

Ambassador John P. Desrocher

John Desrocher is the U.S. Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. From September 2014 until August 2017 he served as the Deputy Assistant



Secretary of State for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. He also served in Baghdad from 2009-2010 as Minister Counselor for Economic Coordination, responsible for U.S.-Iraq economic policy issues. In the interim he served in the Department of State as the Director of the Office of Iraq Affairs and briefly as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Maghreb Affairs. Between 2006 and 2009 he served as the U.S. Consul General in Auckland.

Ambassador Desrocher has extensive experience in international trade and in the Arab world. Immediately prior to his assignment to Auckland he served as Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs at the U.S.

Embassy in Cairo. He participated in Palestinian-Israeli economic negotiations while serving at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem in the late 1990s and served as State Department desk officer for Iraq in the mid-1990s. While detailed to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, he led portions of free trade negotiations with Chile and Singapore. He also served in the U.S. Embassies in Monrovia and Bonn as well as in the State Department Operations Center and Office of European Union Affairs.

Ambassador Desrocher, a graduate of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, is a multiple recipient of the State Department's Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards. He speaks French and German.

Ambassador Desrocher is married to Ms. Karen Rose.

Ambassador Nina Maria Fite



Nina Maria Fite was appointed as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Angola on November 20, 2017.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Ms. Fite was most recently the U.S. Consul General in Montreal, Canada from September 2014 to August 2017. She also served as U.S. Consul General in Lahore, Pakistan from September 2011 to May 2014.

Ms. Fite's previous assignments include serving as the Deputy Economic Counselor in Kabul, Afghanistan; the Political/Economic Section Chief in Luanda, Angola; with the U.S. Trade Representative's Office; as Regional and Bilateral Environment, Science and Health

Officer in Budapest, Hungary; and as the Director of the Policy Planning Office in the State Department's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science. She also served in Lisbon, Portugal and Kingston, Jamaica.

A native Pennsylvanian, Ambassador Fite completed a Bachelor of Architecture at Carnegie-Mellon University and holds a Master's in International Management from Thunderbird – The American Graduate School of International Management and a Master's of Science in National Resource Strategy (Distinguished Graduate) at the National Defense University's Eisenhower School in June 2011. She speaks Portuguese, French, Hungarian and Spanish.

Ambassador W. Stuart Symington



W. Stuart Symington United States Ambassador to Nigeria

W. Stuart Symington has served as Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria since November 2016. At the time of his appointment, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Africa and African Security Affairs. Previously, Ambassador Symington was United States Special Representative for the Central African Republic, Ambassador to Rwanda, Ambassador to Djibouti, and Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge' d'affaires ad interim in Niger. In Nigeria, he leads the outstanding staff of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja and Consulate General in Lagos. Together they support the people of Nigeria and the region in their efforts

to achieve broad-based prosperity and lasting security by defeating terrorist and criminal threats and ensuring inclusive democratic governance and justice. In addition to his posts in Africa, Symington served as the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander of United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Command. There he worked with regional partners and other U.S. government departments and agencies to stop threats to our national and regional security. During his time in Rwanda, Symington's Mission team increased regional security cooperation and economic integration, strengthened democratic institutions, and accelerated improvements in health care and agricultural production. In Djibouti, Symington focused his Embassy's efforts on advancing regional economic integration, defusing humanitarian crises, and promoting democratic development and regional security.

Symington began his diplomatic career in Honduras, tracking protests and domestic politics. He then moved to Spain and worked on economic issues before serving as the Ambassador's aide during Desert Shield and Storm. In Mexico, he cultivated the political opposition, worked anti-drug issues, helped congressional visitors looking at

NAFTA, and reported from Chiapas during the Zapatista revolt. At the State Department, he worked for the Under Secretary for Political Affairs on Latin American and African issues, and also backed up his aide for Bosnia during the Dayton peace process. During a year-long Pearson Fellowship, he served on the staff of Congressman Ike Skelton studying U.S. military joint operations and education. He later traveled to Sudan and North Korea on teams negotiating to free American captives before finishing the year as an aide to the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations. As a political officer in Ecuador, Symington forged ties to the political opposition, indigenous leaders, military commanders, and other government and private sector leaders. He joined efforts to end the century-old Peru/Ecuador border conflict, helped negotiate the agreement establishing an anti-drug Forward Operating Location, and, after protests toppled Ecuador's president, pressed for a return to civilian rule.

As Deputy Chief of Mission in Niger, Symington dealt with military mutinies, terrorist threats, and civil unrest. He mounted an outreach effort to Muslim leaders, fostered anti-terrorism cooperation, and buttressed Niger's democracy with a key food security program. He then returned to the State Department as the Deputy Director of West African Affairs in the Africa Bureau, working on the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Initiative, humanitarian and development issues, and challenges to security and democratic stability.

From October 2004 to February 2005, Symington worked with Ambassador Negroponte in Iraq on the election process and political issues, managing pre-election political reporting from around the country and visiting reporting officers in six of our ten regional offices during the run-up to the election. On Election Day, January 30, 2005, Symington was based in Baqubah and observed voting there and in other cities of Diyala province in the Sunni Triangle. Before becoming Ambassador to Djibouti in 2006, Symington worked at the National Defense University's Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, studying and teaching how America's diplomats and warriors can cooperate best to advance U.S. interests abroad.

Ambassador Symington was raised in Missouri, earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University, and a Juris Doctorate from Columbia University. He clerked for the Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Missouri, then litigated and practiced corporate law in New York, London, Paris, and St. Joseph, Missouri, before becoming a Foreign Service Officer in 1986.



United States Department of State

U.S.-ALGERIA RELATIONS

The United States and Algeria established diplomatic relations in 1962 following Algeria's independence from France. Algeria severed relations with the United States in 1967 in the wake of the Arab-Israeli War, but reestablished relations in 1974.

Algeria is a strategically located and capable partner with which the United States has strong diplomatic, law enforcement, economic, and security cooperation. The United States and Algeria conduct frequent civilian and military exchanges. Most recently, Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan visited Algiers in June 2018 and opened the fifth annual Algeria-U.S. Counterterrorism Dialogue with Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel.

Algeria plays a constructive role in promoting regional stability, particularly in Libya and Mali.

U.S. Assistance to Algeria

U.S. engagement in Algeria has three primary objectives: expanding our security and military partnership, growing economic and commercial links, and building educational and cultural ties between Algerians and Americans.

Exchanges of expertise play a valuable role in strengthening the U.S.-Algeria law enforcement and security partnership at both the senior and working levels. These relationships have never been stronger, in part as a result of a recently-concluded Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. Programming from the State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) enables us to partner with Algerian law enforcement and security

agencies to help interdict and investigate a wide variety of crimes and terrorist activities occurring in Algeria's border region by focusing on three strategic areas of capability: forensics, criminal investigations, and border security.

Our Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) has supported the work of Algeria's civil society through programming that provides training to journalists, business people, female entrepreneurs and parliamentarians, legal professionals, and the heads of leading non-governmental organizations.

There are close to 5,000 alumni of U.S. government exchange programs throughout Algeria. Our programs support youth entrepreneurship and English language learning and teaching, women's empowerment, media engagement, and cross-cultural dialogue.

Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States is one of Algeria's top trading partners, and Algeria is one of the top U.S. trading partners in the Middle East/North African region. Most U.S. direct investment in Algeria has been in the hydrocarbon sector. The main U.S. import from Algeria is crude oil. The two countries have signed a trade and investment framework agreement that provides a platform to address impediments in the economic relationship and identify paths to broader commercial interaction. The United States supports Algeria's desire to diversify its economy, accede to the World Trade Organization, move toward transparent economic policies, and liberalize its investment climate.

In April 2018, the United States and Algeria signed a ten-year extension to their Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation.

Algeria's Membership in International Organizations

Algeria and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank. Algeria is an active member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and serves as the co-chair of the organization's West Africa Working Group. Algeria is also a Partner for Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, an observer to the

Organization of American States, and an observer to the World Trade Organization. It also occasionally provides airlift and other logistical support to UN and AU peacekeeping operations.

Bilateral Representation

The U.S. Ambassador to Algeria is John P. Desrocher; other principal embassy officials are listed in the Department's Key Officers List.

Algeria maintains an embassy in the United States at 2118 Kalorama Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 1-202-265-2800).



United States Department of State

U.S.-ANGOLA RELATIONS

The United States established diplomatic relations with Angola in 1993, which had become independent from Portugal in 1975. Post-independence, Angola saw 27 years of civil war among groups backed at various times by countries that included the United States, the Soviet Union, Cuba, China, and South Africa. Angola has had three presidents since independence. The first president came to power in 1975; upon his 1979 death, the second president assumed power. Multiparty elections were held in 1992 under a process supervised by the United Nations, but the results were disputed and civil war continued until the 2002 death of one holdout guerilla leader. A new constitution was adopted in 2010 and elections were held in 2012. The third president, Joao Lourenco, was elected in 2017.

Angola has a strong and capable military. Although the country is sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest oil producer and has great agricultural potential, two-thirds of the population live in poverty. U.S. foreign policy goals in Angola are to promote and strengthen Angola's democratic institutions, promote economic prosperity, improve health, and consolidate peace and security, including maritime security. The United States has worked with Angola to remove thousands of landmines and help war refugees and internally displaced people return to their homes.

U.S. Assistance to Angola

U.S. assistance seeks to focus on preventing major infectious diseases, strengthening health systems, increasing access to family planning and reproductive health services, and building capacity within nongovernmental organizations working in health advocacy and

health service delivery. U.S. assistance also promotes stabilization and security sector reform.

Bilateral Economic Relations

Angola is the third-largest trading partner of the United States in sub-Saharan Africa, mainly because of its petroleum exports. U.S. exports to Angola include machinery, aircraft, poultry, and iron and steel products. Angola is a partner country with Power Africa. Angola is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. The United States and Angola have signed a trade and investment framework agreement, which seeks to promote greater trade and investment between the two countries.

Angola's Membership in International Organizations

Angola and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. Angola also is an observer to the Organization of American States.

Bilateral Representation

The U.S. Ambassador to Angola is Nina Fite. Other principal embassy officials are listed in the Department's Key Officers List.

Angola maintains an [embassy](#) in the United States at 2100-2108 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 (tel. 202-785-1156).



United States Department of State

U.S.-NIGERIA RELATIONS

The United States established diplomatic relations with Nigeria in 1960, following Nigeria's independence from the United Kingdom. From 1966 to 1999, Nigeria experienced a series of military coups, excluding the short-lived second republic between 1979 and 1983. The 30-month long civil war, which ended in January 1970, resulted in 1-3 million casualties. Following the 1999 inauguration of a civilian president, the U.S.-Nigerian relationship began to improve, as did cooperation on foreign policy goals such as regional peacekeeping.

Nigeria is the largest economy and most populous country in Africa with an estimated population of more than 190 million, which is expected to grow to 400 million by 2050 and become the third most populous country in the world after China and India. Nigeria had an estimated gross domestic product of 375 billion USD in 2018. Although Nigeria's economy has become more diversified, crude oil sales have continued to be the main source of export earnings and government revenues. Despite persistent structural weaknesses such as a deficient transportation infrastructure, the Nigerian economy grew briskly for the decade ending in 2013. The growth rate slowed in 2014, owing in large part to the fall in oil prices, and in 2016 and 2017 Nigeria experienced its first recession in over two decades before rebounding in 2018. The gains from economic growth have been uneven; more than 60% of the population lives in poverty.

In the 2015 presidential elections, for the first time in the country's history, an opposition party won the presidency and control of the National Assembly in generally clean and transparent elections. Notwithstanding important steps forward on consolidating

democracy, the country continues to face the formidable challenges of terrorist attacks, inter-communal conflicts, crime and kidnapping, and public mistrust of the government. Nigeria has yet to develop effective systems to address corruption, poverty, and ineffective social service delivery.

The next presidential election is scheduled to take place in February 2019. President Muhammadu Buhari is seeking a second term. The United States continues to support Nigerian institutions and the Nigerian people in their efforts to conduct free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections, the results of which reflect the will of the Nigerian people.

In April 2018, President Trump hosted President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria at the White House to discuss efforts to deepen our mutually beneficial relationship. Since 2010, under the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission (BNC), a forum for high-level discussions, the two countries have met regularly. The most recent BNC was held on November 9, 2017, in Abuja, Nigeria and attended by an inter-agency delegation headed by Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan. The BNC meetings have focused on key areas of mutual interest, including good governance and anti-corruption; trade and investment; development and food security; and security and counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. Assistance to Nigeria

Through U.S. assistance in Nigeria, the U.S. Government works to protect Americans from terrorism and disease, create opportunity for trade and investment, and support a more stable and prosperous country that is a partner in advancing our global priorities. Through U.S. foreign assistance, the U.S. Government is supporting Nigerian efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote good governance and counter corruption, and improve security while addressing the factors that drive conflict and providing life-saving assistance to those affected by terrorism. U.S. assistance also aims to build institutional capacity in the provision of health and education services and increase agricultural productivity and food security.

Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States is the largest foreign investor in Nigeria, with U.S. foreign direct investment concentrated largely in the petroleum/mining and wholesale trade sectors. At \$2.2 billion in 2017, Nigeria is the second largest U.S. export destination in Sub-Saharan Africa. The United States and Nigeria have a bilateral trade and investment framework agreement. In 2017, the two-way trade in goods between the United States and Nigeria totaled over \$9 billion. U.S. exports to Nigeria include wheat, vehicles, machinery, kerosene, lubricating oils, jet fuel, civilian aircraft, and plastics. Nigerian exports to the United States included crude oil, cocoa, cashew nuts, and animal feed. Nigeria is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Nigeria's Membership in International Organizations

Nigeria and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. Nigeria also is an observer to the Organization of American States.

Bilateral Representation

The U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria is W. Stuart Symington; other principal embassy officials are listed in the Department's Key Officers List.

Nigeria maintains an **embassy** in the United States at 3519 International Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008, (tel: 202-800-7201, ext 113).



AFRICA :: ALGERIA

Introduction :: ALGERIA

Background:

After more than a century of rule by France, Algerians fought through much of the 1950s to achieve independence in 1962. Algeria's primary political party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), was established in 1954 as part of the struggle for independence and has since largely dominated politics. The Government of Algeria in 1988 instituted a multi-party system in response to public unrest, but the surprising first round success of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the December 1991 legislative elections led the Algerian army to intervene and postpone the second round of elections to prevent what the secular elite feared would be an extremist-led government from assuming power. The army began a crackdown on the FIS that spurred FIS supporters to begin attacking government targets. Fighting escalated into an insurgency, which saw intense violence from 1992-98, resulting in over 100,000 deaths - many attributed to indiscriminate massacres of villagers by extremists. The government gained the upper hand by the late-1990s, and FIS's armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army, disbanded in January 2000.

Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, with the backing of the military, won the presidency in 1999 in an election that was boycotted by several candidates protesting alleged fraud, and won subsequent elections in 2004, 2009, and 2014. The government in 2011 introduced some political reforms in response to the Arab Spring, including lifting the 19-year-old state of emergency restrictions and increasing women's quotas for elected assemblies, while also increasing subsidies to the populace. Since 2014, Algeria's reliance on hydrocarbon revenues to fund the government and finance the large subsidies for the population has fallen under stress because of declining oil prices. Protests broke out across the country in late February 2019 against President BOUTEFLIKA's decision to seek a fifth term. BOUTEFLIKA resigned on 2 April 2019, and the speaker of the upper house of parliament, Abdelkader BENSALAH, became interim head of state on 9 April. Per the constitution, BENSALAH has 90 days to organize elections to elect a new president.

Geography :: ALGERIA

Location:

Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Morocco and Tunisia

Geographic coordinates:

28 00 N, 3 00 E

Map references:

Africa

Area:

total: 2,381,740 sq km

land: 2,381,740 sq km

water: 0 sq km

country comparison to the world: 11

Area - comparative:

slightly less than 3.5 times the size of Texas

Area comparison map:



Land boundaries:

total: 6,734 km

border countries (7): Libya 989 km, Mali 1359 km, Mauritania 460 km, Morocco 1900 km, Niger 951 km, Tunisia 1034 km, Western Sahara 41 km

Coastline:

998 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

exclusive fishing zone: 32-52 nm

Climate:

arid to semiarid; mild, wet winters with hot, dry summers along coast; drier with cold winters and hot summers on high plateau; sirocco is a hot, dust/sand-laden wind especially common in summer

Terrain:

mostly high plateau and desert; Atlas Mountains in the far north and Hoggar Mountains in the south; narrow, discontinuous coastal plain

Elevation:

mean elevation: 800 m

lowest point: Chott Melrhir -40 m

highest point: Tahat 2,908 m

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, lead, zinc

Land use:

agricultural land: 17.4% (2016 est.)

arable land: 3.1% (2016 est.) / permanent crops: 0.4% (2016 est.) / permanent pasture: 13.8% (2016 est.)

forest: 0.8% (2016 est.)

other: 81.8% (2016 est.)

Irrigated land:

13,600 sq km (2014)

Population distribution:

the vast majority of the populace is found in the extreme northern part of the country along the Mediterranean Coast

Natural hazards:

mountainous areas subject to severe earthquakes; mudslides and floods in rainy season; droughts

Environment - current issues:

air pollution in major cities; soil erosion from overgrazing and other poor farming practices; desertification; dumping of raw sewage, petroleum refining wastes, and other industrial effluents is leading to the pollution of rivers and coastal waters; Mediterranean Sea, in particular, becoming polluted from oil wastes, soil erosion, and fertilizer runoff; inadequate supplies of potable water

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

largest country in Africa but 80% desert; canyons and caves in the southern Hoggar Mountains and in the barren Tassili n'Ajjer area in the southeast of the country contain numerous examples of prehistoric art - rock paintings and carvings depicting human activities and wild and domestic animals (elephants, giraffes, cattle) - that date to the African Humid Period, roughly 11,000 to 5,000 years ago, when the region was completely vegetated

People and Society :: ALGERIA

Population:

41,657,488 (July 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 34

Nationality:

noun: Algerian(s)

adjective: Algerian

Ethnic groups:

Arab-Berber 99%, European less than 1%

note: although almost all Algerians are Berber in origin (not Arab), only a minority identify themselves as primarily Berber, about 15% of the total population; these people live mostly in the mountainous region of Kabylie east of Algiers and several other communities; the Berbers are also Muslim but identify with their Berber rather than Arab cultural heritage; Berbers have long agitated, sometimes violently, for autonomy; the government is unlikely to grant autonomy but has officially recognized Berber languages and introduced them into public schools

Languages:

Arabic (official), French (lingua franca), Berber or Tamazight (official); dialects include Kabyle Berber (Taqbaylit), Shawiya Berber (Tacawit), Mzab Berber, Tuareg Berber (Tamahaq)

Religions:

Muslim (official; predominantly Sunni) 99%, other (includes Christian and Jewish) <1% (2012 est.)

Demographic profile:

For the first two thirds of the 20th century, Algeria's high fertility rate caused its population to grow rapidly. However, about a decade after independence from France in 1962, the total fertility rate fell dramatically from 7 children per woman in the 1970s to about 2.4 in 2000, slowing Algeria's population growth rate by the late 1980s. The lower fertility rate was mainly the result of women's rising age at first marriage (virtually all Algerian children being born in wedlock) and to a lesser extent the wider use of contraceptives. Later marriages and a preference for smaller families are attributed to increases in women's education and participation in the labor market; higher unemployment; and a shortage of housing forcing multiple generations to live together. The average woman's age at first marriage increased from about 19 in the mid-1950s to 24 in the mid-1970s to 30.5 in the late 1990s.

Algeria's fertility rate experienced an unexpected upturn in the early 2000s, as the average woman's age at first marriage dropped slightly. The reversal in fertility could represent a temporary fluctuation in marriage age or, less likely, a decrease in the steady rate of contraceptive use.

Thousands of Algerian peasants - mainly Berber men from the Kabylia region - faced with land dispossession and economic hardship under French rule migrated temporarily to France to work in manufacturing and mining during the first half of the 20th century. This movement accelerated during World War I, when Algerians filled in for French factory workers or served as soldiers. In the years following independence, low-skilled Algerian workers and Algerians who had supported the French (known as Harkis) emigrated en masse to France. Tighter French immigration rules and Algiers' decision to cease managing labor migration to France in the 1970s limited legal emigration largely to family reunification.

Not until Algeria's civil war in the 1990s did the country again experience substantial outmigration. Many Algerians legally entered Tunisia without visas claiming to be tourists and then stayed as workers. Other Algerians headed to Europe

seeking asylum, although France imposed restrictions. Sub-Saharan African migrants came to Algeria after its civil war to work in agriculture and mining. In the 2000s, a wave of educated Algerians went abroad seeking skilled jobs in a wider range of destinations, increasing their presence in North America and Spain. At the same time, legal foreign workers principally from China and Egypt came to work in Algeria's construction and oil sectors. Illegal migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Malians, Nigeriens, and Gambians, continue to come to Algeria in search of work or to use it as a stepping stone to Libya and Europe.

Since 1975, Algeria also has been the main recipient of Sahrawi refugees from the ongoing conflict in Western Sahara. More than 1000,000 Sahrawis are estimated to be living in five refugee camps in southwestern Algeria near Tindouf.

Age structure:

0-14 years: 29.49% (male 6,290,619 /female 5,993,733)

15-24 years: 14.72% (male 3,137,975 /female 2,994,056)

25-54 years: 42.97% (male 9,067,597 /female 8,833,238)

55-64 years: 7.01% (male 1,472,527 /female 1,446,083)

65 years and over: 5.81% (male 1,133,852 /female 1,287,808) (2018 est.)

population pyramid:



Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio: 52.7 (2015 est.)

youth dependency ratio: 43.8 (2015 est.)

elderly dependency ratio: 9 (2015 est.)

potential support ratio: 11.2 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total: 28.3 years

male: 28 years

female: 28.7 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 138

Population growth rate:

1.63% (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 63

Birth rate:

21.5 births/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 74

Death rate:

4.3 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 205

Net migration rate:

-0.9 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 137

Population distribution:

the vast majority of the populace is found in the extreme northern part of the country along the Mediterranean Coast

Urbanization:

urban population: 72.6% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization: 2.46% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

2.694 million ALGIERS (capital), 881,000 Oran (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.05 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.05 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.88 male(s)/female

total population: 1.03 male(s)/female (2018 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:

140 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 62

Infant mortality rate:

total: 18.9 deaths/1,000 live births

male: 20.4 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 17.2 deaths/1,000 live births (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 83

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 77.2 years

male: 75.8 years

female: 78.7 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 76

Total fertility rate:

2.66 children born/woman (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 64

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

57.1% (2012/13)

Health expenditures:

7.2% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world: 75

Physicians density:

1.83 physicians/1,000 population (2016)

Hospital bed density:

1.9 beds/1,000 population (2015)

Drinking water source:

improved:

urban: 84.3% of population

rural: 81.8% of population

total: 83.6% of population

unimproved:

urban: 15.7% of population

rural: 18.2% of population

total: 16.4% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved:

urban: 89.8% of population (2015 est.)

rural: 82.2% of population (2015 est.)

total: 87.6% of population (2015 est.)

unimproved:

urban: 10.2% of population (2015 est.)

rural: 17.8% of population (2015 est.)

total: 12.4% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

<.1% (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

14,000 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 89

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

<200 (2017 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

27.4% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 38

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

3% (2012)

country comparison to the world: 99

Education expenditures:

NA

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write (2015 est.)

total population: 80.2%

male: 87.2%

female: 73.1% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 14 years

male: 14 years

female: 15 years (2011)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total: 25.7%

male: 22.1%

female: 44.9% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 46

Government :: ALGERIA

Country name:

conventional long form: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

conventional short form: Algeria

local long form: Al Jumhuriyah al Jaza'iriyah ad Dimuqratiyah ash Sha'biyah

local short form: Al Jaza'ir

etymology: the country name derives from the capital city of Algiers

Government type:

presidential republic

Capital:

name: Algiers

geographic coordinates: 36 45 N, 3 03 E

time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

etymology: name derives from the Arabic "al-Jazair" meaning "the islands" and refers to the four islands formerly off the coast but joined to the mainland since 1525

Administrative divisions:

48 provinces (wilayas, singular - wilaya); Adrar, Ain Defla, Ain Temouchent, Alger, Annaba, Batna, Bechar, Bejaia, Biskra, Blida, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Bouira, Boumerdes, Chlef, Constantine, Djelfa, El Bayadh, El Oued, El Tarf, Ghardaia, Guelma, Illizi, Jijel, Khenchela, Laghouat, Mascara, Medea, Mila, Mostaganem, M'Sila, Naama, Oran, Ouargla, Oum el Bouaghi, Relizane, Saida, Setif, Sidi Bel Abbes, Skikda, Souk Ahras, Tamanrasset, Tebessa, Tiaret, Tindouf, Tipaza, Tissemsilt, Tizi Ouzou, Tlemcen

Independence:

5 July 1962 (from France)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 5 July (1962); Revolution Day, 1 November (1954)

Constitution:

history: several previous; latest approved by referendum 23 February 1989

amendments: proposed by the president of the republic or through the president with the support of three-fourths of the members of both houses of Parliament in joint session; passage requires approval by both houses, approval by referendum, and promulgation by the president; the president can forego a referendum if the Constitutional Council determines the proposed amendment does not conflict with basic constitutional principles; articles including the republican form of government, the integrity and unity of the country, and fundamental citizens' liberties and rights cannot be amended; amended several times, last in 2016 (2016)

Legal system:

mixed legal system of French civil law and Islamic law; judicial review of legislative acts in ad hoc Constitutional Council composed of various public officials including several Supreme Court justices

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCT

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: the mother must be a citizen of Algeria

dual citizenship recognized: no

residency requirement for naturalization: 7 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: Interim President Abdelkader BENSALAH (since 9 April 2019); note - Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA resigned the presidency on 2 April 2019

head of government: Prime Minister Nouredine BEDOUI (since 11 March 2019)

cabinet: Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the president

elections/appointments: president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in two rounds if needed for a 5-year term (2-term limit reinstated by constitutional amendment in February 2016); election last held on 17 April 2014 (next was scheduled for 4 July 2019, but postponed on 2 June 2019 by the Constitutional Council); prime minister nominated by the president after consultation with the majority party in Parliament

Legislative branch:

description: bicameral Parliament consists of:

Council of the Nation (upper house with 144 seats; one-third of members appointed by the president, two-thirds indirectly elected by simple majority vote by an electoral college composed of local council members; members serve 6-year terms with one-half of the membership renewed every 3 years)

National People's Assembly (lower house with 462 seats including 8 seats for Algerians living abroad); members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote to serve 5-year terms)

elections:

Council of the Nation - last held on 29 December 2018 (next to be held in December 2021)

National People's Assembly - last held on 4 May 2017 (next to be held in 2022)

election results:

Council of the Nation - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - NA; composition - men 137, women 7, percent of women 5%

National People's Assembly - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - FLN 164, RND 97, MSP-FC 33, TAJ 19, Ennahda-FJD 15, FFS 14, El Mostakbel 14, MPA 13, PT 11, RCD 9, ANR 8, MEN 4, other 33, independent 28; composition - men 343, women 119, percent of women 25.8%; note - total Parliament percent of women 20.8%

Judicial branch:

highest courts: Supreme Court or Cour Suprême, (consists of 150 judges organized into 8 chambers: Civil, Commercial and Maritime, Criminal, House of Offenses and Contraventions, House of Petitions, Land, Personal Status, and Social; Constitutional Council (consists of 12 members including the court chairman and deputy chairman); note - Algeria's judicial system does not include sharia courts

judge selection and term of office: Supreme Court judges appointed by the High Council of Magistracy, an administrative body presided over by the president of the republic, and includes the republic vice-president and several members; judges appointed for life; Constitutional Council members - 4 appointed by the president of the republic, 2 each by the 2 houses of Parliament, 2 by the Supreme Court, and 2 by the Council of State; Council president and members appointed for single 6-year terms with half the membership renewed every 3 years

subordinate courts: appellate or wilaya courts; first instance or daira tribunals

Political parties and leaders:

Algerian National Front or FNA [Moussa TOUATI]
Algerian Popular Movement or MPA [Amara BENYOUNES]
Algerian Rally or RA [Ali ZAGHDOUD]
Algeria's Hope Rally or TAJ [Amar GHOUJ]
Democratic and Social Movement or MDS [Hamid FERHI]
Dignity or El Karama [Aymene HARKATI]
Ennour El Djazairi Party (Algerian Radiance Party) or PED [Badreddine BELBAZ]
Front for Justice and Development or El Adala [Abdallah DJABALLAH]
Future Front or El Mostakbel [Abdelaziz BELAID]
Islamic Renaissance Movement or Ennahda Movement [Mohamed DOUBI]
Justice and Development Front or FJD [Abdallah DJABALLAH]
Movement of National Construction (Harakat El-Binaa El-Watani) [Abdelkader BENGRINA]
Movement of National Understanding or MEN
Movement for National Reform or Islah [Filali GHOUINI]
Movement of Society for Peace or MSP [Abderrazak MOKRI]
National Democratic Rally (Rassemblement National Democratique) or RND [Ahmed OUYAHIA]
National Front for Social Justice or FNJS [Khaled BOUNEDJEMA]
National Liberation Front or FLN [Mohamed DJEMAI]
National Party for Solidarity and Development or PNSD [Dalila YALAQUI]
National Reform Movement or Islah [Djahid YOUNSI]
National Republican Alliance or ANR [Belkacem SAHLI]
New Dawn Party or PFJ [Tahar BENBAIBECHE]
New Generation or Jil Jadid [Soufiane DJILALI]
Oath of 1954 or Ahd 54 [Ali Fawzi REBAINE]
Party of Justice and Liberty [Mohammed SAID]
Rally for Culture and Democracy or RCD [Mohcine BELABBAS]
Socialist Forces Front or FFS [Hakim BELAHCEL]
Union for Change and Progress or UCP [Zoubida Assoul]
Union of Democratic and Social Forces or UFDS [Noureddine BAHBOUH]
Vanguard of Freedoms [Ali BENFLIS]
Youth Party or PJ [Hamana BOUCHARMA]
Workers Party or PT [Louisa HANOUNE]

note: a law banning political parties based on religion was enacted in March 1997

International organization participation:

ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AMF, AMU, AU, BIS, CAEU, CD, FAO, G-15, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAS, MIGA, MONUSCO, NAM, OAPEC, OAS (observer), OIC, OPCW, OPEC, OSCE (partner), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO (observer)

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Madjid BOUGUERRA (since 23 February 2015)

chancery: 2118 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 265-2800

FAX: [1] (202) 986-5906

consulate(s) general: New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador John P. DESROCHER (since 5 September 2017)

embassy: 05 Chemin Cheikh Bachir, El Ibrahimy, El-Biar 16030 Algeria

mailing address: B. P. 408, Alger-Gare, 16030 Algiers

telephone: [213] (0) 770-08-2000

FAX: [213] (0) 770-08-2064

Flag description:

two equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) and white; a red, five-pointed star within a red crescent centered over the two-color boundary; the colors represent Islam (green), purity and peace (white), and liberty (red); the crescent and star are also Islamic symbols, but the crescent is more closed than those of other Muslim countries because Algerians believe the long crescent horns bring happiness

National symbol(s):

five-pointed star between the extended horns of a crescent moon, fennec fox; national colors: green, white, red

National anthem:

name: "Kassaman" (We Pledge)

lyrics/music: Mufdi ZAKARIAH/Mohamed FAWZI

note: adopted 1962; ZAKARIAH wrote "Kassaman" as a poem while imprisoned in Algiers by French colonial forces

0:00 / 1:18

Economy :: ALGERIA**Economy - overview:**

Algeria's economy remains dominated by the state, a legacy of the country's socialist post-independence development model. In recent years the Algerian Government has halted the privatization of state-owned industries and imposed restrictions on imports and foreign involvement in its economy, pursuing an explicit import substitution policy.

Hydrocarbons have long been the backbone of the economy, accounting for roughly 30% of GDP, 60% of budget revenues, and nearly 95% of export earnings. Algeria has the 10th-largest reserves of natural gas in the world - including the 3rd-largest reserves of shale gas - and is the 6th-largest gas exporter. It ranks 16th in proven oil reserves. Hydrocarbon exports enabled Algeria to maintain macroeconomic stability, amass large foreign currency reserves, and maintain low external debt while global oil prices were high. With lower oil prices since 2014, Algeria's foreign exchange reserves have declined by more than half and its oil stabilization fund has decreased from about \$20 billion at the end of 2013 to about \$7 billion in 2017, which is the statutory minimum.

Declining oil prices have also reduced the government's ability to use state-driven growth to distribute rents and fund generous public subsidies, and the government has been under pressure to reduce spending. Over the past three years, the government has enacted incremental increases in some taxes, resulting in modest increases in prices for gasoline, cigarettes, alcohol, and certain imported goods, but it has refrained from reducing subsidies, particularly for education, healthcare, and housing programs.

Algiers has increased protectionist measures since 2015 to limit its import bill and encourage domestic production of non-oil and gas industries. Since 2015, the government has imposed additional restrictions on access to foreign exchange for imports, and import quotas for specific products, such as cars. In January 2018 the government imposed an indefinite suspension on the importation of roughly 850 products, subject to periodic review.

President BOUTEFLIKA announced in fall 2017 that Algeria intends to develop its non-conventional energy resources. Algeria has struggled to develop non-hydrocarbon industries because of heavy regulation and an emphasis on state-driven growth. Algeria has not increased non-hydrocarbon exports, and hydrocarbon exports have declined because of field depletion and increased domestic demand.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$630 billion (2017 est.)

\$621.3 billion (2016 est.)

\$602 billion (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 36

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$167.6 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

1.4% (2017 est.)

3.2% (2016 est.)

3.7% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 174

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$15,200 (2017 est.)

\$15,200 (2016 est.)

\$15,100 (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 109

Gross national saving:

37.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

37.4% of GDP (2016 est.)

36.4% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 42.7% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 20.2% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 38.1% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: 11.2% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 23.6% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -35.8% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 13.3% (2017 est.)

industry: 39.3% (2017 est.)

services: 47.4% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

wheat, barley, oats, grapes, olives, citrus, fruits; sheep, cattle

Industries:

petroleum, natural gas, light industries, mining, electrical, petrochemical, food processing

Industrial production growth rate:

0.6% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 164

Labor force:

11.82 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 50

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 10.8%

industry: 30.9%

services: 58.4% (2011 est.)

Unemployment rate:

11.7% (2017 est.)

10.5% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 155

Population below poverty line:

23% (2006 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 2.8%

highest 10%: 26.8% (1995)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

35.3 (1995)

country comparison to the world: 95

Budget:

revenues: 54.15 billion (2017 est.)

expenditures: 70.2 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

32.3% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 67

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-9.6% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 207

Public debt:

27.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

20.4% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: data cover central government debt as well as debt issued by subnational entities and intra-governmental debt

country comparison to the world: 170

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

5.6% (2017 est.)

6.4% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 179

Central bank discount rate:

4% (31 December 2010)

4% (31 December 2009)

country comparison to the world: 99

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

8% (31 December 2017 est.)

8% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 109

Stock of narrow money:

\$84.56 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$85.21 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 44

Stock of broad money:

\$84.56 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$85.21 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 44

Stock of domestic credit:

\$110.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$86.63 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 54

Market value of publicly traded shares:

NA

Current account balance:

-\$22.1 billion (2017 est.)

-\$26.47 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 199

Exports:

\$34.37 billion (2017 est.)

\$29.06 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 59

Exports - partners:

Italy 17.4%, Spain 13%, France 11.9%, US 9.4%, Brazil 6.2%, Netherlands 5.5% (2017)

Exports - commodities:

petroleum, natural gas, and petroleum products 97% (2009 est.)

Imports:

\$48.54 billion (2017 est.)

\$49.43 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 55

Imports - commodities:

capital goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods

Imports - partners:

China 18.2%, France 9.1%, Italy 8%, Germany 7%, Spain 6.9%, Turkey 4.4% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$97.89 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$114.7 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 26

Debt - external:

\$6.26 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$5.088 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 128

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$29.05 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$25.74 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 72

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$1.893 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$2.025 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 85

Exchange rates:

Algerian dinars (DZD) per US dollar -

108.9 (2017 est.)

109.443 (2016 est.)

109.443 (2015 est.)

100.691 (2014 est.)

80.579 (2013 est.)

