



**General Country Information:**

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is located in western Africa, and borders Benin, Chad, Cameroon and Niger. It has a south coast along the Gulf of Guinea, part of the Atlantic Ocean. Nigeria is divided in thirty-six states and one Federal Capital Territory. Abuja is the capital, but the largest city is Lagos.

In 1960, Nigeria gained its independence from Great Britain after being a British protectorate since 1901.

Nigeria has been undergoing explosive population growth and is considered the most populous country in Africa with a population of 140,003,542. (Census of Dec. 2006)

Poor conditions of health and health care are one of the factors responsible for the average life expectancy of only 47 years. Just over half the population has access to potable water and appropriate sanitation. Since the Bamako Initiative of 1987, Nigeria has been reorganizing its health system in promoting community-based methods leading to subsequent improvement in the health indicators. Nigeria like many developing countries suffers from a polio crisis as well as periodic outbreaks of cholera, malaria and sleeping sickness.

**Cholera Background History:**

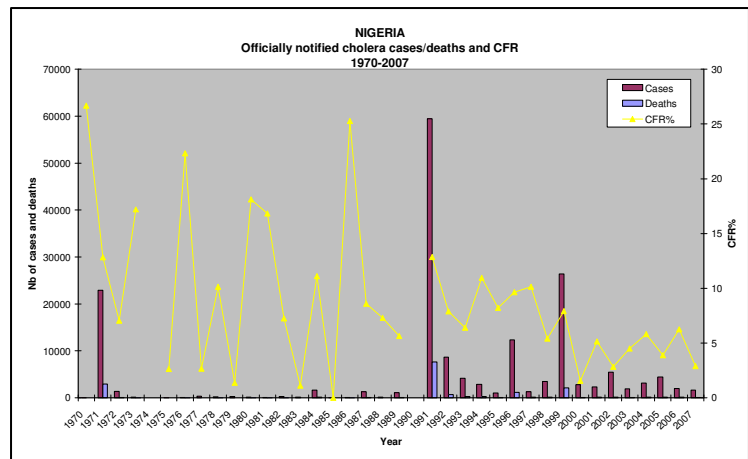
The current cholera pandemic started in 1961, reaching West Africa and Nigeria late 1970. The first recorded cases of cholera in Nigeria occurred in a village near Lagos, on 26 December 1970 leading to an important epidemic of 22 931 cases and 2945 deaths (CFR 12.8%) during 1971.

Between 1972 and 1990, Nigeria reported only very few cases.

In 1991, 59'478 cases and 7'654 deaths have been reported. The CFR was 12.9% which remains the highest rate reported by the country to date. Cases started to be registered in January and among the first affected States were Kano, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Niger and Oyo. By September, the disease had spread to 19 of the 21\* States including the Federal Capital (\*in 1991, Nigeria only had 21 States). *Vibrio Cholerae* El Tor, Ogawa was identified.

In March 1999, an outbreak of cholera was reported in Kano Municipal Local Government Area (LGA), Kano State. The outbreak was traced to the interruption of the domestic water supply for some days which forced people to use any water available. A total of 815 cases with 28 deaths have been recorded up to 6 May. The outbreak also spread to Tofa LGA where 182 cases with 19 deaths were recorded over two weeks beginning in late April and further to Adamawa State (76 cases, 18 deaths) and Edo State (49 cases 24 deaths).

Kano State seems to be particularly affected by cholera outbreaks. Starting in November 2001, 2050 cases including 80 deaths were reported by 18 LGAs. In November 2002, Kano reported 176 cases and 12 deaths.





**Cholera Outbreaks in 2007:**

Suspected cholera cases were reported in Delta State during the first week of January 2007 affecting the following LGAs: Ughelli South, Bomadi, Oshimili South and Burutu.

In October 2007, the Obi LGA in Benue State reported 60 cases of gastroenteritis including one death. A number of samples were sent to the laboratory but the results were not shared with WHO.

In December 2007, Gbajimba, in Guma LGA, (Benue State) reported 36 cases including 9 deaths of "suspected" cholera cases. The laboratory results were not shared with WHO.



**Demographic and Socio-Economic Data:**

<b>Geography</b>	Total surface	923'768km2 (coastline of 853km)
	Capital	Abuja (population in :)
	Provinces	36 States and 1 Federal
	Official Language	English
<b>Environment</b>	Climate	Equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north
	Rainy season	Coast and southeast: rainy season begins in Feb. or March North: peak of the rainy season occurs in August
	Floods and droughts	Periodic droughts; flooding
	Desertification	Rapid deforestation and desertification
	Natural resources	Natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc
<b>Demographics</b>	Population	131'530'000
	Religions	Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%
	Ethnic groups	More than 250; among them: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%
	Migrants	Undetermined number of IDPs (UNHCR, Sept. 2007), 8'230 refugees (August 2007, mostly Liberians)
<b>Economy</b>	Industry	Crude oil, coal, tin, columbite; palm oil, peanuts, cotton, rubber, wood; hides and skins, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food products, footwear, chemicals, fertilizer, printing, ceramics, steel, small commercial ship construction and repair
	Farming	Cocoa, peanuts, palm oil, corn, rice, sorghum, millet, tapioca, yams, rubber; cattle, sheep, goats, pigs; timber; fish
<b>Health Indicators</b>	Per capita total expenditure on health	53\$
	Life expectancy birth (yrs)	Males: 47                      Females: 48
	Child mortality (per 1000)	194
<b>Communicable Diseases</b>	Malaria and yellow fever, meningococcal meningitis, Lassa fever, leptospirosis and shistosomiasis, H5N1 avian influenza has been identified HIV prevalence (2005): 3.5%	
<b>Risk Factors for Cholera</b>	Population with access to improved water source	48%
	Population with access to proper sanitation facilities	44%
	Chronic Malnutrition	9%

Sources for Document: WHO, UN (MDG), UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP



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