

NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - NIGERIA

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN NIGERIA Vol. 8

Location: NIGERIA

Issue: 627 confirmed cases, 170 recoveries and 21 deaths following the outbreak of COVID-19.

Date: APRIL 5-19, 2020.

COMMUNITY PROFILING

Population: Nigeria has a population of over 200,963,599¹.

Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:

Nigeria shares land borders with the Republic of Benin, Chad, Cameroun, Niger and the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean. The country has 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). There are 774 Local Government Areas (LGA's) divided across six (6) geo-political zones.

Ethnicity: Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups with Hausa-Fulani, Igbo, Yoruba³ in the majority.

CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Direct Actors: Community residents.

Affected Persons:

Residents of Abuja-FCT, Benue, Niger, Kwara (**North-Central**); Bauchi (**North-East**); Kaduna, Kano, Katsina (**North-West**); Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, Osun, Ondo and Oyo (**South-West**); Edo, Delta, Akwa-Ibom and Rivers (**South-South**); Enugu, Anambra (**South-East**);

Interested Actors:

Federal and State Governments, Federal/State Ministry

INCIDENT PROFILING

Nigeria is currently recording cases of the global pandemic-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) since its first detection in Wuhan, China, on December 8, 2019⁹. Since then, the virus has spread across the globe with over 2,406,745 confirmed cases reported in over 210 countries and territories. In addition, there are an estimated fatality of 165,273 deaths and over 628,816 recoveries, as of April 20, 2020¹⁰ at 8.38 a.m.

Since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 on February 27, 2020¹¹ in Nigeria, the country continue to record an increase in the number of infected cases and recoveries.

Between April 5 to 19, 2020, an additional 395 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded from 232 to 627 cases¹². According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), a total of 627 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported as of April 19, 2020 at 11.50 p.m across 22 States. Also, of the confirmed cases, 170 infected persons recovered and have been discharged with 21 fatalities¹³.

The chart below illustrates the weekly trend analysis of all confirmed Covid-19 cases in Nigeria from February 27 to April 19, 2020. Out of the total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Nigeria, 436 cases are active following the recovery and fatality rate in the period.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Nigeria

² <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/nigeria-population/>

³ <https://photos.state.gov/libraries/nigeria/487468/pdfs/Nigeria%203overview%20Fact%20sheet.pdf>

⁴ <http://snisnet.net/MFLDSS/MFLDSS.php?source=4&snu=0&factype=&owner=0&country=NG>

⁵ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/health/health-features/361373-nigeria-budgets-n2000-for-the-healthcare-of-each-citizen-in-2020.html>

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/25/nigeria-covid-19-cases-rise>

⁷ <https://www.ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/files/sitreps/bfd8f02878ff5ded5edc9c25308fdad.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.ecowas.int/institutions/west-african-health-organisation-waho/>

⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/13/first-covid-19-case-happened-in-november-china-government-records-show-report>

¹⁰ Coronavirus Global Cases Update (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>) Data retrieved on April 18, 2020.

¹¹ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/news/item/241/?t=frequently-asked-questions-on-coronavirus--15%2F03%2F2020>

¹² Coronavirus National Update: Data retrieved from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on April 2, 2020. <http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>

¹³ <http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>

Nigeria Health Facilities:

There are over 20,807 health facilities including Primary Health Centres (2019 est) ⁴. The healthcare infrastructures are inadequate compared to the population base. The 2020 budget allocation of 427.30 billion accounts for an estimated 4.14% of the proposed budget for the health sector. The year recorded a marginal increase in the overall budget from 424.03 billion naira in 2019.⁵ This is abysmally low compared to the 15% World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmark. According to the Nigeria Medical Association, the country has about 40,000 doctors to provide care for over 200,000 million population. The WHO recommended physician to patient ratio is one doctor per 1,000 patients (1:1000), however, this is not obtainable in Nigeria.⁶

Epidemics: Nigeria has recorded Lassa Fever, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), Small Pox, Measles, Polio, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Cholera, Guinea worm, CerebroSpinal Meningitis epidemics, amongst others. Recently, the Lassa Fever outbreak in Nigeria has resulted in the fatality 161 people with 906 confirmed cases and 3735 suspected cases ⁷ across twenty-seven (27) States from January 1-March 15, 2020.

