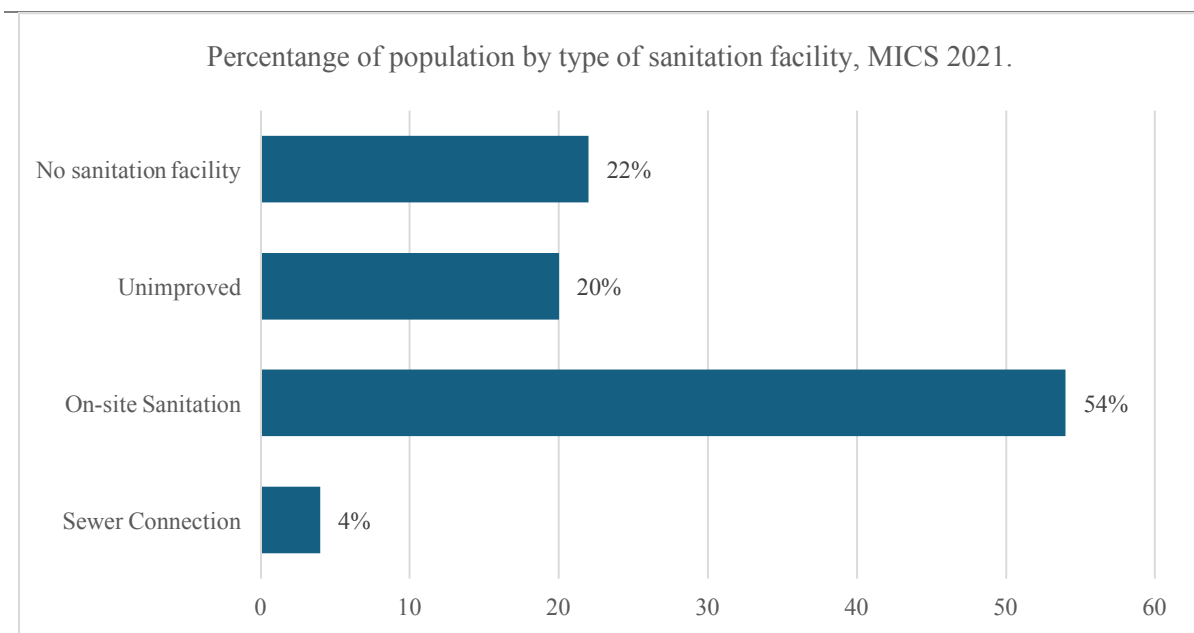


Figure 12: Access to sanitation facilities. Source: MICS 2021

3.7. Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Access to electricity remains a critical challenge

As of 2022, only 60 percent of the population had access to electricity³³, leaving approximately 92 million Nigerians without electricity – the largest energy access deficit globally³⁴.

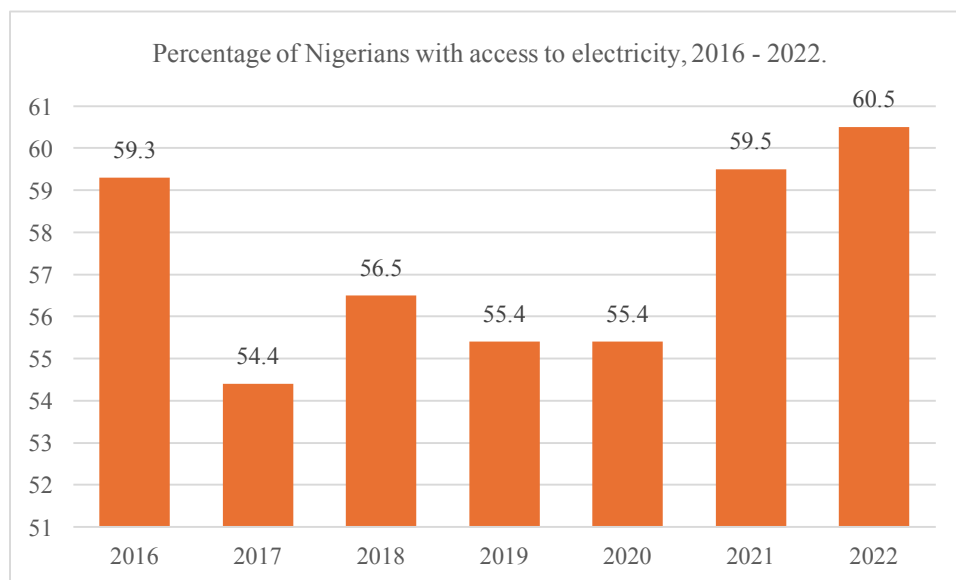


Figure 13: Proportion of people with access to electricity

The disparity between urban and rural access is stark. While 90 percent of urban residents enjoy electricity, only 30 percent of rural dwellers have access³⁵. This highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to bridge the rural-urban divide. The Nigerian government, with support from international organisations like the World Bank, is working on improving this situation through various initiatives aimed at boosting electricity distribution and reliability³⁶.

Nigeria's power infrastructure is outdated and inadequate to meet the demands of its growing population. Challenges such as theft, vandalism, frequent breakdowns, and transmission inefficiencies contribute to significant power losses. Weak regulatory frameworks and policy inconsistencies further deter private investment in the sector. Attracting private investment is challenging due to the regulatory uncertainties and high level of risks associated with the power sector in Nigeria. A stable, clear, and supportive policy

³³ <https://www.statista.com/topics/11022/energy-sector-in-nigeria/>.

