

Country Brief

# NIGERIA

2023

Achieving sustainable  
urbanization



# A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



**UN-HABITAT**

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## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Nigeria, situated in West Africa, has land borders with the Republic of Benin on its west, Chad and Cameroon on its east, and Niger to the north. Additionally, it is located on the Gulf of Guinea coastline in the south and shares a border with Lake Chad to the northeast. Nigeria, with a total population estimated at 206 million by the end of 2020, is ranked the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, both in terms of size of the economy and population. Nigeria's current population growth rate of 2.59 percent a year ranks Nigeria as "the fastest growing population of any country with at least 100 million people." This population comprises a large proportion of young people aged 0 – 14 years who make up 43.2% of the population, with 63% of the population aged 24 years old or younger and females making up an estimated 49.3% of the population. Based on current trends, it is estimated that Nigeria could attain a population of up to 401 million by 2050, making it the third most populous country in the world.

# NATIONAL URBAN CONTEXT

In addition to its rapid population growth, Nigeria's urban population growth rate (4.1% per year), has seen its urban populations growing almost twice as fast as the national growth. Rising from 9.4% in 1950 to 52% in 2020, the share of the population living in cities is expected to rise to 70% by 2050 when it is predicted that the country will be the third most populous country in the world with a total population of over 400 million. This large urban population is distributed among several fast growing cities in the country's six geo-political regions with the number of cities with populations of 20,000 and above rising from 56 in 1953 to 183 in 1963 and 359 in 1991. Currently, eight cities are estimated to have populations of more than a million people, 81 cities with between 100,000 and 1 million people, and 248 cities with between 10,000 and 100,000 people.



Several critical challenges have characterized Nigeria's high urbanization rate, notably: Rapid growth of informal settlements and slums; high rural-urban migration exacerbated by climate and conflict-induced displacements, insecure land tenure, poor infrastructure, lack of basic urban services, substandard building materials, and increasing air pollution arising from the use of fossil fuels for cooking, lighting and vehicular locomotion, flash floods, mudslides and other climate induced hazards.

# UN HABITAT IN NIGERIA

Since 2003, UN-Habitat has provided technical, managerial and logistics support to Federal and state governments of Nigeria towards socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all by supporting the development of policies, programmes and operations to contribute to the improving the living environment.

**“Cities account for 75 per cent of the world’s energy consumption and are responsible for over 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, with transport, buildings, energy, while waste management accounts for the bulk of urban carbon emissions. The future of our planet depends on national, regional and local governments and organisations, communities, academic institutions and the private sector working together to create sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.”**

Minister of Works and Housing Babatunde Raji Fashola, during the World Habitat Day 2022 commemoration in Abuja



## **Overarching pillar:** Achieving Sustainable Urbanization through urban policy, rural urban linkages and spatial planning strategies.



The country programme aim to promote the **development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities as transformative forces for achieving economic growth, peace and improved living conditions for all in Nigeria**. The country programme aim to facilitate sustainable urban development in Nigeria through implementation of identified strategic interventions within the context of national and global development priorities, notably Nigeria’s National development Plan, the Africa Union’s Agenda 2063, the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular Goal 11, of “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” as well as the New Urban Agenda, implemented within the context of the UNSDCF 2023 - 2027.

# THEMATIC PILLARS

1

## Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion

### FOCUS AREAS:

- Transformative actions for local economic development
- Participatory Urban Renewal/Slum Upgrading
- Improved access to land, secure tenure, and affordable housing
- Improved livelihoods and skills
- Empowerment of youth, women and vulnerable groups

2

## Implementation of Resilient and Durable solutions in Human Settlements.

### FOCUS AREAS:

- Response mechanisms aligned with extant policy documents
- Response to adverse impacts of climate change
- Durable solutions to crises arising from environmental degradation, conflicts, forced migration and internal displacements
- Early warning and early response mechanisms
- Conflict resolution and mediation systems.

3

## Smart Cities and Innovation for Enhanced Local Governance

### FOCUS AREAS:

- Data systems for planning and development including national and local observatories.
- Smart cities technologies to improve governance and service delivery
- Planning and resource mobilization supported by Geographic Information Systems
- Data systems for planning and development, including national and local observatories

4

## Cross Cutting Priorities

### FOCUS AREAS:

- Human and Institutional Capacity Building
- Improved institutional capacity for planning, programming and management
- Enhance the capacity of human resources for operational efficiency
- Advocacy, Partnership and Resource Mobilisation
- Enhanced information and knowledge management
- Partnerships for sustainable urban development



# About Our Projects

Ongoing Projects



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIOECONOMIC RECOVERY AND EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF IDPS/HOST COMMUNITIES

**Donor:** BHA/ USAID

**Project Duration:** 2018- 2023

**Project Value:** 170,000 USD

**Location:** Gombi, Adamawa state

**Partners:** IOM

This project is a component of the IOM initiative named “Improving Protection and Living Conditions and Reducing Vulnerabilities of Crisis-Affected Populations in North-East Nigeria.” The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs), minimize the vulnerabilities of communities impacted by the crisis, and facilitate an emergency response based on principles and data-driven insights in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria.