ECOWAS Infrastructure Africa **Health (West Health**

of Health, National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), United Nations, National Primary Health Care Development Authority, World Health Organisation (WHO), Nigeria Medical Association, National Association of Resident Doctors, Nigerian Private Sector Coalition, E-Health Africa, National/State Emergency Management Agencies, International Coordinating group on Vaccine Provision (ICG), Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme, Doctors Without Borders, Security Agencies including the Nigerian Air Force, Nigerian Ports Authority, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, etc.

FIGURES OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES: DAILY TREND ANALYSIS

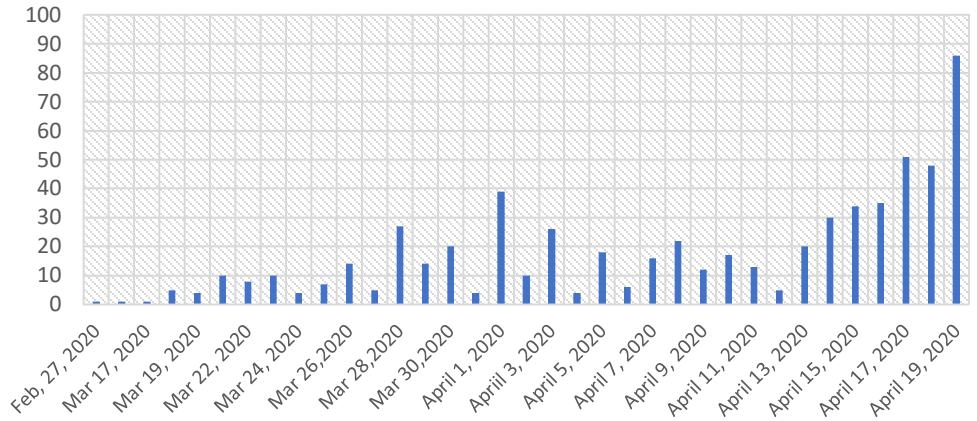


FIG 1: Weekly Trend Analysis of Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Nigeria¹⁴.

The graphical analysis below further reveals that out of the 627 confirmed cases, Lagos and Abuja-FCT accounts for the highest number of cases (376 and 88) in the reviewed period. Also, Kano, Osun, Oyo, Edo, Ogun and Katsina States recorded 36, 20, 16, 15, 12 and 12 cases, while Kwara and Akwa-Ibom States accounted for 9 cases each and 7 cases in Bauchi State. Kaduna State recorded 6 cases with Delta accounting for 4 cases. Ekiti and Ondo States recorded 3 cases each with Enugu, Rivers, Jigawa and Niger States recording 2 cases each and one (1) case each in Benue, Anambra and Borno States.

Out of 170 recoveries, Lagos State accounted for the highest recovery rate of 97, while Abuja-FCT and Osun States recorded 23 and 18 recoveries. Also, Edo, Oyo and Ogun States accounted for 6, 5 and 5 recoveries, while Kaduna and Akwa Ibom recorded 4 and 3 recoveries. Enugu, Kwara, Ekiti and Rivers recorded 2 recoveries each and one (1) in Bauchi State respectively. The chart also highlights the figures of fatalities in Lagos (13), Abuja (2), Akwa-Ibom (1), Edo (1), Katsina (1), Kano (1), Borno (1) and Delta (1) States¹⁵.