³⁴ <https://punchng.com/92-million-nigerians-lack-access-to-electricity-worst-globally-report/>.

³⁵ <https://www.statista.com/topics/9470/electricity-in-nigeria/>.

³⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/02/05/nigeria-to-improve-electricity-access-and-services-to-citizens/>.

environment is therefore essential to attract the required investments and drive sectoral growth.

As an alternative source of power supply, solar energy development in Nigeria has shown remarkable progress. Installed capacity grew from a mere 4 megawatts in 2014 to 112 megawatts in 2023, marking a significant shift towards renewable energy solutions. This growth underscores the potential of solar energy as a viable alternative to traditional power sources. The trend of the significant growth is presented in *figure 14* below.

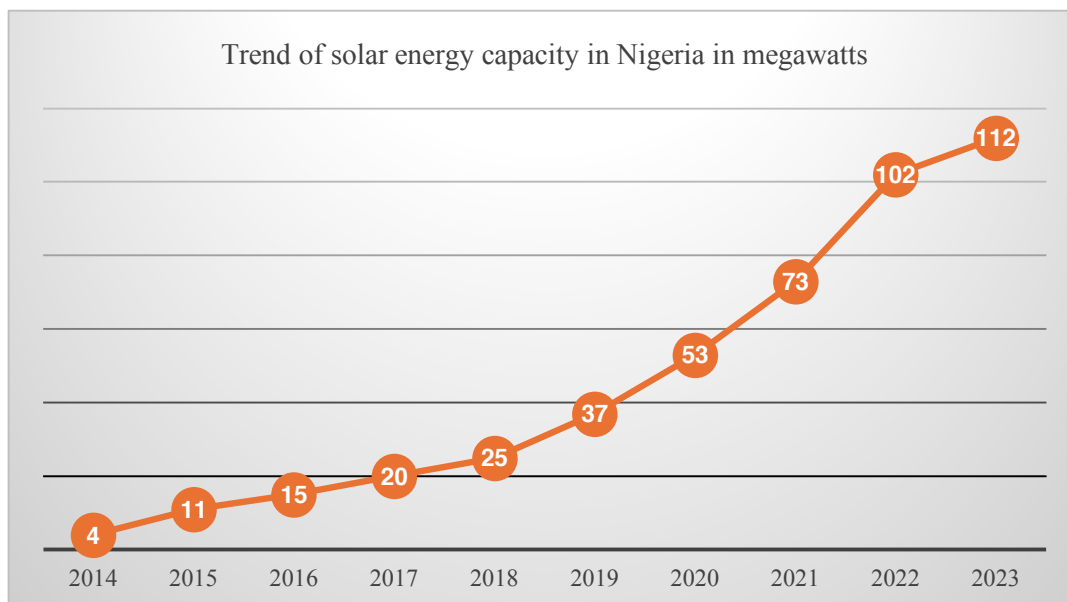


Figure 14: Growth in solar energy capacity

Clean cooking fuel and technology is gradually being adopted

The adoption of clean cooking fuels and technology is gradually improving; though traditional methods like firewood and charcoal remain prevalent, causing significant health, environmental, and climate challenges. These outdated methods are responsible for approximately 95,300 deaths annually due to household air pollution³⁷, while also contributing to deforestation and climate change.

The Federal Government of Nigeria through some of its MDAs has introduced several initiatives to promote clean cooking. These include the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), improved cook stoves, and other clean energy solutions. Consequently, the proportion of Nigerians with access to clean energy for cooking rose from 6.85 percent in 2016 to 12.8 percent in 2019 and 16.8 percent in 2021 as indicated in *figure 15*.



³⁷ <https://ng.boell.org/en/clean-cooking-energy/>.

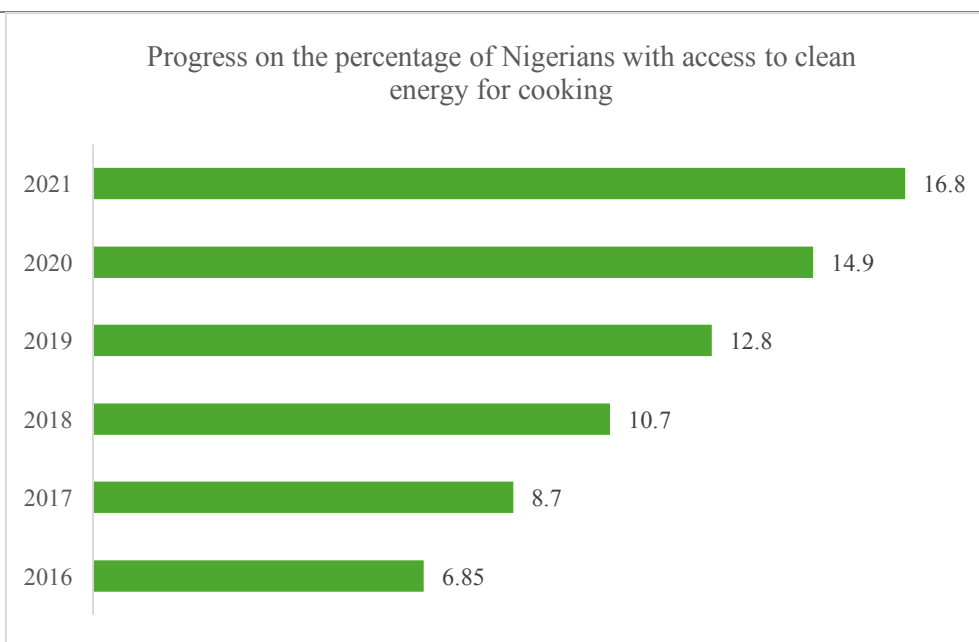


Figure 15: Proportion of Nigerians with access to clean energy

However, significant barriers to widespread adoption of clean energy and technologies at the federal and sub-national levels persist. These include the high cost of clean cooking technologies, lack of awareness, and cultural preferences for traditional cooking methods.

