

# Country Youth Profile



**NIGERIA**



Women and Youth Empowerment Division  
Resilience and Social Development Department  
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## 1. Socio-Economic Profile

1.1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and largest economy. It is located in West Africa, with an estimated population of 199,399,345 in 2019<sup>1</sup>. Nigeria emerged from a recession in 2017 after a year-long slump in the economy. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose to 0.9% in 2017 from 1.6% in 2016<sup>2</sup>. The projected GDP for 2018 and 2019 are 2.1% and 2.0% respectively<sup>3</sup>. The 2017 poverty level was estimated at 49.1%, a 3.1% rise from the 2009 figure of 46% based on the international poverty line of \$1.90 per person per day<sup>4</sup>. Over five out of ten Nigerians moved in and out of poverty between 2011-2016<sup>5</sup>. Nigeria is positioned at 157<sup>th</sup> among 189 countries sampled in 2017 on the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>6</sup>. The 2017 ranking is five steps down from its 152<sup>nd</sup> position in 2016. This ranking puts Nigeria in a low human development category.

1.2. Youth in Nigeria are identified as all young males and females within the age bracket of 15-35 years, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria<sup>7</sup>. The Nigerian Bureau for Statistics, the United Nations, the African Development Bank, and the World Bank use age 15-24 years age range for statistical purposes. Nigeria is ranked 141<sup>st</sup> among 183 countries on the Commonwealth Global Youth Development Index<sup>8</sup>.

Table 1: Youth at Glance in Nigeria

Categories	Females	Males
Age of marriage	18	18
Labor force participation (ILO 2016)	26.7%	32.9%
Unemployment (ILO 2016)	18.8%	18.1%
NEET (ILO, 2016)	17.4%	17.0%
NET enrolment (GPI, FGN 2014)	1.01%	1.01%
Literacy Rate (UNESCO, 2008)	57.95%	75.57%

## 2. Youth in National Development: Institutional and Policy Framework

2.1. The youth sector in Nigeria emerged as early as 1951 when the Citizen and Leadership Center was created<sup>9</sup>. However, it became a development issue with the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development in 2006<sup>10</sup>. The ministry's name was changed in 2015 to the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (FMYSD) after the merger of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the National Sports Commission<sup>11</sup>. The ministry is charged with the responsibility of coordinating, planning, researching, training, monitoring, and evaluating projects, which are necessary for the development of youth and sports in Nigeria<sup>12</sup>. The ministry's aims are to address youth unemployment, entrepreneurial skills gaps, participation in governance, value orientation and lead-

1 World Population Review (2018), Nigeria Country Data, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/nigeria-population/>

2 AfDB (2018), African Economic Outlook: Economic [https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/country\\_notes/Nigeria\\_country\\_note.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/country_notes/Nigeria_country_note.pdf), P.1

3 Ibid: 1

4 World Bank (2018) Poverty and Equity Brief, [http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7-AA2972D68AFE/Global\\_POVEQ\\_NGA.pdf](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7-AA2972D68AFE/Global_POVEQ_NGA.pdf), P.1

5 Ibid:1

6 UNDP (2018), Nigeria Country Notes, [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/NGA.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NGA.pdf), P.4

7 FGN (2009), Second National Youth Policy, 2009 [http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Nigeria\\_2009\\_National\\_Youth\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Nigeria_2009_National_Youth_Policy.pdf), P.5

8 Commonwealth Secretariat (2016), Global Youth Development Index and Report, 2016 <http://cmydiprod.uksouth.cloudapp.azure.com/sites/default/files/2016-10/2016%20Global%20Youth%20Development%20Index%20and%20Report.pdf>, P.12

9 FGN 2009, op.cit:73

10 Ibid:6

11 FGN (ND), Federal Ministry of Youth and Social Development, <http://www.youthdevelopment.gov.ng/index.php/the-ministry/about-fmyd#>

12 Ibid

ership training, improvement of the quality of the citizenry, and the development of sports sector to world class<sup>13</sup>. The FMYSD has four parastatals, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), the National Citizenship and Leadership Center (NCLC), the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), and the National Institute of Sports (NIS)<sup>14</sup>.

2.2. The National Youth Policy and Strategic Action Plan, first adopted in 2001 and revised under the Second National Youth Policy and Action Plan (2009-2013), is the operational policy framework for the youth sector. The policy's goal is to promote the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and protect the health, social, economic, and political well-being of all young men and women by enhancing their participation in the overall development process and improving their quality of life<sup>15</sup>.

