



ICYE Nigeria



# NATIONAL PROFILE

2024 - 2025



# Foreword

It gladdens our heart to know that you are coming to spend your exchange year in Nigeria. ICYE offers you a unique opportunity to challenge and experience cultural differences, and provides a framework for a fun and enriching experience.

Coming to Nigeria with an "OPEN MIND" is necessary for you to enjoy your stay. Living with and understanding people who have a perspective different from yours will challenge you. This National profile is expected to give you a brief knowledge of what you should be expecting in Nigeria. It will not give you the whole, idea about Nigeria but if read carefully, you will be on the right track.

Living in another culture might not be easy but with a deep commitment and the effort of the ICYE Nigeria staff and Co-workers who are eager to help you, you will surely have a rewarding experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing from you.

YOU'RE WELCOME

( E Kaa bo)

**ICYE NIGERIA**

# Nigeria

## Location:

West Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon

## Geographic Co-ordinates:

4 and 14 degrees latitude north and 2.30 and 14.30 degrees longitude east.

## Area:

Total: 923,770 sqkm Land: 91 0,770 sq km Water: 13,000 sq km

## Land Boundaries:

Total: 4,047 km

## Border Countries:

Benin 773 km Cameroun 1,690 km, Chad 87 km, Niger 7,497 km

**Coastline: 853Km** Land in abundance in Nigeria for agricultural, industrial and commercial activities

## Maritime Claims:

Continental Shelf: 200m depth or to the depth of exploitation. Exclusive Economic Zone: 200nm with maximum water depth varying from 2600m to 3000 m.

## Territorial Waters:

30 nm (recently reduced to 12 nm)



# Climate

Nigeria, like many other regions across the globe, is experiencing the impacts of climate change. The climate situation in Nigeria is characterized by a variety of factors influenced by its geographical location, including its proximity to the equator, diverse ecosystems, and its dependence on agriculture. Here are some key aspects of Nigeria's climate situation:

**Temperature Rise:** Nigeria has observed a gradual increase in temperatures over the years, consistent with global trends. This rise in temperature exacerbates heatwaves, which can have detrimental effects on human health, agriculture, and water resources.

**Erratic Rainfall Patterns:** Nigeria's climate is heavily reliant on the seasonal rainfall patterns, with distinct wet and dry seasons. However, in recent years, there have been irregularities in these patterns, including unpredictable onset and cessation of rainfall. This unpredictability poses challenges for agricultural planning, food security, and water resource management.

**Droughts and Floods:** Nigeria experiences both droughts and floods, which are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change. Droughts can lead to water scarcity, crop failures, and livestock losses, impacting rural livelihoods. On the other hand, floods pose risks to infrastructure, housing, and public health, particularly in low-lying areas and urban centers.

**Rising Sea Levels:** Although Nigeria is not directly facing the threat of rising sea levels to the extent of coastal nations, it still experiences coastal erosion, which can damage infrastructure, disrupt livelihoods, and displace communities along its coastline.

**Impact on Agriculture:** Agriculture is a significant sector in Nigeria, employing a large portion of the population and contributing to the economy. Climate change-induced factors such as unpredictable rainfall, prolonged droughts, and increased pest infestations pose significant challenges to agricultural productivity and food security.

**Loss of Biodiversity:** Nigeria's diverse ecosystems, including forests, savannas, and coastal areas, are under threat from climate change. Habitat loss, degradation, and altered ecosystems are putting pressure on biodiversity, affecting wildlife, ecosystems services, and the livelihoods of communities dependent on natural resources.

**Adaptation Efforts:** The Nigerian government, along with various organizations and communities, is implementing adaptation measures to address the impacts of climate change. These include initiatives such as climate-smart agriculture, water management strategies, reforestation projects, and early warning systems for extreme weather events.

