



# **Nigeria Situational Analysis**

## **Version II - June 2020**

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has prepared Situational Analyses (SITANs) which synthesise the most recent existing literature and evidence on factors that impact on the lives of people with disabilities in each of the six UK Aid funded Disability Inclusive Development (DID) countries to better inform the DID programme implementation in each country. For more information about how the situational analyses were conducted see page 25.

This situational analysis addresses the question of: "what is the current situation for persons with disabilities in Nigeria?"

DID operates in six countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Nepal and Jordan

These SITANs can be used throughout the programme, by all those involved in it, in order to better understand the current context and available evidence. This will help lead to better informed projects within the different thematic areas and help with situating these different projects within the wider country context. Where the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has recommendations from the concluding observations on the country, these have been integrated in relevant places to ensure that the UNCRPD is at the heart of the SITANs.

Where possible, the SITANs also flag up gaps in evidence which the DID programme may be interested in addressing. As living documents they can be adapted to include newly published evidence and to reflect any adaptions in areas of interest in the programme. The earliest version of the SITAN was dated 12 April 2019 and reflected the context in each country before the programme is implemented there, while the annual updated SITANs may begin to reflect what has occurred during the programme implementation phase, which can support MEL efforts.

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## 1. Summary of key information

## **Country facts and figures**

Nigeria is a country with 195.9 million people in West Africa. It is comprised of 36 autonomous states. It has an abundance of resources including oil and gas. In 2019, Muhammadu Buhari won the presidential election and was sworn in for a second term. While Nigeria has made some progress in socio-economic terms in recent years, it continues to face massive developmental challenges, which include the need to reduce the dependency on oil and diversify the economy, address insufficient infrastructure, and build strong and effective institutions, as well as improve governance and public financial management systems. Income inequality has been growing rapidly and has adversely affected poverty reduction. Northern Nigeria continues to suffer from a lack of economic development. This problem has been exacerbated by the Boko Haram insurgency, which has resulted in people being displaced and increased insecurity.

Nigeria has a large youth population. The general population is split equally between those living in urban and rural areas. Nigeria falls within the low human development categorisation according to the UNDP. Gross national income (GNI) per capita was PPP \$5,086 in 2011. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was PPP \$5,316. In 2020 the Nigerian economy was severely hit by the impact of COVID-19 and the associated sharp decline in oil prices. The expected years of schooling in Nigeria is 9.7. The adult literacy rate is 51.1 percent. The adult mortality rate (per 1,000 people) is 328 for females and 368 for males. Public health expenditure represents 3.6 percent of GDP.

#### **National Policies**

#### **National Development Plans**

Nigeria has had several development plans including the Colonial Development Plan (1958 to 68), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) (2005), Nigeria Vision 20:2020 (2009 to 2020), National Industrial Revolution Plan, the Nigeria Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (2015 to 2045), the Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017 to 2020).

The current ERGP is a medium term plan that aims to achieve sustained inclusive growth. Its objectives are to achieve sustained inclusive growth to consolidate national cohesion and deliver structural economic transformation. Under the plan efficiency in both public and private sectors will be improved, national productivity increased and maximum welfare for the citizens achieved through food and energy security.

The NIIMP aims to modernise Nigeria's infrastructure by strengthening its linkages with the national economy. It also includes a strategy to promote private sector participation in infrastructure development and the strengthening of the relevant policy, legal and institutional frameworks. Section 2.6.2 of NIIMP relates to ensuring accessibility for all, including those with disabilities.

The Nigeria Vision 20:2020 plan aims for Nigeria to become one of the top 20 economies in the world by 2020. Its objectives are to optimise resources to achieve rapid economic growth and then to translate that growth into equitable social development for all citizens. These aspirations are defined across social, economic, institutional and environmental dimensions. Vision 20:2020

was developed through a participatory process and persons with disabilities were included as one of twelve Special Interest Groups invited to contribute.

#### **UNCRPD** and national disability policies

#### **UNCRPD**

Nigeria ratified the UNCRPD in September 2010. Nigeria is yet to submit a report to the UN on the UNCRPD, due to lengthy national processes. In Nigeria, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development are responsible for disability inclusion. Nigeria is yet to domesticate the convention. The lack of effective legislation and adequate administrative infrastructure is reportedly limiting the impact of the UNCRPD in Nigeria.

#### National disability legislation

In January 2019, the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018) was signed into law. It prohibits discriminating against people with a disability. The law lays out penalties for non-compliance that can be levied at individuals or corporations. It also stipulates a five-year transitional period after which public buildings and transport must be accessible. The law will also establish a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, to oversee access to housing, education, and healthcare for persons with disabilities. The new Act is regarded as a first step towards the fulfilment of Nigeria's obligations under the CRPD. In addition to the national legislation, four of the 36 states in the country - Plateau, Ekiti, Lagos, and Bauchi - have state level disability laws.

#### **Employment and livelihood policies**

Policies and programmes to enable persons with disabilities to gain employment in Nigeria are limited. In Lagos State, Special People's Law (Vol 5) Section 34 affirms the right of persons with disability to work on equal basis with others, although compliance is thought to be low. The Employee's Compensation Act (2010) details compensation for any employment related injury or disability. The Disabilities Act (2018) requires by law all public organisations to reserve at least five per cent of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

#### **Social Protection policies**

In Jigawa State a social security allowance of N7,000 (\$46) per month is available to people with physical disabilities, with an estimated 4,000 people benefiting. The programme is fully owned by the state government and has no donor or civil society input. The selection process is questionable. The Jigawa State social assistance programme is believed to be the only scheme of its kind in Nigeria.

Nigeria is working on a national social protection policy which was approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) in 2017.

#### **Education policies**

The status of the National Education Policy is not clear. However, a National Policy on Special Needs Education was launched in 2015. It focuses on creating a least restrictive environment, achieving zero rejections, and delivering the total inclusion and diversification of services beyond the school target. The Federal Ministry of Education is moving away from Special Education towards a broader focus on Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation Services.

The National Teacher Education Policy from 2014 includes an objective of ensuring that teachers have the capacity to respond to learners with special needs. The policy also commits to developing courses to produce teachers who are specialists in special needs education.

Under the new Disabilities Act (2018), access to education for persons with disability will be ensured by a newly established National Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

#### **Health policies**

Nigeria's National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was launched in 2005. One of its programmes focuses on people with a permanent disability.

The Physically Challenged Persons Social Health Insurance Programme (PCPSHIP) is a social health insurance programme. Membership can include persons with physical or intellectual disabilities. Contributions to the programme come from the Federal/State/Local Governments, development partners and civil society organisations.

A National Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be formed under the new Disabilities Act (2018) and will take responsibility for ensuring that people with disabilities have access to healthcare among other services.

## The situation for people with disabilities

#### **Disability prevalence**

The 2018 National Demographic and Health Survey reported that 7 percent of the population have some difficulty with regards to various domains of disability, and 1 percent have a lot of difficulty or cannot function in at least one domain. Other estimates of disability prevalence vary depending on the source and range from 2 percent to 10 percent. Prevalence rates are roughly equal between males and females. The Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) estimate that there are over 25 million persons with disabilities in Nigeria, while other estimates suggest the figure is only 3.3 million.

#### Attitudes towards disability and disability stigma

In Nigeria disability issues are often viewed through a charity or welfare lens, which has a negative impact on social inclusion. Persons with disability often face pity and stigma. Discrimination reduces access to many aspects of life including education, health and work. Many discriminatory practices against persons with disabilities are entrenched and sustained by religion and cultural beliefs. Women with disabilities may encounter more obstacles than men. Children with disabilities may also face negative perceptions and resulting unfair treatment. Disabilities are often believed to be related to curses; ancestral violations; offenses against gods of the land; breaking laws and family sins; misfortune; witches and wizards; adultery; a warning from the gods of the land; societal taboos; misdeed in a previous life; illegal or unapproved marriage; evil spirits; and many others.

#### Disability and poverty

Half of the population of Nigeria live in multidimensional poverty and 32.3 percent live in severe multidimensional poverty. The north of Nigeria has the highest poverty incidence. This is caused by inadequate provision of health, education and other social services and the lack of industries.

People with disabilities in Nigeria are disproportionately affected by poverty. An estimated 9 out of 10 people with disabilities in Nigeria live below the poverty line.

