

Country Talk: Nigeria



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#Country_Talk_Nigeria_2026

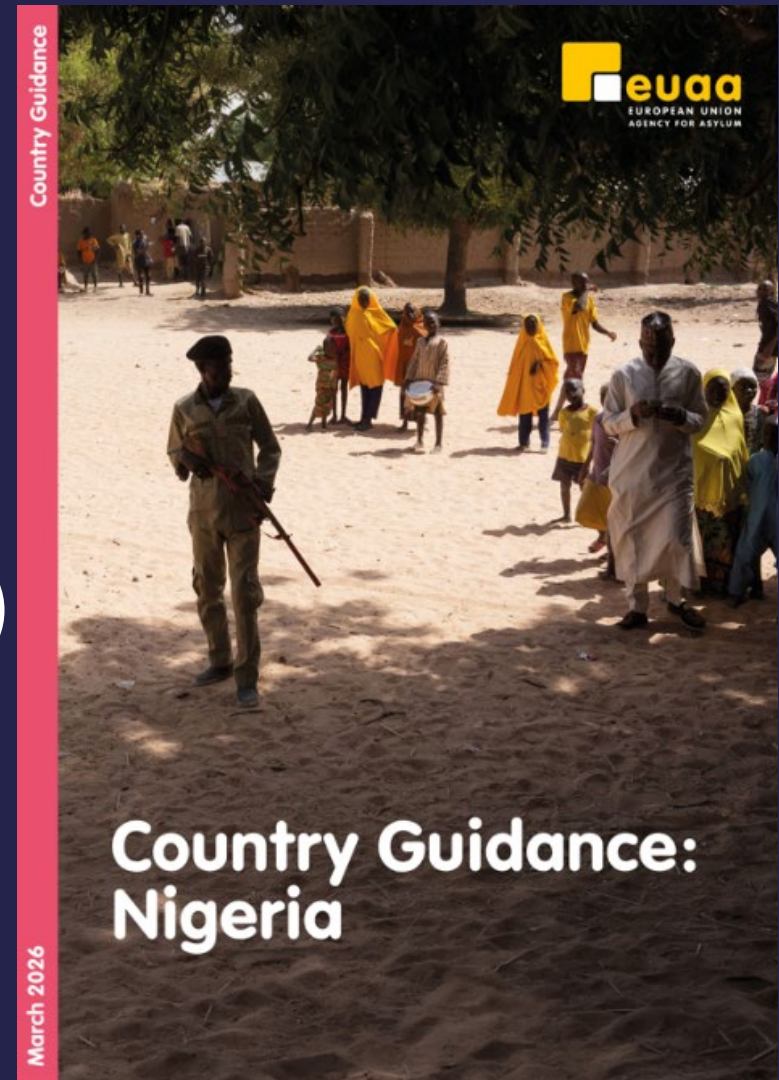




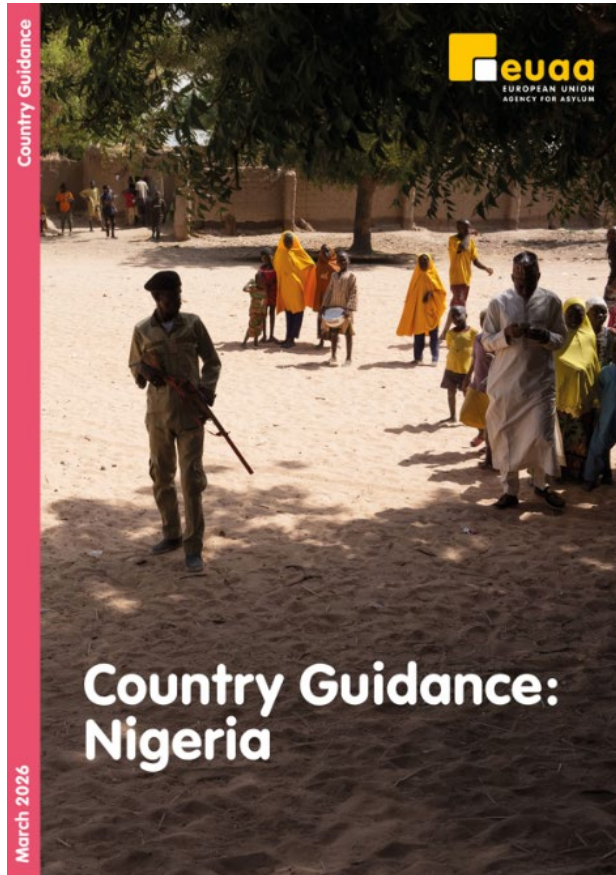
Country Talk: Nigeria

22 April 2026

EUAAA

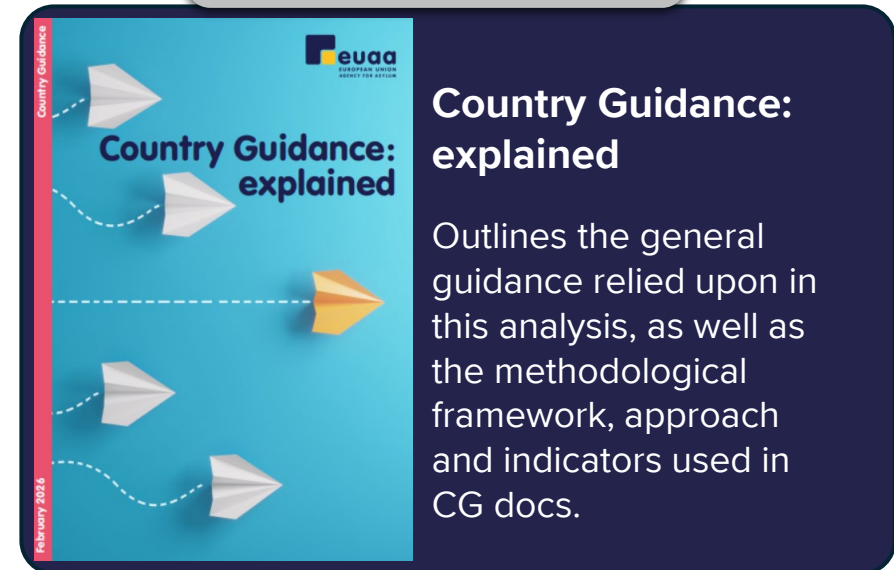


Country Guidance: Nigeria (March 2026)



<https://www.euaa.europa.eu/country-guidance-nigeria/country-guidance-nigeria>

General guidance and methodological remarks



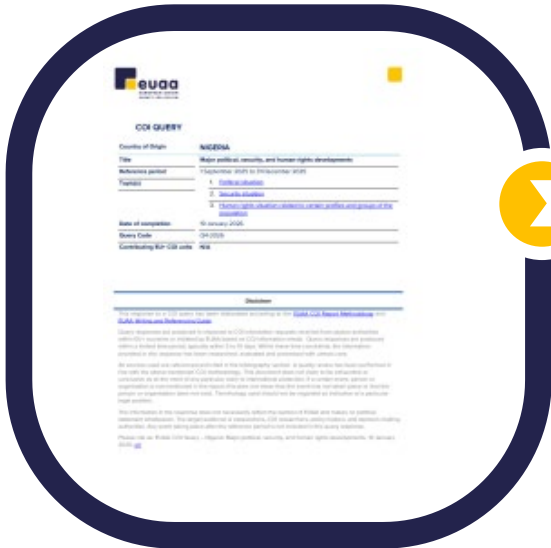
Country Guidance: explained

Outlines the general guidance relied upon in this analysis, as well as the methodological framework, approach and indicators used in CG docs.