# Main Features

The following landscapes are prevalent: the costal areas, consisting of large low lands (less than 300m), the Niger Delta with numerous tidal creeks and rivers. Along the coast are many big lagoons, which receive waters from some inland rivers flowing southwards. The natural vegetation consists of mangrove swamps along the coast and in the Delta and tropical evergreen rain forest in the inland areas. Further north the flat extends into the Niger and Benue river valleys. The highlands (300 to 500m) in the southeast and south west (western Uplands, Udi plateau, Dban Hills) are densely populated and were originally covered by tropical rain forest. Going north, the rainforest is gradually replaced by savannahs. The Jos plateau (300-1200 m) located close to the centre of the country rises to 1,780m at 'Shere hills', its highest point. The plateau is a watershed, from which streams flow to lake Chad and to the rivers Niger and Benue. The line declines steadily northwards from the plateau into the large sandy high plains of Hausaland scattered with rocky dome outcrops. The main river of Nigeria is the Niger, the third longest in Africa. It originates from Fouta Djallon Mountains of Sierra Leone and enters

Nigeria for the last one-third of its 4,200km course. Its main tributary is river Benue, which rises in the Cameroun and merges with the Niger at Lokoja before emptying their waters into the sea in a fanlike system of numerous tidal creeks and rivers that form the Niger.

## **Elevation Extremes:**

Lowest point: Atlantic Ocean  
Highest point: Chappal Waddi 2,419m (Highest point on Jos Plateau is 1,780m)  
Mineral

## **Resources:**

Petroleum, natural gas, tar sands, tin, columbite, iron ore, coal, limestone, lead, zinc, gold etc

## **Land Use:**

Arable land: 33%  
Permanent Crops: 3%  
Permanent Pastures: 44%  
Forest and Woodland: 12%  
Others: 8%

**Irrigated land:** 9,570 sq km

**Natural Hazards:** periodic droughts, erosion.

### **Population:**

As of my last update in January 2022, the population of Nigeria was estimated to be over 210 million people, making it the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. However, please note that population figures can change over time due to factors such as birth rates, death rates, migration, and other demographic factors. For the most current population figures, it's advisable to consult recent census data or population estimates from authoritative sources like the United Nations or national statistical agencies.

### **Age structure:**

As of my last update in January 2022, the age structure of Nigeria's population can be broadly categorized as follows:

**0-14 years:** This age group typically represents children and adolescents. In Nigeria, this segment of the population constitutes a significant proportion, reflecting high birth rates and a youthful demographic profile.

**15-64 years:** This age group encompasses the working-age population, including young adults and

middle-aged individuals. In Nigeria, this segment also forms a substantial portion of the population, indicative of the country's demographic dividend potential and its impact on economic dynamics.

**65 years and over:** This age group comprises older adults and seniors. While the proportion of elderly individuals in Nigeria is relatively smaller compared to the younger age groups, it is still noteworthy as improvements in healthcare and life expectancy contribute to the aging of the population.

### **Population Growth Rate:**

2.6% per year. (2022)

### **Main Religions:**

Christianity, Islam, Traditional Religion.

### **Main Ethnic Groups:**

Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups with varying languages and customs creating a country of rich ethnic diversity. The largest ethnic groups are Fulani/Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo accounting for 68% of the population, while the Edo, Ijaw, Kanuri, Ibibio, Ebir, Nupe and Tiv comprise 27%. Other minorities make up the remaining 7%. The middle belt of Nigeria is

known for its diversity of ethnic groups, including the Pyem, Goemia and Kofyar

**Main Languages:**

Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and over 500 spoken languages including English (Official)

**Main Commercial/Industrial Cities:**

Lagos, Onistha, Kano, Port Harcourt, Aba, Ibadan, Maiduguri, Jos, Kaduna, Warri, Benin and Asaba

**Literacy:**

As of the last available data, Nigeria's literacy rate is estimated to be around 62% for the total population aged 15 and over. However, literacy rates can vary by region, gender, and other factors. In urban areas, the literacy rate tends to be higher compared to rural areas. Additionally, there may be disparities in literacy rates between males and females, with males often having higher literacy rates than females, though efforts have been made to address gender disparities in education.

**Male:**

67.3%

**Female:**

47.3% (1995 est.)

Nigeria is a magnificent land and within it lies a diversity of life, culture and people. Apart from the natural resources under the earth's surface, a bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables is also reaped from fertile farming districts across the Country. The cultural diversity coupled with the natural beauty in real African setting that attracts people all over the world makes Nigeria a curious and one of the most interesting places in the World.

# Biodiversity in Nigeria

Nigeria boasts significant biodiversity due to its diverse range of ecosystems, including tropical rainforests, savannas, wetlands, mangroves, and coastal areas. Here are some key aspects of biodiversity in Nigeria:

**Flora:** Nigeria is home to a vast array of plant species, including many endemic species found nowhere else in the world. The country's tropical rainforests, such as those in the Cross River region, harbor a rich diversity of tree species, including mahogany, ebony, and iroko. Other important vegetation types include savanna grasslands in the north and mangrove forests along the coast.

