Migration Profile: Nigeria

September, 2014

SCALABRINI INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN MOBILITY IN AFRICA
(SIHMA)

Cape Town, South Africa
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>African, Caribbean and Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDMC</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Monitoring Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMD</td>
<td>Labour Migration Desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPTIP</td>
<td>National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS</td>
<td>National Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCFRMI</td>
<td>National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIDO</td>
<td>Nigerians-in-Diaspora Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIS</td>
<td>Nigeria Immigration Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNVS</td>
<td>Nigeria National Volunteer Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPC</td>
<td>National Planning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIP</td>
<td>Trafficking In Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDESA</td>
<td>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Introduction

Many African countries, including Nigeria, have a history of extensive migration (Adepoju and van der Wiel, 2010) shaped by historical, cultural and political developments. These dynamics have significantly moulded mobility patterns in Nigeria, making it an important destination country for immigrants in and out of the West African region and a ‘home’ to a countless number of Nigerian citizens and their families who are residents (and sometimes citizens) of countries all over the world. However, the number of out-migrants far exceeds in-migrants, and this is reflected in the consistent negative net migration rate falling from -0.2 in 2000 to -0.3 in 2005, and currently at -0.4 (UNDESA, 2014).

Although the government acknowledges the enormous contribution of emigrants to economic growth, the negative effect of losing well-trained professionals who are much needed for the development of the country leaves much to be desired. Especially since Nigeria is a potentially powerful force, in terms of population size and economic growth, to compete in the world’s economy (Owusu, 2013).

Nigeria has the largest population within the ECOWAS sub-region with a total number of 173.6 million people and an annual growth rate of 2.5 percent. Nigeria’s population constitutes 53 percent of the sub-region’s total population (Owusu, 2013; World Bank, 2014). The country records a GDP of US$522.6 billion (2013 est.), representing a 64.4 percent of the sub-region’s GDP. The agricultural and oil sectors are the main contributors to Nigeria’s GDP and exports. Agriculture accounts for 70 percent of employment and 35.2 percent of the GDP, while the oil sector contributes over 95 percent of foreign exchange earnings and 80 percent of government revenue (Adepoju and van der Wiel, 2010).

Nigeria, however, still records a slow economic growth of about 7.2 percent (World Bank-Nigeria, 2014). The yearly average rate of inflation has declined over the years from 23.8 percent in 2003 to 8.2 percent as at mid-year 2014 (IOM, 2009; Nigerian Central Bank, 2014) due to the unstable prices of fuel, the recent global financial crises and flexible monetary policies. Income levels are generally low and 63 percent (2011 estimates) of the population live on less than US$1 per day.
This is confirmed by the Gini index ratio of Nigeria which falls between 0.50 to 0.70, indicating a concentration of wealth and economic power in a few hands, to the detriment of the underprivileged. With respect to income distribution, the poorest half of the population holds only 10 percent of national income. In addition, labour supply exceeds demand by 23.9 percent (2011 estimates) and the majority (about 60.1 percent) of the unemployed are in their productive ages between 15 and 44 years (African Economic Outlook, 2012). Indeed, the inability of the labour market to absorb the surplus labour and low levels of incomes leave no other option for the youth but to emigrate.

In the light of this, the paper discusses the dynamics of Nigerian migration under various themes. The first section discusses the historical context of migration in Nigeria, expounding on the key trends in the pre-colonial and post-independence periods. The second section elaborates on the contemporary trends of human mobility by focusing on the main migration stocks and flows (2009-2014). The third section gives an overview of the policies and legislations that impact on migration governance in Nigeria. In section four the main local, regional and international institutions and departments engaged in migration governance are discussed. The paper further assesses migration governance and the main actors involved. The final section concludes with the key research gaps, providing key issues, problems and questions concerning human mobility patterns and management in Nigeria.
History of Nigerian Migration: Key Trends

Introduction
Migration is a crucial factor in the history of Nigeria. According to Oyeniyi (2010), all of Nigeria's major ethnic groups including the Hausa, Yoruba, and the Igbo believe their ancestors founded their current settlement out of a migration story. Today, Nigeria occupies an important position within the West African sub-region as a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants (Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, 2010). Due to Nigeria's position as the most populous and ethnically diverse country in Sub-Saharan Africa, Nigerian migration manifests in multiple and diverse forms in terms of its nature, causes and impact.

Human mobility in Nigeria today is also shaped by historical factors developed out of pre-colonial and colonial contexts: political institutions, administrative systems, economy and trade routes. Traditional and Islamic cultural practices such as pilgrimages to holy sites, slave raids, nomadism and pastoralism, as well as population pressures, landlessness and the search for fertile lands for agricultural purposes have all had an influence on Nigerian migration. In addition, post-independence politics and power struggles leading to a civil war, ethno-religious violence and tensions between the Christian dominated South and the Islamic North, the development of new administrative capitals and urban centres, extreme poverty as well as forced displacements, have all contributed to mould the current dynamics and patterns of Nigerian migration (Adepoju and van der Wiel, 2010; Afolayan et al., 2008; Lovejoy, 1980; Gleave and Prothero, 1971; Mason, 1969).

In this section, we examine the key trends in the modern history of Nigerian migration by focusing on the period from the nineteenth century until 2009. The entire era under consideration will be structured in two major periods, namely, the pre-independence and post-independence periods.

Pre-Independence Migration
The development of kingdoms, empires and trade centres in both the northern and southern halves of present day Nigeria prior to the arrival of Europeans sparked various forms of human mobility. The rise of the Sokoto Caliphate ignited patterns of forced and voluntary human movement in northern Nigeria during 19th century and early periods of the 20th century. According to Afolayan
et al. (2008) the Caliphate was populated by migrants drawn from the Gobirawa, Nufawa, Bussawa, Tuaregs, Adrawa and the Zebrama ethnic groups, while the main emigrants consisted of the autochthonous Hausa-Fulani group. The Caliphate depended on migrant labour to sustain its economy, with the majority of these migrant labourers being forcibly captured through slave raids (Lovejoy, 1978). Kano and Sokoto, the capitals of the Caliphate, developed into important trade centres. As a result, several trade routes developed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries connecting these towns to the coastal towns, North African cities, as well as Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti kingdom, and other parts of West Africa (Lovejoy, 1980). Due to transnational trade, pastoralism and nomadism, the Hausa-Fulani people became one of the most mobile groups within the sub-region. After colonial rule had subjugated the Caliphate and significantly altered the economic life of the north, this group developed seasonal migratory routes to the south and to other parts of the sub-region to engage in trade and wage labour in farm plantations, mining and construction sites, as a way of spending the dry season away from home (Swindell, 1984).

In south-western Nigeria, the rise of the Oyo Empire also generated several population movements among people of the Yoruba ethnic group leading to the establishment of new settlements and trade and migratory routes extending as far as present day Liberia. Moreover, population pressures in areas occupied by the Igbo ethnic group in the south-east, and trans-border trade also sparked various forms of movement from the Igbo dominated areas to other parts of southern and northern Nigeria prior to and during the colonial period.

The sparsely populated middle belt, on the other hand, was for a long period a fertile ground for slave raids by Jihadist groups of the Sokoto Caliphate and attacks by stronger tribes from southern Nigeria prior to the arrival of the Europeans. This produced a low population density in this area, and the development of towns such as Jos Plateau, Adamawa and Mambila in highland areas where the population could defend itself against external attacks (Afolayan et al., 2008; Albert, 1994; Gleave and Prothero, 1971; Mason, 1969).