#### Disability and livelihoods/work

#### **Barriers to employment**

People with disabilities in Nigeria face physical as well as attitudinal barriers to employment. Having a good education does not guarantee employment for people with disabilities. Negative attitudes and misconceptions about capacity and productivity can act as barriers. The new Disabilities Act (2018) addresses discrimination of persons with disabilities with regards to employment, but it is not yet clear how this law will be enforced and how effective it will be.

#### **Formal employment**

Unemployment rates of youths were 77.3 percent for persons with disability compared to 49.2 percent for persons without disability. Unemployment rates of adults were 62.5 percent for persons with disabilities compared to 21.5 percent for persons without disabilities. For both youths and adults, male/female youth unemployment was equal for persons with disability, but higher for females without disability compared to males without disability. 61 percent of youths with disabilities are not in education, training or employment compared to 23 percent for persons without disabilities. The proportion of people employed in informal sectors was 13 percent for persons with a disability compared to 30 percent for persons without a disability. The proportion of persons with disabilities in managerial roles is thought to be close to zero, compared to 0.9 percent for persons without disabilities.

The Nigerian Constitution states that all citizens should have the opportunity to work without discrimination, although a loophole means that enforcement of this right is challenging. The previous Nigerians with Disability Act (1993) addressed discrimination, training needs and offered tax incentives to encourage employment of persons with disabilities. However, despite the law, persons with disability have faced years of vulnerability to discrimination and disadvantage in employment in Nigeria, experiencing unequal employment opportunities, limited rights to work and low job security. Misconceptions about cost of reasonable adjustment and a lack of capacity to perform tasks are barriers to persons with disabilities gaining formal employment.

The lack of opportunities available for people with disabilities reduces employment participation. Weak implementation and enforcement of legislation exacerbates the situation. Economic empowerment of persons with disabilities remains low, despite desire to work and in some cases high levels of education. Negative attitudes present barriers to people with disabilities securing certain jobs. In some cases, people with disabilities are given certain jobs due to misconceptions and stereotypes, regardless of skills and education. In some instances, people with disabilities are employed as token gestures or quotas. Women with disabilities encounter additional problems in finding employment due to the patriarchal society, prejudice opinions about image, and level of education.

The Disabilities Act (2018) requires by law all public organisations to reserve at least five per cent of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. It is not yet clear how effective the law will be in increasing formal employment for persons with disabilities.

#### Disability and social protection

Nigerians with health insurance provided by social security is 1.4 percent for persons with disabilities (2.9 percent for females, 0 percent for males), compared to 2.4 percent for persons without disabilities (1.7 percent for females, 3.1 percent for males). Since 1993, the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) has delivered disability benefits and since 2002 a pension benefit. Few state governments provide income support for older people and persons with disabilities. The Jigawa State Government runs the only official social assistance programme for persons with disabilities in Nigeria, although the selection process is not transparent. Adamawa State Universal Basic Education Board has a feeding programme for pupils with disabilities. In general there social protection for people with disabilities in Nigeria is regarded as ineffective, despite multiple programmes being funded and implemented across the country by numerous donors, non-government organisations, and agencies. In general, social protection programmes are uncoordinated, fragmented and inefficient.

#### Disability and education and training

The participation rate in education is 12 percent for children with disabilities, compared to 57 percent for those without disabilities. The participation rate of youths in education/training is 25 percent for those with disabilities, compared to 55 percent for those without disabilities. The participation rate of adults in education/training was 0.5 percent for persons with disabilities compared to 4.5 percent for persons without disabilities. Literacy rates for youths is 36 percent for persons with disabilities, compared to 64 percent for persons without disabilities. Primary school completion rates are reported as 100 percent for all children with disabilities in Nigeria (which seems very high) compared to 78 percent for all children without disabilities. Secondary school completion rates are 40 percent for children with disabilities compared to 56 percent for children without disabilities. The disability inclusion umbrella organisation JONAPWD estimate that 90 percent of children with disabilities are out of school in Nigeria.

Very little has been done with regards to educating persons with disabilities in Nigeria. Despite guarantees provided by the Constitution, legal loopholes have resulted in a lack of enforcement. is arranged limits the authority of the judiciary meaning that the Nigerian government cannot be compelled to carry out the duties with regards education in the Constitution. The only way of enforcing provisions is through judicial activism. Nigerians with Disability Act (1993) promised equal and adequate education for all persons with disabilities and the Disabilities Act (2018) also guarantees equitable access to education. The previous law failed to deliver and it is too early to assess the impact of the new law. One positive example of an intervention is a CBM project called 'Services for people with disabilities' supports about 100 persons a year in through training and other services.

Barriers to education for persons with disabilities include funding as well as a failure to access funding when it is available; negative attitudes; lack of accessible infrastructure and long and difficult journeys to school; lack of clear and supportive policies and legislation; lack of support services; poverty and school fees; inadequate deployment of trained professionals and various bureaucratic obstacles.

The 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report found that in Nigeria, there is limited use of assistive hardware (e.g. large key keyboards, mouse alternatives) and software (e.g. screen readers, magnifiers, print-to-Braille converters, Braille-to-speech synthesizers, speech-to-text converters, memory/ organization devices, voice-over on devices). Where assistive technology was being used, it was mainly people with hearing impaired and people with learning disabilities who used it. Power supply hampered the use of available devices (UNESCO 2020).

#### Further and higher education

University completion rates in Nigeria were 4.5 percent for persons with disabilities (0 percent for females, 7.1 percent for males) compared to 9.1 percent for persons without disabilities (6.1 percent for females, 12 percent for males). Higher education facilities are in general not accessible. Stigma also reduce access, with the attitudes of teachers and school administrators being a concern.

There are some examples of interventions in this area. In 2018 the Industrial Training Fund launched the Skills Training and Empowerment Programme for the Physically Challenged (STEPP-C) which involved 120 persons. UNDP has been working with the Anambra State Government to implement the Special Target Enterprises Development and Monitor Initiative, which aims to develop the vocational skills of persons with disabilities in shoe making, tailoring, hair dressing and computer application/management. It is not clear how effective these initiatives have been. Although many persons with disabilities in Nigeria have benefiting from similar programmes to develop skills, many discontinue the application of what they have learnt.

## Disability and transport/public accessibility

People with disabilities in Nigeria face poor and inadequate access to transport. Findings from one study suggests that 80 percent of people with disabilities are reliant on public transport. Road environment and vehicle design pose mobility challenges. As well as improving infrastructure, transport staff need disability awareness training. Most public buildings in Nigeria are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Under the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018) there will be a five-year transitional period to address these accessibility shortcomings. New buildings must be accessible or they will not be approved. Planning officers can face prosecution for failing to implement the new law.

#### Disability and health

Inclusive health is known to be poor in Nigeria, both in terms of service and policy provision. 97 percent of the Nigerian population have no health insurance. The majority of people with disabilities receive rehabilitation from families, friends and, in a few cases, by governmental agencies.

#### Access to assistive devices and assistance

The majority of education institutions in Nigeria do not have required assistive technologies for students with disabilities. Assistive technologies are not being utilised adequately in Nigeria. Cost is thought to be prohibitive to accessing assistive technology.

## Organisations supporting people with disabilities

Nigeria has many organisations of people with disabilities operating at all levels, but the majority adopt a charity/welfare approach to disability issues, as opposed to a rights or social based approach. This has undermined advocacy efforts and led to confusion with regards to representation. Also, many of the organisations of people with disabilities organisations of people with disabilities only cater for the needs of single impairment groups. Organisations of people with disabilities in Nigeria have been criticised for being charity/welfare organisations with a focus on immediate financial gratification. Few organisations of people with disabilities exist in the

northern parts of the country and those that do are regarded as ineffective and have questionable governance.

There are two competing national organisations of people with disabilities in Nigeria - the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAWPD), and the Association for the Comprehensive Empowerment of Nigerians with Disabilities (ASCEND). JONAPWD is recognised as the official conduit between the Nigerian government and persons with disabilities in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. However, there are concerns over the capacity of JONAPWD, the lack of strategic direction and a lack of transparency. ASCEND started as a grassroots movement and has socio-political roots. The rivalry between the two has detracted from the need to address deep-seated institutional and attitudinal barriers. International NGOs focusing on the delivery of services to people with disabilities do exist, but their geographical coverage is limited. The vast majority of people with disabilities have no access to disability services. The situation is worse for those living in rural areas. The Coalition of Disability Organisations (CODO) is another umbrella organisation for persons with disability. CODO in the past has been active in supporting industrial action lead by labour unions.