Energy :: ALGERIA**Electricity access:**

population without electricity: 400,000 (2016)

electrification - total population: 99% (2016)

electrification - urban areas: 100% (2016)

electrification - rural areas: 97% (2016)

Electricity - production:

66.89 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 42

Electricity - consumption:

55.96 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 46

Electricity - exports:

641 million kWh (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 65

Electricity - imports:

257 million kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 91

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

19.27 million kW (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 45

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

96% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 36

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 34

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

1% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 144

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 130

Crude oil - production:

1.306 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 18

Crude oil - exports:

756,400 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 15

Crude oil - imports:

5,340 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 75

Crude oil - proved reserves:

12.2 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 15

Refined petroleum products - production:

627,900 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 29

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

405,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 37

Refined petroleum products - exports:

578,800 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 15

Refined petroleum products - imports:

82,930 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 61

Natural gas - production:

93.5 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Natural gas - consumption:

41.28 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 25

Natural gas - exports:

53.88 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 7

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 83

Natural gas - proved reserves:

4.504 trillion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

135.9 million Mt (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 34

Communications :: ALGERIA**Telephones - fixed lines:**

total subscriptions: 3,130,090 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 8 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 45

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions: 49,873,389 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 122 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 29

Telephone system:

general assessment: privatization of Algeria's telecommunications sector began in 2000; three mobile-cellular licenses have been issued; regulator permits network operators to extend LTE services to additional provinces; a consortium led by Egypt's Orascom Telecom won a 15-year license to build and operate a fixed-line network in Algeria; migration to 5G

domestic: a limited network of fixed-lines with a teledensity of less than 10 telephones per 100 persons has been offset by the rapid increase in mobile-cellular subscribership; mobile-cellular teledensity was roughly 122 telephones per 100 persons

international: country code - 213; landing point for the SEA-ME-WE-4 fiber-optic submarine cable system that provides links to Europe, the Middle East, and Asia; microwave radio relay to Italy, France, Spain, Morocco, and Tunisia; coaxial cable to Morocco and Tunisia; new submarine cables to link to the US and France

Broadcast media:

state-run Radio-Television Algerienne operates the broadcast media and carries programming in Arabic, Berber dialects, and French; use of satellite dishes is widespread, providing easy access to European and Arab satellite stations; state-run radio operates several national networks and roughly 40 regional radio stations

Internet country code:

.dz

Internet users:

total: 17,291,463 (July 2016 est.)

percent of population: 42.9% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 36

Broadband - fixed subscriptions:

total: 3,166,907 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 8 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 37

Transportation :: **ALGERIA**

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers: 4 (2015)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 74 (2015)

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 5,910,835 (2015)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 24,723,377 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

7T (2016)

Airports:

157 (2016)

country comparison to the world: 36

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 64 (2017)

over 3,047 m: 12 (2017)

2,438 to 3,047 m: 29 (2017)

1,524 to 2,437 m: 17 (2017)

914 to 1,523 m: 5 (2017)

under 914 m: 1 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 93 (2013)

2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 (2013)

1,524 to 2,437 m: 18 (2013)

914 to 1,523 m: 39 (2013)

under 914 m: 34 (2013)

Heliports:

3 (2013)

Pipelines:

2600 km condensate, 16415 km gas, 3447 km liquid petroleum gas, 7036 km oil, 144 km refined products (2013)

Railways:

total: 3,973 km (2014)

standard gauge: 2,888 km 1.432-m gauge (283 km electrified) (2014)

narrow gauge: 1,085 km 1.055-m gauge (2014)

country comparison to the world: 50

Roadways:

total: 104,000 km (2015)

paved: 71,656 km (2015)

unpaved: 32,344 km (2015)

country comparison to the world: 37

Merchant marine:

total: 106

by type: container ship 1, general cargo 11, oil tanker 10, other 84 (2018)

country comparison to the world: 82

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s): Algiers, Annaba, Arzew, Bejaia, Djendjene, Jijel, Mostaganem, Oran, Skikda

LNG terminal(s) (export): Arzew, Bethioua, Skikda

Military and Security :: ALGERIA**Military expenditures:**

5.81% of GDP (2017)

6.55% of GDP (2016)

6.32% of GDP (2015)

5.54% of GDP (2014)

4.84% of GDP (2013)

country comparison to the world: 5

Military branches:

People's National Army (Armee Nationale Populaire, ANP): Land Forces (Forces Terrestres, FT), Navy of the Republic of Algeria (Marine de la Republique Algerienne, MRA), Air Force (Al-Quwwat al-Jawwiya al-Jaza'eriya, QJJ), Territorial Air Defense Force (2016)

Military service age and obligation:

18 is the legal minimum age for voluntary military service; 19-30 years of age for compulsory service; conscript service obligation is 18 months (6 months basic training, 12 months civil projects) (2018)

Terrorism :: ALGERIA**Terrorist groups - home based:****al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM):**

aim: overthrow various African regimes and replace them with one ruled by sharia; establish a regional Islamic caliphate across all of North and West Africa

area(s) of operation: leadership headquartered in Algeria; operates in Tunisia, Libya, and northern Mali

note: al-Qa'ida's affiliate in North Africa; Tunisia-based branch known as the Uqbah bin Nafi Battalion; Mali-based cadre merged with allies to form JNIM in March 2017, which pledged allegiance to AQIM and al-Qa'ida (April 2018)

Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-Algeria:

aim(s): replace the Algerian Government with an Islamic state and implement ISIS's strict interpretation of sharia

area(s) of operation: maintains an operational and recruitment presence mostly in the northeast

note: formerly known as Jund al-Khilafa - Algeria (JAK-A) (April 2018)

Transnational Issues :: ALGERIA

Disputes - international:

Algeria and many other states reject Moroccan administration of Western Sahara; the Polisario Front, exiled in Algeria, represents the "Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic" which Algeria recognizes; the Algerian-Moroccan land border remains closed; dormant disputes include Libyan claims of about 32,000 sq km of southeastern Algeria and the National Liberation Front's (FLN) assertions of a claim to Chirac Pastures in southeastern Morocco.

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin): more than 100,000 (Western Saharan Sahrawi, mostly living in Algerian-sponsored camps in the southwestern Algerian town of Tindouf) (2018)

Trafficking in persons:

current situation: Algeria is a transit and, to a lesser extent, a destination and source country for women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking and, to a lesser extent, men subjected to forced labor; criminal networks, sometimes extending to sub-Saharan Africa and to Europe, are involved in human smuggling and trafficking in Algeria; sub-Saharan adults enter Algeria voluntarily but illegally, often with the aid of smugglers, for onward travel to Europe, but some of the women are forced into prostitution, domestic service, and begging; some sub-Saharan men, mostly from Mali, are forced into domestic servitude; some Algerian women and children are also forced into prostitution domestically

tier rating: Tier 3 – Algeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so: some officials denied the existence of human trafficking, hindering law enforcement efforts; the government reported its first conviction under its anti-trafficking law; one potential trafficking case was investigated in 2014, but no suspected offenders were arrested; no progress was made in identifying victims among vulnerable groups or referring them to NGO-run protection service, which left trafficking victims subject to arrest and detention; no anti-trafficking public awareness or educational campaigns were conducted (2015)



AFRICA :: ANGOLA

Introduction :: ANGOLA

Background:

Angola scores low on human development indexes despite using its large oil reserves to rebuild since the end of a 27-year civil war in 2002. Fighting between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), led by Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS, and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas SAVIMBI, followed independence from Portugal in 1975. Peace seemed imminent in 1992 when Angola held national elections, but fighting picked up again in 1993. Up to 1.5 million lives may have been lost - and 4 million people displaced - during the more than a quarter century of fighting. SAVIMBI's death in 2002 ended UNITA's insurgency and cemented the MPLA's hold on power. DOS SANTOS stepped down from the presidency in 2017, having led the country since 1979. He pushed through a new constitution in 2010. Joao LOURENCO was elected president in August 2017 and became president of the MPLA in September 2018.

Geography :: ANGOLA

Location:

Southern Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Namibia and Democratic Republic of the Congo

Geographic coordinates:

12 30 S, 18 30 E

Map references:

Africa

Area:

total: 1,246,700 sq km

land: 1,246,700 sq km

water: 0 sq km

country comparison to the world: 24

Area - comparative:

about eight times the size of Georgia; slightly less than twice the size of Texas

Area comparison map:



Land boundaries:

total: 5,369 km

border countries (4): Democratic Republic of the Congo 2646 km (of which 225 km is the boundary of discontinuous Cabinda Province), Republic of the Congo 231 km, Namibia 1427 km, Zambia 1065 km

Coastline:

1,600 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

contiguous zone: 24 nm

Climate:

semiarid in south and along coast to Luanda; north has cool, dry season (May to October) and hot, rainy season (November to April)

Terrain:

narrow coastal plain rises abruptly to vast interior plateau

Elevation:

mean elevation: 1,112 m

lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

highest point: Moca 2,620 m

Natural resources:

petroleum, diamonds, iron ore, phosphates, copper, feldspar, gold, bauxite, uranium

Land use:

agricultural land: 47.5% (2016 est.)

arable land: 3.9% (2016 est.) / permanent crops: 0.3% (2016 est.) / permanent pasture: 43.3% (2016 est.)

forest: 46.3% (2016 est.)

other: 6.2% (2016 est.)

Irrigated land:

860 sq km (2014)

Population distribution:

most people live in the western half of the country; urban areas account for the highest concentrations of people, particularly Luanda

Natural hazards:

locally heavy rainfall causes periodic flooding on the plateau

Environment - current issues:

overuse of pastures and subsequent soil erosion attributable to population pressures; desertification; deforestation of tropical rain forest, in response to both international demand for tropical timber and to domestic use as fuel, resulting in loss of biodiversity; soil erosion contributing to water pollution and siltation of rivers and dams; inadequate supplies of potable water

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

the province of Cabinda is an exclave, separated from the rest of the country by the Democratic Republic of the Congo

People and Society :: ANGOLA

Population:

30,355,880 (July 2018 est.)

note: Angola's national statistical agency projects the country's 2017 population to be 28.4 million

country comparison to the world: 45

Nationality:

noun: Angolan(s)

adjective: Angolan

Ethnic groups:

Ovimbundu 37%, Kimbundu 25%, Bakongo 13%, mestizo (mixed European and native African) 2%, European 1%, other 22%

Languages:

Portuguese 71.2% (official), Umbundu 23%, Kikongo 8.2%, Kimbundu 7.8%, Chokwe 6.5%, Nhaneca 3.4%, Nganguela 3.1%, Fiote 2.4%, Kwanhama 2.3%, Muhumbi 2.1%, Luvale 1%, other 3.6% (2014 est.)

note: most widely spoken languages; shares sum to more than 100% because some respondents gave more than one answer on the census

Religions:

Roman Catholic 41.1%, Protestant 38.1%, other 8.6%, none 12.3% (2014 est.)

Demographic profile:

More than a decade after the end of Angola's 27-year civil war, the country still faces a variety of socioeconomic problems, including poverty, high maternal and child mortality, and illiteracy. Despite the country's rapid post-war economic growth based on oil production, about 40 percent of Angolans live below the poverty line and unemployment is widespread, especially among the large young-adult population. Only about 70% of the population is literate, and the rate drops to around 60% for women. The youthful population - about 45% are under the age of 15 - is expected to continue growing rapidly with a fertility rate of more than 5 children per woman and a low rate of contraceptive use. Fewer than half of women deliver their babies with the assistance of trained health care personnel, which contributes to Angola's high maternal mortality rate.

Of the estimated 550,000 Angolans who fled their homeland during its civil war, most have returned home since 2002. In 2012, the UN assessed that conditions in Angola had been stable for several years and invoked a cessation of refugee status for Angolans. Following the cessation clause, some of those still in exile returned home voluntarily through UN repatriation programs, and others integrated into host countries.

Age structure:

0-14 years: 48.07% (male 7,257,155 /female 7,336,084)

15-24 years: 18.33% (male 2,701,123 /female 2,863,950)

25-54 years: 27.95% (male 4,044,944 /female 4,441,028)

55-64 years: 3.32% (male 466,085 /female 540,452)

65 years and over: 2.32% (male 296,411 /female 408,648) (2018 est.)

population pyramid:

**Dependency ratios:**

total dependency ratio: 97.6 (2015 est.)

youth dependency ratio: 93 (2015 est.)

elderly dependency ratio: 4.6 (2015 est.)

potential support ratio: 21.9 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total: 15.9 years

male: 15.4 years

female: 16.3 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 224

Population growth rate:

3.49% (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 2

Birth rate:

43.7 births/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 1

Death rate:

9 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 60

Net migration rate:

0.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 72

Population distribution:

most people live in the western half of the country; urban areas account for the highest concentrations of people, particularly Luanda

Urbanization:

urban population: 65.5% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization: 4.32% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

7.774 million LUANDA (capital) (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 0.99 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 0.94 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 0.91 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 0.86 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.73 male(s)/female

total population: 0.95 male(s)/female (2018 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

19.4 years (2015/16 est.)

note: median age at first birth among women 25-29

Maternal mortality rate:

477 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 23

Infant mortality rate:

total: 65.8 deaths/1,000 live births

male: 71.4 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 60.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 60.6 years

male: 58.5 years

female: 62.7 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 207

Total fertility rate:

6.09 children born/woman (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 2

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

13.7% (2015/16)

Health expenditures:

3.3% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world: 177

Physicians density:

0.21 physicians/1,000 population (2017)

Drinking water source:**improved:**

urban: 75.4% of population

rural: 28.2% of population

total: 49% of population

unimproved:

urban: 24.6% of population

rural: 71.8% of population

total: 51% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:**improved:**

urban: 88.6% of population (2015 est.)

rural: 22.5% of population (2015 est.)

total: 51.6% of population (2015 est.)

unimproved:

urban: 11.4% of population (2015 est.)

rural: 77.5% of population (2015 est.)

total: 48.4% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

1.9% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 24

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

310,000 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 21

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

13,000 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 19

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk: very high (2016)

food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever (2016)

vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, malaria (2016)

water contact diseases: schistosomiasis (2016)

animal contact diseases: rabies (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

8.2% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 154

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

19% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 29

Education expenditures:

3.5% of GDP (2010)

country comparison to the world: 125

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write (2015 est.)

total population: 71.1%

male: 82%

female: 60.7% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 10 years

male: 13 years

female: 8 years (2011)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total: 39.4%

male: 39%

female: 39.8% (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

Country name:

Government :: ANGOLA

conventional long form: Republic of Angola

conventional short form: Angola

local long form: Republica de Angola

local short form: Angola

former: People's Republic of Angola

etymology: name derived by the Portuguese from the title "ngola" held by kings of the Ndongo (Ndongo was a kingdom in what is now northern Angola)

Government type:

presidential republic

Capital:

name: Luanda

geographic coordinates: 8 50 S, 13 13 E

time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

daylight saving time: does not observe daylight savings time

etymology: originally named "Sao Paulo da Assuncao de Loanda" (Saint Paul of the Assumption of Loanda), which over time was shortened and corrupted to just Luanda

Administrative divisions:

18 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia); Bengo, Benguela, Bie, Cabinda, Cunene, Huambo, Huila, Kwando Kubango, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Luanda, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Malanje, Moxico, Namibe, Uige, Zaire

Independence:

11 November 1975 (from Portugal)

National holiday:

Independence Day, 11 November (1975)

Constitution:

history: previous 1975, 1992; latest passed by National Assembly 21 January 2010, adopted 5 February 2010

amendments: proposed by the president of the republic or supported by at least one-third of the National Assembly membership; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly subject to prior Constitutional Court review if requested by the president of the republic (2017)

Legal system:

civil legal system based on Portuguese civil law; no judicial review of legislation

International law organization participation:

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCT

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Angola

dual citizenship recognized: no

residency requirement for naturalization: 10 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: President Joao Manuel Goncalves LOURENCO (since 26 September 2017); Vice President Bornito De Sousa Baltazar DIOGO (since 26 September 2017); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government

head of government: President Joao Manuel Goncalves LOURENCO (since 26 September 2017); Vice President Bornito De Sousa Baltazar DIOGO (since 26 September 2017)

cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president

elections/appointments: the candidate of the winning party or coalition in the last legislative election becomes the president; president serves a 5-year term (eligible for a second consecutive or discontinuous term); last held on 23 August 2017 (next to be held in 2022)

election results: Joao Manuel Goncalves LOURENCO (MPLA) elected president by the winning party following the 23 August 2017 general election

Legislative branch:

description: unicameral National Assembly or Assembleia Nacional (220 seats; members directly elected in a single national constituency and in multi-seat constituencies by closed list proportional representation vote; members serve 5-year terms)

elections: last held on 23 August 2017 (next to be held in August 2022)

election results: percent of vote by party - MPLA 61.1%, UNITA 26.7%, CASA-CE 9.5%, PRS 1.4%, FNLA 0.9%, other 0.5%; seats by party - MPLA 150, UNITA 51, CASA-CE 16, PRS 2, FNLA 1; composition - men 136, women 84, percent of women 38.2%

Judicial branch:

highest courts: Supreme Court or Supremo Tribunal de Justica (consists of the court president, vice president, and a minimum of 16 judges); Constitutional Court or Tribunal Constitucional (consists of 11 judges)

judge selection and term of office: Supreme Court judges appointed by the president upon recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council, an 18-member body chaired by the president; judge tenure NA; Constitutional Court judges - 4 nominated by the president, 4 elected by National Assembly, 2 elected by Supreme National Council, 1 elected by competitive submission of curricula; judges serve single 7-year terms

subordinate courts: provincial and municipal courts

Political parties and leaders:

Broad Convergence for the Salvation of Angola Electoral Coalition or CASA-CE [Andre Mendes de CARVALHO]
National Front for the Liberation of Angola or FNLA; note - party has two factions; one led by Lucas NGONDA; the other by Ngola KABANGU

National Union for the Total Independence of Angola or UNITA [Isaias SAMAKUVA] (largest opposition party)

Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola or MPLA [Joao LOURENCO]; note - Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS stepped down 8 Sept 2018 ruling party in power since 1975

Social Renewal Party or PRS [Benedito DANIEL]

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AU, CEMAC, CPLP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NAM, OAS (observer), OPEC, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Agostinho Tavares da Silva NETO (since 18 November 2014)

chancery: 2100-2108 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

telephone: [1] (202) 785-1156

FAX: [1] (202) 822-9049

consulate(s) general: Houston, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Nina Maria FITE (14 February 2018)

embassy: number 32 Rua Houari Boumediene (in the Miramar area of Luanda), Luanda, C.P. 6468, Angola

mailing address: international mail: Caixa Postal 6468, Luanda; pouch: US Embassy Luanda, US Department of State, 2550 Luanda Place, Washington, DC 20521-2550

telephone: [244] 946440977

FAX: [244] (222) 64-1000

Flag description:

two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and black with a centered yellow emblem consisting of a five-pointed star within half a cogwheel crossed by a machete (in the style of a hammer and sickle); red represents liberty and black the African continent; the symbols characterize workers and peasants

National symbol(s):

Palanca Negra Gigante (giant black sable antelope); national colors: red, black, yellow

National anthem:

name: "Angola Avante" (Forward Angola)

lyrics/music: Manuel Rui Alves MONTEIRO/Rui Alberto Vieira Dias MINGAO

note: adopted 1975

0:00 / 1:21

Economy :: A. GOLA

Economy - overview:

Angola's economy is overwhelmingly driven by its oil sector. Oil production and its supporting activities contribute about 50% of GDP, more than 70% of government revenue, and more than 90% of the country's exports; Angola is an OPEC member and subject to its direction regarding oil production levels. Diamonds contribute an additional 5% to exports. Subsistence agriculture provides the main livelihood for most of the people, but half of the country's food is still imported.

Increased oil production supported growth averaging more than 17% per year from 2004 to 2008. A postwar reconstruction boom and resettlement of displaced persons led to high rates of growth in construction and agriculture as well. Some of the country's infrastructure is still damaged or undeveloped from the 27-year-long civil war (1975-2002). However, the government since 2005 has used billions of dollars in credit from China, Brazil, Portugal, Germany, Spain, and the EU to help rebuild Angola's public infrastructure. Land mines left from the war still mar the countryside, and as a result, the national military, international partners, and private Angolan firms all continue to remove them.

The global recession that started in 2008 stalled Angola's economic growth and many construction projects stopped because Luanda accrued billions in arrears to foreign construction companies when government revenue fell. Lower prices for oil and diamonds also resulted in GDP falling 0.7% in 2016. Angola formally abandoned its currency peg in 2009 but reinstated it in April 2016 and maintains an overvalued exchange rate. In late 2016, Angola lost the last of its correspondent relationships with foreign banks, further exacerbating hard currency problems. Since 2013 the central bank has consistently spent down reserves to defend the kwanza, gradually allowing a 40% depreciation since late 2014. Consumer inflation declined from 325% in 2000 to less than 9% in 2014, before rising again to above 30% from 2015-2017.

Continued low oil prices, the depreciation of the kwanza, and slower than expected growth in non-oil GDP have reduced growth prospects, although several major international oil companies remain in Angola. Corruption, especially in the extractive sectors, is a major long-term challenge that poses an additional threat to the economy.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$193.6 billion (2017 est.)

\$198.6 billion (2016 est.)

\$203.9 billion (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 65

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$126.5 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

-2.5% (2017 est.)

-2.6% (2016 est.)

0.9% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 209

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$6,800 (2017 est.)

\$7,200 (2016 est.)

\$7,600 (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 160

Gross national saving:

28.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

24.5% of GDP (2016 est.)

28.5% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 37

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 80.6% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 15.6% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 10.3% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: -1.2% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 25.4% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -30.7% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 10.2% (2011 est.)

industry: 61.4% (2011 est.)

services: 28.4% (2011 est.)

Agriculture - products:

bananas, sugarcane, coffee, sisal, corn, cotton, cassava (manioc, tapioca), tobacco, vegetables, plantains; livestock; forest products; fish

Industries:

petroleum; diamonds, iron ore, phosphates, feldspar, bauxite, uranium, and gold; cement; basic metal products; fish processing; food processing, brewing, tobacco products, sugar; textiles; ship repair

Industrial production growth rate:

2.5% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 115

Labor force:

12.51 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 46

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 85%

industry: 15% (2015 est.)

industry and services: 15% (2003 est.)

Unemployment rate:

6.6% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 97

Population below poverty line:

36.6% (2008 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 0.6%

highest 10%: 44.7% (2000)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

42.7 (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 50

Budget:

revenues: 37.02 billion (2017 est.)

expenditures: 45.44 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

29.3% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 83

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-6.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 189

Public debt:

65% of GDP (2017 est.)

75.3% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 59

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

29.8% (2017 est.)

30.7% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 222

Central bank discount rate:

9% (31 December 2014)

25% (31 December 2010)

country comparison to the world: 30

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

15.82% (31 December 2017 est.)

15.78% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 32

Stock of narrow money:

\$32.39 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$23.17 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 62

Stock of broad money:

\$32.39 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$23.17 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 62

Stock of domestic credit:

\$16.02 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$14.25 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 97

Current account balance:

-\$1.254 billion (2017 est.)

-\$4.834 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 150

Exports:

\$33.07 billion (2017 est.)

\$31.03 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 60

Exports - partners:

China 61.2%, India 13%, US 4.2% (2017)

Exports - commodities:

crude oil, diamonds, refined petroleum products, coffee, sisal, fish and fish products, timber, cotton

Imports:

\$19.5 billion (2017 est.)

\$13.04 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 78

Imports - commodities:

machinery and electrical equipment, vehicles and spare parts; medicines, food, textiles, military goods

Imports - partners:

Portugal 17.8%, China 13.5%, US 7.4%, South Africa 6.2%, Brazil 6.1%, UK 4% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$17.29 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$23.74 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 63

Debt - external:

\$42.08 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$27.14 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 71

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$11.21 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$9.16 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 94

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$28 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$23.02 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 50

Exchange rates:

kwanza (AOA) per US dollar -

172.6 (2017 est.)

163.656 (2016 est.)

163.656 (2015 est.)

120.061 (2014 est.)

98.303 (2013 est.)

Energy :: ANGOLA**Electricity access:**

population without electricity: 15 million (2013)

electrification - total population: 30% (2013)

electrification - urban areas: 46% (2013)

electrification - rural areas: 18% (2013)

Electricity - production:

10.2 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 102

Electricity - consumption:

9.036 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 101

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 98

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 119

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

2.613 million kW (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 103

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

34% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 180

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 37

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

64% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 23

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 132

Crude oil - production:

1.666 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 15

Crude oil - exports:

1.782 million bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 7

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 88

Crude oil - proved reserves:

9.523 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 16

Refined petroleum products - production:

53,480 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 80

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

130,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 72

Refined petroleum products - exports:

30,340 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 62

Refined petroleum products - imports:

111,600 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 50

Natural gas - production:

3.115 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 55

Natural gas - consumption:

821.2 million cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 95

Natural gas - exports:

3.993 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 33

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 86

Natural gas - proved reserves:

308.1 billion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 36

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

20.95 million Mt (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 85

Communications :: ANGOLA**Telephones - fixed lines:**

total subscriptions: 161,070 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 1 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 126

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions: 13,323,952 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 45 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 71

Telephone system:**general assessment:**

in the process of a restructure plan and opening up the telecom sector to new competitors, while still retaining a 45% govt portion of the share; slow progress in LTE network development, with only about 10% of the country covered by network infrastructure at the end of 2017

domestic: only about one fixed-line per 100 persons; mobile-cellular teledensity about 45 telephones per 100 persons

international: country code - 244; landing point for the SAT-3/WASC fiber-optic submarine cable that provides connectivity to Europe and Asia; satellite earth stations - 29

Broadcast media:

state controls all broadcast media with nationwide reach; state-owned Televisao Popular de Angola (TPA) provides terrestrial TV service on 2 channels; a third TPA channel is available via cable and satellite; TV subscription services are available; state-owned Radio Nacional de Angola (RNA) broadcasts on 5 stations; about a half-dozen private radio stations broadcast locally

Internet country code:

.ao

Internet users:

total: 2,622,403 (July 2016 est.)

percent of population: 13% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 103

Broadband - fixed subscriptions:

total: 96,919 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: less than 1 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 120

Transportation :: **ANGOLA**

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers: 10 (2015)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 55 (2015)

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 1,244,491 (2015)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 46.043 million mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

D2 (2016)

Airports:

176 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 32

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 31 (2017)

over 3,047 m: 7 (2017)

2,438 to 3,047 m: 8 (2017)

1,524 to 2,437 m: 12 (2017)

914 to 1,523 m: 4 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 145 (2013)

over 3,047 m: 2 (2013)

2,438 to 3,047 m: 3 (2013)

1,524 to 2,437 m: 31 (2013)

914 to 1,523 m: 66 (2013)

under 914 m: 43 (2013)

Heliports:

1 (2013)

Pipelines:

352 km gas, 85 km liquid petroleum gas, 1065 km oil, 5 km oil/gas/water (2013)

Railways:

total: 2,852 km (2014)

narrow gauge: 2,729 km 1.067-m gauge (2014)

123 0.600-m gauge

country comparison to the world: 63

Roadways:

total: 26,000 km (2018)

paved: 13,600 km (2018)

unpaved: 12,400 km (2018)

country comparison to the world: 82

Waterways:

1,300 km (2011)

country comparison to the world: 53

Merchant marine:

total: 55

by type: general cargo 14, oil tanker 8, other 33 (2018)

country comparison to the world: 110

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s): Cabinda, Lobito, Luanda, Namibe

LNG terminal(s) (export): Angola Soyo

Military and Security :: ANGOLA

Military expenditures:

2.95% of GDP (2016)

3.52% of GDP (2015)

5.4% of GDP (2014)

4.88% of GDP (2013)

3.59% of GDP (2012)

country comparison to the world: 31

Military branches:

Angolan Armed Forces (Forças Armadas Angolanas, FAA): Army, Navy (Marinha de Guerra Angola, MGA), Angolan National Air Force (Força Aerea Nacional Angolana, FANA; under operational control of the Army) (2012)

Military service age and obligation:

20-45 years of age for compulsory male and 18-45 years for voluntary male military service (registration at age 18 is mandatory); 20-45 years of age for voluntary female service; 2-year conscript service obligation; Angolan citizenship required; the Navy (MGA) is entirely staffed with volunteers (2013)

Transnational Issues :: ANGOLA

Disputes - international:

Democratic Republic of Congo accuses Angola of shifting monuments

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin): 6,448 (Cote d'Ivoire), 5,709 (Mauritania) (2018), 37,608 (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (refugees and asylum seekers) (2019)

Illicit drugs:

used as a transshipment point for cocaine destined for Western Europe and other African states, particularly South Africa



AFRICA :: NIGERIA

Introduction :: NIGERIA

Background:

British influence and control over what would become Nigeria and Africa's most populous country grew through the 19th century. A series of constitutions after World War II granted Nigeria greater autonomy. After independence in 1960, politics were marked by coups and mostly military rule, until the death of a military head of state in 1998 allowed for a political transition. In 1999, a new constitution was adopted and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. The government continues to face the daunting task of institutionalizing democracy and reforming a petroleum-based economy, whose revenues have been squandered through corruption and mismanagement. In addition, Nigeria continues to experience longstanding ethnic and religious tensions. Although both the 2003 and 2007 presidential elections were marred by significant irregularities and violence, Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of civilian rule since independence. The general elections of 2007 marked the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in the country's history and the elections of 2011 were generally regarded as credible. The 2015 election was heralded for the fact that the then-umbrella opposition party, the All Progressives Congress, defeated the long-ruling People's Democratic Party that had governed since 1999 and assumed the presidency after a peaceful transfer of power. Successful presidential and legislative elections were held in early 2019.

Women's World Cup One-Pager:

Geography :: NIGERIA

Location:

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

Geographic coordinates:

10 00 N, 8 00 E

Map references:

Africa

Area:

total: 923,768 sq km

land: 910,768 sq km

water: 13,000 sq km

country comparison to the world: 33

Area - comparative:

about six times the size of Georgia; slightly more than twice the size of California

Area comparison map:

Land boundaries:

total: 4,477 km

border countries (4): Benin 809 km, Cameroon 1975 km, Chad 85 km, Niger 1608 km

Coastline:

853 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

Climate:

varies; equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north

Terrain:

southern lowlands merge into central hills and plateaus; mountains in southeast, plains in north

Elevation:

mean elevation: 380 m

lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

highest point: Chappal Waddi 2,419 m

Natural resources:

natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land

Land use:

agricultural land: 78% (2011 est.)

arable land: 37.3% (2011 est.) / permanent crops: 7.4% (2011 est.) / permanent pasture: 33.3% (2011 est.)

forest: 9.5% (2011 est.)

other: 12.5% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

2,930 sq km (2012)

Population distribution:

largest population of any African nation; significant population clusters are scattered throughout the country, with the highest density areas being in the south and southwest

Natural hazards:

periodic droughts; flooding

Environment - current issues:

serious overpopulation and rapid urbanization have led to numerous environmental problems; urban air and water pollution; rapid deforestation; soil degradation; loss of arable land; oil pollution - water, air, and soil have suffered serious damage from oil spills

Environment - international agreements:

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:

the Niger River enters the country in the northwest and flows southward through tropical rain forests and swamps to its delta in the Gulf of Guinea

People and Society :: NIGERIA

Population:

203,452,505 (July 2018 est.)

note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected

country comparison to the world: 7

Nationality:

noun: Nigerian(s)

adjective: Nigerian

Ethnic groups:

Hausa 27.4%, Igbo (Ibo) 14.1%, Yoruba 13.9%, Fulani 6.3%, Tiv 2.2%, Ibibio 2.2%, Ijaw/Izon 2%, Kanuri/Berberi 1.7%, Igala 1%, other 28.9%, unspecified .2% (2013 est.)

note: Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups

Languages:

English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, over 500 additional indigenous languages

Religions:

Muslim 51.6%, Roman Catholic 11.2%, other Christian 35.7%, traditionalist .9%, unspecified .5% (2013 est.)

Demographic profile:

Nigeria's population is projected to grow from more than 186 million people in 2016 to 392 million in 2050, becoming the world's fourth most populous country. Nigeria's sustained high population growth rate will continue for the foreseeable future because of population momentum and its high birth rate. Abuja has not successfully implemented family planning programs to reduce and space births because of a lack of political will, government financing, and the availability and affordability of services and products, as well as a cultural preference for large families. Increased educational attainment, especially among women, and improvements in health care are needed to encourage and to better enable parents to opt for smaller families.

Nigeria needs to harness the potential of its burgeoning youth population in order to boost economic development, reduce widespread poverty, and channel large numbers of unemployed youth into productive activities and away from ongoing religious and ethnic violence. While most movement of Nigerians is internal, significant emigration regionally and to the West provides an outlet for Nigerians looking for economic opportunities, seeking asylum, and increasingly pursuing higher education. Immigration largely of West Africans continues to be insufficient to offset emigration and the loss of highly skilled workers. Nigeria also is a major source, transit, and destination country for forced labor and sex trafficking.

Age structure:

0-14 years: 42.45% (male 44,087,799 /female 42,278,742)

15-24 years: 19.81% (male 20,452,045 /female 19,861,371)

25-54 years: 30.44% (male 31,031,253 /female 30,893,168)

55-64 years: 4.04% (male 4,017,658 /female 4,197,739)

65 years and over: 3.26% (male 3,138,206 /female 3,494,524) (2018 est.)

population pyramid :



Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio: 88.2 (2015 est.)

youth dependency ratio: 83 (2015 est.)

elderly dependency ratio: 5.1 (2015 est.)

potential support ratio: 19.4 (2015 est.)

