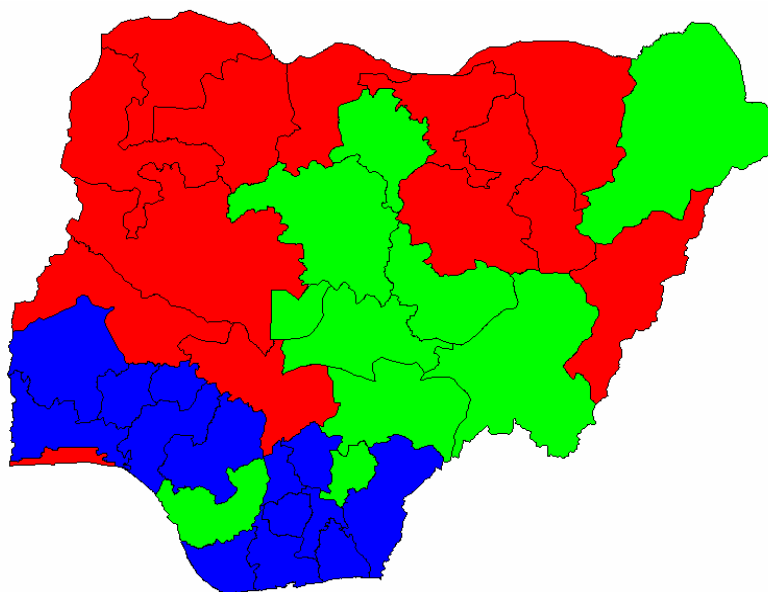




**NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

# **POVERTY PROFILE FOR NIGERIA**



***Federal Republic of Nigeria***  
**2005**

# CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES .....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	x
LIST OF POVERTY MAPS.....	xi
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....	xiii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	xv
 <b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
GEOGRAPHY, GOVERNANCE AND POPULATION .....	1
Social Economic Performance .....	1
Poverty Policies and Programmes and National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy .....	5
 <b>CHAPTER TWO: SURVEY METHODOLOGY</b>	
Objectives of the Survey .....	9
Coverage and Scope .....	10
Survey Instruments .....	10
The Pilot Test .....	10
Sample Design and Implementation .....	10
Training .....	10
Data Collection for Main Survey .....	11
Supervision and Quality Control .....	11
Retrieval .....	12
Preparation for Data Entry and Data Analysis .....	12
 <b>CHAPTER THREE: POVERTY INDICATORS</b>	
Poverty Concepts.....	14
Objective Measure of Poverty (Food Energy In-take) .....	14
Dollar per Day (Absolute) .....	16
Subjective Measure of Poverty .....	17
Relative Measure of Poverty .....	19
Trends in Poverty (Relative Poverty Measure) .....	20
Other Poverty Indicators 2004 .....	24
 <b>CHAPTER FOUR: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Human Development Dimensions of Poverty .....	31
Health .....	31
Education and Poverty .....	37
Housing and Quality of Life.....	39
Water Supplies and Sanitation.....	42
 <b>CHAPTER FIVE: POVERTY AND AGRICULTURE</b>	
Poverty and Agricultural Sector.....	44
Incidence and Profile of Poverty among Farmers.....	45
Farmland Ownership .....	48
Ownership of Farmland with Deed .....	48

Ownership of Livestock.....	49
Primary Crops Grown in last 12 Months Preceding Survey .....	50
Use of Agricultural Inputs .....	50
Processing of Reed Crops .....	50
Sources of Raw Materials .....	51
Sale of Agricultural Produce .....	51
 <b>CHAPTER SIX: GENDER AND POVERTY</b>	
Nature and Trends of Relative Poverty by Gender, Zone .....	53
Occupational Groups .....	55
Education .....	57
School Attendance .....	58
HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health .....	58
Time Use .....	59
 <b>CHAPTER SEVEN: EXPENDITURE AND ASSETS</b>	
Expenditure .....	61
Terminology and Methodology .....	61
Assets .....	65
 <b>CHAPTER EIGHT:</b>	
<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ...</b>	<b>67</b>
APPENDIX A: Statistical Tables .....	69
APPENDIX B: Poverty Measures and Inequality .....	88
APPENDIX C: Sample Design .....	91
APPENDIX D: Weighting Processes and Estimation .....	93
APPENDIX E: Price Deflators .....	94
APPENDIX F: Concepts and Definitions .....	97

