

Humanitarian Overview, Hazard Index, and Displacement Statistics

227.9M

Total Population

130,000

Total Refugees
Main source: Cameroon

7.8M

People in Need (OCHA)

3.6M

Internally Displaced People



Projected minimum number of LGBTQIA+ people affected¹

227.9M

LGBTQIA+ Nigerians

6,500

LGBTQIA+ Refugees

180,000

LGBTQIA+ IDPs

390,000

LGBTQIA+ People in Humanitarian Need

Legal Environment

Discriminatory Laws & Policies

The Criminal Code (southern states):

- Criminalises 'carnal knowledge against the order of nature' (14 years imprisonment).
- Contains "indecency" provisions used against LGBTQIA+ people.

The Penal Code (northern states):

- Criminalises 'carnal knowledge against the order of nature' (14 years imprisonment).
- The Penal Code criminalises men dressing 'in the fashion of' women.
- Sharia law, applicable in 12 northern states, imposes the death penalty for liwat (sodomy), and the death penalty (2 states) or flogging (10 states) for same sex activity between women.

The Same Sex Marriage Prevention Act (SSMPA) criminalises:

- People of the same sex living together in a sexual relationship (14 years imprisonment).
- "Amorous" displays between people of the same sex in public.

The Cybercrimes Act:

- Includes provisions on providing false information online often used to target trans individuals.

Rights Protections

The Constitution

- Protects rights to non-discrimination, freedom of expression, dignity, privacy, assembly and association, and freedom of thought, and has successfully been used to defend the right to form LGBTQIA+ associations.

The Criminal Law of Lagos

- Same-sex relationships decriminalised.

The Violence Against Persons Prevention Act:

- Criminalises physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse of any person, defined in gender-neutral terms.

The HIV and AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Act:

- Protects the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV

HIV and AIDS National Strategic Framework (2021- 2025):

- Recognises Key Populations as including men who have sex with men.

¹In the absence of demographic data in the countries where we work, The International PRIDE Centre conservatively estimates that 5% of disaster-affected populations are SOGIESC minorities.

Challenges for LGBTQIA+ civil society

- The International PRIDE Centre has not been able to identify any LGBTQIA+ organisations that undertake explicitly humanitarian programming or have information about the needs of displaced LGBTQIA+ populations.
- Many CSOs have been severely affected by the USAID funding cuts.
- Resources are unevenly distributed amongst groups and documentation of violations under-represent those committed against non cis-male individuals

Opportunities for LGBTQIA+ civil society:

- There are over 200 LGBTQIA+ CSOs in Nigeria, and the landscape is vibrant and active.
- Many coordination efforts exist, and violations are documented and reported on annually.
- Many LGBTQIA+ organisations in Nigeria already maintain constructive relationships with government bodies and mainstream civil society.

LGBTQIA+ Rights Violations and Protection Risks

Violence

- **Trans women** are vulnerable to the most severe forms of violence, including murder.
- **Gay men** are targeted by “*kito*”: where perpetrators lure victims through online dating apps, blackmail them, and also often subject them to violence and humiliation. Lesbians and trans men report experiencing sexual and gender-based violence, including corrective rape.
- Intersex individuals are subjected to harmful medical practices, including genital surgeries in infancy.

Blackmail and extortion

- Blackmail through *kito* or other means is common, accounting for almost one-third of violations documented by LGBTQIA+ groups.

Arrests, detention and discrimination by law enforcement

- Arbitrary arrests and detention frequent since the enactment of the SSMPA in 2014.
- Cases involve long pre-trial detentions and extortionate bail.

Discrimination when accessing public services

- Access to health services for MSM and trans women has gradually improved in Nigeria through so-called “one-stop shops”, but this has been undermined by the recent aid cuts.
- Discrimination is widespread in educational institutions.

Humanitarian services

- Aid agencies report that their programming does not address the specific needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Urgent SOGIESC Needs

- Access to services for survivors of SOGIESC-based violence
- Access to and inclusion in humanitarian referral pathways.
- Protection assistance for those at urgent risk.
- Support for safehouses and resettlement.
- Support to services that have been shut down or forced to reduce services.
- Legal aid for arrested/detained LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Support for advocacy against an prevention of intersex genital mutilation in humanitarian settings.