



CULTURAL ORIENTATION

HAUSA



Horse men at the Opening Ceremony for "Forum for Cities in Transition Annual Gathering"
Flickr / Allan LEONARD





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*Hausa women with their children
Flickr / Eric Haglund*

Chapter 1 | Hausa Cultural Orientation

Profile

Introduction

The Hausa people primarily inhabit northern Nigeria and southern Niger. Nigeria's population is 30% Hausa, and Niger's population is about 53% Hausa.¹ The Hausa language is spoken by about 40-50 million people throughout Central and West Africa as a first or second language. About 20% of Nigeria's population speaks Hausa as a first language. The Hausa are the largest ethnic group in Nigeria, and they are intertwined with the Fulani to such an extent that both ethnicities are often counted together or seen as one.^{2, 3} Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, home to over 190 million people; the population consists of 250 ethnic groups, which speak over 500 different languages.⁴

Climate and Geography



*View of Oke Idanre in Ondo State
Flickr / Adedotun Ajibade*

Nigeria is a West African country that is about twice the size of California; Nigeria borders Niger, Benin, Chad, Cameroon, and the Atlantic Ocean. Southern Nigeria has a wet, tropical climate, which gradually transitions to an arid climate in Nigeria's far north.⁵ Nigeria has large plains in the country's central region. The Cameroon Highlands in southeastern Nigeria and the plateaus in central Nigeria are the two most prominent mountainous regions of the country. The tallest mountain in Nigeria is

Chappal Waddi, which is located near the Nigeria-Cameroon border; Chappal Waddi has an elevation of 7,936 ft (2,419 m).⁶

Nigeria has rainy and dry seasons. In southern Nigeria, the rainy season is from March to November, but in the north, the rainy season starts in the middle of May and ends in September. Southern Nigeria receives about 120 inches (304 cm) of rain annually, while northern Nigeria receives far less, anywhere from 20-70 inches (50-177 cm). The climate becomes hot and dry, as the southern, equatorial coast transitions to an arid climate in far northern Nigeria.⁷



*Rainy season, Lagos
Flickr / Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*

Lagos, in southern Nigeria, is humid and the temperature stays between about 70 and 90°F (21-32°C). Sokoto, in northern Nigeria, is drier and the temperature ranges between 65 and 105°F (18-40°C).^{8, 9}

Rivers

Niger River



*A boat crossing the Niger River
Flickr / jbdodane*

The Niger River is the third-longest river in Africa. The river originates in Guinea, flows into Mali, and then forms a portion of the Niger-Benin border. After reaching Nigeria, the river splits into the Niger River Delta and flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The Niger River is an important source of irrigation and hydroelectricity. The Kainji Dam is largest dam on the river, and it is located in Nigeria. It supports a wide variety of plant and animal species and a fishing industry that is important to the economy of villages along its banks.¹⁰

Benue River

The source of the Benue River is in Cameroon, and it flows west into the Niger River in central Nigeria. The river is almost 675 miles long, and it is the Niger River's largest tributary. The Benue River is an important means of transportation. During the dry season, low water levels and sandbars limit boat transportation.¹¹



*River Benue Bridge in Yola
Flickr / Nwuanyi*

Major Cities

Lagos

Lagos is Nigeria's largest city. It was the nation's capital until Abuja replaced it in 1991. Estimates of Lagos's population range from 14 to 21 million, making it either Africa's most populous city, or second-most populous city after Cairo. One of the major reasons for the wide range of population estimates is because government representation and funds are dispensed according to the population of a city and state; local governments have an incentive to inflate their populations. The city and its suburbs are expanding



Lagos
Flickr / OpenUpEd

in size and population; luxury skyscrapers, as well as shantytowns, are being built to house the growing population.^{12, 13} Lagos has a growing economy, and the middle and upper classes are expanding. The city's wealth and commerce centers are located in southeastern Lagos, on Lagos and Victoria islands. Lagos is home to Nigeria's largest economic, cultural, and educational institutions.¹⁴

Abuja

Abuja is the capital of Nigeria, and the city has a population of about 2.5 million people. Abuja is located in central Nigeria on the site of a former British Army garrison. The site of the city was chosen among 33 potential sites because it was seen as an ethnically and religiously neutral location. The Federal Capital Territory of Abuja was created in 1976, and Abuja became Nigeria's first planned city.^{15, 16} The Nigerian government spared no expense while constructing Abuja, especially on aesthetic aspects of new government buildings and infrastructure. Abuja relies on oil revenue, which is distributed by the central government, to fund city projects. However, oil revenue is an unreliable source of income because it is subject to the price fluctuations of oil on the world market.¹⁷



Abuja City
Flickr / e.r.w.i.n.

Kano

Kano is located in northern Nigeria; the city has a population of over 3.5 million, making it the second largest city in Nigeria. The settlement of Kano dates back to the 11th century CE, and the city became a regional capital in 1804. The city's economy has centered on the trade and export of agricultural products.^{18, 19} Kano has been attacked by the terrorist organization Boko Haram, which has hurt businesses and threatened the lives and security of residents. Boko Haram targeted the city's Shia and Christian

minorities, as well as the transportation infrastructure and central mosque. Since 2000, the government has sanctioned the practice of Sharia law in Kano, but beer parlors are thriving in the non-Muslim suburb of Sabon Gari. Beer parlors serve the Christian minority and Hausa alike, but these establishments have been the target of Boko Haram attacks.^{20, 21, 22}



Kano City
Flickr / ARC - The Alliance of Religions and Conservation



Sultan's Palace, Sokoto
Wikimedia / Jensbn

Sokoto

Sokoto is located in northeastern Nigeria, and it has a population of about half a million people. Sokoto was an important stop along the Sahara caravan route, and it became the capital of the Fulani Empire in the early 19th century. The local economy is centered on agriculture, especially the raising of cattle and the cultivation of cassava.^{23, 24} The Sultan of Sokoto is the highest-ranking Islamic authority figure in

Nigeria. When Secretary of State John Kerry visited Nigeria in 2015, his first stop was to Sokoto to visit the sultan. Secretary Kerry praised Sultan Abubakar for promoting religious tolerance and fighting terrorism. Nigeria's Shia Muslim and Christian communities do not recognize the sultan's authority, and some view the sultanate as an embodiment of the country's religious divides.^{25, 26}

History

In the 14th century, Hausaland was formed by a loose confederation of Hausa states, located in present-day northern Nigeria and southern Niger. Malian Muslims introduced Islam to the Hausa people in the late 14th century. Observance of Islam was mostly limited to urban Hausaland settlements, and traditional religious practices were widespread. The Fulani War, or Fulani Jihad, resulted in the conquest of the Hausa States by the Fulani in the early 19th century.^{27, 28, 29} The Fulani rulers organized the conquered Hausa States into emirates and instituted Islamic law.³⁰ From the 15th to

the 18th century, several European powers carried out the slave trade in the region and used the port of Lagos to transport slaves to European colonies. Most Nigerian slaves were from the Igbo and Yoruba communities, but a large number of Hausas were also enslaved.³¹ The British colonial era began with the annexation of Lagos in 1861, and Nigeria became a British colony in 1900 with the establishment of the Royal Niger Company in 1900. By 1903, the northern Nigerian emirates were under British control. The British maintained the organizational structure and governance practices of the emirates.^{32, 33}



The Sokoto Caliphate (Fulani Empire) in the 19th century
Wikimedia / PANONIAN

North and South Divide



A map displaying Southern and Northern Nigeria, 1914
Wikimedia / John Bartholomew & Co. Edinburgh

The British divided present-day Nigeria into two parts: northern Nigeria, was known as the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, and Southern Nigeria was known as the Niger Coast Protectorate. Northern Nigeria resisted Western education and Christianity, and a lack of development in the north led to disparities and tensions between the two protectorates. Local governments were allowed to administer their residents with little interference from the British colonial government. The

British rulers did attempt to keep Nigerian ethnic groups separate. The south was given greater degrees of autonomy and self-governance, but the north did not request these same concessions from the colonial government because its leaders did not want to risk losing assistance from, or representation in, the colonial national government.^{34, 35}

Independent Nigeria

Nigeria became an independent country on October 1, 1960, and quickly became divided along geographic and ethnic lines: the Hausa-Fulani in the north, the Yoruba in the southwest, and the Igbo in the southeast. A January 1966 coup, headed by Igbo Nigerian Army officers, followed by a counter-coup, led by northern officers,

led to the 1967-1970 Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Biafran War.^{36, 37} Biafra was a short-lived independent state that was created when the predominantly Igbo southeastern Nigeria seceded. Though Biafra ceased to exist upon its defeat by the Nigerian government, there is still a secessionist movement in the southeast, and the civil war is a source of resentment for many Nigerians.^{38, 39, 40}



*Severely malnourished woman during Nigerian Civil War
Wikimedia / Public Health Image Library (PHIL)*

Since gaining independence, Nigeria has experienced two periods of military rule: 1966 to 1979 and 1983 to 1999. Nigeria's presidents and heads of state have been embroiled in controversy and turmoil, resulting from corruption, the operation of patronage systems, suppression of political opponents, and election rigging. While military regimes were in power, the head of state and a council of military leaders ran the country. In 1999, Nigeria returned to civilian rule and Olusegun Obasanjo, who was the military head of state from 1976 to 1979, was elected president.^{41, 42}

Ethnic Violence and Terrorism



*The burned ECWA Church due to the religious riots in 2008
Flickr / Mike Blyth*

Tensions between the Muslim Fulani-Hausa and the Southern Christian populations have erupted into violence. Hundreds of northerners and southerners were killed in clashes in 2002, 2004, and 2010. In 2006, militants attacked the Niger Delta's oil infrastructure and kidnapped foreign workers; subsequent attacks on oil infrastructure took place in 2008 and 2016.⁴³ In 2016, the Nigerian Army attacked a procession of Shia Muslims, killing almost 350 people; the country's largest Shia organization claimed security forces burned Shia businesses and homes. The Army claimed self-defense because a roadblock for the procession was mistaken for an attempt on a general's life.^{44, 45}