Addressing these challenges requires a robust policy environment, subsidies for clean cook stoves and LPG, as well as educational and awareness campaigns to highlight the health and environmental benefits of clean cooking solutions.

3.8. Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Per capita GDP has declined

Nigeria's GDP per capita has steadily declined over the past eight years, dropping from \$2,679.6 in 2015 to \$1,621.1 in 2023, according to the World Bank, shown in *figure 16*³⁸. Despite being Africa's largest oil producer, Nigeria ranks 23rd in GDP per capita on the continent.³⁹ While the oil and gas sector plays a significant role in the economy, it also leaves the country highly vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations, underscoring the need for economic diversification. This trend reflects deep structural issues, including limited diversification, low industrialization, and inadequate job creation, particularly for the growing population.

The services sector, including telecommunications, banking, and retail, has seen notable growth, while agriculture remains critical, employing a substantial portion of the population.

In recent times, economic diversification efforts have been employed through investments in cement production, food processing, telecommunication, entertainment, tourism, arts and culture, textiles, and so on. Nigeria's teeming population has helped to drive economic growth through increased labour force and consumer demand.

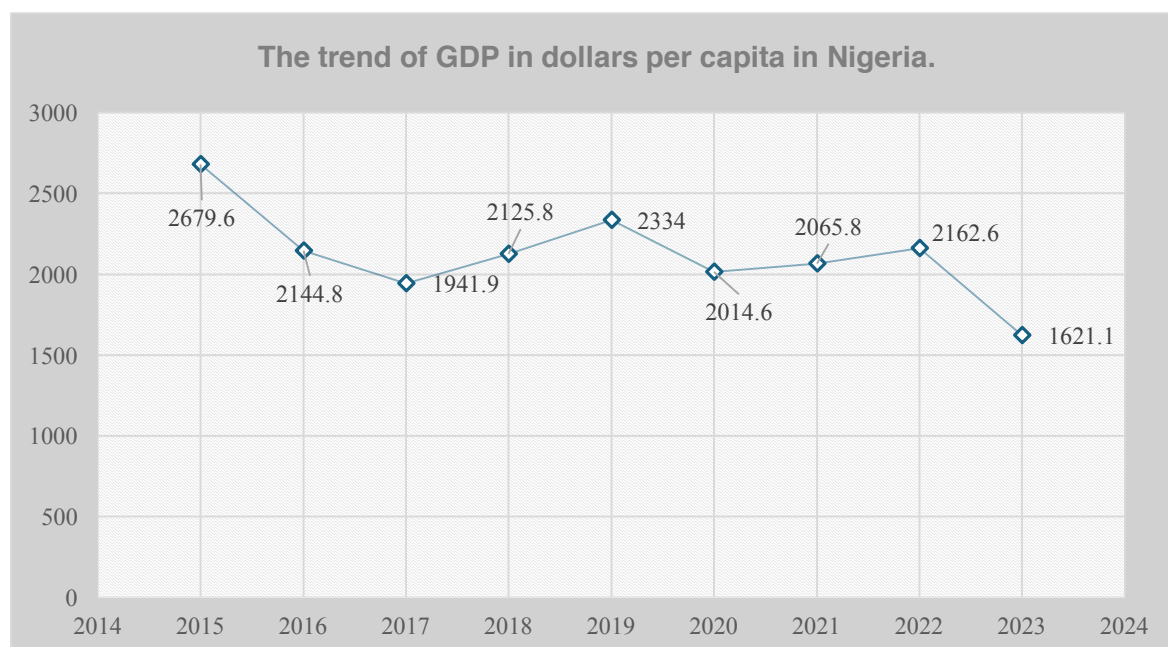


Figure 16: Trend of GDP per capita

³⁸ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=NG/>.

³⁹ <https://www.statista.com/topics/6440/key-indicators-of-nigeria-s-economy/>.

Like other countries in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded economic and financial shocks, with disruptions to industrial production, poor tax collection, falling commodity prices, financial market volatility, and rising insecurity stalling growth. These shocks have heightened risks, undermining recovery efforts to influence GDP growth.

Most Nigerians still work in the informal sector of the economy without significant protection

A significant proportion of Nigerians work in the informal sector. As of 2023, 92.7 percent of the workforce was engaged in informal employment, according to the NBS⁴⁰. Women are disproportionately represented, with 95 percent working informally compared to 90 percent of men⁴¹.

Jobs in the informal sector provide essential income for millions but often lack formal protections such as occupational safety, health measures, or social security. This sector includes a wide range of jobs such as casual day labourers, domestic workers, and small-scale traders, street vendors and market traders, artisans and craftsmen, agricultural workers, transport workers, and other informal service providers. Many of these workers are dependent on a daily income to feed their families. This precarious situation leaves informal workers vulnerable, particularly during economic shocks.

The scarcity of formal job opportunities, coupled with low wages and inadequate protections, has driven a growing trend of skilled and unskilled Nigerians emigrating in search of better livelihoods, healthcare, and education.