## PREFACE

The national initiatives at poverty tracking started in Nigeria in the early 1990s between the then Federal Office of Statistics [now National Bureau of Statistics] and the World Bank. At inception, the National Consumer Surveys dataset series for 1980-1996, which charted the profile of poverty in Nigeria, were analysed. This culminated in a Poverty Profile for Nigeria Report (1980-1996) which has since served as bench-mark for monitoring and evaluation of various Government anti-poverty programmes and policies. The Poverty Profile for Nigeria, 2004 is the latest follow-up to the previous one.

With the recognition by the Nigerian Government of the multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional nature of poverty, a number of coordinated programmes and policies had been formulated to combat poverty in all its ramifications. Among the programmes are National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These programmes require a framework for poverty statistics production, management and tracking.

The Nigeria Living Standard Survey institutionalised by the National Bureau of Statistics provided a major survey mechanism framework for regular production, management and tracking of poverty programmes and policies. The recent Profile of Poverty for Nigeria as elucidated in this report is a commendable effort in providing current, timely and credible poverty statistics and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of anti-poverty programmes and policies. The findings of the report cover the magnitude, nature, character and dimensions of poverty in Nigeria in 2004.

I give special thanks to the key stakeholders who contributed immensely to the success of the survey and the report. The stakeholders are the European Union, World Bank, Department for International Development and National Planning Commission.

I have to commend the efforts of the National Bureau of Statistics in the provision of survey mechanism, infrastructure and personnel that ensure effective statistical delivery of the survey and the report.

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This report is a follow-up of the Poverty Profile for Nigeria (1980 – 1996). One of the principal objectives of the Nigeria Living Standard Survey 2003/2004 is to produce a stand-alone Poverty Profile of Nigeria. The poverty profile report is aimed at providing poverty statistics and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of anti poverty programmes and policies.

The survey implementation involved a combination of key stakeholders and with an immense technical and funding support from the International Agencies. However, the efforts of the following individuals and agencies must be acknowledged and commended.

The Office of the Economic Adviser to the President oversaw the completion of the survey, with necessary support and encouragement.

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The report presented poverty statistics and indicators critical to effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of the various Government anti-poverty programmes and policies and also provides framework for improvements in tackling the problem.

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**2006**

# LIST OF TABLES

## CHAPTER ONE

### TABLE

Gross Domestic Production Growth Rate (%) in Real Terms 2002-2004.....	3
Percentage Distribution of Sectoral Contribution to GDP in Real Terms 2002-2004.....	3
Inflation Rate and Deficit to GDP Ratio.....	4
Social Indicators for Nigeria .....	4
Poverty Head Count by Year.....	5
The Poor and the Core Poor by Year.....	6
Poverty Trends by Sector.....	6

## CHAPTER THREE

### TABLE

Adult Equivalent Scale .....	15
Expenditure Levels and Equivalent Calories Intake.....	15
Poverty Incidence by Sector and Zone.....	16
Dollar per day based on PPP by Sector and Zone.....	17
Self Assessed Poverty by Sector and Zone.....	18
Primary Coping Mechanism for Poverty.....	19
Trends in Poverty Levels 1980-2004.....	21
Percentage Distribution of Population in Poverty.....	21
Relative Poverty Incidence by Sector (1980-2004).....	22
Relative Poverty Incidence by Sector (Rural & Urban).....	22
Trends in Poverty Level by Zone 1980-2004.....	22
Double Poverty Line Table by Zone.....	23
Relative Poverty Incidence by Size of Household.....	23
Relative Poverty Incidence by Occupation Level of	24
Contribution by Sector and Zone to National Poverty.....	25
Contribution by Household Size.....	25
Contribution by Educational Level of Head of Household.....	26
Inequality Measure by Sector and State.....	27
States with Highest Incidence of Poverty.....	29
Six States with Lowest Incidence of Poverty.....	29
Quintile Distribution of Annual Per Capita	30