<https://www.euaa.europa.eu/country-guidance-explained-0>



Country of origin information



Nigeria: Major political, security, and human rights developments
Jan 2026



Nigeria: Country Focus
Nov 2025



Nigeria: Security Situation
Nov 2025



Main actors of persecution or serious harm

State actors

- Nigerian Police Force (NPF)
- Nigerian Armed Forces (NAF)
- Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)
- Vigilante groups (state-affiliated actors)

Non-state actors

- Boko Haram and other Islamist armed groups
- Herders and farmers and communal militias
- Pro-Biafra separatist groups
- Criminal groups
- Family, friends and community members

The term **Boko Haram** serves as an umbrella label covering multiple internal factions, such as **JAS** and **ISWAP**.

Reporting on cult groups, herders and farmers, bandits, and in some cases vigilantes, separatists, or Islamist armed groups often relies on broad labels like criminals, gunmen, bandits, or terrorists.

Overlapping labels make it difficult to distinguish between groups.

Refugee status »



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The guidance includes 16 profiles

Profiles that would highly likely qualify for refugee status:

- Persons with diverse SOGIESC
- Christians in areas where Boko Haram operates (which is a category of people included in the profile 3.1. Individuals within the reach of Boko Haram)
- Journalists and other media workers perceived as critical
- Individuals with perceived links to Boko Haram

Profiles that would likely not qualify for refugee status:

- Individuals refusing chieftaincy titles

Profiles with risk-impacting circumstances to be taken into account:

- Individuals within the reach of Boko Haram
- Members and perceived supporters of pro-Biafra separatist movements
- Individuals (perceived as) not supporting the pro-Biafra cause
- Members and supporters of political parties
- Individuals belonging to herder or farmer communities
- Protesters, human rights defenders and activists
- Individuals accused of witchcraft
- Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings
- Women and girls
- Children
- Individuals with disabilities, including mental health issues

Individuals within the reach of Boko Haram

This profile refers to individuals who have been or may be targeted in areas where **Boko Haram operates**.



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Risk

For **Christians in areas where Boko Haram operates**, well-founded fear of persecution in general.

For **other individuals in areas where Boko Haram operates**, to consider risk-impacting circumstances (compliance with Boko Haram rules/values, occupation, gender and age).

Nexus

Highly likely to be for reasons of **religion and/or (imputed) political opinion**.

Individuals with perceived links to Boko Haram

This profile refers to individuals perceived by the Nigerian authorities and/or by their communities to be affiliated with Boko Haram.

- The scope of this profile **does not encompass members of Boko Haram**, including former members, for which exclusions considerations would be particularly relevant.

Risk

For individuals with perceived links to Boko Haram, well-founded fear of persecution in general.

Nexus

Highly likely to be for reasons of **political opinion**.



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Members and perceived supporters of pro-Biafra separatist movements

This profile refers to members of pro-Biafra separatist movements, mainly of IPOB, as well as to their perceived supporters.

Risk

Risk-impacting circumstances, such as home area and ethnicity, visibility of activities, age, to be considered.

Nexus

Highly likely to be for reasons of **political opinion**.

Exclusion considerations could be relevant

Individuals (perceived as) not supporting the pro-Biafra cause

This profile refers to **Igbo individuals** in the **South-East region** who do not support the Biafra cause or are perceived as such by the separatist groups.

Risk

Risk-impacting circumstances, such as visibility and occupation, to be considered.