The arrival of the Europeans during the 19th century, on the other hand, did not radically change the migration patterns already established, but set the scene for widespread and large scale migration within and from Nigeria. The colonial administration facilitated greater human mobility with the newly defined national boundaries. The development of local, regional and national administrative capitals, places of higher education and new market centres such as Kano, Sokoto
and Kaduna in northern Nigeria and Ibadan, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Enugu in south-eastern Nigeria generated large scale rural-urban migration.

The development of European cocoa and rubber farm plantations in south-western Nigeria stimulated various forms of human mobility from the 'land-starved' Hausa areas in the north and the 'overpopulated' Igbo areas in the south-east towards this part of the country (Osoba, 1969). This included a rural-rural movement of peasant farmers to start cash crop farms, or to supply farm labour, and a rural-urban migration to seek wage employment in urban settlements. Furthermore, construction works inspired by the colonial economy such as ports, harbours, railways, and roads in the southern half of the country also generated large scale labour migration to these sites.

Within the middle belt, the development of tin mines by the colonial administration at Jos Plateau, requiring intensive labour for mine works, construction of roads and railways, rapidly transformed this area into a place of large scale immigration from all parts of Nigeria, starting from the beginning of the twentieth century (Freund, 1981). The colonial economy also used forced migrant labour, while the detrimental environmental consequences of some of its activities, such as mining and extraction of crude oil from the Delta zone, led to forced displacement of entire groups from their ancestral homelands (Osoba, 1969).

Large scale movement across international borders also characterised Nigerian migration during the pre-independence era. Nigerian migrants moved to, and in most cases settled in, several western, central and eastern African states for mainly economic reasons. They worked in trade, farming and mining activities and also sought wage employment in construction sites, mining and lumbering areas, and cocoa plantations in Gabon, Fernando Po, Zaire, Ghana, Benin, Cote D'Iviore and several other African states (Osoba, 1969). For example, during the early period of the twentieth century, Nigerian railway construction workers were recruited by the colonial administration for the construction of railway lines in Ghana (Takoradi-Tarkwa, Tema-Accra) and Benin (Kotonou-Parakou) (Afolayan, 1998; Afolayan et al., 2008). After the construction work had been completed some of the migrants went into trade, mining and farm work in Ghana and Cote D'Iviore (Peil, 1974; Skinner, 1963). As a result, at lot of them, particularly the Hausas, Yorubas and Igbos, were able to build a strong position in some sectors of the Ghanaian economy and the economies of other West African states in areas such as retail trade business, diamond digging, butchering and cocoa farming (Peil, 1975; Skinner, 1963; Osoba, 1969). According to
Skinner (1963), the Nigerian migrants also established their own quarters (zongos) and lived under their own chiefs or headsmen in the places they settled.

After the post-World War II period, a growing number of young Nigerians also took up temporary sojourn in Europe and North America to seek higher education. It was this group that returned to constitute Nigeria's political and educated elite during the period leading to independence and in the post-independence era (Osoba, 1969). Immigration to Nigeria during this period was, however, on a limited scale (Afolayan et al., 2008).

**Post-Independence Migration**

The labour migration patterns that developed during the pre-independence period were sustained in the post-independence era. In addition, events following independence leading to ethno-religious violence between groups in the northern half and those in the southern half of the country, dramatically damaged the equilibrium that had been established by the colonial administration and thereby generated several forms of involuntary mobility patterns in Nigeria.

First and foremost, the massacre of Igbo residents by the Hausa-Fulani group in northern Nigeria as a result of power struggle between the north and the south, and the subsequent civil war between the newly created Biafran state and the rest of Nigeria led to one of the major displacements of the Igbo people within and outside of Nigeria during the 1960s and 1970s (Afolayan et al., 2008). Highly skilled and educated Igbos fled the country, while overseas Igbo students stayed after they had completed their studies (Adepoju and van der Wiel, 2010). In addition, events in other countries within the West-African sub-region affected the mobility patterns of Nigerian nationals. For example, the political impasse between Kwame Nkrumah and foreign nationals in Ghana during the late 1950s, and the subsequent passage of the 1969 Alliance Compliance by the Busia government led to the forced return of Nigerian nationals who had been living in Ghana for decades (Skinner, 1963; Peil, 1974).

From the mid-1970s, however, Nigeria briefly transformed into a migrant destination country, attracting nationals from neighbouring West African states, following the oil price hikes that boosted the Nigerian economy and high demand for cheap labour for reconstruction works after the civil war. Therefore, several West African citizens, particularly from Ghana, Benin, Mali, Niger and Togo taking advantage of the ECOWAS protocol on free movement and establishment,
moved to Nigeria to supply menial and skilled labour in the harbours, road construction sites and in the education sector. However, due to economic mismanagement and corruption, Nigeria's economy soon went into recession, starting in the early 1980s. This led to the expulsion of more than two million ECOWAS citizens from Nigeria in 1983 and 1985 (Brown, 1989; Afolayan, 1988; Gravil, 1983; Onwuka, 1982).

The adoption of harsh economic policies, such as the Structural Adjustment Programme, to salvage the ailing economy during the 1980s, and the seizure of political power by dangerous military dictators also caused a large scale emigration of Nigeria's highly trained professionals, including university professors, health professionals, technicians and engineers, to the USA and the UK, where many of them had previously obtained their formal education (Hagopian et al., 2005; Afolayan et al., 2008). The number of Nigerian youth travelling to seek higher education overseas, particularly in Europe, North America and Asia, also grew dramatically from the 1980s. In addition to the educated folk, many semi-educated or uneducated Nigerian youth started migrating to Europe, North America, Asia and the Arab states to seek greener pastures (Adepoju, 1998; De Haas, 2006; Agyeman, 2013). Young women from rural communities, sub-urban and urban centres in southern Nigeria, particularly from the Edo state, were smuggled into Italy, Spain, Holland, Germany, Norway and other European countries as well as the Middle East and neighbouring African states to engage in sex labour (Carling, 2006; De Haas, 2006; Campani, 2000).

Today, Nigerian migrants constitute the largest Sub-Saharan African community in the UK, the USA, Japan and several other OECD countries. Since the 2000s, the migration of Nigerian businessmen and students to other African countries, particularly Ghana and South Africa, has increased intensely. A lot of Nigerian migrants overseas have been successful and are well established in their host societies. These migrants also maintain several forms of transnational connections with their places of origin through return migration, family and social ties, financial remittances, home construction, voluntary works and through the activities of diaspora organisations (Osili, 2007, 2004). However, Nigerian migration is bedevilled by a serious humanitarian dilemma. It is highly criminalised and victimised due to frequent arrests of Nigerian nationals using fake documents to cross international borders, unauthorised settlement in host countries, and engagement in criminal activities such as internet fraud, money laundering, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, as well as drug related offences across international
borders (De Haas, 2006; Richard, 2009). The next section looks at the current trends and stock of Nigerian migrants in and out of the country.
Contemporary Trends in Human Mobility

Immigrants

Sources of Data
This section draws data from the immigration database of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), special migration surveys, and databases of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, International Organization for Migration (IOM), European Union (EU) and Trafficking In Person (TIP). The United Nations database provides information on international migrant stocks, giving details about their sex, destination and origin from 1990 to 2013. The United Nations defines an international migrant as a foreign citizen.