#### **Humanitarian situations**

Interventions by government, security and civil society actors during times of disruption are criticised for not taking the needs of women and girls with disabilities into account. Often in humanitarian situations in Nigeria, services are not made accessible to persons with disability and they are not included in designing or implementing polices and programmes. Post-election violence in 2011 and the Boko Haram crisis in the north led to resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a camp in Kaduna. Many of the IDPs experienced trauma and mental health problems including depression. In addition, a strong correlation is known to exist between having a disability and having depression.

## Main report

## 2. Country overview

Nigeria is a federation of 36 autonomous states in West Africa. It is home to a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse society. Nigeria has an abundance of resources. It is Africa's biggest oil exporter and has Africa's largest natural gas reserves (World Bank 2020). In 2019 Nigeria held national elections for the sixth consecutive time since its return to democracy in 1999. The incumbent president, Muhammadu Buhari won and was sworn in for a second term in May 2019. Fighting corruption, increasing security, tackling unemployment, diversifying the economy, enhancing climate resilience, and boosting the living standards of Nigerians are his main policy priorities. Nigeria's federated structure gives significant autonomy to states (World Bank 2020).

While Nigeria has made some progress in socio-economic terms in recent years, its human capital development remains weak due to under-investment. Furthermore, the country continues to face massive developmental challenges, which include the need to reduce the dependency on oil and diversify the economy, address insufficient infrastructure, and build strong and effective institutions, as well as governance issues and public financial management systems. Inequality in terms of income and opportunities has been growing rapidly and has adversely affected poverty reduction. The North-South divide has widened in recent years due to the Boko Haram insurgency and a lack of economic development in the northern part of the country (World Bank 2020).

Although stability has improved in Nigeria, Boko Haram remains a threat in the northeast. Due to the threat of violence, millions of persons have been displaced and therefore require assistance. In the northeast region there has been destruction of infrastructure, loss of lives and impoverishment due to the instability (ILO 2016). Large pockets of Nigeria's population still live in poverty, without adequate access to basic services, and could benefit from more inclusive development policies. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of the high poverty levels, of regional inequality, and of social and political unrest in the country (World Bank 2020).

Nigeria has a population of 195.9 million people (UNDP 2020). It has one of the largest populations of youth in the world (World Bank 2020). The population is split equally between those living in urban and rural areas. There are 104.6 million people of working age (15–64 years old) and 5.4 million people aged 65 years and older. In 2019, Nigeria had a Human Development Index score of 0.534, giving it the rank of 158 out of 188 countries. It falls within the low human development categorisation (UNDP 2020).

Gross national income (GNI) per capita was reported to be PPP \$5,086 in 2011. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was PPP \$5,316. In terms of income inequality, the Gini coefficient is 43.0. The expected years of schooling in Nigeria is 9.7 and the adult literacy rate for those aged 15 and older is 51.1 percent. The gross enrolment ratio in primary education as a percentage of the primary school-age population is 85 percent, while the ratio for enrolment in secondary education is 42 percent. In terms of health, life expectancy at birth is 54.3 years. The adult mortality rate (per 1,000 people) is 328 for females and 368 for males. Public health expenditure represents 3.6 percent of GDP. Stunting (moderate or severe) for those aged under 5 is 43.6 percent. The under-five mortality rate is 100.2 per 1,000 live births (UNDP 2020).

#### COVID 19

The Nigerian economy has been severely hit by the spread of COVID-19 and the associated sharp decline in oil prices (IMF 2020). Low oil prices, limited fiscal space, and rising national debt are factors that will aggravate the economic impact of COVID-19 in Nigeria. Government spending has increased and tax has been cut for businesses. The public budget increased from 8.83 trillion naira (\$24.53 billion) in 2019 to 10.59 trillion naira (\$29.42 billion) in 2020, representing 11 percent of the national GDP, while small businesses have been exempted from company income tax, and the tax rate for medium-sized businesses has been revised downwards from 30 to 20 percent. COVID-19 has caused all components of aggregate demand, except for government purchases, to fall. Fall in household consumption stems from restrictions on movement, low expectations of future income, and the erosion of wealth and expected wealth as a result of the decline in assets such as stocks and home equity. Nigeria has a burgeoning gig economy as well as a large informal sector, which contributes 65 percent of its economic output. Movement restrictions have reduced the consumption of commodities, and affected people's income-generating capacity, reducing their consumption expenditure (Onyekwena and Ekeruche 2020).

#### 3. National Policies

## **National Development Plans**

Nigeria has had several development plans over the years, starting with the Colonial Development Plan which was implemented from 1958 to 68. Major strategic initiatives, including the Structural Adjustment Programme; the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy; the Strategy for Attaining the Millennium Development Goals; and the 7-Point Agenda, were not seen to have been effectively implemented (Commonwealth Governance 2018).

The Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017-2020) aims to achieve sustained inclusive growth (MBNP 2017). It is a Medium Term Plan that aims to restore economic growth while leveraging the ingenuity and resilience of the Nigerian people. Nigeria entered a recession in the second quarter of 2016. The ERGP was developed to tackle the causes of the recession and ultimately change the national economic trajectory. The ERGP builds on existing strategies and plans such as the National Industrial Revolution Plan, and the Nigeria Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan. The main elements or objectives of the ERGP include sustained inclusive growth to consolidate national cohesion; a structural economic transformation; improving efficiency in both public and private sector; increasing national productivity; achieving sustainable diversification of production; to significantly grow the economy and achieving maximum welfare for the citizens by ensuring food and energy security (State House 2018).

The National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP) was published in 2015. Its aim is to boost and modernise Nigeria's infrastructure over a 30 year period. The objectives of NIIMP are to adopt a coordinated approach to infrastructure development; to strengthen the linkages between components in the infrastructure sector and the national economy; to preview, upgrade and harmonise existing sub-sector master plans and strategies in the infrastructure sector, to ensure consistency with national development aspirations; to prioritise projects and programmes for implementation in the short to medium term; to promote private sector participation in infrastructure development; to strengthen the policy, legal and institutional frameworks for effective infrastructure development; and to enhance the performance and efficiency of the economy. Section 2.6.2 of the plan relates to ensuring accessibility for all. It states that

infrastructure development must take into account accessibility for all citizens, particularly those with disabilities. With the right infrastructure, people with disabilities can exercise basic activities for daily living, including going to work (NPC 2015).

The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) was Nigeria's Poverty Reduction Strategy. It was published in 2005. It aimed to support agriculture, industry, small and medium-scale enterprises, and oil and gas. Under the plan, the government will seek long-term capital for investment. Trade policy will be modified to unburden business of the red tape and complex procedures that hinder it from flourishing. It envisages forging stronger links between educational institutions and industry to stimulate rapid industrial growth and efficient exploitation of resources. NEEDS commits to implementing laws and programmes to empower persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Among other commitments, NEEDS states that the Nigerian government shall direct policy towards ensuring that a reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits, and welfare of the people with disabilities are provided for all citizens (NPC 2004).

The Nigeria Vision 20:2020 aims for Nigeria to become one of the top 20 economies in the world by 2020. It was launched in 2009. Its vision is that by 2020, Nigeria will have a large, strong diversified, sustainable and competitive economy that effectively harnesses the talents and energies of its people and responsibly exploits its natural endowments to guarantee a high standard of living and quality of life to its citizens. It has two broad objectives 1) Optimise human and natural resources to achieve rapid economic growth; 2) Translate that growth into equitable social development for all citizens. These aspirations are defined across four dimensions:

- Social Dimension A peaceful, equitable, harmonious and just society, where every
  citizen has a strong sense of national identity and citizens are supported by an
  educational and healthcare system that caters for all, and sustains a life expectancy of
  not less than 70 years.
- Economic Dimension A globally competitive economy that is resilient and diversified with a globally competitive manufacturing sector that is tightly integrated and contributes no less than 25 percent to Gross Domestic product
- Institutional Dimension A stable and functional democracy where the rights of the citizens to determine their leaders are guaranteed, and adequate infrastructure exists to support a market-friendly and globally competitive business environment.
- Environmental Dimension A level of environmental consciousness that enables and supports sustainable management of the nation's God-given natural endowments to ensure their preservation for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Vision 20:2020 plan was developed through a process that involved active participation and input from a broad spectrum of Nigerians. Persons with Disabilities were included as one of twelve Special Interest Groups (SIGs) who worked with Stakeholder Development Committees (SDCs) to ensure any specific needs, approaches or views were considered (NPC 2009).