## PREPARATION OF STRUCTURE PLAN FOR ABA CITY, ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

**Donor:** Abia state Government.

**Project Duration:** 2022 – 2024

**Project Value:** 600,000 USD

**Location:** Aba, Abia state

Overall, the expected accomplishments of the project are that:

- By 2024, Aba City is equipped to deliver improved urban conditions for all residents through deployment of functional urban planning and management tools and processes
- Business environment and the regional economy in Aba and Abia State are improved through enhanced multi-stakeholder participation by investors, SMSEs and entrepreneurs in project formulation and implementation processes in the city.
- Residents of Aba city and environs, especially vulnerable populations, enjoy improved social and economic inclusion through increased interaction between government institutions and all stakeholder groups including women, youths and the urban poor.



# About Our Projects

Completed Projects



## WASH INTERVENTION FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES IN THREE LGAS, YOBE STATE, NIGERIA

**Donor:** The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Nigeria

**Project Duration:** Sept – Dec 2020

**Project Value:** 197,422 USD

**Location:** Fune, Potiskum and Nangere Local Government Areas in Yobe State, Nigeria

**Partners:** Yobe State Government Yobe State Ministry of Basic and Higher Education; Fune, Potiskum and Nangere Local Government Councils; Tulsu Chanrai Foundation (TCF)

## SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY IN KARU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (LGA), NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

**Donor:** SIDA

**Project Duration:** Sept – Dec 2020

**Project Value:** 220,000 USD

**Location:** Karu LGA, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

**Partners:** UNICEF, Nigeria Local and Federal Governments.

The project's accomplishments include;

- Karu LGA Authority is better able to respond to COVID- 19's socio-economic and health challenges through partnerships with youth groups and demonstration projects;
- 300 Youths have been provided with safety kits to operate more healthily as waste collectors;
- There is improved awareness in communities and schools on urban health practices in line with COVID-19 response measures;
- The capacity of Karu LGA officials to generate credible and evidence- based urban data to guide its response to the COVID -19 pandemic and to plan and implement urban/health improvement schemes is enhanced due to availability of an evidence-based urban information database.



Rehabilitation at Bagaldi Community

# Pipeline Projects



## Technical Assistance for FCDA and municipal Councils on peri-urban planning projects

**Partners:** Federal Capital Territory Administration

The project will explore collaboration for Technical Assistance in the following areas: Capacity Building/Exposure tours; Slum Upgrading and peri-urban planning; Urban Basic Services Waste Management; Global Urban Observatory; Support for leveraging financial resources; Support to development of Business Case Studies. Discussions are also ongoing with respect to support for review of the FCT Master Plan.



## Technical Assistance for development of State Development Priorities in Kogi and Ondo state.

**Partners:** KOGI State and Ondo State

In Kogi State the project involves provision of Technical Assistance for the formulation and adoption of 20-year Structure Plans in four cities, namely Lokoja, Okene, Kabba and Dekina; improvement of water supply and sanitation in major cities; development of waste management.

In Ondo state the collaboration in selected cities will involve; Slum Upgrading; Technical, Assistance on Youth Empowerment Programmes,, Local Economic Development initiatives and Land Reform





Participatory Planning At Neighbourhood Level at Gire

# Pipeline Projects



## Development of Climate Risk-Informed Coastal Planning and Risk Reduction Project for a Resilient Lagos

**Partners:** Lagos State and UNDP

The proposed project, to be implemented through a Green Climate Fund (GCF) facility, will seek to reduce the climate vulnerability of communities in key target areas of the state, and enable risk-informed planning in the coastal zones, thereby increasing long-term urban resilience



## Establishment and operationalizing of six One Stop Multipurpose Youth Centers in Six North East States

**Partners:** North East Development Commission (NEDC)

The strategy focuses on creating an enabling environment for early recovery in the conflict-affected region by engaging the youth in a sequence of interlinked activities from training to public assets design and construction until delivery of new livelihood opportunities, thereby integrating the process within the complex nature of the crisis in the North-East of Nigeria, and its impact on the youth.

