

UCLG COUNTRY PROFILES

Federal Republic of Nigeria

Capital: Abuja

Inhabitants: 148.000.000 (2007)

Area: 923.768 km²

1. Introduction



Nigeria is a West African country. The Federal Republic of Nigeria is surrounded in the North by Niger, in the East by the Chad and Cameroon, in the West by Benin. All its neighbour countries are Francophone. Nigeria is the most peopled in the continent with 148 Million inhabitants. The area is 923.768 sq km. The capital is Abuja, but the main commercial centre remains Lagos. As we are at the beginning, the politic regime of Nigeria is that of a Federal Republic with thirty three states and one federal territory, the capital.

Before the emergence of formal urban and regional planning in Nigeria, the Obas (western region), Obis (eastern region), Emirs (northern region), town councils and development boards variously performed the development, administration and control of Nigerian towns and cities. The pre colonial towns were established around the traditional rulers' palace and central market areas. The pattern of settlement depicted local customs and practice as well as the mode of transportation and the prevailing technologies. However, formal urban planning activities in Nigeria began with an Ordinance of 1902 which empowered the then Governor of the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria to set up Europeans Reservations. This ordinance, which specified how European reservations should be located and segregated from native location, was the first town planning regulation Nigeria ever had.

Table 1: General Indicators

Human Development	Human Development Index	0,46	
	Total GDP (millions \$US)	159 750	
	GDP/per capita (units of \$ US)	1 120	
	Annual Growth	3,5	
	Life Expectancy	43,3	
	Literacy (%)	Men	74,4
		Women	59,4
	Access Internet/1000 inh.)	6,08	
Political system	Presidential		
	Federal Republic (36 States)		



The first attempt to introduce spatial orderliness in the land use pattern of Nigerian cities was contained in Township Ordinance No. 29 of 1917; it was applied to the whole country and was mainly concerned with the following:

1. the classification and delineation of towns into first, second and third class and the regulation of buildings, streets and bridges within them
2. the control of offensive trades and industries
3. the carrying out of urban sanitation
4. the establishment of local authorities for the administration of designated urban centres.

In 1928, the Lagos Town Planning Ordinance was enacted; this Ordinance was later extended to the rest of the country by the Nigerian Town and Country Planning Ordinance of 1946. However, this Ordinance had its limitations thus the New Urban and Regional Planning Law was promulgated in 1992.

The role of different levels of government in respect of physical planning activities and administration since the late 1970 have been further shaped by the provisions in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the 1992 Planning Law. The Constitution provides a broad and general planning and related roles to be played for each of the three levels of government. However, these roles are in respect of broad guidelines and policies rather than in administration of planning matters.

2. Territorial structure

Government in Nigeria is divided into three tiers—the federal government, the governments of each of the country's thirty-six states, and local government councils that govern Nigeria's 774 Local

Government Areas. The Nigerian Constitution provides for all three levels of government should be autonomous and to be run by popularly elected administrations, and lists in detail the exclusive and concurrent powers of each. The local government system adopted varies from state to state.

It should be appreciated that the administration of Local government. Council involves the making of various decisions on a regular basis; such decisions could be classified in various ways, legislative, administrative, judicial, quasi-judicial.

The notion of inter-community relations or partnership in order to improve the local communities seems strange to them rather what obtain is disputes of boundaries in some states and inter-communal clashes. On the other hand there are co-operations with their foreign partners to promote the development of the local government.

The local government level, planning is expected to be felt in urban and rural through the various planning authorities. However, this is not achieved because for these reasons: the lack of harmonization between the three tiers of government, ineffective organisational structure of planning in general and the tendency for strong centralised planning system.

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Table 2: Administrative and territorial organization

States

No. of Local Govts.

Abia	Kano
17	44
Abuja FCT	Katsina
6	34
Adamawa	Kebbi
20	22
Akwa Ibom	Kogi
31	20
Anambra	Kwara
21	16
Bauchii	Lagos
20	20
Bayelsa	Nassarawa
9	13
Benue	Niger
22	25
Borno	Ogun
27	19
Cross River	Ondo
18	18
Delta	Osun
25	28
Ebonyi	Oyo
12	32
Edo	Plateau
18	17
Ekiti	Rivers
15	22
Enugu	Sokoto
17	22
Gombe	Taraba
11	15
Imo	Yobe
27	17
Jigawa	Zamfara
27	14
Kaduna	
23	

3. Institutions

There is a clear commitment to the principle that locally elected leaders shall exercise the powers of a local authority. Elected councils have a three-year tenure. In 1998, the councillors were democratically elected in elections conducted by the Independent national Electoral Commission (INEC). The Constitution now provides for the establishment of a State Electoral Commission by each State, it is this body that now conducts local elections. This has resulted in the States holding elections at different. Periods although majority of states held their council election in March 2004.