Boko Haram was founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf. The name “Boko Haram” isn’t the organization’s official name; “People of the Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad Group” is the English translation of the group’s name, but it was given the nickname Boko Haram, a Hausa colloquialism meaning, “Western education is a sin.”⁴⁶ The organization promotes an interpretation of Islam that rejects any activity that is associated with the West; government, military, and religious institutions have been Boko Haram targets. In 2009, Boko Haram started an insurgency against the Nigerian government to form an Islamic caliphate in northern Nigeria. Yusuf was captured by the Nigerian Army and killed while in police custody. A car bomb targeting the UN compound in Abuja killed almost two dozen people in 2011. In 2013, the US State Department labeled Boko Haram a terrorist organization. In 2014, Boko Haram terrorists kidnaped about 276 girls from a boarding school. The girls have been held for years and are used as a bargaining chip in order to pressure the Nigerian government; about 100 girls were released between 2016 and 2017. Boko Haram has raided towns and held territory in order to impose its ideology on the local population.^{47, 48, 49}



*A bomb attack by Boko Haram in Nyanya in 2014
Wikimedia / VOA*

Government



*House of Representatives of Nigeria
Flickr / Shiraz Chakera*

Nigeria is a presidential republic; the people directly elect the president and the legislature. The executive branch consists of the president and cabinet; the president is elected to hold office for four years and can be re-elected once. The legislative branch consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each of Nigeria’s 36 states elects three senators, and the country is divided into 360 electoral districts, each electing a member of the House of Representatives. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, which has 16 judges. The legal system is based on a combination of English common law and traditional law. Sharia law is observed in 12 northern states.⁵⁰

Media

Freedom House considers Nigeria's media to be partially free. Journalists and media outlets have been subjected to censorship, intimidation, and harassment by the government. Reporting about controversial or embarrassing stories regarding the government or political figures can lead to legal consequences or violence against a newspaper or journalist. Critical news websites have faced restricted access and cyber attacks. It is a criminal act to post libelous statements about a group, person, or the government.⁵¹



*A newspaper stand in Abuja
Flickr / Wayan Vota*

Each state has a TV station and a radio station, and the government also publishes some newspapers; private media outlets and international news outlets are popular. Mobile phones are used to access the internet, which is a popular news source for the young and urban populations. About 25% of the population has internet access, and over 7 million Nigerians use social media on a daily basis.^{52, 53}

Economy



*Truck loaded with cassava roots
Flickr / International Institute of Tropical Agriculture*

Nigeria and South Africa compete for the largest economy in Africa; economic conditions and gross domestic product recalculations have caused both economies to be ranked as the highest in recent years.^{54, 55, 56} It is estimated that Nigeria's economy would be 22% bigger if the government were less corrupt. Because so much revenue is lost due to corruption, there is less money available to be spent on public services such as infrastructure, health, or education. Nigerian exports include cocoa and rubber; about 70% of the population is employed in the agriculture sector, raising livestock and growing crops such as cassava and peanuts.^{57, 58}

Oil

In 1956, oil was discovered in southern Nigeria, in the Niger River delta region, and the commodity has been the driver of the Nigerian economy for decades. Oil spills, the distribution of oil revenue, attacks on oil infrastructure, and corruption surrounding oil revenue have all been sources of controversy in Nigeria. Because oil revenue depends on the price and demand of oil worldwide, the Nigerian economy is subject to the unpredictability of the world market.

Attacks on oil infrastructure by militants hurt the country's oil production and revenue.^{59, 60, 61} Nigeria is a member of OPEC, and the country is one of the world's top ten exporters of oil.^{62, 63}



*Port Harcourt Refining Ltd in Alesa Eleme
Flickr / david*

419 Scams



*A warning about 419
Flickr / Stephen Martin*

Email phishing scams targeting Westerners are locally referred to as 419 scams, which is a reference to the section of Nigeria's criminal code that describes fraudulent acts. The perpetrator often promises millions of dollars in exchange for a few thousand dollars upfront or may request bank account and personal identifying information in order to wire a large sum of money.^{64, 65} Another similar scam involves the use of dating sites to build a relationship with a person, then

an unfortunate circumstance will require an urgent, large sum of money. Some perpetrators pose as U.S. service members requesting money. Funds are not likely to be recovered, and the Nigerian government views the victims as at fault.^{66, 67, 68} Almost USD 13 billion was lost to Nigerian 419 scams in 2013.⁶⁹

Ethnic Groups

Hausa

The Hausa are the largest ethnic group in the region, and they primarily inhabit northern Nigeria and southern Niger. The Fulani and Hausa are intertwined and often counted as one ethnic group. Although the Fulani conquest resulted in the defeat of the Hausa states, the Hausa language was still the administrative language of the local government. The Fulani War also introduced Islam as the dominant religion in the Hausa regions of Niger and Nigeria. Unity between the two ethnic groups became stronger during the British colonial era, when the polarization between the north and south caused northern Nigeria to unite under Islam and cultural ties. Hausa or Fulani can be a cultural, religious, or ethnic label. The Hausa-Fulani ethnic group makes up almost 30% of Nigeria's population, and Islam is practiced among 50% of Nigerians.^{70, 71, 72}



*Hausa farmer in Northern Nigeria
Flickr / International Institute of Tropical Agriculture*

Yoruba



*Yoruba drummers, Ojumo Oro, Kwara Stat
Flickr / Melvin "Buddy" Baker*

The Yoruba live in southwestern Nigeria and account for 21% of Nigeria's population. The Yoruba likely migrated from the east to their present-day home in southwestern Nigeria. There are also Yoruba communities in neighboring Togo and Benin. Traditionally, the Yoruba people were organized into small kingdoms, but disputes among the kingdoms, urbanization, and colonialism ended that societal structure.^{73, 74}

Igbo

The Igbo live in southeastern Nigeria and account for 18% of Nigeria's population. In 1967, during the Nigerian Civil War, the primarily Igbo region of southeastern Nigeria declared independence and seceded to form Biafra, but it was reintegrated into Nigeria in 1970. Today, some Igbo secessionists advocate for a new Biafran state, claiming that the central government neglects and marginalizes them. The Nigerian government has responded to the secessionist movement by arresting Biafran activists and threatening military occupation.^{75, 76, 77}



Igbo women
Flickr / Jeremy Weate

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Hausa Cultural Orientation

Chapter 1 | Profile

Assessment

1. Abuja is the capital of Nigeria.
2. The Sultan of Sokoto is the deposed king of northern Nigeria.
3. The name “Boko Haram” means “Victory for the just.”
4. There is disagreement about the population of Lagos.
5. Igbo is a temporary hut used by the nomadic people of Nigeria.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. False; 3. False; 4. True; 5. False



*Celebration at the end of Ramadan in Serti
Flickr / Rosemary Lodge*

Chapter 2 | Hausa Cultural Orientation

Religion

Introduction

The Nigerian government does not collect information regarding its population's religious affiliations, but the Pew Research Center estimates that the Nigerian population is about 49% Christian, 49% Muslim, and 2% belong to other religious affiliation or have no religion. The majority of Muslims are Sunni, but there is also a small Shia minority, and there are followers of other, smaller Muslim sects. The Christian population consists of a collection of Christian denominations. Muslims are the majority religion in northern Nigeria, Christians are the majority in southern Nigeria, and both religions inhabit central Nigeria.¹ According to the Pew Research Center, Nigeria's has the highest level of religious-related social hostility

among the world's 25 most populated countries. The think tank also found that 88% of Nigerians said that religion was a very important aspect of their lives.^{2, 3}

Religion and the Government

The Nigerian constitution prohibits the establishment of a state religion and religious discrimination, and protects individuals' religious freedom. The constitution also stipulates that the government must promote national unity through religious integration. However, religious minorities claim that government laws and practices subject them to discrimination. Some states have offices of religious affairs. Religious organizations must register with the national government, and some states require a license, which provides the state government with oversight over religious activity. Christians in central and northern Nigeria complain that the government does not protect them from violence or discrimination; Muslims living in Christian areas also complain of religious discrimination. Both Christians and Muslims have complained of poor treatment from public university officials, and both groups have been subjected to discrimination on the basis of their religion for government jobs or services.⁴

Sharia Law



The National Mosque in Abuja
Flick / master_xpo

The Nigerian constitution allows state courts to adopt customary law; as a result, 12 northern states (of Nigeria's 36 states) have opted to have Sharia courts. State-level Sharia courts have jurisdiction over civil matters if the parties involved are Muslim; Sharia court jurisdiction over criminal matters varies among the northern 12 states. Sharia courts cannot force non-Muslims to participate in Sharia court proceedings, so secular courts still operate in the states that have Sharia courts. Christians have the option to participate in Sharia court civil or criminal cases if one of the parties is Muslim. Cases can be appealed to Sharia courts of appeal. A Sharia court in Kano found a cleric and several others guilty of blasphemy and sentenced them to death by hanging, but the sentences have yet to be carried out due to the appeals process. In several northern Nigerian states, the *Hisbah*, the Sharia law enforcement group, receives state sponsorship; some Christians have complained that they have been unfairly punished by the *Hisbah*.^{5, 6}

Religious Conflict

Religious conflict occurs throughout Nigeria, especially in central and northern Nigeria. In 2015, 348 Nigerian Shia Muslims were killed in a clash with the Nigerian Army; the army claimed a religious celebration run by a Shia organization was mistaken for an assassination attempt. Hundreds of Shia were arrested, the army attacked Shia religious centers and shrines, and the Shia leader's house was demolished. In the aftermath of the attack, the Shia community released a list of 700 members who were missing; one soldier was killed, but no members of the army were prosecuted.