**Fauna:** Nigeria's wildlife is equally diverse, with numerous species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Iconic mammal species found in Nigeria include elephants, lions, leopards, chimpanzees, gorillas, and various antelope species. The country is also home to a variety of bird species, including migratory birds that visit during the winter months.

**Endemism:** Nigeria has several species that are endemic to specific regions within the country, meaning they are found nowhere else. For example, the Niger Delta region is home to the Niger Delta red colobus monkey, a critically endangered primate species. The

Cross River gorilla, found in the Cross River region, is another critically endangered species endemic to Nigeria and Cameroon.

**Threats:** Despite its rich biodiversity, Nigeria's natural habitats face significant threats from human activities such as deforestation, habitat destruction, poaching, pollution, and climate change. These threats endanger many plant and animal species and contribute to habitat fragmentation and loss.

**Conservation Efforts:** Nigeria has made efforts to conserve its biodiversity through the establishment of national parks, reserves, and protected areas. Examples include Yankari National Park, Gashaka Gumti National Park, and Cross River National Park. Additionally, conservation organizations and community-based initiatives work to protect and manage key habitats and species.

**Challenges:** Conservation in Nigeria faces challenges such as inadequate funding, weak enforcement of environmental laws, conflicts between conservation and development priorities, and lack of awareness about the value of biodiversity among the general population.

# People and ways of Life

The people of Nigeria are incredibly diverse, both culturally and ethnically, reflecting the country's status as one of the most populous and ethnically varied nations in Africa. Nigeria is home to over 250 ethnic groups, each with its own unique language, traditions, and way of life. However, several broad cultural traits and aspects of daily life can be observed across the country:

**Ethnic Diversity:** Nigeria's population is comprised of three major ethnic groups: the Hausa-Fulani in the north, the Yoruba in the southwest, and the Igbo in the southeast. In addition to these major groups, there are numerous other ethnicities spread throughout the country, including the Ijaw, Kanuri, Tiv, Efik, and Ibibio, among others.

**Language:** Nigeria is linguistically diverse, with over 500 languages spoken throughout the country. English, inherited from British colonial rule, serves as the official language and is widely used for business, education, and government communication. However, many Nigerians also speak their native languages at home and in their communities.

**Religion:** Nigeria is religiously diverse, with Christianity and Islam being the two dominant religions. Christianity is predominant in the southern regions, particularly among the Igbo and Yoruba ethnic groups, while Islam is prevalent in the northern regions, among the Hausa-Fulani and Kanuri ethnic groups. Traditional African religions also have a significant following, particularly in rural areas.

**Family Structure:** Family is central to Nigerian society, and extended family ties are strong. Family members often provide support and assistance to one another, and decisions are frequently made collectively. Respect for elders is highly valued, and hierarchical structures within families are common.

**Cuisine:** Nigerian cuisine varies by region and ethnic group but often includes staples such as rice, yams, cassava, plantains, and beans, accompanied by a variety of soups, stews, and sauces. Popular dishes include jollof rice, pounded yam with egusi soup, suya (grilled meat skewers), and moi moi (steamed bean pudding).

**Arts and Culture:** Nigeria has a rich cultural heritage, expressed through music, dance, art, and literature. Traditional music styles such as juju, highlife, and fuji are popular, alongside contemporary genres like Afrobeat. Nigerian literature has produced renowned authors such as Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

**Urbanization:** Nigeria is experiencing rapid urbanization, with many people migrating from rural areas to cities in search of economic opportunities. Lagos, the largest city in Nigeria, is a bustling metropolis and commercial hub, known for its vibrant street life, markets, and cultural diversity.

# Government

**Country Name:** Nigeria Conventional Long Form: Federal Republic of Nigeria Data Code: NI

**Government type:** Parliamentary democracy of the Presidential System Three tier structure A Federal government 36 State governments and the Federal Capital Territory 774 Local government administrations.

**Federal Capital:** Abuja The capital was official moved from Lagos to Abuja on 12 December 1991.

**Administrative Divisions:** 36 states and one Capital Territory (Abuja): Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa., Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nassarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara states. Each of these states is further split up into smaller administrative units called Local Government Areas (LGAs). There are 774 LGAs in the country.