Total Number of Immigrants
According to UNDESA (2010) estimates, the total number of immigrants in Nigeria is 1,127,668. They constitute 0.7 percent of the country’s total population of about 173.6 million (IOM-Nigeria, 2014). The majority of these immigrants come from ECOWAS countries representing 0.52 percent of the total population of Nigeria while the rest originate from other African and non-African countries. Beninese, Ghanaians, Malians and Nigeriens represented the largest immigrant groups in the country in both 2010 and 2013. Table 1 presents the distribution of immigrants in Nigeria by country of origin and sex. Consecutively, the data shows a marginal increase in the immigrant population per country in both 2010 and 2013. Benin, Ghana, Mali and Niger, which have the largest immigrant populations, increased by 11% each from 2010 to 2013.
Table 1: Distribution of immigrants in Nigeria by country of origin and sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>2010 Male</th>
<th>2010 Female</th>
<th>2010 Total</th>
<th>2013 Male</th>
<th>2013 Female</th>
<th>2013 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>105,118</td>
<td>98,780</td>
<td>203,898</td>
<td>116,502</td>
<td>109,847</td>
<td>226,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>3,930</td>
<td>3,171</td>
<td>7,101</td>
<td>4,357</td>
<td>3,526</td>
<td>7,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>23,641</td>
<td>19,744</td>
<td>43,385</td>
<td>26,206</td>
<td>21,956</td>
<td>48,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>1,636</td>
<td>3,641</td>
<td>2,223</td>
<td>1,819</td>
<td>4,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>27,506</td>
<td>19,562</td>
<td>47,068</td>
<td>30,497</td>
<td>21,754</td>
<td>52,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>3,728</td>
<td>2,248</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>4,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>8,127</td>
<td>8,325</td>
<td>16,452</td>
<td>9,005</td>
<td>9,258</td>
<td>18,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>3,756</td>
<td>4,430</td>
<td>8,186</td>
<td>4,161</td>
<td>4,926</td>
<td>9,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>3,064</td>
<td>2,499</td>
<td>5,563</td>
<td>3,397</td>
<td>2,779</td>
<td>6,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>96,461</td>
<td>62,526</td>
<td>158,987</td>
<td>106,962</td>
<td>69,531</td>
<td>176,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>3,071</td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>5,295</td>
<td>3,405</td>
<td>2,473</td>
<td>5,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>1,984</td>
<td>4,144</td>
<td>2,394</td>
<td>2,206</td>
<td>4,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>8,351</td>
<td>8,161</td>
<td>16,512</td>
<td>61,183</td>
<td>9,075</td>
<td>18,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>55,217</td>
<td>58,854</td>
<td>114,071</td>
<td>50,640</td>
<td>65,448</td>
<td>126,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>14,226</td>
<td>16,578</td>
<td>30,804</td>
<td>15,761</td>
<td>18,435</td>
<td>34,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>45,668</td>
<td>29,142</td>
<td>74,810</td>
<td>50,640</td>
<td>32,407</td>
<td>83,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>2,396</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>4,058</td>
<td>2,657</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>4,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>3,279</td>
<td>1,842</td>
<td>1,798</td>
<td>3,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>47,632</td>
<td>51,333</td>
<td>98,965</td>
<td>52,778</td>
<td>57,084</td>
<td>109,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>903</td>
<td>1,862</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>2,067</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNDESA, 2014

Generally, the proportion of male immigrants in Nigeria is higher than females, except for Mali, Togo, Equatorial Guinea and Mauritania (see Table 1). In fact, more than half (53.7 percent) of the immigrant population are males (IOM-Nigeria, 2014). Nevertheless, females represent an increasing section of the immigrant population as indicated by a decreasing gender disparity over the years. Thus, the male-female ratio has dropped from 56.2/43.8 percent in 1990 to 54.4/45.6
percent in 2000 and further down to 53.5/46.5 percent in 2005 and 53.7/46.3 in 2013 (IOM, 2009, 2014).

Types of Immigrants

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

The UNHCR statistical data reveals a varying trend in the total number of refugees hosted by Nigeria over the years. Nigeria has been home to many migrants who were forced out of their country of origin due to conflict and environmental problems. In 2009, a total of 9,127 refugees were registered in Nigeria. This figure gradually decreased to 8,747 in 2010, and rose marginally to 8,806 in 2011. Yet, since 2012 there has been a sharp decrease in these volumes of inflows, i.e. from 3,154 in 2012 to 1,683 in 2,013 (UNHCR, 2014a) and 1,696 in 2014 (UNHCR-Nigeria, 2014b). Even Liberian refugees with previous high records of over five thousand per year, have since 2012 decreased drastically in their numbers. Now, their total numbers per year range between 564 and 123. Table 2 highlights the total number of refugees in Nigeria by country of origin.

Table 2: Distribution of refugees in Nigeria by country of origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d'Ivoire</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>5,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Nationals</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9,127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: UNHCR, 2014a*

After the restoration of democracy and peace in countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone, Nigeria repatriated a large number of refugees leading to a formal close down of the Oru Refugee Camp (IOM, 2009). As at mid-year 2014, UNHCR-Nigeria had recorded the return of 17 refugees from Nigeria to their countries of origin. On the other hand, Cote d’Ivoire has an extreme situation, shifting from a ‘home’ to a ‘supply’ of refugees. More particularly, the post-electoral conflict between 2010 and 2011 forced a number of Ivorian nationals to flee from their homes to seek protection in nearby countries, including Nigeria.

The UNHCR-Nigeria (2014) reports a total of 815 asylum seekers in Nigeria. The statistics demonstrate an increase from 797 which was registered in 2013 (see Table 3). In 2010 and 2011, the country received more asylum seekers, (that is, 1,815 and 1,529 respectively), than in the other years. The main countries of origin for these asylum seekers are Liberia, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan¹.

---

¹ Except otherwise indicated 'Sudan' refers to both south and north Sudan
Table 3: Distribution of asylum seekers in Nigeria by country of origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d'Ivoire</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. R. Congo</td>
<td></td>
<td>974</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Nationals</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1145</strong></td>
<td><strong>1815</strong></td>
<td><strong>1529</strong></td>
<td><strong>1042</strong></td>
<td><strong>797</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: UNHCR, 2014a*

**Irregular Immigration**

According to the Customs and Immigration Service Annual Report in 2011, 13 foreign nationals were deported from Nigeria to their various countries, mostly due to drug related offences. Eight (8 out of 13) of such foreign nationals were charged with drug offences. More than half (8 out of 13) of them were deported to Portugal, four to Poland and one to Romania.

In addition, there are some ECOWAS nationals who are living in Nigeria without the necessary residence permit. The current report indicates that Nigeria has deported 182 unauthorised immigrants from various African countries particularly the ECOWAS sub-region (Nigeria Social Com, 2014). Meanwhile, in 2012 the Nigerian Immigration Service repatriated even more
unauthorised immigrants, about 16,738 who were mainly from ECOWAS countries (Ghana Reporters, 2012).

Emigrants

Sources of Data

Internal sources of data on Nigerian emigrants are almost impossible to obtain. For this reason, the information in this section was mainly gathered using multi-topic surveys, and data sources of international organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Bank, International Organization for Migration, European Union, and Trafficking in Person, United States of America.