Median age:

total: 18.3 years

male: 18.1 years

female: 18.6 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 210

Population growth rate:

2.54% (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 21

Birth rate:

35.2 births/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 20

Death rate:

9.6 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 46

Net migration rate:

-0.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 110

Population distribution:

largest population of any African nation; significant population clusters are scattered throughout the country, with the highest density areas being in the south and southwest

Urbanization:

urban population: 50.3% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization: 4.23% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

13.463 million Lagos, 3.82 million Kano, 3.383 million Ibadan, 2.919 million ABUJA (capital), 2.343 million Port Harcourt, 1.628 million Benin City (2018)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 1 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 0.96 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.9 male(s)/female

total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2018 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

20.3 years (2013 est.)

note: median age at first birth among women 25-29

Maternal mortality rate:

814 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 4

Infant mortality rate:

total: 63.3 deaths/1,000 live births

male: 69.1 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 57.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 59.3 years

male: 57.5 years

female: 61.1 years (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 211

Total fertility rate:

4.85 children born/woman (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 16

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

27.6% (2018)

Health expenditures:

3.7% of GDP (2014)

country comparison to the world: 167

Physicians density:

0.38 physicians/1,000 population (2013)

Drinking water source:

improved:

urban: 80.8% of population

rural: 57.3% of population

total: 68.5% of population

unimproved:

urban: 19.2% of population

rural: 42.7% of population

total: 31.5% of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

improved:

urban: 32.8% of population (2015 est.)

rural: 25.4% of population (2015 est.)

total: 29% of population (2015 est.)

unimproved:

urban: 67.2% of population (2015 est.)

rural: 74.6% of population (2015 est.)

total: 71% of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

2.8% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 20

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

3.1 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 2

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

150,000 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 1

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk: very high (2016)

food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever (2016)

vectorborne diseases: malaria, dengue fever, and yellow fever (2016)

water contact diseases: leptospirosis and schistosomiasis (2016)

animal contact diseases: rabies (2016)

respiratory diseases: meningococcal meningitis (2016)

aerosolized dust or soil contact diseases: Lassa fever (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

8.9% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 145

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

31.5% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 8

Education expenditures:

NA

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write (2015 est.)

total population: 59.6%

male: 69.2%

female: 49.7% (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 9 years

male: 9 years

female: 8 years (2011)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total: 12.4%

male: NA

female: NA (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 112

Government :: NIGERIA

Country name:

conventional long form: Federal Republic of Nigeria

conventional short form: Nigeria

etymology: named for the Niger River that flows through the west of the country to the Atlantic Ocean; from a native term "Ni Gir" meaning "River Gir"

Government type:

federal presidential republic

Capital:

name: Abuja

geographic coordinates: 9 05 N, 7 32 E

time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

36 states and 1 territory*; Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Federal Capital Territory*, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara

Independence:

1 October 1960 (from the UK)

National holiday:

Independence Day (National Day), 1 October (1960)

Constitution:

history: several previous; latest adopted 5 May 1999, effective 29 May 1999

amendments: proposed by the National Assembly; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote of both houses and approval by the Houses of Assembly of at least two-thirds of the states; amendments to constitutional articles on the creation of a new state, fundamental constitutional rights, or constitution-amending procedures requires at least four-fifths majority vote by both houses of the National Assembly and approval by the Houses of Assembly in at least two-thirds of the states; passage of amendments limited to the creation of a new state require at least two-thirds majority by the proposing National Assembly house and approval by the Houses of Assembly in two-thirds of the states; amended several times, last in 2018 (2018)

Legal system:

mixed legal system of English common law, Islamic law (in 12 northern states), and traditional law

International law organization participation:

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

Citizenship:

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Nigeria

dual citizenship recognized: yes

residency requirement for naturalization: 15 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: President Maj. Gen. (ret.) Muhammadu BUHARI (since 29 May 2015); Vice President Oluyemi "Yemi" OSINBAJO (since 29 May 2015); note - the president is both chief of state, head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces

head of government: President Maj.Gen. (ret.) Muhammadu BUHARI (since 29 May 2015); Vice President Oluyemi "Yemi" OSINBAJO (since 29 May 2015)

cabinet: Federal Executive Council appointed by the president but constrained constitutionally to include at least one member from each of the 36 states

elections/appointments: president directly elected by qualified majority popular vote and at least 25% of the votes cast in 24 of Nigeria's 36 states; president elected for a 4-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 23 February 2019 (next to be held in February 2023); note: the election was scheduled for 16 February 2019, but postponed on 16 February 2019

election results: Muhammadu BUHARI elected president; percent of vote - Muhammadu BUHARI (APC) 53%, Atiku ABUBAKER (PDP) 39%, other 8%

Legislative branch:

description: bicameral National Assembly consists of:

Senate (109 seats - 3 each for the 36 states and 1 for Abuja-Federal Capital Territory; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote to serve 4-year terms)

House of Representatives (360 seats; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote to serve 4-year terms)

elections: Senate - last held on 23 February 2019 (next to be held on 23 February 2023); note: election was scheduled for 16 February 2019 but was postponed on 15 February 2019

House of Representatives - last held on 23 February (next to be held on 23 February 2013); note: election was scheduled for 16 February 2019 but was postponed on 15 February 2019

election results: Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - APC 65, PDP 39, YPP 1, TBD 3; composition - men 103, women 6, percent of women 5.5%

House of Representatives - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - APC 217, PDP 115, other 20, TBD 8; composition - men 346, women 14, percent of women 3.9%; note - total National Assembly percent of women 4.3%

Judicial branch:

highest courts: Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and 15 justices)

judge selection and term of office: judges appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, a 23-member independent body of federal and state judicial officials; judge appointments confirmed by the Senate; judges serve until age 70

subordinate courts: Court of Appeal; Federal High Court; High Court of the Federal Capital Territory; Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory; Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory; state court system similar in structure to federal system

Political parties and leaders:

Accord Party or ACC [Mohammad Lawal MALADO]

All Progressives Congress or APC [Adams OSHIOMHOLE]

All Progressives Grand Alliance or APGA [Victor Ike OYE]

Democratic Peoples Party or DPP [Biodun OGUNBIYI]

Labor Party or LP [Alhai Abdulkadir ABDULSALAM]

Peoples Democratic Party or PDP [Uche SECONDUS]

Young Progressive Party or YPP [Kingsley MOGHALU]

International organization participation:

ACP, AfDB, AU, C, CD, D-8, ECOWAS, EITI (compliant country), FAO, G-15, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICt, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, NAM, OAS (observer), OIC, OPCW, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNITAR, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Sylvanus Adiewere NSOFOR (since 29 November 2017)

chancery: 3519 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 516-4277

FAX: [1] (202) 362-6541

consulate(s) general: Atlanta, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador W. Stuart SYMINGTON (since 1 December 2016)

embassy: Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central District Area, Abuja

mailing address: P. O. Box 5760, Garki, Abuja

telephone: [234] (9) 461-4000

FAX: [234] (9) 461-4036

consulate(s): Lagos

Flag description:

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and green; the color green represents the forests and abundant natural wealth of the country, white stands for peace and unity

National symbol(s):

eagle; national colors: green, white

National anthem:

name: Arise Oh Compatriots, Nigeria's Call Obey

lyrics/music: John A. ILECHUKWU, Eme Etim AKPAN, B.A. OGUNNAIKE, Sotu OMOIGUI and P.O. ADERIBIGBE/Benedict Elide ODIASE

note: adopted 1978; lyrics are a mixture of the five top entries in a national contest

0:00 / 0:48

Economy :: NIGERIA

Economy - overview:

Nigeria is Sub Saharan Africa's largest economy and relies heavily on oil as its main source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. Following the 2008-09 global financial crises, the banking sector was effectively recapitalized and regulation enhanced. Since then, Nigeria's economic growth has been driven by growth in agriculture, telecommunications, and services. Economic diversification and strong growth have not translated into a significant decline in poverty levels; over 62% of Nigeria's over 180 million people still live in extreme poverty.

Despite its strong fundamentals, oil-rich Nigeria has been hobbled by inadequate power supply, lack of infrastructure, delays in the passage of legislative reforms, an inefficient property registration system, restrictive trade policies, an inconsistent regulatory environment, a slow and ineffective judicial system, unreliable dispute resolution mechanisms, insecurity, and pervasive corruption. Regulatory constraints and security risks have limited new investment in oil and natural gas, and Nigeria's oil production had been contracting every year since 2012 until a slight rebound in 2017.

President BUHARI, elected in March 2015, has established a cabinet of economic ministers that includes several technocrats, and he has announced plans to increase transparency, diversify the economy away from oil, and improve fiscal management, but has taken a primarily protectionist approach that favors domestic producers at the expense of consumers. President BUHARI ran on an anti-corruption platform, and has made some headway in alleviating corruption, such as implementation of a Treasury Single Account that allows the government to better manage its resources and a more transparent government payroll and personnel system that eliminated duplicate and "ghost workers." The government also is working to develop stronger public-private partnerships for roads, agriculture, and power.

Nigeria entered recession in 2016 as a result of lower oil prices and production, exacerbated by militant attacks on oil and gas infrastructure in the Niger Delta region, coupled with detrimental economic policies, including foreign exchange restrictions. GDP growth turned positive in 2017 as oil prices recovered and output stabilized.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$1.121 trillion (2017 est.)

\$1.112 trillion (2016 est.)

\$1.13 trillion (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 24

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$376.4 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

0.8% (2017 est.)

-1.6% (2016 est.)

2.7% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 187

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$5,900 (2017 est.)

\$6,100 (2016 est.)

\$6,300 (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 166

Gross national saving:

18.2% of GDP (2017 est.)

16% of GDP (2016 est.)

12.3% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 110

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 80% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 5.8% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 14.8% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: 0.7% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 11.9% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -13.2% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 21.1% (2016 est.)

industry: 22.5% (2016 est.)

services: 56.4% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

cocoa, peanuts, cotton, palm oil, corn, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava (manioc, tapioca), yams, rubber; cattle, sheep, goats, pigs; timber; fish

Industries:

crude oil, coal, tin, columbite; rubber products, wood; hides and skins, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food products, footwear, chemicals, fertilizer, printing, ceramics, steel

Industrial production growth rate:

2.2% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 126

Labor force:

60.08 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 70%

industry: 10%

services: 20% (1999 est.)

Unemployment rate:

16.5% (2017 est.)

13.9% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 178

Population below poverty line:

70% (2010 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 1.8%

highest 10%: 38.2% (2010 est.)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

48.8 (2013)

50.6 (1997)

country comparison to the world: 21

Budget:

revenues: 12.92 billion (2017 est.)

expenditures: 19.54 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

3.4% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 220

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-1.8% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 99

Public debt:

21.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

19.6% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 185

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

16.5% (2017 est.)

15.7% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 213

Central bank discount rate:

4.25% (31 December 2010)

6% (31 December 2009)

country comparison to the world: 96

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

17.58% (31 December 2017 est.)

16.87% (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 25

Stock of narrow money:

\$36.13 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$37.02 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 58

Stock of broad money:

\$36.13 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$37.02 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 58

Stock of domestic credit:

\$84.66 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$88.2 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 58

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$53.07 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

\$63.47 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

\$80.61 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 51

Current account balance:

\$10.38 billion (2017 est.)

\$2.714 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 21

Exports:

\$1.146 billion (2017 est.)

\$34.7 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 154

Exports - partners:

India 30.6%, US 12.1%, Spain 6.6%, China 5.6%, France 5.5%, Netherlands 4.4%, Indonesia 4.4% (2017)

Exports - commodities:

petroleum and petroleum products 95%, cocoa, rubber (2012 est.)

Imports:

\$32.67 billion (2017 est.)

\$35.24 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 63

Imports - commodities:

machinery, chemicals, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and live animals

Imports - partners:

China 21.1%, Belgium 8.7%, US 8.4%, South Korea 7.5%, UK 4.4% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

\$38.77 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$25.84 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 45

Debt - external:

\$40.96 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$31.41 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 73

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

\$116.9 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$113.4 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 44

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

\$16.93 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$15.65 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 57

Exchange rates:

nairas (NGN) per US dollar -

323.5 (2017 est.)

253 (2016 est.)

253 (2015 est.)

192.73 (2014 est.)

158.55 (2013 est.)

Energy :: NIGERIA

Electricity access:

population without electricity: 95.5 million (2013)

electrification - total population: 45% (2013)

electrification - urban areas: 55% (2013)

electrification - rural areas: 37% (2013)

Electricity - production:

29.35 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 67

Electricity - consumption:

24.72 billion kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 69

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 178

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 180

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

10.52 million kW (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 58

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

80% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 83

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 157

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

19% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 91

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 203

Crude oil - production:

1.946 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

Crude oil - exports:

2.096 million bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 6

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 177

Crude oil - proved reserves:

37.45 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 10

Refined petroleum products - production:

35,010 bbl/day (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 83

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

325,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 41

Refined petroleum products - exports:

2,332 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 102

Refined petroleum products - imports:

223,400 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 31

Natural gas - production:

44.48 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 18

Natural gas - consumption:

17.24 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 41

Natural gas - exports:

27.21 billion cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 13

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 169

Natural gas - proved reserves:

5.475 trillion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 8

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

104 million Mt (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 42

Communications :: NIGERIA

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions: 139,344 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: less than 1 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 134

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions: 144,920,170 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 76 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 9

Telephone system:

general assessment:

one of the larger telecom markets in Africa; foreign investment; market competition; LTE technologies available but GSM technology dominate; unified licensing regime; government committed to expanding broadband penetration; in Q1 2018, the Nigerian Communications Commission approved seven licenses to telecom companies to deploy fiber optic cable in the six geopolitical zones and Lagos

domestic: fixed-line subscribership remains less than 1 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular services growing rapidly, in part responding to the shortcomings of the fixed-line network; multiple cellular providers operate nationally with subscribership base over 76 per 100 persons

international: country code - 234; landing point for the SAT-3/WASC fiber-optic submarine cable that provides connectivity to Europe and Asia; satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (2 Atlantic Ocean and 1 Indian Ocean)

Broadcast media:

nearly 70 federal government-controlled national and regional TV stations; all 36 states operate TV stations; several private TV stations operational; cable and satellite TV subscription services are available; network of federal government-controlled national, regional, and state radio stations; roughly 40 state government-owned radio stations typically carry their own programs except for news broadcasts; about 20 private radio stations; transmissions of international broadcasters are available; digital broadcasting migration process completed in three states in 2018

Internet country code:

.ng

Internet users:

total: 47,759,904 (July 2016 est.)

percent of population: 25.7% (July 2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 14

Broadband - fixed subscriptions:

total: 74,004 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: less than 1 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 124

Transportation :: NIGERIA

National air transport system:

number of registered air carriers: 16 (2015)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 73 (2015)

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 3,223,459 (2015)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 22,400,657 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

5N (2016)

Airports:

54 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 88

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 40 (2017)

over 3,047 m: 10 (2017)

2,438 to 3,047 m: 12 (2017)

1,524 to 2,437 m: 9 (2017)

914 to 1,523 m: 6 (2017)

under 914 m: 3 (2017)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 14 (2013)

1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 (2013)

914 to 1,523 m: 9 (2013)

under 914 m: 3 (2013)

Heliports:

5 (2013)

Pipelines:

124 km condensate, 4045 km gas, 164 km liquid petroleum gas, 4441 km oil, 3940 km refined products (2013)

Railways:

total: 3,798 km (2014)

standard gauge: 293 km 1.435-m gauge (2014)

narrow gauge: 3,505 km 1.067-m gauge (2014)

note: As of the end of 2018, there were only six operational locomotives in Nigeria primarily used for passenger service. The majority of the rail lines are in a severe state of disrepair and need to be replaced.

country comparison to the world: 54

Roadways:

Waterways:

8,600 km (Niger and Benue Rivers and smaller rivers and creeks) (2011)

country comparison to the world: 15

Merchant marine:

total: 576

by type: general cargo 14, oil tanker 90, other 472 (2018)

country comparison to the world: 36

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s): Bonny Inshore Terminal, Calabar, Lagos

LNG terminal(s) (export): Bonny Island

Military and Security :: NIGERIA

Military expenditures:

0.5% of GDP (2018)

0.43% of GDP (2016)

0.42% of GDP (2015)

0.41% of GDP (2014)

0.47% of GDP (2013)

country comparison to the world: 145

Military branches:

Nigerian Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force (2013)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription (2012)

Maritime threats:

the International Maritime Bureau reports the territorial and offshore waters in the Niger Delta and Gulf of Guinea as high risk for piracy and armed robbery of ships; in 2017, 33 commercial vessels were boarded or attacked compared with 36 attacks in 2016; in 2017, 20 ships were boarded 16 of which were underway, seven were fired upon, and 65 crew members were abducted; nearly half of all reports of vessels being fired upon occur in Nigerian waters; Nigerian pirates have extended the range of their attacks to as far away as Cote d'Ivoire and as far as 170 nm offshore

Terrorism :: NIGERIA

Terrorist groups - home based:

Boko Haram:

aim(s): replace the Nigerian Government with an Islamic state under strict sharia and, ultimately, establish an Islamic caliphate across Africa; avenge military offenses against the group and destroy any political or social activity associated with Western society; conducts attacks against primarily civilian and regional military targets

area(s) of operation: headquartered in the northeast

note: since 2009, fighters have killed tens of thousands of Nigerians during hundreds of attacks and disrupted trade and farming in the northeast, causing a risk of famine and displacing millions of people; violently opposes any political or social activity associated with Western society, including voting, attending secular schools, and wearing Western dress (April 2018)

Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-West Africa:

aim(s): implement ISIS's strict interpretation of Sharia; replace the Nigerian Government with an Islamic state

area(s) of operation: based primarily in the north along the border with Niger, with its largest presence in the northeast and the Lake Chad region; targets primarily regional military installations and civilians (April 2018)

Transnational Issues :: NIGERIA

Disputes - international:

Joint Border Commission with Cameroon reviewed 2002 ICJ ruling on the entire boundary and bilaterally resolved differences, including June 2006 Greentree Agreement that immediately cedes sovereignty of the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon with a phaseout of Nigerian control within two years while resolving patriation issues; the ICJ ruled on an equidistance settlement of Cameroon-Equatorial Guinea-Nigeria maritime boundary in the Gulf of Guinea, but imprecisely defined coordinates in the ICJ decision and a sovereignty dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon over an island at the mouth of the Ntem River all contribute to the delay in implementation; only Nigeria and Cameroon have heeded the Lake Chad Commission's admonition to ratify the delimitation treaty which also includes the Chad-Niger and Niger-Nigeria boundaries; location of Benin-Niger-Nigeria tripoint is unresolved

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

refugees (country of origin): 32,601 (Cameroon) (2019)

IDPs: 1,948,349 (northeast Nigeria; Boko Haram attacks and counterinsurgency efforts in northern Nigeria; communal violence between Christians and Muslims in the middle belt region, political violence; flooding; forced evictions; cattle rustling; competition for resources) (2019)

Illicit drugs:

a transit point for heroin and cocaine intended for European, East Asian, and North American markets; consumer of amphetamines; safe haven for Nigerian narcotraffickers operating worldwide; major money-laundering center; massive corruption and criminal activity; Nigeria has improved some anti-money-laundering controls, resulting in its removal from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF's) Noncooperative Countries and Territories List in June 2006; Nigeria's anti-money-laundering regime continues to be monitored by FATF

Algeria country profile



Algeria, a gateway between Africa and Europe, has been battered by violence over the past half-century.

There are conflicting reports about the death toll during the war against France for independence in the 1950s and early 60s. French historians estimate that up to 400,000 Algerians were killed, while the Algerian government says more than one million people died.

The country later endured a brutal internal conflict after when elections that Islamists appeared certain to win were cancelled in 1992; a low-level Islamist insurgency still affects Algeria.

The Sahara desert covers more than four-fifths of the land. Algeria is the continent's biggest country, and is the world's 10th largest.

Oil and gas reserves were discovered there in the 1950s, but most Algerians live along the northern coast.

- Read more **country profiles** - Profiles by **BBC Monitoring**

FACTS

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Capital: Algiers

- **Population** 41 million
- **Area** 2.4 million sq km (919,595 sq miles)
- **Major languages** Arabic, French, Berber
- **Major religion** Islam
- **Life expectancy** 75 years (men), 77 years (women)
- **Currency** dinar

UN, World Bank

Getty Images

LEADER

President (resigned): Abdelaziz Bouteflika



Abdelaziz Bouteflika took power in 1999 and gained his fourth term of office in elections in 2014, despite doing no personal campaigning and rarely appearing in public after suffering a stroke in 2013.

He first took office when Algeria was still caught up in a savage civil war with Islamist insurgents, and is credited with curbing the conflict and restoring economic stability.

He amended the constitution in 2008 to remove the two-term limit on the presidency, effectively giving himself the option of remaining head of state for life.

Opposition politicians, former establishment figures and demonstrators called for his removal on health grounds, but he nonetheless announced that he would seek a fifth term at the April 2019 election.

Street protests after the announcement prompted President Bouteflika to postpone the polls and resign.

Abdelkader Bensalah, the speaker of the upper house of parliament, took over as interim president, but protests continue.

MEDIA



Algeria has a lively private press but the state broadcaster avoids criticism of the government.

Recent legislation allows several privately-owned TV stations to operate from Algerian soil, but none of them are opposition-leaning.

- **[Read full profile](#)**

TIMELINE

Some key dates in Algeria's history:



Algerians endured a long and bitter struggle for independence

1830 - France seizes Algiers, ending Algeria's three centuries as an autonomous province of the Ottoman Empire.

1939-1945 - The Collapse of France and the Anglo-American occupation of North Africa during Second World War encourages hopes for independence.

1945 - Pro-independence demonstrations in Setif. Thousands are killed in suppression of ensuing unrest.

1954-1962 - Algerian War of Independence.

1962 - Independence.

1976 - Algerian, Moroccan armies clash over Western Sahara.

1989 - New constitution removes the one-party state and moves country away from socialism to western capitalism.

1991-1999 - Civil war pitting Islamists against the government.

1999 - Abdelaziz Bouteflika becomes president, introduces national reconciliation policy.

2019 April - President Bouteflika announces he will step down after street protests.



Villagers took to arming themselves during the 1990s insurrection by Islamists

Angola country profile



One of Africa's major oil producers, Angola is striving to tackle the physical, social and political legacy of a 27-year civil war that ravaged the country after independence.

Following the withdrawal of the Portuguese colonial masters in 1975, the rival former independence movements competed for power until 2002.

Much of Angola's oil wealth lies in Cabinda province, where a decades-long separatist conflict simmers.

The government has sent thousands of troops to subdue the rebellion in the enclave, which has no border with the rest of Angola. Human rights groups have alleged abuses against civilians.

- Read more **country profiles** - Profiles by **BBC Monitoring**

FACTS

The Republic of Angola

Capital: Luanda

- **Population** 29 million
- **Area** 1.25m sq km (481,354 sq miles)
- **Major languages** Portuguese (official), Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo
- **Major religion** Christianity
- **Life expectancy** 58 years (men), 64 years (women)
- **Currency** kwanza

UN, World Bank

Getty Images

LEADER

President: Joao Lourenco



Joao Lourenco became the country's first new president in 38 years in September 2017.

He was the chosen candidate of his predecessor Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who did not run in the general election but who was still expected to retain a strong influence over the running of the country.

However, Mr Lourenco surprised many by firing several security chiefs close to his predecessor as well as the leaders of state-run companies, including Isabel dos Santos, who was removed from the helm of Sonangol.

Mr Lourenco is a retired general who first fought in the independence struggle against Portugal, and later against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) during the civil war.

MEDIA



Social media appeared to be under threat at the end of 2015 when President dos Santos called for their stricter regulation, at a time when the government was cracking down on political dissident and activism.

For many urban Angolans, the internet has become the primary medium for expression of political anger because of the dangers of protesting on the streets.

The state controls all media with nationwide reach, including radio, the most influential medium outside the capital.

- [Read full media profile](#)

TIMELINE

Some key dates in Angola's history:



The Angolan civil war involved forces from Cuba, pictured, as well as from South Africa

1300s - Kongo kingdom consolidates in the north.

1483 - Portuguese arrive.

17th and 18th centuries - Angola becomes a major Portuguese trading arena for slaves. Between 1580 and 1680 a million plus are shipped to Brazil.

1885-1930 - Portugal consolidates colonial control over Angola, local resistance persists.

1950s-1961 - Nationalist movement develops, guerrilla war begins.

1974 - Revolution in Portugal, colonial empire collapses.

1975 - Portuguese withdraw from Angola without formally handing power to any movement. MPLA is in control of Luanda and declares itself government of independent Angola. Unita and FNLA set up a rival government in Huambo.

Civil war begins, dragging on until 2002.

1979 - Jose Eduardo dos Santos becomes country's leader. He steps down 38 years later.

1987 - South African forces enter southeast Angola to thwart MPLA and Cuban offensive against Unita. They withdrew the next year.

1991 - Government, Unita sign peace accord in Lisbon.

1992 - Disputed elections. Fighting flares again.

1998 - Luanda launches offensive against Unita - thousands killed in next four years of fighting.

2002 - Unita leader Jonas Savimbi is killed in battle and a formal ceasefire is signed.

2018 - Joao Lourenco becomes president.

- **Read full timeline**



The civil war came to an end following the killing of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi

Nigeria country profile



After lurching from one military coup to another, Nigeria now has an elected leadership.

But the government faces the growing challenge of preventing Africa's most populous country from breaking apart along ethnic and religious lines.

Thousands of people have died over the past few years in attacks led by jihadists in the north-east.

Separatist aspirations have also been growing, and the imposition of Islamic law in several northern states has embedded divisions and caused thousands of Christians to flee.

Nigeria's insecurity has added to its economic woes, hindering foreign investment.

The former British colony is one of the world's largest oil producers, but few Nigerians, including those in oil-producing areas, have benefited.

- Read more **country profiles** - Profiles by **BBC Monitoring**

FACTS

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Capital: Abuja

- **Population** 186 million
- **Area** 923,768 sq km (356,669 sq miles)
- **Major languages** English (official), Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa
- **Religions** Islam, Christianity, indigenous beliefs
- **Life expectancy** 52 years (men), 54 years (women)

- **Currency** Nigerian naira
UN, World Bank

Getty Images

LEADER

President: Muhammadu Buhari



A former military ruler, Muhammadu Buhari swept to an historic election victory in March 2015 when he became the first opposition candidate to win a Nigerian presidential poll.

After helping oust elected President Shehu Shagari in 1983, the then Major-General Buhari sought to combat crime and corruption, but was also accused of serious rights abuses.

In 1985, he was overthrown by Gen Ibrahim Babangida.

Mr Buhari has now distanced himself from military rule, promising to respect democracy and govern as a civilian leader.

MEDIA

Nigeria is one of Africa's biggest media markets. There are hundreds of radio stations and terrestrial TV networks, as well as cable and satellite platforms.

Reporters Without Borders says journalists face threats and violence in the course of their work.

Many millions of Nigerians are online, and Facebook is the leading social media platform.

Read full media profile

TIMELINE

Some key dates in Nigeria's history:



Colonel Odumegwu Emeka Ojukwu announced the secession of the Republic of Biafra in 1967, sparking a devastating civil war

16-18th centuries - Slave trade sees Nigerians forcibly sent to the Americas to work on plantations.

1850s - Britain establishes presence, which it consolidates over the next 70 years as the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. In 1922, part of former German colony Kamerun is added under a League of Nations mandate.

1960 - Independence, with Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa leading a coalition government. He is killed in a coup in 1966.

1967 - Three eastern states secede as the Republic of Biafra, sparking a bloody three-year civil war.

1983 - Major-General Muhammadu Buhari seizes power in a bloodless coup, ushering in a period of political instability capped by the 1999 presidential and parliamentary elections.

2000 - Adoption of Islamic law by several northern states in the face of opposition from Christians.

2009 - Boko Haram jihadists launch a campaign of violence that spreads to neighbouring countries. One high-profile incident involves the kidnapping of 200 school girls in 2014.

2015 - Muhammadu Buhari wins presidential election - first opposition candidate to do so.



Militants from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) want the benefits of oil to be spread to people in the production areas

Algeria profile - Timeline

A chronology of key events:

1830 - France seizes Algiers, ending Algeria's three centuries as an autonomous province of the Ottoman Empire.

1939-1945 - The collapse of France and the Anglo-American occupation of North Africa during Second World War encourages hopes for independence.

1945 - Pro-independence demonstrations in Setif. Thousands are killed in suppression of ensuing unrest.

1954-1962 - Algerian War of Independence.

1962 - Algeria gains independence from France.

Independence



- Some 250,000 were killed in eight-year independence war
 - 1954: National Liberation Front launches revolt against French rule
 - 1962: Referendum in France backs independence accord
 - 3 July 1962: Algeria becomes independent
- 1963** - Ahmed Ben Bella elected as first president.
1965 - Col Houari Boumedienne overthrows Ben Bella, pledges to end corruption.
1976 - Col Boumedienne introduces a new constitution which confirms commitment to socialism and role of the National Liberation Front as the sole political party. Islam is recognised as state religion.
1976 December - Col Boumedienne is elected president and is instrumental in launching a programme of rapid industrialisation.
1978 - President Boumedienne dies and is replaced by Col Chadli Bendjedid, as the compromise candidate of the military establishment.
1986 - Rising inflation and unemployment, exacerbated by the collapse of oil and gas prices, lead to a wave of strikes and violent demonstrations.

Ban on parties lifted

1988 - Serious rioting against economic conditions.

1989 - The National People's Assembly revokes the ban on new political parties and adopts a new electoral law allowing opposition parties to contest future elections.

1989 - Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) founded and over 20 new parties licensed.

1990 - The FIS wins 55% of the vote in local elections.

Leader: Ahmed Ben Bella



- 1954: Led newly-formed National Liberation Front
- 1957-62: Interned in France
- 1962-3: Became Algeria's first premier, then president
- 1965: Ousted in military coup; detained until 1979

1991 - In the first round of general elections in December the FIS wins 188 seats outright, and seems virtually certain to obtain an absolute majority in the second round.

Descent into conflict

1992 January-February - Army forces President Chadli to dissolve parliament and resign, replacing him with a Higher State Council chaired by Mohamed Boudiaf.

Government declares state of emergency and disbands the FIS and all its local and regional council administrations, triggering ten years of bloody conflict with Islamist groups.

1992 June - Head of State Boudiaf is assassinated by a member of his bodyguard with Islamist links. Violence increases and the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) emerges as the main group behind these operations.

1994 - Liamine Zeroual, a retired army colonel, is appointed chairman of the Higher State Council.

1995 - Col Zeroual wins presidential election with a comfortable majority.

1996 - Proposed constitutional changes approved in a referendum by over 85 per cent of voters.

1997 - Parliamentary elections won by the newly-created Democratic National Rally, followed by the Movement of Society for Peace moderate Islamic party.

1999 - Former Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika elected president after all opposition candidates withdraw over concerns and fairness and transparency of poll.

Algeria's 'dirty war'



- Sparked by dissolution of assembly in 1992
 - Islamic militants waged a decade-long campaign of violence
 - Rights groups say up to 150,000 people were killed
 - Official report says security forces responsible for 6,000 civilian disappearances
- 1999** - Referendum approves President Bouteflika's law on civil concord, the result of long and largely secret negotiations with the armed wing of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS). Thousands of members of the AIS and other armed groups are pardoned.
- 2000** - Attacks on civilians and security forces continue, and are thought to be the work of small groups still opposed to the civil concord. Violence is estimated to have claimed over 100,000 lives in Algeria since 1992.

Berber concessions

2001 May - The mainly Berber party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, withdraws from the government in protest against the authorities' handling of riots in the Kabylie Berber heartland.

2002 March - President Bouteflika says the Berber language, Tamazight, is to be recognised as a national language.



Scores of people were killed during Berber protests in Kabylie in 2001

2002 June - Prime Minister Ali Benflis's National Liberation Front (FLN) wins general elections marred by violence and a low turnout. They are boycotted as a sham by four parties - two of which represent Berbers.

2003 21 May - More than 2,000 people are killed and thousands are injured by a powerful earthquake in the north. The worst-hit areas are east of Algiers.

2003 June - Leader of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj are freed after serving 12-year sentences.

2004 April - President Bouteflika is re-elected to a second term in a landslide poll victory.

2005 January - Authorities announce the arrest of rebel Armed Islamic Group (GIA) head Nourredine Boudiafi and the killing of his deputy, and declare the group to be virtually dismantled.

Government makes deal with Berber leaders, promising more investment in Kabylie region and greater recognition for Tamazight language.

2005 March - Government-commissioned report says security forces were responsible for the disappearances of more than 6,000 citizens during the 1990s civil conflict.

2005 September - Voters back government plans to amnesty many of those involved in post-1992 killings in a reconciliation referendum.

2006 May - Algeria is to pay back all of its \$8bn debt to the Paris Club group of rich creditor nations, in a move seen as reflecting its economic recovery.

Rise of al-Qaeda

2006 December - Roadside bomb hits a bus carrying staff of a US oil firm, killing one man. The Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) claims responsibility.

2007 January - GSPC renames itself the al-Qaeda Organisation in the Islamic Maghreb and steps up attacks through over the next two years.

2007 April - Thirty-three people are killed in two bomb blasts in Algiers - one the prime minister's office. Al-Qaeda claims responsibility.

2007 May - Parliamentary elections: dozens are killed in the run-up, in a wave of fighting between the military and armed groups. Pro-government parties retain their absolute majority in parliament.

2007 September - Al-Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri urges north Africa's Muslims to "cleanse" their land of Spaniards and French.

2008 November - Parliament approves constitutional changes allowing President Bouteflika to run for a third term.

2009 April - President Bouteflika wins third term at the polls.

2009 July - Nigeria, Niger and Algeria sign an agreement to build a \$13bn pipeline to take Nigerian gas across the Sahara to the Mediterranean.

2010 April - Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Niger set up joint command to tackle threat of terrorism.

Protests

2011 January - Major protests over food prices and unemployment, with two people being killed in clashes with security forces. The government orders cuts to the price of basic foodstuffs.

2011 February - President Abdelaziz Bouteflika lifts 19-year-old state of emergency - a key demand of anti-government protesters.

2011 September - President Bouteflika ends state monopoly over radio and TV.

Gas plant siege



Dozens of foreign hostages were killed when Islamists besieged a gas complex

Algeria hostage crisis: What we know

2012 May - Parliamentary poll: Ruling FLN and allied National Democratic Rally win another majority in parliament, with Islamists coming third, although some MPs allege fraud.

2012 October - The army kills al-Qaeda's deputy leader in Algeria, Boualem Bekai, alias Khaled al-Mig, in an ambush near Tizi Ouzou in the Kabylie region.



President Bouteflika's 2014 re-election bid spawned a protest movement called Barakat, meaning "Enough"

2012 December - French President Francois Hollande acknowledges suffering caused by France's colonisation of Algeria but stops short of an apology.

2013 January - Dozens of foreign hostages are killed by Islamist al-Murabitoun group in four-day siege at remote In Amenas gas plant. Algerian special forces storm the site.

2013 April - President Bouteflika suffers a stroke and spends three months in France being treated.



President Bouteflika's health deteriorated in his last years in office

2014 April - Bouteflika wins another term as president in elections condemned by the opposition as flawed.

2014 September - Islamists behead French tourist Herve Gourdel after demanding that France end its support for the campaign against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

2015 June - US airstrike reported to kill Mokhtar Belmokhtar, leader of the al-Murabitoun armed Islamist group, in eastern Libya, although his supporters deny this.

2015 September - President Bouteflika sacks Mohamed Mediene, head of the top intelligence body for 25 years; he was regarded as a major power behind the scenes.

2016 - February - Parliament passes constitutional reforms limiting presidents to two terms, expanding the legislature's power and giving the Berber language official status.

2018 January - New Year celebrated by the Berber people is marked for the first time as a national public holiday.

End of Bouteflika

2019 April - Street protests prompt President Bouteflika to resign, having earlier postponed presidential elections because of political turmoil.

Abdelkader Bensalah, the speaker of the upper house of parliament, becomes interim president, but protests continue.

Angola profile - Timeline

A chronology of key events:

1300s - Kongo kingdom consolidates in the north.



Cuban troops deployed in Angola to help fend off South African forces during the 27-year civil war between the MPLA and Unita

1483 - Portuguese arrive.

1575 - Portuguese found Luanda.

17th and 18th centuries - Angola becomes a major Portuguese trading arena for slaves. Between 1580 and 1680 a million plus are shipped to Brazil.

1836 - Slave trade officially abolished by the Portuguese government.

1885-1930 - Portugal consolidates colonial control over Angola, local resistance persists.

1951 - Angola's status changes from colony to overseas province.

Independence fighters



captionIndependence fighters

The leaders of the main rebel parties (from L-R) Roberto Holden (FNLA), Agostinho Neto (MPLA) and Jonas Savimbi (UNITA)

1956 - The early beginnings of the socialist guerrilla independence movement, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), based in northern Congo.

1950s-1961 - Nationalist movement develops, guerrilla war begins.

1961 - Forced labour abolished after revolts on coffee plantations leave 50,000 dead. The fight for independence is bolstered.

1974 - Revolution in Portugal, colonial empire collapses.

Independence

1976 - MPLA gains upper hand.

1979 - MPLA leader Agostinho Neto dies. Jose Eduardo dos Santos takes over as president.

1987 - South African forces enter Angola to support Unita.

1988 - South Africa agrees to Namibian independence in exchange for removal of Cuban troops from Angola.

ADVERTISEMENT

1989 - Dos Santos, Unita leader Jonas Savimbi agree cease-fire, which collapses soon afterwards and guerrilla activity resumes.

Towards peace



Expatriates left the country en masse at independence

1991 April - MPLA drops Marxism-Leninism in favour of social democracy.

1991 May - Dos Santos, Savimbi sign peace deal in Lisbon which results in a new multiparty constitution.
1992 September - Presidential and parliamentary polls certified by UN monitors as generally free and fair. Dos Santo gains more votes than Savimbi, who rejects results and resumes guerrilla war.
1993 - UN imposes sanctions against Unita. The US acknowledges the MPLA.
1994 - Government, Unita sign Lusaka Protocol peace accord.
1995 - Dos Santos, Savimbi meet, confirm commitment to peace. First of 7,000 UN peacekeepers arrive.
1996 - Dos Santos, Savimbi agree to form unity government join forces into national army.
1997 April - Unified government inaugurated, with Savimbi declining post in unity government and failing to attend inauguration ceremony.
1997 May - Tension mounts, with few Unita troops having integrated into army.
1998 - Full-scale fighting resumes. Thousands killed in next four years of fighting.

Angola intervenes in civil war in Democratic Republic of Congo on the side of President Laurent-Desire Kabila.

1999 - UN ends its peacekeeping mission.

2002 February - Savimbi killed by government troops. Government, Unita sign ceasefire shortly afterwards.

Demobilisation



Angola's civil war raged for almost three decades

2002 May - Unita's military commander says 85% of his troops have gathered at demobilisation camps. There are concerns that food shortages in the camps could threaten the peace process.

2002 June - UN appeals for aid for thousands of refugees heading home after the ceasefire.

Medical charity Medecins sans Frontieres says half a million Angolans are facing starvation, a legacy of civil war.

2002 August - Unita scraps its armed wing. "The war has ended," proclaims Angola's defence minister.

2003 February - UN mission overseeing the peace process winds up.

2003 June - Unita - now a political party - elects Isaias Samakuva as its new leader.

2004 April onwards - Tens of thousands of illegal foreign diamond miners are expelled in a crackdown on illegal mining and trafficking. In December the government says 300,000 foreign diamond dealers have been expelled.

2004 September - Oil production reaches one million barrels per day.

2005 March-May - Marburg virus, which is deadlier than Ebola, kills more than 300 people, most of them in the north.

2005 June - Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits, promises to extend more than \$2 billion in new credit, in addition to a \$3 billion credit line Beijing has already given Luanda.

2006 August - The government signs a peace deal with a separatist group in the northern enclave of Cabinda.

2006 October - The UN refugee agency begins "final repatriation" of Angolans who fled the civil war to the neighbouring DR Congo.

Elections

2007 February - President dos Santos says parliamentary elections will be held in 2008 and presidential polls in 2009.



2008: Angolans vote in the first parliamentary poll for 16 years

2008 September - First parliamentary elections for 16 years.

2009 March - Pope Benedict celebrates mass in front of more than a million people in Luanda.

2009 October - Angola expels illegal Congolese diamond miners. Democratic Republic of Congo responds by expelling some 20,000 Angolans.

2009 December - President dos Santos suggests presidential elections will have to wait another three years.

State oil firm Sonangol signs a deal to produce oil in Iraq.