2.3. Nigeria has the largest number of child brides in Africa<sup>16</sup>, and the second country with the highest child marriage globally after India<sup>17</sup>. UNICEF notes that child marriage is an important indicator of gender inequality<sup>18</sup>. Even though the Child Right Act 2003 prohibits and criminalizes child marriage and betrothal, 17% and 44% of girls marry before their 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> birthday respectively<sup>19</sup>. The World Bank reported in 2017 that Nigeria has the largest monetary estimate of the annual economic cost of child marriage through lost earning and productivity at \$7.6 billion<sup>20</sup>. It must be noted that child rights protection is on the residual list of the Nigerian Constitution, giving states exclusive responsibility. Thus far, 26 out of the country's 36 states have promulgated the Child Right Act 2003<sup>21</sup>. The 2013 Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act listed child marriage as an act of violence. A 30-member Technical Working Group on Ending Child Marriage chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) including non-governmental organizations was created in 2015<sup>22</sup>.

2.4. Its aims are to develop and implement a holistic multi-sectoral strategy for ending child marriage in Nigeria, as well as raising awareness, encouraging behavior change, and ensuring the monitoring and evaluation of laws and policies<sup>23</sup>. In November 2016, Nigeria became the 17<sup>th</sup> country to launch the African Union's campaign to end child marriage<sup>24</sup>. Also, in November 2016, the FGN under the auspices of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development launched the National Strategy To End Child Marriage in Nigeria (2016-2021). The strategy's vision is to reduce child marriage by 40% by 2020 and end the practice by 2030<sup>25</sup>. Nigeria has committed to eliminating child, early and forced marriage in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During its Voluntary National Review at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum<sup>26</sup>, the government stated that it had established a cash transfer program in the northern states aimed at reducing girls' school dropout rates due to early marriage<sup>27</sup>.

### 3. Education

3.1. The Nigerian education sector is in crisis. The country has the highest number of out-of-school children globally at 10.5 million, of which 60% are girls<sup>28</sup>. Low perceptions of the value of education for girls and early marriages are among the reasons for their modest enrollment<sup>29</sup>. Although primary school enrollment has increased, the net attendance rate is about 70%, as many of those who enroll dropout from the system<sup>30</sup>. Given this dire situation, UNICEF

13 Ibid

14 Ibid

15 FGN 2009, op.cit:10

16 UNICEF (2017), Country Program Document 2018-2022, <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/media/1541/file>

17 UNICEF (2017), UNICEF Annual Report 2017, Nigeria [https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Nigeria\\_2017\\_COAR.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Nigeria_2017_COAR.pdf), P.1

18 Ibid:1

19 Girls Not Bride (2017) Nigeria Country Report, <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/nigeria/>

20 World Bank (2017), The Economic Impacts of Child Marriage, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/312761498512784050/pdf/116835-BRI-P151842-PUBLIC-EICM-Brief-WorkEarningsHousehold-PrintReady.pdf>, P.4

21 Guardian (2018), The Nigeria Child and National Policies, <https://guardian.ng/opinion/the-nigerian-child-and-national-policies/>

22 Girls Not Bride, op.cit

23 Ibid

24 Reuters Thomson Foundation (2016), Nigeria Joins African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-girls/nigeria-joins-african-union-campaign-to-end-child-marriage-idUSKBN13P2BU>

25 Girls Not Bride (2016), National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nigeria, <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/resource-centre/national-strategy-end-child-marriage-nigeria-2016-2021/>

26

The mechanism through which countries report progress in implementing the SDGs,

27 Girls Not Brides, 2017: op.cit

28 UNICEF (2018), Education in Nigeria <https://elearninginfographics.com/education-in-nigeria-infographic-unicef-statistics-on/>

29 Ibid

30 Ibid

notes that Nigeria is losing out on an educated and skilled workforce<sup>31</sup>. The gross enrollment rate for secondary school in 2016 was 39.8% and 44.08% for girls and boys respectively<sup>32</sup>. The literacy rate for persons aged 15-24 years was 75.54% and 57.95% in 2008 for male and female respectively<sup>33</sup>. The lower secondary completion rate in 2010 (the latest figure available) was 43.63% and 50.35% for girls and boys respectively<sup>34</sup>.

3.2. During the launch of the World Bank's World Development Report 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, it was stated that more than three-quarters of fourth graders are unable to solve a two-digit simple subtraction problem<sup>35</sup>. Also, only 20% of young adults who completed primary school can read<sup>36</sup>.

### 3.2. Skills-Based Training

3.2.1. Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is embedded in Nigeria's education sector. The primary objective of TVET as outlined in the National Policy on Education of 1977, revised in 2004, is the inculcation of practical and applied skills as well as basic scientific knowledge in students for useful living in the society<sup>37</sup>. The expected outcomes of TVET are:

- a) To provide a trained human resource in applied science and business, particularly craft, advanced craft, and technical levels;
- b) To provide the technical and vocational skills necessary for agricultural, commercial and economic development; and
- c) To give training and impart necessary skills to individuals who shall be self-reliant economically<sup>38</sup>.