Total Number of Emigrants

The exact number of Nigerian emigrants cannot be accurately determined, therefore, estimates based on different data sources are usually referred to. According to the IOM’s Migration Profile (2009) and the World Bank remittances report on Nigeria (2010), the country’s emigrant population ranges between 836,832 and 1,041,284, constituting 0.6 percent of the total population of Nigeria. The major destination countries for these emigrants are the US (252,172), the UK and Northern Ireland (184,314), Cameroon (115,621), Italy (48,073), Spain (36,885), Germany (22,687), Cote d’Ivoire (43,761), Benin (42,575), Ghana (32,380), and Sudan (15,275) (see Table 4). Although North America and Europe remain the largest receiving continents, countries within the ECOWAS sub-region also host some major portions of Nigerian emigrants, about 267,948, constituting 0.17 percent of the total Nigerian population.

The volumes of migrants moving out of the country have been increasing over the years with males still dominating. Between 2010 and 2013, the estimated proportion of Nigerian emigrants in the US increased by 3.6 percent while that of Cameroon increased by 0.9 percent. Similarly, the male representation for the US in both 2010 and 2013 was higher with 57 and 56 percent, respectively. On the other hand, Italy, the UK, Ireland, Canada and Burkina Faso host more Nigerian female immigrants than males.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries of Destination</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>23,691</td>
<td>14,345</td>
<td>38,036</td>
<td>26,680</td>
<td>15,895</td>
<td>42,575</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>1,898</td>
<td>3,560</td>
<td>1,719</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>3,682</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>66,628</td>
<td>47,923</td>
<td>114,551</td>
<td>67,529</td>
<td>48,092</td>
<td>115,621</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>8,877</td>
<td>9,683</td>
<td>18,560</td>
<td>9,231</td>
<td>10,094</td>
<td>19,325</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>21,566</td>
<td>20,863</td>
<td>42,429</td>
<td>22,363</td>
<td>21,398</td>
<td>43,761</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1,192</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>1,509</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>14,866</td>
<td>5,368</td>
<td>20,234</td>
<td>16,798</td>
<td>5,981</td>
<td>22,779</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>17,190</td>
<td>13,222</td>
<td>30,412</td>
<td>18,385</td>
<td>13,995</td>
<td>32,380</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>16,146</td>
<td>6,285</td>
<td>22,431</td>
<td>16,297</td>
<td>6,390</td>
<td>22,687</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>2,719</td>
<td>1,083</td>
<td>3,802</td>
<td>2,798</td>
<td>1,137</td>
<td>3,935</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>5,959</td>
<td>7,595</td>
<td>13,554</td>
<td>7,951</td>
<td>10,589</td>
<td>18,540</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>13,611</td>
<td>21,486</td>
<td>35,097</td>
<td>21,154</td>
<td>26,919</td>
<td>48,073</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>3,607</td>
<td>2,745</td>
<td>6,352</td>
<td>3,898</td>
<td>3,104</td>
<td>7,002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>10,153</td>
<td>9,569</td>
<td>19,722</td>
<td>10,315</td>
<td>9,747</td>
<td>20,062</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>8,962</td>
<td>4,695</td>
<td>13,657</td>
<td>9,745</td>
<td>4,933</td>
<td>14,678</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>13,043</td>
<td>2,884</td>
<td>15,927</td>
<td>15,249</td>
<td>3,410</td>
<td>18,659</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>22,291</td>
<td>13,968</td>
<td>36,259</td>
<td>21,976</td>
<td>14,909</td>
<td>36,885</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>8,364</td>
<td>7,850</td>
<td>16,214</td>
<td>7,886</td>
<td>7,389</td>
<td>15,275</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2,106</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>2,461</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>3,637</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>2,138</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>3,073</td>
<td>2,367</td>
<td>1,084</td>
<td>3,451</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>8,958</td>
<td>7,082</td>
<td>16,040</td>
<td>9,046</td>
<td>7,137</td>
<td>16,183</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK &amp; N Ireland</td>
<td>72,498</td>
<td>75,961</td>
<td>148,459</td>
<td>89,193</td>
<td>95,121</td>
<td>184,314</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>136,420</td>
<td>106,932</td>
<td>243,352</td>
<td>141,364</td>
<td>110,808</td>
<td>252,172</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: UNDESA, 2014*
### Types of Emigrants

#### Nigerian Refugees/Asylum Seekers

Table 5 highlights a gradually increasing figure in the total number of Nigerian refugees from 2009 to 2013. The total number of refugees documented in 2009 is lower (about 15,609) compared to the 2013 record of 31,614. Between 2009 and 2013 the number of Nigerian refugees increased by 103 percent. In a similar vein, the UNHCR-Nigeria's (2014) current estimate of 31,664 also reflects a slight increase over the previous year’s total. The main countries of destination for these refugees are Canada, Germany, Italy, and the UK. Among the African countries, Cameroon is the leading destination of Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers. However, ECOWAS countries host less than 1.5 percent of the total Nigerian refugee population (IOM, 2009). Therefore, the fact that Nigerians seek refuge and asylum far away from neighbouring countries suggest that some of them are economic migrants who adopt the asylum seeking channel as a means of gaining legal entry and residence in host nations.

#### Table 4: Nigerian refugees and countries of residence between 2009 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination Countries</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>2,873</td>
<td>2,873</td>
<td>3,223</td>
<td>3,223</td>
<td>7,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2,962</td>
<td>3,171</td>
<td>3,608</td>
<td>3,990</td>
<td>4,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2,640</td>
<td>2,601</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>2,833</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2,154</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,369</td>
<td>2,964</td>
<td>4,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNHCR-Nigeria reports that there are 22,322 Nigerians who have sought asylum in other countries. Table 6 indicates the trends in asylum seeking and countries of residence between 2009 and 2013. The estimates over the years have been rising except for 2009 and 2011 when lower volumes of 9,754 and 9,782 respectively were documented. The major countries of destination for these asylum seekers are Germany, Canada and Austria. Germany has consistently had increasing numbers of asylum seekers from Nigeria ranging from 1,119 in 2009 to 2,893 in 2013.

Table 5: Nigerian asylum seekers and countries of residence between 2009 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination Countries</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>1,804</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,633</td>
<td>1,552</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>1,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>1,243</td>
<td>1,542</td>
<td>2,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,768</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,682</td>
<td>1,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,199</td>
<td>3,456</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students

Increasing numbers of young Nigerians are travelling overseas to seek higher education. The total number of Nigerian tertiary-level students increased from 21,730 in 2009 (World Bank, 2011) to 49,531 in 2014 (UNESCO, 2014). The World Bank report on Migration and Remittances (2011) estimated 10.7% as the emigration rate of the tertiary educated population. Most of these students migrate to the UK (17,542), followed by the US (6,807). As far as African countries are concerned, Ghana (6,113) is one of the preferred destinations of Nigeria tertiary students. Other countries include Malaysia, South Africa, Canada, Finland, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Russia and the Hungary (see Table 7).

Table 6: Major destination countries for Nigerian students (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Destination</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>17,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>6,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>6,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>4,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>2,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNESCO, 2014
Internally Displaced Persons

Nigeria records the highest IDPs in the Sub-Saharan region with an official figure of 3,300,000, constituting 2% of the total population of Nigeria (UNHCR, 2014 cited in IDMC, 2014). The country is ranked among the top five countries with more IDPs globally (IDMC, 2014). The largest mass displacement events in the country are flood-induced disasters and conflicts. In 2012 6.1 million Nigerians were displaced due to floods, ranking it the second largest disaster-induced displacement event worldwide (IDMC, 2012). Nigeria’s rainy season occurs between July, September and October and during these periods, many bridges, houses and infrastructure are destroyed due to the heavy rainfall and the release of water from dams. Consequently, many people, especially women and children, are evacuated from their homes in search of shelter elsewhere. Table 8 outlines the yearly trend of displacement due to flood disasters in Nigeria between 2009 and 2012.