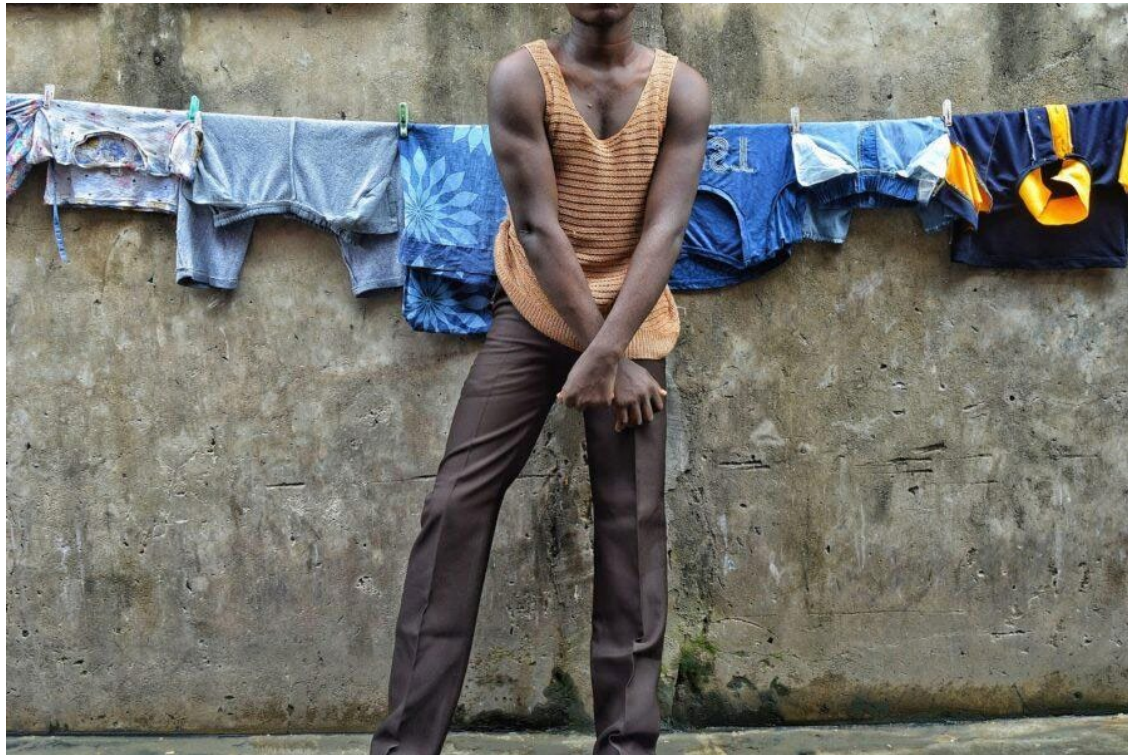
Nexus

Highly likely to be for reasons of **political opinion**.



Persons with diverse SOGIESC

This profile refers to persons who are perceived as not conforming to state, religious and/or social norms because of their sexual orientations, gender identities and/or expressions, or sex characteristics.



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Risk

For **persons with diverse SOGIESC**, well-founded fear of persecution in general.

Nexus

Highly likely to be for reasons of **MPSG**. Persecution may also be for reasons of **religion**.

Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

This profile refers to persons who have been subjected to trafficking, irrespective of whether exploitation has occurred, as well as to potential victims of trafficking.

Risk

To take into account **risk-impacting circumstances**, such as:

- home area
- age, gender and family status
- socio-economic and educational background
- support network
- level of power/capability of the traffickers
- perception of the local community
- health situation

Nexus

For an actual victim of trafficking, may be for **MPSG**.

For a potential victim of trafficking in human beings, individual circumstances, including gender, need to be taken into account.



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Women and girls

3 Sub-profiles.

- **Gender-based violence (GBV)**
- **Female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C)**
- **Child marriage and forced marriage**



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Women and girls

Risk

For the **3 sub-profiles**, **risk-impacting circumstances** should be taken into account, such as:

- Home area
- Age
- Family status/background
- Educational and economic background (GBV)
- Disabilities (GBV)
- Ethnicity (FGM/C, child marriage and forced marriage)



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Nexus

Potential nexus for this profile is MPSG and religion.