In 2011, the National Board of Technical Education (NBTE), the governing institution for the TVET sub-sector was given approval by the Ministry of Education for the establishment of 99 Vocational Enterprise Institutes (VEIs) and Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs) to complement ongoing efforts of the traditional TVET institutions in Nigeria<sup>39</sup>. The VEIs and IEIs are special vocational centers authorized to train and award National Innovative Diploma (NID) and National Vocational Certificate (NVC) in contemporary courses/vocations<sup>40</sup>. Among these is Multimedia Technology, Software Engineering, Networking & Systems Security, Film and TV Production, Performing and Media Arts, Computer Hardware Engineering Technology, Early Child Care Management, Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Cosmetology and Beauty Therapy, Office Secretarial Assistant<sup>41</sup>. Despite these efforts, UNESCO rated Nigeria low in the 2012 education assessment report, stating that the country's TVET performance manifested some disturbing indicators relative to other countries across the globe<sup>42</sup>. Furthermore, it was noted that the sub-sector lacks skilled human resources such as shortage of TVET instructor and inadequate funding<sup>43</sup>.

3.2.2. A study of female students in TVET in one of Nigeria's six regions found that there were fewer females in the sub-sector and that they lag in technology and engineering programs<sup>44</sup>. The German International Development Agency's project on the "Promotion of Demand Oriented Vocational Qualification" (2015-2017) planned to enroll 25% of females of the total number of 100,000 trainees or employees<sup>45</sup>.

31 Punch NG (2018), Nigeria Losing Out on Literate and Skilled Workforce, <https://punchng.com/nigeria-losing-out-on-literate-skilled-workforce-unicef/>

32 UNESCO (2019), Nigeria Country Data, <http://uis.unesco.org/country/NG>

33 Ibid

34 World Bank (2019), Nigeria Country Data, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.CMPT.LO.FE.ZS?locations=NG>

35 Premium Times (2018), Only 20% of Nigerian Children can Read after Primary School, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/261106-20-nigerian-children-can-read-primary-school-world-bank.html>

36 Ibid

37 Akhuesonkhan, I. A. and Raimi, L. (2014), IMPACT OF QUALITY ASSURANCE ON TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) IN NIGERIA, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270160060-IMPACT\\_OF\\_QUALITY\\_ASSURANCE\\_ON\\_TECHNICAL\\_VOCATIONAL\\_EDUCATION\\_AND\\_TRAINING\\_TVET\\_IN\\_NIGERIA](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270160060-IMPACT_OF_QUALITY_ASSURANCE_ON_TECHNICAL_VOCATIONAL_EDUCATION_AND_TRAINING_TVET_IN_NIGERIA)

38 Ibid:2

39 Ibid:2

40 Ibid:2

41 Ibid:2

42 Ibid:3

43 Academia (2014), Challenges of Implementing Technical and Vocational Education Training Curriculum in Nigerian Universities, [https://www.academia.edu/8193766/Challenges\\_of\\_implementing\\_technical\\_and\\_vocational\\_education\\_and\\_training\\_curriculum\\_in\\_Nigerian\\_Universities](https://www.academia.edu/8193766/Challenges_of_implementing_technical_and_vocational_education_and_training_curriculum_in_Nigerian_Universities)

44 Caleb, E.E. and Charles, I.E. (2017), Perspectives on Gender Experiences of Young Women in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in South-South Nigeria, <http://benchmarkjournals.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Perspectives-on-Gender-Experiences-of-Young-Women-in-Technical-Vocational-Education-and-Training-TVET-in-South-South-Nigeria.pdf>, P.

45 GIZ(ND), GIZ in Nigeria, [https://www.giz.de/de/downloads/01\\_201709\\_%20Fact%20sheet\\_GIZ%20in%20Nigeria\\_EN.pdf](https://www.giz.de/de/downloads/01_201709_%20Fact%20sheet_GIZ%20in%20Nigeria_EN.pdf)

### 3.3 Inclusive Education

3.3.1 Before the adoption of the Special Needs Education Policy in 2015, Inclusive Education (IE) in Nigeria was called “Special Education” and was designed for three categories of individuals namely,

- The Disabled, including people with physical, visual, hearing, mental, emotional, social, speech, learning and multiple impairments;
- The Disadvantaged, involving the children of nomadic pastorals, migrant fisherfolks, migrant farmers, hunter, among others;
- The Gifted and talented, involving persons (children and adults) who have high intellectual quotient and endowed with special traits in arts, creativity, music, leadership, intellectual precocity, etc. and therefore find themselves insufficiently challenged by the regular school<sup>46</sup>.

3.3.2. The Special Needs Education is a move from the narrow scope of Special Education to a more broad-based focus of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation Services<sup>47</sup>. The mission is to ensure the inclusion of persons with Special Needs, provide equal opportunity, equity and access in a barrier-free environment<sup>48</sup>.