Constitutional change

2010 January - Angola hosts African Nations Cup, continent's most popular sporting event. Bus carrying Togo football team is attacked by Cabinda separatists.

Parliament approves new constitution strengthening the presidency and abolishing direct elections for the post.

2010 September - President of DR Congo, Joseph Kabila, visits Angola. Ties between the two neighbours deteriorated in 2009 when Angola began expelling illegal Congolese immigrants and Congo retaliated.

2010 October - UN report into killing of Hutus in DR Congo between 1993 and 2003 says they may constitute "crimes of genocide". It implicates Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Zimbabwe.

2010 November - Convoy carrying Chinese mine workers attacked in the region of Cabinda. A faction of the Cabinda separatist movement Flec claims responsibility.

US urges Angola to investigate alleged rape of women recently deported to DR Congo.

2011 March - More than 20,000 people rally in support for President Dos Santos in response to a reported social media campaign calling on people to demonstrate against the government. Human Rights Watch accuses the government of a "campaign of intimidation" to suppress anti-government protests.

2012 May - Supreme Court annuls the appointment of the head of the electoral commission, upholding complaints from the opposition that she was not politically neutral.

2012 September - Governing MPLA wins a comfortable victory in parliamentary elections, guaranteeing another term in office for President Dos Santos. African Union observers deem the polls free and fair, despite allegations by opposition party Unita about a lack of transparency.

2012 October - Angola launches a \$5bn sovereign wealth fund to channel the country's oil wealth into investment projects.

2013 November - Intelligence chief is sacked following an interior ministry report saying the security services were involved in the abduction and killing of two activists.

2014 May - First national census since 1970. Preliminary figures put population at 24.3 million.

Anti-government protesters say they've been beaten and detained for demonstrating against the killing of three activists by security forces.

2014 November - Amnesty International accuses security forces of extra-judicial killings and excessive force, when suppressing dissent against the government.



Anti-corruption campaigner Rafael Marques, who fell foul of the law over his allegations about the Angolan diamond industry

2014 December - Rights groups urge the authorities to stop what they describe as the cruel and inhuman treatment of migrants from other parts of Africa, after more than 3,000 people are reportedly rounded up in Luanda.

2015 April - Mystery surrounds raid on Mount Sumi, with opposition alleging security forces killed some 1000 in action against Seventh Day Light of the World Church. Government demands apology from the UN after it called for a probe.

2015 May - Prominent anti-corruption activist Rafael Marques is given six-month suspended jail term for defaming army generals in a book about violence in the country's diamond mining industry.

2016 August - The Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda, FLEC, reports a deadly clash with government troops.

2017 August - Ruling MPLA confirmed as election winners. Joao Lourenco becomes president, begins crackdown on corruption.

Nigeria profile - Timeline

A chronology of key events:

circa 800 BC - Jos plateau settled by Nok - a neolithic and iron age civilisation.

circa 11th century onwards - Formation of city states, kingdoms and empires, including Hausa kingdoms and Borno dynasty in north, Oyo and Benin kingdoms in south.

1472 - Portuguese navigators reach Nigerian coast.

Biafra war

1970: Nigeria marks end of Biafra war

Secret papers reveal Biafra intrigue

16-18th centuries - Slave trade sees Nigerians forcibly sent to the Americas.

1809 - Islamic Sokoto caliphate is founded in north.

1850s - British establish presence around Lagos.

1861-1914 - Britain consolidates its hold over what it calls the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, governs through local leaders.

1922 - Part of former German colony Kamerun is added to Nigeria under League of Nations mandate.

1960 - Independence, with Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa leading a coalition government.

1966 January - Mr Balewa killed in coup. Maj-Gen Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi forms military government.

1966 July - General Ironsi killed in counter-coup, replaced by Lieutenant-Colonel Yakubu Gowon.

Biafran war

1967 - Three eastern states secede as the Republic of Biafra, sparking three-year civil war.

1975 - General Gowon overthrown by Brigadier Murtala Ramat Mohammed, who begins process of moving federal capital to Abuja.

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1976 - General Mohammed assassinated in failed coup attempt. Replaced by his deputy, Lt-Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, who helps introduce US-style presidential constitution.

Sani Abacha



Gen Sani Abacha was accused of stealing some \$3bn from state during his five-year rule.

Horrors of the Abacha regime

Obituary: Abacha leader with an iron grip

1979 - Elections bring Alhaji Shehu Shagari to power.

1983 August-September - President Shagari re-elected amid accusations of irregularities.

1983 December - Maj-Gen Muhammad Buhari seizes power in bloodless coup.

1985 - Ibrahim Babangida seizes power in bloodless coup, curtails political activity.

1993 June - Military annuls elections when preliminary results show victory by Chief Moshood Abiola.

Abacha years

1993 November - Gen Sani Abacha seizes power, suppresses opposition.

1994 - Moshood Abiola arrested after proclaiming himself president.

1995 - Ken Saro-Wiwa, writer and campaigner against oil industry damage to his Ogoni homeland, is executed following a hasty trial. In protest, European Union imposes sanctions until 1998, Commonwealth suspends Nigeria's membership until 1998.

1998 - Gen Sani Abacha dies and is succeeded by Maj-Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar. Moshood Abiola dies in custody a month later.

1999 - Parliamentary and presidential elections. Olusegun Obasanjo sworn in as president.

2000 - Adoption of Islamic Sharia law by several northern states in the face of opposition from Christians. Tension over the issue results in hundreds of deaths in clashes between Christians and Muslims.

2001 - Tribal war in Benue State, in eastern-central Nigeria, displaces thousands of people. Troops sent to quash the fighting kill more than 200 unarmed civilians, apparently in retaliation for the abduction and murder of 19 soldiers.

Ethnic violence

2002 February - Some 100 people are killed in Lagos in clashes between Hausas from mainly-Islamic north and Yorubas from predominantly-Christian southwest.

2002 November - More than 200 people die in four days of rioting stoked by Muslim fury over the planned Miss World beauty pageant in Kaduna in December. The event is relocated to Britain.

2003 12 April - First legislative elections since end of military rule in 1999. Polling marked by delays, allegations of ballot-rigging. President Obasanjo's People's Democratic Party wins parliamentary majority.

Obasanjo re-elected

2003 19 April - First civilian-run presidential elections since end of military rule. Olusegun Obasanjo elected for second term despite EU observers reporting "serious irregularities".

Oil



Nigeria is a big oil exporter, but violence and oil spills dog the industry

'Decades' to clean up Nigeria oil

'Blood oil' dripping from Nigeria

2003 September - Nigeria's first satellite, NigeriaSat-1, launched by Russian rocket.

2004 May - State of emergency is declared in the central Plateau State after more than 200 Muslims are killed in Yelwa in attacks by Christian militia; revenge attacks are launched by Muslim youths in Kano.

Trouble in the south

2004 August-September - Deadly clashes between gangs in oil city of Port Harcourt prompts strong crackdown by troops. Rights group Amnesty International cites death toll of 500, authorities say about 20 died.

2006 January onwards - Militants in the Niger Delta attack pipelines and other oil facilities and kidnap foreign oil workers. The rebels demand more control over the region's oil wealth.

2006 April - Helped by record oil prices, Nigeria becomes the first African nation to pay off its debt to the Paris Club of rich lenders, which had written off two-thirds of the \$30bn debt the previous year.

2006 August - Nigeria agrees to cede sovereignty over the disputed Bakassi peninsula to neighbouring Cameroon under the terms of a 2002 International Court of Justice ruling. Transfer takes place in 2008.

2007 April - Umaru Yar'Adua of the ruling People's Democratic Party wins the presidential election.

Boko Haram uprising

2009 July - Hundreds die in northeastern Nigeria after the Boko Haram Islamist movement launches an enduring campaign of violence.

Government frees the leader of the Niger Delta militant group Mend, Henry Okah, after he accepts an amnesty offer.

2010 May - President Umaru Yar'Adua dies after a long illness. Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan, already acting in Yar'Adua's stead, succeeds him.

Boko Haram



The Islamist group Boko Haram is loosely modelled on the Taliban movement in Afghanistan and has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks

Boko Haram: What You Need To Know

Who are Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamists?

Why can't Nigeria defeat Boko Haram?

2011 March - Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan wins presidential elections.

2012 January - More than 100 killed in single day of co-ordinated bombings and shootings in Kano, shortly after Boko Haram tells Christians to quit the north.

2013 May - Government declares state of emergency in three northern states of Yobe, Borno and Adamawa and sends in troops to combat Boko Haram.

2014 April - Boko Haram kidnaps more than 200 girls from a boarding school in northern town of Chibok, in an incident that draws major national and international outrage.

2014 November - Boko Haram launches a series of attacks in northeastern Nigeria, capturing several towns near Lake Chad and running raids into neighbouring Chad and Cameroon in early 2015. It switches allegiance from al-Qaeda to the Islamic State group.

2015 February-March - Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger form military coalition and push Boko Haram out of all towns back into Sambisa Forest.

President Buhari elected

2015 March - Muhammadu Buhari wins the presidential election, becoming the first opposition candidate to do so in Nigeria's history.

2016 June - Naira currency floated in attempt to stave off financial crisis caused by low oil prices.

2016 November - Niger Delta Avengers rebels bomb three oil pipelines in attempt to renew southern insurgency.

2017 December - Clashes between herders in Benue and Taraba states prompt thousands to flee.

2018 - Escalating attacks by Boko Haram from August onwards, targeting army bases.

2019 February - Presidential elections held after last-minute delay of a week.



Boundary representations are not necessarily authoritative.

BACKGROUND

Land and Climate

Algeria is the world's tenth largest and Africa's largest country; it is smaller than Kazakhstan and about three and a half times the size of the U.S. state of Texas. Algeria is a mountainous country with varied topography. Mount Tahat, the highest mountain in Algeria, reaches 9,541 feet (2,908 meters) and is also the highest peak of the Hoggar Mountains, which are located in southern Algeria. Some of Algeria's mountains form part of the Atlas mountain range, which extends across Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. The northern coastal region, called the Tell, is separated from the Sahara by the Atlas mountain range and the highlands of the Hauts Plateaux. The territory south of the Tell makes up the western portion of the vast Sahara Desert, where only an occasional oasis is capable of supporting life. Only 3 percent of Algeria's land is arable.

Algeria has a large variety of animal and plant life, some of which is distributed in various protected parks. The most notable are the Belzma National Park, the Ahaggar National Park, and Chéra National Park. Algeria's major environmental issues include limited freshwater resources, soil erosion, desertification, and poor air quality in urban areas.

The Tell enjoys a mild Mediterranean climate and moderate rainfall, with a winter rainy season that extends from December to March. In Algiers, the capital, the average daily high temperature in January is 61°F (16°C); in August it is 86°F (30°C). Temperatures in the interior of Algeria can be much hotter. A hot, sandy wind called the *sirocco* blows

across all regions of Algeria, resulting in a hot and dry climate. Sandstorms in the desert are common from March to May.

History

Foreign Empires

Algeria's earliest inhabitants were not a homogenous people, but collectively they were called Berbers (from the Greek word *barbaros*, or "barbarian") by Greeks and Romans. The term was adopted by successive invaders and is still used by non-Berbers today. A movement among indigenous Berbers has developed to collectively call themselves Imazighen (Amazigh, singular), meaning "free men."

Algeria was conquered by the Phoenicians, whose Carthaginian Empire (ca. 800-146 BC) flourished until its destruction by the Romans. The Romans and then the Vandals held the coastal region until the Umayyad (Arab) invasion in the seventh century AD. The cities of Algiers, Oran, Constantine, and Annaba owe their development to this period. The Umayyads introduced Islam to the Imazighen, who in the eighth century regained control of the region and established their own Islamic empire. Several indigenous empires followed until the 13th century, when immigrating Bedouins spread the nomadic lifestyle.

French Colonization

From the early 1500s, Algeria was part of the Ottoman Empire. During this time, Barbary Coast pirates consistently attacked European ships and disrupted trade. This piracy was one reason France invaded in 1830. Fighting between French forces and local resistance groups lasted for several years, but Algeria eventually became a French-controlled territory and,

ultimately, a department of the French Republic. Present-day borders were set in 1902. While Algeria experienced progress in health, growth in infrastructure, and economic expansion during French rule, native Algerians were treated as subjects, not citizens. The local population was kept separate from French communities in Algeria.

Independence

Throughout the years of French rule, Algerians were exposed to French civic ideals of equality and political liberty, even though these ideals did not usually extend to native Algerians during this period. After World War I, an Algerian national identity began to form and a number of opposition groups organized, most notably the National Liberation Front (FLN). In 1954, a smoldering independence movement erupted into open warfare. Following years of bitter fighting and more than a million deaths, Algeria was granted independence in 1962. After a challenging period of adjustment, Algeria emerged as a socialist republic.

Elections and Violence

The FLN was the only political party until 1989, when the FLN set forth a new constitution for a multiparty system. Local and regional elections in 1990 were to be followed by full national elections in 1991. The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) gained surprising victories in the 1990 elections and appeared to be heading for victory in 1991. To prevent the FIS from taking power, the military took control, canceled election results, and banned the FIS. Algeria soon slid into economic and political chaos.

The FIS developed an armed resistance and a substantial guerrilla army. More radical militants of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) began killing anyone deemed a supporter of the military regime. Human-rights abuses by government forces, as well as factional fighting on both sides of the conflict, contributed to the crisis. The violence escalated into years of civil war in which more than 100,000 people were killed and thousands more went missing.

A governing council appointed General Liamine Zeroual as president in 1994. Multiparty elections were held in 1995, and Zeroual was elected president by a wide margin. In a 1996 referendum, the constitution was amended to ban political parties based on religion, create an upper house of parliament, and grant broader authority to the president. The GIA and other fundamentalist militants intensified their attacks.

In 1999 elections, six of the seven presidential candidates pulled out of the contest to protest government favoritism. Thus unopposed, army-backed former foreign minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika became Algeria's first civilian president. He was reelected in 2004. In 2008, presidential term limits were lifted, allowing Bouteflika to win presidential elections in 2009 and 2014. Amid widespread protests, he resigned as president in 2019.

Normalcy Restored

Promising an end to the violence and a restoration of national unity, Bouteflika called for a 1999 referendum supporting reconciliation with the militants. The referendum passed, and many militants took advantage of the government's offer of amnesty by laying down their weapons. Thousands of militants were released from prison, and the violence largely

subsided. Voters passed a second reconciliation referendum in 2005, granting amnesty to nearly all of the remaining militants as well as government forces accused of human-rights violations.

In May 2017, Algeria's ruling coalition, the FLN, won a majority of seats in parliament. Election turnout was below 40 percent, despite these being the first elections since a major change to the Algerian constitution in 2016 that granted more power to the legislature. Many Algerians view the government as tainted by corruption and are frustrated with its failure to deliver on promises of improving the economy and creating jobs. The FLN has dominated Algerian politics since the country's independence from France in 1962.

THE PEOPLE

Population

A vast majority of the population inhabits the northern coastal region, called the Tell. Algiers, the capital and largest city, has roughly three million residents. The country's second-largest city, Oran, has around one million. Other major urban areas include Constantine, Annaba, Batna, Tlemcen, and Sétif. Urban areas are concentrated in the north.

About 99 percent of Algerians are Berber or Arab-Berber (of mixed Arab and Berber ancestry). However, only a portion of these identify themselves as Berbers, also called Imazighen (the singular is Amazigh). Algeria's Imazighen are divided into several groups, the largest being the Kabyle, Chaoui, Mozabit, and Tuareg. They inhabit primarily the Aures and Djurdjura Mountains or desert regions due to a historical tendency to seek refuge from invading armies. The Imazighen and Arabs are well integrated, although some Imazighen (especially the Mozabit of the Sahara) do not intermarry with other groups.

Language

Arabic and Tamazight are the official languages. Tamazight is spoken by indigenous Berbers, or Imazighen, and has many regional variants (Kabyle, Chaouia, etc.). Tamazight was recognized as an official language in 2016. It had previously been a national language, which allowed it to be taught in schools. As an official language, Tamazight can be used in official documents. French is widely understood and spoken daily, though some Algerians choose to speak only Arabic. Standard Arabic is used for school instruction, government administration, and media reports. It has become more common for Algerians to take English courses to help them communicate in international business.

The Algerian Arabic dialect is used in most daily interactions and informal situations. Its vocabulary is primarily Arabic and French, but Tamazight influences its grammar and pronunciation. While the Algerian dialect can usually be understood by speakers of other North African Arabic dialects, speakers of other regional Arabic dialects may not understand it.

Religion

Although Islam is the state religion, Algeria is not an Islamic

republic. Still, since 99 percent of the people are Sunni Muslim, Islamic philosophy is deeply rooted in Algerian society and its influence permeates many aspects of daily life. Islamic scripture, the *Qur'an*, is considered the literal word of *Allah* (God). Adults and young children often attend *Qur'an* classes at the local mosque. Muslims revere major Judeo-Christian prophets, but they accept Muhammad as the last prophet of God. Friday is the day of worship, when Algerians (mostly men) go to mosques to listen to a sermon and pray. As is common in many mosques around the world, women pray in a different area than men. Islam is practiced every day through dress, dietary codes, five daily prayers, and frequent references to God. Less than 1 percent of the people are Christian or Jewish.

General Attitudes

Many Algerians are exposed to varied media and diverse worldviews through the internet and satellite television. However, Algerian cultural and religious traditions remain firmly rooted. Algerians generally value group solidarity and believe in helping others and placing group needs over personal ones. Algerians tend to be formal and courteous with strangers but warm and expressive among friends, often using personal experiences to illustrate views and opinions.

Algerian nationalism is generally seen as a result of the country's long struggle for independence, in which most Algerians take pride. Algerians highly value family relationships and friendships. Qualities such as intelligence, honesty, loyalty, and simplicity are also valued. Strength, masculinity, and faithfulness are often admired in men. Qualities traditionally considered feminine, such as kindness, tenderness, responsibility, and motherhood, are respected in women. Most Algerians want to buy a home, own a car, be healthy, and provide their children with a good education.

Personal Appearance

Young Algerians are generally open to foreign clothing trends, while the older generation usually dresses with simplicity and modesty. Most urban men and women wear Western-style attire mainly influenced by France, but most rural people wear traditional North African styles.

Traditional attire for men may include a long tunic (worn by Muslims) called a *kamis*, a vest, and loose-fitting pants. Tuareg men from southern Algeria wear a distinguishing wrapped head covering called an *amama*. A wool hooded cloak called a *burnous* is worn by Amazigh men when it is cold. Older rural men and women wear long, loose-fitting unisex robes like the *gandoura* and *djellaba* (worn over other clothing). Elderly men wear white and brown robes, while women wear casual ones at home and nicer ones for special occasions that vary in color and pattern.

In Algiers, the traditional Algerian *hayek*, which consists of a white or cream garment wrapped around the body and an embroidered veil of the same color that covers the mouth and chin, leaving the eyes exposed, is worn by some women. Similar to the *hayek*, some women wrap themselves in a *bourwina*, a white outer garment that covers the whole face except for a small opening that is used to see through, while going out in public places. A growing number of Muslim

women wear the *hijab* (Islamic head covering) or *khimar* (a long veil that reveals the whole face). Amazigh women do not usually cover their hair.

In general, Algerian women wear a considerable amount of silver and gold jewelry, an important part of their dowry and financial security and a symbol of social status. Ear and nose piercings are common among women but are often discreet. Traditional blue facial tattoos, which were once believed to be symbols of beauty and healing, are common among older Amazigh women. Today, most Algerians do not get tattoos as they are prohibited in Sunni Islam. Urban women may have modern hairstyles, but many Algerian women have long hair, which may be braided. Many Algerian men have beards, though professionals are often clean shaven.

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

Greetings

Greetings are genuinely cordial and open. They are usually accompanied by a handshake and frequently an embrace (between members of the same sex). Anything less friendly is considered impolite. Men shake hands with women unless one or both of them avoids contact with the opposite sex on religious grounds. Some Algerians follow the French custom of kissing each other on both cheeks when embracing, but this is practiced mainly between members of the same sex.

Although different situations call for different greetings, a few phrases are appropriate in most cases. *Ahlan wa sahlan* (May your way be easy) is an Arabic welcome. *Marhaban bikum* (Hello to you) is more commonly used in Algeria. Most Algerians greet each other with *Assalaam 'alaikum* (May peace be upon you), which is considered the most polite way of greeting someone, and people frequently use it out of politeness when they are just passing by a person or group. Algerians often greet one another with the word *Saha* (literally, "Thank you"), or *Sahit* and *Sahitou* to greet a group of people. Throughout the day, Algerians say *Sabah al-khayr* (Good morning), *Masa' al-khayr* (Good afternoon), and *Layla sa'ida* (Good night).

Depending on one's social status and location, French greetings and parting phrases are sometimes more frequently used than Arabic ones. Common French greetings and parting phrases are *Salut* (Hi), *À bientôt* (See you soon), and *Au revoir* (Good-bye).

People address strangers and acquaintances by title and family name. Informally, the title may be combined with one's given name. Friends and relatives use given names. Elders, always greeted first, are often called "uncle" or "aunt," even if not related. Algerians often address one another as "brother" or "sister," often combined with the first or last name, depending on the degree of familiarity. The Algerian Arabic word for brother, *khuya* (shortened as *kho*), can also be translated as "man" or "dude." Imazighen show respect to their elders, including siblings, by addressing them using the terms *dada* (for males) or *nana* (for females). Amazigh men also use the Tamazight word *agma* (brother) to address one another.

Gestures

Algerians commonly use hand gestures during or instead of conversation. Two clasped hands is a greeting at a distance. In contrast to the Western "high five," Algerian men often slap down on a friend's palm to express something like "brilliant," "good joke," or "touché," which may also be accompanied by a slap on the back or shoulder. Pressing a flat right hand to the heart shows appreciation or thanks. To ask someone to be patient, one joins the fingertips, palm up, and moves it up and down slightly. Crossing the index and middle fingers expresses hope and expectation. Grabbing one's chin with the thumb and index finger expresses a threat and a promise of vengeance. The index finger may be extended to indicate a warning, but it is impolite to point directly at someone or something. It is also considered insulting to beckon for someone with one's index finger. Instead, one beckons with the palm down, waving fingers or the whole hand. Algerians avoid using the left hand for gestures. One passes items with the right hand or both hands.

Facial gestures, such as expressing doubt by tightening the lips and raising the eyebrows, are also common. Moving the eyebrows up and down rapidly and repeatedly in a teasing manner means "You deserve your misfortune," a gesture used by children while playing and competing. Algerians take care not to let the bottom of the foot point at others, and they do not place feet on furniture. Smoking or cursing in front of one's parents or elders is considered disrespectful.

Visiting

Visiting is a social occasion in Algeria. Guests usually are offered refreshments, and it is impolite to refuse them. Hosts typically serve mint tea or coffee and pastries. Algerians visit parents and siblings weekly whenever possible. Close friends also visit one another frequently and without prior arrangement. Others are expected to make plans in advance. Fridays and holidays are popular times for visiting. During the *Eid al-Fitr* and *Eid al-Adha* feasts, visiting family, friends, and neighbors is considered very important. Elders place much importance on these visits and look forward to spending quality time with their families and friends. Algerian families use these times to bond by talking and sharing traditional pastries and cakes.

Men and women tend to socialize separately. In traditional homes or on formal occasions, they socialize in different rooms. In less traditional families, men and women are more likely to socialize together and share the same table for meals. Visitors, especially invited guests, often take gifts to their hosts. In urban areas, guests might give flowers, but food (pastries, fruit, etc.) is the most common gift throughout Algeria. During nonsocial visits, people like to spend considerable time on small talk before shifting the conversation to the intended subject.

Eating

Most Algerians eat three basic meals a day: breakfast before work or school, a noon lunch, and dinner, usually served around 8 p.m. At 4 p.m., Algerians often take a break called *kahwat al-asr* (afternoon coffee) by drinking coffee, milk, or tea and eating traditional cakes and pastries. Workers eat at

cafeterias near their workplace, and students at fast-food restaurants near their school. Street foods like pizza, *shwarma* (spit-roasted meat sandwiches), and *garantita* (ground chickpea quiche sandwiches of Spanish origin) are popular.

All family members are expected to attend family meals. Urban families usually eat main meals together, but rural or traditional men and women eat separately. In most urban homes, each family member serves him- or herself. The eldest is served first. Rural families are more likely to eat from a common bowl, females after males. Some foods (meat, desserts) are eaten with the right hand, but most are eaten with utensils. Bread is sometimes used as a scoop. Throughout Algeria, most Muslims begin their meals by saying *Bismillah* (In the name of God) and end it by saying *Al-hamdu lillah* (Praise be to God). Meals are followed by tea.

LIFESTYLE

Family

Structure

The Algerian family is an important, private, and male-dominated entity, often including three or more generations (grandparents, parents, married sons and their families, and unmarried children) in a single home. However, multigenerational families in a single home are less common in urban areas. A typical Algerian family has an average of two to three children; urban families generally have fewer children than those in rural areas.

Parents and Children

Parents care for their children and work to provide for their material needs. Children are expected to obey their parents and take care of them in their old age. Children are required to help with the daily household chores at an early age. Boys usually shop for food, while girls help their mothers with cooking and cleaning.

Most unmarried adult children live with their parents and contribute to the family income if they have a job. An employed man usually provides not only for his family but also for the families of any unemployed brothers. Many economic challenges leave adult children unable to assist their elderly parents financially.

Gender Roles

Traditionally, men are the main providers of income and discipline, while women care for the children and household. Today, men and women more equally share roles in decision making regarding family matters. Both parents may also work outside the home. Mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers are considered the glue of the family. In urban areas, educated women may work as lawyers, doctors, and nurses and in other professional careers. Less educated women may work in services. Higher leadership positions are generally held by men.

Laws like Algeria's Family Code, with traditional and cultural roots, limit female rights in inheritance, divorce, and parental custody and serve as a major obstacle to the achievement of true gender equality. In 2016, Algeria's parliament passed a new law punishing violence against

women and sexual harassment.

Housing

Urban

Algeria has struggled with a significant deficit of affordable housing for decades. In recent years, the Algerian government has constructed state-subsidized housing units to try and fill this gap, and some progress has been made, but demand for low-income housing is still far greater than what is available. Urban homes constructed by government developers are usually of poor quality. The number of slums in urban areas has increased significantly in the last few decades.

Algiers, Constantine, Oran, Sétif, and other cities are densely populated, and many people live in crowded apartments with members of their extended family. Some large extended families may own two- to four-storey apartments that house multiple related families in one building. The average apartment has three bedrooms and one bathroom.

In coastal areas, houses are made of concrete, cement, or brick, with red-brick roofs or terraces. The average house has five bedrooms and one bathroom and can accommodate multiple families.

Rural

Rural houses tend to be more spacious than urban homes. Single-storey and multi-storey homes are available in rural areas, featuring three bedrooms and one bath. Bathrooms may sometimes be located outdoors. In many villages, houses are very basic, built with local stones and red roofs. Some rural areas have limited access to utilities like electricity and water.

Exteriors

Most Algerian homes feature French colonial-era architecture with red tile roofs. Exterior walls are often painted light colors of white and sometimes blue. Landscaping is not a priority to most families, as Algerians invest more in their home interiors. Balconies and terraces are common features on Algerian homes.

Interiors

Apartments tend to be more minimalistic in décor, while rural homes may be colorful and decorative. Floors are generally tiled with materials that stay cool during the hot summers or are plain concrete. Many Muslim families display Islamic art; framed pictures of Mecca, Saudi Arabia; rugs; and plates inscribed with *Qur'anic* text. Elements of Amazigh (Berber) arts and design can be seen in many household items, including colorful patterns on rugs, cups, and other items. Some families also hang up art in the shape of a hand, called *khomsa*, which is believed to protect against the "evil eye" (a traditional belief that a person's envy may cause misfortune).

Most Algerian homes have basic household appliances, including a stove, gas heater, television, radio, and refrigerator. Utilities like gas and electricity are heavily subsidized by the government. Many homes may also have air conditioners, washers, and dryers, although some women still prefer to wash their clothing by hand. Some rural families purchase butane gas for cooking and heating their homes.

Home Life

Most households include extended family members. Homes of the wealthiest families feature separate bedrooms for

parents and children (meaning a room for each child), while the majority of Algerian children share bedrooms. Boys and girls sleep in separate rooms. Some family members may also sleep in the living room on a mat.

Ownership

Housing is one of Algeria's most problematic social issues. Most Algerians want to own a home or apartment, but major housing shortages, along with enormous demand and the high cost of housing in relation to average wages and income, prevent many Algerians from owning their own home. Subsidized housing for public service workers in major cities is sometimes available, though shortages are common for this group as well. Young people are increasingly delaying marriage because they cannot afford housing.

Home ownership is easier to achieve in rural areas than in urban areas. Those who desire quality-built homes hire private companies to construct single- or multi-family housing. The building of a home may take years to complete, depending on the builder's financial situation. State banks may approve mortgages to an employed potential home owner. Most Algerians live in the same city their whole lives because of work, school, or family obligations.

Dating and Marriage

Dating and Courtship

Young Algerian men and women generally do not have the money or independence from their parents required for them to follow the same dating practices as in the West, so they resort to very subtle approaches to dating, including meeting secretly during or after school. This form of "dating" is more common in urban areas. While Algerians are likely to meet and socialize at school or work, intimate relationships are not often formed because of traditional norms. A growing number of Algerians meet on the internet, where they can avoid the stigma surrounding dating and feel more comfortable finding romance.

Engagement

An engagement may follow a relatively short courtship, as is often the case in urban areas, or it may be the result of a decision by two families in rural areas. It is customary for Muslim families to hold a formal *khatba* (engagement ceremony) at a mosque or at the bride's home. The couple is considered officially engaged when they read the *al-Fatiha*, or the first chapter of the *Qur'an* (Muslim holy book). Both families then agree on the *mahr*, or bride-price, which is paid to the bride and usually comes in the form of money, jewelry, and fine clothing, and they prepare for wedding festivities. After the *khatba*, couples are allowed to date publicly in order to get to know each other better.

Marriage and Society

Marriage represents the linking of families, not just individuals. Consequently, matchmaking is often a family affair, with parents playing a major role. Urban parents are more likely to allow their sons to marry whomever they wish but still usually have the final say on their daughters' partners. Romantic love is commonly seen as something that grows with time after marriage.

Most Algerians expect to marry, but they tend to marry later than they did a generation ago since many young

Algerians wait until they have finished university and are financially stable. On average, Algerians today marry around 30 years of age. Polygamy, although legal, is widely rejected by Algerian families. Same-sex marriage and sexual relations between same-sex partners are both illegal in Algeria.

Weddings

Traditional and religious elements are included in most Algerian weddings, and all marriages must be registered at a local municipality. Festivities may last as long as three days. Men and women usually have separate parties prior to getting married, including the henna ritual, in which a circle of henna (a red dye made from the henna plant) is applied to the bride's and groom's palms to signify the approaching change in life. Each betrothed person saves a portion of the henna and sends it to the other; doing so has nearly the same significance as exchanging rings.

On the wedding day, the groom's family calls for the bride at her home. After they are served food and drink, they take the bride to the groom's home (traditionally riding on a horse, camel, or mule, but now in a nice car), where he is waiting or will appear later in the evening for the ceremony and wedding night. A couple is officially married when they sign a marriage certificate in the presence of two witnesses and an Islamic notary authorized to conduct a religious marriage.

Wedding celebrations consist of a very large and usually expensive party held in a rented hall. Guests are served traditional dishes of *couscous* (pasta-like semolina), soup, and an assortment of pastries. Grooms wear a nice suit throughout the day of the ceremony, while brides may change outfits several times, ranging from a traditional costume to a Western white dress. Depending on the region, the genre of the celebration music varies from traditional to Western.

Divorce

Divorce rates have increased in recent years, and many cases are the result of a couple's infertility. According to Islam, men may simply declare divorce, while women must pay their husbands to release them from marriage. Divorce laws tend to favor men over women. Divorced women are perceived negatively by society. Remarriage is difficult for many, especially those with children.

Life Cycle

Birth

Women are typically expected to have their first child within two years of marriage. Couples that struggle with infertility are subject to familial pressure. Throughout a woman's pregnancy, female family members help around the home to reduce the expectant mother's stress and physical activity. Employed women usually are given 14 weeks of paid maternity leave.

Most births are assisted by doctors in healthcare facilities, though some women in rural and remote areas use midwives at home. Infants are registered at the town hall after birth. Parents decide on the child's name together, usually choosing the name of a grandparent. Algerian parents often host a celebration one week after a baby is born, to which friends and relatives bring money and gifts. According to *sunnah* (the way of the prophet), male infants must be circumcised one, two, or three weeks after birth, though some families may

wait until the child is four or five. Traditionally, boys are preferred over girls because sons contribute to the family income, are expected to provide care for their aging parents, and continue the family line.

Milestones

Legally, Algerians are considered adults at age 19. Traditionally, when a boy reaches 18 years of age, his father considers him an adult and gives him more responsibilities—the boy will usually drive the family car and care for his siblings. Most urban girls are considered adults at the same age. They help their mothers with housekeeping chores, and those who come from less traditional families take on similar responsibilities to boys'. Rural girls are responsible for household duties at a much earlier age and are rarely given other responsibilities. Adulthood is also achieved when a young man or woman can contribute to the family's income.

Death

Muslims believe that the body of a deceased person must be buried as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours of the person's death. The body is ritually washed, wrapped in sheets, and carried to the mosque, where prayers are offered. The burial, attended only by men, is then performed in a cemetery. Mourning family members and friends gather together three days and forty days after the death to pray for the deceased and read from the *Qur'an* (Muslim holy book). Mourning is a very visible event and often involves loud cries and shouts.

Diet

Couscous, a pasta-like semolina (made from wheat), often cooked with lamb or chicken and vegetables, is perhaps Algeria's most popular dish—particularly for special occasions. Algerians sometimes eat *couscous* with raisins and sugar (*couscous z'bib*). In the Kabyle region, *couscous* is also eaten with green beans and peas; this dish is called *mesfuf* and is traditionally eaten with curdled milk.

Tajine is a meat-and-vegetable stew named for the type of pot in which it is cooked. Rich sauces are common. *Chorba* is a soup made with small pieces of lamb, vermicelli or wheat grains, chickpeas, and a tomato-based sauce flavored with cinnamon, coriander, or lemon. It is traditionally eaten every night during the fasting month of *Ramadan*. *Chakhchoukha* is a popular dish; it consists of flat pasta or bread torn by hand into small pieces and topped with a mixture of chickpeas, vegetables, beef, tomato-based sauce, and black pepper.

Staple grains are wheat, rice, maize, and barley. Thick semolina breads, like *kessra* and *khobz metlouh*, and the French baguette are eaten daily. *Baghrir* is a traditional pancake made of semolina flour, eggs, milk, butter, and olive oil. Local produce includes oranges, grapes, watermelon, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, green beans, and cauliflower. Although pastries like *makrout* (a semolina pastry with date filling) are popular, fruit is nearly always served for dessert. Most devout Muslims do not eat pork or drink alcohol.

Recreation

Sports

Soccer is the most popular sport in Algeria. Algerians'

enthusiasm for soccer increases when their national team wins tournaments. Only men attend matches at stadiums; schoolgirls might attend boys' school matches.

Algerians also participate in basketball, volleyball, handball, swimming, and other sports. Surfing is becoming more popular, especially in the region of Ayn Barbar, in eastern Algeria. Some urban men like jogging (often on Fridays), and some men are becoming more interested in body building. Women participate in sports, especially track, but less often than men. The majority of gyms are all-female or all-male, and some gyms have schedules where women work out during the day and men at night.

Leisure

Families enjoy going to the beach or to the park for picnics. Individuals like to take walks, although rural women are almost always accompanied by relatives. For winter recreation, many women watch television, socialize at home, or take their children to visit relatives and friends, while men often visit and play dominoes in cafés. Card games are also popular among the young and old. Older Algerian men often play a form of lawn bowling similar to bocce called *la pétanque*. Children like to play hide-and-seek together. Shopping is a popular pastime; even if people do not plan to buy anything, they enjoy wandering through the local *souq* (market).

Vacation

Vacation opportunities vary widely, depending on one's income. Algerians enjoy foreign and domestic travel, though foreign travel is usually only possible for those with higher incomes. Southern Algerian regions like Illizi, Tindouf, and Tamanrasset are popular holiday vacation spots. The city of Ghardaïa is often visited for its architecture and history. Regional tourism to neighboring Morocco and Tunisia has been on the rise. Turkey is another popular destination. Domestic travel is common during the summer months, when civil servants and schoolchildren have time off.

The Arts

Algerian jewelry and textiles are traditional arts that continue to thrive. Intricate metalworking and inlaid stone or coral are characteristic of traditional jewelry. Swords, daggers, and other metalwork are often highly stylized. Knotted wool Algerian rugs are popular for their bold colors and geometric forms. Artisans hand-tool leather items, especially boots and saddles.