**Independence:** 1st of October, (1960)

**Democracy Day:** 29<sup>th</sup> of May

**Constitution:** 1999 constitution is in force and is currently under review.

**Legal System:** Based on English Common Law, Islamic Law and customary Law.

**Executive Branch:** The democratically elected

government of Umar Musa Ya'radua was sworn in on May 29th, 2007. The composition of the Federal Executive Council followed soon after with the appointment of Ministers, Special Advisers and Assistants that cut across all political party lines to make for integration, cooperation and harmony within the Nigerian polity.

**Legislature Branch:** There are two main houses that form the National Assembly viz: The Senate made up of 109 members representing their various senatorial districts. They are led by a Senate President. The lower house of Representatives is made up of 360 members representing their various constituencies. They are led by a Speaker of the House. The National Assembly carries out its tasks through relevant committees.

**Judiciary:** The Judiciary is independent of the Executive and legislature and has a Chief Justice as head of the Supreme Court of Nigeria

**Politics:** There at the moment, thirty self-funding political parties registered by the electoral committee INEC. They all vied for executive and Legislative, positions at the Local government, States and National Levels during the military-to-civilian transition programme.

**Diplomatic Representation:** Nigeria has Missions or Representatives in 92 countries world-wide. Flag description: three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) white, and green.



# ICYE Nigeria

ICYE Nigeria started operations in 1982 as an independent establishment within a Christian Organisation. ICYE Nigeria consists of National Committee office, Staff and Co-workers (Co-workers are made up of returnees- those who have once gone on the programme) and other volunteers who have assisted in the work of ICYE in the National Office and in the development of the programme on Zonal levels.

The Staff are permanent employees who work full-time for the organisation in its National Office. They carry out the administrative and programme responsibilities of the organisation. The General Assembly is the highest decision making body of the committee and is headed by the Chairperson.

ICYE Nigeria aspires towards the development of the leadership of young people through living and working abroad for one year. The exposure and experience will be of great benefit to the Exchangee(s). He/She will make new friends abroad, learn new language and widen his/her horizon and thus make the work a much better place.

# Our Expectation

We expect that all Nigerian-bound Exchangees would have been well prepared and that their main motivation of participating in the programme is social justice and world peace. Furthermore, we expect all Exchangees to:

- a. Be able to communicate in English.
- b. Be matured enough to stand some difficult situations of a developing Country - possibly between the ages 23 and 27.
- c. Co-operate with ICYE Nigeria, both paid workers in the office as well as the Co-workers. Interact freely and be able to discuss peacefully and with some maturity.
- d. Discuss any major hosting problem with ICYE Officials first and should always remember that their behaviour (if unruly) will reflect on them during the duration of the programme.
- e. Develop the habit of discussing his/her problems. No matter how small it is.
- f. Actively participate in programmes, events and take initiatives.
- g. Bring forward suggestions and grievances or appeal peaceably Not to interfere with the organisational structure of the Board, but to show ways of improving positively. Everybody has his/her own responsibilities; the workers are accountable to the president.
- h. Do not expect all host families to be alike.
- i. Be interested in the local languages and learn to communicate with them
- k. Be aware that hosting situations are not easy to get. Exchangees coming to Nigeria should be ready to accept and not reject any work placement.
- i. Be responsible and mature. This may seem a lot to expect but we hope Exchangees will seriously consider whether ICYE Programme is really what they want to participate in or not. Mention must also be made of parents who are anxious and disturbed about what is happening to their children while abroad. It must be emphasised that ICYE Nigeria is being coordinated by matured and capable hands and should at all times be rest assured that their children are being taken very good care of.
- j. Contribute positively to the work placement, bearing in mind that pocket money comes from work placements.

# Visa Information 2024 - 2025

There are two types of visa depending on the type of programme the volunteer is coming for. For short-term volunteers (i.e. below six months) volunteers are required to apply for and obtain 'Tourist visas'. For those volunteers coming for six months programme and above, you will need to apply only visas that have STR. It is important that your visa has STR. The volunteers that are coming for the Long term programme (i.e. from six months' programme above) need an STR visa.

**For the STR visa:** National Committees sending volunteers to Nigeria must do the selection as early as possible (at least 6 weeks before arrival) and send the full name, age, educational qualifications of the volunteer including the data page of the travel passport to us.