Child labour is still prevalent

The Child Rights Act (CRA) of 2003 seeks to protect children from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, but its implementation remains inconsistent. Child labour is pervasive, with an estimated 15 million children under the age of 14 working to earn a living in Nigeria, many in hazardous conditions, according to the ILO.



Many of these children are engaged in the worst forms of child labour and exploitation. The 2022 Nigeria Child Labour Survey revealed that 50.5 percent of children are engaged in economic activities, 39.2 percent in child labour, and 22.9 percent in hazardous work. Male (39.6 percent) and rural (44.8 percent) children are

disproportionately affected compared to female (38.8 percent) and urban (30 percent) children⁴².

⁴⁰ <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241429/>.

⁴¹ Women and men in the informal economy: a statistical picture (third edition) / International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO, 2018

⁴² See Nigeria Child Labour and Forced Labour Survey (NCFLS) 2022.

This marks a troubling increase from 2018, when the National Bureau of Statistic and UNICEF report showed that 32.8 percent of children aged 5–17 were engaged in child labour, indicating an increase in child labour against the expectation of the SDGs. Strengthened enforcement of child protection laws, alongside investments in education and social welfare programmes, is critical to addressing this issue.

3.9. Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



There is substantial growth in technological innovation and financial services

Investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. With over half the world's population now living in cities, mass transport and renewable energy have become increasingly critical, along with the growth of new industries and ICT. Promoting sustainable industries, and investing in scientific research and innovation, are vital for fostering sustainable development.

Infrastructure constraints have significantly hindered business productivity in low-income African countries by about 40 percent. Moreover, only 30 percent of agricultural products undergo industrial processing compared to 98 percent in high-income economies.

Between 2016 and 2023, Nigeria experienced both significant progress and challenges in industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Faced with two economic recessions during this period, with GDP growth averaging 1.1 percent, the manufacturing sector saw a decline, while agriculture's share of GDP increased from 23 percent in 2015 to 26 percent in 2021⁴³. This period also saw rising unemployment and underemployment rates, pushing many Nigerians deeper into poverty.

To address these gaps, Nigeria requires approximately \$3 trillion by 2050 to fully modernize its infrastructure and cover the gaps that exist today⁴⁴. The National Development Plan 2021-25 aims to increase capital expenditure by 30 percent to bridge these infrastructural gaps. Despite these challenges, digital infrastructure has seen substantial improvements, with formal financial inclusion rising from 56 percent in 2020 to 64 percent in 2023, according to the 2023 Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access report. Twenty-six percent of Nigerians however remain financially excluded.

In recent times, Nigeria has emerged as a leading hub for *fintech* innovation in Africa. This transformation is evident in the sector's rapid growth, with \$439 million raised in 2020 alone — accounting for 20 percent of all capital raised by African tech start-ups. The COVID-19 pandemic and the shift towards cashless policies accelerated the adoption of digital financial services, particularly contactless payment options. Several companies have revolutionised payment systems, making financial services more accessible to unbanked Nigerians. This shift has bolstered the *fintech* sector's growth, showcasing Nigeria's entrepreneurial spirit and potential to lead in Africa's digital financial services.

⁴³ <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/nigeria-in-2023-bridging-the-productivity-gap-and-building-economic-resilience/>.

⁴⁴ <https://www.forbesafrica.com/cover-story/2021/08/06/nigerias-fintech-frenzy-onwards-and-upwards/https://www.ie.edu/insights/articles/nigerias-digital-future-will-be-decided-by-physical-infrastructure/>.

Industry and manufacturing continue to face significant challenges

The manufacturing sector's contribution to Nigeria's GDP has shown fluctuations. In 2016, the sector constituted about 8.68 percent of Nigeria's GDP, growing to 13.59 percent by 2022⁴⁵. *Table 2* below shows the manufacturing output as a percentage of GDP between 2016 and 2022.

Year	Billions of US \$	percent of GDP
2016	\$35.12B	8.68percent
2017	\$32.85B	8.74percent
2018	\$40.69B	9.65percent
2019	\$54.68B	11.52percent
2020	\$54.75B	12.67percent
2021	\$64.41B	14.61percent
2022	\$64.25B	13.59percent

Table 2: Nigeria manufacturing output as a percentage of GDP. Source: Central Bank of Nigeria

Nigeria's manufacturing sector has faced numerous challenges but continues to show resilience and potential for growth. Key factors affecting its performance include government policies, economic uncertainties, consumer demand, inflation and fluctuating exchange rates, which have severely impacted profit margins and operational costs. The depreciation of the naira has made importing raw materials costlier.

Electricity shortages are another major hurdle, with many manufacturers relying on expensive diesel generators due to unreliable national grid power. Poor transport infrastructure, such as dilapidated roads and inadequate rail networks, hampers the efficient movement of goods, making manufacturers in Nigeria less competitive. Additionally, manufacturers struggle to obtain financing with high-interest rates and stringent lending conditions that limit their ability to invest in new technologies and expand operations. Worsening insecurity, including insurgency and banditry in certain regions, has disrupted manufacturing activities and supply chains making access difficult across regions.

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action from the government, private sector, and development partners. Targeted interventions are necessary to create a stable and conducive environment for manufacturing growth, fostering competitiveness and innovation.

⁴⁵ <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/NGA/nigeria/manufacturing-output/>.