There have been several agitations towards extending the tenure of local government officials to coincide with the tenure of other tiers of government's status but the change has not been effected.

However, the local government chairmen are allowed to vie for a second term although, more often than not these past chairmen are not re-elected into office, as it is the belief of the people more often than not that they were not properly served. The executive is vested in the chairman, vice-chairman, supervisor or supervisory councillors, and the whole machinery of local government bureaucracy. The legislative functions are meant to be performed by the councillors, who represent the wards which make up the Local Government Area. The judiciary on the other hand is streamlined with the federal and state and local government can avail itself of the judicial process available to it. The local government elections were held in March 2004 and the new local.



The constitution requires that all local government staff must be educated up to at least an ordinary national diploma certificate level.

It does appear however that few local governments engage professionally qualified personnel to man the audit department their professionalism is often suppressed by the culture of these local governments which present a weak accounting system. The shift to greater responsibilities for the communities and private sector, with government acting as a facilitator, will require a concerted human resources development effort. While most of the financing will go towards capital expenditures most of the effort will go towards training and management. ALGON is engaged in manpower development and has organised several programmes in collaboration with consultants and other relevant institutions such as self-sufficiency in Skills acquisition and creativity programme. It has also organised workshops and seminars for functionaries of the local government.

Traditional Chiefs are also associated to the local government. They have an important power. In Nigeria, they have an institutionalised status of consultant closed to decentralized organ.

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4. The relations between central government and local government

The Constitution intended the autonomy of Local Government and made provision for the finances of local government. Unfortunately only the Federal Government has made such allocations to local governments. The consequence of this was that local governments became more reliant on the Federal Government whereas they are creations of the State Government. This has resulted in intergovernmental conflict between the federal and the state governments. Rather than work for their autonomy, local governments have sometimes sought refuge under the Federal Government in opposition to the State Governments.

The approach of several governors regarding the location of various projects such as roads, electricity service, hospital rehabilitation etc. the objective being to spread the development so that every local government area is the location of at least one capital project. Some local government chairmen have shown quite some initiative in improving the lot of their community as much as they are permitted so to do.

Accountability, transparency and integrity must guide the use of development resources at all levels to make local



governance effective and responsive to the needs of the people.

Financial accountability in local government is monitored through external audit carried out by an independent Auditor-General of local Governments. While all states have an auditor,-general, everywhere he has been emasculated by inadequate manpower, poor budgetary provision, lack of official support from the state government and absence of up to date annual accounts to work on. While many local government lack internal capacity to keep good records and prepare timely accounts to enable audits to be carried out on schedule, some will fully resist submitting their accounts for audit.

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There is a variety of civil society organisations (profit and non profit) that in one way or another cater for the needs of

the community. They are interrelated through a network of horizontal linkages and work in partnership with the respective spheres.

The Association of local government exist.

- to restore local governments autonomy vis a vis the States, as much as the Federal Government;

- harmonizing the legal and administrative system of the local governments in order to destroy the present anarchy resulting from the authority given to each State to legislate on its local governments.
- to dissolve the electoral commissions established at the level of each State for the purpose of replacing the Federal Commission ;
- to bring an end to the interference of the Governors of the States in the management of the financial transfer to the local governments, especially, managing the Federal Grants Account of the local governments ;
- to cancel the practice of withdrawal at source that has been in operation for several years on the quota of each authority at the Federal Account for the payment of the salaries of primary school teachers ;
- the legislative integration of decree n°21 of 1998 which enumerates the taxes, rates and fees included in the internal budget revenues of the local governments. - to restore local governments autonomy vis a vis the States, as much as the Federal Government ;
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5. Local finances

It would be preposterous to talk about any significant impact of local government revenues on the economies of the nation, as they are rather negligible compared to the input of the other levels of government. It has been said that local governments need more empowerment thus, reforms in the area of tax legislation would be of help to take beneficial decisions and devise means of recovering local taxes.