We will subsequently send a letter which the volunteer will take to the Nigerian Embassy in the home country to obtain a three months visa subject to regularisation (STR) - IT MUST BE THREES MONTH VISA WITH SUBJECT TO REGULIRISATION (STR) with three copies of the VISA/ENTRY PERMIT APPLICATION

FORM IMM122 filled at the Nigerian Embassy and duty stamped by the embassy. IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES, (WE HOPE NOT) PLEASE, GET IN TOUCH WITH ICYE NIGERIA IMMEDIATELY!. The volunteer should be informed that she/he will pay for the regularisation of the Visa on arrival in country.

## **Contact Information on Visa form:**

Adeoluwa Onamade  
9 Gray Close, Off Birrel Avenue  
101212, Onike-Iwaya, Lagos.

Volunteers should be aware that it might take up to a maximum of three months to regularise their visas on arrival.

# Government Regulation

There are various laws in the country. The laws apply generally to both nationals and non-nationals as long as you are resident in Nigeria. Contravening any of Nigerian laws by foreigners result in deportation.



# Economy

**Economic indicators:** Nigeria's economy is one of the largest in Africa and is considered a mixed economy with both market and state intervention. Here are some key indicators and characteristics of Nigeria's economy:

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** Nigeria has a relatively high GDP, primarily driven by its abundant natural resources, particularly crude oil. However, the economy is susceptible to fluctuations in global oil prices due to its heavy reliance on oil exports.

**Oil Sector:** Nigeria is one of the world's largest oil producers and exporters, with oil accounting for a significant portion of government revenue and export earnings. The oil industry plays a central role in the economy but also exposes Nigeria to risks associated with commodity price volatility.

**Non-Oil Sectors:** While oil is a dominant sector, Nigeria's economy is also diversified, with significant contributions from sectors such as agriculture, telecommunications, manufacturing, banking, and services. Agriculture remains an important sector, employing a large portion of the population and contributing to food security.

**Foreign Exchange Reserves:** Nigeria's foreign exchange reserves, which consist of foreign currency assets held by the central bank, are an important indicator of the country's ability to meet external obligations and stabilize its currency. Fluctuations in reserves can impact exchange rates and the overall health of the economy.

**Inflation Rate:** Inflation is a significant economic indicator that measures the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising. Nigeria has experienced fluctuations in inflation rates, influenced by factors such as

exchange rate movements, government policies, and supply chain disruptions.

**Unemployment Rate:** Nigeria faces challenges related to unemployment and underemployment, particularly among youth and in urban areas. High population growth rates contribute to the labor market's strain, requiring sustained efforts to create jobs and improve livelihoods.

**Infrastructure Development:** Infrastructure development is a critical priority for Nigeria's economic growth and development. Investments in transportation, energy, water supply, and telecommunications infrastructure are essential to support economic activities, improve productivity, and enhance competitiveness.

**Government Policies and Reforms:** Nigeria has implemented various economic policies and reforms aimed at promoting sustainable growth, diversification, and private sector participation. Initiatives focus on improving the business environment, attracting investment, enhancing transparency, and reducing corruption.

**Income Inequality:** Nigeria faces challenges related to income inequality, with disparities between rich and poor, urban and rural areas, and different regions of the country. Addressing inequality is crucial for promoting inclusive growth and reducing social tensions.

**Global Economic Integration:** Nigeria is integrated into the global economy through trade, investment, and financial flows. International economic developments, such as changes in global commodity prices, trade policies, and economic conditions in major trading partners, can have significant implications for Nigeria's economy.

# Transportation in Nigeria

Transportation in Nigeria is diverse, reflecting the country's vast size, diverse terrain, and varied modes of travel. Here's an overview of transportation in Nigeria:

**Road Transport:** Road transport is the dominant mode of transportation in Nigeria, accounting for the majority of passenger and freight movements. The road network comprises federal highways, state roads, and local roads, though infrastructure maintenance and road quality can vary widely. Nigeria has a bustling network of intercity buses, minibuses (known as "danfos"), taxis, and motorcycles (popularly called "okadas" and "keke napeps") that provide essential services for commuters and travelers.

