

# NIGERIA CASE STUDY

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## OUTLINE

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- Background
- Migration/refugees situation
- Trade unions/CSOs actions
- Challenges and opportunities
- Conclusion

## BACKGROUND

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- **Basic demographics/social-economic facts**

- ⇒ Population of 174m (a fifth of the African population), with a median age of 18.2yrs & population growth rate of 2.47%. Approximately half of the population live in urban centres, especially in the southern parts
- ⇒ Between 250 & 370 ethnic/linguistic groups across: six geo-political zones, 36 states & 774 local governments
- ⇒ Near even gender proportion i.e. 49.09% female and 50.91% male. But women are disadvantaged in virtually every social-economic or political indices
- ⇒ Infant mortality rate of 61 per 1,000 births (2012 est.) & a life expectancy of 52.8years
- ⇒ Largest economy in Africa & impressive GDP growth rates (ave. 7.4% till 2015 (2.1%), But ranks 160<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries (down from 152 in 2014)
- ⇒ Official unemployment rate stands at 7.5% unemployed (up from 6.4% in 2014) and under-employed at 16.6% with sexed up govt. figures. Youth unemployment is x2

- **Politics:**

- ⇒ Long history of military governance
- ⇒ Central role in regional integration in (West) Africa
- ⇒ The bane of corruption

## MIGRATION/REFUGEES SITUATION I

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- The paucity of data (until recently) has been lamented in the literature
- **Nigeria occupies “a significant position in international migration as a sending, transit and receiving country”**
- Net migration has been stable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: 0.2 per 1,000 in 2000, 0.3 in 2005 & 0.22 in 2013
- 87%-90% of immigrant works are from ECOWAS member-countries
  - ⇒ History of expulsion
  - ⇒ Recent demonization of (especially) Nigerian immigrants – Boko Haram, electoral irregularities
- **The menace of human trafficking:**
  - ⇒ 3<sup>rd</sup> most common crime in Nigeria (UNESCO)
  - ⇒ Over 60% of girls trafficked to Europe for the sex trade (NAPTIP)
- The closest to a refugee crisis in Nigeria was during the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. But even then, refugees constituted less than 1% of total immigration.
  - ⇒ The problem now of Internally Displaced Persons as a problematic dimension of internal migration forced by the Boko Haram insurgency

## MIGRATION/REFUGEES SITUATION I I

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- **Economic migration is the major form of emigration, with push & pull factors**
- Push factors include:
  - ⇒ High poverty rate (at 71.5% in 2012) and rising inequality
  - ⇒ The place of the Structural Adjustment Programme and subsequent NEEDS, etc
  - ⇒ Infrastructure collapse and poor emasculated public services delivery systems
  - ⇒ Insecurity in *different* parts of the country (particularly North East & Niger delta)
- Pull factors include:
  - ⇒ Better wages
  - ⇒ Better working conditions
  - ⇒ Opportunities for career progression
  - ⇒ Opportunities for providing a better life for offspring

## MIGRATION/REFUGEES SITUATION III

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- **The volume of remittances has made the Federal Government to pay more attention:**
  - ⇒ From \$10m in 1990, by 2010 it was \$20.6bn
  - ⇒ This has led to policy formulation, albeit with questionable depth so far
  - ⇒ These have built on earlier moments of attention to migration (with 1963 and 1989 as milestones)
- Central elements of this, include:
  - ⇒ Establishment of a Migration Desk at the Ministry of Labour in 2010 & the enactment of a Labour Migration Policy in 2014 (with collaboration with ILO & IOM)
  - ⇒ The enactment of a National Migration Policy on May 15, 2015
- The establishment of an inclusive (i.e. formally) architecture for coordinating migration issues

## TRADE UNIONS/CSO ACTIONS

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- **Thus far TUs & CSOs intervention is at an early stage:**

- ⇒ Inspired to a great extent by the EU-supported *Beyond Irregularity* project, in 2013
- ⇒ This led to the formation of the Civil Society Coalition on Migration & Development, which is led by the Nigeria Labour Congress, last year...after some contention on contents
- ⇒ While more concerned with emigration, came up with a pamphlet in defence of immigrants (with IOM)
- The PSI Nigeria National Migration Project was the first *concrete* effort at popularising concern and action within the labour movement, on migration
- Internationally, the establishment of the Nigeria in the Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) at the turn of the century provides room for collaboration with a representative body

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES I

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- **Challenges:**

- ⇒ Paucity of institutional repertoire
- ⇒ A “business as usual” approach of the Fed. Ministry of Labour (Migration Desk)
- ⇒ Fully overcoming an “NGOist” mentality of proposal-driven activism within the civil society Coalition
- ⇒ An inadequate level of concern for migration issues by the NLC & trade unions, in practice
- ⇒ Near absent collaboration with the broader international labour movement (except in the case of PSI)
- ⇒ The problem of database (though much better now than a decade and a half ago)
- ⇒ Unethical recruitment and the desperation of many eager to migrate
- ⇒ Apparent dis-link of the labour movement with challenges faced by Nigerian migrants (eg [Luqman Onikosi](#))

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES II

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- **Opportunities:**

- ⇒ The PSI Nigeria National Migration Working Group is a window of opportunity
- ⇒ Enjoining more GUFs/ITUC to inspire their affiliates' taking up the issue of migration
- ⇒ Despite its limitation the FMLP's Migration Desk could be leveraged on by TUs
- ⇒ Influence within the formal migration intervention architecture could be deepened with evidence-based research & practical work, in the unfolding period
- ⇒ The Civil Society Coalition on Migration & Development has been influenced by the work of the PSI MWG. This could be built upon
- ⇒ Relations with sister trade unions across the world and possibilities of members thus associating
- ⇒ The current global concern, opportunities to think together and fight as one against the bosses' borders!

## CONCLUSION

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- Dire social-economic conditions in Nigeria & violent conflict has made migration to Europe or North America the dream of an average youth and many older persons as well
- The story could be different, with the provision of decent work and qualitative public services delivery by a system that works, for millions more of Nigerians (& other residents)
- Trade unions (and CSOs) have a crucial role to play in making such possibilities real
- Whilst we fight for this, we do also have to ensure that migration is just, and based on informed choices of the worker
- This struggle has to be at the national, regional and international levels
- United we will win. ***“the workers united can never be defeated”***

***THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING!***

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