3.10. Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries



The disposable income of households in Nigeria is declining

Household income in Nigeria varies significantly by region, influenced by factors such as economic activity, cost of living, and access to resources. States in the northern region generally report lower household incomes compared to the FCT and southern states such as Lagos, Rivers, and Delta which benefit from a mixed economy. As the country's commercial hub, Lagos has one of the highest average household incomes. Many high-paying jobs in finance, technology, and trade are concentrated in the state.

Between 2019 and now, the household disposable income in Nigeria has declined sharply, from \$419.50 in 2019 to \$209.4 in 2024 (see *figure 17* below). Similarly, disposable income per capital fell from \$2.06 in 2019 to \$1.68 in 2020, \$1.37 in 2023 and is projected at \$0.91 in 2024⁴⁶.

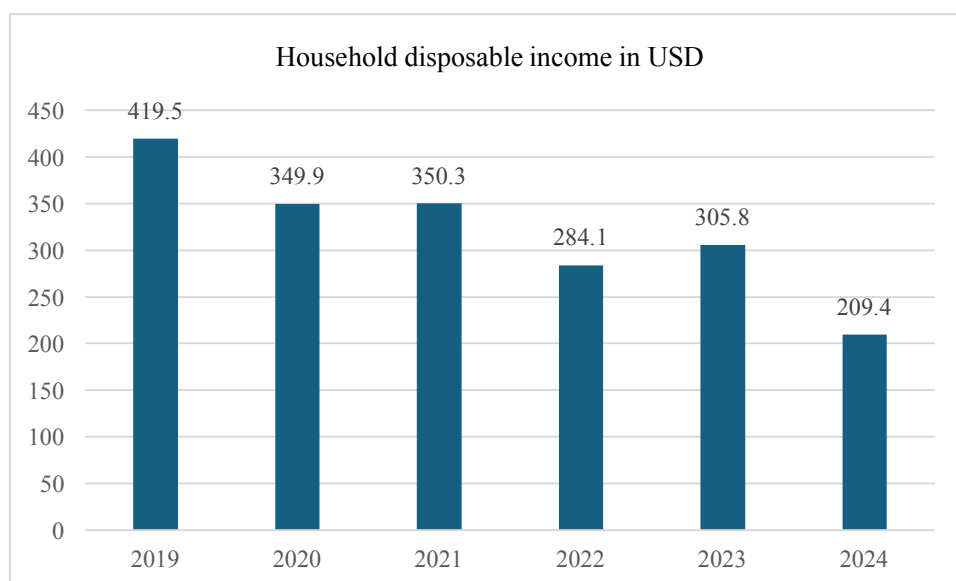


Figure 17: Trend of household disposable income

Consumer spending is also slowing

Household spending, a critical component of GDP, has contracted significantly due to inflationary pressures. High inflation rates, driven by rising fuel prices and currency devaluation, reached an 18-year high of 28.2 percent in 2023⁴⁷. This has constrained consumer spending, leading many Nigerians to prioritise essential goods and services over discretionary spending.

⁴⁶ <https://www.statista.com/outlook/co/consumption-indicators/nigeria#household-income/>.

⁴⁷ <https://venturesafrica.com/5-nigerian-consumer-trends-we-noticed-in-2023/>.

For household expenditure, total consumer spending declined from \$334.2 billion in 2019 to \$239.2 billion in 2023 and it is expected to fall further to \$162.70 billion in 2024⁴⁸. Nigerians have adapted by reducing non-essential expenditures and seeking more affordable alternatives. Despite these challenges, projections indicate potential growth in consumer spending as economic reforms take effect.

Discrimination against vulnerable populations persist

Reducing inequality requires respecting human rights and addressing discrimination. Vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples, vulnerable migrants, people with disabilities, older people and minorities, often face systemic barriers.

Children and adolescents with disabilities remain among the most marginalized, facing daily discrimination in the form of negative attitudes, inadequate policies and legislation, limited access to healthcare, education, and survival rights. The 2021 MICS showed that 6 percent of women and 5 percent of men aged 15–49 reported experiencing gender-based discrimination or harassment, with similar findings across urban and rural areas.

The number of refugees is on the increase

Nigeria has continued to grapple with internal and external displacement. The ongoing insurgency by Boko Haram and other non-state armed groups in the North-East has forced many to flee their homes⁴⁹. Additionally, armed banditry and communal clashes, particularly between farmers and herders, contribute significantly to displacement. Floods, droughts, and other climate-related disasters displace people, particularly in rural areas where communities are more vulnerable⁵⁰.

The proportion of displaced Nigerians between 2016 and 2023 may have declined from 0.04 percent in 2016 to 0.038 percent in 2023, although the number of refugees has increased from 74,614 in 2016 to around 84,000 in 2023⁵¹.

⁴⁸ <https://www.statista.com/outlook/co/consumption-indicators/nigeria/>.

⁴⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org/countries/nigeria/>.

⁵⁰ <https://birco-journal.com/index.php/birci/article/download/7531/pdf/>.

⁵¹ <https://www.statista.com/topics/6477/demographics-of-nigeria/>.

3.11. Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Increasingly, more Nigerians live in urban slums or informal settlements

The 2018-2019 Nigeria Living Standards Survey (NLSS) highlights notable differences in living conditions between urban and rural areas. As of 2019, the average household size was 5.06 persons, with rural households averaging 5.42 persons compared to 4.50 persons in urban areas. The total dependency ratio in Nigeria was 0.97, with the highest ratio in Jigawa state (1.40) and the lowest in Lagos (0.63) according to the same survey report. Rural areas rely heavily on agriculture and non-farm activities, while urban households have more diverse income sources.