Subsidiary protection »



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Subsidiary Protection | Article 15 (b) QD/QR

Arbitrary arrests, illegal
detention and prison conditions

Criminal violence

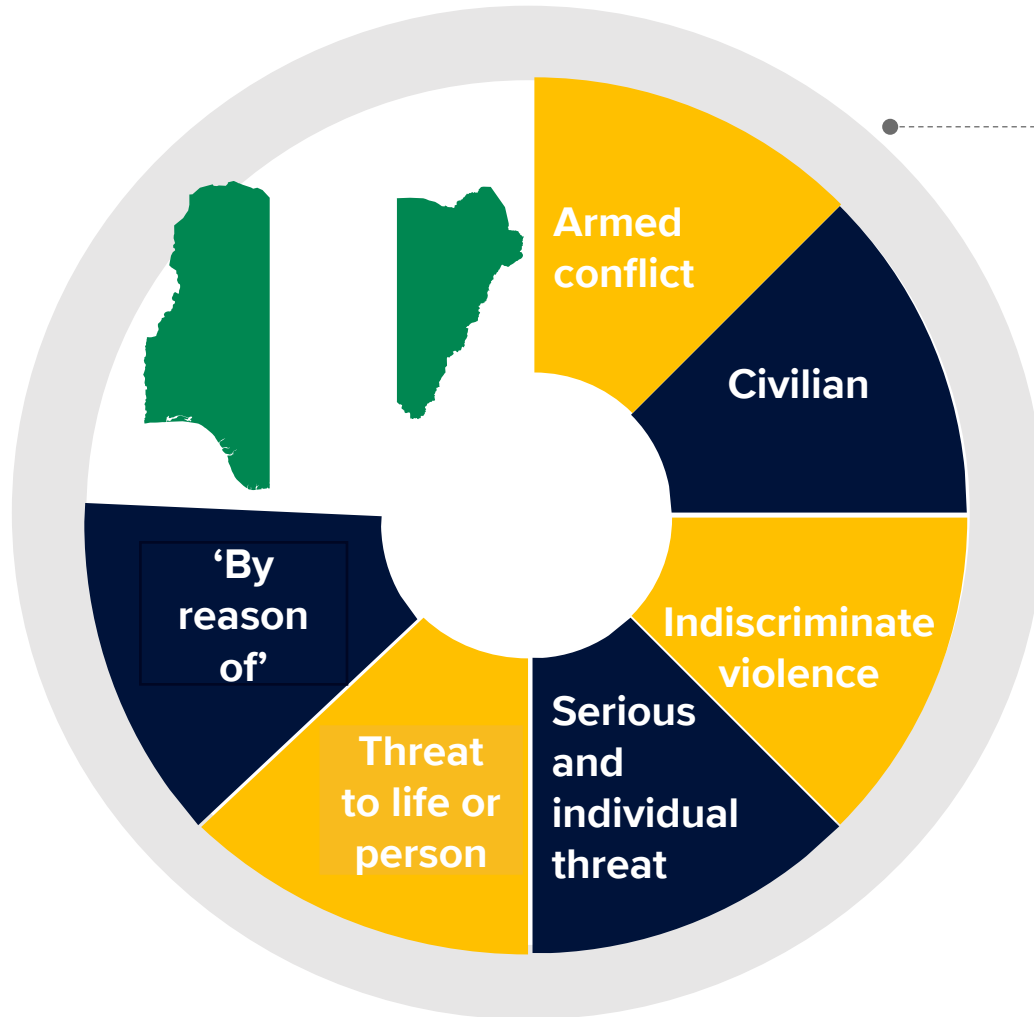
Trafficking in human beings

Health care and socio-economic
conditions



Criminal violence perpetrated by bandit, gang and cult groups is one of the **main drivers of violence** in Nigeria. A real risk of a violent crime would amount to serious harm. Personal circumstances, such as socio-economic situation, home area, age and activities, are to be taken into account for the assessment of real risk of criminal violence.