*Meeting in the burned ECWA Church during religious riots of 2008
Flickr / Mike Blyth*

Christians in northern Nigeria have been subjected to violence at the hands of Boko Haram, mobs, and Nigerian security forces. Fulani-Christian clashes have taken place in central Nigeria, especially between Christian farmers and Muslim herders. Boko Haram's attacks killed 4,780 in 2015 and almost 3,000 in 2016. Members of Boko Haram split from the group to form the Islamic State of West Africa, but most Nigerians don't make a distinction between the two groups. Some churches and mosques have hired private security to guard against attacks.^{7, 8, 9}

Influence of Religion on Daily Life

Muslim and Christian religious leaders have publically condemned religious violence and promoted interfaith unity. Violence perpetrated by Boko Haram has caused over 1.7 million people to flee their homes. Boko Haram raids and Nigerian military offensives left cities and villages destroyed. The Nigerian military has made progress against Boko Haram and cities formerly under control of the organization are starting to return to normal.^{10, 11, 12} The young were hit particularly hard; schools were destroyed, kidnappings for conscription and forced marriages were widespread, and families that fled the violence lived in crowded makeshift refugee camps.¹³



*Women singing and praying on mountain near Abuja
Flickr / Jeremy Weate*



*Muslim prayers in Gashaka
Flickr / Rosemary Lodge*

The north-south, Christian-Muslim divide makes Nigeria's complex ethnic, linguistic, and economic variety.¹⁴ Southwestern Nigeria, in particular, has a mix of Christian, Muslim, and indigenous religious communities; northern Nigeria has Christian communities and Christian neighborhoods in large cities. Indigenous religious beliefs are also intermingled with Muslim and Christian worship practices. Religious identity is often leveraged for political or economic reasons.¹⁵ The belief

in witchcraft has been the motive for some murders in Nigeria; this includes the murder of suspected witches and sale body parts for witchcraft. Children are among the victims of witchcraft-motivated murders. The threat and fear of witchcraft and curses have been used to exercise control over victims of human trafficking.^{16, 17, 18}

Care and Treatment of the Quran

Muslims regard the Quran as sacred, and it is important to treat Islam's holy book with respect. As a sign of respect, Muslims will keep the Quran on the highest shelf of a bookcase. Don't touch the Quran with dirty hands. The Quran is not to be placed on the floor. If you are sitting on the floor, hold the Quran above your lap or waist. When not reading the Quran, protect it with a dust cover and do not place anything on top of it. Don't take a Quran into a latrine.¹⁹ Old or damaged Qurans can be properly disposed of in one of two ways. Burning is an acceptable method of disposal only if the process is conducted respectfully. The Quran is not to be burned with trash or other items. The second method of disposal is burial. The Quran should be wrapped and buried where people do not walk.²⁰



*A talib with a wooden board written verses from the Quara
Flickr / Photo Unit*

Religious Minorities

There are congregations of Igbo Jews in Southeastern Nigeria; some claim that the Igbo Jews are a lost tribe of Israel. Igbo Jews feel strongly about their Jewish identity, but the claim of Jewish heritage is disputed.^{21, 22} There are religious minorities within Islam; Shia Muslims have faced violence and persecution in northern Nigeria. Other Muslim minority groups include Salafists, Qadiriyyah, Tijaniyah, and Ahmadi Muslims. The Salafists resent the practices of the Qadiriyyah and Tijaniyah.²³



Annual Maukib Procession for Islam's Qadiriyyah tradition
Flickr / ARC - The Alliance of Religions and Conservation



Pilgrimage en route to the meeting point for Maukib procession
Flickr / ARC - The Alliance of Religions and Conservation

Regardless of their sect, Muslims follow the five Pillars of Islam, which cover the essential beliefs and rites of the Muslim faith. The first pillar is the *shahada*, the declaration of faith that “There is no god but God and Muhammad is God’s messenger.” The *salat* is the requirement to pray five times a day. *Sawm* is the required fast during the month of Ramadan. *Zakat* is the expectation that Muslims should be generous by sharing their wealth. The fifth pillar is the *hajj*, which requires all able Muslims to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lives.²⁴

In the Christian community, the long-term influence of Catholicism in the Igbo region caused resentment among the region’s Protestants; popular denominations within a region can play a role in local elections.²⁵ In 2016, a court case granted Muslims the right to wear the hijab in public schools in two southwestern Nigerian states; in response, some Christian students started wearing religious robes to school to protest the ruling.^{26, 27}

Religious Holidays

Christian and Muslim religious holidays are national holidays in Nigeria. Religious minorities have the right to a day off to observe religious holidays or festivals. Christian holidays include Good Friday and the Monday after Easter; these holidays are celebrated in March or April. Christmas is also a public holiday in Nigeria.

Muslim holidays observed in Nigeria include Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Kabir, and Eid al-Maulud. The Muslim holidays are observed on different days every year because the holidays are determined by Islamic lunar calendar.²⁸ Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan; the holiday is celebrated with feasts and donations to the poor.²⁹ Eid al-Kabir, also known as Eid al-Adha, is a celebration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael.³⁰ Eid al-Maulud is the celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. Sunni Muslims celebrate this holiday five days earlier than Shia Muslims.³¹



Fulani horse dancing competition at the end of Ramadan
Flickr / Rosemary Lodge

Places of Worship



Inside the Abuja National Mosque
Flickr / Mark Fischer

In an effort to promote public safety and reduce noise, Lagos shut down 70 churches and 20 mosques. Some of these places of worship were tents or makeshift buildings; the collapse of a church in 2014 killed over 115 people. Speakers playing loud religious music and calls to prayer were seen as a public nuisance and an undue contributor to the city's noise.^{32, 33}

▶ May I enter the mosque?		
Visitor:	zan eyshga masalaachan?	May I enter the mosque?
Local:	ey	Yes.

Exchange 1

Boko Haram has attacked both mosques and churches throughout Nigeria.³⁴ Hundreds of worshipers at the Central Mosque in Kano were wounded or killed by a Boko Haram attack in 2014. Boko Haram has destroyed churches and Christian institutions throughout northern Nigeria. Christian organizations have complained of a lack of government protection of Christian communities and churches in northern and central Nigeria.^{35, 36}

▶ When do you pray?		
Visitor:	yawsha kakey salah?	When do you pray?
Local:	na sala da azahar	I pray at noon.

Exchange 2

Although mosque architecture varies, there are some commonalities among the different styles. The *qibla* is the wall that faces Mecca. In the *qibla* is a small niche called the *mihrab*, which helps the faithful identify the proper direction to face while praying. To the right of the *mihrab* is the pulpit, called the *minbar*, where the imam stands during religious services. Mosques often have a minaret from which the daily calls to prayer are issued. Many mosques also have an ablution fountain in the center of the courtyard (*sahan*) which Muslims use to conduct ritual washing before prayers.^{37, 38}



The main entrance to the National Mosque in Abuja
Flickr / Mark Fischer

▶ Do I need to wear a hijab?		
Visitor:	naa bukaatran saka hijabee?	Do I need to wear a hijab?
Local:	ey	Yes.

Exchange 3

Religion and Gender



*Women in Northern Nigeria
Flickr / DFID - UK Department for International Development*

In 2016, the Nigerian Senate voted against a gender equality bill that would have provided greater legal protection to women. The bill would have protected women from humiliating and degrading treatment, promoted educational opportunities for girls, protected the property rights of women, and promoted women's political participation. Nigeria's senior Muslim authority, the Sultan of Sokoto, spoke out against the bill on the grounds that it was incompatible with Islamic teachings. The Christian Association of Nigeria supported the bill.^{39, 40, 41} Women have been victims of religious violence. Boko Haram has used women as suicide bombers; the terrorist organization has subjected women and girls to forced marriages and captivity. The government imprisoned Shia women in the aftermath of the military's attack on Shia worshipers in northern Nigeria.⁴²

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Hausa Cultural Orientation

Chapter 2 | Religion

Assessment

1. Witchcraft was eradicated from Nigeria in the 19th century by European colonialists.
2. The Muslim-Christian divide separates the Muslims in Nigeria's east from the Christians in the west.
3. The city of Lagos had shut down dozens of mosques and churches because they were unsafe and noisy.
4. Sharia courts discriminate against non-Muslims in court proceedings and sentencing.
5. The Nigerian Senate voted down a gender equality bill that would have provided more legal protections for women and educational opportunities for girls.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True



*Cane artisan
Flickr / UNESCO UNEVOC*

Chapter 3 | Hausa Cultural Orientation

Traditions

Introduction

Nigeria is a diverse country, and each region and ethnicity has its own unique traditions. Storytelling has been a rich part of Nigerian culture, and a driving force behind the thriving film industry. Nigerian writers and artists have received international acclaim. Sports are a favorite pastime, and Nigerian teams and athletes have achieved international success. Popular festivals attract participants and spectators from around the region. Secular holidays include celebrations of milestones and causes that are important to the country as a whole. Hausa culture shares some similarities with other Nigerian cultures; the Hausa region of northern Nigeria is heavily influenced by its history and Islamic customs.^{1, 2}

Greetings

Men typically greet each other by shaking their right hands, and they will maintain the handshake while initiating conversation. The gesture of presenting a clenched fist to the chest is sometimes used. Women often greet each other with a handshake as well, but close friends may greet one another with a hug or a kiss on the cheek. Physical contact between the genders is discouraged in northern Nigeria, so a handshake is likely to be considered inappropriate. Greetings are typically lengthy because it is considered rude to get right to the subject of the conversation or meeting. Small talk about the other person's family, job, or health is common.³



Nigerian greeting
Flickr / International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

► How are you?

Visitor:	yaqaya kakay?	How are you?
Local:	laafeeya kalo	Fine, very well.