Urbanisation in Nigeria has been accompanied by a rise in the number of people living in slums or informal settlements. In 2023, approximately 53 percent of Nigeria's urban population lived in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing, as reported by UN-Habitat⁵². This represents a sharp increase from 30 percent in 2015, underscoring the urgent need for policies that address affordable housing and urban planning challenges⁵³.

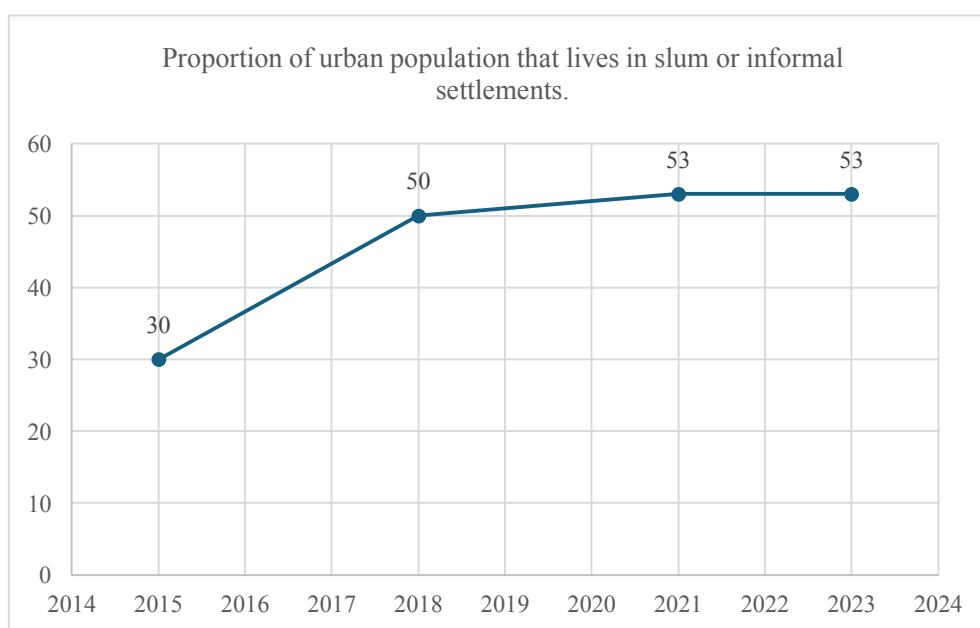


Figure 18: The percentage of Nigeria's urban population that lives in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing

⁵² https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-87794-1_1/.

⁵³ <https://unhabitat.org/11-1-adequate-housing/>.

Access to public transport has improved marginally, but remains far from the target

The most common form of public transport in Nigeria are buses managed by both private owners and governments at all levels. Taxis are also widely used, including traditional yellow taxis and ride-hailing services like Uber and Bolt. Motorcycles – *Okadas* and tricycles – *Keke Napep* are popular for shorter distances and in areas where larger vehicles can't easily navigate. The Federal Government is expanding its rail network, with projects such as the Abuja-Kaduna and Lagos-Ibadan lines, aiming to improve connectivity for passengers and goods.

However, several challenges persist, including poor road infrastructure, inadequate road signs, traffic congestion, indiscipline among drivers, rising insecurity, drug use (especially alcohol), poor maintenance culture, and high transport costs exacerbated by the recent removal of fuel subsidies. Promises to introduce alternative energy sources like compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric vehicles have yet to be significantly implemented.



Despite these challenges, access to public transport has seen gradual improvement. In 2019, around 50 percent of Nigerians had convenient access to public transport⁵⁴, increasing to 55 percent in 2023⁵⁵. This marginal progress highlights the need for continued investment in efficient and affordable public transport systems to meet the SDG targets.

⁵⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-11/>.

⁵⁵ https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/extended-report/Extended-Report_Goal-11.pdf/.

3.12. Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Domestic material consumption remains modest

Domestic material consumption (DMC) reflects the total amount of materials used directly by an economy including biomass, fossil fuels, metal ores, and non-metal ores. In Nigeria, the DMC per capita shows a moderate but steady increase between 2016 and 2023.

In 2016, the DMC per capita stood at approximately 2.5 tonnes, rising to around 2.6 tonnes in 2019, and reaching around 2.7 tonnes in 2023. Biomass consumption for food averaged around 2.466 tonnes per capita from 1990 to 2022⁵⁶, while the consumption of non-metallic minerals has been much lower, averaging 0.016 tonnes per capita over the same period⁵⁷.

Nigeria continues to generate high quantities of hazardous waste

Hazardous waste continues to pose significant environmental and health risks in Nigeria. Major sources of such waste include:

- industrial waste from manufacturing processes, chemical production, and other industrial activities
- medical waste from hospitals and healthcare facilities such as used syringes, expired medications, and other infectious or toxic medical supplies
- household waste like batteries, electronic waste, and certain cleaning products
- agricultural waste such as pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals used in farming
- petroleum and mining waste that can include toxic sludge, drilling fluids, and other hazardous by-products.

Nigeria generates the highest amount of hazardous waste in Africa, at 2,469,000 tonnes per annum, surpassing Egypt's 1,440,000 tonnes per annum. The average per capita hazardous waste generation across Africa stands at 20.1 kg/person/year, with Nigeria contributing significantly to this figure⁵⁸.

