



Nigeria Education Fact Sheet

United States Embassy in Nigeria

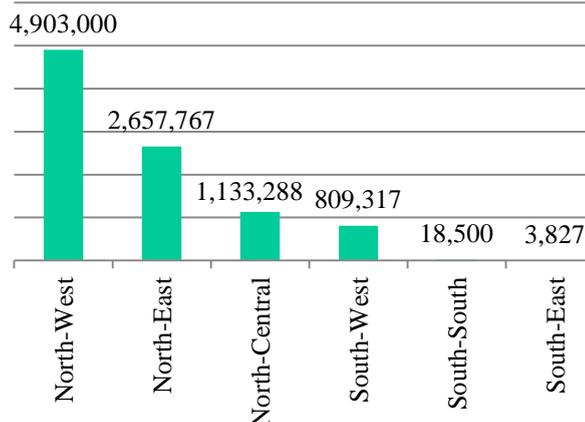
Education Highlights

- Nigeria is the most populous black nation with almost 168 million people, 30 million of which are students.
- Christian missionaries introduced the western education system in Nigeria in the mid-nineteenth century. This education system was more readily accepted in the south.
- Education is a shared responsibility of the Nigerian federal, state, and local governments.
- The formal education system in Nigeria is the 9-3-4 system.
- Nigeria's literacy rate is estimated at 61%.
- Nigeria has a large number of out-of-school children and young adults with limited literacy and numeracy skills who have little hope of ever joining the formal workforce.
- Education indicators are poor nationwide, and the greatest need for assistance is in the predominantly Muslim north.

Almajiri Education

- The almajirai (itinerant children under Qur'anic instruction) constitute the largest group of out-of-school children in Nigeria.
- Traditionally, boys are sent to Qur'anic teachers to receive an Islamic education, which includes vocational or apprenticeship training. Some are involved in street begging.
- The Ministry of Education estimated that there were 9.5 million almajiri children in the northern part of the country in 2010.
- The number of almajirai in urban areas is estimated to be rising.

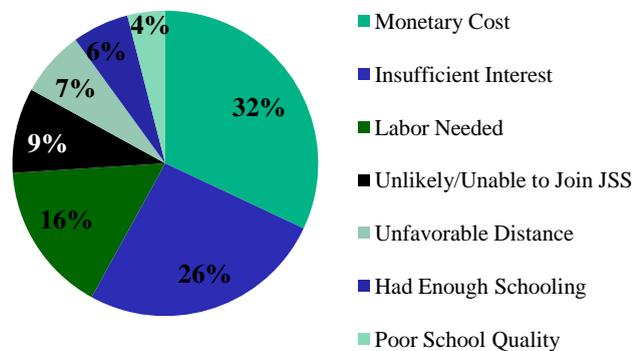
Almajiri School Enrollment 2010



Basic Education

- Basic education typically begins at the age of six.
- Basic education comprises six years of primary school and three years of junior secondary school (JSS). The first nine years of basic education is mandatory.
- Less than one-third of basic school children will proceed to senior secondary school.
- Achieving universal basic education is a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) that Nigeria aims to achieve by 2015.
- Non-school attendance is highest among states in the Northeast and Northwest zones. 72% of primary age children never attended school in Borno state. This compares with less than 3% in most southern zones.

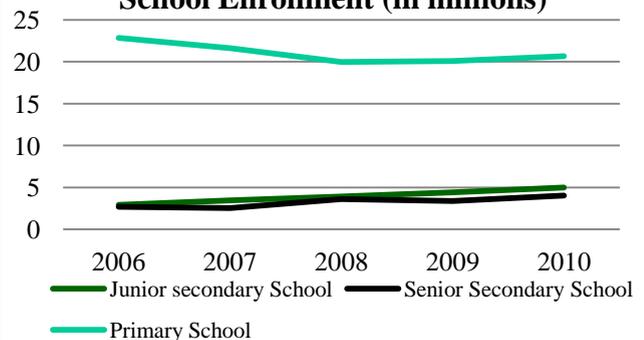
Factors Influencing Primary School Drop-Out



Secondary Education

- Students spend three years in senior secondary school (SSS).
- After SSS, students are required to take the Senior School Leaving Certificate (SSCE), which qualifies students to proceed to tertiary institutions.
- This a requirement for some work positions.
- 80% of students failed the SSCE because they had no credit pass in English, Mathematics, and three other subjects in 2010.