The purpose and objectives of Special Needs Education include:

- To take care of total service delivery of the physical, mental and emotional disabilities of the Nigerian child, irrespective of setting (school, home, and hospital);
- To provide adequate and qualitative education for all persons with Special Needs in all aspects of national developmental endeavors; and
- To ensure that all persons with Special Needs develop at a pace commensurate with their abilities and to contribute to the nation's socio-economic and technological development<sup>49</sup>.

Despite the change of name and the adoption of a policy, persons with Special Needs are still not incorporated into the regular school system. For instance, the Lagos State Government is continuing with the old path of segregating Special Needs children by building special schools for them instead of integrating them into regular schools with special education teachers<sup>50</sup>.

3.3.3. Boko Haram, Nigeria's Islamist group, has been operating in Nigeria's northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. As of January 2019, UNICEF and partners improved access to approximately 14,093 (8,220 girls and 5,873 boys) conflict-affected children by providing essential teaching and learning materials and/establishment of learning spaces (including the construction of gender-sensitive WASH<sup>51</sup> facilities)<sup>52</sup>. Furthermore, a total of 36,613 children (19,208 girls and 17,405 boys) in 12 schools in Borno state benefited from the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) refresher training targeting 304 teachers (196 females and 108 males)<sup>53</sup>. Additionally, a total of 449 teachers (123 females and 214 males) were trained in classroom management, psychosocial support (PSS), pedagogical skills, conflict disaster risk reduction (CDRR) and cholera mitigation. The training is expected to benefit a total of 28,863 children (15,181 girls and 13,682 boys)<sup>54</sup>.

3.3.4. Finally, UNICEF support to the Enrollment Drive Company (EDC) for 2018/2019 school year (September 2018 -January 2019) improved access to education in 60 LGAs<sup>55</sup> across all three states for 526,154 out of school children of whom 12,418 are displaced<sup>56</sup>.

46 Adetora, R.A. (2014), Inclusive Education in Nigeria-Myth or Reality, [https://file.scirp.org/pdf/CE\\_2014111914214424.pdf](https://file.scirp.org/pdf/CE_2014111914214424.pdf), P. 1779

47 FGN (2015), Special Needs Education Policy, [http://www.education.gov.ng/images/docs/news/special\\_needs.pdf](http://www.education.gov.ng/images/docs/news/special_needs.pdf), P.9

48 Ibid:9

49 Ibid:9

50 Vanguard NG (2018), Lagos State to Create Disability Schools, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/11/lasg-create-disability-schools-2/>

51 Water, sanitation and hygiene

52 UNICEF (2019), Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Report, January 2019, [https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF\\_NIGERIA\\_Humanitarian\\_Situation\\_Report\\_Jan\\_2019.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_NIGERIA_Humanitarian_Situation_Report_Jan_2019.pdf), P.4

53 Ibid:4

54 Ibid:4

55 Local Government Areas

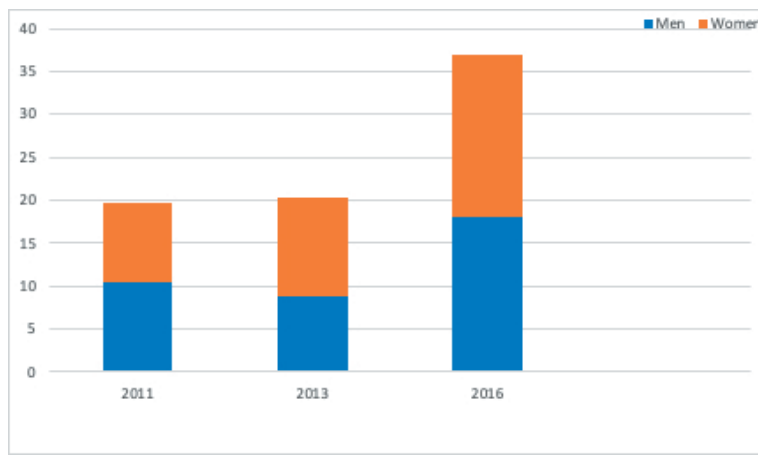
56 Ibid:4

## 4. Economic Empowerment

### 4.1 Employment and Unemployment

4.1.1. Nigeria's unemployment rate increased from 10.2% in the last quarter of 2015 to 12.1% to the first quarter in 2016, and youth aged 15-35 years accounted for 16.39%<sup>57</sup>. As per the International Labor Organization, youth unemployment rate increased from 9.9% in 2011 (10.4% male and 9.2% women) to 10.0% in 2013 (8.9% male 11.5% for women), and 18.3% in 2016 (17.6% and 19.1% for men and women respectively)<sup>58</sup>. The youth labor force participation rate in 2016 was 29.8%, with men's participation rate at 32.9% and women's at 26.7%<sup>59</sup>. The share of youth not in employment, education or training in 2016 stood at 17.2%, with 17.6% and 19.1% for men and women respectively<sup>60</sup>.