Exchange 4

Language



Presentation in English, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and Gbagyi
Flickr / International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

English is the official language of Nigeria and is used in government and business. Hausa is the main language in the north, Yoruba is spoken in the southwest, and Igbo is spoken in the southeast. Although these are the most widely-used languages in Nigeria, over 500 indigenous languages are spoken throughout the country.^{4, 5} Pidgin English has emerged as a lingua franca in west and central Africa. This language originated on the Guinea coast as a trade language among English merchants, slave traders, and the local population. An estimated 75 million Nigerians speak Pidgin English; advertisers and media outlets are using the language to reach a wide audience.

The language is evolving, adaptable, and popular among the young population. In 2016, the BBC launched a Pidgin English news outlet.^{6, 7}

▶ Good afternoon!		
Visitor:	barka da raanaa!	Good afternoon!
Local:	barka da raanaa!	Good afternoon!

Exchange 5

Social Structure

Most of the Hausa population lives in northern Nigeria. There are some urban settlements such as Kano, but most Hausa live in rural areas. There is a social hierarchy, and there are norms regarding interaction among the classes. In addition to the class hierarchy, individuals are ranked according to their wealth and occupation. Lineage is recorded and traced through the paternal line.⁸

The Fulani emerged as the aristocracy of northern Nigeria after the Fulani Jihad in the early 19th century. Unlike the Hausa, the Fulani do not have a strong social hierarchy. Raising herds of cattle a pillar of Fulani society; the Fulani lifestyle has been nomadic and revolved around providing for the needs of the herd. For the Fulani people, herding is a prestigious occupation, and it is considered a cultural institution. Rural Fulani are not as observant of Islamic practices as their urban counterparts.⁹



Hausa Emir in Jalingo on Sallah day
Wikimedia / Ibrahim Tafida

Social Interaction

Nigerian culture is hierarchical, and the social structure influences behavior among individuals of different statuses. It is important to use titles when addressing someone, including traditional and honorary titles. The most senior individual is granted special respect, but he or she is charged with making decisions in the best interest of a group. Punctuality is not stressed in Nigerian culture. Nigerians and westerners do not typically have the same concept of personal space, so conversations may take place at close proximity. Facial expressions are used to indicate interest or delight during a conversation, and an unengaged expression may be perceived as rude. Prolonged eye

contact is also considered rude. It is important not to give, receive, or eat items with the left hand because the left hand is considered unclean.^{10, 11, 12}

Traditions



*The Durbar festival
Flickr / Jay Berkley*

The Durbar Festival is celebrated throughout northern Nigeria at the end of Ramadan. Originally, it was an annual demonstration of warrior skills, horsemanship, and an oath of loyalty to the local emir, but now, it is a celebration of the regional culture. Durbar involves a large procession of all of the local peoples, dressed in ceremonial attire; horses and riders are elaborately

dressed, groups perform their traditional dances, and the emir and his entourage participate in the festivities.^{13, 14, 15}

The Sharo Festival is celebrated by the Fulani, and participation in the festival is a rite of passage for boys. The festival is held twice a year in a public venue, and it is a demonstration of strength and bravery. The festival is a week long, and daily events involve singing, drumming, skits, and flogging. Male adolescents undergoing this rite are flogged as they compete for the chance to marry a girl of their choice. A referee is present to ensure contestants avoid critical injury, but in 2017, a participant died as a result of the flogging. Those who are not able to endure the flogging, or show signs of pain, are considered an embarrassment. Those who endure the flogging are permitted to marry.^{16, 17, 18}

The Argungu Fishing Festival is a four-day festival held in northwestern Nigeria. Men and boys participate in various fishing, hunting, wrestling, and boxing competitions. Men use the festival to pass down fishing and hunting techniques to their sons. Drummers on canoes chase fish into shallow waters to facilitate fishing. Women participate in music and dance performances. The festival is used to promote goodwill among the residents of the region.¹⁹



*Argungu Fishing Festival painting
Wikimedia / Sirsteve17*

Gift Giving and Hospitality



Receiving a gift
Flickr / Mike Blyth

There is a strong gift-giving culture in Nigeria, especially among those in public office and business. Gift-giving has come under criticism because the practice can be used to establish and perpetuate patronage networks, which has led to widespread corruption in Nigeria's government and military. Foreign companies have used bribery and gifts as a way to facilitate special favors or financial benefits. It is important to maintain high ethical standards when giving or receiving

gifts and to understand that gifts may be perceived as bribes. Giving or receiving a gift may lead to the appearance of corruption, so it is important to exercise good judgment when engaging in gift giving.^{20, 21}

► I really appreciate your hospitality.

Visitor:	na yaba da karimchinkaa	I really appreciate your hospitality.
Local:	ba komay	It is nothing.

Exchange 6

Most Nigerians use their hands to eat their meals. Napkins, small towels, or small bowls may be used for handwashing. If invited to a Nigerian household, bringing fruit, nuts, or chocolates is a polite gesture. Men and women eat their meals separately in Muslim households.²²

► What type of meat is this?

Visitor:	wanan waney irin naama nee?	What type of meat is this?
Local:	naaman ragoo nee	Lamb.

Exchange 7

Entertainment



A Nollywood movie
Flickr / Nollywood Artist

Storytelling is a tradition throughout West Africa; writers, traditional storytellers known as *griots*, and plays are fixtures of the regional culture. Film has emerged as a popular medium for modern storytellers. The film industry generates almost USD 500 million in annual revenue. Nigeria's movie industry produces the second most amount of films on an annual basis. Only India's "Bollywood" produces more films than "Nollywood." Popular themes include moral dilemmas, romance, betrayal, good triumphing over evil, and religious conflict. Most Nigerian films are distributed straight to DVD and sold by street vendors, but some are released in the relatively few Nigerian movie theaters. Most budgets are small; the average budget is between USD 25,000 and 75,000, but some movie budgets are in the hundreds of thousands. Filmmakers using this model have

to recoup their budgets quickly because Nigeria's copyright laws and lax law enforcement allow pirated copies to flood the marketplace. Video-on-demand services have expanded their selection of African movies and allowed filmmakers to keep more of their profits. Nollywood movies are popular throughout West Africa, the Caribbean, and among African diaspora in Europe and the United States. As the industry has grown, production quality has increased, and some Nollywood movies are even filmed in the United States.^{23, 24, 25}

The name "Kannywood" refers to the Hausa, northern Nigerian film industry, which is centered in Kano. Kannywood has been the subject of controversy among the region's Islamic conservatives and religious leaders. The government proposed a 50-acre, USD 10 million, modern filmmaking complex in Kano, but the proposal was withdrawn after an outcry from the religious community and those who were upset that the government considered the project a priority. Kannywood has been subjected to censorship; suggestive themes and affection can be controversial. Some northern Nigerians see the film industry as a threat to the region's values.^{26, 27}



Cover of Weekend Magazine regarding Kannywood
Flickr / Carmen McCain

Sports and Recreation

The most popular sport in Nigeria is soccer, and the men's national team, the Super Eagles, has had success on the world stage. The team won the gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Summer Games and has advanced to the World Cup round of 16 on three occasions. The Super Eagles were the first African team to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. The Nigerian women's national soccer team advanced to the quarterfinals during the 2003 Women's World Cup.^{28, 29} Hakeem Olajuwon's successful basketball career, spanning the 1980s and 1990s, at the University of Houston and with the NBA's Houston Rockets, led to increased awareness of the sport in Nigeria.^{30, 31} In 1987, Christian Okoye became the first Nigerian-born player in the NFL. Okoye made the Pro Bowl twice and had a successful career with the Kansas City Chiefs.^{32, 33}



*Argentina vs Nigeria, World Cup 2010
Flickr / Rafael Alvez*

Cuisine



*A man selling Suya in the Asokoro section of Abuja
Flickr / Mark Fischer*

Nigerian cuisine varies among the country's regions and cultures, but rice, beans, and cassava are consumed throughout. Wheat and millet are staples of the north's diet. Tomatoes are used in soups and in the popular *jollof* rice. In 2016, moths devastated the tomato crop in northern Nigeria, forcing Kaduna State to declare a state of emergency. Poultry, goat, beef, and fish are the country's major sources of meat. *Suya*, which is a thin and spicy grilled meat, is a popular dish; peppered snails are a local delicacy; and *egusi* soup, made with crushed melon seed, is also popular. The growing upper and middle classes are fueling the market for fusion and upscale dishes that are cooked by western-trained Nigerian chefs.^{34, 35, 36}

▶ What is the name of this dish?		
Visitor:	wanawan irin abinchey nee?	What is the name of this dish?
Local:	tuwan shankafaa nee	This is tuwo shinkafa.

Exchange 8

Secular Holidays



Nigeria's 52nd Independence Day celebration
Flickr / S Briggs

Holidays that fall on a weekend are typically celebrated on the following Monday. Secular holidays include National Day (October 1), which celebrates Nigeria's 1960 independence from Great Britain; Boxing Day (26 December); and New Year's Day (1 January).^{37, 38, 39} Workers' Day, on 1 May, celebrates Nigeria's working class. Eight March is Women's Day, a celebration of the social and political contributions of women; the holiday is also an occasion to advance women's rights. Democracy Day, celebrated

on 29 May, is a commemoration of the return to civilian government in 1999.^{40, 41, 42}

Dress Code

It is important to dress in a neat and appropriate manner; sloppy or inappropriate dress may be associated with a casual or negative attitude. During the campaign for Nigeria's 2015 presidential election, candidates Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari wore a culturally diverse selection of clothing in order to connect with Nigeria's voters; the candidates' clothing was not just a part of their image, it was a political message to the voting blocs. The western business suit is popular among business professionals and politicians. The *babban riga*, which is a loose-fitting traditional embroidered robe, is popular formalwear among the Hausa; this robe is alternatively known as an *agbada*.^{43, 44, 45} Nigerian designers offer women a wide variety of clothing options, some of which blend traditional styles with western fashion trends.⁴⁶



Nigerian men in agbada, Gombe
Flickr / Mark Fischer



How should I dress?

Visitor:	wan irin kaaya Ya kamaata in sakaa?	How should I dress?
Local:	ka sa kaaya may walwala da zay rufee jikinka	Wear loose-fitting clothes that cover your body.

