

OXFAM IN NIGERIA

In Nigeria, Oxfam focuses on sustainable livelihoods and gender equality.

IN NUMBERS*

95,000
total people helped



THE SITUATION

From 2000 to 2004 Nigeria made significant progress in economic reform. Today, Nigeria is the second largest economy in Africa and characterised as an emerging economy. The Nigerian economy is dominated by oil (Nigeria has the eighth largest oil reserves in the world). Oil exports provide 95% of foreign exchange earnings and about 80% of budgetary revenues. Nigeria's economy is especially vulnerable to external shocks because of its heavy dependence on oil.

Nigeria ranks first in agricultural output in Africa. But less than 50% of the country's cultivatable agricultural land is under cultivation, and more than 80% of it is under smallholder and traditional farmers who use rudimentary production techniques, resulting in low yields. Smallholder farmers are constrained by poor access to modern inputs and credit, poor infrastructure, inadequate access to markets and land, environmental degradation, and inadequate research and extension services. In 2009, 65% of Nigeria's population was categorised as food insecure according to a UNICEF report. Food insecurity is a growing threat, especially in view of food price volatility, which is also prevalent.

Despite being a signatory to the African Union protocol on women, and being in the forefront of gender advocacy at global platforms, Nigeria is still struggling with gender imbalance at governance and leadership level, despite recent efforts have been made to increase women's participation at that level.

Almost 45% of the population lives in urban centres. This is expected to reach 50% by 2020.



Photo: Malvin Wright

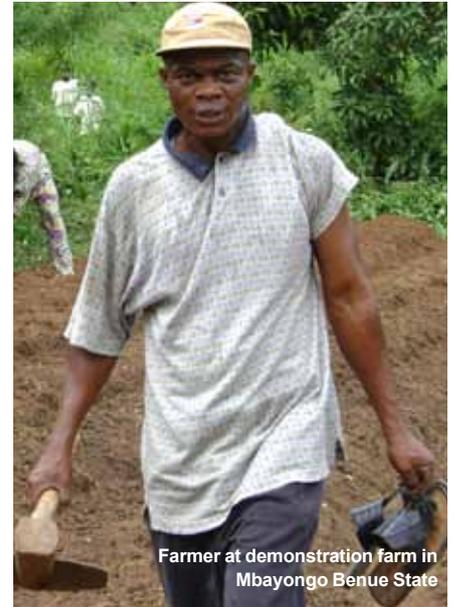
Dry season farming, Jos, Nigeria

AMPLIFYING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' VOICES

We work with local partners to support the Nigerian agricultural transformation agenda, which aims to ensure Nigeria and the West Africa region is food secure. Oxfam and its partners, through the GROW Campaign, implemented by the Voices for Food Security platform, advocates for increased public and private investment in agriculture that could support the resilience and productivity of small scale farmers. We are working with partners, small scale farmers and women to amplify their voices to appeal to the Government to fulfil Nigeria's commitment to the Maputo declaration, which calls for

'increased public investment in agriculture to a minimum of 10% of national budgets and to raise sector growth by at least 6%' to achieve food security in Nigeria.

We also advocate for measures that mitigate against food price volatility and its impact on poor consumers. We work to ensure that poor households are protected against increasing food prices, and that the Government has specific measures for a fast and fair response when food prices crises arise.



Farmer at demonstration farm in Mbayongo Benue State

Photo: Malvin Wright

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

We're supporting small scale food producers, particularly women, who produce 70% of the food in Nigeria, to raise their voices and be included in agricultural governance through group formation and capacity building, to enable them to demand their rights and take up leadership positions. We're also working

to strengthen farmers' resilience towards the impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, through capacity building and advocacy for the development of frameworks that will protect farmers from losses.

We support farmers to access new

markets, improve their production and help build a sustainable livelihood. We're working with local partners to raise poor women's profile and empower them to understand and demand their rights to participate in decision-making processes and bodies.



Tomato seller at Kuto Market in Abeokuta

Photo: Adeola Soetanwater

Rosemary Dzer, a survivor of acid bath sharing her experience
In a Mock Tribunal during the 2009 '16 Days VAW Campaign'
Organised by RHV Nigeria in collaboration with UNFPA

PUTTING WOMEN AT THE HEART OF GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

We're supporting the women's empowerment towards having a voice and participation in governance and leadership. Nigeria is a signatory to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and is represented at the global level during UN conferences on women's rights. Although efforts have been made to increase women's participation, Nigeria is still struggling with gender imbalance at governance and leadership level.

Photo: RHV Nigeria



STRENGTHENING SMALL SCALE FARMERS' RESILIENCE

We're working to strengthen small scale farmers' and pastoralists' resilience against disasters and emergencies, especially climate change. We're doing this by developing people's skills and adaptive tools, while supporting policies and processes that better prepare people

for potential disasters and emergencies, as well as post-disaster recovery.

We also provide capacity building to journalists to help them deliver better reporting during conflicts, disasters, and emergencies. In this way we also

strengthen the relationship between pastoralists and small scale farmers by providing them with platforms for engagement and dialogue.

Fisher folks in Lagos, Nigeria



Photo: Adedola Soetan