

NIGERIA



Nigeria Democratic and economic progress in Nigeria is challenged by poor governance, entrenched corruption, internal conflict, ineffective service delivery, and pervasive poverty. Nigeria remains mired near the bottom of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Index. While there has been notable progress in macroeconomic policy reform over the past few years, these reforms have yet to bring measurable improvements to the lives of the people. U.S. assistance will help Nigeria address these challenges by fostering transparent and accountable governance; engaging civil society and government partners to battle corruption; increasing professionalism of the military and law enforcement agencies; strengthening health and education systems to deliver quality services; growing the non-oil economy; and improving the environment for regional and international trade. With national and local elections scheduled for mid-2011, efforts will also be focused on creating an environment conducive to transparent and credible elections.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Since independence, Nigerian foreign policy has been characterized by a focus on Africa and by attachment to several fundamental principles: African unity and independence; peaceful settlement of disputes; nonalignment and nonintentional interference in the internal affairs of other nations; and regional economic cooperation and development. In pursuing the goal of regional economic cooperation and development, Nigeria helped create the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which seeks to harmonize trade and investment practices for its 15 West African member countries and ultimately to achieve a full customs union. Over the past decade, Nigeria has played a pivotal role in the support of peace in Africa. It has provided the bulk of troops for the UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and many of the troops to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Nigeria is anticipated to do likewise in Somalia.

Nigeria has enjoyed generally good relations with its immediate neighbors. A longstanding border dispute with Cameroon over the potentially oil-rich Bakassi Peninsula was addressed by International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague in 2002. The ICJ awarded most of the disputed Bakassi Peninsula and maritime rights to Cameroon, and the UN established a Mixed Commission on implementing the ICJ ruling. On June 12, 2006 Nigerian President Obasanjo and Cameroonian President Biya signed an agreement in New York on implementing the ICJ decision. Nigeria promptly withdrew its troops within 60 days. On August 14, 2008, Nigeria formally ceded Bakassi to Cameroon.

Nigeria is a member of the following international organizations: UN and many of its special and related agencies; World Trade Organization (WTO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); World Bank/IBRD; African Development Bank (AfDB); INTERPOL; Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); African Union (AU); Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) and several other West African bodies; Commonwealth; Nonaligned Movement (NAM); and Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), among others.

U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS

Since the restoration of basic democracy in Nigeria in 1999, the bilateral relationship has continued to improve, and cooperation on many important foreign policy goals, such as regional peacekeeping, has been excellent.

The government has lent strong diplomatic support to U.S. Government counter-terrorism efforts in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Government of Nigeria, in its official statements, has both condemned the terrorist attacks and supported military action against the Taliban and Al Qaida. Nigeria also has played a leading role in forging an anti-terrorism consensus among states in Sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated one million Nigerians and Nigerian Americans live, study, and work in the United States, while over 25,000 Americans live and work in Nigeria. President Yar'Adua visited President George W. Bush at the White House on December 13, 2007. During her first official trip to Africa, Secretary Hillary Clinton visited Nigeria on August 12, 2009.

Peace and Security: Prior decades of military rule had a negative effect on the professional development of the Nigerian armed forces. As a result, the Nigerian military is still in need of reform particularly in terms of professionalizing the officer and noncommissioned-officer corps and promoting effective civilian oversight and respect for human rights and the rule of law. Department of State-funded programs will continue to provide equipment and training for Nigerian peacekeeping forces, which are deployed to peacekeeping missions throughout the continent. Funding will assist in developing the capacity of government institutions and civil society to prevent, manage, and mitigate conflict. The U.S. assistance will also build Nigeria's capability to address threats to maritime security; interdict narcotics trafficking; and combat money laundering and other financial crimes.

Governing Justly and Democratically: Improving governance is the foundation of the U.S. program in Nigeria. There will be no sustainable progress in reducing catastrophic maternal and child mortality, fighting poverty and hunger, creating jobs or a better-educated population without improved governance. Good governance will be advanced by creating more responsive structures at state and local levels, improving service delivery, and strengthening budget management capacity and fiscal oversight. The United States will work directly with a diverse cross section of Nigerian civil society organizations, building their internal management capacity and strengthening their ability to engage with the government on issues of fiscal accountability, budget monitoring, and extractive industries transparency. To lay the groundwork for credible elections in 2011, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will help to build local capacity to manage and coordinate elections infrastructure, and promote the input of civil society input into electoral and constitutional reform dialogue and oversight of the electoral process.