## **UNCRPD** and national disability policies

#### **UNCRPD**

Nigeria signed the UNCRPD on 30 March 2007. It was ratified on 24 September 2010 (UN 2018). Article 35 of the UNCRPD requires that State Parties submit reports on how the rights of people with disabilities are being implemented within their country. States must first report within two years of ratifying the Convention, and then every four years after that. Nigeria is yet to submit

a report on the UNCRPD. According to Umeh and Adeola (2013), the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development are responsible for the UNCRPD reporting. The delay in the completion of the initial report is caused by lengthy national processes.

Organisations of people with disabilities are aware of the importance of the UNCRPD, but without effective disability legislation or adequate administrative infrastructure for its implementation, it is unlikely that the political ramifications of the UNCRPD will have any impact within Nigeria for the foreseeable future (Lang et al 2011). Despite Nigeria signing and ratifying the UNCRPD, the country has not yet domesticated the Convention (CBM 2018). In 2012 the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) Rivers State chairman, Chika Onuegbu, called for domestication of the UNCRPD in Nigeria (Tide 2012).

#### National disability legislation

By 2016, four of the 36 states in the country - Plateau, Ekiti, Lagos, and Bauchi had enacted disability laws that aimed at removing discrimination and obstacles to accessing services by individuals with disabilities in these states (Eleweke and Ebenso 2016). In December 2018, Kabir (2018) writing in the New Telegraph, reported that the Kano State Governor had signed into law the state's Disability Bill. Writing in the Guardian, Onyekwere, Olatuji and Afolabi (2018) state that the Ekiti State Chapter of JONAPWD has appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to sign the Disability Bill into law.

After 9 years of advocacy by disability rights groups and activists, on January 23 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018. The law prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and imposes sanctions including fines and prison sentences on those who contravene it. It also stipulates a five-year transitional period for modifying public buildings, structures, and automobiles to make them accessible and usable for people with disabilities. The law will also establish a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, responsible for ensuring that people with disabilities have access to housing, education, and healthcare. The Commission will be empowered to receive complaints of rights violations and support victims to seek legal redress amongst other duties. The enactment of the Act is only a first step in the fulfilment of Nigeria's obligations under the CRPD. Authorities must now put effective measures in place for its full implementation to ensure equal treatment and participation of people with disabilities across Nigeria (Ewang 2019).

Writing in the Premium Times, Iroanusi (2019) reports that if an individual is found violating the new law through discriminating on the grounds of disability, they will pay a fine of N100,000 or a term of six months imprisonment. The law imposes a fine of one million naira on corporate bodies. The Act gives citizens with disabilities the right to file a lawsuit for damage against any defaulter.

Arimoro (2019) argues that Nigeria is yet to fully implement the appropriate measures required to achieve the objective of protecting people with disabilities. Successive administrations since the return to civil administration in the country in 1999 have not fulfilled the mandate in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) dealing with disability rights. While signing DAPDPA into law is commendable, Arimoro (2019) argues that it only reflects the pressure on the Government by disability rights advocates and people with disabilities. More must be done by the Government to achieve inclusivity of people with disabilities.

## **Employment and livelihood policies**

The Disabilities Act (2018) requires by law all public organisations to reserve at least five per cent of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Iroanusi 2019). Apart from this, the number of policies or programmes to enable persons with disabilities to gain full or even part time employment in Nigeria are limited (Umeh and Adeola 2013). In Lagos State, Special People's Law (Vol 5) Section 34 focuses on a right to work and employment, affirming the right of persons with disability to work on equal basis with others (LSHA 2010 p.10). The Guardian (2018) reports that compliance of the law is low (Guardian 2018). The Employee's Compensation Act (2010) lays out provisions for compensations for any death, injury, disease or disability arising out of or in the course of employment (FRN 2010).

## **Social Protection policies**

To address the challenges faced by people with disabilities in Nigeria, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq stated in April 2020, that a Special Assistant would be immediately appointed to coordinate and liaise with people with disabilities in Nigeria to improve their welfare, in line with the Ministry's mandate (lyorkegh 2020).

In Jigawa State, the governor has initiated a social security allowance (cash transfer) consisting of a monthly payment of N7,000 (\$46) to people with physical disabilities (Holmes et al 2012). 150 persons with disability from each of the 27 local governments within Jigawa receive the payments. As of 2015 N28,539,000 has been paid to the beneficiaries. The programme is fully owned by the state government and has no donor or civil society input. Selection is found to be largely based on patron— client relationship and luck as there are no criteria developed for the selection process (Aiyede et al 2015). As of 2017, the Jigawa State Government social assistance programme for persons with disabilities remained the only scheme of its kind in Nigeria (Aiyede et al 2017).

Aiyede et al (2015) state that as of 2015 Nigeria was in the process of developing its national social protection policy. A draft document prepared in 2014 drew on the Constitution and Vision 20:2020, as well as Nigeria's commitment to various international conventions including the African Union Social Policy Framework for inspiration. It conceives social protection as imperative to the reduction of poverty and protection of vulnerable groups from shocks that may arise from social insecurity and vulnerabilities caused by disabilities, accidents and disasters. According to a story in Vanguard (2017), on 19 July 2017 the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved the National Social Protection Policy.

## **Education policies**

The status of the National Education Policy is not clear. However, the National Policy on Special Needs Education in Nigeria was launched in 2015. It lays emphasis on creating a least restrictive environment, achieving zero rejections, and delivering the total inclusion and diversification of services beyond the school target. The Federal Ministry of Education is moving away from Special Education towards a broader focus on Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation Services. This involves adopting a paradigm shift to maximise the potential of each person with a disability. The aim of the policy is to ensure persons with disabilities are provided equal opportunities, equity and have access in a barrier free environment. The policy reaffirms that the Federal Ministry of Education has the responsibility of coordinating Special Needs Education in Nigeria (FME 2015).

The goal of the National Teacher Education Policy from 2014 is to promote quality education at all levels of the system by transforming the image, self-concept and social recognition of teachers. The policy aims to achieve this by improving the standards of recruitment into the teaching profession, by the development of world standard initial teacher education programmes, by institutionalising systematic career long professional development of all teachers. One of the objectives (7.3 iv) of the policy is to ensure that teachers have sufficient mastery of academic content disciplines and of pedagogy principles and their applications, including enhanced capacity to respond to learners with special needs. The policy also commits to developing courses to produce teachers who are specialists in special needs education (FME 2014).

Under the new Disabilities Act (2018), access to education for persons with disability will be ensured by a newly established National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (Ewang 2019).

## **Health policies**

Nigeria's National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was established in 1999 but not officially launched until 2005. It has several main social health insurance programmes, one focused on people with a permanent disability (Holmes et al 2012).

The Physically Challenged Persons Social Health Insurance Programme (PCPSHIP) is a Vulnerable Group Social Health Insurance Programme designed to provide health care services to persons who due to their physical status (including age) cannot engage in any meaningful economic activity. Membership of PCPSHIP can include persons with physical or intellectual disabilities. Contributions come from The Federal/State/Local Governments, development partners and civil society organisations, who pay contributions in advance into the Vulnerable Group Fund (NHIS 2018).

Under the new Disabilities Act (2018) a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be established that will take responsibility for ensuring that people with disabilities have access to healthcare among other services (Ewang 2019).