Subsidiary Protection | Article 15 (c) QD/QR

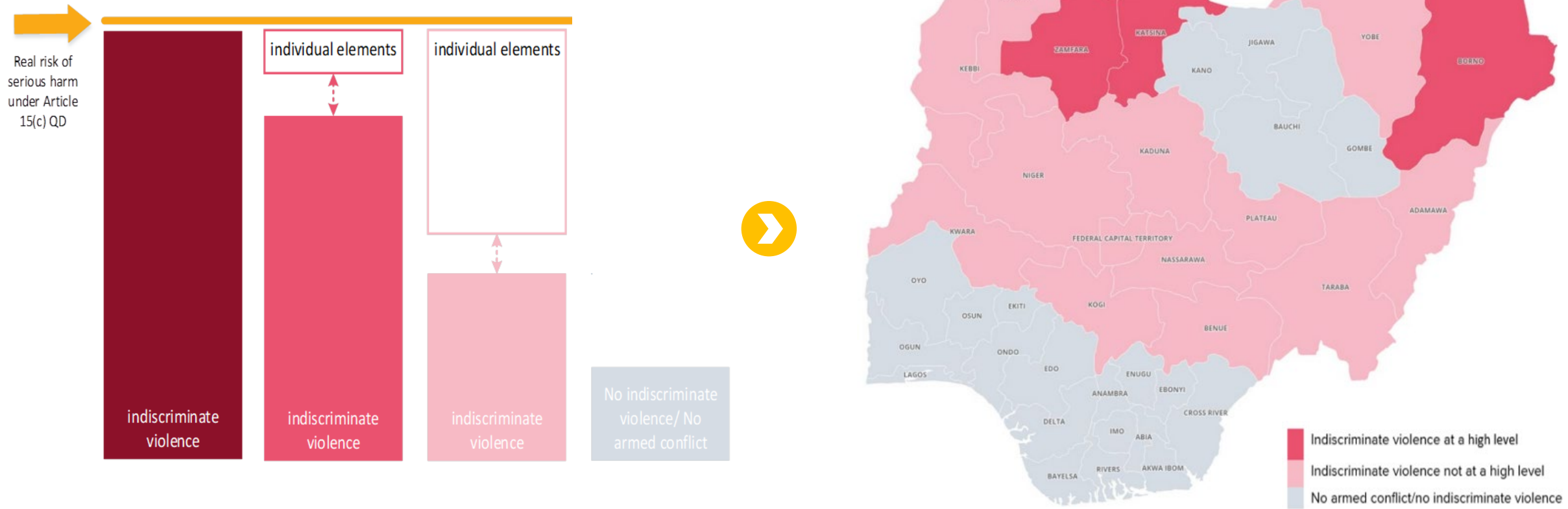


Armed conflict:

- ▶ Islamist groups vs. NAF including state-affiliated armed groups
- ▶ JAS vs. ISWAP
- ▶ Armed separatist groups vs. Nigerian security forces
- ▶ Communal militias of farmers and herders
- ▶ When armed confrontation, cults/gangs among themselves and vs. vigilantes

Subsidiary Protection | Article 15 (c) QD/QR

Assessment of indiscriminate violence per state



Actors of protection »»



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Actors of protection

The Nigerian State

In the **North-East** states where Boko Haram has long-standing presence, state protection would in general be unavailable.



The protection is generally not available for **certain categories of individuals**, such as women and children victims of violence, FGM/C and forced marriage.

In **other areas** affected by other types of violence the capacity of the Nigerian state is generally limited.



The Nigerian state and NAPTIP have made progress in combatting **THB**, however, the protection may be proven inaccessible or ineffective for THB victims.

No parties or organisations that control the country or a substantial part of its territory and able to provide protection were identified.

Internal Protection Alternative »»



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Internal Protection Alternative



Lagos & Abuja

This is without prejudice to the possibility to apply IPA to other places in Nigeria

