



WORLD CITIZENSHIP MINI SERIES

Spotlight Country: Nigeria, West Africa

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Nigeria Introduction

Citizenship encompasses far more than a passport or mere nationality. It is a powerful gateway to rights, opportunities, quality of life, and global connectivity. With increased globalisation, the value and dynamics of citizenship have evolved significantly, influencing individuals and governments alike. This spotlight report on Nigeria, created by CS Global Partners, uses data from the comprehensive World Citizenship Report 2024 to explore the multifaceted aspects of Nigerian citizenship.

CS Global Partners, established in London in 2012 and headquartered in Mayfair, is a globally recognised consultancy dedicated to offering tailored citizenship and residency solutions. With a seasoned legal and advisory team, CS Global Partners specialises in working alongside governments worldwide to ethically attract foreign direct investment, enhance economic prosperity, and drive transformative socioeconomic development. Committed to maintaining client confidentiality, our team provides innovative solutions designed to enhance global mobility and improve quality of life for global citizens and their families.

The Nigeria mini-report presented here forms part of our broader World Citizenship Mini-series and draws on detailed insights from the World Citizenship Report 2024. This comprehensive annual report assesses the value of citizenship through critical motivators including Quality of Life, Economic Opportunity, Safety and Security, Global Mobility, and Financial Freedom. Focusing specifically on Nigeria, this mini-report provides an analytical spotlight that examines Nigerian citizenship's strengths, challenges, and opportunities within regional and global contexts.

We invite policymakers, global citizens, investors, and those interested in the nuances of citizenship to explore this analysis. Understanding the intricate dimensions of Nigerian citizenship can open avenues for personal growth, national progress, and increased global integration.



Nigeria is known for being a rapidly growing country, with accompanying influence and economic clout. The CS Global Partners World Citizenship Miniseries Report highlights Nigeria's potential but also underlines key risks which inhibit the country's development. The report's data is derived from the World Citizenship Index (WCI).

Ranked 134 out of the 188 countries studied in the WCI according to our report's headline rankings, we will explore how Nigeria could improve its standing.

The methodology of the WCI combines **qualitative and quantitative** research to make sense of the deep, enduring quality of citizenship through the lens of the high-net-worth individual (HNWI) investor.

Uniting our unparalleled work in the citizenship solutions industry with data taken from **188 jurisdictions**, we used the country data to evaluate five motivators of citizenship (Safety and Security, Economic Opportunity, Quality of Life, Global Mobility, and Financial Freedom).

We subsequently scored countries' citizenships out of 100 points for each motivator, with the overall ranking a weighted average of the motivators.

The WCI is a useful tool for individuals seeking to understand why countries inspire migration from, or to, their shores.

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Economic Opportunities: Strong Potential, Worrying Risk

Though Nigeria possesses one of the **largest economies in Africa**, with a GDP of 362.8 billion USD, the country continuously battles systemic issues in its economic structure.

The country took the ranking of 99 in the World Citizenship Index **“Economic Opportunity”** pillar, which positions it as middle of the road in opportunities (despite the country’s rapidly growing population and wide-ranging economic potential).

Indeed, Nigeria has the **largest youth population in the world**, boasting a median age of 18.1 years. Strikingly, 43 per cent of the country’s population is under 15, and a whopping 70 per cent of Nigeria’s population is under 30.



The affiliated report, the World Citizenship Report, stated that economic resilience was a key feature of the strongest 2024 economies. Unfortunately, Nigeria is lagging in this regard.

Nigeria's ranking in the **Financial Freedom metric was low**, at 124 out of the 188 countries studied.

Nigeria particularly struggles with inflation and currency volatility, which diminishes the country’s economic resilience. Inflationary concerns have decreased the purchasing power of the country’s currency, the naira.

The currency, which was **demonetised** in early 2023, has suffered too many shocks to be as viable as it could be; the new government elected in May 2023 has aimed to minimise these shocks by tightening monetary policy.



The **World Bank**, whose economic data is a key source for the report, stated ‘Following a change in administration in May 2023, the country has been pursuing bold reforms to reestablish macroeconomic conditions for stability and growth.’

‘The Central Bank of Nigeria has appropriately **tightened monetary policy** and refocused on its price stability mandate, facilitated by the authorities’ commitment to end deficit monetisation. Although these measures are helping Nigeria’s economy turn the corner, inflation remains high, increasing hardship and poverty,’ the World Bank added.

Nevertheless, the country features an **entrepreneurial** and business-focussed culture along with a **young, digitally native population**. This gives Nigeria strong potential for innovation, technologically centred growth and rapid transformation.



Safety and Security: A Striking Concern

Nigeria struggles with safety and security, a factor which influences some Nigerian HNWIs to seek citizenship elsewhere.

With its **ranking of 106 in Safety and Security**, the country lags other African countries such as Senegal and Rwanda, according to World Citizenship Index.

This is mainly to do with **terrorism**, which includes Islamic State West Africa (ISWA) and Boko Haram. Within Nigeria, the terrorist groups are mainly based in north-east of the country, in the Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states.