Proper management and disposal systems are critical to mitigating the adverse impacts of hazardous waste on human health and the environment. Strengthened regulatory frameworks, public awareness, and investment in waste management infrastructure are essential to achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns.

⁵⁶ <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/nigeria/environmental-material-resources-by-material-groups-non-oecd-member-annual/material-resources-domestic-material-consumption-per-capita-biomass-food/>.

⁵⁷ <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/nigeria/environmental-material-resources-by-material-groups-non-oecd-member-annual/material-resources-domestic-material-consumption-per-capita-non-metallic-minerals-other/>.

⁵⁸ Hazardous Waste Management: An African Overview. Victor E. Akpan and David O. Olukanni

3.13. Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13 CLIMATE ACTION



The number of deaths and missing persons from natural disasters continues to rise

Climate change poses a significant threat to Nigeria's national development, amplifying poverty and undermining progress in developing nations. The country faces diverse natural and man-made disasters, including flooding, soil and coastal erosion, landslides, tidal waves, sandstorms, oil spillage, and insect infestations particularly locust outbreaks. Nigeria's vast and under protected environment exacerbates the vulnerability of its population to these disasters.



Recurrent flooding is among the most devastating climate-related events in Nigeria, causing extensive socio-economic damage, injuries, and loss of life. The adverse impacts also include the destruction of properties, public transport systems, power

supply networks, crops, and livestock.

In 2020, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported 68 deaths and the displacement of 129,000 individuals due to flooding. By 2022, the situation worsened significantly, with flooding affecting many parts of the country. Federal Government data revealed that the floods displaced over 1.4 million people, claiming over 603 lives, injuring more than 2,400 people, and damaging 82,035 houses and 332,327 hectares of land⁵⁹.

Nigeria greenhouse gas emissions remain low

Nigeria's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been relatively low compared to global averages. In 2018, the country's total GHG emissions were approximately 336 million metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (MtCO₂e)⁶⁰. This value remains unchanged as of 2022, accounting for less than 1 percent of global emissions.

The primary sources of Nigeria's GHG emissions include oil and gas production, land-use changes, forestry, agriculture, and fugitive emissions. Despite its economic reliance on oil production, Nigeria has demonstrated commitment to climate action through efforts to reduce emissions. The country has set ambitious targets, aiming to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

⁵⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disasters_in_Nigeria#cite_note-76/.

⁶⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_Nigeria/.

3.14. Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Plastic pollution of water bodies is on the increase

Plastic pollution continues to threaten Nigeria's water bodies, presenting severe environmental and health challenges. Recent studies indicate that plastics make up about 34 percent of Nigeria's total solid waste⁶¹. Micro plastics in particular, are found in high concentrations, ranging from 440 to 1,556 particles per litre, with the highest levels detected downstream⁶². The most common types of plastics found include polyethylene terephthalate (PET) at 29 percent, polyethylene (PE) at 22 percent, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) at 16 percent, and polypropylene (PP) at 14 percent⁶³.



By 2023, the plastic pollution crisis had worsened. Nigeria generated around 2.5 million tonnes of plastic waste, with Lagos alone contributing 870,000 tonnes. Plastic waste

⁶¹ <https://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jestft/papers/Vol14-Issue6/Series-3/C1406031217.pdf/>.

⁶² https://www.academia.edu/43768342/Macrodbris_and_microplastics_pollution_in_Nigeria_first_report_on_abundance_distribution_and_composition/.

⁶³ https://www.academia.edu/51376808/Macrodbris_and_Microplastics_Pollution_in_Nigeria_First_Report_on_Abundance_Distribution_and_Composition/.

constitutes a major portion of Nigeria's total solid waste, with PE accounting for about 19 percent of debris and other types of plastics making up roughly 15 percent.

Efforts to mitigate plastic pollution have included policy interventions, such as bans on single-use plastics. However, these measures face considerable obstacles due to Nigeria's high population density and inadequate waste management infrastructure.

3.15. Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Nigeria is making good efforts to manage its forests sustainably

Since Nigeria's initiation of forestry development in 1889, its focus has been on forest reservation and controlled timber exploitation. However, poor management plans and weak enforcement mechanisms have historically limited progress.

A national policy for sustainable forest management has recently been adopted, aligned with international commitments, including the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and the Global Oceans Alliance. To sustainably manage its forests, Nigeria has embarked on reforestation projects aimed at restoring degraded lands and improving forest cover. These include the Great Green Wall project, which aims to combat desertification in the Sahel region by planting trees and creating green belts to restore degraded land and improve livelihoods.

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) has driven reforestation efforts, including the establishment of the Lekki Conservation Centre and the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands. These projects focus on habitat restoration and biodiversity conservation. Meanwhile, states such as Ogun and Cross River have implemented forest regeneration programmes that include planting indigenous tree species and promoting sustainable forest management practices.

The private sector is also contributing to reforestation efforts through initiatives such as the Olam Green Nigeria initiative which aims to plant millions of trees across the country.

Wildlife poaching remains a major concern

Globally, an estimated 20-30 percent of wildlife trade involves poached or illegally trafficked animals⁶⁴. This proportion is significant and alarming because of the threat to the country's rich biodiversity, as well as fuelling illegal wildlife trade networks.

Nigeria continues to be a key hub for wildlife trafficking, particularly for species such as pangolins and elephants, which are targeted for their scales and ivory. To address this issue, Nigeria is enhancing law enforcement to combat illegal wildlife trade, strengthening international cooperation to disrupt trafficking networks, and engaging communities to promote sustainable livelihoods as an alternative to poaching.