Table 7: Flood-induced displacement in Nigeria (2009-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6,112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,818,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: IDMC, 2012*

In addition, Nigeria since 2013 has witnessed increasing attacks by the radical Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, leading to the displacement of 470,500 people (IDMC, 2014). This group has for some time now doubled up their crusade for an independent state in the north of the country. Their ruthless attacks have prompted the displacement of people in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (IDMC, 2014). Many of these displaced persons have been compelled to move to other parts of the country or to other countries.

**Trafficking and Smuggling**

The TIP Report (2014) describes Nigeria as a country of origin, transit and destination for young boys, women and children exposed forcefully to labour and sex trafficking. These vulnerable
persons are employed and transported to different parts of Africa including West and Central African countries and South Africa. Other destinations outside the African continent include Italy, Spain, Norway, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Russia, Malaysia and other parts of the Middle East and Central Asia (TIP Report, 2014; Carling, 2006).

Nigerian trafficking victims come from both rural and urban areas within the country. The women and girls are recruited for domestic servitude, sex trafficking, and prostitution, while the boys are mainly forced into begging, drug mulling or recruited as child soldiers.

The government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, therefore, ranking the country in Tier 2 (TIP Report, 2014). In the meantime, the government has devised strategies to improve the existing situation. The Nigerian government, among other things, has provided officials with better training to recognise trafficking cases. This will help to avoid situations in which numerous cases are mistakenly captured as trafficking crimes and referred to the NAPTIP for investigation (TIP Report, 2014). The government has also collaborated with law enforcement agencies from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Austria, and Taiwan to investigate trafficking cases involving Nigerian nationals. So far, the 2014 TIP report shows that these adopted strategies have yielded positive results. In 2013 Nigerian officials and some NGOs identified 777 trafficking victims within the country, which is an increase over the 480 victims who were identified over the previous year. These victims included 187 victims of sex trafficking, 539 victims of labour trafficking and 51 individuals who were identified as victims of trafficking related crimes. It must be acknowledged that Nigeria has the potential of achieving a first tier ranking as it did from 2009 to 2011, provided the government continues to implement strategies that can curb trafficking of persons in the country.

Remittances

Remittances make a major contribution to Nigeria’s development, accounting for 4.5 percent of the country’s GDP (World Bank, 2011). Between 2009 and 2010, the growth rate of remittance inflows was 4.1 percent as illustrated in the figures in Table 9. The amount of remittance flows into the country increased from US$9,585 million in 2010 to US$10,681 million in 2011 and further increased to US$21 billion in 2013. The improved inflows of remittances are as a result of
the increasing engagement of the diaspora by the Federal government through NIDO (IOM, 2009). The involvement of the diaspora has enhanced their trust in the government and has thus encouraged more diaspora investments in stocks, businesses, and mortgages, and other areas. Other uses of migrant remittances include paying of medical bills, school fees and consumption (World Bank, 2011).

Table 8: Outflows and inflows of remittances (in US $ million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Outflows (in US$ million)</th>
<th>Inflows (in US$ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>10,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>30,311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank, 2014

On average the amount of remittances flowing out of Nigeria is high, ranging between US$47 and US$48 million.
Overview of Nigeria's Migration Policies and Legislations

Recent Migration Policy Development

Since returning to democracy in 1999, Nigerian authorities have been greatly concerned about reversing the country's previous laissez-faire attitude and a tradition of ad hoc solutions to migration related matters and creating a new policy direction to address the numerous concerns posed by migration to and from the country. In line with this new policy direction, several steps have been taken by the Nigerian government in recent years to formulate new migration policies and establish new institutions or restructure existing ones, taking cognisance of the fact that Nigeria is today a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants, in addition to generating and hosting large volumes of internally displaced persons and significant numbers of refugees.

The principal challenge of the Nigerian government, therefore, has been to fill the policy gap and to put in place the appropriate institutions and personnel to ensure the adequate enforcement of new and existing migration-related laws and policies. To achieve this goal, the government has in recent years embarked upon institutional reinforcement, capacity building and training efforts for immigration officials. Other steps include increased cooperation with partner countries and regional bodies affected by Nigerian migration, seeking technical and financial support from international organisations and facilitating research to fill the information gap on Nigerian migration (Global Forum on Migration and Development, 2011; Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, 2010; Onyini, 2010; IOM, 2009; Afolayan et al., 2008; Adepoju and Minnegheer, 2008).

In light of the above, the main areas of concern for the government of Nigeria in the new migration policy direction are: (1) to factor migration into national development by enacting the right policies that will help to attract the Nigerian diaspora to contribute towards the development of Nigeria; (2) to address the security concerns posed by migration to and from Nigeria; (3) to address human rights challenges posed by Nigerian migration, such as trafficking in persons (particularly women and children) across international borders, and the right of migrants and their families; (4) enhancing cooperation with international organisations, partner countries, and regional bodies, such as the ECOWAS and the EU, to facilitate the adequate enforcement of international laws and
conventions that address migration related matters; and (5) encouraging research to adequately inform policy makers about relevant matters posing a challenge to Nigerian migration.

Consequently, the government of Nigeria, through the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Migration and Humanitarian Affairs and with technical and funding support from the IOM, embarked on a project in 2005 to write a new labour migration policy for the country (IOM, 2009). The final draft was completed in 2010, but has yet to be passed into law by the Federal Government (Global Forum on Migration and Development, 2011; Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, 2010). The issues addressed in the draft policy include: "migration and development; migration and cross-cutting social issues; national security and irregular movement; forced displacement; the human rights of migrants; organised labour migration; internal migration; national population; migration data and statistics; and funding for migration management" (IOM, 2009: 69). The draft policy has also recommended the establishment of a national agency or commission to coordinate all issues related to migration in Nigeria.

Additionally, since the turn of the millennium, the government of Nigeria has signed bilateral agreements with the governments of Italy, Spain, Ireland and South Africa, to facilitate labour migration between Nigeria and the listed countries. In 2006, the Ministry of Labour and Productivity created a Labour Migration Desk (LMD), which, among other things, is to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements with foreign governments in labour migration and employment matters. The LMD is also tasked with facilitating the legitimate travelling of Nigerian emigrants who are contracted to work overseas. The Nigerian-in-Diaspora Organization (NIDO) was also established in 2000 with backing from the Federal government to engage the diaspora in development issues and political affairs of the country. The Nigerian diaspora, through UNDP’s TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Networks), has also supported development projects in Nigeria either through temporary or permanent visits (Van Hear et al., 2004).

In 2002 the National Commission for Refugees was mandated to manage the resettlement of internally displaced persons in the country. Since 2009, the Commission has become the federal agency for migration and resettlement of internally displaced persons through a government directive (IOM, 2009). The Act incorporates the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the

Several policy steps have also been taken to address the security and human rights concerns raised by Nigerian migration. In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other ECOWAS member states, the Nigerian Government has implemented projects to counter human trafficking, smuggling and trans-border crime (IOM, 2009). In line with this agenda, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has received a lot of Federal Government support in terms of capacity building, law enforcement, awareness campaigns, and the provision of expert support (IOM, 2009). These efforts have gone side-by-side with the reinforcement (through amendments) of existing legislations, the enactment of new legislations and the ratification and transposition of regional and international conventions, are examined below.