Figure 2: Trends in Youth Unemployment in Nigeria, 2011, 2013 and 2016



Source: ILOSTAT

4.1.2 The government funds the interventions promoting youth employment, development partners and private/public partnership programs<sup>61</sup>. Recent mapping of youth unemployment and economic empowerment initiatives on behalf of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development shows an 'extensive and multi-faceted' effort to tackle unemployment<sup>62</sup>. Most of these interventions target the short and long-term of the needs of the unemployed and those at risk of unemployment, including:

- Public Works scheme to reduce vulnerability caused by unemployment;
  - Support to small businesses and entrepreneurs;
  - Vocational training for youth; and,
  - Job placement, particularly for graduates<sup>63</sup>.
- Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P)- is one of the pivots of the Federal Government Transformation Agenda. Some of its projects and allocation were channeled toward Works, Power, Agriculture, and Rural Development, Transport, Education, Aviation, Niger Delta, Federal Capital Territory Administration, and Water Resources. The core objectives of the program include but not limited to the provision of employment for unemployed graduates through internship programs and creating a database of unemployed youth and reduce social vulnerability among the group in the country, through the mechanism of the policy.

57 FGN (2017), National Employment Policy, [http://www.labour.gov.ng/Doc/NATIONAL\\_EMPLOYMENT\\_POLICY.pdf](http://www.labour.gov.ng/Doc/NATIONAL_EMPLOYMENT_POLICY.pdf), P. 16

58 ILO (2017), Nigeria Country Data, [https://www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/oracle/webcenter/portallapp/pagehierarchy/Page21.jspx?\\_adf.ctrl-state=1d8ulr03uw\\_4&\\_afLoop=2771260434921967&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_afWindowId=null#!%40%40%3F\\_afWindowId%3Dnull%26\\_afLoop%3D2771260434921967%26\\_afWindowMode%3D0%26\\_adf.ctrl-state%3D16g64dujn0\\_4](https://www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/oracle/webcenter/portallapp/pagehierarchy/Page21.jspx?_adf.ctrl-state=1d8ulr03uw_4&_afLoop=2771260434921967&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=null#!%40%40%3F_afWindowId%3Dnull%26_afLoop%3D2771260434921967%26_afWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D16g64dujn0_4)

59 Ibid

60 Ibid

61 NSRP (2017), Young Women and Work in Nigeria, <http://www.nsrp-nigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Young-Women-and-Work-in-Nigeria-Research-Report.pdf>, P. 20

62 Ibid:20

63 Ibid:20

- Youth Enterprise With Innovation in Nigeria (YouWIN)- The primary objective of the YouWIN program is to generate jobs by encouraging and supporting aspiring entrepreneurial youth in Nigeria to develop and execute business ideas that will lead to job creation. The program provides aspiring youth with a platform to showcase their business acumen, skills, and aspirations to business investors and mentors in Nigeria.
- The Second round of the YouWIN Call was open solely to female applications, due to a low number of female applications in the first round. Previous and subsequent rounds have no specific targets for young women<sup>64</sup>.
- Youth Initiative for Sustainable Development (YISA)- YISA redirects youth towards agriculture, creating a pool of active players for sustainable agriculture in Nigeria. YISA plays an active role across the different agro-value chain and serves as a sustainable supply hub for agro-produce through youth farmers Out-Growers Schemes as well as a destination point for corporate and impact investors. The program reaches out to rural dwellers through the YISA Rural Farm School Project where the lack of skills and start-up capital among rural youth and women are being addressed<sup>65</sup>.
- Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)- is financed through a \$300 million World Bank loan, YESSO aims to support the government to develop a social protection system focusing on public works, skills for jobs and CCTs. The program reported a minimum of 40% quota for young women (18-35) in public works generated labor opportunities<sup>66</sup>.
- Growing Girls and Women in Nigeria (G-WIN)- is a program under the Ministry of Finance, which supports women and girls in Nigeria through better targeting of pilot Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) through the budget management process. The two areas of focus include capacity for rural women and services for hard to reach women<sup>67</sup>.
- N-Power Empowerment Program- is a job creation and employment program of the National Social Investment Program of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The N-Power is for Nigerians between the ages of 18-35 years. N-Power is linked to the Federal Government's policies in the economic, employment and social development arenas. N-Power addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development while linking its core and outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. The modular programs under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work. The N-Power Volunteer Corp involves a massive deployment of 500,000 trained graduates who will assist in improving the inadequacies in public services such as education, health, and civic education. Some of these graduates will also help in actualizing Nigeria's economic and strategic aspirations of achieving food security and self-sufficiency<sup>68</sup>.
- Educating Nigerian Girls in New Enterprises (ENGINE)-a joint DfID and Coca-Cola initiative funded through the Girls Education Challenge (GEC) implemented by Mercy Corps to improve learning outcomes and the economic status of marginalized adolescent girls aged 16-19 years in the northern Nigeria states of Kaduna, Kano and Abuja-the Federal Capital Territory, and the Lagos state, in the southern Nigeria<sup>69</sup>.
- Women 4 Health (W4H)- a five-year DfID funded program that addresses the acute shortage of female health workers in five states in northern Nigeria<sup>70</sup>.
- Growth and Employment in States (GEMS-4)- is a World Bank and DfID funded initiative to improve income and employment opportunities within the retail and wholesale sectors. It is currently active in Kaduna, Kano and Lagos states<sup>71</sup>.
- The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program (YEDP) was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to enhance the deployment of the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Nigerian youths for maximum economic development. The YEDP