Exchange 9

The Arts



*The National Arts Theatre in Lagos
Flickr / Maersk Line*

Nigeria's state capitals and large cities are home to many museums. The national library and national theater are in Lagos. Nigeria has a long artistic history; Nigerian terracotta statues and sculptures are some of the oldest in sub-Saharan Africa. Music accompanies most social events, storytelling, and religious ceremonies.^{47, 48}

Every ethnic group has a unique music and dance style; a wide variety of instruments,

clothing, and dance routines are used to celebrate significant events. The Hausa categorize their dances as either social dances or ceremonial dances. Popular Nigerian musicians blend Western music with traditional styles. Nigerian literature is world renowned. In 1986, author Wole Soyinka received the Nobel Prize for Literature. *Things Fall Apart*, written by Chinua Achebe, is one of the most well-known Nigerian novels.^{49, 50}



*Qadiriyyah drummers, Kano
Flickr / ARC - The Alliance of Religions and Conservation*

Hausa Literature

Hausa writing emerged around the 14th or 15th century. The Hausa language was written in the Arabic script until the British introduced the Latin script in 1903.⁵¹ Modern Hausa literature discusses social problems and women's issues to be addressed; cultural norms are explored and questioned by Hausa authors. Many Hausa authors are women, and their work has been well received by the public, but it has also been

labeled as subversive. Boko Haram, government censorship, and pressure from family members are all obstacles for Hausa authors.^{52, 53, 54}

Gender Issues



Young mother with her baby
Flickr / Shawn Leishman

Women in Nigeria face obstacles and difficult circumstances. Although Nigerian law defines the marriage age as 18,⁴³ 30% of Nigerian women marry before they are 18; in northwestern Nigeria, over three-quarters of women marry before 18. The government has attempted to address this practice by working with religious and community leaders. There is a link between a lack of education and early marriage, but northern Nigerian parents argue that the education in the region is too poor to provide a sufficient

alternative to early marriage. Boko Haram has kidnapped women and subjected them to sexual violence and forced marriages. Sexual harassment in business, education, and social settings is common in Nigeria; there is no law to prohibit sexual harassment; sexual assault is illegal, but it is a widespread problem. Women are also subject to economic discrimination despite constitutional prohibition of this and related practices. Although women can legally inherit and own land, local land customs don't honor this law. Most Nigerian states have not adopted laws to protect women from violence or prosecute offenders. During legal proceedings, a woman's testimony often holds less weight than a man's.⁵⁵

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is illegal; those who perform FGM/C, or enable the practice, can be punished with up to four years in prison. Yet laws regarding FGM/C are not always enforced. The Nigerian government, women's groups, and non-government organizations are attempting to educate the public about the dangers of FGM/C. UNICEF estimates that 25% of women have been subjected to this practice. According to a health survey, about 20% of Hausa women have undergone FGM/C.^{56, 57}



Women and girls carrying on the head
Flickr / Mark Fischer

Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- **Do** show respect for those older than you, even if their professional status is lower.
- **Do** ask before taking anyone's photograph.
- **Do** lower your eyes when meeting a senior or elder person as a sign of respect.
- **Do** address people by their titles as a sign of respect.

Don'ts

- **Don't** use your left hand in dealings with Muslims.
- **Don't** discuss intimate matters.
- **Don't** clean your plate; doing so means you want more food. Leaving a little food on the plate indicates that you are satisfied and have had enough to eat.
- **Don't** push the palm of your hand forward and spread the fingers; doing so is considered vulgar.
- **Don't** raise trivial matters during meal conversation.
- **Don't** rush greetings. Take time to inquire about the person's well-being.
- **Don't** mistreat religious symbols, especially the Quran.

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Hausa Cultural Orientation

Chapter 3 | Traditions

Assessment

1. Nigeria's film industry is one of the most prolific film industries in the world.
2. Boxing Day is a national holiday in Nigeria.
3. Hausa boys participate in a rite of passage known as the babban riga.
4. Nigerians welcome the Lunar New Year during the Durbar Festival.
5. The traditional occupation of the Fulani people is herding livestock.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. True



*High-rise buildings in Lagos
Flickr / Clara Sanchiz*

Chapter 4 | Hausa Cultural Orientation

Urban Life

Introduction

About 50% of Nigeria's population lives in urban centers; the largest urban center in northern Nigeria is Kano, which has a population of 3.5 million people. The population of Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, has about five times the population of Kano. Most of the country's population is concentrated in the south, but census figures may not reflect reality because politicians are incentivized by financial gain and parliamentary representation to inflate their population counts. Nigeria is the most populous African country. If Nigeria's population continues to increase at its current rate, it will be the third most populous country in the world by 2050.^{1, 2}

Urban Economy



Dyeing fabrics in Kano
Wikimedia / Varsbeats

Kano's formerly robust textile industry has been degraded by foreign competition, large operating costs, and unreliable transportation. The northern Nigerian economy has suffered from Boko Haram, but also from an overall lack of investment and economic development. Most of Nigeria's economic activity is located in the south, which is furthering the country's north-south economic division. Other national economic issues include double-digit inflation, fuel shortages, decreased oil production and

attacks on oil facilities, poor infrastructure, and government corruption. Though oil has been the traditional driver of the Nigerian economy, the recent economic growth has been due to manufacturing, agriculture, trade, and communications.^{3, 4, 5}

Nigeria is ranked by Forbes as the 120th best country for businesses; World Bank ranks Nigeria as the 169th easiest country for businesses. President Buhari is working to create a better economic environment by introducing executive orders to strengthen the private sector, fight corruption, promote competition and investment, and decrease government interference. Protectionism, excessive taxes, regulations, and excessive permits hurt businesses and the economy. Some government agencies seem to exist solely for providing jobs and power to political allies and family members. Medium and large businesses spend a lot of time and resources securing licenses and paying fees that are levied by many different government agencies.^{6, 7, 8}



A crowded market in Ibadan
Flickr / International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

In 2015, the government consolidated its finances into one account to improve tracking of its spending, which has helped fight corruption. Two Supreme Court judges, the head of the military, governors, and senators have been arrested on corruption charges. Some fraud schemes caused the government to lose billions of dollars. Stolen money from military contracts has left the Nigerian military with limited equipment to fight

Boko Haram. In recent years, multiple long-running embezzlement operations were uncovered in Nigeria's Oil Ministry. It is estimated that USD 150 billion of oil revenue was stolen in the last decade.^{9, 10, 11}

Urban Issues



Railway in Osogbo
Flickr / MarinaCherbonnier

Although railways, airport terminals, roads, and electrical grids have been built or upgraded, their usefulness and benefits are questionable. The Nigerian government has turned to China for assistance with infrastructure upgrades. Infrastructure projects have used Chinese firms and construction materials, largely bypassing Nigerian businesses. Chinese businesses and products have undercut local merchants; the quality of these products has been called into question. The high-speed Abuja

to Kano rail line will carry passengers, but not freight; the Abuja station is located out of town, which makes it inaccessible to urban residents.¹² Nigeria is investing over USD 40 billion in railway construction and upgrades to replace old tracks and provide more rail access to the country's major cities. Currently, Nigeria has about 3,800 km (2,361 miles) of track, which provides passenger and freight service across the country.¹³

► Is there a train station nearby?

Visitor: akwey tashar jiragin kasa nan kusaa?

Is there a train station nearby?

Local: aa-aa baabu

No.

Exchange 10

Infrastructure

Nigeria's electrical grid is incapable of meeting the country's demand for electricity, and only about 25% of the population has access to the grid. Electricity delivery is unreliable, and there are frequent power outages. After decades of neglect, the government privatized the electric companies, which inherited obsolete equipment, unpaid bills, and deteriorating power lines. Most Nigerians rely on generators for their electrical needs, and small solar panels are gaining popularity.^{14, 15, 16}

Sanitation

About 33% of Nigeria's urban population has access to improved sanitation facilities.¹⁷ As the population of Lagos grows, the local government's ability to provide basic services decreases. The UN estimates that 10% of the population of Lagos receives its water from the government utility provider; residents have tapped into public water lines or turned to private water suppliers. Improper waste disposal leads to water contamination, which causes waterborne illnesses.^{18, 19, 20}



Contaminated water
Flickr / CDC Global

Commerce



Nigerian Naira
Flickr / Shardayyy

The national currency of Nigeria is the naira; as of October 2017, one USD 1 is worth about 360 nairas. Obtaining and exchanging U.S. currency is difficult in Nigeria. Travelers should expect to pay for goods and services with cash. Denominations of the naira range from 5 to 1000. Credit cards are likely to be accepted at large businesses in major cities, but unlikely to be accepted elsewhere. Credit cards should have a smart chip, and should be used with caution. Transferring, or wiring, money into Nigeria is easier than transferring money out of the country.^{21, 22, 23}

▶ Do you accept U.S. currency?			
Visitor:	kuna karbar kudin amurka?	Do you accept U.S. currency?	
Local:	aa-aa, naira ko muk karba	No, we only accept naira.	

Exchange 11

Lagos has a vibrant music and entertainment scene; there are bars, clubs, and a wide variety of restaurants in the city. There is a wide variety of dining options available in Kano, and a few restaurants even serve alcohol.^{24, 25}

▶ The meal was very good.		
Visitor:	abinchin Yayee dadee	The meal was very good.
Local:	abinchin na gaba maa zay fowanan dadee	Next time the food will be better.

Exchange 12

Crime



Putting razor wire on the wall due to the security issue
Flickr / Mike Blyth

The U.S. State Department advises citizens of the U.S. to exercise caution and prioritize personal safety throughout Nigeria due to the high level of criminal activity in the country. There has been an increase in the number of kidnappings and carjackings involving westerners and westerners have been victims of the full spectrum of violent crimes, even during daylight hours and in public places. Incidents of piracy have taken place off the coast of Nigeria. The security situation remains unpredictable,

and travel to northern Nigeria is particularly hazardous.^{26, 27}

▶ Did these people threaten you?		
Visitor:	wadanan mutaanin sun yee makaa barazaana nee?	Did these people threaten you?
Local:	aa-aa	No.