## 4. The situation for people with disabilities

## Disability prevalence

The 2018 National Demographic and Health Survey included questions about six domains of disability—seeing, hearing, communicating, remembering or concentrating, walking or climbing steps, and washing all over or dressing—among the household population age five and above. Overall, 92 percent of the household population have no difficulty in any domain; while 7 percent have some difficulty and 1 percent have a lot of difficulty or cannot function in at least one domain. Among adults age 15 and older, 2 percent of women and 2 percent of men have a lot of difficulty or cannot function in at least one domain (NPC Nigeria & ICF 2019). Other estimates of disability prevalence vary depending on the source. JONAPWD estimate that there are over 25 million persons with disabilities in Nigeria (JONAPWD 2017). According to Haruna (2017), the disability prevalence rate in Nigeria is 10 percent. Leonard Cheshire's (2018) disability data review reported that based on a general household survey, the prevalence of disability in Nigeria was 2.0 percent (2.0 for females and 2.1 percent for males) in 2012/13. According to Khan et al (2018), there are an estimated 3.3 million people with disabilities in Nigeria, with a disability prevalence rate of 2.3 percent. As a result of the insurgency in the North-East, this region has the highest number of people with disability in the country (Uduu 2020).

## Attitudes towards disability and disability stigma

People with disabilities are still often discriminated against in Nigeria. Much of the discrimination stems from the negative public perceptions due to misinformed cultural beliefs (Uduu 2020). Within Nigerian society, the common perception is that disability issues are viewed in terms of charity and welfare. This entrenched view has a negative impact on the social inclusion of people with disabilities within the country (Lang & Upah 2008). For example, the media in Nigeria still address disability issues as a charity issue rather than a public policy concern, which perpetuates discrimination (Uduu 2020). Persons with disability are often regarded as people to be pitied rather than as people who can contribute to the development of Nigeria. As a result of stigma, people with disabilities may lack access to education, rehabilitation and employment. They are not adequately protected by implementation of legislation. Even when they have been educated or rehabilitated and meet the necessary requirements for employment, they are often denied employment on the basis of their disability. Consequently, many people with disabilities resort to depending on their family or charities for assistance to sustain themselves as they have no source of income for their livelihood (Ofuani 2011).

A study in Rivers State reported that people with disabilities who do get work experience negative societal perceptions being expressed towards them within the workplace. The majority of people with disabilities experienced cases of humiliation at work due to their disability (Ihedioha 2015). Eleweke and Ebenso (2016) found that even educated people with disabilities may struggle to secure a job in Nigeria due to people's negative attitudes toward those with disabilities. Their study reported that the participants were unanimous that women with disabilities encounter more obstacles that could be attributed to gender inequalities in Nigeria. Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV) and abuse (Jerry et al 2015).

Etieyibo & Omiegbe (2016) argue that there a paucity of evidence from Nigeria that focuses on disability and the role that religion, culture and beliefs play in sustaining discriminatory practices against persons with disabilities. Many exclusionary practices are either embedded in or sustained by religion, culture and beliefs about disability. Persons with disabilities are the victims of various discriminatory including the trafficking and killing of people with mental illness, oculocutaneous albinism and angular kyphosis, raping of women with mental illness and the employment of children with disabilities for alms-begging. Etieyibo & Omiegbe (2016) argue that the Nigerian government needs to introduce legislation that targets cultural and religious practices which are discriminatory against persons with disabilities as well as protecting the interests of persons with disabilities. The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018) does make discrimination of persons with disabilities illegal, but it is not yet clear how this law will be enforced and how effective it will be.

Eskay et al (2012) report that in Nigerian society, children with disabilities have been incorrectly understood, and this misunderstanding has led to their negative perception and treatment. Overcoming negative attitudes and misunderstandings about disability were the basic problems affecting children with disabilities. Public education programmes and information dissemination have been undertaken to try and address this challenge. There are several beliefs for the negative attitudes revolving around children with disabilities in Nigeria. These beliefs cut across the Nigerian society and hence have a similar impact on the citizens' attitudes on learners with disabilities. Negative perceptions about children with disabilities in Nigeria were found to be related to a curse from God (due to gross disobedience to God's commandments); ancestral violation of societal norms (e.g., due to stealing); offenses against gods of the land (e.g., fighting within the society); breaking laws and family sins (e.g., stealing and denying); misfortune (e.g., due to marriage incest); witches and wizards (e.g., society saw them as witches and wizards);

adultery (a major abomination); a warning from the gods of the land (due to pollution of water and the land); arguing and fighting with the elders (a societal taboo); misdeed in a previous life (such as stealing); illegal or unapproved marriage by the societal elders (arguing and fighting against the elderly advice in marriage); possession by evil spirits (due to gross societal disobedience); and many others (Eskay et al 2012). With regards to attitudes towards children with disabilities, one study reported that in general attitudes of students without disabilities were positive. Being female and having interpersonal contact was associated with positive attitudes (Olaleye et al 2012).

Some efforts have been made to tackle disability stigma in Nigeria. An intervention in Nigeria in 2016 involved showing participants a film designed to increase awareness of intellectual disability and its causes, and to challenge common stigmatising beliefs. The films provided factual information about intellectual disabilities as well as first-hand accounts of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The intervention was shown to result in positive changes in attitudes (Odukoya and Chenge 2017).

## **Disability and poverty**

Just over half of the population of Nigeria live in multidimensional poverty and 32.3 percent live in severe multidimensional poverty. 53.5 percent of the population live below the income poverty line (PPP \$1.90 a day). 69.1 percent of those employed are considered to be working poor (earning PPP \$3.10 a day or less) (UNDP 2020). Sowunmi et al (2012) reported a low poverty incidence in the southern part of Nigeria which ranges from 8.1 to 36.9 percent. In the north central, the poverty incidence ranges from 55.4 to 78.1 percent. The core north (which comprises of northwest and northeast) has the highest poverty incidence ranging from 78.4 percent in Zamfara central to 97.7 percent in Jigawa northeast. The average poverty rate in the southeast is the lowest (29.9 percent), while average poverty rates of south and southwest are 39.8 percent and 37.9 percent respectively. The northwest geopolitical zone has the highest average poverty rate (77.6 percent); this is followed by northeast (74.5 percent) and north central (68.1 percent). The high average poverty rates in the northern geopolitical zones may be attributed to longstanding lags in provision of health, education and other social services resulting in proportionately more poor people in the north. The southern zone has most of the industries and many export crops while the northern zone is largely rural and agricultural with a fragile agroclimatic environment and a different socioeconomic history.

In Nigeria, many people with disabilities struggle to emerge from poverty as employment opportunities are limited (Ofuani 2011). An estimate by the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies suggests that 9 out of 10 persons with disabilities in Nigeria live below the poverty line (NIALS 2010, Haruna 2017).

## Disability and livelihoods/work

#### **Barriers to employment**

Ofuani (2011) reports a lack of enabling legislation to promote employment opportunities in Nigeria. There is also weak implementation and enforcement measures if legislation is in place. Physical as well as attitudinal barriers exclude full and enjoyable participation in the workplace. In addition, people with disabilities are sometimes employed as token gestures or to fill quotas (Eleweke and Ebenso 2016). Having a good education does not overcome discrimination for many people with disabilities. Many employers are concerned about productivity and influenced by negative stereotyping (Ofuani 2011).

#### Formal employment

In terms of employment data, Leonard Cheshire (2018) reported that unemployment rates of youths (15-25 years old) in Nigeria were 77.3 percent for persons with disability (77.8 percent for females, 76.9 percent for males) compared to 49.2 percent for persons without disability (56.8 percent for females, 41.8 percent for males). Unemployment rates of adults who are 25-64 years old were found to be 62.5 percent for persons with disabilities (61.5 percent for females, 63.4 percent for males) compared to 21.5 percent for persons without disabilities (28.6 percent for females, 12.1 percent for males). Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 year) not in education, training or employment are 61 percent for persons with disabilities (64 percent for females, 59 percent for males) compared to 23 percent for persons without disabilities (28 percent for females, 19 percent for males). The proportion of people (15-64 years old) employed in informal sectors (or self-employment as a proxy) was 13 percent for persons with a disability (16 percent for females, 10 percent for males) compared to 30 percent for persons without a disability (33 percent for females, 27 percent for males). The proportion of people in managerial positions was found to be 0 percent for persons with disabilities, compared to 0.9 percent for persons without disabilities (0.7 percent for females, 1 percent for males) (Leonard Cheshire 2018).