**Rail Transport:** Nigeria has a railway system operated by the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC). The rail network connects major cities and ports, offering both passenger and freight services. Efforts are underway to rehabilitate and modernize the railway infrastructure to improve efficiency, safety, and connectivity. Projects such as the Lagos-Kano Standard Gauge Railway and Abuja-Kaduna Railway have been completed or are in progress to enhance the country's rail transport capabilities.

**Air Transport:** Nigeria has a well-developed aviation sector, with several international airports and numerous domestic airports serving various cities and regions. Major international airports include Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, Nnamdi Azikiwe

International Airport in Abuja, and Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano. Domestic airlines provide extensive air travel options for both domestic and international routes.

**Water Transport:** Nigeria has an extensive network of waterways, including rivers, creeks, and coastal waters, making water transport an essential mode of travel, especially in regions with significant water bodies. Water transport includes ferries, boats, and canoes, which are used for both passenger and cargo transportation. Lagos, with its numerous lagoons and water bodies, has a particularly active water transport system, including ferry services connecting different parts of the city.

**Urban Transport:** In major cities like Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt, urban transportation is characterized by a mix of modes, including buses, taxis, motorcycles, tricycles, and ride-hailing services. Traffic congestion is a significant challenge in urban centers, leading to efforts to improve public transportation infrastructure and promote alternative modes of travel, such as bus rapid transit (BRT) systems and light rail projects. **Challenges and Opportunities:** Nigeria faces several challenges in its transportation sector, including inadequate infrastructure, traffic congestion, safety concerns, and insufficient investment. However, there are also opportunities for growth and improvement, such as ongoing infrastructure projects, public-private partnerships, and technological advancements in transportation services.

# Transportation in Lagos

Transportation in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, is characterized by a complex network of diverse modes of transportation due to its massive population, rapid urbanization, and economic importance. Here are some key aspects of transportation in Lagos:

**Road Transport:** Road transport is the primary mode of transportation in Lagos, with a dense network of roads connecting different parts of the city and beyond. However, traffic congestion is a significant challenge, particularly during peak hours, leading to long commute times and reduced productivity. Lagos is notorious for its traffic jams, with congested roads, poorly maintained infrastructure, and a high volume of vehicles contributing to the problem.

**Buses:** Lagos has a large fleet of public buses operated by both government agencies and private transport companies. The Lagos Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, introduced to alleviate congestion and improve public transportation, provides dedicated bus lanes along certain routes, allowing for faster and more reliable travel. Minibuses, known as "danfos," also play a crucial role in the city's transportation system, although they are often overcrowded and prone to accidents.

**Taxis and Ride-Hailing Services:** Taxis are a common sight in Lagos, offering convenient point-to-point transportation for those willing to pay higher fares. In recent years, ride-hailing services such as Uber and Bolt have gained popularity, providing an alternative to traditional taxis and offering users the convenience of booking rides through mobile apps.

**Motorcycles (Okadas) and Tricycles (Keke Napeps):** Motorcycles and tricycles are widely used for short-distance travel, particularly in areas where roads are narrow or congested. While they offer flexibility and accessibility, they also pose safety concerns due to reckless driving and accidents. In 2020, the Lagos state government banned commercial motorcycles and tricycles from major highways and certain neighborhoods to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion.

**Water Transport:** Lagos is surrounded by waterways, including lagoons, creeks, and the Atlantic Ocean, providing opportunities for water transport. Ferry services operate along various routes, connecting different parts of the city and offering an alternative mode of transportation, particularly for commuters traveling between the mainland and the islands. Water taxis and traditional wooden boats, known as "canoes," are also used for transportation in some areas.

**Rail Transport:** Lagos has limited rail infrastructure, but efforts are underway to expand and modernize the city's rail network. The Lagos Urban Rail Transport project, including the Lagos Light Rail and Blue Line projects, aims to improve connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance the overall transportation system in the city. However, progress has been slow, and completion dates have been repeatedly delayed.

## On Arrival at the Airport

Your Airport of Arrival is the Murtala Mohammed (MM) International Airport, Lagos. You have no problem in locating us at the airport. We would have sent across a mobile number of the person picking you up at the airport..

The office address is:  
9 Gray Close, off Birrel Avenue  
101212, Onike-Iwaya, Lagos

## Security

All Exchangees must obey the laws of Nigeria during the exchange year. ICYE will not be responsible for any Exchangee who is arrested for an offence against the state: trafficking, smuggling, rape, any usage of any dangerous weapon or any in violent crime etc.,. Contravening any of these Laws might result in deportation. ICYE will not be responsible for any inconvenience or embarrassment caused.