National Legislative Instruments on Migration
Since independence, Nigeria has enacted several legislative instruments to regulate migration to and from the country. Some of these legal provisions are found in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while others are found in a number of national legislative instruments. Among them are the Immigration Act of 1963; the NAPTIP Act of 2003 and 2005; the National Directorate of Employment Act; the Factories Act; the Workmen’s Compensation Act; the Child’s Right’s Act, 2003; the NDLEA Act (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency); and the Labour Act of 1974 (Atsenuwa and Adepoju, 2010; Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, 2010).

Article 28 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria grants dual citizenship right to any Nigerian by birth bearing the nationality of another country. This is to reinforce the ius sanguinis principle enshrined in the Nigerian constitution and to also ensure that Nigerian nationals in the diaspora do not lose citizenship rights by virtue of acquiring a citizenship status in their host countries.

The Immigration Act of 1963 is the principal legal instrument for all forms of migration to and from Nigeria. It defines the conditions of entry, residence and departure of both Nigerian citizens and foreign nationals to and from the country. It also gives a statutory mandate to the Nigerian
Immigration Service as the principal institution in charge of managing the flow of people along Nigerian borders.

Due to Nigeria's position as one of the main sources of human trafficking victims and perpetrators, trans-border crime and drug related offenses, the Nigerian government in 2003 incorporated the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons into its national legislations by enacting the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement Administrative Act. This law was amended in 2005 to extend the "the powers of the NAPTIP to cover internal trafficking, exploitative child domestic labour and the forfeiture of assets and proceeds of convicted traffickers" (IOM, 2009:72). In 2003, the Child's Right Act was also passed to prohibit trafficking in children, child labour and to protect the rights of children. The 1974 Labour Act also protects the rights of Nigerian labour migrants as well as foreigners working in Nigeria. Several of these laws, including the Immigration Act of 1963 and the Labour Act of 1974 are, however, under consideration for amendment, a process which is long overdue.

**Regional Legislative Instruments**

There is a wealth of regional legal instruments regulating migration, asylum and trafficking issues that Nigeria, like other ECOWAS member states operate with. It is worthy to note, however, that as the principal initiator and founding member of ECOWAS, Nigeria is not simply a signatory to the regional body's regulations on migration and other related matters, but also the brain-child behind several of them. These include: ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment and the related supplementary protocols for its full implementation; the Convention Regulating Inter-State Road Transportation within the ECOWAS sub-region of 1982; and the ECOWAS Political Declaration and Regional Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons of December 2001. In addition, Nigeria is also a member of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA), an initiative, backed by the IOM to manage migration within ECOWAS countries.

**International Legal Instruments**

In addition to national and regional legislative instruments, Nigeria is also a signatory, through ratifications and adherence, to several international legal provisions that are geared towards protecting the right of migrants. Among them are:


The 1984 Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified in 2001 and its 2002 Optional Protocol, acceded to in 2009.


The 1927 Slavery Convention and the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, ratified in 1961.
• The 1930 ILO Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, and the 1957 Abolition of Forced Convention, ratified in 1960.
• The 1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention, ratified in 1960.
• The 1958 ILO Convention on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), ratified in 2002.

Stakeholders in Migration Governance in Nigeria

There are various institutions that deal with migration management in Nigeria. These are discussed below.

Governmental Institutions, Agencies and Departments

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was formerly an external division of the office of the Prime Minister from 1957 until 1991 when it gained its current name (IOM, 2009; Fadayomi, 2013). Among other things, the Ministry is responsible for negotiating bilateral agreements and joint commissions with host countries, issuing passports, travel certificates and seafarers’ identity cards in missions abroad, making pilgrimage arrangements, deportation of needy Nigerians and consular matters including the interest of the Nigerian diaspora.

Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity
In 2006 the Ministry of Labour and Productivity created a Labour Migration Desk (LMD) at the Department of Employment and Wages, Migration and National Electronic Labour Exchange Division (IOM, 2009). The aim or setting up this desk was, among other things, to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements on employment with foreign governments. It is the mandate of the LMD to assist legitimate travelling of Nigerian emigrants who are recruited to work abroad.

Nigeria Immigration Service
The NIS was formally given the mandate to operate in 1963 with the mission of: i) having an information technology driven security body that can address the operational challenges of modern migration and, ii) giving the immigration service a new sense of direction that can make it relevant at all times to international security and global trends (NIS, 2014; IOM, 2009). As part of its broader duties, it registers expatriates for naturalisation, manages borders and controls travel documents. The department works under the control and supervision of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (FMIA) as a civil service outfit.
National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
The NCFRMI was set up in 1989 with the main responsibility of providing an overall framework
and policy for protecting and managing refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons
(NCFR Act, 1989, Section 4(1)). It was also given the mandate to counsel the government on
policy issues regarding refugees in Nigeria. The establishment of the Commission was backed by
Decree Number 52, currently known as the chapter N21 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004
(IOM, 2009). The enactment of the NCFR Act was informed by international and regional
conventions on refugees and asylum seekers, namely, the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its
1967 protocol as well as the Organization of African Unity Convention. Since 2002 the
Commission has been called upon by the government to assist in resettling persons who are
internally displaced due to environmental disasters and conflicts. In future the Commission is
expected to collaborate with other stakeholders to revise and implement the National Migration
Policy when it is passed into law.

Nigerians in Diaspora Organization
In 2000, the Nigerian-in-Diaspora Organization (NIDO) was established by former President
Obasanjo as a non-profit organisation to facilitate the engagement of the Nigerian diaspora in the
political affairs of the home country. NIDO provides a stand for the organisation of Nigerian
emigrants and, especially, professionals. The platform also feeds the Nigerian diaspora with
relevant information on matters arising back home.

Central Bank of Nigeria
The Central Bank of Nigeria supervises the formulation and application of policies relating to
financial sectors of the country (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2014; Fadayomi, 2013). However, the
research department of the Central Bank of Nigeria undertakes nationwide survey on remittances.
They collect information from commercial banks, money transfer agencies and travellers at the
airports.

National Population Commission
The Commission was set up in 1988 by the National Population Commission Act No. 23
(Fadayomi, 2013; IOM, 2009). The Commission collects information on migration statistics
through national population census and sample surveys. The National Population Commission was
responsible for analysing the migration component of the 2006 Census. It has also carried out a survey on internal migration.

**Nigerian National Volunteer Service**

The Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS) is a volunteer management institution established by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The department is situated in the Political Affairs Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of Federation. The aim of the department has been to lobby, manage and successfully organise volunteer services and activities of Nigerians including the diaspora.

**National Bureau of Statistics**

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is responsible for producing informative and adequate continuous data on all aspects of development including migration in the country. NBS manages Statistical Operations of the National Statistical System in the generation of official statistics in all the Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, State Statistical Agencies and Local Government Councils (Fadayomi, 2013; IOM, 2009). The data collected include socio-economic activities of the general population, international trade and balance of payments. The NBS makes its data available to data users such as the universities, private sectors, and research institutes.