Exchange 13

Cybercrime is common in Nigeria. Some Nigeria-based criminals have expanded beyond fraudulent emails and into malware in order to steal victims' passwords and financial information. Phishing scams and frauds that involve the impersonation of a member of the victim's family are common tactics; at some point, funds are solicited, usually to cover unexpected travel expenses or an emergency.^{28, 29, 30}



Nigerian Police Officers
Flickr / Rosemary Lodge

The police lack the training and resources to respond to and investigate crimes. Police often augment private security companies, but they are not likely to respond to crimes that do not involve their security details. Consequences of a lack of effective law enforcement include mob violence and vigilante justice.³¹

▶ Give me money.		
Visitor:	baanu kudee	Give me money.
Local:	baana da kudee	I don't have any.

Exchange 14

Transportation

Traffic laws are rarely observed or enforced; reckless driving is a common occurrence. Road conditions are below U.S. standards, and it is not a good idea to drive at night due to safety concerns. Traffic accidents are common, and a crowd may gather at the scene and become hostile. Little consideration is given to the safety of other drivers or pedestrians. Passengers in taxis are often the victims of muggings by the taxi driver or criminal gangs. Motorcycle taxis, known locally as *okadas*, are particularly hazardous. Boko Haram has attacked transportation hubs, including bus stations, in northern Nigeria.^{32, 33}



*Okadas: Motorcycle taxis, Lagos
Flickr / Nick M*

▶ Is there a gas station nearby?		
Visitor:	akwey orin shan may a nan kusaa?	Is there a gas station nearby?
Local:	ey, akwey	Yes.

Exchange 15

Urban Healthcare



*Primus International Superspeciality Hospital in Abuja
Wikimedia / SudhirSRathore*

There are hospitals located in urban centers, but these facilities do not usually provide care on the level of Western standards. Most hospitals do not have adequate drugs, sterile medical equipment, or the training necessary to treat complex medical conditions. Hospitals demand cash payments up front before providing medical care, even in emergencies. Pharmacies often sell counterfeit medications. In 2015, militants targeted healthcare and NGO workers, and

bombed Nigerian medical schools. The Nigerian government is working to lower infant and childhood mortality, increase the use of contraceptives, increase the number of healthcare providers, and improve access to healthcare.^{34, 35}

► Is there a hospital nearby?

Visitor:	akwey asibitee nan kusaa?	Is there a hospital nearby?
Local:	akwey, chan TSakiyar garee	Yes, in the center of town.

Exchange 16

Employment

Nigeria's official unemployment rate is around 7.5%, but this figure does not take seasonal agriculture workers into consideration; about 70% of Nigerians are employed in the agriculture sector, so it is estimated that about 25% of Nigerians are without full time work. Women, young adults, and rural residents are most likely to be underemployed. Women face additional obstacles such as early marriage, childbirth, low education, and limited resources. Women are often self-employed and fuel the informal economy, selling homemade crafts and goods, or organizing small family businesses; female wage earners are typically employed



*Workers at a road construction site
Flickr / e.r.w.i.n.*

as domestic servants, retail workers, or restaurant employees. Urban residents work in manufacturing, construction, informal retail, and professional services. About 2 million young Nigerians enter the workforce, and the government is attempting to diversify the country's economy and promote growth.^{36, 37}

Urban Growth

About half of Nigerians live in urban centers; that figure was only 35% in 1990. Urban growth is largely unplanned, leading to urban sprawl and prohibiting local governments from providing basic services. Generators are often used to power homes and businesses where the electrical grid does not provide sufficient electricity. Housing is in high demand, so makeshift settlements and houses are found on a city's fringe or in undesirable locations. Many rural Nigerians migrate to urban



*Luxury condos in Lagos
Flickr / Clara Sanchiz*

centers for economic reasons. In Lagos, the middle and upper economic classes are growing, leading to increased property values and luxury housing; the manufacturing and technology industries have propelled growth among these economic groups. The local government has been accused of demolishing waterfront slums, under the guise of safety and security, in order to turn the land over to luxury hotel developers.^{38, 39}

Higher Education



*University of Ife, Osun
Flickr / Alan Denney*

There are 152 institutes of higher education, including 68 private universities, in Nigeria. Higher education has suffered from funding issues, and recent declines in oil prices have brought deep cuts to university budgets. Nigeria's public universities have not expanded to accommodate the educational needs of young Nigerians. Over 70,000 Nigerian students seek higher education abroad, more than any other African country; most of those students rely on scholarships from Nigeria's government.

The growing middle and upper classes can afford to send their students to obtain a foreign education. Many northern Nigerians attend college in Malaysia. Nigeria's higher education system has been a source of corruption, and about 30% of Nigerians say they have bribed an education official. Other corrupt practices include cheating, producing fraudulent transcripts, and the operation of fraudulent universities. In 2017, university faculty went on strike nationwide to protest the government's low funding for higher education.^{40, 41, 42}

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Chapter 4 | Urban Life

Assessment

1. Nigeria is one of the most urbanized nations in Africa.
2. A high-speed rail line between Abuja and Kano is under construction in northern Nigeria.
3. Cybercrime is a lucrative industry in Nigeria.
4. Nigeria's electrical grid meets the demand for electricity in large urban areas.
5. Large infrastructure projects provide employment and an economic boost to local businesses.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False



*Agricultural field
Flickr / e.r.w.i.n.*

Chapter 5 | Hausa Cultural Orientation

Rural Life

Introduction

About 51% of Nigerians live in rural parts of the country.¹ About 70% of rural Nigerians live in poverty, compared to about 50% of urban Nigerians. The Jigawa state, in northern Nigeria, has a poverty rate of 88%. There are many issues that negatively impact the quality of life in rural Nigeria. Poverty and illiteracy rates are higher in the northern states.² There are regional conflicts in central and northern Nigeria; government security forces, militias, and terrorist organizations have inflicted violence upon rural Nigerians. Northern Nigeria is more rural than southern Nigeria.^{3, 4}

Rural Employment



*A boy working at peeling a mountain of cassava
Flickr / ILRI*

Around 14 million children participate in Nigeria's workforce. Apart from agriculture, children work in mining, construction, scavenging, forced begging, and street vending. The Nigerian government has introduced a series of policies and social programs to curb child labor in the country. Children have also been recruited or kidnapped to fight for Boko Haram as well as for militias that are fighting Boko Haram.⁵

An estimated 70% of Nigerians work in agriculture, and the agriculture sector accounts for over 20% of the country's GDP. Agriculture products include cocoa, peanuts, cotton, palm oil, and cassava. Farmers' crop yields are about half of the worldwide average, and poor irrigation limits productivity and contributes to crop failure. Degradation of farm and pastureland is also a problem.^{6, 7, 8}

▶ Do you own this land?		
Visitor:	wanan peelinka nee?	Do you own this land?
Local:	ey nawa nee	Yes.

Exchange 17

Nigeria's population is young and growing. At least two-thirds of Nigerians between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed. The population growth and the unemployment rates are highest in rural areas. A lack of education resources is a major factor that contributes to the rural unemployment rate, but even educated youths have a hard time finding jobs that will enable them to use their skills and talents. A lack of data collection, especially from rural areas, makes it difficult to formulate policies to address unemployment.^{9, 10, 11}



*Women growing and selling orange-fleshed sweet potatoes
Flickr / Community Eye Health*



Women working in the field
Flickr / CDC Global

Nationwide, about half of young adults do not have regular employment. Rural residents are about three times more likely to be underemployed or engaged in seasonal work. Most vocational training programs are located in urban areas, so rural Nigerians have a difficult time accessing career-building skills. Women have higher unemployment rates than men, and many rural women are caretakers of their family members or work to support the family farm. Rural residents are more likely to work in the informal economy, on family farms, and in home-based businesses.^{12, 13, 14}

▶ Where do you work, sir?

Visitor: aa inaa kakey aaykee?

Where do you work, sir?

Local: nee manomee nee

I am a farmer, sir.

Exchange 18

Health and Healthcare

A wide variety of diseases and health hazards are endemic to Nigeria, including polio, malaria, and rabies. It is important to obtain the necessary vaccinations, utilize protective measures such as mosquito nets, ensure food and water are safe to consume, and exercise caution around animals. Meningitis is common during the first half of the year, and rabies can be transmitted through the bites of animals. About 3.2 million Nigerians have HIV/AIDS, and an estimated 160,000 people a year die from the virus. Only South Africa has more HIV/AIDS patients than Nigeria.^{15, 16, 17} The monkeypox virus is transmitted through the bodily fluids of infected persons and animals; rodents, squirrels, and monkeys are known to transmit the virus. Infected persons develop a painful, blistering rash throughout their body, high fever, and muscle pain; monkeypox can be fatal. Lassa fever is a hemorrhagic fever that is common in rural areas; it is transmitted through the urine and feces of rats and the bodily fluids of



Schoolboys for vaccination
Flickr / LM TP

infected persons.^{18, 19} In 2016, there was an outbreak of polio in northeastern Nigeria.^{20, 21}

▶ Is there a medical clinic nearby?		
Visitor:	akwey karmar asibtee nan kusaa?	Is there a medical clinic nearby?
Local:	ey gaata chan	Yes, over there.