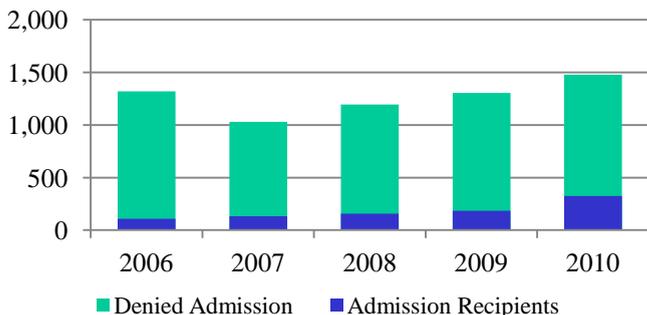
School Enrollment (in millions)



Tertiary Education

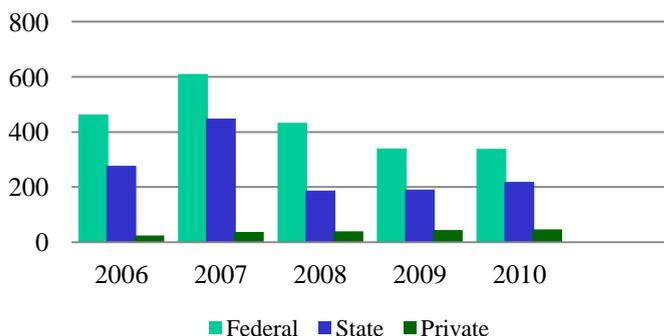
- There are 36 federal universities, 37 state universities, and 45 private universities accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC) in Nigeria.
- Polytechnic colleges were established to train technical, mid-level manpower.

Application and Admission into Nigerian Universities (in thousands)



- The average enrollment into Nigerian universities was 37.6% for women, compared to 62.4% for men, in the years 2008-2010.

University Enrollment (in thousands)



NYSC

- The National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) is a mandatory one-year of service by Nigerian graduates.
- The service year includes a three-week camp with paramilitary training followed by formal sector work for the rest of the year while engaging in community developments.

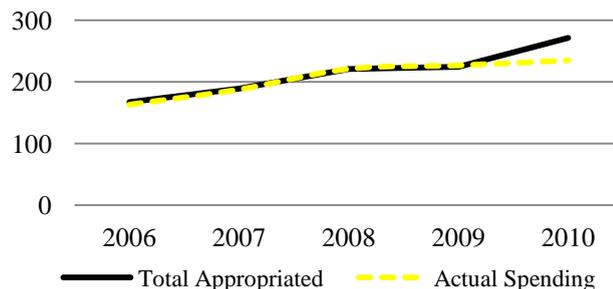
Challenges

- There are academic staff shortages in all areas, particularly in the critical areas of science and technology.
- Over 60% of academic staff in the Nigerian university system is in the category of lecturer 1 and below; due to inter and intra-sector brain drain.
- An estimated ten million out of the 30 million school-aged children are not enrolled in school in Nigeria
- The educational system suffers from deteriorating quality and insufficient investment to keep pace with the country's burgeoning school-age population.

Funding

- 8.42% of the 2012 national budget is allocated to education; which is the second largest priority in the budget.

Federal Government Expenditure on Education (in billions)



Nigeria-U.S. Education

- Nigeria was the 17th largest source of international undergraduates and the 19th largest source of international graduate students in the U.S. in 2009/2010.
- Nigeria hosts the American University of Nigeria (AUN) in Yola, Adamawa state. AUN has a direct partnership with the American University (AU) in Washington DC.
- Nigeria is the largest source of students from sub Saharan Africa to the U.S. There are 6,568 Nigerian students studying in over 733 regionally accredited U.S. colleges and universities in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. Texas is the most popular state for Nigerian students, followed by New York.
- The major source of funding for Nigerian students is personal and family funds. Some receive government funding and a few receive funding from the U.S. colleges or universities.
- There was a 6% increase in the number of Nigerian students studying at U.S. institutions at undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree programs in 2010.
- The most popular majors are Engineering, Business, Physical Sciences and Public Health.
- 200 EducationUSA advisees received at least one form of financial assistance through financial aids, scholarships, and assistantships totaling almost \$5.5 million from U.S. institutions in 2010-11.

Nigerian Students in the U.S.