**Other Government Institutions**

There are a number of government institutions that provide services on migration related issues in the country. Among them are the Ministries of Health; Finance; Women Affairs and Social Development; Youth Development; Internal Affairs and Justice. The Ministry of Justice deals with all legal issues concerning migration, namely, citizenship rights and legalising the draft national migration policy. In addition, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons was set up as a fulfilment of Nigeria's international obligation under the trafficking in person protocol. The Agency has been given the mandate to address the rising trafficking in persons challenges the country is facing (see Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003) (NAPTIP, 2014). Other active institutions include the National Emergency Management Agency and the National Planning Commission.
International Organisations and Agencies

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
The IOM provides technical, logistic and financial support to the Nigerian government for promoting better migration management. The IOM in collaboration with the government of Nigeria and other stakeholders has developed strategies to engage the diaspora in the national development agenda of Nigeria. It has also provided technical support to the government for the drafting of the national migration policy to guide the operation of migration stakeholders in the country. They also assist in the reintegration of voluntary returnees, asylum seekers, labour migrants, among others (IOM-Nigeria, 2014).

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
The UNHCR collaborates with the government and other stakeholders such as the NRC and the NAPTIP to provide logistic support to refugees, asylum seekers and internally displace persons (UNHCR-Nigeria, 2014). They also provide technical advice to the government when determining refugee statuses in the country. The UNHCR in Nigeria is also engaging the government to develop a national legal framework in light of the Kampala Convention.

Other Organisations, Academic Institutions and NGOs
There are several other domestic and international organisations involved in migration management in the country. Among them are the World Bank, UNDESA, AfDB, ECOWAS, EC, UNDP, Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation and the AU. These institutions provide support to Nigeria in areas such as information sharing, provision of equipment, training and funding for issues related to migration, asylum and refugees. In addition, the IOM in collaboration with the universities of Lagos, Ibadan, Benin and the Edo State, provides expert knowledge and advice on some aspects of Nigerian migration. Below is a further list of organisations that are also involved in migration management in Nigeria.
List of NGOs Supporting NAPTIP in Human Trafficking Eradication Efforts in Nigeria

- Committee for the Support Of The Dignity Of Women
- Girls Power Initiative (GPI)
- Great Women Multipurpose Co-Operative Society
- Lift Above Poverty Organization
- Young Girls Foundation
- Committee For The Support Of The Dignity Of Women (COSUDOW)
- Gender Care Initiative (GCI)
- KAF Care Foundation
- The Holy Family Sisters of the Needy
- Emmanuel Children Foundation
- Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON)
- The Real Woman Foundation (Peace Villa)
- Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF)
- Save the Child Initiative
- Society for Enlightenment of Youth on Dangers Abroad (SEYONDA)
- Women’s Consortium of Nigeria
- Ebunoluwa Foundation
- Project Alert
- International Reproduction Rights Research Action Group
- Women of Light Foundation (WOLF)
- Child Rights Brigade International
- Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons
- Life Helpers Initiative
- Network for Justice and Democracy (NGO)
- Rehoboth Homes and Skills Acquisition Centre.

Source: NAPTIP, 2014
List of Civil Society Organisations Engaged in the Defence of Migrants’ Rights in Nigeria

- Amnesty International-Nigeria (AI)
- BAOBAB – For Women’s Human Rights
- Centre for Law Enforcement Education (CLEEN)
- Centre for Workers’ Rights (CWR)
- Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO)
- Civil Rights Concerns (CRC)
- Constitutional Rights Project (CRP)
- Health Rights Initiative (HRI)
- Human Rights Legal Services (HURILAWS)
- Human Rights Monitor (HRM)
- Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (IHRHL)
- International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
- Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)
- Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP)
- Legal Defence Centre (LDC)
- Legal Research and Resource Development Centre (LRRDC)
- Legal Watch (LW)
- Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (MRCTV)
- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
- Rights of African Migrants and Deportees: A Nigerian Case Study
- Nigerian Labour Congress
- Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Aid (PRAWA)
- Project Alert on Violence Against Women (PA)
- Society for the Welfare of Women Prisoners (SWEWP)
- Socio-Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC)
- Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP)
- West African Public Interest Litigation Centre (WAPILC)
- Women’s Aid Collective
- Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON)
- Women’s Rights Alternative Programme (WRAPA)
- Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLE)

*Source: Atsenuwa and Adepoju, 2010.*
Assessment of Migration Governance in Nigeria

Introduction

Being a country of emigration, Nigeria's stance on international migration is against building a 'thick wall of exclusion' and barriers at the borders. In the past, it has pursued some degree of *laissez-faire* attitude towards the emigration of its nationals and has been lax in the defence of the rights of its citizens abroad (Adepoju and van der Wiel, 2010). Yet events in recent years have compelled Nigerian authorities to step up efforts to facilitate regular labour migration, control irregular migration, and curb increasing cases involving Nigerian nationals of illegal activities such as human and drug trafficking, internet fraud and money laundering across international borders. Therefore, to restore legality, ensure orderly migration and settle the security challenges that unauthorised migration poses, the Nigerian government has pursued international support by ratifying the needed international protocols, while seeking the collaboration of concerned states, regional bodies and international organisations. In addition, the Nigerian authorities have undertaken institutional restructuring and reviewed or is in the process of reviewing some of its legislations on migration, forced displacement, asylum, and related matters.

In spite of these efforts, it is still argued that the steps that the Nigerian authorities have taken so far are not far reaching enough, and as a result, are not effective in managing migration. Critics argue that Nigeria still lacks a coherent and coordinated institutional, policy and legal framework to manage migration. Some of the policies are contradictory and replete with double standards, while there is a gap between policy, legislation and praxis.

Coherence and Coordination

According to the IOM (2009), for Nigerian migration policy to be coherent and coordinated, it requires a mechanism whereby there is allocation of role and responsibility to all key institutional actors, such as government ministries, embassies and agencies, international organisations, diaspora and other civil society groups involved in migration management in the country. Adequate funding and sufficient awareness of the interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial/agency nature of migration management is also required to ensure efficiency. This will help to avoid duplication of roles, redundancy and policy failure. At the moment, there are several agencies and groups involved in managing migration in Nigeria, some of whom are not within the domain of
government control, or do not receive the needed support from state institutions. Because Nigeria is a federal state, there is also the need for a mechanism that will coordinate all activities from local, regional, state and federal levels to ensure efficiency. Since 2009 the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internationally Displaced Persons is the principal body charged to report to the president on migration-related matters and to oversee the inter-ministerial committee in charge of drafting a new migration policy for Nigeria, and all related matters on migration, asylum and internal displacement. Yet the extent to which the activity the Commission is coordinated with that of key government institutions, such as the NIS, NAPTRIP, Interior and Foreign ministries, as well as civil society groups dealing with migration is not clearly defined. For example, some authors have observed that civil society groups have not been involved in the technical committee meetings, debates and brainstorming sessions leading to the drafting of the new migration policy (IOM, 2009; de Haas, 2009).