Exchange 19

Nationwide, about 20% of Nigerian children are underweight; nearly 60% of children under five in five northern states suffer the physical effects of malnutrition.^{22, 23} Malnutrition and food security in northern Nigeria have been intensified by disease and the Boko Haram conflict. Conditions in refugee camps have spread illnesses such as pneumonia and measles. The Nigerian government has also been at odds with foreign aid agencies, which have accused the government of interfering with relief efforts.²⁴



Underweight baby
Flickr / Mike Blyth

Contaminated water and a lack of sanitation is a health hazard in Nigeria. About 63 million Nigerians lack access to an improved water source, and about a third of rural Nigerians practice open defecation. An estimated 100 million Nigerians do not have access to proper sanitary facilities. Unsafe drinking water can lead to illnesses such as hepatitis A, typhoid, and cholera.^{25, 26}

Rural and Primary Education



A student at Young Tajudeen Agbangudu Primary School
Flickr / We - the solution

Although Nigerian law provides a free primary and secondary education, the government does not provide enough funding to pay for universal education. About 25% of Nigerian children do not attend school; about 75% of Nigerians complete primary school. There is a shortage of teachers in Nigeria, and the costs associated with school attendance is too high for some families. Nigeria launched a program that provides funds for



*Nigerian refugee students
Flickr / Photo Unit*

low-income families with children enrolled in school; this program could help families pay for school supplies and dissuade parents from removing their children from school for economic reasons. Northeast Nigeria has the lowest school attendance rate. Approximately 550 schools were destroyed in a single northeastern Nigerian state during the Boko Haram conflict; internal refugees who have been displaced by the conflict occupy some schools. In northern Nigeria, the number of boys attending school is more than a double that of girls. Although Nigeria's constitution requires equal access to education for women and men, discrimination and inequalities are still common. Social and economic factors limit girls' access to education and vocational training.^{27, 28}

► Is there a school nearby?

Visitor: akwey wata makaranta nan kusaa?

Is there a school nearby?

Local: ey, akwey

Yes.

Exchange 20

Only about half of women over the age of 15 can read and write, and almost 70% of men are literate; in northern Nigeria, it is estimated that women's literacy is as low as 35%. Books and novels have become an important resource for women to use to become educated about topics that are taboo in northern Nigeria. Popular themes of these works include marital issues, empowerment, and education. Radio stations broadcast programs that feature the reading of popular novels. Some women make money by lending out copies of their novels. Censorship remains an obstacle for Nigerian authors who address sensitive topics.²⁹



*Nigerian students in front of their school building
Flickr / SIM USA*

Rural Issues



*Fulani man herding cows in Gashaka
Flickr / Rosemary Lodge*

Central Nigeria has been the scene of clashes between Fulani herdsmen and Christian farmers. Both groups are competing for fertile land and water resources. In 2014 alone, over 1,200 people were killed in clashes between herders and farmers. The conflict is more than a land dispute; there are ethnic, economic, political, and religious differences between the two sides. The conflict costs the regional economy about USD 14 million a year.³⁰

³¹ The conflict is not sustained, but hit-and-run tactics spark a cycle of violence between the two groups.^{32, 33}

Although the Nigerian Army has pushed Boko Haram out of cities and reduced the terrorist organization's ability to hold territory, Boko Haram still operates in rural areas of northern Nigeria and stages attacks throughout the country. Boko Haram has staged violent attacks on civilian and government targets.

The Nigerian military has, at times, resorted to human rights violations of their own, including extrajudicial killings, abuse of detainees, and destruction of property. There have been mutinies, and some security forces have refused to engage Boko Haram due to a lack of equipment or support. Vigilante groups, such as the Civilian Joint Task Force, have been accused of using child soldiers; the group has occasionally worked alongside the Nigerian military. The military has also set up prison camps in northern Nigeria for those accused of being members of, or collaborating with, Boko Haram; these detention facilities also house women and children.^{34, 35, 36} Mob justice is a common occurrence, and the mob may kill or maim anyone suspected of engaging in criminal activity. Criminal enterprises engage in kidnapping for ransom throughout Nigeria.³⁷



*Lagos State Task Force invaded Otodo Gbame shooting
tear gas and bullets to chase the residents out
Flickr / Justice & Empowerment Initiatives*

Rural Transportation



*Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja
Wikimedia / Kenneth Iwelumo*

There are 54 airports in Nigeria, which meet the air travel needs of over 3 million passengers.³⁸ Air travel in Nigeria is hindered by fuel shortages and substandard airport infrastructure. In 2015, a survey of airline passengers concluded that Nigeria's Port Harcourt Airport in southern Nigeria was the worst in the world; this airport was the site of a 2005 incident in which an Air France flight hit a herd of cows on the runway. Passengers frequently complain about Port Harcourt's arrival terminal, located in a tent, and the lack of air conditioning in the hot and humid climate.

► Which road leads to the airport?

Visitor:	wacha haanya ke zuwa pilin jirgin sama?	Which road leads to the airport?
Local:	haanyar da tayee gabas	The road is heading east.

Exchange 21

In 2017, Abuja's international airport had to close for six weeks to repair large potholes that formed on the runways. Some international airlines refused to use northern Nigeria's Kaduna as an alternative route during the repairs. Passengers can become irate and attack airline staff.^{39, 40, 41}

Only about 15% of Nigeria's roads are paved. Roads are in poor condition and prone to flooding during the rainy season. Vehicles can be damaged by poor road conditions. Vehicle accidents can subject a motorist to violent confrontations, extra-judicial violence, and incarceration. Fuel is in short supply, so gas stations can have long lines of motorists waiting to fill up their gas tanks. Boko Haram has ambushed travelers on Nigerian roads. The U.S. State Department advises travelers to avoid public transportation because of safety concerns.^{42, 43, 44}



*Farmers transporting harvested cowpea on unpaved road
Flickr / International Institute of Tropical Agriculture*

Checkpoints and Border Crossings



A police post in Lagos State
Flickr / Zouzou Wizman

Security forces at checkpoints have harassed Nigerians and foreigners; security forces often extort bribes. It is important to be polite and courteous at a checkpoint because the police have a reputation for responding harshly to any aggressive behavior. Police may beat or otherwise mistreat suspects and residents to extort money or provoke a false confession. Police commonly “parade” a suspect down a street to be subjected to harassment.

Prisoners in Nigerian jails and prisons rely on family or friends to provide meals because the correctional facilities do not adequately feed inmates. Suspected criminals and militants have disappeared while in police or military custody; prisoners have disappeared from Nigerian prisons. Security forces have been accused of conducting politically motivated detentions.^{45, 46}

▶ Where is the nearest checkpoint?		
Visitor:	inaa ne wurin binchka abubuwan hawa mapee kusaa?	Where is the nearest checkpoint?
Local:	kamar keelomeeta byoo daga nan	It's two kilometers.

Exchange 22

Landmines and Other Hazards

Boko Haram has placed landmines around its camps in the Sambissa forest, which is located in northeastern Nigeria. The terrorist organization has placed mines near the Nigeria-Cameroon border, and the two countries have worked together to locate and destroy mines and defeat Boko Haram in the region.^{47, 48} Boko Haram has used suicide bombings and car bombs against government and civilian targets, including mosques, churches, bus stations,



Boko Haram bombing
Flickr / Global Panorama

markets and popular businesses, schools, and government institutions. The group has used women and teenage girls to carry out suicide bombings; UNICEF estimates that 20% of Boko Haram suicide bombers are children, and children are used to place improvised explosive devices.^{49, 50, 51} Mines were planted in Nigeria's southeast during the Nigerian Civil War. In 2017, the Nigerian government was ordered to pay USD 244 million in compensation to victims of landmines and unexploded ordinance left over from the war.^{52, 53}

▶ Are you carrying any guns?		
Visitor:	kanaa dawkey da wasu bindigogee?	Are you carrying any guns?
Local:	ey	Yes.

Exchange 23

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Hausa Cultural Orientation

Chapter 5 | Rural Life

Assessment

1. A successful international campaign has brought Nigeria's HIV/AIDS rate to the lowest in Africa.
2. Novels are an important educational resource for many women in northern Nigeria.
3. Port Harcourt International Airport is a state-of-the-art Nigerian airport.
4. Nigeria's northern states have higher poverty and illiteracy rates than the southern states.
5. Fulani herders and Christian farmers occasionally clash in central Nigeria.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. False; 4. True; 5. True



*A big family
Flickr / Dolapo Falola*

Chapter 6 | Hausa Cultural Orientation

Family Life

Introduction

The Hausa family is patrilineal. Nigerian families are larger than western families, and a man may have multiple wives; a large family brings respect in the eyes of the community. Wives in a polygynous marriage generally care for their own children, but a husband must be capable of providing for his entire family. The birth of an infant is celebrated, and the new child is regarded as the family's future; some children do not leave their mother's side until they can walk. The husband is typically the head of the household, but the chores of the household are divided among all occupants. The nuclear family is the basis of Hausa society, but extended family relationships may

be invoked to mediate disputes or ease community tensions. Extended separation of married couples and divorce are common.^{1, 2}

Dating and Courtship

The Nigerian constitution encourages interfaith marriages in order to promote national unity. It is generally acceptable to date across ethnic lines, but parents tend to discourage marriage between Muslims and Christians.³ Parents pressure their children to find a spouse, and some parents arrange meetings for potential partners and their children. The rising middle class and young professionals find it difficult to make time to find a spouse. Large churches often host events for singles to facilitate marriage.⁴



Young couple
Flickr / Tom Miller

▶ Are you married?		
Visitor:	kanaa da awree?	Are you married?
Local:	aa-aa	No.

Exchange 24

Family Life



A Nigerian family
Flickr / Louis Kreusel

About a third of Nigerian families are polygynous, meaning the husband has more than one wife. Northern Nigeria has the highest number of polygynous families in the country; this statistic is attributed to the higher observance of Islam, which allows for more than one wife. Older, less wealthy and educated, and rural Nigerians are more likely to practice polygyny. About half of Nigerian women are married by age 18, and over 60% are married by the time they turn 20. However, the median age of a woman's first marriage is starting to increase. Only about 10% of men are married

at 20 years old; the median age of marriage for Nigerian men is 27 years old. Wealthy, educated, urban, and southern Nigerians tend to marry later.⁵

► Does your family live here?