COVID-19 CASES IN NIGERIA, APRIL 19, 2020

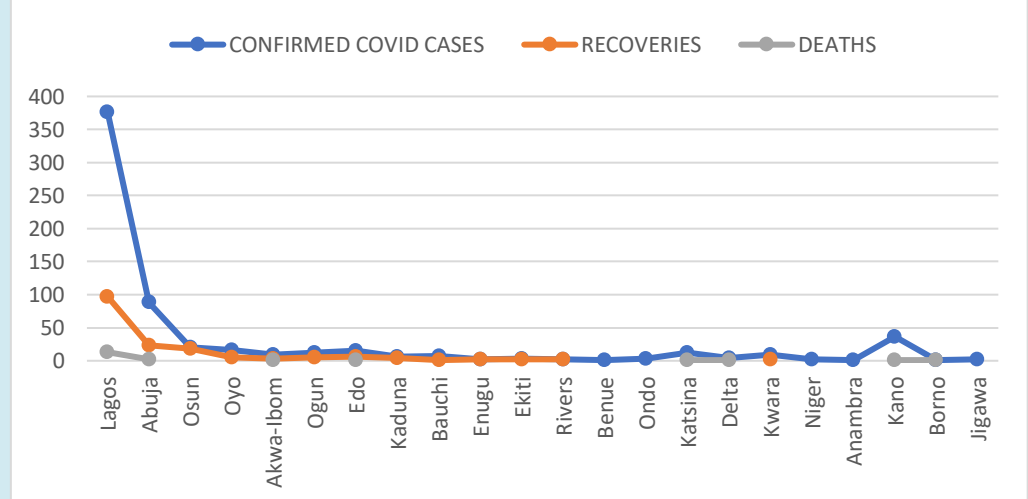


FIG 2: Number of confirmed, recovered and fatality from Covid-19 cases in Nigeria¹⁶.

¹⁴ www.wanep.org/news
¹⁵ <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/04/17/nigeria-records-another-covid-19-death-as-24-more-patients-recover/>
¹⁶ www.wanep.org/news

Organisation-WAHO): A regional agency with the responsibility of safeguarding the health of the sub-region's populace, enabling high-impact and cost-effective health interventions and programs including combating health problems, capacity building for health personnel and epidemiological surveillance in the sub-region. WAHO supports quality improvement of health systems, support for development of sustainable financing of health, amongst others⁸.

Since the commencement of the “two-weeks stay-at-home order” by the Federal Government on March 30, 2020, the number of COVID cases in Nigeria increased from 131 confirmed cases with 2 fatalities in 12 States to 323 confirmed cases and 10 fatalities in 20 States as of April 13 2020. Between April 13-19, 2020, an additional 304 confirmed cases and 11 fatalities were recorded with an additional 2 States reporting COVID cases following the second phase of the “two-weeks order”, which commenced on April 13, 2020. Albeit, the rate of increase within the reviewed period is marginal compared to other countries across the globe.

Other major health concerns recorded in the period include, the outbreak of Lassa Fever that has led to the death of 188 people between January 1- April 12, 2020 across 27 States.¹⁷ Also, out of 25 suspected measles cases in Malabo village, Fufore LGA of Adamawa State¹⁸, 7 children were reported dead on April 7, 2020. The latter has been attributed to minimal participation of the affected community in routine immunization programs of the State Government especially due to socio-cultural factors including medical mistrust.

GEOGRAPHICAL DYNAMICS OF COVID-19 IN NIGERIA

As the number of infected cases increases, the security landscape has witnessed a surge in violent attacks, kidnappings and armed robberies occasioned from effects of the lockdown across States. This has generated fear among the populace as hoodlums rob residents of their valuables daily and loot food stores.¹⁹ In Lagos and Ogun States, food items and properties were looted from markets and residents with gang members circulating alert letters, notifying residents of their visits to rob, as recorded in the WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS). An assessment of the response mechanisms to address the insecurity reveal that individuals and communities have resorted to self-protection strategies to complement the efforts of security agencies to prevent criminal attacks and theft.

There are also reports of physical assaults, extra-judicial killings and violent clashes encountered in the course of enforcing compliance of the lockdown order in States as recorded in WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS)²⁰ in the reviewed period. From March 30 to April 15, 2020, an estimated 21 people were reportedly killed by security operatives in Kaduna, Abia, Niger, Katsina, Cross River, Delta and Anambra States, amongst others²¹. Also, several arrests have been made as regards violations of the restriction order of the Federal and State Governments with vehicles impounded by security agencies in States.

In addition, the lapses in security operational procedures of how the ‘lockdown’ should be implemented has aggravated series of human rights violation across States, coupled with the failure of some residents to adhere to the restriction mandate. In Delta State, resident doctors embarked on a peaceful protest following cases of harassment by security operatives enforcing the lockdown order in the State. According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), 105 complaints of human rights violation were documented by the agency²².