## Currency Change

Foreign money is changed at the Bank although there are other parallel sources, Exchangees should not entertain any gesture from any of the airport touts to help you change your money. **BANKS ARE THE ONLY LEGAL CHANGING PLACE!** There are banks at the airport to assist you.

Go to the bank yourself or wait till you see an officer of ICYE Nigeria before you do this. The rate varies depending on the prevailing rate at that particular moment. When you have changed your money, you will be given a receipt. Make sure you collect your receipt and cross check your money. With the revolution in the banking industry now, exchangees can come into the country with their Visa or Master Cards to withdraw money.

## Travelling during the Service year

Travelling from one town to another during the exchange year is not in our programme and so, Exchangees travelling around either through the host family or friends will need the Alien's Card when he/she gets to Nigeria. There is need to emphasise that the interested Exchangee will be responsible for the fee of obtaining the Alien's Card. One advantage in working in school or with children is the holiday period that comes two or three times during the year, the Exchangees are allowed only for weeks during the year to travel around and this must be towards the end of the exchange year.

Volunteers/Exchangees are also not allowed to travel out of the country during the exchange year, except it is very important (emergency)

# Health

ICYE Nigeria has registered Doctors and hospitals where Exchangees could go when they are sick this case, volunteers would be responsible for settlement of the bill or on the other hand, ICYE Nig can offset this bill in case the volunteer is short of cash. The Volunteer is free to use the hospita his/her own choice to settle the bill and claim a refund from the Insurance company



# Market Situation

The local market situation in Nigeria is dynamic and diverse, reflecting the country's large population, growing economy, and cultural diversity. Here are some key aspects of the local market situation in Nigeria:

**Consumer Market:** Nigeria has a significant consumer market driven by its large and growing population, estimated to be over 210 million people. The country's youthful demographic profile, with a sizable proportion of the population under 30 years old, presents opportunities for consumer goods and services targeting young consumers.

**Urbanization:** Nigeria is experiencing rapid urbanization, with a significant portion of the population migrating from rural areas to cities in search of economic opportunities. Urban centers like Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt have large concentrations of consumers with diverse purchasing power and preferences.

**Market Segmentation:** Nigeria's consumer market is highly segmented, with distinct consumer segments based on factors such as income level, geographic location, cultural background, and lifestyle preferences. Understanding these segments and their specific needs and preferences is crucial for businesses operating in Nigeria.

**Retail Sector:** The retail sector in Nigeria is evolving rapidly, with a mix of formal and informal retail outlets

serving consumers across the country. Traditional markets, open-air markets, and street vendors remain prominent, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas, alongside modern retail formats such as supermarkets, shopping malls, and online platforms.

**Consumer Preferences:** Nigerian consumers exhibit diverse preferences and purchasing behaviors influenced by factors such as culture, religion, income level, and urbanization. Consumer preferences vary across product categories, with demand for essential goods such as food, beverages, clothing, and household items, as well as discretionary items such as electronics, cosmetics, and entertainment products.

**Challenges:** The local market situation in Nigeria is characterized by various challenges, including infrastructural constraints, regulatory issues, security concerns, currency fluctuations, and economic volatility. Businesses operating in Nigeria need to navigate these challenges effectively to succeed in the local market.

**Opportunities:** Despite challenges, Nigeria offers significant opportunities for businesses across various sectors, including consumer goods, retail, telecommunications, financial services, healthcare, and technology. The country's large and growing population, expanding middle class, and increasing urbanization present attractive market opportunities for domestic and international businesses alike.



# Hosting Situation

Nigerians are very hospitable and many of them want foreigners to live with them. The major problem is the cultural differences.

Nigerians want to treat the Exchangees just as they want to treat their own children such as giving strict rules, movement control etc. In the end, you will find your host parents very loving if not too much caring, **YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO ADJUST.** We have two types of hosting situations:

- i. Living with a family - In most cases, a room will be provided for you or you share a room with another member of the family (in most cases your age group) everything like the living room, other conveniences is the same for the members of the household.
- ii. Your work situation may provide you with accommodation where you work. In such situation, you may likely do your cooking yourself.