Visitor:	a nan eyaalinka sukey zoney?	Does your family live here?
Local:	ey	Yes.

Exchange 25



A family riding motorcycle
Flickr / LM TP

Over 80% of Nigerian households have a man as the head of the household. Households in rural Nigeria tend to be larger than urban households. Nigerians like having large families; women consider having more than six children ideal, and men consider eight children to be the ideal number. On average, northern Nigerians prefer more children than southern Nigerians.⁶

► How many people live in this house?

Visitor:	mutaney nawa ke zoney a wanan gidan?	How many people live in this house?
Local:	goma	Ten.

Exchange 26

A third of urban Nigerian women and nearly a quarter of rural women have experienced domestic violence. Women who have been divorced or widowed are more likely to have been a victim of domestic violence. Unemployed and uneducated women were less likely to have experienced domestic violence. Wealthier women experienced domestic violence more frequently than women who were of a lower economic status. Married women reported that husbands and romantic partners were the



Women's empowerment rally
Flickr / Africa Renewal

most common perpetrators of violence toward them, but among unmarried women, a mother or stepmother was the most common perpetrator.⁷

Weddings

Hausa weddings are based on Islamic marriage traditions. When a Hausa man proposes, his potential in-laws subject him to an extensive vetting process. The formal marriage arrangement takes place between the parents of the bride and the groom. A dowry is negotiated between the two sets of parents and paid by the groom's family to the bride's family. A smaller dowry is said to bring greater blessings to the marriage, so the dowry does not need to be expensive. Both families set a wedding date; the wedding itself is seen as a fusion of the two families. According to Hausa tradition, the husband provides a house, and the wife's family furnishes it. A wedding contract outlining the marriage, stating the witnesses, and listing the dowry is signed. The wedding ceremony is a small and quiet affair; usually, only family members and those involved in officiating the wedding are in attendance. The wedding reception is a day-long party that usually takes place the day after the wedding. A bridal shower takes place after the wedding ceremony. Hausa wedding traditions vary across Nigeria, and Hausa weddings are less extravagant and shorter than Yoruba or Igbo weddings.^{8, 9}



Nigerian bride and groom
Flickr / WILLIAM WILHELM BEDZRAH

► Congratulations on your wedding!		
Visitor:	inaa tayaa ka murnar awrenka!	Congratulations on your wedding!
Local:	munji dadee da ka sa modaman zuwa	We are honored you could attend.

Exchange 27

Divorce

Officially, Nigeria has a low divorce rate; only 0.3% of women and 0.2% of men have their marriages legally dissolved. This statistic is misleading, especially in northern Nigeria. That figure is artificially low because the Nigerian government does not oversee or track religious marriages or divorces. In Northern Nigeria, Islamic law stipulates that a divorce is granted after the husband states to his wife, “I divorce you” three times.^{10, 11}

Divorce and abandonment can be devastating to women who were married at a young age. Traditional or religious marriages do not offer the same legal protections as secular marriages, so divorce can leave women without any income or land.¹² Women who divorce and return to their family are seen as failures and burdens. Divorced Nigerian women have a hard time finding a new spouse, so they often end up living on the fringes of society. Children usually stay with the father.^{13, 14, 15}



*Sad woman selling fufu, Abuja
Flickr / CGIAR*

▶ Are these people part of your family?		
Visitor:	wadanan mutanan suna chinka eyaalinka?	Are these people part of your family?
Local:	aa-aa	No.

Exchange 28

In 2012, the government of Kano screened couples, matched them, and organized mass weddings. This initiative was launched to help the high number of widows and divorced women find suitable husbands. The government covered all the costs of the mass weddings, including the dowry and gifts. Thousands of couples benefitted from the marriage program, but it was canceled in 2016 due to budget and security concerns.^{16, 17, 18}

Funerals



*Anglican cemetery, Ondo
Flickr / Alan Denney*

Hausa funerals are conducted in accordance with Islamic funeral traditions. The funeral itself takes place within 24 hours of the time of death. Before the funeral, the deceased is washed and shrouded in white sheets. After the body is shrouded, it is prayed over. The funeral service takes place outside the mosque. Participants in the funeral service stand and recite prayers for the benefit of the deceased. A funeral procession accompanies the body to the

gravesite; women and children are not present for the burial. The body is placed into the grave, without a coffin, with the head toward Mecca. Cremation of the body is considered desecration. The body is buried in a Muslim cemetery or a Muslim portion of a cemetery. Grave markers are modest; flowers and small mementos are not placed on or near the grave. Close relatives observe a three-day mourning period; crying is permitted, but loud wailing is discouraged. Widows observe a mourning period that lasts over four months. The widow is to refrain from wearing jewelry or perfume and is required to spend her nights at home; she can't remarry during this time period.¹⁹

▶ I would like to give my condolences to you and your family.		
Visitor:	inaa son inya maka jaajee, key da eyaa-linkaa	I would like to give my condolences to you and your family.
Local:	mun godee	We are grateful.

Exchange 29

Status of the Young and the Elderly



Children in Abuja
Flickr / Mark Fischer

Nigeria's population is young; over 42% of Nigerians are under 14 years old. In rural parts of Nigeria, having a large family is an economic decision. Having more children means children can work on the family farm and one day provide and care for their elderly parents. Parents also have more children to make up for the high infant mortality rate. Nigerians also take pride in their country's population and see it as a sign of strength; Nigeria is growing at an estimated 3% annually. The

use of birth control is a controversial issue in northern Nigeria. Since Boko Haram's tactics devastated food supplies, children throughout the region have suffered from severe malnutrition.^{20, 21, 22}

Nigerian parents emphasize caring, loving, and providing for their children. Some parents provide financial support even into their child's 30s. Parents push their children to graduate from college and earn a good salary, but the coddling of Nigerian children has been blamed for the country's high unemployment rate, delayed university graduation, and low wages among young Nigerians.²³



Old couple
Flickr / Milieudefensie

Nigeria's elderly population is small. In 2010, Nigerians over the age of 65 made up only 2.7% of the population, and by 2050, that figure is expected to reach 3.8%. In the United States, by comparison, 21.4% of the population will be over the age of 65 by 2050. The average life expectancy in Nigeria is 53.8 years old. Men are expected to live 52.8 years and women are expected to live 55 years.^{24, 25} Seniority is important to Nigerians; the elderly are respected and honored. Their age entitles them to be

served and greeted first; their wisdom is respected, and they are expected to make decisions on behalf of a group.²⁶

Naming Conventions

In pre-Islamic Hausa society, children were given names that related to events or the setting surrounding their birth. After the introduction of Islam, Hausa children were given Africanized Arabic names or Islamic-inspired names. Parents also give their children names that convey positive attributes. Popular Hausa names for males include Hasan, which means good or beautifier; Rashidi, which means true, rightly guided, or mature; and Danlami, which means son of Thursday. Popular names for Hausa women include Atikah, which means pure or clear; Maimuna, which means blessed or fortunate; Nafisah, which means delicate, precious, or gem; and Sakinah, which means a tranquil peace of mind.²⁷



Hausa children, Kano
Flickr / Eugene Kim

► Is this your entire family?

Visitor:	wanan sunee eyakachin eyaalinkaa bakey daya?	Is this your entire family?
Local:	ey	Yes.

Exchange 30

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Hausa Cultural Orientation

Chapter 6 | Family Life

Assessment

1. The Nigerian government discourages marrying across religious lines.
2. Polygyny is illegal in Nigeria.
3. One of the causes of high unemployment is attributed to parents who spoil their children.
4. Nigerians take pride in their country's large population and see it as a sign of strength.
5. Many Hausa men do not marry because they cannot afford to pay the dowry.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False

Hausa Cultural Orientation

Further Readings and Resources

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Hausa Cultural Orientation

Final Assessment

1. Islam is one of Nigeria's two official religions.
2. Hausaland was a loose confederation of Hausa states.
3. The Niger River is an important source of irrigation in Nigeria.
4. Sharia Law is observed in one-third of Nigeria's states.
5. Nigeria's national currency is the West African Franc.
6. Hausa is the official language of Nigeria.
7. Although the city of Kano is subject to Sharia law, alcohol is available in some places.
8. The legal marriage age in Nigeria is 18.
9. The Biafran War was an armed conflict between Nigeria and Chad shortly after Nigeria gained independence.
10. There are no term limits for Nigerian presidents.

11. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa.
12. The Port of Lagos was used to transport slaves.
13. Kannywood is a soft lumber used to make traditional instruments.
14. Nigeria was a French colony until in 1948.
15. Nigeria is one of the largest oil exporters in the world.
16. Nigeria's population and economy are concentrated in the country's southern region.
17. The Fulani and the Hausa are bitter enemies.
18. The Hausa language was originally written in the Arabic script.
19. Couples who have had a religious marriage must register their marriage with the state.
20. The *Okadas* is a rare species of antelope that lives in the mountainous region of Nigeria.
21. The Nigerian government discourages young Nigerians from studying abroad.

22. Nigeria's constitution requires equal access to education for women and men.
23. The Nigerian military has run prison camps in northern Nigeria.
24. Polio was eradicated in Nigeria with the help of the World Health Organization (WHO).
25. Muslims in Nigeria are predominantly Sunni.
26. Children have been recruited or kidnapped to fight for Boko Haram.
27. Attacks on Westerners by militant groups and high crime rates are driving down property values in Lagos.
28. Because Nigeria is an oil producer, it does not experience fuel shortages.
29. Nearly half of the population of Nigeria has no access to proper sanitary facilities.
30. The Fulani war was fought between the Fulani and the British over control of trade routes.

30. False

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False; 6. False; 7. True; 8. True; 9. False; 10. False; 11. True; 12. True; 13. False; 14. False; 15. True; 16. True; 17. False; 18. True; 19. False; 20. False; 21. False; 22. True; 23. True; 24. False; 25. True; 26. True; 27. False; 28. False; 29. True;