The steady increase in confirmed COVID cases further brings into consideration the health safety and welfare of medical personnel at the forefront of combating the pandemic. In Kwara State, members of the National Association of Nurses and Midwives issued complaints of absence of Personal Protective Equipments (PPE)²³, while the Nigerian Medical Association, National Association of Resident Doctors and the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives have clamoured for medical and life insurance policy for health workers²⁴ in the country. However, the presence of medical teams from China to support the country's COVID combat efforts has generated public controversies, as members of the Nigerian Medical Association have shown resentment regarding their presence with threats to review their participation in combating the pandemic.

Although, there is lack of uniformity in the lockdown measures across States, State Governments continue to sustain restriction of residents with active contact-tracing of suspected cases to curb the spread of COVID. Efforts by the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to limit the spread and increase the testing capacity has led to the expansion of testing laboratories across the six geopolitical zones in the country. Currently, testing laboratories have been created in Lagos, Oyo, Osun (**South-West**); Abuja-FCT, Plateau (**North-Central**); Edo, Rivers (**South-South**), Ebonyi (**South-East**); and Kano State (**North-West**), while efforts are ongoing to set up in Sokoto, Kano, Kaduna (**North-West**) and Borno (**North-East**) States respectively.

¹⁷ file:///Users/amasedobor/Downloads/An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria_110420_15.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/health/health-news/386746-measles-claims-seven-children-in-adamawa.html>

¹⁹ <https://punchng.com/lockdown-hoodlums-rob-residents-loot-shops-in-lagos/>

²⁰ www.wanep.org/news/

²¹ <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/04/16/covid-19-lockdown-falana-calls-for-investigation-into-extra-judicial-killing-of-21-persons/>

²² <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/387999-lockdown-security-agents-killed-more-nigerians-in-two-weeks-than-coronavirus-commission.html>

²³ <https://punchng.com/kwaras-nurses-begin-strike-over-lack-of-protective-wear/>

²⁴ <https://punchng.com/coronavirus-doctors-nurses-demand-life-insurance-as-cases-hit-318/>

RISK ANALYSIS

- The extension of the stay-at-home directives by the Federal/State Government to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect commercial activities especially in the decline of purchase by Nigerians. Although food processing factories and retail outlets as well as other commercial establishments are exempted from the shut-down, access by consumers and farmers to markets are limited due to the restrictions. This has been attributed to the spike in the price of food items in the country.
- The risk of community transmission is evident, as States have begun to record local transmission of the virus even as land borders and airports have been shut down.
- The temporary shut-down in the country also has implications on low income earning population and poor households largely due to looming food insecurity that might ensue. Incidents of protest is evident emanating from alleged poor distribution of relief items to vulnerable communities.
- The shut-down continues to impact negatively on human security and public safety, considering the surge in criminal activities including armed robberies, armed banditry and kidnapping for ransom in the country.
- The vulnerability of women and children to gender-based violence is imminent especially in households where parents go out daily to meet family needs. The restrictions may also likely make it harder to report cases of violations, while also limiting response from service providers.
- Although there is no current data on job losses in Nigeria, Nigeria is already grappling with an unemployment rate of 23.1% and underemployment of 16.6% as of 2019. The percentage may likely increase following the effects of the pandemic on the economy.
- The potential spread of the pandemic in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps further raises health concerns given the overcrowded and poor hygienic conditions at the camp.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Federal, State and Local Governments should enhance collaboration with traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organisations and the media on the enforcement of Government's initiatives across States and communities; increase public health and safety awareness among population to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;
- It is also imperative for the Federal, State and Local Governments to enhance cooperation and collaboration to ensure decentralization of responses at the local or community level in order to mitigate the spread of the disease in local communities;
- The Federal, State and Local Governments should continue to enhance the capacity of security agencies to mitigate the surge in criminal activities occasioned by the pandemic across States;
- The Federal and State Ministry of Health with the support of international health agencies including the World Health Organisation (WHO) should continue to strengthen its surveillance mechanisms including enhancing the rate of testing capacities across States to mitigate local transmission of coronavirus in the communities.