The Nigerian Constitution states that all citizens should have the opportunity to secure an adequate means of livelihood and suitable employment without discrimination of any group. A technical issue in how the Constitution is arranged limits the authority of the judiciary. The Nigerian government cannot be compelled to carry out the duties contained within the Constitution. The NWDA provides for government to take measures to promote the employment of persons with disability. It also provides that at least 10 percent of all fund allocations to training and personnel development must be reserved by employers of persons with disability. No person with a disability should be face discrimination by an employer due to their disability. The NWDA also states that private employers who employ persons with disability are entitled to a tax deduction of 15 percent (Ofuani 2011).

Persons with disability are especially vulnerable to discrimination and disadvantage in employment in Nigeria, experiencing unequal employment opportunities, limited rights to work and low job security. Most employers are reported to be uncomfortable employing persons with disabilities due to the conviction that they will be unable to perform their roles and/or that it would be too expensive due to fear and stereotyping (Ofuani 2011).

Many persons with disabilities in Nigeria struggle to emerge from poverty as opportunities for them are limited. In many cases, these lack of opportunities are caused by the lack of enabling legislation to promote access to skills development and employment opportunities or by weak implementation and enforcement measures if legislation is in place (Ofuani 2011). UNDP (2015) report that disability surveys show that common occupations for persons with disabilities in Nigeria were begging, studying, farming and trading, but the majority (60 percent) were unemployed due to their disability and only about 4 percent have access to economic empowerment.

A qualitative study by Eleweke and Ebenso (2016) reported that six of the seven interviewees with disabilities indicated they were working full time. The participants had college education. The participants stated that one of the reasons educated people with disabilities could have a hard time finding jobs was people's negative attitudes toward those with disabilities. They reported varied experiences regarding barriers in the workplace and attitudes of their colleagues without disabilities. The attitude of their colleagues made significant impacts on their job performances. There were accounts of work colleagues helping when needed. Accounts are provided of efforts made by employers and colleagues to accommodate workers with disabilities. However, some

participants gave accounts of challenges they encountered due to physical and attitudinal barriers that excluded full and enjoyable participation in the workplace. There were accounts of people with disabilities stereotyped into certain jobs. For instance, large corporations tend to put blind people in call centres regardless of their education and training. People with disabilities were sometimes reported to be employed as token gestures. Some women with disabilities were reported to have been given jobs because of quotas. The accounts of the participants indicated that women with disabilities might encounter additional problems in finding employment either because of the patriarchal society or because of the pressures on firms to present attractive images. Society's view of women may restrict them from getting a job, as it is believed the women's place should be at home. Although some women with disabilities might possess extensive computer training and skills they might not be hired due to a conceptions about public image. Other factors contributing to the lower employment opportunities for women include the level of education.

The Disabilities Act (2018) requires by law all public organisations to reserve at least five per cent of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Iroanusi 2019).

## Disability and social protection

By Decree No. 73 of 1993, the federal government introduced the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF). The provisions in the NSITF include disability benefits. In 2002, it was amended to introduce a minimum pension benefit. Few state governments provide income support for older people and persons with disabilities. The Jigawa State Government runs the only existing social assistance programme for persons with disabilities in Nigeria. The programme was an initiative of the State governor who wanted to uplift the standard of living of persons with disabilities. An enabling bill was signed into law in 2007 by the state Governor. One hundred and fifty persons with disability from each of the twenty-seven local governments of the state receive the sum of seven thousand naira each monthly. From the record of the agency vested with the responsibility, the sum of N28,539,000 has so far been paid to the beneficiaries. The programme is fully owned and run by the state government, without any donor or federal government inputs. Selection is largely based on patron-client relationship and luck, as there are no objectives criteria developed for the selection process (Aiyede et al 2017).

A Disability Scoping Study focused on Nigeria published in 2008 reported that there is a lack of social protection for people with disabilities (Lang & Upah 2008). Holmes (2017) reports that there is in fact a wealth of social protection programmes being funded and implemented across the country by numerous state-level government MDAs (ministries, departments, and agencies), international donors, NGOs, and faith-based organisations (which include the disability grant in Jigawa state mentioned above). Adamawa State Universal Basic Education Board has a feeding programme for pupils and students of the Special Education Centre in Jada, which is for children with disabilities (Holmes et al 2012). However, in general, the numerous programmes are uncoordinated in the absence of an overarching federal-led strategic social protection plan, resulting in fragmented programming and inefficient service delivery (Holmes 2017).

The proportion of individuals older than 15 years with health insurance provided by Social Security was found to be 1.4 percent for persons with disabilities (2.9 percent for females, 0 percent for males), compared to 2.4 percent for persons without disabilities (1.7 percent for females, 3.1 percent for males) (Leonard Cheshire 2018).

According to Uduu (2020) social protection for people with disabilities in Nigeria is still relatively weak. The Discrimination Against Person with Disability (Prohibition) Act has not significantly

improved the real 'protection' for people with disabilities and it has not reduced social, political, and economic exclusion.

## Disability and education and training

Despite various provisions in law and the Nigerian Constitution to promote equal and adequate educational opportunities for all, not much has been done with regard to educating persons with disabilities. As with employment, a technical issue in how the Constitution is arranged limits the authority of the judiciary meaning that the Nigerian government cannot be compelled to carry out the duties with regards education in the Constitution. The only way of enforcing provisions is through judicial activism. The NWDA specifically states that the government and relevant authorities must ensure equal and adequate education as well as provide free education for persons with disabilities in Nigeria, as well as delivering vocational training. It also provides for the establishment of special schools with appropriate curricula for different disabilities and improves tertiary education facilities for persons with disabilities. It states that not less than 10 percent of all educational expenditure should be spent to the educational needs of persons with disabilities. Despite these provisions, the rate of education for persons with disabilities is very low and the degree of illiteracy is high compared to the rest of the population. It is doubtful if 10 percent of the education budget is spent on persons with disabilities. In some States, the government has implemented a community-based vocational rehabilitation project. Some of the centres are supported by CBM. For instance, the CBM project 'Services for people with disabilities' supports about 100 persons a year in its economic empowerment and livelihood unit by vocational training and small loans or grants for those that have achieved vocational skills to set up their own micro-businesses. A lack of commitment by the government to provide the necessary manpower and resources to ensure the functioning of these centres is reported (Ofuani 2011).

In terms of special needs education, Adebisi et al (2014) identify various barriers, including inadequate funding and failure to access funding which is available; negative attitudes; lack of accessible infrastructure and long and difficult journeys to school; lack of clear and supportive policies and legislation; lack of support services; poverty and school fees; inadequate deployment of trained professionals and various bureaucratic obstacles. Focusing on the needs of children who are deaf, Eleweke et al (2015) states that the provision of education and related services remain unsatisfactory.

A disability data review produced by Leonard Cheshire (2018) reported the following findings on disability and education and training:

- Primary school completion rates were reported to be 100 percent for all children with
  disabilities in Nigeria (100 percent female, 100 percent male), compared to 78 percent for
  all children without disabilities (79 percent for females and 77 percent for males).
   Secondary school completion rates were only 40 percent for all children with disabilities
  (0 percent for females and 50 percent for males), compared to 56 percent for all children
  without disabilities (55 percent for females and 57 percent for males).
- The participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age) for Nigeria was 12 percent for children with disabilities (12 percent for both male and females), compared to 57 percent for those without disabilities (59 percent for males and 55 percent for females). The participation rate of youths (15-24 years old) in education/training in Nigeria was 25 percent for those with disabilities (18 percent for females, 29 percent for males), compared to 55 percent for those without disabilities (50 percent for females and 60 percent for males). Participation rate of adults (25-64 years old) in education/training in Nigeria was 0.5 percent for persons with disabilities (percent

- for females, 0 percent for males), compared to 4.5 percent for persons without disabilities (3.4 percent for females, 5.7 percent for males).
- Literacy rates for those less than 25 years old was found to be 36 percent for persons with disabilities (21 percent for females, 52 percent for males), compared to 64 percent for persons without disabilities (62 percent for females and 66 percent for males).¹ Literacy rates for those least 25 years old were found to be 35 percent for persons with disability (22 percent for females, 47 percent for males), compared to 61 percent for those without (51 percent for females, 74 percent for males). Literacy rates for people at least 15 years old were found to be 37 percent for persons with disabilities (21 percent for females, 50 percent for males), compared to 68 percent for persons without (60 percent for females and 78 percent for males).