64 Ibid:35

65 YISA (ND), Youth Initiative for Sustainable Development, <https://yarinigeria.wordpress.com/about/>

66 Ibid:35

67 Ibid:22

68 NSIP (ND), N-Power, <http://npower.gov.ng/about-us.html>

69 NSRP 2017, op.cit :21

70 Ibid:22

71 Ibid:22

aims to fix the triple-barrelled constraints of insufficiency, high cost and inadequate term of capital usually faced by youth entrepreneurs and startups. It offers credit of up to N3 million to eligible youths or N10 million for groups of 3-5 youths, with an interest rate of 9% per annum. Tenor broadly depends on project complexity and cash flow but is between 1 year for a working capital loan and 3 years for a term loan. The collateral requirements are quite simple: academic and NYSC certificates, third party guarantees and other movable assets<sup>72</sup>.

## 4.2 Ecosystem and Entrepreneurship

4.2.1 Lagos, the commercial capital, dominates Nigeria's ecosystem. As per the Global Startup Ecosystem Report and Ranking 2017, Lagos has the most valuable startup on the African continent at \$ 2 billion<sup>73</sup>. No African country made it to the top 20 rank, but Lagos, Cape Town, and Johannesburg were mentioned in the report<sup>74</sup>. The Lagos ecosystem is second to Cape Town in terms of the number of startups<sup>75</sup>. Lagos has the ninth highest rate of founders with an undergraduate degree at 59%, while 93% have a technical background, the highest globally<sup>76</sup>. However, Lagos startups have one of the lowest rates of foreign clientele; only 11% of startups plan to go global<sup>77</sup>.

4.2.2. In 2018, the Lagos State Government (LASG) sets up its innovation hub, KITE@Yaba (Knowledge, Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship) to provide an enabling environment to facilitate and support the development of a technology cluster and ecosystem with the Yaba District of Lagos<sup>78</sup>. It is expected that the project will contribute significantly to the economic development of Nigeria and position Lagos State as the hub for innovation in Nigeria, and preferred destination for technology investors and innovators<sup>79</sup>. The project will make recommendations to the LASG on eight critical areas to foster an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship in information and communication, namely Access to Funding; Access to Market & Demand; Infrastructure; Policy Regulation & Governance; Talent, Skills & Education; Research & Development; Network & Collaboration; and Advocacy & Marketing<sup>80</sup>.

### 4.2.3. Female Startup Founders

- WeCyclers is focused on giving low-income communities in developing countries a great value from waste and clean up their neighborhoods through an incentive-based recyclers program.
- Flying Doctors Nigeria is the first Air Ambulance service in Nigeria dedicated to bringing trauma care to the most unmotorable parts of Nigeria.
- iMentor Africa is a virtual platform for entrepreneurs to LinkUp and share the gift of "Mentorship". It is for everyone who is willing and able to Mentor or be Mentored.
- Lifebank works with blood banks, hospitals, and volunteer donors to ensure blood is available for everyone.
- Accountinghub is a small business accounting platform, which brings together a collection of accountants and consultants offering services to Nigerian SMEs and startups<sup>81</sup>.

### 4.2. 4. Some of the Most Active Incubators and Accelerators for Nigerian Startups

- Co-Creation Hub (CcHub) is regarded as Nigeria's first startup incubator. Co-Creation Hub is based in the heart of Yaba, Lagos. In the last seven years, CcHub has helped over to tech startups. In 2015, it announced the launch of its \$5 million social innovation fund, Growth Capital. The incubation program at CcHub delivers a range of programs such as Summer of Code, Social Change Summit, CodeCamp targeting the social impact and technology arenas.