# Volunteer Work Placement 2024-2025

All Exchangees in Nigeria are put to volunteer work placements. 90% of work placements deal with children between the ages of three to ten years. We have, for now, very limited number of work placements and so, it will not be in our interest if the Exchangee start changing their place, whenever they feel like unless there is genuine reason.

Recently, establishments employing Exchangees are becoming reluctant and this is because some Exchangees do not take their work devotedly as they should. We appeal to Exchangees to please put in their best wherever they are placed, and make sure that they work the number of hours expected to them everyday (not more than 8 hours each day, it could be less).

Our committee will try to see that Exchangees are allocated to the work placement specified in their form, if possible, let us also say that our work placement outside Lagos is limited.

# List of available work placements 2024-2025

## **DEVCOMS COMM. NETWORK**

Adverts Media Resource and Advocacy Centre

**QUALIFICATION:** Volunteer must be mature, should be able to communicate in English, full of initiative and be ready to work.

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Female/Male

## **ACTION HEALTH INCORPORATED**

A non-profit , non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of adolescent health and development.

**QUALIFICATION:** Volunteers must be able to communicate in English, work with young people and **TEAMWORK** is also important.

**LOCATION:** Lagos.

**SEX:** Female/Male

## **HOMAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

Nursery, Primary and Secondary School of distinction

**QUALIFICATION:** Ability to teach young children English/French and Art Work.

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Female/Male

## **AUNTY BOSE NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**QUALIFICATION:** To be able to teach children or assist class teacher

**LOCATION:** Sagamu, Ogun State

**SEX:** Male/Female

## **HEARTS OF GOLD HOSPICE**

Education and Resource Centre for children with special needs.

**QUALIFICATION:** Ability to organize interesting activities for children with special needs, nurse and care for them. Volunteer must be matured and creative.

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Male/Female

## **ROCKLEFT SCHOOLS (Nursery & Primary)**

Educating and reaching out to young growing children.

**ACTIVITIES:** Provision of daycare/nursery activities

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Male/Female

### **STRONG TOWER MISSION**

Provision of shelter for the homeless

**QUALIFICATION:** To rehabilitate and reintegrate homeless and abandoned children

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Female/Male

### **THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**

Responding quickly to victim of disaster, provide first aid and evacuate of victims of accidents.

**QUALIFICATION:** Volunteers should be open minded

### **STORK NEST NURSERY SCHOOL**

Educating and reaching out to young and growing children.

**QUALIFICATION:** Provision of daycare for children; playgroup activities; nursery education

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Female/Male

### **ANGLO NIGERIA WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (AN WAB)**

Providing Braille typing and mobility training for the blind.

**QUALIFICATION:** Volunteer must be prepared to work with the blind and physically challenged

### **DEVCOMS COMM. NETWORK**

Adverts Media Resource and Advocacy Centre

**QUALIFICATION:** Volunteer must be mature, should be able to communicate in English, full of initiative and be ready to work.

**LOCATION:** Lagos

**SEX:** Female/Male

### **HOPE 4 HIV AND AIDS"**

We provide holistic HIV/AIDS Care and Support Services ranging from and not limited to the following;

1. Pre and Post HIV Testing Counseling
2. Home-Based Care to those Sick of AIDS
3. HIV/AIDS contacts tracing and Case management
4. Providing Access to HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care
- 5, HIV/AIDS Telephone Hotline .The organization also work in the rural communities and slums by providing basic education for homeless children and children orphaned by HIV and aids.

**VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:** No particular skill is needed. However, volunteers who have been trained in health care services will be encouraged.

**HOSTING SITUATION:** Family

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:** 2

### **HOPE VISION SCHOOL**

The school provides a free education for children in the slums of Lagos. We have two schools Ijora and Ilaje areas in Lagos. Through philanthropic efforts and donations, we are able to provide primary education for children between ages 2-11.

**VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:** open minded and ready to work with children.

**HOSTING SITUATION:** Family

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:**2



# Contracts for Exchangees

- I understand that ICYE Nigeria will facilitate the regularisation of my visa and will be responsible on my own to get my re-entry visa in case I need to travel out and return back to Nigeria on personal reasons.
- I have read and understood the above Contract and agree to its content.
- NAME OF CANDIDATE:.....
- COUNTRY: .....
- SIGNATURE:.....
- DATE: .....



*PLS, send this page back to us after the candidate must have signed*