In terms of limitations, it should be noted that fewer than 50 unweighted observations were used for these calculations (Leonard Cheshire 2018).

JONAPWD (2017) estimate that about 3 million children with disabilities (representing about 90 percent of children with disabilities) are out of school in Nigeria.

## Further and higher education

Leonard Cheshire (2018) report that university completion rates (25-54 years old) in Nigeria were 4.5 percent for persons with disabilities (0 percent for females, 7.1 percent for males) compared to 9.1 percent for persons without disabilities (6.1 percent for females, 12 percent for males). University completion rates for people at least 55 years old were 5.1 percent for persons with disabilities (0 percent for females, 7.3 percent for males) compared to 8.8 percent for persons without disabilities (4.6 percent for females, 11 percent for males).

Eleweke and Ebenso (2016) found that classrooms and lecture theatres in colleges and universities in the country were not accessible to wheelchair users. Also, attitudinal barriers emerged when individuals with disabilities were applying for admission into schools. Such negative attitudes could be due to misunderstanding of the nature and needs of people with disabilities or due to blatant discrimination. The latter seemed to be the case for those with stigmatised conditions such as leprosy. The attitude of teachers and school administrators was a concern raised by the participants.

In August 2018, the Industrial Training Fund launched a programme to address spiralling unemployment and drive job creation. One element of the programme was called Skills Training and Empowerment Programme for the Physically Challenged (STEPP-C) involving 120 persons (ITF 2018). It is not clear at this stage how effective STEPP-C has been.

In collaboration with the Anambra State Government, UNDP Nigeria implemented the Special Target Enterprises Development and Monitor Initiative for persons with disabilities. The initiative aimed to empower participants with vocational skills in four trade areas; shoe making, tailoring, hair dressing and computer application/management (UNDP 2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The table that provided the data on literacy rates for those aged less than 25 years old, is believed to be incorrectly titled in the version of the report that was referenced.

Khan et al (2018) report that despite many persons with disabilities benefiting from rehabilitation programmes and skills acquisition through the governmental agencies, many discontinue the application of what they have learnt.

## Disability and transport/public accessibility

A study into mobility challenges and transport safety of people with disabilities in Ibadan found that the challenges facing people with disabilities are being exacerbated by poor and inadequate transport. Data from 388 persons with disability were gathered in 2 major motor parks, designated bus stops and road terminals. Two thirds of respondents were male, 72 percent had no more than primary education and begging was the main source of income. 90 percent of respondents made only two trips per day and 80 percent were reliant on public transport. Road environment and vehicle design were the main mobility challenges. To meet the needs of persons with disabilities, improvements are needed in accessible transport infrastructure, disability awareness for public transport staff, vehicle design and disable-oriented mobility planning (Ipingbemi 2015).

Most public buildings in Nigeria are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Only very few tertiary institutions and government offices have rams, lifts with sound and floors with brail numbering. Access to public transport Nigeria's public transport system is not sensitive to the plight of persons with disabilities and there is no social inclusion project or programme envisaged (Umeh and Adeola 2013).

Under the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018) a five-year transitional period is stipulated for modifying public buildings, structures, and automobiles to make them accessible and usable for people with disabilities (Ewang 2019).

The disabilities act (2018) prohibits discrimination against persons with disability in public transportation facilities. Service providers are required to make provisions for all people with disabilities. This applies to seaports, railways and airport facilities. Existing public buildings have a five-year transitional period within which they need to be made accessible. For new buildings, before a public structure is started, its plans shall be inspected by relevant authorities to ensure that the plan conforms with the building code. Plans will not be approved if they are not accessible. An officer who approves the approval of a building plan that contravenes the building code is liable to a fine of N1,000,000 or a term of imprisonment of two years or both (Iroanusi 2019).

## Disability and health

Verdier-Chouchane and Karagueuzian (2016) constructed an inclusive health index based on nine health indicators that take into account the conceptual dimensions of inclusive health (quantity, quality and accessibility). The nine indicators were immunisation, maternal mortality ratio, improved sanitation facilities, density of physicians, tuberculosis, improved water source, government expenditure on health, life expectancy at birth and out-of-pocket expenditure. Nigeria fell within the bottom 10 countries on the index, suggesting much of its population are deprived in terms of inclusive health care services. Nigeria also fell within the bottom 10 countries with regards to those with least active inclusive health care policies.

Citing the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey Report (2008), Khan et al (2018) state that over 97 percent of the Nigerian population have no health insurance The majority of people with disabilities in Nigeria receive rehabilitation from families, friends and, in a few cases, by governmental agencies (through institutional or custodial care) (Khan et al 2018).

Under the new Disabilities Act (2018) healthcare is one of the areas that a new National Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be working to deliver (Ewang 2019).

#### Access to assistive devices and assistance

A study to investigate the availability of assistive technologies for special education in Nigerian educational institutions that involved the participation of 1,115 teachers found that the majority of institutions do not have required assistive technologies for students with disabilities. The findings suggest assistive technologies are not being utilised adequately in Nigeria (Yusuf, Fakomogbon & Issa 2012). A study focused on northern Nigeria reported that the cost of addressing ear infections and deafness is higher than the monthly minimum wage for most individuals (Adoga, Nimkur & Silas 2010).

## Organisations supporting people with disabilities

Nigeria has a plethora of organisations of people with disabilities that operate at national, state and local levels. However, with a few notable exceptions, the vast majority have adopted a charity/welfare approach to disability issues, and have little understanding of a rights-based agenda or indeed, the principles of the social model of disability. This has resulted in the adoption of inappropriate advocacy and campaigning strategies and confusion over representation of persons with disabilities. The lack of unity within the Nigerian disability movement has a negative impact upon advocacy and lobbying. There are two competing national organisations of people with disabilities in Nigeria, both of which claim to represent all people with disabilities in the country (Lang et al 2011). These are the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAWPD), and the Association for the Comprehensive Empowerment of Nigerians with Disabilities (ASCEND) (Lang & Upah 2008). The rivalry between these groups has resulted in many Nigerian organisations of people with disabilities focusing on tackling relatively low key issues, rather than dealing with deep-seated institutional and attitudinal barriers. The Nigerian disability movement has to date failed to successfully drive forward a rights-based approach to disability (Lang et al 2011). The main ministry for disability issues is the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The services that they provide have their roots in a charity/welfare approach. Demand for such services far outstrips supply. There are international NGOs focusing on the delivery of services to people with disabilities, but their geographical coverage is limited. The vast majority of people with disabilities have no access to disability services. This is particularly the case for those living in rural areas (Lang & Upah 2008).

According to Umeh and Adeola (2013) JONAPWD is the official body in Nigeria that specifically addresses the violation of the rights of people with disabilities. The Executive Council of JONAPWD acts as a conduit between the Nigerian government and persons with disabilities in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. JONAPWD protects persons with disabilities by reporting any form of inhuman treatment they are subjected to, to the government. It has been able to establish partnership with other mainstream human rights organisations. However, it has been argued that JONAPWD does not have the capacity to become an effective rights-based advocacy body as a result of the absence of a strategic plan including an obvious lack of transparency.

ASCEND started as a movement for the empowerment of Nigerians with disabilities. It is a platform for all Nigerians with disabilities to come together and speak with one voice. ASCEND is a socio-political group with the objective aim of integrating persons with disabilities in society generally, and in politics in particular (Umeh and Adeola 2013).

In addition to the JONAPWD and ASCEND, which are the national umbrella bodies, there is a multiplicity of other organisations of people with disabilities working at a national, state and local level. Most of these organisations cater for the needs of single impairment groups (Umeh and Adeola 2013).

The Coalition of Disability Organisations (CODO) is another umbrella organisation for persons with disability. In 2012, CODO were supportive of the strikes/protests called by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and civil societies (Adelaja 2012).