72 CBN (ND), Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program, <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Devfin/yedp.asp>

73 NIPC (ND), Lagos, Africa's Most Valuable Startup Ecosystem, <https://www.nipc.gov.ng/lagos-africas-valuable-startup-ecosystem-report/>

74 Ibid

75 Ibid

76 Ibid

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78 NIPC (2018), Lagos State Government Announces Yaba ICT Cluster project Take-Off, <https://nipc.gov.ng/2018/07/31/lagos-state-government-announces-yaba-ict-cluster-project-take-off/>

79 Ibid

80 Ibid

81 TechMoran (2018), The World of Female Startup Founders in Nigeria, <https://techmoran.com/2018/01/17/world-female-startup-founders-nigeria/>



- Leadpath Nigeria-with a \$ 1.5 million accelerator fund and startup workspace in Lagos. Leadpath is exclusively aimed at startups doing business in software applications, mobile applications, electronic payments, and big data.
- Spark has raised over \$ 3 million and has invested in 13 companies. Spark's portfolio, startup Hotels.ng went on to raise Series A and is to have delivered a 4x on the investment made.
- The Hebron Startup Labs is a tech hub wholly funded and run by the management of Covenant University.
- Roar Nigeria is a university-based tech startup incubator established by the management of the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN). Startups within and around the UNN campus are on the radar of Roar.
- Startpreneurs offers a three-month-long accelerator program, focusing on Machine learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Augmented Reality startups. It also has a Startpreneurs Youth Acceleration Program (SYAP), where children and youth are aided to activate and develop their ideas, dreams, skills, and confidence. Startpreneurs has a strategic partnership with Silicon Valley's 500 startups<sup>82</sup>.
- Jumia Technologies was founded in 2012 in Lagos and is owned by the African Internet Group (AIG). The company runs the largest e-commerce group on the African continent with operations in 14 countries across the continent<sup>83</sup>. The Platform was listed on the New York Stock Exchange on April 2019, becoming the first African tech company to be listed on a major global exchange<sup>84</sup>.

## 5 Youth Engagement and Civic Participation

5.1 Nigerian civil society has expanded since the return to multiparty politics in 1999. During military rule 1983-May 1999, the main civic organizations/activities were centered around the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and the Citizenship and Leadership Training Center, and the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS). The NYSC and the Citizenship and Leadership Training Center are government-created initiatives.

- The National Youth Service Corps was established in 1973 to promote national unity and integration after the end of the Nigerian Civil War<sup>85</sup>. The mission of the Corps was to break down ethnic and religious barriers in the country by assigning college graduates to a one-year mandatory service outside of their home states<sup>86</sup>. All colleges, polytechnics, and Colleges of Education graduates below 30 years participate in the NYSC<sup>87</sup>. Corps members work in both public and private sectors and work on a community service designed by their host communities<sup>88</sup>.
- The Citizenship and Leadership Training Center was established in 1951. An Act of parliament in 1960 gave the Center's existence as a governmental structure statutory recognition<sup>89</sup>. Decree No.38 of December 1989 updated the Act<sup>90</sup>. Its mission is to provide a sustainable framework for citizenship and leadership training and value reorientation through experiential education and the use of challenging natural environment for the benefit of all Nigerians<sup>91</sup>. A Women's Unit was established in 1975<sup>92</sup>.

5.2. Nigeria has a variety of youth organizations with wide-ranging activities advancing the rights of youths in the country. A notable example of these organizations is the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) with a national presence. Created in 1980, NANS, is the successor organization to the National Union of Nigerian Students (NUNS) that was proscribed in 1978 after it organized a national strike protesting the increase in university fees<sup>93</sup>.

82 Wee Tracker (2018), Most Active Incubators and Accelerators for Nigerian Startups, <https://weetracker.com/2018/02/28/active-incubators-accelerators-nigerian-startups/>

83 Quartz (2019a), What Makes Africa's Largest e-Commerce Platform Africa, <https://qz.com/africa/1572318/what-makes-jumia-an-african-startup/>

84 Quartz (2019b), Jumia's Stock is Soaring on its First Day of Trading on the New York Stock Exchange, <https://qz.com/africa/1594036/jumia-ipo-shares-up-more-than-50/>

85 ICICP (ND), Nigeria's Civic Participation Profile, <http://www.icicp.org/resource-library/icp-publications/global-youth-service-database/africa-2/west-sub-saharan-africa/nigeria/>

86 Ibid

87 Ibid

88 Ibid

89 C&LTS (ND) About CLTC, <http://www.cltc.gov.ng/CLTC-SITE/about.html>

90 Ibid

91 Ibid

92 Ibid

93 Nigeria Bulletin (2016) 8 Ugly Sides of the National Association of Nigerian Students, <https://www.nigerianbulletin.com/threads/8-ugly-sides-of-national-association-of-nigerian-students-nans.216241/>

•NANS represents the interests of Nigerian students and works closely with Student Union Governments on various campuses. The organization also acts as a social activist group working with civil society organization. NANS have continued with its primary function since the return to democracy in 1999. In November 2018, it called on the Federal Government to negotiate with the Academic Staff Union of Universities to end the indefinite strike action<sup>94</sup>. Despite this action and others to promote and protect social justice in the country, critics have labeled it ineffective because they feel the Federal Government has co-opted the organization<sup>95</sup>.