Investing in People: Improving Nigeria's capacity to address the fundamental health and education needs of its citizens will have a profound impact on governance, stability, and economic growth. USAID will support increased access to quality family planning and reproductive health services, focusing efforts in selected states with high unmet demand. Maternal and child health efforts will target routine immunization, polio eradication, birth preparedness, and maternity services, seeking to reduce catastrophic rates of maternal and young child mortality. U.S. assistance will also increase access to proven preventive and curative interventions, including insecticide treated nets, net retreatment kits, artemisinin combination therapy treatment for children, and intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women. Nigeria has the largest tuberculosis (TB) burden in Africa. To reduce death and disability, especially in the vulnerable co-infected HIV/AIDS population, U.S. assistance will double the case detection rate and reduce the incidence of TB by half over the next 10 years. Basic education resources will increase the demand for quality basic education through comprehensive systems strengthening in selected states that addresses deficiencies in policy development and implementation, human resource

management, monitoring and oversight, financial management, and resource allocation. Linkages with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR): Nigeria will receive significant support to build partnerships to provide integrated prevention, care and treatment programs throughout the country and support orphans and vulnerable children.

Focus on Performance: Poor governance is at the heart of Nigeria's development challenges. State and local governments manage over half of Federal budget resources and are charged with delivering basic services to their citizens, but most lack the capacity and political will to implement their roles. The U.S. will launch its capacity-building support to state and local governments in late FY 2009. Assistance will include strengthening relevant state government institutions to plan, manage resources, and work effectively with counterparts at local level; imparting state of the art performance-based budget drafting, implementation and monitoring skills to partner local governments; and improving the internal self-governance of local government councils. Added funding in FY 2010 will allow the U.S. to significantly increase the number of local governments that will adopt and implement improved practices and reach out to their citizens, moving states to the next step of implementing the new legislation with CSO input and monitoring. Over the next five years capacity building for these governments will improve delivery of basic services. The 2007 elections were universally condemned by international and domestic observers alike as fraudulent. The electoral commission that was supposed to guarantee a free and fair process is instead viewed by many as being complicit in, if not responsible for, the failure of the elections. Campaigns and voting itself were marked by violence and intimidation. This situation cannot be allowed to repeat itself in 2011, as yet another failed election would have grave implications for security and stability in Nigeria and in the wider region. The additional resources provided in FY 2010 will be used to substantially strengthen the engagement of Nigerian citizens in the electoral process. Active civil society organizations and informed voters are the most powerful tools available in the Nigerian environment for advancing the credibility of the elections and the accountability of the government to its citizens. Nigeria is one of the worst places in the world to be a mother, ranking 70 out of 71 countries in the 2008 Report on the State of the World's Mothers. The national average maternal mortality is about 800 per 100,000 live births, but the rate is at least three times higher in the northern States. Almost one-third of women receive no antenatal care. Sixty-six percent of deliveries take place in the home, with only 35 percent assisted by trained health care personnel. Increasing the proportion of births attended by a skilled provider is a powerful tool for reducing both maternal and infant mortality. Additional funds in FY 2010 will provide increased training and technical assistance to expand the pool of skilled birth attendants in selected focus high-risk states, more than doubling the number of women who are able to deliver their babies safely. Community mobilization activities will address demand-side constraints on utilization of health services. Prior to FY 2010 the U.S. mission to Nigeria has had no Economic Growth resources to implement programs leading to fiscal policy reform. FY 2010 funds will be used to work with state and local governments on fiscal responsibility and public procurement reforms. These efforts will be focused in selected states and local governments that have demonstrated willingness to implement such reforms and will build on the local government program implemented with governance funds. While some states have drafted fiscal responsibility and public procurement legislation, few have engaged in a consultative process with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. This is a crucial step in ensuring both buy-in and adherence to the laws once passed and will be the focus of effort in the initial year of support. The Nigerian President's Chief Economic Advisor and the Ministers of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture and Water Resources attended the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meetings in Washington in April 2009. This level of representation shows that the government considers trade to be a major area of importance for the future. Further reforms in the trade area are key to the success of the agriculture program in Nigeria and will have a major positive impact on economic growth in West Africa. Prior to FY 2010 the U.S. Mission to Nigeria has not had any resources to address trade issues in the country, so the first year of a trade program will require extensive analytic and diagnostic work to define key areas for future intervention and shape the program going forward for maximum effectiveness.

Economic Growth: Funding will build trade and investment capacity and improve the enabling environment for agriculture and microfinance. USAID will continue to implement activities under the U.S. Global Food Security Response that will accelerate the uptake of proven production, processing, and marketing technologies, significantly increase the productivity of selected staple food crops, foster the development of agricultural value chains, and stimulate job creation through the growth of agribusiness enterprises. Customs regulation and policy reform will enhance regional trade and transport linkages, and smooth supply to regional markets. USAID will also focus on expanding investment opportunities, which are hampered by limited access to commercial market-driven financial services, including microfinance. U.S. assistance will also help expand access to credit through partnerships with commercial banks and increase the capacity of microfinance institutions. The U.S. will partner with Nigeria's Central Bank to improve the policy environment for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.