## CHAPTER FOUR

### TABLE

Health Care Consultation by Quintile .....	32
Health Consultation by Service Provider and by Quintile.....	32
Vaccination of Children by Quintile.....	33
Post Natal Consultation by Standard of Living Quintile .....	33
Breastfeeding by Standard of Living Quintile.....	34
General Health Conditions in the Past Two Weeks by Quintile.....	34
Type of Illness Suffered in the Past One Year .....	35
HIV/AIDS Responses by Quintile.....	36
Source of Information of HIV/AIDS by Quintile .....	37
Ever Attended School by Quintile.....	37
Ability to Read and Write in English Language by Quintile .....	38

Ability to Read and Write in English Language by Sector .....	38
Type of School Attended.....	39
Highest Level of Education Attained by Quintiles.....	39
Housing by Dwelling Type and Standard of Living Quintile .....	40
Occupancy Status by Standard of Living Quintile .....	40
Main Sources of Fuel for Cooking by Quintile.....	41
Access to Safe Drinking Water.....	42
Type of Refuse Disposal System.....	42
Access to Sanitary Means of Excreta Disposal.....	43

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **TABLE**

Agricultural Participation by Zone and Gender.....	44
Educational Levels by Occupation (Agric. and Non-Agric.) .....	45
Relative Poverty Incidence by Occupational Group.....	46
Agricultural Population by Sector and Relative Poverty Incidence...	46
Agricultural Population by Zone and Relative Poverty Incidence...	46
Agriculture Population by Sex and Relative Incidence .....	47
Agricultural Population by Educational Level and Relative Poverty .....	47
Agricultural Population by Age Group and Relative Poverty Incidence .....	47
Ownership of Farmland by Zone.....	48
Ownership of Farmland by Sex and Quintile .....	48
Ownership of Farmland with Deed by Quintile .....	48
Ownership of Livestock by Sector.....	49
Ownership of Livestock by Sex.....	49
Sources of Raw Materials by Sex.....	51
Sale of Agriculture Produce by Quintile, Sex and Education .....	51

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **TABLE**

Poverty and Gender of Household Head.....	54
Per Capita Expenditure by Sex of Household Head 2004 .....	55
Occupational Groups by Gender 2004.....	55
Occupational Groups by Sex and Quintile.....	56
Ability to Read and Write in English or Any Nigerian Language ....	57
Literacy in English, Nigerian Language and both Languages by Quintile and Sex .....	57
School Attendance by Sex and Quintile .....	58
HIV/AIDS Indicators.....	58
Reproductive Health Indicator.....	59
Primary Methods of Contraceptive.....	59
Preferred Sex of next Child.....	59
Time use on Household Activities by Sex.....	60

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **TABLE**

Expenditure by Quintile.....	61
Welfare Aggregate: Primary Heading.....	62
Household Per Capita Expenditure on Food and	



Non-Food by Sector .....	63
Household Per Capita Expenditure on Food and Non-Food by Zones .....	63
Per Capita Annual Expenditure Characteristics of the Head of Household.....	64
Per Capita Annual Expenditure Characteristics of the Head of Household .....	66

## LIST OF FIGURES

### CHAPTER ONE

#### FIGURE

GDP Growth Rate Per Cent in Real Terms 2002-2004.....	2
Trend of Sectoral Contribution to GDP in Real .....	3