5.3. Afrobarometer's 2014/15 survey showed that Nigerian youth were actively engaged in various civic engagements. For instance, 61.3% of males and 54.9% of females belonged to a religious group that met outside of regular worship times<sup>96</sup>. Over half of males and 38.9% of females, were members of community or voluntary groups, with 53.2% and 38.2% males and females respectively attended a community meeting<sup>97</sup>.

5.4. In terms of political engagement, Nigerian youth support the use of elections to choose their leaders. The national turnout in the 2011 presidential election was 52%, 52.6% youth voted, of which 57.7% were males compared to 47.9% females<sup>98</sup>. The 2011 participation rate represents a decline from the 2007 rate of 60.4%<sup>99</sup>. Youth participation in other election-related activities was also moderate as only one in five youth or 22.9% indicated that they had attended a campaign meeting or rally or tried to convince others to vote for a specific party (21.1%)<sup>100</sup>. National turnout in the 2015 election was low at 42% for the presidential poll and 38% for the House of Representatives<sup>101</sup>. Youth were involved as electoral officers, observers, and party agents<sup>102</sup>. The Independent National Electoral Commission also used NYSC members in ad-hoc election-related matters<sup>103</sup>.

5.5. The Not Too Young To Run (NTYTR) campaign seeks to reduce the age limit for contesting elections in Nigeria. The campaign, a movement of over 80 youth civil society organizations, is the initiative of the Young Initiative for Advocacy, Growth, and Advancement (YIAGA) started in May 2016. The movement mobilized citizens across the country to engage with the legislature during the constitution review process in 2016. The bill seeks to alter Sections 65, 106, 131, and 177 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) to reduce the age qualification for the office of President, Governor, and Member of the House of Representatives from 40 to 35 years, 35 to 30 years, and 30 to 25 years, respectively<sup>104</sup>. The campaign also seeks to mainstream independent candidacy in Nigeria's political process<sup>105</sup>.

5.6. The NTYTR idea was adopted as a global opensource campaign to draw attention to the rights of young people running for public office and leadership by the office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the UNDP in November 2016, in Geneva, Switzerland<sup>106</sup>. The campaign objectives include :

1. Raise awareness on the state youth in public office by creating a knowledge platform of global statistics concerning youth and politics, as well as the barriers to participation by country;
2. Advocate the rights of young people running for public office and leadership positions and increased participation of young people in politics and government;
3. Gather input and ideas from young people around the world with regards to their participation in political decision-making processes through an online public consultation.<sup>107</sup>

94 Today NG (2018), ASUU: NANS Give Federal Government Ultimatum To End Strike, <https://www.today.ng/news/nigeria/asuu-nans-federal-government-ultimatum-strikes-168778>

95 Ibid

96 MINDS (2016), Youth Participation in Elections in Africa, <https://minds-africa.org/Downloads/MINDS%202016%20Youth%20Program%20Research%20Publication.pdf>. P. 59

97 Ibid:59

98 Ibid:60

99 Ibid:60

100 Ibid:60

101 Ibid:60

102 Ibid:60

103 Ibid:60

104 International IDEA (2016), Lowering Age Limit to Increase Youth Participation in Politics, <https://www.idea.int/news-media/news/lowering-age-limit-increase-youth-participation-politics>

105 Ibid

106 UNDP (2016), Concept Note: Not TOO Young to Run, [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Democracy/Forum2016/OSGEY\\_IPU\\_UNDP\\_SideEvent.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Democracy/Forum2016/OSGEY_IPU_UNDP_SideEvent.pdf), P.1

107 Ibid:2

5. 7. The ‘Not Too Young To Run’ bill to reduce age limits across political office in Nigeria was passed by lawmakers in July 2017 and signed into law by the President on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Nigeria’s “Democracy Day”.

## 6. Development Partners in the Youth Sector

- European Union
- The World Bank
- The UN Family
- United States Agency International Development (USAID)
- Save the Children
- German Agency for International Development (GIZ)
- United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DfID)

## 7. Recommendations

1. The Bank should provide technical assistance to the National Bureau of Statistics to enable it to produce timely data that is disaggregated by age and sex ;
2. IsDB should assist the FGN in mainstreaming youth development across all sectors of the society;
3. The IsDB should work with all stakeholders to address the high dropout rates in schools;
4. IsDB should provide technical support to assist the FGN to implement SDG target 8b (develop and operationalize a national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy);
5. The IsDB should work with other development partners to guide the FGN in integrating Inclusive Education into the regular school system; and
6. IsDB should work with the authorities to integrate urban youth who did not complete primary school into skills and employment programs.

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