**Policy Implementation**

Nigeria is slow in enacting and implementing policies for effective management of migration in the country. The new national migration policy and the labour migration policy, both of which started around 2005, have still not reached the stage where they are passed into law. At the moment, both are still awaiting approval at the Federal Executive Council in Abuja, which is the first step before they are finally passed into law. In October, 2013 the minister of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs, pledged to lobby the Council to facilitate the passage into law of the national migration policy. Yet, halfway into 2014, nothing has been achieved in that regard. Additionally, Nigeria has yet to ratify the 1990 UN International Convention on the Rights of Migrants Workers and Members of their Families. It only acceded to it in 2009. Besides, most of the international conventions Nigeria has ratified have not been customised or transposed into national law to ensure their enforceability (Atsenuwa and Adepoju, 2010). Additionally, lack of education, sufficient awareness campaigns, legal support, as well as complex procedural matters, prevent Nigerian migrants from seeking redress when their rights are violated. Furthermore, lack of professionalism, corruption, and unsympathetic and lackadaisical attitudes towards migrants by public officials and agencies are all contributory factors accounting for the numerous deficiencies in managing migration in Nigeria.
Criminalisation of Nigerian Migration

The management of migration in Nigeria today is faced with severe challenges posed by acts of terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, the possibility of such groups taking advantage of Nigeria’s extensive and porous borders, as well as the rampant involvement of Nigerian nationals in irregular migration, human trafficking, drug trafficking, forced labour, and other forms of transnational crimes. This has resulted in a situation where migration management in Nigeria is closely associated with national, regional and international security concerns, which unfortunately have spillover repercussions on genuine migration. Linked to this is pressure from destination countries, particularly member states of the European Union, to track and clamp down on irregular migration, all forms of criminal activities, including human and drug trafficking, and accept back home unwanted Nigerian nationals, particularly those facing various forms of deportation from host countries, as well as the unsuccessful asylum seekers. In these matters, Nigeria has been one of the most cooperatives countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Adpoju and van der Wiel, 2010).

However, the approach often adopted by state officials to pursue this agenda has tended to criminalise Nigerian migration in general. As a result, some have argued that the migration control measures that Nigerian authorities have adopted in recent years are directed towards satisfying the demands of the ‘stronger’ destination countries, i.e. blocking the emigration of Nigerian nationals through stiffer control measures. According to the critics, this agenda has been pursued by the Nigerian government without bothering about the plight of its citizens and the human rights dimensions of modern day immigration control regimes, or tackling the root causes of migration, which include extreme poverty, insecurity, violence, and high unemployment rates among the youth (de Haas, 2006).

Diaspora Engagement and Political Exclusion

Nigeria's effort to include the diaspora in development is equally contradicted by contravening efforts to resist diaspora involvement in national politics. While the Nigerian constitution recognises the right of its citizens to possess dual citizenship, some Nigerian governments have attempted to abolish this provision (Adpoju and van der Wiel, 2010). In addition, Nigeria is singular among the world's major migrant sending countries in not having any form of representation, such as voting rights, parliamentary seats, etc., for its nationals living in the diaspora (Adpoju and van der Wiel, 2010). Therefore, efforts to engage the Nigerian diaspora in
national developmental issues needs to open the door to actively engage them in the decision-making bodies and political governance of the country.

**Lack of Leadership at the Regional Level**

As mentioned in previous sections, Nigeria wields an overwhelming influence in West Africa due to its population size and GDP. Nigeria is not just a member state of ECOWAS, but is a founding member and the brainchild behind the entire integration process. At the moment, not only does Nigeria host the seat of ECOWAS and most of its institutions, but it also has a lot of power in the decision-making processes of the regional bloc. For example, Nigeria alone has about 40 of the 120 members in the ECOWAS Community Parliament. The country that come closest is Ghana, which has only eight.

Furthermore, Nigeria is a leading migrant sending country within the sub-region, while at the same time playing host to significant number of ECOWAS nationals. As a result, the misfortunes and weaknesses of Nigeria have a major effect on the entire region. Therefore, in order to facilitate regular human mobility within the sub-region, it is time that Nigeria took the leadership role and sought support from the rest of the countries to address all concerns associated with regional migration. Yet, as Qobo (2007: 3) has observed:

> African leaders have had little success in their integration and development efforts. They hoped to achieve at the continental level what they had failed to do on the domestic level, namely economic development through a combination of sound policies.

Therefore, Nigeria has to lead by example through the development of sound policies, stronger institutions, and demonstrate legality and professionalism in managing Nigerian migration. In doing so, it needs to seek the support of neighbouring countries, so that once order is achieved in Nigeria, it can reflect throughout the sub-region.
Conclusion

Main Findings

The extent of internal migration in Nigeria is enormous and a lot of it goes unnoticed due to the lack of reliable data. In recent years, there is an increasing drift of the rural poor to urban centres where there are still scant economic opportunities to improve their living conditions. In addition, much of the internal migration in Nigeria, just like emigration, is produced within a context of forced mobility caused by high degrees of socio-economic and political insecurity resulting from political mismanagement, corruption, inter-ethnic violence, acts of terror by groups such as Boko Haram, environmental disasters, high population pressures and extreme poverty. As a result, there continues to be growing pressure to leave Nigeria to seek greener pastures in other countries, and this trend is likely to continue for some time.

Over the decades, therefore, Nigeria has remained a major source of international migrants, refugees and asylum seekers looking for life saving and better economic fortunes elsewhere. Neighbouring African countries including Cameroun, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana and Benin, and further afield South Africa and Sudan, are among the important international destinations for Nigerian migrants. However, the OECD countries appear to be their principal destination of preference, with the UK and the USA dominating. Moreover, increasing pressure to leave Nigeria surpasses rational calculations to choose destinations that promise optimum benefits. As a result, Nigerian migrants no longer focus on traditional destination countries such as the UK and the USA, that have introduced stricter border controls, but rather head to any country where there is the slightest opportunity of gaining admission, even though there may be little chance of improving upon their livelihoods. The destinations of Nigerian emigrants have increasingly expanded over the years to include southern and eastern European countries, Asia and the Middle East that hitherto were less attractive to Nigerian migrants. In addition, the pressure to migrate, faced with stricter migration policies of receiving countries, is compelling Nigerian migrants to adopt more dangerous routes and means of travelling, including trafficking, smuggling and forged travelling documents, to reach destination countries.

Furthermore, due to the growing participation of the rural folk who are generally low skilled and in lower demand by host nations, Nigerian migrants struggle to gain acceptance and integration
pathways in the societies and economies of host nations. In view of that, increasing numbers of Nigerian economic migrants tend to seek humanitarian protection in host societies where they also engage in precarious and nefarious economic activities as a survival strategy.

While government policy is largely dictated by pressure from host nations to control and clamp down on unauthorised or unwanted migration from Nigeria, it does not go beyond that to tackle the root causes of migration in and out of Nigeria. Moreover, there is little collaboration between government institutions and civil society groups involved in managing migration in Nigeria.

**Key Research Issues and Gaps**

*Ethical and Humanitarian Issues*

Nigerian migration and policy strategies adopted to manage it pose serious ethical and humanitarian challenges. For instance, how can the Nigerian authorities pursue migrants' rights in the face of high security concerns, increasing rates of irregular migration, and participation of Nigerian nationals in unauthorised cross-border activities? Further research is needed to provide useful suggestions that will help to draw a right balance between human rights, ethics and security concerns in the management of Nigerian migration.

*The Extent of Forced Displacement and International Mobility*

Much of Nigerian migration is developing within a context of forced mobility. Yet, the extent to which government action and inaction, as well as activities of terrorist groups and multinational companies, particularly those in the oil fields, have contributed to forced migration in and out of Nigeria is yet to be qualitatively and quantitatively determined. Furthermore, there appears to be a linkage between internal displacement and international migration out of Nigeria.

*The Embedded Religio-cultural Elements in Nigerian Migration*

Some of the current migration practices in Nigeria, such as human trafficking and prostitution, are embedded in some religious and cultural practices that characterised Nigerian migration in the past. Therefore, to find an antidote to some of the modern day ill practices associated with Nigerian migration, it would be worthwhile to gain greater insight into how these practices developed, and the extent to which they are still relevant in, and sustained by Nigerian culture, religion and society.
References