Crime is also a consistent problem in the country, including kidnapping and robberies. These concerns affect tourists and locals alike. Riots and demonstrations often break out in major cities such as Lagos and Abuja.

Nigeria could improve its security credentials by **collaborating** with regional partners in building **region-wide security policies**. Nigeria should also collaborate with global partners in **sharing intelligence** to avert transnational risks, such as terrorism.

Improving security credentials could boost the country's **Global Mobility ranking**, too, which was **125**. Countries will be more likely to open their borders to Nigerians if security risks are averted.



Quality of Life: Building up Services and Infrastructure

Nigeria must improve its issues with **healthcare, education and infrastructure** to improve its lowest ranking in the WCI's pillars, Quality of Life.

Its **Quality of Life ranking of 139** puts it among the **worst countries** in the world for Quality of Life.

Education is a key issue for quality of life, and an issue with which Nigeria struggles.



According to **UNICEF**, 'Even though primary education is officially free and compulsory, about 10.5 million of the country's children aged 5-14 years are not in school. Only 61 per cent of 6-11 year-olds regularly attend primary school and only 35.6 per cent of children aged 36-59 months receive early childhood education.'

The inequalities in education worsen in the **north of Nigeria** for all children, as the North is poorer and more rural. Educational statistics indicate even worse outlook for girls in the north; less than half of girls in the north-east and north-west provinces are in school.

This indicates that investments in education need to go beyond making education free; resources need to be built up to ensure that **barriers to education** (which can be **gender-based, class-based, or geography-based**) are minimised.



Another issue is healthcare, which is inhibited due to poor infrastructure and an unskilled workforce. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) explains that in the southern part of Nigeria where the charity operates, doctors are poorly connected, with little to no public transportation.

This inhibits the ability of MSF to help patients. Even when doctors have private transport, they are inhibited by poorly maintained roads and broken bridges.

Other parts of Nigeria, with more resources and wealth, have strong infrastructure. The World Bank notes that ‘compared to many African peers, Nigeria has relatively **advanced power, road, rail, and information and communications technology (ICT) networks** that cover extensive areas of the nation's territory.’

The trick will be to ensure that all parts of Nigeria are covered equally, as quality of life in Nigeria currently depends on what part of the country you live in.



Nigeria's Strategic Partnerships and Growth Potential

Nigeria has strong potential to build up its World Citizenship Index ranking, particularly by making use of strategic partnerships to build up economic opportunities and security.

Nigeria is already involved in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and as the largest economy within this grouping holds a large amount of sway. Its role within ECOWAS has allowed the country to build up its diplomatic clout, while also minimising trade and mobility restrictions between the countries in the bloc.

As three military-run countries (**Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger**) left the grouping on 29 January, Nigeria now must make strategic decisions as to how to respond to their exit. They could use this opportunity to expand the remit of the bloc, updating its aims and goals to be more current and ambitious.

Nigeria has potentially strengthened its position in ECOWAS further by **joining BRICS as a partner country**, alongside partner countries **Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan**. The BRICS are a grouping of high-growth countries aiming to be a geopolitical counterweight to the West and Western-led economic institutions.



Comprised of **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, the BRICS could provide Nigeria with **trade deals** and **partnerships, investment**, and an avenue for the country's rapidly growing **consumer market**.

If Nigeria astutely leverages its deepened connections with **emerging powers** within the BRICS as a partner country, it is possible that the country could become an emerging power itself within several decades. This would require Nigeria to also manage its relations with Western partners, with whom it is still strongly aligned.

Nonetheless, Nigeria's **problems at home need to be fixed to give the country more credibility on the world stage**. By improving domestic problems, investors (within the BRICS and beyond) will also have more confidence in the country and multinational corporations will be more likely to operate in Nigeria.



Concluding Recommendations

Nigeria offers a large and growing populace who are economically entrepreneurial, young, and digitally savvy. With boundless potential, Nigeria could be ranked much higher in the World Citizenship Index, if the country makes key reforms.

However, it is unsurprising that many HNWIs are aiming to leave Nigeria. According to our World Citizenship Index data, the country is unsafe and among the worst places to live in the world. To fix this, Nigeria will need to focus on three key areas: **geographical inequality, particularly in the north of Nigeria; macroeconomic policy reform to ensure currency stability and to fight inflation; and geopolitical stability, to minimise crime and terrorism.**

Many of these key problems are linked. For example, **geographical inequality** has led to poor quality of life particularly in **northern Nigeria** and has led to terrorism and crime taking hold in that region. Many countries, such as the UK, have issued 'do not travel' warnings for the northern part of Nigeria.

Nigeria could collaborate with international partners, leveraging its role in **strategic partnerships such as ECOWAS and BRICS** to build international stability and become looped into intelligence sharing and regional and international strategy.

If key reforms are pursued, **Nigeria could find itself becoming an emerging power** within several decades, with a vibrant and young population leading the way



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