Also local governments have been imposed very narrow revenue base by the statutory distribution of tax-raising powers and their revenue rights have been constantly infringed upon by state governments in particular.

It has been discovered that local governments on the average spend about 75% of their revenue on recurrent expenditure and only about 25% on capital development. The main reason is the fact that the provision of primary health and primary education were transferred from

the local government to the Federal Government, hence a greater percentage of their revenue was spent on two services that are capital intensive.

All major sources of revenue - petroleum, profit tax, import duties, mining rents and royalties, and company income tax – falling within the jurisdiction of the Nigerian federal government it is not surprising that local governments revenues are poor.

Under the pressure to increase the weight of local government input to the federation account, local governments have introduced various charges for some of their services. Such fees serve as a means of recovering some and possibly all of the variable costs of operating facilities. However, When the 1976 reform was introduced, the Federal Government ensured that 100% of the Federation Account was transferred monthly to the States for their Local Governments. The States maintained a State joint Local Government Account into which the transfer from the Federation Account and 10% of the States internally generated revenue were lodged for sharing among the local governments. The States maintained a State Joint Local Government Account into which the transfer from the Federal Account and 10% of the States internally generated revenue were lodged for sharing among the local governments. During the Second Republic (1979-83) many States declined to make their 10% contributions regularly and some even raided the State Joint Local Government Account to shore to their own finances. In addition, some State encroached upon the functions assigned to local government, particularly those.

To forestall the states' encroachment on funds meant for local government, in the 1980s, the State Joint Local Government Account was abolished and the remittances



sent directly to the local governments. Also the proportion of the Federal Account transferred has increased from 10% to 15% in 1989 and 20% since 1992. Although the state are still required to remit only 10% of their internally generated revenues to their local governments, not all of them are capable to do so regularly. In light of this and the generally poor performance of the local governments in internal revenue collected, they are also given 25% of the Value Added Tax (VAT), a federally collected tax.

The fiscal transfers from the Federation Account are subject to certain deductions to fund essential expenditure. For example, a 1% commission funding local personnel training programmes. Similar deductions were made for staff pensions, funding of primary education and the upkeep of traditional rulers. To forestall the states' encroachment on funds meant for local government, in the 1980s, the State Joint Local Government Account was abolished and the remittances sent directly to the local governments. Also the proportion of the Federal Account transfers has increased from 10% to 15% in 1989 and 20% since 1992. Although the state are still required remitting only 10% of their internally generated revenues to their local governments, not all of them are capable to do so regularly. In light of this and the generally poor performance of the local governments in internal revenue collected, they are also given 25% of the Value Added Tax (VAT), a federally collected tax.

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7. Local Proficiencies

The following table 3 (p. VIII) is showing the distribution of competencies to the territorial structure.



Table 3: Distribution of competencies

Service	Delivering Authority		
	Federal	States	LGAs
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
Police	•		
Fire protection	•	•	
Civil protection	•		
Criminal justice	•	•	
Civil justice		•	
Civil status register			•
Statistical office	•		
Electoral register	•		
EDUCATION			
Pre-school			•
Primary		•	•
Secondary	•	•	
Vocational and technical		•	
Higher education	•	•	
Adult education		•	•
SOCIAL WELFARE			
Kindergarten and nursery			•
Welfare homes		•	
PUBLIC HEALTH			
Primary care			•
Hospitals	•	•	
Health protection			•
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING			
Housing	•	•	
Town planning		•	•
Regional planning		•	•
TRANSPORT			
Roads	•	•	•
Transport	•	•	•
Urban roads	•	•	
Urban rail	•		
Ports	•		
Airports	•		
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION			
Water and sanitation		•	•
Refuse collection and disposal			•
Cemeteries and crematoria			•
Slaughter-houses			•
Environmental protection			•
Consumer protection			•
CULTURE LEISURE AND SPORTS			
Theatre and concerts	•	•	
Museums and libraries	•	•	
Parks and open space			•
Sports and leisure	•	•	•
Religious facilities	•	•	•
UTILITIES			
Water supply		•	
Electricity	•		
ECONOMIC			
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	•		
Economic promotion	•		
Trade and industry	•	•	
Tourism	•	•	