Literature is a popular art in Algeria. Most rural Algerians read novels and poetry in Arabic; urban Algerians may read French and English literature, in addition to Arabic literature. The most famous Algerian authors include Kateb Yacine, Mohamed Dib, Mouloud Feraoun, Taous Amrouche, Rachid Mimouni, Yasmina Khadra, Tahar Djaout, and Ahlem Mostghanmi. After independence, the Algerian film industry grew and produced many award-winning filmmakers like Merzak Allouache and Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamina.

Algerian *chaâbi* music, a blend of Arab, Andalusian, and flamenco elements, is popular with older Algerians and is played on special occasions; it is becoming increasingly popular with the broader population. Many Algerians play the guitar, *oud* (similar to the lute), and violin, among other

instruments. Musicians in a *chaâbi* orchestra play the piano, violin, *derbouka* (Algerian percussion), banjo, and *qanûn* (a zither-like Eastern instrument). The singer plays the *mandole* (similar to the mandolin) and may sing about themes such as emigration, citizenship, and human feelings; the lyrics always carry a strong message.

Raï music, a popular, danceable Algerian musical style sung by both men and women, has gained international renown and blends U.S., European, and North African musical elements. A week-long *raï* festival is held annually. Another local music genre, *gnawa*, originated in the Sahara Desert region of Algeria and Morocco and remains popular in Algeria today. *Gnawa* music was traditionally used in religious ceremonies, particularly those of healing. In recent decades, it has incorporated musical elements from several traditions, including rock and jazz.

Holidays

National public holidays include New Year's Day, Labor Day (1 May), Independence Day (5 July), and Revolution Day (1 November). Algerian women take the day off on International Women's Day (8 March). Muslim holidays include *al-Mawlid al-Nabawi* (the prophet Muhammad's birthday), *Ramadan*, *Eid al-Fitr*, *Eid al-Adha*, *Muharram* (Islamic New Year), and *Achoura* (a fasting holiday, also spelled *Ashura*) and are set according to the lunar calendar.

Al-Mawlid al-Nabawi

Algerians celebrate the prophet Muhammad's birthday by visiting family, throwing parties, and eating. Some people sing traditional songs that praise the prophet. Children enjoy playing all day and then lighting firecrackers at night. Firework shows may also be seen. Candles may be lit in homes to symbolize the coming of the light of Islam.

Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr

Ramadan is the month in which the *Qur'an* (Muslim holy book) was revealed to Muhammad, so each day Muslims do not eat, drink, or smoke from sunrise to sunset. After an evening prayer (*tarawih*), they eat and visit with family and friends. Families often spend the holiday cleaning, fixing, and rearranging the house. *Eid al-Fitr*, a two-day feast at the end of *Ramadan*, is a time for visiting, feasting, and worshiping. Children are often given gifts of money or toys such as pistols, dolls, and cars.

Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha is a two-day event held in conjunction with the pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Algerians purchase a sheep to sacrifice in commemoration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. The meat is divided into thirds and distributed to family members, neighbors, and people in need. Charity is a major aspect of this holiday. Many women spend much of the holiday cooking lamb-based dishes. Family members come to visit and eat together. Children wear new clothes and receive gifts of money from adults.

SOCIETY

Government

Structure

Algeria has an executive president, who is elected to a five-year term with a limit of two terms. The president appoints the prime minister, who is head of government. Parliament's lower house is the 462-seat National People's Assembly, whose members (called deputies) are directly elected to five-year terms. Eight seats are reserved for Algerians living abroad. The upper house is the Council of the Nation. Of its 144 members, one-third are appointed by the president and two-thirds are chosen by local councils. Members of the Council of the Nation serve six-year terms. Legislation passed by the National People's Assembly must be approved by the Council of the Nation. The judiciary is heavily influenced by the executive. The country is divided into 48 *wilayaat* (prefectures).

Political Landscape

The National Liberation Front (FLN) is Algeria's ruling political party. The FLN has dominated the country's political environment since independence from France over 50 years ago. Opposition parties are allowed but have little power.

Algeria's politics are controlled by a strong presidency and security force. During the Arab Spring in 2011, the government was able to maintain its political stability. Few of the promises of economic and political reforms made by the president in early 2011 were fulfilled. However, a 19-year-old state of emergency was lifted in 2011, increasing the powers of local governments and easing restrictions on public demonstrations. Many Algerians hope for a decrease in the country's unemployment rate, a rise in salaries, and more housing projects. Women would like to see a revision to the Family Code, which limits many of their rights with regard to divorce, inheritance, and parental custody.

Government and the People

Freedoms of press, association, speech, and assembly are all limited by the government. In 2016, the government passed a number of constitutional reforms to strengthen democracy, but some skeptics believe these new reforms will not effect change. Political protests are often cracked down on by security forces. Recent presidential and legislative elections have been marred by allegations of fraud. Voter turnout is generally low, with less than 50 percent voter participation. The voting age is 18.

Economy

Algeria's main exports include crude oil, other petroleum products, and natural gas. The town of Hassi Messaoud, in southeastern Algeria, holds a large part of Algeria's known oil reserves, and the biggest oil companies are based there. Algeria is one of Africa's largest producers of natural gas and oil on the continent. The Algerian economy has suffered due to low oil and gas prices in recent years, and the government is working to substantially increase production and export of oil and natural gas.

Agriculture employs just under 15 percent of the labor force, but the country is not self-sufficient in food production. With limited water resources, Algeria imports a significant amount of its food. Basic food items such as bread, dairy products, sugar, and cooking oil are subsidized by the government. The government also subsidizes gasoline and

utilities such as gas and electricity. Nomadic herding is the primary economic activity in the sparsely populated desert regions. Light industry, food processing, and the mining of iron, phosphates, lead, and zinc are also important sectors of the economy.

Most Algerians have a low income, and many have been impacted by inflation, high unemployment, and political strife. Nearly a quarter of Algeria's population is estimated to be below the poverty line. High youth unemployment is also a major problem, with nearly one-quarter of Algerian youth unemployed. The state controls most industries. The public sector is large: the government employs a significant portion of the labor force. This bureaucracy often inhibits productivity. To more closely align with Western and other international markets, the Algerian government observes a Friday and Saturday weekend. The currency is the Algerian *dinar* (DZD).

Transportation and Communications

Most highways are paved, but desert roads are less reliable. Some people have cars, but most rely on buses, especially in major cities. Buses are usually very crowded but are reliable and have extensive routes. Rural Algerians get around in a family car and may also walk or hitchhike. Cars have become more common in cities.

Algeria has a few major highways, including the East-West Highway, which connects cities in the densely-populated north and runs between the borders of Tunisia (in the east) and Morocco (west). The capital of Algiers has a metro system with a large ridership. Algiers's metro system is one of the few underground rail systems in Africa. Travel by train is possible in the north, but roads, bus systems, and train lines are limited in the south. Multiple international airports link Algeria's major cities with other countries.

As with transportation, communications systems are good in the north but less reliable in the south, where phone providers are still working on extending mobile network coverage. Cellular phones are very popular among Algerians, as is text messaging. Smartphones are trendy in urban areas. A minority of homes use landlines. The state controls local radio and television, but urban Algerians can access international television via satellite. Most urban Algerians have internet access at home, but many rural Algerians do not. Those who do not have home access use internet cafés, which are present throughout the country. Internet users can face criminal penalties if they post content deemed immoral or illegal on the internet. Some social media sites are growing in popularity. Freedom of the press is often restricted, and many newspapers are state controlled.

Education**Structure**

Beginning at age six, students attend five years of primary school, which is followed by four years of lower secondary school. Primary and lower secondary school are compulsory. For those who move on for further education, upper secondary school requires an additional three years. If students want to attend university, they must successfully

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complete the baccalaureate exam (known as the *bac*). Vocational and technology institutes are also available.

Many private schools are found in urban areas; they often have better teachers and a smaller student-to-teacher ratio and may offer additional extracurricular programs, like field trips, theater and music programs, chess tournaments, and sports programs.

Access
The quality of Algeria's education has declined in recent years due to outdated curricula and a large student body that requires many resources. Female students tend to outnumber male students in higher education, as some boys have more opportunities to work in a family business. Only high-income families can afford to send their children to private schools. Though all levels of schooling are free, parents must still pay for uniforms and school materials, which can be a heavy financial burden for some families, who may go into debt to meet these obligations. Urban students, who have access to a bus system, have an easier time getting to school than rural children, who often have to walk several miles.

School Life

For most primary and secondary schools, school is held five days a week, with each day starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. A two-hour break is provided to students each school day. Classroom instruction is mainly in Arabic and follows a lecture style. French and English are the second and third languages of instruction. In the Kabyle region, Amazigh (Berber) languages like Tamazight may be taught in school.

Subjects stressed in primary schools include reading, writing, civics, religion, science, and technology. After taking core classes, secondary students choose a "major" in one of the following areas: hard sciences, math, literature, foreign languages and humanities, economics and social sciences, technical studies, or sports. The student-teacher relationship is very formal. In most schools, students are taught by one teacher (*instituteur* in French, *mu'allim* in Arabic) for years one through five. After this, there is a teacher for each subject. The classroom environment tends to be competitive, as many students face familial pressures to perform well. Testing is the main method for determining students' grades and class rank. Papers may be assigned in social science classes.

Higher Education

Higher education is a considered a means for Algerians to get better paying jobs. Algeria only has public universities. The University of Algiers is one of the country's main universities, offering degrees in law, medicine, social sciences, and economics, among others. Universities offer government-funded student housing for male and female students. Technical and vocational schools for electrical work, plumbing, and nursing are valuable educational options for students who may have dropped out of high school and may never go to university.

Health

Free health care was introduced in the 1970s; however, this is limited to public sector healthcare providers and is generally reserved for the poor and lower-income groups. Private sector health care generally offers higher quality medical services

Algeria

but is more expensive. Algerians may receive free or low-cost care in public hospitals, clinics, and mobile health facilities.

Algerians with chronic conditions and disabilities may receive free health care or government subsidies. Algeria has two national medical insurance plans, one for salaried employees and their dependents and one for independent workers and their dependents. Most Algerians are covered by the first plan, which is insured by the Caisse Nationale de la Securite Sociale des Travailleurs Salaries (CNAS). Disease, poverty, and malnutrition are still serious, but the health of Algerians is improving. These improvements are partly the result of improved prenatal education and a massive immunization campaign. Obesity is a common health concern, and a number of Algerians suffer from type 2 diabetes. Access to clean water remains a challenge for many Algerians, especially in rural areas. However, access to sanitation facilities has increased significantly in recent decades, contributing to lower rates of disease and illness.

AT A GLANCE

Contact Information

Embassy of Algeria, 2118 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20008; phone (202) 265-2800; web site www.algerianembassy.org.

Country and Development Data

Capital	Algiers
Population	41,657,488 (rank-34)
Area (sq. mi.)	919,595 (rank-10)
Area (sq. km.)	2,391,741
Human Development Index	83 of 188 countries
Gender Inequality Index	94 of 188 countries
GDP (PPP) per capita	\$15,200
Adult Literacy	87% (male); 73% (female)
Infant Mortality	20 per 1,000 births
Life Expectancy	75 (male); 78 (female)
Currency	Algerian dinar

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789 East Eisenhower Parkway
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Toll Free: 1.800.521.3042
Fax: 1.800.864.0019
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BACKGROUND

Land and Climate

About the size of South Africa and nearly twice the size of the U.S. state of Texas, Angola is situated in southwestern Africa. Angolan territory includes oil-rich Cabinda Province, which is separated from the rest of Angola by territory belonging to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A narrow plain on Angola's Atlantic coast rises sharply to a large central plateau, where elevations range between 2,000 and 8,000 feet (approximately 600 to 2,400 meters). Tropical forests are found in northern Angola, while open savannas cover the south and east. Years of war and hunting devastated Angola's populations of elephant, giraffe, rhinoceros, and other wildlife, as animals fled to neighboring countries or were killed. Efforts are underway to repopulate some species. The *palanca negra gigante* (giant sable antelope), the national symbol of Angola, is also endangered and is protected in the national park near Malanje.

Angola's central plateau has a mild but wet climate. Nearly all of the region's annual precipitation (40 to 60 inches, or 100 to 150 centimeters) falls during the wet (or hot) season, from November to April. During this period, the daily high temperature is usually at least 79°F (26°C). Temperatures are lower during the dry (or cool) season, from May to October. The southern coastal plain is generally cooler and more arid than the interior because of the Benguela Current, a cold Atlantic current that flows northward along the coast.

History

Origins and Portuguese Rule

Beginning in the 6th century AD, Bantu groups migrated south across the Congo River, displacing and integrating with the existing populations. Portuguese explorers arrived at the end of the 15th century and encountered powerful societies such as the Kingdom of Congo and the Kingdom of Ndongo. The king of the Ndongo was called the *ngola*, from which Angola derives its name. The Portuguese established a colony and a slave trade, sending captives to colonies in the Americas. By the time slavery was abolished in the 19th century, huge sections of Angola had been depopulated.

Portugal's attempts to exert greater control over the colony's interior in the 20th century were met with stiff local resistance. A nationalist movement grew during the 1950s, leading to a guerrilla war for independence in 1961. After a coup in Portugal, the new government there was eager to end the costly war. On 11 November 1975, it granted Angola independence.

Power Struggles and War

The transition to nationhood did not go smoothly, largely because of a power struggle between the three nationalist groups: the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). The resulting civil war became a proxy conflict for the Cold War rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States. The left-wing MPLA fought with the help of Soviet weapons and Cuban soldiers. U.S. weapons and South African soldiers supported UNITA and the FNLA.

By 1976, the MPLA, which was based in the capital,

Luanda, had received broad international recognition as the nation's legitimate government, and MPLA leader Agostinho Neto was named president. When Neto died in 1979, he was succeeded by José Eduardo dos Santos. The FNLA surrendered in 1984, but UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi continued the campaign against the MPLA. As Cold War tensions eased in the late 1980s, South Africa and Cuba agreed to withdraw their forces. The war appeared to be over when treaties in 1989 and 1991 led to national multiparty elections in 1992. However, Savimbi resumed fighting after placing second to dos Santos in the first round of the presidential election. A 1994 treaty and the deployment of UN peacekeepers ushered in a period of relative peace, but in 1998, disagreements between dos Santos and Savimbi again led to war.

MPLA Victory and Rebuilding

The MPLA gained key victories in the years that followed. In February 2002, Savimbi was killed in battle. Two months later, after 27 years of civil conflict and the loss of 1.5 million lives, the MPLA and UNITA signed a peace accord that finally ended the war. The peace has since endured, allowing Angolans to reunite families, resettle refugees, clear landmines, and rebuild infrastructure.

The first parliamentary elections in 16 years were held in September 2008. The MPLA won a huge majority, taking more than 80 percent of the vote. In 2010, the parliament approved a new constitution that granted more power to the office of president and eliminated direct presidential elections. The MPLA also won a significant majority in 2012 elections, and though outside organizations certified them as free and fair, opposition parties accused the MPLA of rigging the elections. After the 2017 election, the opposition filed formal appeals demanding the annulment of the results; however, Angola's constitutional Court ruled the election valid. In it, the MPLA retained its majority, leading to João Lourenço replacing President dos Santos, who had ruled the country since 1979. While recent changes have brought political stability, the country's economy remains unstable because of its vulnerability to international oil prices and other outside influences.

Recent Events and Trends

- **Government reform:** In September 2018, the Angolan government arrested José Filomeno dos Santos, former president dos Santos' son, on corruption charges. The year before, President Lourenço fired Isabel dos Santos, José's sister, from her post as head of Angola's oil company. Considered a trusted aid of the former president, Lourenço turned on his predecessor's family soon after taking office. He has also taken steps that seem aimed at reform, including firing many other top-level bureaucrats, allowing political demonstrations, and opening up some sectors of the economy.
- **Migrants exit Angola:** In October 2018, about 380,000 migrants, mainly from Congo-Kinshasa, exited Angola. The Angolan government claimed that most left of their own accord amid a government crackdown on diamond smuggling. However, the migrants themselves reported violent forced expulsions, and many have been left in Congo-Kinshasa without adequate shelter, food, or water.
- **IMF loan:** In December 2018, the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) approved a US\$3.7 billion credit to Angola. President Lourenço is attempting to fight corruption and wean Angola off of its oil dependency by diversifying its economy. Attached to the IMF loan are reforms meant to help with these goals and others.

THE PEOPLE

Population

Angola's largest ethnic group is the Ovimbundu (37 percent of the population), followed by the Kimbundu (25 percent) and the Bakongo (13 percent). Smaller groups are the Lunda-Quioco, Nhaneca-Humbe, Ganguela, Ovambos, and Herero. The San, or Bosquimanes (also known as Bushmen), are nomads and gatherers, comprising a very small and diminishing portion of the population in the south. Ethnic groups tend to be concentrated in particular regions. For example, the Ovimbundu live primarily in central and western Angola, the Kimbundu in the north-central part of the country, and the Bakongo in the northwest. About 2 percent of Angolans are of mixed Portuguese and African origin (called *mestiços*). Europeans (mostly of Portuguese origin) comprise 1 percent.

More than half of Angolans live in rural areas. Luanda is the largest city and capital, with a population of about 5.5 million. The nation's population is young, with 48 percent under age 15.

Language

Portuguese, the official national language, is used in government, schools, and commerce. Most Angolans speak Portuguese, but not everyone in rural Angola can read or write in Portuguese. This is due in part to a lack of formal education in rural areas and the isolation of some groups during the civil war. Local languages spoken in Angola include Umbundu (by the Ovimbundu), Kimbundu (by the Kimbundu), Chokwe (by the Tchokwes), and Kikongo (by the Bakongo). People displaced in urban centers often discontinue speaking their native language, and urban children usually favor Portuguese over their parents' native language. Returning Angolan refugees have brought foreign languages with them, particularly French and English.

Angolan Portuguese differs from the Portuguese spoken in Portugal and Brazil in pronunciation but not grammar and also contains words adopted from local languages. A colorful form of slang, called *gíria*, is spoken mainly by the young and the poor and often appears in Angolan popular music.

Since the war's end, some schools have begun informally incorporating some of the country's native languages into the curriculum, and there is a growing feeling among educated Angolans that the nation's linguistic heritage should be preserved.

Religion

The majority of Angolans are Christian. Due to Portuguese influence, Catholics comprise the largest denomination, followed by various Protestant faiths. Catholic customs have a strong influence on the daily habits of most Angolans.

Traditional animist beliefs remain strong, especially in rural areas. People often combine animist practices with their Christian beliefs, which results in varying statistics regarding religion in the country.

Many Angolans rely on traditional healers (*curandeiros*, or *kimbondeiros*) and believe that witches (*feiticeiros*, or *macumbeiros*) can free them from a problem or help them obtain wealth. Gains from witchcraft are believed to come at the expense of others, and many deaths and accidents are attributed to witchcraft.

General Attitudes

Angolans generally have a friendly, joyful, and generous nature. They like to eat, celebrate, dance, and sing. People in cities tend to be more outspoken than those in rural areas. Many Angolans have an interest in all things Western, and some worry that Angola's own traditions are being replaced. Rural Angolans tend to be more attached to traditions than their urban compatriots.

During the war years, people lived in fear and deprivation. Many rural Angolans fled their homes in the country, leaving their possessions behind them, to move to urban areas. There they struggled in a different and sometimes hostile environment. Because of these hardships, Angolans tend to live in the present: tomorrow might not bring the simple joys of today's moments, and if the day brings sadness, it will be forgotten tomorrow.

Personal Appearance

Urban Angolans generally wear Western clothing. They like to dress well when going out, even if only for everyday tasks such as shopping. Angolans also like to dress in their own style, avoiding wearing clothing too similar to others'. In rural communities, if people have nice clothes, they reserve them for the most important events, such as a wedding or church service. During the war, new clothing was a rare luxury, and some people still avoid wearing their nicest clothing, preferring to keep it in perfect condition.

Older urban men may wear a two-piece suit on formal occasions. Among younger businessmen, a three-piece suit and tie is often the norm. Women, especially in rural areas, often wear a blouse, an African-style wraparound dress, and a colorful shawl tied around the neck or head. A shawl may also be wrapped around the back to carry a child. Young urban women often prefer jeans or other casual Western clothing. Traditional clothing still exists among some ethnic groups. For example, Mumuilas women in southern Angola wear elaborate beadwork and bracelets on their neck, arms, and legs.

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

Greetings

Angolans attach great importance to greetings. Formality varies according to the situation, but greetings are used to convey respect for one another, to establish a friendly connection, and to show a person's level of education and manners.

Female friends and friends of the opposite sex often greet by kissing one another once on each cheek. Good male friends may greet with a brief hug and several slaps on the back. Otherwise, people shake hands. Portuguese greetings include *Bom dia, como está?* (Good day, how are you?) and the informal *Oi* or *Olá* (both meaning "Hi"). A young man might say to another *Meu camba, fixe?* (Friend, are you okay?). A common Umbundo greeting is *Walale* (meaning "Good morning," but literally translated as "How did you pass the night?"). The reply is generally *Ndalale* (I passed the night well, and you?). When people part, they might say *Boa continuação* (Have a nice day), *Feliz noite* (Good night), or, more informally, *Tcháú* (Good-bye) or *Ciao* ("Good-bye" in Italian).

One addresses an elderly man with a respectful term such as *Kota* (Elder) or *Tio* (Uncle), even when no family relationship exists. An elderly woman is called *Mãe* or *Mamá* (Mother) or *Tia* (Aunt). In formal situations, the Portuguese titles *Senhor* (Mr.) or *Senhora* (Mrs.) precede the person's last name.

Gestures

Holding the hand flat and pointing the index finger of the other hand into the palm means "I want to speak to you." Pointing an index finger at someone can be interpreted as aggression. Giving the "thumbs up" is a common way to say "Everything is okay!" To refuse a street vendor, people show their empty hands and tilt the head, often with a facial expression of regret. Public displays of affection between people of the opposite sex are discouraged, especially in rural areas. As a sign of friendship, friends of the same sex may hold hands.

The right hand is generally preferred over the left. When handing an item to someone, it is polite to use the right hand. If the left hand must be used, it is important to offer an apology.

Visiting

In rural areas of Angola, friends and family members usually visit unannounced. Urban people may telephone ahead, usually more to ensure the family is home than to establish a convenient time. If the home does not have a doorbell, visitors attract attention by clapping their hands three or four times. Visitors are greeted warmly and given the hosts' full attention. Work or previous plans will be delayed in order to accommodate visitors. Even if very poor, the host does everything possible to make guests feel comfortable. Hosts offer beer or another alcoholic drink or a soft drink. For a special celebratory meal called a *contribuição*, guests are asked in advance to bring food or drinks (or money to pay for them) to help defray the cost of an event and to discourage gate-crashers. These gatherings may be organized as birthday parties or simply as a way to celebrate the weekend.

Eating

For most families in the south, breakfast (*mata-bicho*) consists primarily of *tchisangua* (a drink made of water, ground cornmeal, and sugar). In the north, breakfast is usually peanuts and boiled or fried cassava. At lunch and dinner, the

staple is *funje* (a paste of ground cornmeal, similar to thick porridge) or *pirão* (a paste of ground cassava).

In rural areas, people eat with their hands. In cities, people use utensils. When guests fill the dining table, children eat in the kitchen or outside. Guests are served first and are expected to eat the best portions. Although cities have restaurants, they are unaffordable for most Angolans. Instead, people usually eat out by buying a hamburger or *churrasco* (a piece of grilled chicken) cooked on a charcoal stove at a roadside food stand.

LIFESTYLE

Family

Structure

Three decades of war severely disrupted the traditional family structure, and most families lost someone in the conflict. Widows head many families. When both parents are lost, children live with aunts or uncles if possible, but older children must often care for younger siblings themselves. Orphaned street children, usually from rural areas, often travel to city centers looking for means of subsistence. Rural families have returned to their home regions, which they fled during the war. The government, aided by non-governmental organizations, has established a nationwide television program to help reunite family members.

Families are large, and it is considered prestigious to have many children. The average woman gives birth to five or more children, giving Angola one of the highest birthrates in the world. Unfortunately, the country also has one of the world's highest infant mortality rates, so it is likely that not all of a couple's children will live to adulthood.

In Angola, the traditional family is an extended one, with three generations often living together in a family compound. As young men reach maturity, each builds himself a hut on his family's land, where he and his future wife will live. The head of the family is the eldest man (*o mais velho*, meaning "the oldest"). In rural areas, families generally follow traditional patterns. The sense of community is strong, and neighbors depend on one another, sometimes to the extent that they are nearly considered family. In urban areas, people generally live in nuclear families. Housing in cities is scarce, so adult children usually remain with their parents until they can afford to build or buy their own houses.

Parents and Children

All family members, even young children, are expected to contribute to the upkeep of the home. In many households, children cook meals, herd livestock, and carry water and firewood. Older children take care of younger siblings and cousins. In Luanda, groups of youths peddle their wares to drivers at traffic lights or in traffic jams. Many children beg for money on the streets to support their families. The elderly are greatly respected in Angolan society. Young people are expected to behave well in front of their elders and to listen to their counsel. Grown children care for their aging parents.

Gender Roles

Whether the living situation is a nuclear family or an extended family, men are considered the leaders and are

responsible for supporting the family financially. Women are responsible for household tasks, though they often work outside the home as well. Women known as *zungueiras*, or *kitandeiras*, generate extra income for their families by selling fruit and other goods on street corners or by walking through the city carrying their products on their heads.

Three systems of inheritance are practiced in Angola. The Bakongo have a patrilineal system, in which inheritance is passed through the male line. Tribes in southern Angola are generally matrilineal, meaning inheritance is based on the mother's family. The Ovimbundo and Kimbundo practice bilineal inheritance, in which both sides of the family share the inheritance.

Housing

Urban

Following the end of the civil war, the government promoted many new housing projects, but few people can afford to live in new apartments. Many city residents live in apartment blocks built in colonial times. Many such apartments were built for European families, which were generally quite small; today an apartment built for two people may house closer to five. These apartment blocks, along with much of Angola's infrastructure, have suffered from a lack of maintenance. The average urban home consists of two to three bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a small yard; apartments are usually smaller, with one to two bedrooms and no yard. New homes are generally built from bricks or cement blocks. Roofs are usually tile or corrugated metal. Some private homes have kept, or been renovated to exhibit, their colonial features. The pressures on existing urban housing have been aggravated by migration from rural areas. A large number of Angolans have moved to cities, seeking better opportunities and standards of living. Many construct insubstantial housing with little access to water or sewage facilities in deserted space in and around cities. In Luanda, *musseques* (slums) have sprung up haphazardly and outside any formal urbanization plan.

Rural

Rural people usually build their homes using *adobes* (dried mud bricks). Sometimes dwellings are made of interwoven branches held together by *pau-a-pique* (dry mud) and topped with thatched roofs. A rural house generally consists of one big room, sometimes divided up using blankets or woven mats. Families who can afford it prefer to construct dividing walls out of *adobes*. Cooking is done outdoors or in a small building next to the main house. Electricity and running water are rare outside of urban areas. Families who can afford it may purchase a small generator to power their homes. Some rural areas have a communal well powered by a hand pump. In other areas, people fetch water from rivers.

Interiors

Home décor and furnishings vary widely depending on the family's income. While in the past furnishings were limited to items that could be made locally, improved trade between regions and inexpensive imported furniture have widened the selection in recent years. Today, most homes have sofas, mattresses, tables, and chairs. Interior walls are generally painted white. Family photos are prominently displayed. Some people paint the exteriors of their homes, often

choosing colors such as yellow, green, or brown. Those who cannot afford paint use *cal* (short for "calcareous," a white, chalky material) instead or simply sand the walls to make them smooth. Only the wealthy landscape their yards.

Ownership

Government efforts are underway to alleviate the housing shortage through encouraging people to build their own houses (called *programa de auto-construção*) by providing access to plots of land and subsidies for building materials. Government authorities have tried to increase access to utilities. Still, many people in urban areas rent their homes. In rural areas, people tend to live on land that has been in their families for generations.

Dating and Marriage

Dating and Courtship

In urban areas, young people begin dating during the teenage years. They usually meet at school or at social gatherings. A young person often dates a variety of partners before marrying. Rural communities are more traditional and close-knit, and dating is generally expected to lead to marriage. For this reason, young people usually get to know one another very well before they start formally dating. In these areas, a man must be officially introduced to the woman's parents before they can date. Homosexuality is taboo, and open members of the LGBT community often face discrimination.

Engagement

Couples get engaged during a traditional *alambamento*. The groom's uncle on the mother's side (*tio materno*) is the chief negotiator at this meeting. Before the *alambamento*, he takes a letter to the woman's parents requesting permission for his nephew to marry their daughter and asking to schedule an *alambamento*. After the woman and her parents agree to the marriage, the woman's aunts (usually the father's sisters) prepare a list of items that the bride-price should include (such as cash, food, drinks, clothing, poultry, goats, land, or other goods). Lengthy negotiations often precede an agreement on what the list should include. The two families then meet, and the list of gifts is presented to the young man's family.

At the *alambamento*, the prospective groom presents the bride-price to the bride's family and conditions of the marriage are discussed. The bride-price is distributed among the bride's entire extended family. Prices and practices differ from one ethnic group to another. For example, a Bakongo *alambamento* is an elaborate ritual with an expensive bride-price, so Bakongo men are sometimes said to prefer wives from other ethnic groups because the bride-price is lower.

In some cases, the *alambamento* is considered a wedding, after which the husband and wife start their life together; they later marry in a registry office or at a church. Sometimes the *alambamento* serves as an engagement, and the bride stays in her parents' home until the wedding.

Marriage in Society

Angolan law defines marriage as a voluntary union between a man and woman. Until recently, people of different tribes did not often interact and rarely intermarried. Today, Angolans

are generally less aligned with their tribes, and tribe is less important when choosing a spouse. Teenage pregnancy is common, and some couples expecting a child choose to marry.

Polygamy is not widely practiced, though some men have more than one wife. Same-sex marriages are not legally recognized. Infidelity is common and widely accepted in rural areas, and a man may have both a wife and a girlfriend, both of whom he has children with and supports. A growing number of urban women expect their husbands to be monogamous. Divorce rates in Angola are rising. A strong stigma is associated with divorce, particularly with divorced women, who often find it more difficult to remarry than men.

Weddings

Before the wedding, the parents of bride and groom choose *padrinhos* (godparents) for the couple. The *padrinhos* are usually a married couple who are close friends of one or both of the families. The night before the wedding, the bride and groom spend the night at the home of their *padrinhos*. The following morning, the *padrinhos* help the couple prepare for the wedding, escort them to the ceremony, and serve as witnesses.

Most marriages are religious and take place in Catholic churches. Couples must also register their marriage with the government in order for it to be considered legal. This is generally done a week after the wedding, when the couple receives their marriage certificate, which they take to the government registration office.

Urban marriages are expensive celebrations and usually take place at the end of the week. The bride and groom wear formal Western wedding clothing (a suit for men and a white wedding dress for women). Christian ceremonies follow Western traditions, with couples exchanging vows.

After the ceremony, the couple has wedding photos taken at public fountains or other scenic locations, and the wedding party drives in a long procession of cars through the city, honking their horns. Although these processions often paralyze traffic, other drivers usually honk back to show their approval to the passing couple. After the ceremony, the celebrations continue in a restaurant or at home, where guests enjoy food and dancing late into the night. The following day another party, called *continuação* (continuation), is held at the home of one of the woman's relatives.

Rural weddings are usually less expensive but include similar traditions. The entire village is invited to celebrate. After the wedding ceremony, the bride's uncle gives a speech in which he praises the bride and gives the couple marriage advice. Celebrations then begin and include singing, dancing, eating, speeches, and family introductions.

Life Cycle

Birth

Most births take place in maternity houses (government clinics designated for childbirth). In remote areas, women usually give birth at home with the help of older women from the village. The birth is celebrated with a small party, with food and traditional beverages.

Milestones

A child's first year is considered the most dangerous, as the

infant mortality rate is high. For this reason, the first birthday is cause for great celebration. Families often host a birthday party and invite friends and relatives, both children and adults. Festivities include food, drinks, music, and birthday cake. The child's parents may give a short speech. Celebrations may continue into the evening, after the children have gone to bed.

The tradition of male circumcision varies from tribe to tribe. In cities where it is practiced, male circumcision often takes place at birth and is performed by a doctor. In rural areas, baby boys may be circumcised one week after birth or not at all, or circumcision rites may mark the passage to manhood. Groups of teenage boys (usually between the ages of 9 and 15) may be taken to into the bush to be circumcised by traditional doctors at a place called the *vamba*, where they stay until they have healed.

Young people are generally considered adults when they no longer rely on their parents for financial support. For young men, this means earning enough to support themselves; for young women, it may have more to do with marriage. In rural areas, adulthood usually begins around age 15. Because most rural people are subsistence farmers, a young man can often support himself at this age, and many young women marry about this time. In urban areas, the cost of living is higher, and young men may not be able to support themselves until much later. Young women in urban areas usually marry later and often work to support themselves before marriage.

Celebrations may be held for young people becoming adults and typically involve a *palhaço* (fool or clown), who—dressed from head to foot in a knitted straw suit and wearing a colorful mask—dances to the rhythm of drums throughout the village. Partiers drink a fermented beverage made from cornmeal, known as *kissangwa*.

Death

When a person dies, relatives, close friends, and neighbors make contributions (financial and in-kind) to help the family meet funeral costs. Funerals (*obito*) usually include a feast, attended by relatives and friends of the deceased. The atmosphere at such a feast is often festive, verging on party-like. It is said that a party for the living replaces death with life.

Special masses are held one week (*Missa do Sétimo Dia*, or Mass of the Seventh Day) and thirty days (*Missa do Trigesimo Dia*, or Mass of the Thirtieth Day) after the burial. The family of the deceased person prepares food for the guests: beans cooked with palm oil, grilled fish served with onions and olive oil, sweet potatoes and corn mixed with beans and palm oil, alcoholic drinks, and *kissangwa*.

After the *Missa do Trigesimo Dia*, the close relatives of the deceased wear mourning clothes (*luto*), particularly in rural areas. The color of the *luto* varies according to religion; black and white are the most common colors. The length of time varies according to a person's relation to the deceased. The child or spouse of the deceased may wear *luto* for a year. Other relatives may wear *luto* for a matter of months.

Diet

In central and southern Angola, the staple is *funje* (a paste of ground cornmeal, similar to thick porridge). In the north,

pirão (a paste of ground cassava) is the staple. These are served with dried and salted fish, fresh fish, or (on special occasions) meat. Common side dishes include *quisaca* (dried and ground cassava leaves cooked in water) and *jimbôa* (a cooked leafy vegetable similar to spinach). Beans and *jindungo* (small, hot peppers) are frequently added. Another popular dish is *calulú*, made of fish, vegetables, and palm oil. *Muffete* is a popular meal (usually eaten for lunch) consisting of grilled fish, beans cooked in palm oil, boiled sweet potatoes, and plantains. Roasted peanuts and grilled plantains are common snacks. Urban residents may eat steak, rice, or pasta. Seasonal fruits include mangos, avocados, and papaya. A favorite with children is the white-and-pink edible interior of *múcua* (the fruit of the baobab tree), which is also made into ice cream and juice.

Recreation

Sports

Soccer is the most popular sport in Angola. Most people have an allegiance to a certain team. People gather in stadiums throughout the country to watch matches. People also enjoy watching televised games at home or in sports bars. Children play soccer in schoolyards, vacant lots, quiet streets, or where ever space is available. Basketball, handball, and track events are other popular sports. Many people practice *capoeira*, a traditional West African sport that combines dancing with martial arts; dancers perform moves that mimic a warrior in battle. The slave trade brought the sport to Brazil, where it is also very popular. Each year the *Corrida de São Silvestre* takes place in Luanda. The long-distance running race is named for the Catholic saint Sylvester and draws athletes from around the world.

Leisure

In rural areas, adults play a strategy game called *wela* (in Umbundo), or *kwela* (in Kimbundu); it is played with beads or seeds placed in holes on a wooden board or in the ground. The most popular urban recreational activity is watching *novelas* (soap operas), mostly those made in Brazil. In recent years, a few Angolan *novelas* have been produced. Young people go to bars to socialize and play pool or chess. In urban areas, discos are popular with young people. House parties are also common. Married women generally do not go out at night without their husbands. They often socialize at home with friends and relatives.

Not all families can afford toys, so children often make their own from whatever materials they can find or play games that don't require toys. They may play soccer and other games using a ball made of tightly-bound rags. Boys make toy cars using tin cans and other scrap metal, pushing them along the street with long sticks. They may also construct wooden scooters. Girls enjoy basketball and handball. They may also visit friends, watch *novelas* with their parents, and go to the beach.

Vacation

During the hot season, Angolans living in coastal regions may go to the beach. During the civil war, Angolans could rarely afford to travel for leisure, but as the economy improves, a growing number of people are now able to travel within their country and even visit neighboring countries.