### CHAPTER THREE

#### FIGURE

Poverty Incidence by Zone Using Objective Measures (FEI)	16
Dollar per day based on PPP by Zone.....	17
Self-Assessed Poverty by Zone.....	18
Trends in Poverty Levels (1980-2004).....	21
Lorenz Curve.....	26

### CHAPTER FOUR

#### FIGURE

Place of Vaccination of Children.....	33
Type of Illness Suffered in the Past One Year.....	35

### CHAPTER FIVE

#### FIGURE

Participation in Agriculture by Sector.....	44
Poverty Incidence by Occupational Group.....	45
Sale of Produce by Quintile .....	51

### CHAPTER SIX

#### FIGURE

Poverty Pyramid.....	53
Relative Poverty of Head by Gender.....	54
School Attendance by Sex and Quintile.....	58

### CHAPTER SEVEN FIGURES:

Household Per Capita Expenditure by	
Household Size .....	64
Household Per Capita Expenditure by the Educational Level	
by Household .....	65

## LIST OF POVERTY MAPS

### MAPS

Poverty Incidence Map of Nigeria by State .....	20
Distribution of Poverty Inequality by States .....	28

## LIST OF APPENDICES

### TABLE

Poverty Incidence by State.....	69
Poverty Incidence using 2900 unit plus a component of Non-Food expenditure of 7760 Naira by State.....	70
Poverty Incidence based on Dollar Per Day on an Adjusted Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).....	70
Self-Assessment of Poverty by State.....	71
Primary Reason for Poverty by Self-Assessment .....	72
Poverty Figures by Sector, Zone and State.....	73
Place of Vaccination of Children by Standard of Living Quintile .	74
Place of Consultation by Quintile.....	74
Main Source of Lighting by Quintile.....	74
Material Used for Construction of Wall by Quintile.....	75
Main Flooring of Living by Quintile.....	75
Main Roofing Materials by Standard of Living Quintile.....	75
Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Occupation by State.....	76
Age Group by Relative Poverty Incidence.....	77
Ownership of Livestock by Zone.....	77
Ownership of Livestock by Occupational Group.....	78
Primary Crops Grown by Zone.....	79
Primary Crops Grown by Quintile.....	80
Primary Crops Grown by Sex.....	81
Primary Crops Grown in Last 12 Months by Means of Obtaining Land .....	82
Sex of Holder by Means of Obtaining Land.....	82
Use of Agricultural Inputs by Quintile .....	83
Use of Agricultural Inputs by Sex.....	84
Processing of Food Crops by Quintile.....	85
Processing of Food Crops by Zone.....	85
Processing of Food Crops by Sector.....	86
Asset Distribution by Quintile.....	87
National Aggregate Value by Assets by Quintile.....	87

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CMIS	Computer Management and Information Services
COP	Consumption Of Own Production
CWIQ	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire
DFID	Department for International Development
EA	Enumeration Area
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FEI	Food Energy Intake
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FMOE	Federal Ministry of Education
FMOF	Federal Ministry of Finance
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMOI	Federal Ministry of Industry
FMOLP	Federal Ministry of Labour & Productivity
FOS	Federal Office of Statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHS	General Household Survey
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NAPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCS	National Consumer Survey
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NISER	Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research
NISH	National Integrated Survey of Households
NLC	Nigeria Labour Congress
NLSS	Nigeria Living Standard Survey
NMB	National Manpower Board
NPA	National Programme of Action

NPC	National Planning Commission
NRDCS	National Resources Development Conservation Scheme
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RIDS	Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme
SAP	Structure Adjustment Programme
SOWESS	Social Welfare Services Scheme
SSA	State Statistical Agency
UPE	Universal Primary Education
WB	World Bank
YES	Youth Empowerment Scheme

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The scourge of poverty on a significant proportion of the Nigerian Population has been charted in the past by a series of four Consumer Expenditure Surveys Implemented by the then Federal Office of Statistics: in 1960, 1985, 1992 and 1996. Over the 16-year period, the report of the surveys indicated that poverty was most widespread in the rural areas and also feminised.