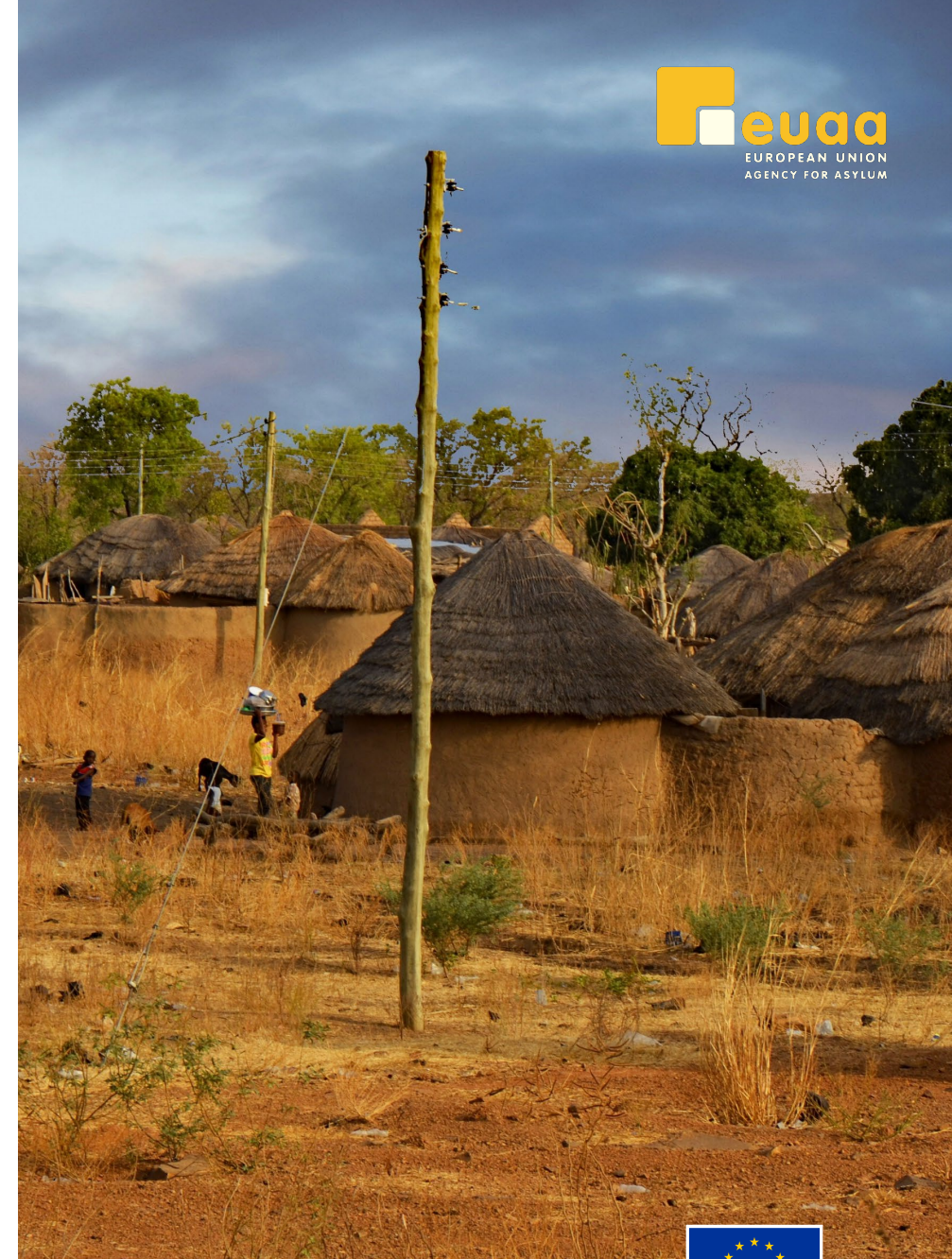
In general, IPA

would be reasonable for single able-bodied men and married couples without children, when no additional vulnerabilities and have access to financial means.

would not be reasonable when a support network is lacking, for:

- unaccompanied children
- elderly persons
- persons with severe illnesses or disabilities
- non self-reliant women

In the case of **other profiles**, the individual circumstances should be considered.



Please provide your feedback on CG Nigeria 2026!