⁶⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02978-7/>.

3.16. Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Birth registration has improved

Nigeria has made notable progress on birth registration in recent years. The percentage of children under-five whose births are registered rose from 46.8 percent in 2016 to 57.3 percent in 2021, as tracked by the MICS surveys. This marks a positive step towards universal birth registration, a critical component for safeguarding children's rights and ensuring access to essential services.



Intentional homicide remains uncontrolled

The 2023 Global Study on Homicide conducted by UNODC estimates the global homicide rate in 2021 at 5.8 per 100,000 population⁶⁵. The homicide rate for Africa rose slightly from 12.4 per 100,000 population in 2015 to 12.7 per 100,000 population in 2021.

In 2015, the rate stood at 9.85 per 100,000 population in Nigeria⁶⁶. However, more recent data from the World Bank's Gender Data Portal indicates a sharp rise to 21.7 per 100,000 population in 2019⁶⁷.

Demographic analysis reveals that males, particularly young adult males aged 15–29, are the most affected group. Children and older adults experience lower rates compared to young adults. This disparity highlights the need for targeted interventions to address the vulnerabilities of specific population groups.

Sexual violence remains prevalent

Sexual violence persists as a critical concern in Nigeria and can take various forms, including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, incest and sexual coercion. The impacts on survivors are severe, spanning physical, emotional, and psychological harm. In 2018, 13.2 percent of women aged 15-49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

⁶⁵ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/2023/Global_study_on_homicide_2023_web.pdf/.

⁶⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-01-01.pdf/>.

⁶⁷ <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/indicator/vc-ihp-psrc-p5?year=2021&gender=total/>.

3.17. Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Nigeria's revenue compared to the size of the economy remains low

Nigeria's revenue, as a proportion of GDP, remains significantly low, limiting its ability to fund public services and infrastructure. In 2023, government revenue stood at 9.6 percent of GDP, far below the levels of other countries like South Africa (29.2 percent), the United States (31.2 percent), and Germany (46.3 percent).

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Nigeria increased slightly from 5.5 percent in 2020 to 6.7 percent in 2021, but this remains 8.9 percentage points lower than the African average⁶⁸. Non-tax revenues contributed 4.0 percent of GDP in 2021, with rents and royalties accounting for the largest share (3.0 percent of GDP, or 75.5 percent of non-tax revenues). This was again lower than the average non-tax revenues for African countries (5.8 percent of GDP).



Remittances continue to play a major role in the economy

Remittances from the Nigerian diaspora continue to be a key source of economic support, contributing approximately 6 percent of the country's GDP. These funds are instrumental in supporting daily expenses, healthcare, education, and small business initiatives for many households.

Between 2016 and 2022, remittance inflows fluctuated, rising from \$19.7 billion in 2016, and peaking at \$24.3 billion in 2018 before declining to \$17.2 billion during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. By 2022, remittances recovered to \$20.16 billion, reflecting resilience in diaspora contribution⁶⁹.

Internet use is growing steadily

Mobile internet penetration in Nigeria has been growing steadily, driven by the availability of affordable smartphones and expanded telecom networks, particularly in rural areas. Between 2018 and 2022, internet user penetration rose from 26 percent to over 38 percent, with the total number of internet users exceeding 83 million in 2022.

⁶⁸ <https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/global-tax-revenues/revenue-statistics-africa-nigeria.pdf/>.


















⁶⁹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1012368/remittance-inflows-to-nigeria/>.


















However, there is a notable gender gap in internet usage. The 2021 MICS shows that 37.8 percent of men aged 15-24 used the internet, compared to 21.3 percent of young women in the same age group. Bridging this digital divide is essential for inclusive development and empowerment.

Annexes

Annex 1: Nigeria SDGs Progress Report – Indicators Dashboard

SDG	Indicator	Trend over reporting period			
		Doing Worse	No Change	Doing Better	Meeting Target
SDG 1: No Poverty	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line				
	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems				
	Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services				
	Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)				
	Proportion of total government spending on essential services				
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population				
	Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age				
	Prevalence of undernourishment				
	Average income of small-scale food producers				
SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being	Maternal mortality ratio				
	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel				
	Coverage of essential health services – ANC uptake				
	Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods				
	Under-5 mortality rate				
	Neonatal mortality rate				
	Coverage of essential health services - Immunization				
	Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health				
Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)					

SDG 4: Quality Education	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills		
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18		
	Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation,		
	Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care		
	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments		
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services		
	Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water		
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	Proportion of population with access to electricity		
	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology		
	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption – solar energy capacity		
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita		
	Proportion of informal employment in total employment		
	Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour		
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP		
	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added - fintech innovation		
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita - household disposable income		
	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita – consumer spending		

	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against – vulnerable populations	
	Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin – number of refugees	
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	
	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport.	
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Domestic material consumption - domestic material consumption per capita.	
	Hazardous waste generated per capita.	
SDG 13: Climate Action	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters	
	Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	
SDG 14: Life Below Water	Plastic debris density	
SDG 15: Life on Land	Progress towards sustainable forest management	
	Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority.	
	Number of victims of intentional homicide.	
	Proportion of population subjected to sexual violence in the previous 12 months	
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goal	Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP.	
	Volume of remittances as a proportion of total GDP	
	Proportion of individuals using the Internet	

Annex 2: List of members of the Core Working Group – SPR