The desire and commitment of the government to tackle the deplorable high incidence of poverty pointed to the need to develop a baseline survey, the Nigeria Living Standard Survey, 2003/2004 for the monitoring and evaluation of the various governments anti-poverty programmes such as National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and Nigeria Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The findings of this report cut across the various nature, dimensions and characteristics of the poor. The report provided valuable poverty statistics as well as indicators for poverty policy and programme monitoring and evaluation.

## Poverty Trends and Inequality

### Relative Poverty Measure

The national incidence of relative poverty increased sharply both between 1980-1985 and between 1992 and 1996. The national incidence of relative poverty dropped from 65.6 per cent in 1966 to 54.4 per cent in 2004 representing 11.2 per cent decline over the period. The disaggregation by sector showed a sharper decline in the urban areas between 1996 and 2004. In the urban areas it declined from 58.2 per cent in 1996 to 43.2 per cent in 2004, which represented a decline of 15.0 per cent. In the rural areas, it declined from 69.8 per cent in 1996 to 63.3 per cent, representing 6.5 per cent decline.

### Objective Poverty Measure (Food Energy In-take)

The result of the 2003/2004 survey revealed that the national incidence of poverty using food consumption of 2900 calories limit was 36.6 per cent but when disaggregated by sector gave 26.5 per cent and 44.1 per cent for urban and rural areas respectively.

However, the national incidence of poverty combining food consumption of 2900 calories with a component of non-food was 54.7 per cent. Further sectoral disaggregation showed urban poverty rate of 43.1 per cent and rural poverty rate of 63.8 per cent.

### Usage of Adjusted Dollar per day

The dollar per day gave a national poverty incidence of 51.6 per cent. The urban poverty incidence was 40.1 per cent compared with rural poverty incidence of 60.6 per cent.

## **Subjective Poverty Measure**

The subjective measure of poverty, which was a self-assessment, indicated a national incidence of poverty of 75.5 per cent, which disaggregated into 70.7 per cent for urban areas, and 79.2 per cent for rural areas. This measure generally increased poverty results because it is based on perception of the people.

## **Inequality Measure**

The Gini Co-efficient was used as a measure of inequality in the report. The national Gini co-efficient was 0.4882, while those for urban and rural areas were 0.5541 and 0.5187 respectively. These high figures at all levels are manifestations of poverty and inequality in the distribution of income.

## **Human Development Dimensions of Poverty**

### **Health**

The status of health is a strong indication of human development and can also serve as an indicator for poverty. The survey result revealed that about 8.0 per cent of the population consulted health care providers because of low level of awareness, poor facilities and high cost.

The quintile analysis showed that about a quarter (25.56 per cent) of population in the first quintile (the poorest) and more than half of the population (56.0 per cent) in the fifth quintile (least poor) consulted medical doctors.

The same survey indicated reasonable consultation of traditional healers by all levels of quintiles. About 12.0 per cent of the population of the first quintile and 8.0 per cent of the population of the fifth quintile consulted traditional healers.

### **HIV/AIDS**

Nine in ten households surveyed were aware of HIV/AIDS among the population. The awareness increased with the level of quintiles from 90.2 per cent in the poorest households to 96.0 per cent in the least poor households.

The main source of information on HIV/AIDS was radio, which was 82.0 per cent. Radio, Television and friends accounted for about 90.0 per cent of the source of information from the survey findings. In all the levels of quintiles four in five household members had information from radio.

In the same vein, more than forth-fifth (83.5 per cent) of the households protected themselves from HIV/AIDS and other STDs. About 5.0 per cent of the households had undergone tests for HIV/AIDS.

The overall rate for knowledge of HIV/AIDS centres was 56.0 per cent. About eight in ten of the members of the households used condom for protection.

### **Education**

Education is a good measure of human development. The correlation of levels of education with levels of poverty serves as a good measure for manifestations of poverty across the quintiles.