The Arts

The nation enjoys a rich musical tradition, which has been influenced by music from Brazil, Cuba, and Cape Verde. *Semba* and *kizomba* are the most established local styles, but new styles have recently emerged, including *kuduro*, which is heavily influenced by rap and rhythm, and *dombolo*, a style originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Provincial museums feature masks and other indigenous arts. Some of the Quioco (Tchokwé) people's masks are internationally renowned pieces of artwork. Masks are carved in ebony, while ivory is frequently used for small statues and bracelets. Soapstone is used for carvings in southern Angola.

Holidays

The current public holidays are New Year's Day (1 January), Beginning of the Armed Struggle Day (4 February, marking a 1961 uprising in Luanda), International Women's Day (8 March), *Carnaval* (the day before Ash Wednesday), Peace and National Reconciliation Day (4 April), Easter (including Good Friday), International Workers' Day (1 May), National Heroes' Day (17 September, celebrating the birth of Agostinho Neto, Angola's first president), All Souls' Day (2 November), Independence Day (11 November), and Christmas (25 December). A 2011 law significantly reduced the number of public holidays in Angola in order to focus more attention on developing the country.

In wartime, holiday celebrations were virtually nonexistent. Most people were unable to arrange celebrations in addition to their struggle for everyday life. Today, more holidays are being celebrated, and traditions are being reestablished. Better infrastructure allows people to travel to be with their relatives on holidays, and citizens living in urban areas often visit their relatives in rural areas.

Political Holidays

The most important holidays are Beginning of the Armed Struggle Day, Peace and National Reconciliation Day, and Independence Day. On these days, political rallies are held in the morning. After that, people return home for a day of rest. Each province has a local holiday (*tolerância de ponto*) that commemorates the founding of the provincial capital city. For example, Luanda's local holiday is 25 January, Malange's is 13 February, and Lubango's is 16 August. On these days, some Angolans take part in community celebrations, though many people do not attend.

Religious Holidays

On religious holidays, Christians attend church in the morning. In the afternoon, they may visit the sick or elderly. On All Souls' Day (*Dia de Todos os Santos*), people go to the graveyard to pay respect to their deceased relatives by visiting their graves, cleaning the cemetery, and leaving flowers. The rest of the day is spent with family, visiting, eating, and drinking together.

SOCIETY

Government Structure

Angola is a presidential republic. The president is head of state and head of government. The president is chosen by the *Assembleia Nacional* (National Assembly) and is usually the head of the party that wins parliamentary elections. The unicameral National Assembly has 220 members, who are elected based on proportional representation to serve five-year terms. The nation's 18 provinces are administered by presidentially appointed governors. Local officials govern rural areas, although the village chief (*soba*) has some powers, like the distribution of land to new arrivals and returning refugees (*regressados*). Villagers select the chiefs on the basis of age and experience.

Political Landscape

The center-left Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has been in power essentially since independence, despite years of civil war with the center-right National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the center-right National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). In recent years, the Broad Convergence for the Salvation of Angola Electoral Coalition (CASA-CE) has also gained influence. The MPLA holds more than 70 percent of National Assembly seats, with UNITA, CASA-CE, and a couple minor parties holding the remaining seats. As a result, the MPLA is firmly in control of Angolan politics. Anti-government sentiment is reportedly growing as more are becoming dissatisfied with MPLA rule. Rebuilding the country's institutions and infrastructure in the aftermath of the civil war continues to be the major challenge facing the government.

Government and the People

Despite the presence of elections, with all citizens eligible to vote beginning at age 18, Angola's electoral process is often compromised. Elections are reportedly tampered with, which has, in part, led to declining voter participation. Political corruption, especially relating to the use of oil revenues, is reportedly widespread. Formal guarantees of free speech, assembly, and association are often violated (sometimes violently).

Economy

Angola is rich in resources, including oil, diamonds, gold, iron, timber, and fish. The economy relies most heavily on the oil industry, which is responsible for about 50 percent of Angola's gross domestic product (GDP). Angola is the second-largest crude oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, after Nigeria, but most Angolans do not share in the benefits of the oil wealth. Economic growth has been slowed by lower oil prices, a lack of economic diversification, and government debt. Ongoing corruption also threatens the economy.

Angolans remain some of the world's poorest people. Rural Angolans practice subsistence agriculture, with corn, beans, peanuts, cassava, potatoes, and sweet potatoes the principal crops. Many urban people earn a living by trading imported food or goods on the informal market. Angola's currency is the *kwanza* (AOA).

Transportation and Communications

Paved roads, many requiring extensive repairs, connect provincial capitals. Other roads are unpaved and often

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become flooded and impassable during the wet season. Traveling off the main roads can be extremely dangerous, as Angola remains one of the world's most heavily mined countries. Land-mine accidents increase during the wet season, when people drive on the road shoulders to avoid mud. Most rural people travel locally on foot or by bicycle. In urban areas, privately owned minibuses transport passengers. Vehicle ownership is increasing; traffic congestion in Luanda is severe. Traffic moves on the right. One government-owned airline and several private ones fly to provincial capitals. After the civil war, several railways were reconstructed.

The government owns most media outlets, including a television channel (Televisão Pública de Angola), the majority of radio stations, and the daily newspaper *Jornal de Angola*. While the Constitution protects freedom of expression and the right to information, journalists are usually prosecuted if they publish anti-corruption articles or other complaints against the government. The government produces a daily television news program in each of the main local languages. Private radio stations broadcast in major cities. Because most Angolans do not have a regular electricity supply, transistor radios are the main source of information. Most private weekly newspapers are published in Luanda. Cellular phones outnumber telephone landlines. Computer and internet use is limited, though internet cafés can be found in cities.

Education

Structure and Access

Angolans see education as the key to a better life, and gaining an education brings with it prestige and status. Schooling is free at all public schools, but students may be responsible for school fees, uniforms, textbooks, and supplies, and these costs often prove too high for families to cover. About 84 percent of children are enrolled in primary school, though not all attend. Far fewer students move on to secondary school. Girls sometimes face pressure from their families to drop out of school so that they can help with family responsibilities. In order to advance to each year of schooling, students must pass exams.

Primary school begins at age 6. Secondary school is divided into two levels: the first begins at age 12 and the second at age 15. Officially, primary schooling is compulsory. In practice, there are not enough schools or teachers for this law to be enforced. The government is working to remedy the shortage of teachers by contracting foreign teachers and training more Angolan teachers.

The government and non-governmental organizations are working to reconstruct schools damaged or abandoned during the war. In urban areas, much progress has been made in making education available. Rural areas still struggle to provide enough schools, and children often have to walk miles to get to school. Many private schools have been established in recent years. While the majority of families send their children to public schools, tuition at private schools is affordable to most of the middle class.

School Life

In rural areas, school may be held under a shade tree or in a shop, church, or home. Throughout the country, classes are

Angola

crowded due to a lack of trained teachers. Schools often do not have access to water or basic sanitation facilities.

Higher Education

Few Angolans are able to access higher education, and university education is offered only in major urban centers. Parents of the small wealthy minority send their children abroad for secondary and tertiary education, mainly to Portugal, South Africa, Namibia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Those who don't attend universities may learn a trade in a vocational school or by becoming an apprentice.

Health

No health insurance system exists, so individuals must pay for all medical costs. Medical facilities lack equipment and trained staff, particularly in rural areas. The wealthy seek treatment abroad. The poor and those who hold traditional beliefs often seek medical treatment from traditional healers.

Waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea are common because of the lack of access to clean water. Malaria, diarrhea, and neonatal problems such as low birth weight are the major contributors to the high mortality rate for children under five. Angola's official HIV/AIDS infection rate is around 2 percent (one of the lowest rates in southern Africa), though many believe the real rate is much higher. The spread of HIV/AIDS was slowed by a lack of population movement during the war years. Now that the war is over and there is a much freer circulation of people, Angola is at risk of having the disease become a major health problem. Many people lack information about how diseases are spread and general health.

AT A GLANCE

Contact Information

Embassy of Angola, 2100–2108 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009; phone (202) 785-1156; web site www.angola.org

Country and Development Data

Capital	Luanda
Population	30,355,880 (rank=45)
Area (sq. mi.)	481,353 (rank=22)
Area (sq. km.)	1,246,700
Human Development Index	145 of 188 countries
Gender Inequality Index	NA
GDP (PPP) per capita	\$6,850
Adult Literacy	82% (male); 61% (female)
Infant Mortality	77 per 1,000 births
Life Expectancy	59 (male); 65 (female)
Currency	Kwanza

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 USA
Toll Free: 1.800.521.3042
Fax: 1.800.854.0019
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BACKGROUND

Land and Climate

Nigeria is about the same size as Venezuela or the U.S. states of California, Nevada, and Utah combined. Its geography is as diverse as its people and culture. More than one-third of the land is suitable for cultivation. Parts of the country are covered by forests or woodlands. Desert areas are found in the far north. The country also features the grassy plains of the Jos Plateau in the north-central region, sandy beaches and mangrove swamps along the coast, and tropical rain forests and parklands in the central region.

Nigeria is divided into three areas by the Niger and Benue rivers, which meet and flow together to the Gulf of Guinea, part of the Atlantic Ocean. These three regions (north, southwest, and southeast) correspond roughly to the boundaries of the three largest ethnic groups (Hausa, Yoruba, and Ibo). The Delta Region, where the two rivers flow into the Atlantic, is the source of most of Nigeria's oil.

The rainy season runs from April to October, usually with a break in August. The country's climate in the north is dry. In the south, the climate is hot and humid year-round.

History

Early Empires

Nigeria, with its many ethnic groups, has a rich and diverse history. The area has been inhabited since at least 900 BC, when the Nok people arrived in the Jos Plateau. Various empires arose and flourished in different regions. The Hausa, who live in the north, converted to Islam in the 13th century

and established a feudal system that was solidified over time. The Fulani built a great empire in the 1800s. In the southwest, the Yoruba established the Kingdom of Oyo and extended their influence as far as modern Togo. The Ibo, located in the southeast, remained relatively isolated.

European Contact and Colonization

At the end of the 15th century, European explorers and traders made contact with the Yoruba and Benin peoples and began a lucrative slave trade. The British joined the trade in the 1600s but abolished it in 1807. Although no European power had as yet colonized the area, British influence increased until 1861, when Britain declared the area around Lagos a crown colony. By 1914, the entire area had become the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

Independence and Civil War

When Nigeria became independent in 1960, tensions began to rise among the various ethnic groups. After two coups and much unrest, the Ibo-dominated eastern region attempted to secede and establish the Republic of Biafra. Two and a half years of civil war (1967–70) followed, and the Ibo were forced back into the republic of Nigeria after more than one million people died.

Political Instability

In 1979, elections established a representative civilian government, but it lasted only until late 1983, when a military coup gave General Muhammadu Buhari control. In 1985, Major General Ibrahim Babangida overthrew Buhari. He later promised civilian rule by 1992, and national elections were held in June 1993. However, once it was apparent that Chief Moshood Abiola (a Yoruba) would win, Babangida refused to accept the results. He annulled the election, and rioting broke

out in many cities. After a power struggle, Babangida resigned. His rival, General Sani Abacha, seized power from the interim government. Chief Abiola was imprisoned and charged with treason after he declared himself president of the country.

Abacha dissolved democratic institutions and declared himself ruler of Nigeria. Human-rights abuses and corruption became Abacha's hallmarks. He is believed to have stashed billions of dollars' worth of public money in foreign bank accounts. Strikes, unrest, and international pressure failed to force him from power. Abacha promised a return to democracy by the end of 1998 but allowed only five loyal parties to register in legislative elections. He then ordered all five parties to nominate him as their presidential candidate.

Democracy and Rising Tensions

When Abacha died of a heart attack in June 1998, his chief of defense staff, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, took over the presidency. Abubakar pledged to turn power over to a civilian government. He released political prisoners and fired Abacha loyalists. Unlike past military rulers, Abubakar followed through on his pledge to hold free and fair elections. Local polls were held in December 1998. Legislative and presidential elections followed in February 1999. Olusegun Obasanjo, a military leader in the 1970s, was elected president, and his People's Democratic Party (PDP) won a majority of parliamentary seats.

The atmosphere of greater democracy unleashed simmering grievances between various regions, ethnic groups, and religions. Thousands have been killed in fighting between Christians and Muslims, between Yoruba and Hausa, and between ethnic groups in the Delta Region. Northern, Muslim-dominated states have enacted policies to implement *shari'ah* (Islamic law) in order to enforce Islamic morality and other values, angering these states' Christian minority. Activists in the Delta Region often attack oil refineries and workers to demand a greater portion of oil revenue.

Obasanjo was reelected in 2003 and, having reached his two-term limit, chose Umaru Musa Yar'Adua as his successor to lead the PDP. Yar'Adua won the 2007 election, which was marred by political violence and allegations of vote-rigging. In 2010, President Yar'Adua died after a long illness. Vice president Goodluck Jonathan took over the presidency, declaring plans to institute governmental and energy reforms, work toward peace in the Delta Region, and eliminate corruption. Jonathan was elected in 2011. The election deepened political divisions between north and south. In northern Nigeria, hundreds were killed in rioting that broke out after it was announced that Jonathan, a Christian southerner, had won the presidency.

Religious Conflict

After Jonathan's election, religious violence between Christian and Muslim groups increased. Especially active has been the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, which seeks to establish an Islamic caliphate in northern Nigeria and has declared loyalty to the Islamic State (ISIS). Despite the Nigerian government's concerted efforts to defeat the group, attacks and kidnappings (especially of girls) have continued. Boko Haram is opposed to Western education and often

targets students. Hundreds of schools in northern Nigeria have been closed as a result. As of January 2019, some 50,000 civilians had died and millions of people had been displaced as a consequence of the conflict. One outcome of this displacement is the disruption of farming, which has led to famine in northeast Nigeria and serious malnutrition, especially among children. Displaced children also suffer disproportionately from cholera. The Nigerian military has been accused of human-rights abuses in its fight against Boko Haram, including the 2015 massacre of nearly 350 civilians in Zaria.

Boko Haram-related violence was responsible for delaying elections in 2015 that brought former military leader Muhammadu Buhari to power as the first opposition candidate to win the presidency in Nigerian history. The election was largely praised as being free and fair, marking a significant milestone for Nigeria. President Buhari has made targeting Nigeria's pervasive corruption a primary aim of his administration. He has worked to recover stolen public funds, created an anonymous web portal for whistle-blowers, and arrested powerful officials and judges on charges of corruption. In addition to corruption, Nigeria struggles with low levels of human development and poor infrastructure.

Recent Events and Trends

- **Boko Haram developments:** In March 2018, Boko Haram militants released nearly all of the schoolgirls they had kidnapped the month before. However, more than a hundred schoolgirls kidnapped in 2014 by the group remain missing, after limited releases in 2017. The Nigerian government claims it has forced Boko Haram from its last major encampment, though Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has characteristically denied the claim. Nigeria's efforts against the group have been bolstered by regional military support, spurred in part by Boko Haram attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.
- **Farmer-herder clashes:** In July 2018, the International Crisis Group reported that clashes between farmers and nomadic cattle herders had killed six times the number of people in the first half of the year than had Boko Haram-related violence. Though violence over Nigeria's scarce resources has been happening for years, such clashes are intensifying in the face of Nigeria's quickly growing population and dwindling available grazing land.
- **Elections:** In February 2019, Muhammadu Buhari was reelected for a second term as president, taking 56 percent of the vote in an election that saw more than 70 presidential candidates. However, after the election, Buhari's nearest competitor, opposition leader Atiku Abubakar, alleged election fraud and vowed to challenge the election results in court. Nevertheless, despite some voting irregularities, election-related violence, and delays at the polls, independent observers found that the elections were largely free and fair.

THE PEOPLE

Population

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous in the world. About half of the

population lives in urban areas. With an estimated 22 million people, Lagos is the nation's largest urban area and in recent years surpassed Cairo, Egypt, to become the largest city on the continent.

Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups, each with a distinct cultural heritage. In the north, the Hausa and Fulani combined make up 29 percent of the population. Although ethnically distinct, the two groups have become largely intertwined as a result of proximity, history, and shared religion. Other large groups include the Yoruba (21 percent) in the southwest and the Ibo (18 percent) in the southeast. Smaller groups such as the Ijaw, Kanuri, Ibibio, and Tiv are also present.

Language

More than five hundred languages are spoken in Nigeria. English is the official language and the language of most media, including television and newspapers. However, not all of the population can speak English, and some consider it a foreign language. Pidgin English (a combination of basic English and local languages) aids communication between people of different ethnic groups; it is often used in casual conversation.

Each ethnic group has its own distinct language. Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, and Efik are widely spoken in different regions of Nigeria. People often speak both their own ethnic language and the language of the area's largest ethnic group. Educated Nigerians are often fluent in several languages, usually speaking English and one or more regional languages. Many in the older generation lament that young people sometimes do not speak the language of their ethnic group, learning instead only English and the language of a larger ethnic group.

Religion

Nigeria is divided primarily between Muslims and Christians. The north is majority Muslim and features several mosques, though Christians may also be found in the north. The southeast is primarily Christian. About half the residents of the southwest are Muslim; half are Christian. In all, about 50 percent of Nigerians are Muslim and 40 percent are Christian. Nigerians who follow traditional African belief systems exclusively (10 percent) are spread throughout the country. Many Christians and Muslims also incorporate indigenous African worship practices and beliefs into their daily lives. This includes such practices as ancestor veneration and worshipping natural objects.

Central to Islam is a belief in the *Qur'an* (Muslim holy book) as the word of *Allah* (God) revealed to the prophet Muhammad. Muslims show devotion through the Five Pillars of Islam, which include professing that there is no God but *Allah* and Muhammad is his prophet; praying five times daily while facing Mecca, Saudi Arabia; giving money to the poor; fasting from dawn to dusk throughout the holy month of *Ramadan*; and making a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime, if possible.

As part of a constitution adopted in 1999, the predominantly Muslim northern states have the option of establishing *shari'ah* (Islamic law) courts to handle certain

cases. The states have interpreted that to mean *shari'ah* can be the governing force in most local matters, a policy opposed by Christians and others. In Muslim areas, a person may be flogged as punishment for immorality, regardless of their religion. This situation has contributed in part to violence and conflict in the nation.

General Attitudes

Individual Nigerians tend to identify first with their ethnicity, next their religion, and then their nationality. This helps explain the difficulty in uniting the country and in resolving disputes. People tend to take great pride in their heritage. Educated Nigerians usually avoid using the word "tribe," preferring "ethnic group"; however, the average person is not insulted by the word "tribe" when discussing ethnicity.

Tensions exist between various groups due to their traditional spheres of influence, as well as past conflicts. For instance, the Ibo control some oil areas, and many have bitter feelings about the Biafra War; in 2000, some Ibo revived a call for independence. Yoruba tend to control the press and financial sector; they often led pro-democracy movements in the 1990s. The Hausa have generally held political and military control since independence. Former president Olusegun Obasanjo, a Yoruba, had his support base among the Hausa because of his past military ties.

Northerners tend to be quiet, reserved, and conservative in dealing with others. To them, raising the voice indicates anger. Southerners are more likely to be open and outgoing. They often enjoy public debate and arguing. They may shout to make a point or attract attention; shouting does not necessarily indicate anger. Daily life in Nigeria typically moves at a relaxed pace, with strict adherence to schedules rare.

Personal Appearance

Dress varies according to the area and culture, but dressing well tends to be considered important among Nigerians throughout the country, and African fashions are generally preferred over Western clothing. In urban areas, however, people wear both African fashions and Western clothing, such as T-shirts, pants, jeans, suits, and dresses. Attire is generally more casual and more Western among the Ibo. Northern Muslims dress conservatively, while southern Muslims tend to wear more informal and Western attire.

Traditional men's clothing is loose and comfortable. Shirts typically extend to the knees. Women and young girls usually wear a long wraparound skirt (usually handmade with locally produced fabrics), a short-sleeved top, and a headscarf. More conservative Muslim women wear a veil over their faces in public. Nigerian fabrics are known for their bright colors and unique patterns, and Nigerian fashions are also popular in other African countries.

Women often have their hair plaited into intricate designs, sometimes with artificial hair woven in. A variety of hair products are used to change the color and texture of a person's hair. Different hairstyles are given colorful names, such as *Ghana weaving*, *patewo*, *shuku*, *allback*, and *two-step*.

For many, heaviness is an indication of beauty and wealth, so girls are encouraged to gain weight in order to attract a

husband. In some areas in the past, girls were sometimes sent to "fattening rooms" to prepare them for womanhood and marriage.

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

Greetings

In Nigeria, greetings are highly valued among the different ethnic groups. People are courteous and cheerful when exchanging greetings. Neglecting to greet another person or rushing through a greeting is a sign of disrespect. Because of the diversity of customs, cultures, and dialects in Nigeria, English greetings are widely used throughout the country, especially in educational, government, and corporate contexts. Nigerians use *Hello*, but *Good morning*, *Good afternoon*, and *Good evening* are more common. In marketplaces, greetings in a regional language spoken by traders are used. Yoruba would be a common language in this context, with greetings including *Ekaaro* (Good morning), *Ekaason* (Good afternoon), and *Ekaale* (Good evening). After the initial greeting, people usually inquire about each other's well-being, work, or family. The appropriate response is usually *Fine*, but one listens to this response before proceeding with the conversation.

If a person is wearing a hat, he or she usually removes it as a sign of respect when greeting elders. People may also shake hands or hug when greeting. Personal space between members of the same sex is limited, and some Nigerians may stand or sit very close when conversing.

Gestures

Because Nigeria is a multicultural nation, gestures differ from one ethnic group to another. Most people point with the index finger. People beckon by waving all fingers together with the palm facing down. Pushing the palm of the hand forward with the fingers spread is considered a serious offense. Hausa do not point the sole of the foot or shoe at another person. Most people pass objects with the right hand or both hands but usually not the left hand alone.

Visiting

Visiting plays an important part in maintaining family and friendship ties. Nigerians visit their relatives frequently. Hosts endeavor to make guests feel comfortable and usually offer them some refreshments. Invited guests are not expected to bring gifts, but small gifts are appreciated. For social engagements or other planned activities, a starting time may be indicated but is not usually strictly adhered to. Late guests are anticipated and they do not disrupt the event. Few homes have sufficient space for hosting gatherings of more than a few people. In the past, on special occasions (such as holidays or social events), families would often block off the road in front of their home to make room for guests to congregate. Today, city governments have cracked down on this practice, so people rent big event halls to host large celebrations, if they can afford to do so.

Eating

Eating habits depend on a person's ethnic group and social status. Most people wash their hands before eating. Some Nigerians eat using the fingers of the right hand, while others use utensils. Certain foods, such as rice, are nearly always eaten with utensils. Among some ethnic groups, diners eat from a central, shared plate. Families may eat at a table or around a mat placed on the floor. If diners are sitting at a table, hands generally are kept above the table. Invited guests are expected to try any food that is offered. Most Nigerians say a blessing on their food.

Lunch is typically the main meal on weekends, when families are home together. On weekdays, people generally eat lunch away from home, so dinner is the main meal. Families try to eat at least the main meal together, although in some conservative families men eat separately from women and children.

LIFESTYLE

Family

Structure

Nigerians view family as a source of strength and comfort. Traditionally, extended family networks were very important, and members of the extended family provided assistance to other members in need. In the past, married couples lived with the husband's family, and raising children was seen as the responsibility of the entire family, with relatives assisting with childcare and discipline. In many families, particularly among lower-income families and in rural and suburban areas, this network of support remains in place, and extended families often share a home or live in the same compound.

However, in much of the country, family relations are in a state of transition. In urban areas and among the wealthy, people more often live as nuclear families. Emphasis is shifting from the extended family to the nuclear family, and fewer people now seek or provide help within the extended family. In recent years, migration to urban areas has also weakened traditional family ties, as families become more spread out and young people grow up away from their extended families.

Family size varies according to region and family situation. An urban couple often has between three and five children, while a rural family may have as many as seven to ten. A polygamous household may contain twenty or more children.

Parents and Children

In most families, children live with their parents until marriage or until they reach their late twenties or early thirties; it is increasingly rare for children to live with their families after marriage. Children are taught to be unassertive, quiet, and respectful in their interactions with adults. They help with chores from a young age, with girls often doing tasks like washing dishes, general cleaning, shopping, fetching water, and ironing clothes. In some areas, boys may help on the family farm. In lower-income families, boys and girls may work to support the family, often by trading in the market. Child trafficking and forced labor are common in Nigeria, particularly among orphans and children from poor

families.

Nigerians have deep respect for their elders. Grown children usually support their aging parents financially, often sending them money on a monthly basis. Women usually help their parents and in-laws maintain the household, while men often help with errands.

Gender Roles

In general, Nigerian families are male dominated. Men generally make most major decisions related to the family. When a husband dies, leadership of the family usually passes to the oldest son rather than the wife. Men are responsible for supporting the family financially, though other family members may also contribute. Women are traditionally responsible for the household and children. Women who work outside the home maintain the primary role in carrying out these responsibilities, regardless of the other demands on their time. However, a growing number of men help with household chores and childcare. Middle-class and wealthy families may hire household help, in which case the woman is responsible for supervising the employees.

Muslim women are often sheltered. Most non-Muslim women enjoy relatively more freedom, both in influencing family decisions and openly trading at the marketplace. Many families are headed by women who have given birth outside of wedlock, are divorced, or are widowed. The role of women outside the home has expanded in recent years. About 48 percent of women work outside the home, often working as tailors, nurses, caterers, restaurant workers, housekeepers, receptionists, and owners of small shops. Women are active in politics but hold relatively few seats in parliament.

Despite these gains, women still face significant discrimination in society. While the 1999 constitution granted women equal rights, traditional and religious customs often favor men. Many families do not send their girls to school because of a belief that learning to be good mothers and wives is more important than formal education. Women without civil marriages are not entitled to inheritance upon the death of their husbands and are often left without income or savings. Married women must have their husbands' consent in order to leave the country with the couple's children. Women may find it difficult to obtain bank loans. Domestic violence is common and legal as long as it does not result in serious injury. The practice of female circumcision was once common but is declining.

Housing

Urban

Urban areas struggle to absorb the large numbers of migrants coming from rural areas in search of better economic opportunities, which makes housing expensive and difficult to find. Urban homes often consist of cement blocks covered with a layer of cement. Wood and metal sheeting are the most common roofing materials.

Most urban homes and a growing number of rural homes have access to electricity, though outages are frequent. Urban homes usually have running water. Wealthy and middle-class Nigerians paint their homes. Furniture is locally made, usually from wood. Wealthy families may furnish and decorate their homes in a style similar to Western homes.

Outside their homes, families may plant lawns, trees, flowers, vegetable gardens, and medicinal plants.

Many urban residents live in apartment buildings, and lower-income families may rent a single room in a freestanding house, in which they share the kitchen and bathroom with other families. Low-income homes are simply furnished and largely undecorated. Poor urban residents may also occupy crowded urban slums without electricity or running water.

Rural

In rural and suburban areas, extended families often live together in a family compound made up of a group of houses built near one another on a single portion of land. The compound is usually surrounded by a fence. The houses are usually located around a central courtyard, where families do the cooking, hold family events, dry laundry, and park vehicles.

Rural houses are generally made of mud bricks that have been made by hand and dried in the sun. Sometimes a layer of cement is added. Roofs are built using palm leaves or tree branches. Pit latrines are typical in rural areas and poor urban areas. Families without indoor plumbing get their water from streams, boreholes (narrow holes dug to reach underground water), communal water pumps, or commercial water distributors.

Ownership

Most people in urban areas rent their homes. The cost of buying land and construction materials and applying for the required building permits is usually high in comparison to the average income. Mortgages are extremely difficult to obtain and come with high interest rates. In rural and suburban areas, land is distributed by community elders and chiefs. Families generally are not given the title to the land they live on, which limits their ability to sell the land and take advantage of natural resources. If a person is given the title, they are required to obtain the permission of the community leaders before selling the land.

Dating and Marriage

Dating and Courtship

Most young people choose their spouses. Dating begins in the mid- to late teens. Western-style dating is uncommon in rural areas but is increasingly common among urban youth. Parents generally disapprove of casual dating, so young people often date without their knowledge, only introducing their partners to their parents after making plans to marry. The growing use of cellular phones and social networking websites has made it easier for young people to meet and socialize without parental knowledge. Many young people begin dating when they start university in a city, as dating may not be acceptable in their home village.

Couples may meet at church, at school, at cultural events, or in the community. Common dating activities include picnics, concerts, movies, and cultural events. Couples may also spend time at each other's homes, eat at restaurants, go on walks, and attend nightclubs.

Some parents arrange marriages for their children. Among certain ethnic groups, such as the Ibo, young people are free to date, but once they are considered adults with the means to

marry, their parents arrange a marriage for them. Muslim youth are closely supervised when spending time with members of the opposite sex, and any physical contact before marriage is forbidden.

Engagement

When a couple is ready to marry, the man proposes to the woman. If she accepts, he makes arrangements to visit her parents. He is accompanied by his parents or uncles, one of whom is chosen to speak on his behalf as a show of respect to the bride's family. While this person does most of the talking, at a certain point in the meeting, the prospective groom is asked to confirm that the request is being made on his behalf. Among some ethnic groups, the groom's family sends the request in a letter, which the bride's family initially ignores (to indicate the bride's preciousness to them) but eventually answers. If the two families agree to the marriage, a date is set to arrange the bride-price.

Marriage in Society

The payment of a bride-price is common throughout the country and is usually part of the wedding ceremony. The groom is expected to give money, property (such as kola nuts, food, drinks, and clothing), or service to the family of the bride as compensation for the loss of their daughter. In some ethnic groups, the contents of the bride-price are standard and have not changed for several generations, while in other groups, the couple's families negotiate what the bride-price will include. In some groups, the bride-price is relatively affordable for the average person; in others, it can take years to save up. When the bride-price is high, a couple may choose to live together instead of marrying, though this arrangement is not well accepted in society. Couples who wish to marry but cannot afford the bride-price may live together, have children, and carry out the marriage rituals in several installments, sometimes over many years. Some northern local governments provide subsidies to help such couples marry and avoid violating *shari'ah* (Islamic law).

Marriage is greatly valued in Nigerian society, and most people hope to marry in a public ceremony, though economic challenges make this difficult for many. Men often marry in their late twenties and women in their early twenties, though in some northern states women may marry in their early teens. Many men delay marriage until they are financially stable, often in their thirties. The marriage age is generally younger in rural areas than in cities.

In 2014, Nigeria outlawed same-sex relationships, which are strongly opposed by the overwhelming majority of both Christian and Muslim Nigerians.

Weddings

Weddings may be traditional, religious, or civil. Customs vary greatly according to ethnic group. Traditional marriages are the most common, followed by religious ceremonies. Traditional marriages are celebrated with refreshments and music and dances by local bands and dance troupes, usually in a style related to the bride's ethnic group. Among the Efik, the wedding includes a coming-of-age ceremony at which the parents of the bride publicly present her with gifts for her future home. Among some groups in the north, the groom may be flogged to show that he is strong enough to protect the bride. Traditional marriages in the south are held at the bride's

family home; the family of the bride has the responsibility to host and entertain the groom and his guests.

Christian weddings vary by denomination. Ceremonies usually take place in a church and are conducted by a priest or a pastor, who pronounces the couple husband and wife after they exchange rings and vows. The groom wears a suit or tuxedo, and the bride wears a white Western-style wedding gown. A reception is usually held at the church, a rented event center, or the home of one set of the couple's parents.

Muslim marriage ceremonies take place at the bride's home but involve only men; the bride does not attend. The men from the two families finalize and exchange the bride-price. When the wedding is finalized, the men cheer to announce the marriage to the women. A celebration is then held, with food, drinks, music, and dancing. However, the wedding is not fully complete until the following day, when the bride is escorted to her husband's house. On this day, the couple may host a celebration for friends and family. Men and women celebrate in separate areas, listening to music, having refreshments, and giving speeches in honor of the bride and groom.

In most of the country, a marriage must contain a civil ceremony performed by a marriage registrar in order to be legal. Though many couples see little value in a legal marriage, there are a growing number of younger couples who decide to include a civil ceremony. In northern Nigeria, under *shari'ah* law, Muslim marriages are not required to include a civil ceremony in order to be considered legal.

Polygamy

Polygamous marriages cannot be registered civilly, although they are acceptable according to custom and religion. By Islamic law, a Muslim man can have as many as four wives as long as he has the consent of his wives and provided he can support each wife equally. Many non-Muslim men also practice polygamy. In polygamous households, each wife may have her own building in a compound or room in a home.

Divorce

Divorce is rare but not unheard of. Because marriage is considered a lifetime commitment, divorce is frowned upon. Since most marriages are not registered with the government, a couple may be considered divorced if they simply stop living together. In some groups, a woman has the right to return to her family home if she is unhappy in a marriage. In other groups, a woman loses the right to live in her parents' home when she marries, making divorce difficult. There is considerable stigma attached to divorce, and divorced women find it harder to remarry than divorced men.

Life Cycle

Birth

Ceremonies that mark life transitions differ widely by region, ethnic group, and religion. For several weeks following the birth of a child, the mother usually stays at home with the baby and is cared for by family members. A traditional naming ceremony is held, especially in rural areas, and a large feast follows. Ibo families may wait three months to formally name a child. Yoruba and Hausa families typically hold a naming ceremony seven days after the birth. A Yoruba child

may be given several names, as the father and both sets of grandparents are each asked to select one. At the celebration that accompanies the ceremony, family and friends enjoy smoked fish, pounded yams, palm wine, and kola nuts (which are chewed to produce a mild caffeine stimulant). A Hausa naming ceremony takes place early in the morning and is attended only by close family members.

Christian families hold a church service about three months after a baby is born to dedicate the child to God and give thanks for the birth. This service is generally the first time the mother attends church after giving birth. Afterward, a reception is held at the family home, where guests are entertained with food and music.

Milestones

At 18, young people receive some legal rights associated with adulthood, like the right to vote, drive, and hold a national identity card. However, most people consider 21 to be the age a person reaches adulthood, in part because it is the age of university graduation. Family and friends celebrate the 21st birthday with festive parties and picnics. Today, traditional coming-of-age ceremonies involving circumcision and other rites are uncommon, particularly in urban areas.

Very few people celebrate their birthdays every year. Those who can afford it may hold birthday parties when they reach significant or round ages (perhaps every five or ten years), inviting friends and family members to celebrate with them. Regardless of whether a party is held, Nigerians make it a point to wish one another happy birthday.

Many people join *age grades* (associations made up of members of the same general age, usually within two to three years of each other) starting around age 10. In order to join, a person must be sponsored by an existing member of the group. *Age grades* hold activities geared toward increasing solidarity within the community. In rural areas, *age grades* are especially important in the social lives of their members.

Secret societies are active in most communities and may be associated with a religion or ethnic group. Secret societies play a large role in the lives of their members and many charge high membership dues. Members of secret societies may support one another financially in times of need, advise one another, and host social events. Some secret societies have cultural troupes that perform at public festivals. The age at which members join a secret society varies. Some may be joined at any age; in others, membership passes from parent to child.

An important life event for many is receiving a title as part of a formal ceremony. Titles may be associated with ethnic group, religion, political office, profession, or a secret society. For example, a successful yam farmer may be given a yam title by a community leader, or a secret society may bestow a title on an important member. Those who have such titles are highly regarded in society, and titles are carefully used in order to convey respect.

Death

When a Muslim person dies, the body is buried as soon as possible. The body is wrapped in a white sheet and taken to the cemetery on a wooden platform similar to a stretcher. Memorial rites, prayers, and feasts are held over the weeks that follow. Christians dress the dead in the best clothing

available. A wake is then held, at which relatives and friends come to pay their respects. In the south, a body may be embalmed to preserve it for a festive burial ceremony, which can take place more than a month after the death. At the cemetery, members of the deceased's family help fill in the grave with dirt.

If the deceased lived a long life, the family hosts a festive reception after the burial, with feasting and music. If the deceased was young, a small reception or no reception at all follows the burial. The Ibo, in particular, hold celebrations after a burial. They generally celebrate death more festively than birth, because after death, it is believed that the person's soul goes on to a state of eternal rest.

A widow is expected to wear all black for two or three months after the death of her husband and may shave her head. Among some groups, she may be expected to marry her husband's brother. Widowers are not generally expected to mourn as visibly.

Diet

The mainstays of the Nigerian diet are yams, cassava (a starchy root), plantains, and rice. Common dishes include pounded yam (similar to mashed potatoes), *jollof rice* (rice cooked with tomatoes, peppers, and meat), and okra and other soups. Yoruba are fond of hot, spicy food. Their meals normally are accompanied by a pepper sauce made with fish, meat, or chicken. Nigeria's warm climate provides for a wide selection of fruits and vegetables to supplement the diet.

Dairy cattle are scarce in coastal regions, where the tsetse fly threatens livestock. Canned margarine, cheese, and powdered milk are used as dairy-product substitutes, though imported dairy products are also available. The Fulani, who traditionally live inland, are known for their dairy products, particularly yogurt mixed with millet and sugar.