Feedback Form



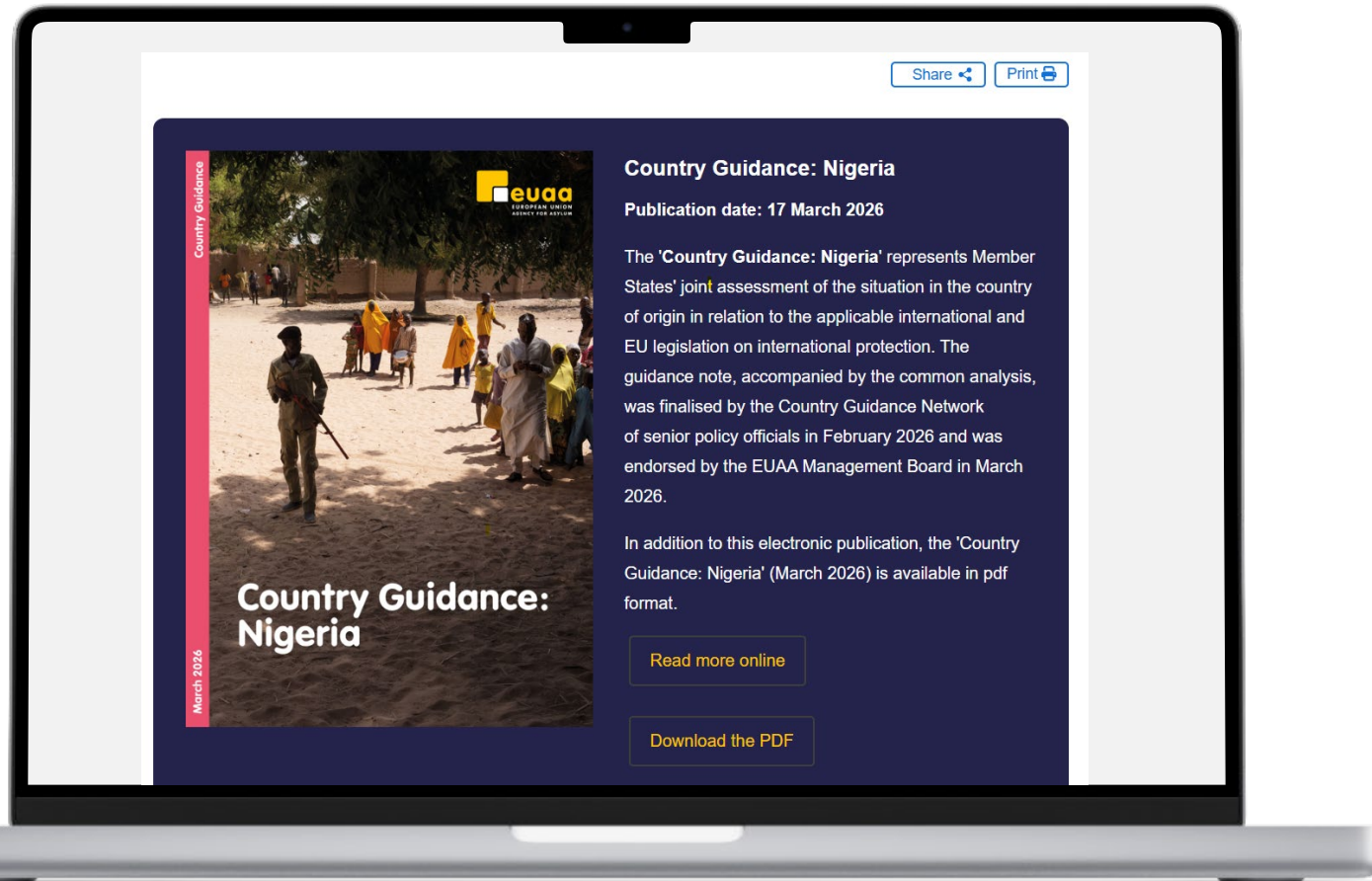
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More questions about CG: Nigeria?

- First instance authorities of Member States with EUAA Operational Plan with an asylum component
- EUAA operations



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Ask your line manager for the name of the designated CG Focal point



CG.helpdesk@euaa.europa.eu

- Other Member States
- Judicial authorities



Send an email with your questions to the Country Guidance mailbox



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