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PEACE, DEMOCRACY, & GOVERNMENT NIGERIA FACT SHEET

Since 2015, the U.S. government has invested \$150 million to support democracy and peacebuilding in Nigeria.

OVERVIEW

USAID supports Nigeria's drive towards stronger democratic institutions and practices. Recent legislation has improved the transparency and access to government information. However, the governance of basic service delivery, corruption, and recurring violent conflict remain major challenges. Disputes driven by access to resources, ethnicity, and religion pose an ongoing threat to democracy, while hate speech and "fake news" exacerbate Nigeria's fragile stability. Civil society organizations often lack the capacity and resources to engage government and advocate for positive change. The lack of transparency or inclusion, along with chronic security problems in electoral processes indicate a need for reform. In response to these challenges, USAID partners with federal, state, and local governments; civil society; and private sector institutions to improve the quality of the electoral process, strengthen civil society, advance good governance, and mitigate conflict to build a safer, more peaceful society.

SECTORS

GOOD GOVERNANCE

USAID partners with key state and local government agencies to help them plan, budget, manage, and evaluate their fiscal and administrative responsibilities. USAID also works to increase accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in sectors such as basic education, primary healthcare, and water and sanitation provision. These activities promote a government that is more responsive to the citizens' needs and enhances public capacity for meaningful civic engagement. USAID reinforces policies and systems that mobilize civil society and the private sector to participate in the planning, budgeting, and assessment of basic services. Sustained advocacy by civil society has resulted in increased state budget allocations to education and health, as well as better strategic planning in critical sectors.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society organizations are at the forefront of Nigeria's democratic gains through their engagement and advocacy on constitutional and electoral processes, anti-corruption, and key policy reforms that safeguard the rights of women, youth, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. USAID

USAID.GOV PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FACTSHEET_AUGUST 2021 1

supports more than 200 civil society organizations to strengthen their ability to network, develop policy positions, advocate for key policy reforms, and collaborate with the government and the private sector. USAID activities work with Nigerian citizens to increase oversight of public service delivery and to advocate for good civil society governance. One USAID-supported advocacy campaign resulted in a state government releasing four years of annual audits and completing 49 previously abandoned capital projects. Combined efforts of other activities resulted in 62 policy outcomes between 2014 and 2018, including a Petroleum Industry Governance Bill and a new Disability Act. USAID-supported youth-led civil society groups were instrumental in enacting a historic 'Not Too Young to Run' law that reduced the minimum age for holding public office in Nigeria.

POLITICAL COMPETITION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

USAID supports institutional capacity building of electoral management bodies, deployment of local and international observers, civic education of Nigerian youth, and increased civil society input into the electoral and constitutional reform dialogue. Civil society-led parallel vote tabulations have provided an objective basis with which to evaluate the credibility of elections. USAID supports efforts to mitigate election-related conflict through community-based early warning systems and local campaigns to counter misinformation and hate speech. USAID also supports civil society efforts to advance gender-based quotas in the legislature and political parties.



CONFLICT MITIGATION AND RECONCILIATION

Violent conflict poses a grave threat to the stability of Nigeria. In response, USAID helps to build robust early warning systems that identify and reduce sources of communal tension and violence in vulnerable areas. To address the root causes of conflict, USAID draws on the expertise of a wide range of groups, including government officials, religious and traditional leaders, women, and youth to promote community-based solutions to divisive issues. Peacebuilding activities help develop systems and protocols to improve government and community response to threats and outbreaks of violence.

ABOUT USAID: *USAID leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help nations progress beyond assistance. In Nigeria, USAID supports health systems strengthening transparent and accountable governance, basic education, and a more market-led, trade-friendly economy. For more information about USAID and its programs, please visit www.usaid.gov/nigeria and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @USAIDNigeria*