Recreation

Sports

Soccer is the most popular sport in Nigeria. Boys, men, and sometimes girls play informal matches in whatever space is available. In urban areas, people enjoy watching international soccer matches on television. Matches of national teams and local soccer clubs are also well attended. Nigerians are extremely proud of their national soccer team, which has been successful in international competitions and won the gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games. Wrestling is also popular. The wealthy enjoy polo, cricket, lawn bowling, golf, and swimming.

Leisure

Few Nigerians have access to working movie theaters, but most people enjoy watching DVDs and television. Films produced by the local film industry, nicknamed Nollywood, are popular, as are films from the United States. Live theater and art exhibits are well attended by the educated elite. Nigerians also enjoy traditional music and dance, which is usually associated with celebrations and special occasions.

In many areas, visiting is the primary leisure activity. People spend time socializing with family and friends in the home. Men usually have more free time than women and often spend time in bars and cafés, talking or drinking with

one another. Women, particularly in rural areas, have little time for recreation, but they socialize while doing chores or fixing one another's hair.

Draughts (a game similar to checkers) is often played in public places. Game pieces are usually fashioned out of bottle caps. A crowd sometimes gathers to watch, with a spectator replacing the loser of each game. Young girls enjoy playing *okpokoro* (a two-person game in which the players clap, sing, and dance to a rhythm). When the game begins, the players each extend one leg simultaneously. The players take turns as the leader, and the other tries to guess and match which leg the leader will extend. Points are scored according to whether the players extend the same leg.

Storytelling is a common leisure activity for women and children, particularly in rural areas. Many mothers tell their children folktales or fables that contain moral lessons. Teenagers enjoy playing video games, using the internet (especially social networking sites), and socializing in cafés. People of all ages enjoy eating at outdoor restaurants and fast-food restaurants. Many people volunteer with religious, cultural, or aid organizations in their free time.

Vacation

Most Nigerians cannot afford to take extended vacations. People may take short day trips to nearby destinations. Those who live near the coast often visit the beach. Families may also travel to visit relatives. Those who can afford it may visit destinations within Nigeria, such as the Obudu Mountains, Abuja, and Lagos. The wealthy may visit other African countries or destinations abroad, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, or the United Arab Emirates.

The Arts

Music

Nigerian music often combines Western and traditional elements and is typically accompanied by dancing. Among the greats of Nigerian music is Fela Kuti, who pioneered *Afrobeat* (a blend of jazz, funk, and local rhythms) in the 1960s and '70s. Another Nigerian style, *juju*, is derived from Ghanaian *highlife*. Nigerian *juju* incorporates guitars with the *dundun*, known as the "talking drum" because its tones can be understood as words. Musicians such as King Sunny Adé and Ebenezer Obey helped popularize *juju* in the 1970s and '80s. *Fuji* music, developed by Alhaji Sikiru Ayinde Barrister, has no guitars but uses several drums. Its origins are in the Islamic call to prayer during *Ramadan*, the month of fasting.

Visual and Folk Arts

Nigeria's painters and sculptors use modern techniques while drawing from indigenous themes. Among Nigeria's many folk arts are soapstone and wooden statuettes. Wooden masks are used in traditional religious ceremonies. Artisanal weaving is also a traditional craft.

Storytelling and Literature

Nigeria has a rich oral tradition. Storytelling serves as both a form of entertainment and a means of transmitting cultural knowledge and values. A number of Nigerian writers have received international recognition. Three of the most prominent are Chinua Achebe, Flora Nwapa, and Wole Soyinka. Achebe is best known for his 1958 novel *Things Fall Apart*. Nwapa became the first African woman to publish

a novel in English in 1966. In 1986, Soyinka became the first African to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Film

Nigeria hosts Africa's most prolific film industry, called Nollywood, which rivals the U.S. film industry in terms of number of films produced annually. Nigerian films are popular throughout the continent, again rivaling U.S. American films in popularity in some areas. Many are informally made with relatively small budgets. Because movie theaters are rare, Nollywood films are generally released only on DVD.

Holidays

National holidays include New Year's Day (1 January), Workers' Day (1 May), Democracy Day (29 May), and Independence Day (1 October). Additional national holidays that are celebrated by much of the country include the Muslim holidays *Eid al-Fitr*, *Eid al-Kabir* (also called Sallah Day and *Eid al-Adha*), and *al-Mawlid al-Nabawi* and the Christian holidays Good Friday, Easter Monday, Christmas (25 December), and Boxing Day (26 December).

Muslim Holidays

Muslim holidays are determined according to the lunar calendar, which is shorter than the Western (Gregorian) year by about 11 days. Since dates are set according to the moon's phases, the Gregorian dates for holidays differ from year to year. These holidays include *al-Mawlid al-Nabawi* (the prophet Muhammad's birthday), *Eid al-Fitr* (a three-day feast at the end of the month of *Ramadan*), and *Eid al-Kabir* (the Feast of the Sacrifice). During *Ramadan*, those who are able fast from sunup to sundown. Families eat together in the evenings and visit friends. At *Eid al-Kabir*, families slaughter a sheep as a symbol of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. The holiday is celebrated by feasting, exchanging gifts, offering gifts to the poor, and attending religious services.

Christian Holidays

Christmas and Easter are the most important Christian holidays. Christians may invite non-Christian friends to share the main holiday meals. Churches hold special services, and those who can afford it give gifts to the poor. Christmas is especially important, and preparations begin at least a month in advance. Friends and family exchange gifts. Boxing Day (26 December) is a day for visiting and comes from a British tradition of giving small boxed gifts to service workers the day after Christmas.

Other Holidays

The most important patriotic holiday is Independence Day, which celebrates Nigeria's 1960 declaration of independence from Britain. On this day, members of the military and schoolchildren march in patriotic parades. A growing number of people celebrate Valentine's Day, as a result of Western influences. Couples may exchange gifts and go on dates to celebrate. People may also visit the sick or poor on this day.

Festivals

A variety of festivals are celebrated by different ethnic groups and in different areas of the country. The Argungu Fishing Festival is celebrated in the state of Kebbi. The festival lasts four days and culminates in a one-hour fishing tournament in which thousands of men compete to catch the largest fish.

The 12-day Osun-Osogbo Festival is held each year in a sacred area of virgin forest and honors traditional gods.

In some areas, New Yam festivals celebrate the yam harvest. People give thanks to traditional deities for a successful growing season, and within these areas, no yams may be eaten or sold until after the festival is held. Celebrations include singing, dancing, preparing special foods, and honoring successful farmers.

SOCIETY

Government

Structure

The president is head of state and head of government and is elected by popular vote for a four-year term, with a two-term limit. The legislative branch is called the National Assembly and consists of a 109-seat Senate (three seats for each state and one for the capital) and a 360-seat House of Representatives. Members of both chambers are elected by popular vote to four-year terms. The Supreme Court has one chief justice and fifteen other justices. The president appoints judges from recommendations by the National Judicial Council, and judges serve until they are 70. Nigeria is composed of thirty-six states and one Federal Capital Territory, each with elected governors and legislatures. Each state drafts its own legislation and exercises a significant amount of autonomy from the central government. At the local level, elected council chairmen represent the state and federal governments.

Political Landscape

In 2015, the relatively new All Progressives Congress (APC) won the presidency and the majority of legislative seats, marking the first time in the country's history that parties peacefully transferred power. Prior to 2015, the socially conservative People's Democratic Party (PDP) had been the dominant political party since the 1999 return to civilian rule, though many argue this continuous power was maintained unfairly. Many parties in Nigeria are regionally based, though the PDP is reputed to represent the interests of the elite. Most of the elites in Nigeria get their wealth from oil production, much of which happens in the Niger Delta region. Unequal distribution of oil revenues is a major source of conflict in Nigeria, and much of the conflict in the Delta region itself turns violent.

As part of the constitution adopted in 1999, the predominantly Muslim states have the option of establishing *shari'ah* (Islamic law) courts to handle certain cases. The states have interpreted that to mean *shari'ah* can be the governing force in most local matters, a policy opposed by Christians and others. The 2011 election of Goodluck Jonathan, a southern Christian, deepened the political division between the predominately Muslim north and the Christian south. Conflicts between Christian and Muslim groups are often violent. In northern Nigeria, hundreds were killed in rioting that broke out after Jonathan's election, and tens of thousands of deaths from bombings and other attacks, which often target Christian churches, have since been attributed to the Islamist group *Boko Haram*, whose name loosely

translates to "Western education is sinful."

Government and the People

Corruption is a pervasive problem in Nigeria's government. Many freedoms are officially preserved by the constitution, though often not respected in practice. Many people face religious and political discrimination and persecution, both from government and non-government groups, including political parties. Demonstrations in the Niger Delta region especially are suppressed quickly. According to Amnesty International, torture is a routine part of police work. In 2014, Nigeria passed a ban on same-sex relationships that also limits freedoms of assembly and expression by outlawing meetings and organizations related to homosexuality.

Recently, there has been progress toward more transparent elections and a more diverse selection of candidates for office. Nevertheless, voter rigging and voter intimidation commonly disrupt elections, and only about one-third of eligible voters participated in the 2019 elections. The voting age is 18.

Economy

Nigeria has one of the largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa and is one of the world's largest oil producers. As such, the country has great potential for high productivity, diversity, and vitality. Unfortunately, it has been battered by political turmoil, fluctuations in world oil prices, corruption, and poor central planning, and only a minority of the population actually benefits from oil revenue. Recent reforms by the government to diversify the economy and reduce debt have created strong economic growth, but wealth distribution remains highly unequal, with 62 percent of the population living in extreme poverty.

Many Nigerians have no income or do not earn enough to meet their needs. Agriculture employs about 70 percent of the labor force. Nigeria is a major producer of peanuts. Other key crops include cocoa, cotton, palm oil, corn, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava, and yams. Rubber and cocoa are exported, but petroleum accounts for 95 percent of all export earnings. In addition to oil-related and agriculture-processing industries, Nigeria has textile, cement, steel, chemical, and other industries. The currency is the *naira* (NGN).

Transportation and Communications

Nigerian cities are linked by roads, railroads, and air routes. People travel by bus in and between cities. Motorcycles are a popular means of transportation in Nigeria. Also common are crowded minibuses, sometimes called *danfo*, that travel on a set route without a schedule. A small fraction of all roads in the country are paved.

There are several radio and television stations, both government and private owned. While the press is formally free, media outlets face opposition from both government and non-government groups. The majority of Nigerians own cellular phones, which far outnumber landlines in the country. While cellular phones are found throughout the country, internet access does not yet reach most rural areas. Rural Nigerians rely primarily on radio for information.

Education

CultureGrams™

Structure

Primary school begins at age six and lasts six years. In many northern states, before entering primary school, Muslim children attend *Qur'anic* schools, where they study Islam in addition to secular subjects. Although primary school is technically compulsory, only about 64 percent of children are enrolled. Secondary school lasts six years and is divided into two levels: junior secondary school (which is compulsory) and senior secondary school (which is optional), each lasting three years. Enrollment in secondary school is lower than in primary school. The majority of students attend public schools, but private schools are growing in popularity, particularly at the university level.

Access

Although public primary school and junior secondary school are free, students must provide their own textbooks, supplies, and uniforms. They may also be required to pay fees to cover the costs associated with maintaining the school building. After junior secondary school, students must pay tuition in order to continue their studies. For many families, the costs associated with their children's education are difficult to cover. Families often make great sacrifices in order to send their children to school. Some children themselves work in the afternoons and evenings to help pay their school fees, often selling items on the street with their parents.

A majority of Nigerians are literate, but the rate is not equally distributed. The literacy rate is higher in the south than in the north, and lower among women (particularly Muslim women) than men.

School Life

School instruction is in English, which few children speak before entering school. In the early years of education, much time is devoted to learning a new language, often at the cost of mastering other skills. In response, some primary schools now use the area's dominant native tongue, allowing students to attain basic skills first and learn English later. Primary education covers general subjects. In secondary school, students choose a number of areas to study. Schools emphasize applied science and technology, with a goal to introduce more Nigerians into the skilled workforce.

In order to advance to each year of schooling, students must pass both written and oral exams. Students who do not pass repeat the previous year of schooling and then take the exam again. Sharing answers is widespread and generally accepted as a normal part of students' efforts to finish their education. Government efforts are underway to discourage this attitude and are meeting with some success. Teaching styles are often authoritative and focus on memorization, with little opportunity for discussion and analysis. Class sizes are generally large. Few schools use technology in the classroom. In states with *shari'ah* (Islamic law), boys and girls attend separate schools.

Higher Education

In order to be accepted to a university, a student must attain at least a *four credit* (a score on the final senior secondary school examination, indicating that the student passed exams in four subjects). Students must also take a matriculation exam to enter university. Most states have public universities. A growing number of private and religious universities are

Nigeria

also available. It is not uncommon for students to attend a university in a different part of the country than where they were raised. Many Nigerians attend universities abroad, in part because there is a shortage of space in Nigerian universities to accommodate all those who wish to attend. Those who do not attend university may enter the workforce, start their own small business, attend vocational training, or begin an informal apprenticeship in trades like tailoring, carpentry, auto mechanics, radio repair, or hairdressing.

Health

Much of the population lacks access to health care, and public hospitals are understaffed and poorly supplied. There are four physicians for every ten thousand people in Nigeria. The best care is available at medical colleges. Private clinics are too expensive for most people. Facilities and care are inadequate in rural areas. The majority of births are not attended by skilled health personnel, and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Child malnutrition is a serious problem. Tropical diseases and AIDS rank among the nation's major health challenges. In 2014, Nigeria was able to limit the number of deaths caused by Ebola within its borders to eight before being declared free of the virus. Nigeria is one of the few countries in the world where polio is still a problem.

AT A GLANCE

Contact Information

Embassy of Nigeria, 3519 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008; phone (202) 986-8400; web site www.nigeriaembassyusa.org.

Country and Development Data

Capital	Abuja
Population	203,452,505 (rank=7)
Area (sq. mi.)	356,668 (rank=31)
Area (sq. km.)	923,768
Human Development Index	156 of 188 countries
Gender Inequality Index	NA
GDP (PPP) per capita	\$5,900
Adult Literacy	69% (male); 59% (female)
Infant Mortality	71 per 1,000 births
Life Expectancy	53 (male); 55 (female)
Currency	Naira

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United States Africa Command 2018 Posture Statement

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Smith, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to update you on the efforts of U.S. Africa Command to protect and promote U.S. vital interests in Africa. At the outset, I want to remember the soldiers in Niger and Navy SEAL in Somalia we lost during operations in the past year. These brave men epitomize the U.S. Africa Command standard to which we all strive in the service of our country. I offer my sincere condolences to the families for their losses. I have reviewed the contents and signed the results of the Niger investigation, which are currently with the Chairman and the Secretary of Defense. Upon completion of the briefings to the families, our intent is to provide a full and comprehensive briefing to this committee as soon as practical. I also want to recognize all the families who stand with us and support the U.S. Africa Command mission across the continent. On any given day, up to 7,200 U.S. uniformed personnel, Department of Defense civilians, and contractors are in Africa representing all services, career fields, and specialties, protecting our national security and working tirelessly to tackle the many challenges on the African continent. Since I last spoke with this committee, the U.S. Africa Command team has made significant progress with our U.S.-Africa strategy and with building the defense capacity of our African partners. I am truly honored to lead this team and its efforts in a very dynamic strategic environment.

In 2008, U.S. Africa Command was established as the first fully integrated interagency combatant command; its purpose was to foster U.S. long-term, security engagement in Africa. As we commemorate our Ten Year Anniversary, U.S. Africa Command continues to enhance the security and stability of Africa and its people. While our area of responsibility covers 53

countries with complex and varied issues, our mission is clear: *U.S. Africa Command, with partners, strengthens security forces, counters transnational threats, and conducts crisis response in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity.*

African nations—their people, their increasing appetite for democratic principles, their growing economic impact and potential in global markets—remain an enduring interest for the United States. U.S. Africa Command supports our African partners in building the capability and the capacity to develop local solutions to radicalization, destabilization, and persistent conflict. By making targeted investments and maintaining strong partnerships, we can set the basic security conditions needed for good governance and development to take root. Africa, our allies, the U.S., and the world stand to benefit from a secure, stable, and prosperous Africa.

To achieve this end state, the United States must remain engaged in Africa. In the long term, U.S. interests in Africa are best served by stable nations with effective, accountable governments, well-trained and disciplined militaries, and growing economies. None of Africa's challenges can be resolved through the use of military force as the primary agent of change. Therefore, our first strategic theme is that U.S. Africa Command activities directly support U.S. diplomatic and development efforts in Africa. Working with our interagency partners—primarily the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)—is a core tenet of our strategic approach in Africa. In addition, U.S. Africa Command works alongside the African Union, the European Union, regional African economic and security communities, and the United Nations. Together, to provide alternatives to those who might otherwise be attracted to extreme ideologies, we work to develop government accountability, increase education opportunities, and develop strong economies. Further, to professionalize

security forces, U.S. Africa Command provides human rights training to make forces more accountable to the people and lessen the abuses and drivers of radicalization among the civilian populations. Only by partnering with interested stakeholders can long-term U.S. strategic goals be achieved.

U.S. Africa Command's second strategic theme is our focus on the *By, With, and Through* framework. This is a strategic approach that emphasizes U.S. military capabilities employed in a supporting role, not as principal participants in armed conflict. Security operations are executed almost exclusively by the partnered security forces. U.S. Africa Command works with partnered security forces based on their operational needs. The vital objectives of the U.S. and the partnered nation are achieved through a cooperative relationship in which U.S. Africa Command plays a supporting role. African leaders tell us how important it is to develop "African solutions to African problems." The framework of *By, With, and Through* recognizes the importance of partner ownership, which in turn, fosters enduring relationships.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

African agriculture, financial services, manufacturing, and construction are promising sectors attracting international trade and investment. The U.S., therefore, is not the only prospective partner in Africa. We seek constructive, results-oriented relationships with other foreign interests who wish to develop Africa's infrastructure and tackle humanitarian and security issues. We must, however, be aware of interests that run counter to our own, as a larger number of external actors take a great interest in Africa. Though some of their actions contribute to Africa's infrastructure and defense, some of these actors are impeding the continent's long-term stability, economic growth and financial independence. Moreover, external actors may diminish U.S. influence by undermining our development and diplomatic efforts in Africa, and

we share this message with our African partners during all levels of engagement. Nonetheless, as the strategic environment becomes more crowded and competitive, our engagement with external actors, like China and Russia, will continue with an open and clear discussion of intersecting interests and differences.

Extremes in poverty, limited infrastructure, predatory governance, inadequate health care, and in many cases, violent ideology, exist throughout Africa juxtaposed with enormous economic potential and strategic opportunity. This volatile environment creates instability and uncertainty and allows violent extremist organizations (VEOs) to grow and recruit from disenfranchised populations. Keeping military pressure on this VEO network is our third strategic theme. This cycle of disenfranchisement and recruitment feeds extremist movements that aspire to spread their violent ideology. For instance, a youth population with significant unemployment and who are being harassed by predatory and rights-abusing governments and security forces create the perfect hotbed in which to garner ideological support and recruit fighters who will target our partners, allies, and U.S. interests. VEOs also utilize existing illicit networks to move drugs, weapons and persons across the continent. They foment fear and distrust which undermine governments, and when combined with the despair caused by lack of hope for the future, provide for VEO expansion. These VEOs are a significant threat to our partners, allies, and U.S. interests on the continent.

Conflict, instability, and lack of economic opportunity in multiple regions across the continent lead to large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and migrants. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Africa has approximately 18.5 million people categorized as refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and stateless persons as of January 2017. The continent hosts 30% of the world's displaced people, more than any other

continent. In 2016, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimated there are more than 1.6 million new asylum requests worldwide, and of these, almost 1.2 million were registered in European countries. In Africa, many countries do not have the infrastructure necessary to absorb large influxes of refugees and displaced persons. These large numbers may destabilize already tenuous social, economic, and political institutions and further stress poor populations.

In Africa, weak and ineffective governance is the leading cause of state fragility. According to the 2017 Fund for Peace “Fragile State Index,” 15 of the 25 most fragile countries in the world are in Africa. While governance is not the primary mission of U.S. Africa Command, we recognize building legitimate defense institutions is critical for African governments that prioritize the security of their citizens over that of the state. Therefore, we work in concert with the Department of State, and other partners, to develop human rights-respecting security forces and inspire them to pursue military professionalism in their own institutions. For example, this past November, we hosted an African Senior Enlisted Leader conference to discuss the importance and value of enlisted leadership in the military ranks with noncommissioned officers (NCOs) from nineteen of our African partners. Empowering these NCOs is crucial to strengthening partner militaries, as enlisted force leaders are closest to the soldiers in the field and can relate to them in ways difficult for officers to match. For example, enlisted force leaders work to get soldiers paid on time, remove and reduce corruption, and continue to act as positive role models within their community.

U.S. Africa Command conducts Military Information Support Operations (MISO) to advise and assist partners in countries such as Kenya, Niger, and Nigeria to enable their counter-VEO

messaging and enhance their security operations. MISO empowers the government's ability to increase its outreach to the population and counter adversarial messaging.

COMMAND APPROACH

THEATER STRATEGY

Transnational VEOs are not only the most direct threat to U.S. interests in Africa, but also a threat to stability across the continent. Just as the threat on the ground evolves, so too does our Strategy. U.S. Africa Command utilizes the National Security, Defense, and Military Strategies, Guidance for the Employment of the Force, and other U.S. policy documents to guide our current Strategy. The 2017 National Security Strategy (NSS) states that the United States seeks to partner with African states that exercise sovereignty over their whole territory, are integrated into the world economy, able to provide for their citizens' needs, and capable of managing threats to peace and security. To that end, U.S. Africa Command will continue to search out willing and capable partners, strengthen existing partnerships, and form new relationships that promote these goals. The 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS) reinforces U.S. Africa Command's approach of "working by, with, and through" local partners to degrade VEOs, interdict transnational extremist and criminal activity, and increase the institutional capacity of partners to do so with limited foreign assistance. Increasing partner capacity cannot be limited to training and equipping front-line forces. In concert with interagency and international partners, we must also contribute to building the institutions that fortify recruiting, training, sustaining, and fielding of these forces. Such institutions create the stable security environment to allow democracy and development to blossom, which diminish the factors that allow violent extremism and criminality to grow. Put simply, a sustainable solution to instability in Africa involves supporting national institutions and regional organizations willing and able to address their own security challenges.

In order to create the time and space necessary for this long-term effort, we maintain pressure on transnational VEOs. Our primary effort in this aspect is to execute programs with more capable partners. Working directly with these partners, we target VEOs who pose an imminent threat to partner, allied, and U.S. interests.

U. S. Africa Command focuses on cost-effective solutions that leverage interagency and international support as we continue our decisive effort of building the capacity of and strengthening relationships with African partners, primarily executed through security cooperation activities. To support these efforts, our FY 2019 Budget Request includes appropriate resources—notably, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) assets.

THEATER POSTURE

To set the African theater, U. S. Africa Command’s posture plan is designed to secure strategic access to key locations on a continent characterized by vast distances and limited infrastructure while adhering to Department of Defense guidance to maintain a tailorable, flexible, small, and expeditionary presence. Our posture network allows forward staging of forces to provide operational flexibility and timely response to crises involving U. S. personnel or interests without creating the optic that U. S. Africa Command is “militarizing” Africa.

In Djibouti, Camp Lemonnier is an enduring U.S. military installation that serves as a vital hub for Security Force Assistance, operations, and logistics for five combatant commands: U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and U.S. Transportation Command. Camp Lemonnier provides, operates, and sustains superior service in support of combat readiness and security of ships, aircraft, detachments, and personnel for regional and combatant command requirements; and enables operations in the Horn of Africa while fostering positive U.S.-African relations.

Over the course of the last two years, U.S. Africa Command has endeavored to improve our distribution network. In January 2018, we initiated processes and procedures to establish the West Africa Logistics Network. This network will position right-sized aircraft on the continent to facilitate distribution from a primary logistics hub to support locations throughout West and Central Africa. That will vastly improve support to approximately 1,800 personnel supporting 11 named operations across a 13-nation region, roughly the size of the Continental United States.

COMBATANT COMMAND CAMPAIGN PLAN

To contribute to “a secure, stable, and prosperous Africa,” we focus on building partner capacity, protecting U.S. personnel and facilities, and maintaining U.S. access. This approach complements the efforts of our allies, such as France and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Africa Command currently operates along five Lines of Effort (LOEs), which focus resources and operations throughout the continent: 1) Develop Security and Stability in East Africa; 2) Degrade VEOs in Sahel and Maghreb Regions / Contain Instability in Libya; 3) Contain and Degrade Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa; 4) Interdict Illicit Activity in Gulf of Guinea and Central Africa; and 5) Build Peace Keeping / Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) capacity of African Partners.

Each LOE links multiple tasks and objectives to achieve a desired end state. While each geographical region presents different challenges, the overall message that “a secure, stable, and prosperous Africa is an enduring American interest” remains our focus. The LOEs help translate our strategy into an operational approach while allowing flexibility to address each region’s specific needs. This flexibility is key as we review and adjust our campaign plan. Over the next

few months, we will work with partners, allies, and the interagency to review and then release an updated Combatant Command Campaign Plan in 2018, covering fiscal years 2019-23.

Our strategy features a whole-of-government approach utilizing the specific skill sets of the Department of State, USAID, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and other interagency partners to synchronize and complement our approach. Many partners embed a liaison cell within U.S. Africa Command to support our strategy, a method we endorse and expand as needed. Additionally, U.S. Africa Command understands legislation generally consistent with a proposal outlined in the President's 2019 Budget and the National Security Strategy has been introduced to create a new development finance institution. We look forward to working with this new agency as well.

EAST AFRICA

For East Africa, the desired end state is one in which VEOs are not able to destabilize Somalia or its neighbors or threaten the U.S. homeland, U.S. persons, or our international partners and allies. Accordingly, the desired end state includes transitioning security responsibility from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Somalia's Federal Member States (FMS) so the central and regional governments ultimately secure their own territory, neutralize al-Shabaab, and interdict illicit flows of arms, drugs, money, natural resources, and persons.

In Somalia, the 2017 election of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, known as President "Farmajo," proved to be a strategically significant change in the region. Historically, Somalia has been plagued with drought, extreme food insecurity, and decades of political, economic, and military unrest. President Farmajo inherited clan-based conflicts, al-Shabaab's ongoing violent extremism, and the emergence of ISIS-Somalia.

However, in the short time since taking office, President Farmajo has re-aligned the Somali National Army security sectors to coincide with the borders of the Somali Federal Member States. He also utilized 2017 as a year of planning while gathering local, regional, and international support. At both the May 2017 London Conference and the December 2017 Mogadishu Conference, President Farmajo reiterated his administration's commitment to implementing Somali national security architecture in 2018 and refocused the AMISOM transition into a conditions-based turnover rather than a time- or date-based transition. International partners, including the U.S., are committed to Somali progress leading to well-trained Somali security forces.

President Farmajo fully supports U.S.-led train and equip missions, as well as U.S. kinetic efforts in support of the FGS. President Farmajo recognizes that Somalia's security cannot be manufactured by international partners but must come from Somali citizens in towns and villages across the country. President Farmajo supports a federal form of government, with power and security responsibilities shared among federal member states and local forces; he also supports military accountability to the civilian population. President Farmajo has demonstrated a willingness to integrate federal, regional, and local interests into his administration and encourages defections from al-Shabaab. Also assisting in Somalia is a coalition of international partners, such as the European Union, the African Union, the United Nations, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Even with President Farmajo's forward-looking Somalia strategy, al-Shabaab remains a threat to the region, as demonstrated by the devastating October 2017 vehicle-borne IED attacks in Mogadishu that killed over 500 people. While some high-profile defections have occurred,

only a small number of fighters have actually defected. In addition, Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-Somalia remains isolated in northern Somalia with small, limited capabilities. By the end of 2017, sustained conflict and prolonged food insecurity drove more than two million people to flee their homes in Somalia. Though there are some improvements in 2018, unfortunately, forecasted drought conditions will likely lead to continued poor harvests and reduced food security in Somalia, sustaining and contributing to population displacement. As a component of our whole-of-government efforts, and building on longstanding and large humanitarian investments, in 2017, USAID signed an important development assistance agreement with Somalia, supporting that country's efforts to achieve stability through good governance, economic recovery, education and health. USAID has invested \$400 million in development assistance in Somalia since 2011. Delivered over a five-year period, the funds will support democracy, stabilization and governance, education, and economic growth activities to achieve economic recovery and resilience for Somalia.

With the full support of the Federal Government of Somalia, U.S. Africa Command maintains pressure on the al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia networks and seeks to accelerate the delivery of training and equipment to the Somali Federal Member States. Our joint Department of Defense-Department of State Security Force Assistance efforts in Somalia have built the 1st Danab Advanced Infantry Battalion, a combat-tested unit at the leading edge in southern Somalia. Furthermore, with the Department of State and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO), we are working to improve the security posture in Mogadishu and mitigate the destabilizing effects of vehicle-borne IED attacks in the city.

Our relationship with Djibouti is strong, though we are carefully monitoring Chinese encroachment and emergent military presence. In November, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti hosted a commemorative event celebrating the Africa First Initiative and its contract awardees, which President Ismail Omar Guelleh attended as the honorary guest. This long-term initiative to acquire local goods and services for U.S. military members helps boost African businesses. Camp Lemonnier remains the only enduring U.S. military installation in Africa, and as such, a key component of the command's regional readiness. Furthermore, last August, the Chinese opened their first overseas naval base in Djibouti. U.S. Africa Command views security and access to Djibouti as a top priority. Consequently, we continue to monitor this development to ensure U.S. interests are not deterred.

In South Sudan, the political climate continues to be volatile. U.S. Africa Command maintains constant communication with U.S. Embassy Juba and stands ready to assist them should the situation on the ground necessitate our support. This response capability means the U.S. can maintain diplomatic and humanitarian presence inside of South Sudan as U.S. Embassy Juba works to seek an end to one of Africa's largest humanitarian disasters.

Ethiopia remains a longstanding partner and contributes over 4,000 uniformed personnel to AMISOM, further advancing regional peace and security efforts in East Africa.

Other countries in East Africa continue to develop reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities to build their capacity for counterterrorism operations. Kenya and Uganda have deployed tactical unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in their fight against al-Shabaab in southern Somalia. The Kenyans use theirs to identify ambushes ahead of their patrols, and the Ugandans use theirs as artillery spotters against al-Shabaab concentrations. Both countries have seen the value of such capabilities, and Kenya is now investing their own money in additional platforms.

Furthermore, as Kenya received guided strike capabilities, we are developing air-ground integration mentorship programs to optimize the impact of these tools. Both Kenya and Uganda receive helicopters, UAVs, and medium altitude reconnaissance platforms.

NORTH AFRICA

Turning to North Africa, our four primary objectives in Libya are: degrade terrorist groups who threaten U.S. interests and threaten to destabilize Libya and the region; avert civil war; support the political reconciliation process towards a unified central government; and assist to curb the flow of illegal migrants into Europe via Libya. Efforts by European allies and international organizations are underway to interdict the illicit flow of arms and drugs flowing into and through of North Africa due to porous borders and under-governed spaces.

In Libya, U.S. Africa Command continues to support the U.S. Libya External Office's diplomatic efforts to promote the UN-facilitated Libyan political reconciliation process. Our counterterrorism strategy has allowed time for the political reconciliation process to continue.

Following its late 2016 expulsion from in Surt, ISIS-Libya remains dispersed and disorganized and likely capable of little more than localized attacks. Meanwhile, al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in Libya maintains a low profile yet still aims to use illicit means to move fighters and weapons and focuses on building influence within Libya's various extremist groups. The disrupted state of VEOs, however, has not translated into a stable Libya. Libya remains politically and militarily divided, with loyalties shifting based on tribal interests and personalities involved in the struggle for power. Given this turmoil, the risk of a full-scale civil war remains real. We will continue to apply pressure on the ISIS-Libya network,

work with the Government of National Accord, and support the international community to consolidate a comprehensive approach to bringing stability and a political settlement to Libya.

In Tunisia, we work to develop Tunisian counterterrorism and border security capabilities. Through programs that build partner capacity, like the JIDO counter-IED awareness program, we have trained and equipped Tunisia's special operations forces. Recently, elements of the U.S.-trained Tunisian Special Forces airborne battalion successfully engaged a group of terrorists in the Kasserine Mountains, killing a senior ISIS attack planner. On border security, Tunisia is making use of U.S.-provided mobile ground surveillance radar systems and ISR aircraft to better monitor its border with Libya. Furthermore, the U.S.-funded border security project managed by DTRA is on track to provide fixed radar and camera coverage of the Tunisia-Libya border in November 2018. DTRA has begun a second radar to extend coverage to the southern portion of the Libya-Tunisia border. This second phase is funded by the German Government and managed by DTRA.

On 31 January 2017, Morocco was admitted to the African Union (AU), more than three decades after it withdrew from the precursor Organization of African Unity. This means all African nations are now members of the AU. As the country with the largest Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program within our Area of Responsibility, Morocco has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to operate and maintain advanced U.S. equipment and seeks to increase interoperability with U.S. and NATO Forces. Morocco's role as a net exporter of security makes it a key partner in the region.

Algeria is another highly capable partner in North Africa, who continues to implement an effective counterterrorism program against local extremist groups. Further, U.S. Africa

Command and the Algerian People's National Armed Forces hold regular dialogues to advance cooperation on shared security interests.

SAHEL REGION

The Sahel region of Africa is a critical battleground in the fight against violent extremism and jihadist terrorism. The African-led, French-assisted, U.S.-supported G5 Sahel organization (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) has established a joint force to combat violent extremism within the region. U.S. Africa Command is contributing two operational planners to the G5 Sahel Joint Force.

In Mali and adjacent countries, AQIM and its affiliates remain a threat to U.S. interests and the security of our African partners. Mali's government, rebel groups, and pro-government militias are struggling to implement the 2015 Algiers peace agreement. We remain committed to assisting the French-led operations to degrade VEOs and to build the defense capacity in Mali and its neighbors.

Niger is at the crossroads of regional instability: Boko Haram, ISIS-West Africa, ISIS-Greater Sahara, Jamaat Nursat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), and affiliated extremist groups in the region; spillover from the Mali conflict in the west; instability emanating from Libya to the north; and a large flow of would-be migrants to Europe who converge on Agadez en route to Libya. Moreover, Niger faces internal governance and development issues with rapid population growth, environmental degradation, lack of economic opportunity, and stressed infrastructure. While the Department of Defense has increased Title 10 support to Nigerien forces, the U.S. military does not have a direct combat mission in Niger. Instead, U.S. Africa Command has provided training and equipment to the Nigerien Armed Forces and through the Trans Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership since 2005, and advises and assists certain Nigerien combat units.

Additionally, at the request of the Government of Niger and the Nigerien Armed Forces, U.S. Africa Command is establishing an expeditionary, contingency support location in Agadez. This will be a Nigerien base from which we will fly ISR assets to better identify and monitor threats in the region. Furthermore, Niger will host Exercise Flintlock 2018, a multi-national event among African, allied, and U.S. forces to develop capacity and collaboration between security forces to protect civilian populations. The fight against terrorism is a long-term effort, and Niger has shown itself to be a dedicated partner.

In Burkina Faso, U.S. forces are supporting intra-theater mobility operations. Additional security assistance initiatives in Burkina Faso include training and equipping army companies dedicated to counterterrorism operations and logistics. On 2 March 2018, our partners sustained devastating attacks on the Burkinabe Army Headquarters and on the French Embassy, and we remain in steadfast support to their efforts.

In Chad, U.S. forces conduct Security Force Assistance focused on logistics, sustainment, and maintenance with the Chadian Special Anti-terrorism Group (SATG). Key programs include counter-Boko Haram equipment (e.g. armored trucks, fuel, and radios), ISR aircraft, and command and control enhancements. In addition, U.S. forces are building intelligence and counter-IED capabilities to augment Chad's counterterrorism efforts. We trained and equipped the National Army with sixty light armored vehicles and provided fuel allotments to support border surveillance as well as counter extremists operations in the Lake Chad Region. In 2017, the Chadian National Army used some of these vehicles to assist in operations to contain ISIS-West Africa in Nigeria, decreasing attacks into Niger and Chad.

WEST AFRICA

Unrest within West Africa is driven by local grievances, corruption and weak governance, human rights violations, and imported religious ideology. U.S. Africa Command's principal strategic objective in West Africa and the Lake Chad Region is to contain and degrade Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa. U.S. Africa Command works with the four Lake Chad Region countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria) to build their capacity to ensure Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa do not threaten partner, allied, or U.S interests.