# Our Achievements

Supported **18** LGAs in Policy Governance

Formulation of 20-year Structure Plans for **20** cities

Impacted **125** youths from **26** States

A total of **12,193** people from six communities benefited directly from the WASH project.

## Policy Development



- Supported the review of 2012 National Housing Policy and National Urban Development Policy.
- Reviewed and facilitated the assessment of the Good Urban Governance Assessment of Nigeria in 18 LGAs, City Development Strategy project started in Karu, etc.



# Our Achievements

## Urban Planning and Design



- Supported the review of 2012 National Housing Policy and National Urban Development Policy.
- Assisted to develop the capacity of professionals in Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies and enhance skills to translate global covenants to local actions.
- Between 2008 and 2020, facilitated the formulation of 20-year Structure Plans for 20 cities in four states, comprising Anambra (3), Nasarawa (4), Kogi (4) as well as all nine major cities in the State of Osun.
- Reviewed and facilitated the assessment of the Good Urban Governance Assessment of Nigeria in 18 LGAs, City Development Strategy project started in Karu, etc

## Research and Capacity Development



- With UN-Habitat's support, Ondo State established Local Urban Observatories in 2015 to link information to policy formulation.
- UN-Habitat has provided technical tools, technical materials and advisory and technical services to the Federal Government and states, thereby contributing to sustainable urbanization in Nigeria.
- Conducted Urban Data and Market Survey to identify business opportunities and attract private sector investment slum upgrading in informal settlements in Nigeria.

## Gender and Youth



- Implemented a Youth Development Programme to raise the level of awareness on Nigerian Youth issues.
- Conducted hands-on training in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, green entrepreneurship and enterprise development for 125 youths from 26 States.
- Gender and youth were mainstreamed in many UN-Habitat projects in Nigeria.

# Our Achievements

## Advocacy and Domestication of Global Covenants

- Supported slum Upgrading Strategy
- Supported policy formulation for the urban sector at Federal and state levels
- Promoted awareness, domestication and dissemination of global pacts and best practices
- Supported the hosting of the National Slum and Housing Summit in 2013 and is working with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to develop a Nationwide Federal Government in developing a National Programme on Cities Without Slums
- Provided tools, guidelines and technical support to governments at all levels



SDF Training in Kano for Kaduna, Katsina, and Kano States



## Localizing SDGs through urban planning and mobility projects in Lagos, Nigeria

Lagos is Nigeria's largest city and main economic hub but rapid expansion has brought several challenges, such as inadequate infrastructure, road traffic congestion, and a high proportion of the population living in slums. The UK Government funded Global Future Cities Programme promotes sustainable development and increased prosperity in Lagos, among 18 other cities across 10 countries. UN-Habitat is a strategic and capacity building partner of the Programme. Two projects are being developed in Lagos, with technical assistance of delivery partner Adam Smith International. The first project provides guidelines for urban renewal and slum upgrading, benefiting communities living in slums through provision of adequate housing and infrastructure. The other intervention will foster and improve water transport within Lagos' integrated urban transport system, promoting inclusive and sustainable mobility for all. As highlighted by Famuyiwa Ibrahim, the Head of Operations at Lagos State Waterways Authority, "we are better positioned than we were a year ago and the local communities currently expect more engagements and possible investments to improve accessibility and mobility."

In both projects, UN-Habitat is applying the SDG Project Assessment Tool, an instrument that guides city authorities and delivery partners to develop more inclusive, sustainable and effective urban projects aligned to the Agenda 2030. For example, in Lagos the tool has encouraged mainstreaming social inclusion: since the beginning, several stakeholder engagement forums have been established to address the needs of affected communities and disadvantaged groups throughout different project stages.

## **FUND RAISING AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT**

UN-Habitat has adopted an enhanced focus on project development and implementation, which would offer greater opportunities for achieving the agency's mandate through demonstration of its normative and programming best practices and tools.

Key strategies deployed as part of the Fund-raising strategy include:

- a) Increased collaboration with sister United Nations agencies, notably;
  - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
  - International organisation for Migration (IOM)
  - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) among others
- b) Extensive engagement with development partners and multilateral finance institutions including the European Union, The World Bank, Islamic Development Bank etc
- c) Stepped-up bilateral advocacy and engagement with Foreign Embassies and development assistance organisations including
  - The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
  - The United States Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

- United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UKFCDO)
  - Japan International Development Agency (JICA) among others
- d) Mobilizing support for national development institutions and organisations, including the North East Development Commission (NEDC).

## DONOR AND PARTNERS





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all in an urbanizing world

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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