The findings showed increasing trend of ever attending school with increasing level of quintile. About 70.0 per cent of the surveyed households had ever attended school.

The ability to read and write in English language could determine the 'voicelessness' and powerlessness of the population. The results showed that about half (52.1 per cent) of the households could read and write in English language. The quintile results showed an increasing figure with increasing levels of quintile. The poorest quintile had 40.1 per cent compared with 66.1 per cent of the least quintile.

On the highest level of education attended, about half (48.0 per cent) of the households in the first quintile had no education compared with about 25.0 per cent of the households in the fifth quintile.

### **Housing Conditions**

The housing conditions of households can also serve as proxy for welfare measurement.

About two-thirds (66.0 per cent) of the households lived in single rooms, while about one-quarter (24.1 per cent) of the households lived in whole buildings.

Seventy per cent of the households used firewood as the main source of fuel for cooking, more than a quarter (26.6 per cent) used kerosene, while only 1.1 per cent used gas.

The use of mud for wall construction was highest (58.5 per cent) for the poorest households, while the use of cement or concrete was highest (66.0 per cent) for the least poor households.

The overall access to safe water in the households was 60.0 per cent. The usage of unprotected well or rainwater was highest (23.0 per cent) in the poorest quintile while the usage of pipe-borne water was highest (28.0 per cent) in the least poor quintile, the fifth quintile.

### **Poverty and Agriculture**

Poverty in Nigeria is a rural phenomenon where agricultural activities are most predominant.

More than four-fifths (86.5 per cent) of the households participated in agriculture in the rural areas compared with only 14.0 per cent in the urban areas. Gender-wise, more males participated in agriculture. Twenty-eight per cent and 15.3 per cent of males and females respectively participated in agriculture.

The poor participated more in agriculture than non-agriculture. Twenty-five per cent of the core poor households were in agriculture, while 20.0 per cent were in non-agricultural activities. A similar pattern was revealed among the moderately poor households. The non-poor households participated less in agriculture (about 37.0 per cent), with 46.1 per cent in non-agriculture.

More than four-fifth (81.0 per cent) of the livestock were owned by rural households, while 91.1 per cent of the ownership were the male-headed households. This is an indication of 'feminisation' of poverty.

### **Gender and Poverty**

Male-headed households were more likely to be in poverty. The trend results showed for male-headed households that relative incidence of poverty varied increasingly from 29.2 per cent to 58.2 per cent from 1996 to 2004. The results for the female-headed households also varied increasingly from 26.9 per cent to 43.5 per cent from 1998 to 2004.

The literacy rate was highest for the males who could read and write in English. The rates were 59.8 per cent and 44.6 per cent for male-headed and female-headed households respectively. The overall average of school attendance was 54.00 per cent for males and 46.0 per cent for females.

On time-use on household activities, the females devoted more of their time in this order: child care (17.2 per cent), cooking (10.1 per cent), care of the elderly (9.8 per cent) and recreation (8.3 per cent). The males used more of their time too on childcare (9.9 per cent), recreation (8.2 per cent), care of the elderly (8.2 per cent), going to market (6.67 per cent) and cooking (6.62 per cent).

### **Household Expenditure**

The quintile analysis showed a high degree of disparity on expenditure pattern. The poorest per capita expenditures were ~~N~~4,291.00 on food and ~~N~~3,520.00 on non-food, while the least poor per capita expenditures were ~~N~~29,489.00 on food and ~~N~~39,543.00 on non-food.

The urban households expended more on food and non-food compared with rural households. The urban households per capita household expenditure on non-food almost doubled that of the rural households. The figures were ~~N~~25,101.00 and ~~N~~13,058.00 respectively. The per capita household expenditures on food were ~~N~~18,099.00 and ~~N~~16,568.00 in urban and rural areas respectively which still showed higher expenditure in urban areas. The rural households expended more of their income on food.