A qualitative study involving 5 executives of organisations of people with disabilities and 7 individuals with disabilities reported that the organisations of people with disabilities played an important role in the struggle to promote public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and exerting pressure on the government to enact and implement enabling laws that would lead to eliminating discrimination and removing disabling barriers. Most of the participants expressed disappointments in the work of most organisations of people with disabilities in the country. Organisations of people with disabilities are criticised for being charity/welfare organisations with a focus on immediate financial gratification. There are also geographical factors, with the few organisations of people with disabilities that do exist in the northern parts of the country being run by a few people who have access to the government contracts. They accumulate money and other benefits for themselves and play a limited role in advocacy. The executives of organisations of people with disabilities are believed to be working for their personal benefits rather than ensuring the disabling barriers people with disabilities encountered in accessing services were brought to the attention of the policy-makers and the government pressured to enact and implement laws that could result in improvements (Eleweke and Ebenso 2016).

#### **Humanitarian situations**

There is growing recognition in Nigeria and across the world of the need to protect and promote the rights of women and people with disabilities in times of relative peace, insecurity and violent conflict. In times of violent conflict, women and girls with disabilities find it difficult to escape violence and expressed a sense of abandonment. Difficulties in mobility often leave them reliant on others. They may be unaware of what is happening having not been warned of danger, or know how to get to safety. Those able to escape immediate violence may lose mobility aids, medicines and caregivers in the midst of the crisis. This loss leaves these women and girls more reliant on others and has consequences for their health. In addition to psychological trauma, the separation or death of their caregivers can lead to women struggling to cope and leave them at greater risk of exploitation, including gender based violence. The violence women and girls with disabilities experience during violent conflict forms a continuum with their experiences during times of relative peace. Women and girls with disabilities are more likely to experience genderbased violence but less likely to be able to speak up, be believed and access services. This is partly due to their reliance on those in positions of power over them, including caregivers or family members - the group that the respondents were most likely to name as the perpetrators of violence. Respondents to a study in Nigeria spoke of how they felt interventions by government, security and civil society actors did not take the needs of women and girls with disabilities into account, were not accessible to them and did not include them in design or implementation. They felt little was done to ensure specific interventions are (Jerry et al 2015).

Post-election violence from 2011 in northern Nigeria led to resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a camp in Kaduna, the worst affected state. One in two and one in six IDPs living in Kaduna were found to develop post-conflict probable depression and definite depression (Sheikh et al 2015). The Boko Haram crisis has ravaged the North East part of Nigeria and has left indelible traumatic effect on the inhabitants especially the Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

who fled their homes for survival. A study involving 422 IDPs found high rates of depression in North-East Nigeria. The study also reported a strong correlation between having a disability and having depression (Nwoga et al 2018).

#### COVID 19

In April 2020, The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, reiterated Government commitment to enhancing the living conditions of all Nigerians including those with disabilities. The Minister said that the Nigerian Government would work to cushion the effect of COVID-19 on citizens, especially people with disabilities. Assurance was offered that policies and programmes undertaken by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development will be made inclusive (lyorkegh 2020).

In July 2020 it was announced that sign language interpreters would become a permanent feature on the Nigerian national news, meaning COVID-19 information and other bulletins will be more accessible for people with hearing impairments. The Nigerian government has promised to carry forward the interpreters with permanent contracts following a pilot in July 2020 (Qualitative 2020).

#### 5. How the SITANS were conducted

A non-systematic literature review has been conducted for each country within the time and resources available, covering both academic and grey literature, focusing on a number of areas, including the general situation for people with disabilities in each county and the four focus areas of the DID programme: health, education, livelihoods and stigma and discrimination.<sup>2</sup> Searches of publicly available English language literature for each thematic area have been conducted through academic databases, search engines and websites which host grey literature. As disability and development is an under researched area, much of the available literature and evidence is grey literature published by governments and organisations working in the countries, rather than academic literature. Also, the most recent and up to date evidence comes in the form of journalism or press releases. Some of the evidence presents contradictory findings, especially in relation to disability prevalence.

The most recent well-evidenced literature was selected for synthesis in the SITANs to provide those working on the DID programme with an overview of the current situation in the country to help with the design of the interventions. As a time lag sometimes exists between evidence being gathered and then published, the SITANs are living documents, which will be updated annually to reflect newly available evidence. Having the SITANs as living documents also means they can be adapted to reflect new areas of interest to the programme, or areas to be developed further, throughout its implementation. As people in the different countries use and engage with the SITANs in the project planning processes in the countries, they will have the opportunity to feedback on the SITANs based on their current experiences (helping deal with the time lag issue)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Bangladesh, Kenya, and Nigeria SITANs have adapted and made more relevant to DID's themes, the SITANs written earlier for three of the four countries in the UK Aid funded Inclusion Works! programme, which focuses on issues relating to formal employment, in order not to duplicate efforts. Nepal and Tanzania SITANs have been written from scratch. The Jordan SITAN draws on a K4D helpdesk report on disability inclusion in Jordan.

and provide useful internal evidence which is not available publicly. Feedback on the content of the SITANs is thus incorporated in two different ways:

- 1) Highlighting published material that can be incorporated into the main text.
- 2) Unpublished commentary that is added under 'Annex 1 Feedback and commentary on the SITAN from consortium partners'.

The SITANs have been reviewed by a gender expert from IDS to ensure that gender/intersectionality are well reflected, where possible.

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# Annex 1 - Feedback and commentary on the SITAN from consortium partners

Feedback from Marthe Damina, Sightsavers Nigeria (June 2020).

#### Inclusive education

Dr Adebayo Adebukola undertook a piece of work titled 'Collection of National-Level Data on the Realities of Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Nigeria' for DID in August 2019. It was reported that since 2010, many states including Lagos, Kwara, Kaduna, Kano, Jigawa, Enugu, Akwa-Ibom, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, among others have developed legal and policy frameworks on inclusive education and are at various levels of implementation. However, the presence of legal and policy frameworks at national and state levels researches still indicate significant gaps in the delivery of inclusive education for CWDs in Nigeria. Such gaps range from inadequacy in the number of both special and inclusive schools at primary and secondary levels to accommodate the millions of out-of-school children with disabilities; inadequate number of special teachers and other professionals required to provide support and services; inadequate assistive teaching and learning materials including technologies; poor inclusivity and accessibility practices in regular schools which provide integration and inclusive education programmes; poor funding from government at all levels; low level of awareness on inclusive education among stakeholders; poor implementation of, and low level of compliance with available legal and policy framework; etc.

It is worthy of note that a lot of states in Nigeria are beginning to see the importance of education of children with disabilities in a more conducive, inclusive and child friendly learning environment.

#### Livelihoods

The Inclusion Works Project in Nigeria facilitated the placement of 32 job seekers with disabilities into formal employment through its training/mentoring and advocacy effort. So far, among all four consortium countries, Nigeria is the only country that has facilitated the placement of job seekers with disabilities into formal employment.

# Feedback for the Inclusion Works Situational Analysis<sup>3</sup> from Kimber Bialik, Project Manager, Inclusion International (June 2020)

Within the disability community in Nigeria, people with intellectual disabilities are among the most marginalised, with lower rates of employment than people with disabilities from other impairment groups. Jobseekers with intellectual disabilities face additional barriers to employment — educational, attitudinal, and accessibility barriers. School enrolment rates are lower among people with intellectual disabilities, and when people with intellectual disabilities do have access to education, it is most often in segregated settings that rarely provide a path to a certificate, which further disadvantages them in the job market. Vocational skills training opportunities are rarely delivered in a way that is accessible to people with intellectual disabilities. Due to strong stigma, employers lack understanding of intellectual disabilities and hold assumptions about people with intellectual disabilities being incapable of working. Employers in Nigeria also express fear that having a person with an intellectual disability on their staff would result in a loss of customers, and are less willing to consider hiring an individual in a customer facing position or otherwise. Employment initiatives enshrined in legislation like quota systems tend not to benefit

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15487

the most marginalised groups, who are last in line for employment among other people with disabilities, and people with intellectual disabilities who are employed are typically paid a fraction of the wage of their non-disabled colleagues. As an alternative to inclusive formal sector employment, people with intellectual disabilities in Nigeria are often pushed towards self-employment. Self-employment for people with intellectual disabilities requires a significant investment from family members to be a viable option, and the reality of stigma making it challenging to get customers to patronise their businesses. Self-advocates emphasise the need to work towards inclusive formal sector employment as their best option for inclusive livelihoods, and indicate the need for a greater understanding of workplace support strategies among employers and broader training for colleagues to ensure workplaces are free of discrimination.