

## REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN NIGERIA

### THE NORTH / SOUTH DIVIDE

**INEQUALITIES BETWEEN THE RICH, MORE DEVELOPED, INDUSTRIALISED AND URBANISED SOUTH AND THE POOR, LESS DEVELOPED, AGRICULTURAL, RURAL NORTH**

**HOW DOES THE CORE (SOUTH) DIFFER FROM THE PERIPHERY (NORTH)?**

## ECONOMIC SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC ENVIRONMENTAL DISPARITIES

### ECONOMIC

- More unemployment and underemployment in the north
- More poverty in the north. Poverty wears a northern cap. 65% of poor Nigerians are in the north
- Lower income per capita in the north
- Differences in the employment sectors. North has high % in the primary sector, particularly agriculture (much of it subsistence farming). South has higher % in the secondary (industrial / manufacturing) sector and the tertiary sector
- More workers are in the informal sector in the north
- Age and gender disparities are greater in the north

### SOCIAL

- Educational attainment is lower in the north. The gender gap is higher and female enrolment in schools is lower. Half of primary school aged female children in the north are not enrolled
- Adult literacy is low in the north, 62% compared to 90% in the south
- Access to clean water and sanitation is lower in the north. Only 60% have access to clean water in the north compared to 90% in the south
- The north has a semi arid climate and a poor water infrastructure
- Open defecation is common in the north leading to high levels of disease such as cholera and diarrhea. Malaria is also a deadly disease
- Access to health services is poor in the north
- The poor infrastructure of the north also mean a lack of access to gas, electricity, sewage services and the transport infrastructure is also poor
- Food insecurity and malnutrition are common in the north
- Multi-dimensional deprivation is high in the north

### DEMOGRAPHIC

- Birth rates, death rates and growth rates are higher in the north
- The Infant Mortality Rate is higher in the north (140 / 1000 compared to 40 / 1000 in the south)
- The maternal mortality rate is also higher in the north due to the poor health services and facilities
- The Fertility Rate (number of children per woman) is higher in the north. >6 in the north compared to <4 in the south, due to lack of contraception and cultural differences
- The north has a more youthful population with a higher percentage under 15 and a poor dependency ratio

### ENVIRONMENTAL

- The north has a semi arid climate with low seasonal rainfall and a significant dry season
- Desertification of the SAHEL accelerated by climate change and population pressure leading to unsustainable human activities (deforestation, overgrazing and over cultivation) causes problems
- Soil degradation and soil erosion are common, reducing the carrying capacity of the land and leading to food insecurity, malnutrition and famine
- Social and political unrest follow as does migration to more prosperous areas