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), composed of forces from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, coordinates operations and facilitates intelligence sharing. Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa continue to hold territory and conduct suicide IED attacks, and to varying degrees terrorize local communities, displacing people from their homes. The persistent violence limits the ability of international humanitarian aid organizations to deliver needed assistance. Basic health care, clean drinking water, adequate sanitation, and food supplies are in short supply to the millions of refugees and displaced persons in the area. U.S. Africa Command supports Department of State and USAID (the U.S. government leads) who work closely with the UN and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian development assistance, and stability to the region.

Nigeria's capabilities and capacity continue to grow, with intelligence sharing agreements and additional cooperation with U.S. forces. Nigeria has made arrangements to purchase 12 A-29 Super Tucano light attack airplanes with delivery of the first 8 expected in 2020. Furthermore, President Buhari has encouraged trust in U.S.-Nigerian interaction. However, challenges remain, as MNJTF partners sometimes fall short of respecting international norms of human rights when dealing with local populations. We are closely monitoring reports of the armed forces of Lake Chad Region countries using heavy-handed counter-insurgency techniques

and which have led to additional displacement of civilian populations and reports of forcible return of Nigerian refugees from neighboring countries in violation of international humanitarian principles and refugee-related conventions. We continually remind them techniques such as these not only increase regional fragility by undermining public trust and confidence in the state, but also produce the grievances that fuel support for the enemy. Partner nation fiscal challenges and competing security concerns add additional pressure in the region. Nigeria faces unrest in its southern Delta region, home to its oil fields and oil revenues, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, and threats by Biafran separatists. As Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa become localized to northeastern Nigeria, the remaining MNJTF partners have become reluctant to commit resources to what they view as “a Nigeria problem.”

U.S. Africa Command supports the efforts of the Lake Chad Region partners to counter Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa by providing advisors, intelligence, training, and equipment instead of engaging in direct military operations. In July 2017, U.S. Africa Command started training and equipping MNJTF-designated units to counter IEDs. Over a hundred MNJTF soldiers are now less vulnerable to IEDs employed by violent extremists. We intend to expand counter-IED training and equipping programs to other affected regions.

GULF OF GUINEA AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In the Gulf of Guinea, maritime security remains a strategic priority due to its role in global oil markets, trade routes, and the presence of approximately 75,000 American citizens residing in the area. Piracy and other illicit maritime activities threaten development efforts, weaken state security, and rob states of resources required for greater economic growth and more effective governance. Incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea trended lower in 2017, but continued to threaten maritime trade and offshore hydrocarbon installations.

In addition to the VEO threat throughout Africa, criminal and smuggling networks remain a persistent danger within the Gulf of Guinea and Central Africa. U.S. Africa Command supports our African partners who work with international and interagency partners to interdict and to disrupt illicit trafficking and smuggling networks that finance trans-national criminal organizations.

U.S. Africa Command remains engaged with coastal nations and international partners to increase African maritime capacity and willingness to interdict illicit activity in the Gulf of Guinea. We execute the African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP) and support the Yaoundé Code of Conduct, a strong regional framework for information sharing and operational coordination. In 2017, under the AMLEP, U.S. Coast Guard and Cabo Verde security personnel embarked a Senegal Navy ship for joint patrol operations in Senegal and Cabo Verde waters. This represented the first combined African partner maritime law enforcement patrol hosted from another African partner nation's vessel.

In Central Africa, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) used to terrorize isolated populations. Our surge efforts with the African Union Regional Task Force effectively diminished the LRA to a threat that can now be better addressed by local and state actors, in which the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations are investing. Now, regional efforts are focused on expanding security in this region by investing in civilian law enforcement agencies to provide more security and address illicit trafficking of minerals, natural resources, narcotics and weapons which fuel violence.

AFRICA-WIDE CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

U.S. Africa Command continues to build the capacity of African partners to respond to crises including infectious disease outbreaks. Most of our engagement with Southern Africa is in this regard. Despite its relative stability, Southern Africa faces economic, social, and environmental challenges that include poverty, crime, social inequality, corruption, and lack of water. U.S. Africa Command will continue to work closely with our Department of State and USAID partners, providing support and complementing their efforts when requested.

One of U.S. Africa Command's most valuable implementing partners is the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP). These state partnerships' enduring relationships build and improve peacekeeping capacity, disaster management competency, and overall partner readiness. For example, the SPP currently supports the Botswana Defense Force as they build various defense institutions such as an Office of the Inspector General and a Staff Judge Advocate program. Through U.S. Africa Command's Security Force Assistance, the SPP and other organizations are setting the stage for force development in Botswana. Currently, the SPP pairs 13 African nations with 11 U.S. states. Several more African countries have requested partnerships, and their requests are currently under consideration. We continue to see great value in the SPP program.

Other programs that build partner capacity include the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP), and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Initiative. GPOI, managed by the Department of State, works to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of international partners to execute UN and regional peacekeeping operations. Most GPOI partners are in Africa (23), as the program builds sustainable peacekeeping capacity within each country to aid in their participation in UN and regional peacekeeping missions. APRRP focuses on six African partners (Ethiopia, Ghana,

Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda) to allow for deeper investment in rapid response capability. APRRP allows for development of aviation, medical, engineering, and logistical capabilities; command, control, communications, and information systems; and the formation of police units to handle local law enforcement requirements. GPOI and APRRP professionalize partner militaries and security forces through training and equipping and institution building.

U.S. Africa Command remains committed to aligning capacity building efforts with WPS objectives. WPS integrates a gender perspective in our military activities through two main efforts: 1) staff training and awareness, and 2) integration in the Combatant Command Campaign Plan. For training and awareness, we host “Gender in Military Operations” seminars and provide informative briefings to both U.S. Africa Command and partner leadership during conferences. WPS concepts are integrated into military-to-military engagements; training on human rights, rule of law, and prevention of gender-based violence; and exercises.

U.S. Africa Command’s whole-of-government approach includes building partners’ capacity for responding to disease outbreaks. U.S. Africa Command Surgeon’s Office leads the Africa Malaria Task Force (AMTF) programs through leadership engagements, assessments, and training for 18 African militaries to implement the U.S. government’s President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) and to support countries’ malaria prevention programs. The command’s components lead the Africa Partner Outbreak Response Alliance (APORA) that promotes effective military-civilian partnerships in health and security communities to manage emerging epidemics. Based on the initiative’s successes, we are establishing professional development and training programs for emergency managers and responders in West Africa at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, Ghana.

IMPLEMENTING OUR APPROACH

U.S. Africa Command relies on partnerships not only with African nations but also with international, multinational, interagency, and specialized U.S. units to achieve U.S. strategic objectives. Fifteen of our international partners are embedded within the command staff in the Multi-National Coordination Center (MNCC). U.S. Africa Command leads and participates in multilateral planning groups for East Africa, North Africa, and the Sahel region, in addition to our component command-hosted senior leader staff talks with their respective component equivalents. In addition, the U.S. Army's Regionally Aligned Force (RAF) executes a significant share of the Security Force Assistance activities in Africa. Sustained access to the RAF is critical to mission success.

U.S. Africa Command coordinates and integrates its activities with the Department of State and USAID through the annual Africa Strategic Dialogue in the fall and the Africa Strategic Integration Conference in the winter. Working with the Department of State and other departments and agencies, the Security Governance Initiative (SGI) builds the capacity of civil and defense institutions in six countries, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Tunisia. Additionally, the Section 333 authority provided in the FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act assists U.S. Africa Command in building security force capacity and has been essential in enabling African partners in their fight against home grown extremism.

Relationships with U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command are essential to our mission success. We rely on allies such as France, Germany, Italy, and Spain to project U.S. forces out of Europe to support efforts in North Africa, the Sahel, and other location on the continent, and U.S. European Command helps orchestrate these efforts. We coordinate closely with U.S. Central Command for shared response forces, as well as shared equities in Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Gulf of Aden. In 2017, for example, our Exercise Cutlass Express,

sought to improve U.S. military interoperability with the armed forces of eastern African nations and European allies. The exercise was linked with U.S. Central Command's international maritime exercise to build capabilities in the region. Finally, our partnership with U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM)—through Special Operations Command – Africa (SOCAFRICA)—is a vital link in containing and degrading extremism on the continent.

To support the Department of State-led mission to protect U.S. personnel and facilities, U.S. Africa Command manages rapid-response forces that are flexible and specialized: the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response at Moron Air Base, Spain; the Crisis Response Force in Baumholder, Germany; and the East Africa Response Force in Djibouti. Also, when required, amphibious Marine Expeditionary Units offer another layer of reaction forces to protect U.S. personnel and facilities. Finally, U.S. Africa Command maintains Defense Cooperation Agreements with several African nations—which allow for the forward staging locations enable faster recovery or evacuation of personnel.

U.S. Africa Command is a supporting effort in the worldwide fight against violent extremism. With regard to resources, we have, historically, been viewed as an “economy of force” area of operations, particularly in comparison to other combatant commands. However, consistent with the National Defense Strategy, we continue to explore efficient and cost-effective ways to make the best use of the assets we are provided. This is best represented by U.S. Africa Command's limited ISR allocation. With personnel recovery and casualty evacuation, contracted search and rescue assets are an expensive but necessary substitute to our limited capacity. Moreover, most African partners neither have the organic assets nor the funding to assist with personnel recovery or casualty evacuation missions. While U.S. Africa Command

will continue to meet its mission with the assets provided, we will also continue to find ways to help protect personnel and enhance mission success.

CONCLUSION

In summary, ten years ago, at the inception of U.S. Africa Command, many were skeptical of a U.S. combatant command for Africa. However, over the past decade, U.S. Africa Command professionals have built strong and trusting relationships with many African nations, key partners, and organizations. Today, we continue with our partners to contain and degrade transnational threats, protect U.S. personnel and facilities, prevent and mitigate conflict, and build African partner defense capability in order to promote regional security, long-term stability, and prosperity. In line with the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy, U.S. Africa Command will continue to bolster existing bilateral and multilateral partnerships and develop new relationships to deter or constrain threats to U.S. interests. We will focus on working by, with, and through local partners to build the capability required to counter violent extremism, human trafficking, transnational criminal activity, and illegal arms trade. As a command, we will apply small, wise investments toward “African solutions to African problems,” promoting U.S. interests and protecting the U.S. homeland. I am honored to lead our service members, civilian employees, and families of U.S. Africa Command. They inspire all of us every day as “we go further together.”

About the Command

United States Africa Command, (U.S. AFRICOM) is one of six of the U.S. Defense Department's geographic combatant commands and is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for military relations with African nations, the African Union, and African regional security organizations.

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Leadership

Commander: General Thomas D. Waldhauser, U.S. Marine Corps (<http://www.africom.mil/about-the-command/leadership/commander>)

Command Senior Enlisted Leader: Chief Master Sergeant Ramon "CZ" Colon-Lopez, U.S. Air Force (/about-the-command/leadership/command-senior-enlisted-leader)

Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations: Lt. Gen. James C. Vechery, U.S. Air Force (<http://www.africom.mil/about-the-command/leadership/deputy-to-the-commander-for-military-operations>)

Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement: Ambassador Alexander M. Laskaris, U.S. Department of State (<https://www.africom.mil/about-the-command/leadership/deputy-to-the-commander-for-civil-military-engagement-dcme>)

Headquarters Chief of Staff: Major General Roger L. Cloutier, Jr., U.S. Army (<http://www.africom.mil/about-the-command/leadership/headquarters-chief-of-staff>)

Mission

U.S. Africa Command, with partners, disrupts and neutralizes transnational threats, protects U.S. personnel and facilities, prevents and mitigates conflict, and builds African partner defense capability and capacity in order to promote regional security, stability and prosperity.

Personnel

U.S. Africa Command has approximately 2,000 assigned personnel, including military, U.S. federal civilian employees, and U.S. contractor employees. About 1,500 work at the command's headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Others are assigned to AFRICOM units at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom. The command's programs in Africa are coordinated through Offices of Security Cooperation and Defense Attaché Offices in approximately 38 nations. The command also has liaison officers at key African posts, including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre in Ghana.

AFRICOM is part of a diverse interagency team that reflects the talents, expertise, and capabilities within the entire U.S. government. The command has four Senior Foreign Service (SFS) officers in key positions as well as more than 30 personnel from more than 10 U.S. government departments and agencies, including the Departments of State and Homeland Security, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The most senior is a career State Department official who serves as the deputy to the commander for civil-military engagement. Our interagency partners bring invaluable expertise to help the command ensure its plans and activities complement those of other U.S. government programs and fit within the context of U.S. foreign policy.

Location

U.S. Africa Command is located at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart-Moehringen, Germany.

Our Team

AFRICOM's team sets the conditions for success of our security cooperation programs and activities on the continent. They perform detailed planning, provide essential command and control, establish and sustain relationships with our partners, and provide timely assessments. They are:

U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) ([/about-the-command/our-team/u-s-army-africa](#)) - Operating from Vicenza, Italy, USARAF conducts sustained security engagement with African land forces to promote security, stability, and peace.

U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) ([/about-the-command/our-team/u-s-naval-forces-africa](#)) - Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVAF's primary mission is to improve the maritime security capability and capacity of African partners. Personnel are shared with U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

U.S. Air Forces Africa (AFAFRICA) ([/about-the-command/our-team/u-s-air-forces-africa](#)) - As the air component of USAFRICOM, AFAFRICA conducts sustained security engagement and operations to promote air safety, security, and development in Africa.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa (MARFORAF) (/about-the-command/our-team/u-s-marine-corps-forces-africa) - Located in Stuttgart, Germany, MARFORAF conducts operations, exercises, training, and security cooperation activities throughout the African continent. Its staff is shared U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe.

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) (/about-the-command/our-team/combined-joint-task-force-horn-of-africa) - In the Horn of Africa, CJTF-HOA is the U.S. Africa Command organization that conducts operations in the region to enhance partner nation capacity, promote regional security and stability, dissuade conflict, and protect U.S. and coalition interests. CJTF-HOA is critical to U.S. AFRICOM's efforts to build partner capacity to counter violent extremists and address other regional security partnerships. CJTF-HOA, with approximately 2,000 personnel assigned, is headquartered at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti.

U.S. Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA) (/about-the-command/our-team/u-s-special-operations-command-africa) - SOCAFRICA, co-located with U.S. Africa Command at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, aims to build operational capacity, strengthen regional security and capacity initiatives, implement effective communication strategies in support of strategic objectives, and eradicate violent extremist organizations.



U.S. Africa Command Exercises

Last updated February 2014 | Page 1 of 3

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ACCORD Series

MISSION: (AFRICAN LION, EASTERN ACCORD, WESTERN ACCORD, CENTRAL ACCORD, and SOUTHERN ACCORD): The ACCORD exercises are a progressive series of Command Post Exercises (CPX) and Field Training Exercises (FTX) conducted with Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to African Union (AU) or United Nations (UN) missions. The series is designed to exercise and assess a U.S. and regional African Standby Forces (ASF) TCC Combined/Joint Task Force (C/JTF) response to an AU/UN mandated peace operation resulting from a man-made crisis.

INTENT: U.S. and regional African partners contingency plans, crisis action planning SOP, and C/JTF are established in response to an AU/UN mandated peace Operation. The exercise will serve as a capstone event for the preceding years' security assistance and mil-mil activities aligned with both the Theater Security and Regional Cooperation Plans. The exercise constructs, objectives, and scenarios are designed to be a continuation of those executed in the previous years' exercise, i.e. CPX followed by FTX biennial rotation. Identified capabilities gaps are then addressed in subsequent annual country work plans and exercises.

END STATE: The ACCORD series will enhance the ability of African TCCs and U.S. forces to plan, deploy, employ, sustain and redeploy forces in support of an AU/UN mandated peace operation.

- **EASTERN ACCORD (EA):** U.S., Eastern African Partners, Euro-Atlantic partners, and ASF friends/partners/donors will conduct an exercise focused on contingency plans, crisis action planning SOP, and establishing a C/JTF in response to an AU/UN mandated peace operation. EA14 will be held in Jinja, Uganda.
- **AFRICAN LION (AL)/NORTHERN ACCORD (NA):** AL is a joint and combined regional exercise conducted with North African partner nations, focusing on partner nation interoperability and the conduct of HA, DR, PKO and PSO missions. This exercise is conducted annually in Morocco.
- **WESTERN ACCORD (WA):** WA is a progressive series of PKO focused exercises that will enhance the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) Standby Force (ESF), its member nations, U.S., and Allies Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) to plan, deploy, employ, sustain, redeploy forces in support of AU/UN mandated peace operations in a regional crisis. WA14 will be held in Senegal
- **CENTRAL ACCORD (CA):** CA is a progressive series of exercises that enhances the ability of the U.S. Euro-Atlantic Allies, Economic community of Central African States (ECCAS), and African Union (A.U.)/United Nations (U.N) Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) to plan, deploy, employ, sustain and redeploy forces in support of A.U./U.N.-mandated peace operations in a regional crisis. CA14 will be held in Cameroon.
- **SOUTHERN ACCORD (SA):** SA is a progressive series of exercises that enhances the ability of the U.S. and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) to plan, deploy, employ, sustain and redeploy forces in support of A.U./U.N.-mandated peace operations in a regional crisis. SA14 will be held in Malawi.

EXPRESS Series

MISSION: EXPRESS Series (CUTLASS EXPRESS (east), PHOENIX EXPRESS (north), SAHARAN EXPRESS (west), and OBANGAME EXPRESS (central): The EXPRESS exercises are a progressive series of maritime security

focused exercises in order to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for combined/joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO).

INTENT: Optimize joint, interagency, and multinational partner opportunities to identify and resolve operations issues while synchronizing and integrating the conduct of training and exercise events supporting the USAFRICOM Theater Campaign Plan (TCP), Subordinate Campaign Plans (SCP), Theater Security Cooperation Plans, and interagency and regional and country plans.

END STATE: African nation Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs) conduct joint combined MIO that enhances maritime security to counter piracy and illicit trafficking and enhance maritime security.

- **CUTLASS EXPRESS (CE):** A progressive series of maritime security-focused exercises with eastern African coastal nations, U.S., and international partners. The CE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to include counter piracy and counter illicit trafficking objectives.
- **OBANGAME EXPRESS (OE):** A progressive series of maritime security-focused exercises with Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) Gulf of Guinea coastal nations, U.S., other international partners. The OE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to include counter piracy and counter illicit trafficking objectives.
- **SAHARAN EXPRESS (SE) (biennial/odd years):** A progressive series of maritime security-focused exercises with west African partner nations, U.S., and Allies in the Sea Lines of Communication between Senegal Cape Verde, and Mauritania. The SE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to include counter piracy and counter illicit trafficking objectives.
- **PHOENIX EXPRESS (PE) (biennial/even years):** A progressive series of maritime security focused exercises with various North African and European partners. The PE-series is designed to exercise and assess standard procedures for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and information sharing for Combined/Joint Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) across North African littorals and the Central Mediterranean.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES (SOF) Series

MISSION: The Special Operations Forces (SOF) exercise and assess U.S. and African SOF capability and capacity to conduct Counterterrorism (CT) & Counter-Violent Extremist Organization (CVEO) within Africa. Additionally, the exercise series is used to develop U.S. and African SOF interoperability and ability to support joint special operations activities.

INTENT: Sustain and improve U.S. and African Partner SOF's capability and capacity to conduct CT and CVEO while improving interoperability with U.S. SOF. These exercises will optimize joint, combined, multinational, and intergovernmental partner opportunities to integrate the conduct of training and exercise events with the commander's theater campaign strategy, theater security cooperation plans, subordinate campaign plans, and applicable country work plans.

END STATE: Terrorists & Violent Extremist Organizations degraded. Capable, interoperable African Partner SOF able to conduct African led SOF exercises where U.S. is sponsor and part of training audience. African partners possess the will and capacity to combat transnational threats and contribute to stability in their respective states.

- **FLINTLOCK 2014:** Niger (Conducted with TSCTP Nations and Western Partners)
- **SILENT WARRIOR 2014:** Garmisch & Hohenfels (Symposium/TTX-Pan Africa participation)

AFRICA ENDEAVOR (AE)

MISION: AFRICA ENDEAVOR (AE), U.S. Africa Command's annual communications exercise, focuses on interoperability and information sharing among our African partners. The first Africa Endeavor was held in 2006 in South Africa, and this year will be hosted by USAFRICOM in Garmisch, Germany. Past exercises have taken place in Nigeria (2008), Gabon (2009), Ghana (2010), The Gambia (2011), Cameroon (2012), and the Republic of Zambia (2013). Beginning in 2014, the tactical aspects of communications interoperability previously conducted during Exercise Africa Endeavor will be integrated into USAFRICOM's ACCORD Series exercises, providing African, U.S.,

and partner nation military communicators the opportunity to exercise their capabilities as a fully integrated component of a multi-national force, improving the training opportunity for all exercise training audiences. Africa Endeavor 2014 and beyond will be executed as a 4 day Table Top Exercise (TTX) with senior military communicators from African, U.S., and other partner nations.

OBJECTIVES: AE's primary objective is to increase the command, control, and communications capacities (C4) of African nations by encouraging interoperable tactics, training, and procedures and creating documented standards that support interoperability. This allows our partner nations to provide critical C4 support to the African Union, African Standby Forces, and multi-national United Nations' missions involved in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping missions, etc.

BENEFITS: AE gives participating nations the opportunity to communicate with other African countries, creates important personal relationships between communicators from different countries, and provides a venue for evaluation of strategic communications capabilities and challenges. This enhances the ability of African nations to support multinational operations, respond to crises, and avoid conflict.

FACTS AND FIGURES: Africa Endeavor has trained more than 1,750 communications specialists and military planners. Participants in the 2013 exercise, held in Lusaka, Zambia, hailed from 46 nations and international organizations.

During the 2013 exercise, participating nations across Africa collaborated to develop and exercised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) contained in a Communications Planning Handbook, which serves as a foundation for the procedures employed by many African regional organizations and troop contributing nations with forces deployed to ongoing AU and UN mandated missions. Technical interoperability tests were used to build a Communications Equipment Interoperability Guide, distributed to all participating nations. These guides provide the technical specifications needed to develop communications standards within regions, across the continent and in support of African Union Peace and Security Operations.



LEADERSHIP

General Thomas D. Waldhauser, U.S. Marine Corps

Commander



United States Marine Corps General Thomas D. Waldhauser is the fourth Commander of the United States Africa Command. In this capacity, General Waldhauser is responsible for building defense capabilities, responding to crises, deterring and defeating transnational threats in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional

security, stability, and prosperity, all in concert with interagency and international partners.

A native of South St. Paul, Minnesota, General Waldhauser graduated from Bemidji State University and was commissioned in 1976. He has served as an infantry officer at all levels in the U.S. Marine Corps, including command of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. His General Officer commands include the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and Commander, Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

General Waldhauser's flag officer Joint assignments include Chief of Staff, U.S. Special Operations Command, Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff Director of Operations J3 (Acting), and Joint Staff Director for Joint Force Development J7.

General Waldhauser attended U.S. Army Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the National War College where he earned a Master's Degree in National Security Strategies.

What We Do

United States Africa Command, in concert with interagency and international partners, builds defense capabilities, responds to crisis, and deters and defeats transnational threats in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity.

AFRICOM Mission Statement

United States Africa Command, in concert with interagency and international partners, builds defense capabilities, responds to crisis, and deters and defeats transnational threats in order to advance U.S. national interests and promote regional security, stability, and prosperity.

Our Approach

U.S. Africa Command most effectively advances U.S. national security interests through focused, sustained engagement with partners in support of our shared security objectives. The command's operations (<http://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/operations>), exercises (<http://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/exercises>), and security cooperation assistance programs (<http://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/security-cooperation-programs>) support U.S. Government foreign policy and do so primarily through military-to-military activities and assistance programs. These activities build strong, enduring partnerships with African nations, regional and international organizations, such as ECOWAS and the African Union, and other states that are committed to improving security in Africa.

Our core mission of assisting African states and regional organizations to strengthen their defense capabilities better enables Africans to address their security threats and reduces threats to U.S. interests. We concentrate our efforts on contributing to the development of capable and professional militaries that respect human rights, adhere to the rule of law, and more effectively contribute to stability in Africa.

Our work is guided by the U.S. National Security Strategy (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf), the National Military Strategy (http://www.jcs.mil//content/files/2011-02/020811084800_2011_NMS_-_08_FEB_2011.pdf), and others such as the Presidential Policy Directive for Sub-Saharan Africa (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/africa_strategy_2.pdf) and the U.S. Defense Strategic Guidance (http://www.defense.gov/news/defense_strategic_guidance.pdf). As part of a comprehensive approach to complex security challenges in Africa, AFRICOM works closely with African, U.S. interagency, and international partners to develop capabilities necessary to ensure Africans are best able to address regional security challenges.

USAFRICOM, in coordination with national, international, and regional partners, conducts Military Information Support Operations (MISO) to support Department of Defense communication efforts specifically intended to improve regional stability and security cooperation and counter illicit activities within the USAFRICOM geographic area of responsibility.

Counter violent extremist organizations (C-VEO) MISO activities are conducted throughout the north, east, and Sahel regions of Africa and aim to delegitimize and decrease support for violent extremist groups. Other MISO activities are conducted in conjunction with or in support of USAFRICOM pan-African theater security cooperation activities.

Through 2023, USAFRICOM and its subordinate commands will continue to conduct MISO activities to improve regional stability and security cooperation primarily through, but not limited to, current and emergent communication technologies such as print media, radio, text messages, face-to-face, television, social media, and websites to decrease recruitment and other support for violent extremist organizations; promote alternative narratives to violence, hatred, and extremism; counter adverse propaganda; facilitate disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs; and reduce the flow of foreign fighters.

C-VEO MISO activities are primarily aimed at delegitimizing the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and their branches operating in Africa, al-Qaida and their adherents and affiliates operating in Africa such as Al-Shabaab, as well as, other U.S. designated foreign terrorist organizations including, but not limited to, Boko Haram,. Although these activities may be conducted throughout the area of responsibility, these efforts will be focused on audiences residing primarily in the Lake Chad Basin (Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Mali); Horn of Africa (Somalia and Kenya); in the Maghreb (Libya and Tunisia); and in/around the Gulf of Guinea countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome, Gabon, and Congo).

MISO activities will be tailored to counter violent extremist organizations or threats operating in a given country or region. These activities will be conducted in cooperation with partners as aggressions are observed. As required, MISO efforts will also support activities such as maritime operations, noncombatant evacuations, humanitarian assistance, and personnel recovery, aiding deployed forces operational efforts in response to instability.

Additionally, MISO activities support joint training events with our partners throughout the region to more effectively address our shared security concerns and promote the positive impacts of adherence to the rule of law and military professionalism.

USAFRICOM MISO activities are coordinated with U.S. government agencies and partner nations. In accordance with U.S. Code and Department of Defense policy, intentionally directing MISO at U.S. citizens is specifically prohibited and will not be employed on USAFRICOM information dissemination platforms intended for U.S. audiences.

Exercises

U.S. Africa Command sponsored exercises enhance AFRICOM, partner, and allied capability and interoperability, and encourage the development of partner security capabilities and the instilling of professional ethos among African military elements. U.S. military forces serve as examples of military professionalism and U.S. core national values during the command's joint exercises.

For example, Exercise FLINTLOCK (<http://www.africom.mil/Doc/9843>) is an annual exercise training small units of Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership nations in North and West Africa. Exercise AFRICA ENDEAVOR (<http://www.africom.mil/Doc/9834>) is a communications exercise focusing on interoperability and information sharing among African partners with the goal of developing command, control, and communication tactics, techniques, and procedures that can be used by the African Union in support of peacekeeping operations.

Exercise CUTLASS EXPRESS (http://www.c6f.navy.mil/artical_151.html) is an East African maritime exercise addressing counter-piracy, counter-narcotics and illegal fishing, focusing on information sharing and coordinated operations among international navies.

Complete list of exercises (<http://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/exercises>)

Security Cooperation Programs

AFRICOM's Theater Security Cooperation programs (TSCP) remain the cornerstone of our sustained security engagement with African partners, are focused on building operational and institutional capacity and developing human capital, and provide a framework within which the command engages with regional partners in cooperative military activities and development.

These activities complement and reinforce other U.S. government agency programs, such as the Department of State-led and funded Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program (<http://www.africom.mil/Doc/9836>). This initiative is designed to improve African militaries' capabilities by providing selected training and equipment necessary for multinational peace support operations. U.S. Africa Command supports the ACOTA program by providing military mentors, trainers, and advisors at the request of State Department. ACOTA has been a key enabler of successful Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) (<http://amisom-au.org/>) operations.

In the maritime arena, Africa Partnership Station (<http://www.c6f.navy.mil/apshome.html>) (APS) is U.S. Naval Forces Africa's (NAVAF) (<http://www.c6f.navy.mil/>) flagship maritime security cooperation program. The focus of APS is to build maritime safety and security by increasing maritime awareness, response capabilities and infrastructure. Through APS, U.S. Africa Command and NAVAF conduct engagement activities with international partners and governmental/non-governmental organizations to enhance African partner nations' self-sustaining capability to effectively maintain maritime security within their inland waterways, territorial waters, and exclusive economic zones. APS provides sustained engagement using mobile training

teams, interagency, and international trainers, working from U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and international partner nations' vessels. Last year, APS began the construct of "training African trainers" to enable African maritime forces to provide the same level of instruction without U.S. personnel.

Conditions for success of our security cooperation programs and activities on the continent are established through hundreds of engagements supporting a wide range of activities, such as familiarization of fundamental military skills (<http://www.africom.mil/Doc/9838>), education and professional development, humanitarian assistance such as HIV/AIDS prevention (<http://www.africom.mil/NewsByCategory/Document/9839/fact-sheet-partner-military-hiv-aids-program-pmhap>), counter-narcotics assistance, and foreign military financing.

During many of his public addresses, General Carter Ham, former Commander of U.S. Africa Command, clearly stated that military engagement combined with efforts of government agencies, African partners, and other nations can have a positive impact on overall security. "Increasingly, as a result of our contributions, African partner nations are addressing important security issues in Africa now more than ever. As part of a broader U.S. whole of government approach, AFRICOM's operations, exercises and engagements have resulted in strengthened African partner nation capabilities and improved cooperation among African nations, the African Union, and its regional economic organizations."

These capacity building activities complement Department of State programs and are planned with the U.S. embassy country teams and partner nations. We focus on the development of professional militaries which are disciplined, capable, and responsible to civilian authorities and committed to the well-being of their citizens and protecting human rights. Our efforts focus on increasing the capability and capacity of African partner nations to serve as trained, equipped agents of stability and security on the African continent.

In sum, the weight of AFRICOM's effort is focused on building partner capacity and develops and conducts its activities to enhance safety, security and stability in Africa. Our strategy entails an effective and efficient application of our allocated resources, and collaboration with other U.S. Government agencies, African partners, international organizations and others in addressing the most pressing security challenges in an important region of the world.

U.S. Africa Command forces serve as trainers and examples of military professionalism and U.S. core national values during the command's joint exercises. The exercises they conduct encourage the development of partner security capabilities and the instilling of professional ethos among African military elements.

COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE – HORN OF AFRICA

About

About the Command

Vision

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) is a dynamic operational headquarters, effectively countering violent extremist organizations in East Africa. CJTF-HOA leverages the flexibility of its strategic location as a critical power projection platform and works with partner nations, coalition forces, and interagency/intergovernmental organizations to achieve a unified effort. CJTF-HOA's operations prevent violent extremist organizations from threatening America, ensuring the protection of the homeland, American citizens, and American interests.

Mission

CJTF-HOA with Unified Action partners, develops and enhances influence, conducts military engagement and security force assistance in support of security cooperation, on order executes crisis response and contingency operations, and sets the CJOA, in order to promote regional stability and protect U.S. interests while maintaining operational access.

CRISIS RESPONSE



The protection of United States citizens, facilities, and interests, is an enduring priority for CJTF-HOA. As a result, we plan and prepare for a multitude of contingency operations through East Africa. Additionally, CJTF-HOA works with interagency and intergovernmental partners in order to be prepared to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE



CJTF-HOA provides focused military advice and conducts subject matter expert exchanges with our partner nations as part of efforts to degrade and neutralize violent extremist organizations like al-Shabaab. CJTF-HOA assists partner nation security forces in building their military capabilities.

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Burundi	Rwanda
Djibouti	Seychelles
Eritrea	Somalia
Kenya	Tanzania
Ethiopia	Uganda
South Sudan	Sudan

AREA OF INTEREST

Central African Republic	Egypt
Chad	Mauritius
Comoros	Madagascar
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mozambique
	Yemen

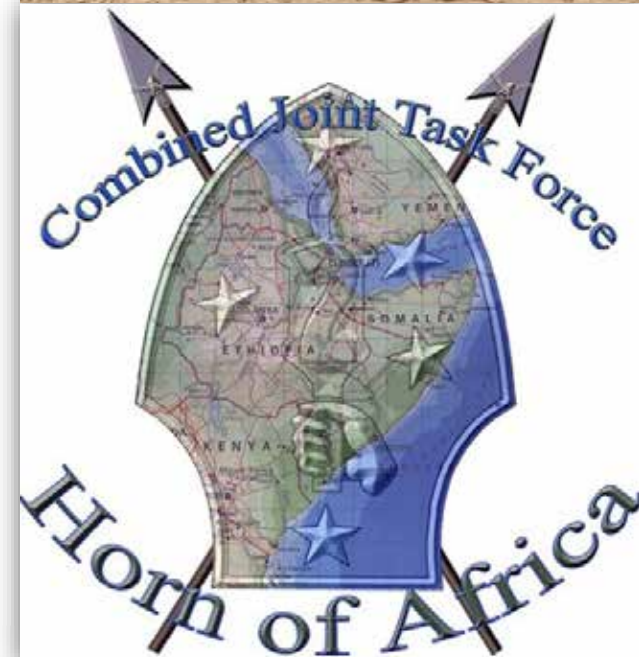
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs www.hoa.africom.mil

Phone: 253 21-359-523

E-mail: africom.lemonnier.cjtf-hoa.mbx.public-affairs@mail.mil



Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube @CJTFHOA



MISSION



The Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), in partnership with our joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational partners, conducts theater security cooperation activities and enables regional actors to neutralize violent extremist organizations. CJTF-HOA also enables access and freedom of movement within East Africa to protect and defend U.S. interests and support aligned regional efforts. On order, CJTF-HOA will execute crisis response within East Africa to protect and defend U.S. military, diplomatic and civilian personnel, facilities and interests.

CJTF-HOA's continues to improve security in the region by neutralizing violent extremist organizations like al-Shabaab and successfully transitioning security responsibilities to the partner nations by enhancing partner capabilities.

Every branch of the U.S. military is represented within CJTF-HOA, in addition to civilian employees and representatives from numerous Coalition and partner countries.

COORDINATED EFFORTS WITH PARTNERS

The United States of America and CJTF-HOA respect the sovereignty of our East African partners to ensure our actions and movements are in accordance with international norms and the laws of our hosts. CJTF-HOA service members are intent on being good teammates, accountable and respectful as we execute missions together.

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY/INTEREST & THE "TYRANNY OF DISTANCE"



BUILDING TRUST & PARTNERSHIPS



CJTF-HOA strives to develop and strengthen the joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational team in efforts to promote security and stability in East Africa. CJTF-HOA creates lasting and meaningful relationships with regional partners that are founded on trust and collaboration. Together, they address shared security threats and create an environment that enables continued economic growth and sustainable broad-based development.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Strategic Location

- CJTF-HOA is located on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, the only enduring U.S. installation on the African continent.
- The Strait of Bab el-Mandeb, where ~15% of all global shipping travels through, serves as a narrow chokepoint separating Eritrea and Djibouti on the west and Yemen on the east
- The CJTF-HOA area of responsibility sits at the seam between U.S. Africa Command & U.S. Central Command
- Large int'l presence in the region: China; European Union countries, including France, Germany, Great Britain, & Italy; Japan; Turkey; United Arab Emirates

East Africa's Evolving Security Infrastructures

- Over half of Africa's Security Force Assistance (SFA) dollars are received by East African nations
- Somalia receives the largest amount of SFA FY17/18 funding

Commanding General

Major General James D. Craig

Major General James D. Craig serves as Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa.

Major General Craig was commissioned a Second Lieutenant from the United States Military Academy, West Point in 1985. Following his initial assignment to the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington, he completed the Special Forces Qualification Course and was awarded the Green Beret.

Major General Craig has commanded Army and Special Operations Forces at every level, from Second Lieutenant to his current rank. Notable assignments include Commander of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Commander of Special Operations Detachment – Central, Commander of Special Operations Task Force – North (Iraq), Commander of Special Operations Command and Control Element –

Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Director of the Joint Staff, Florida National Guard. He has participated in numerous contingency and combat operations including Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan and Task Force FERVENT ARCHER in Bosnia, and commanded Special Operations units in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation OLYMPIC CHASE (Democratic Republic of the Congo), as well as commanded Task Force SPECIAL FORCES in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Most recently, he served as Deputy Commanding General, Special Operations Command Central.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Combat SCUBA Diver Supervisor Badge, Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

