

CLEEN Foundation
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News release

One-third of Nigerians – most of them young and educated – have considered emigrating, study shows

One in three Nigerians – most of them young and educated – have considered emigrating, a recent Afrobarometer survey in Nigeria indicates.

Among these potential emigrants, about one in eight say they are actually taking steps to leave the country. Most potential emigrants say they want to find jobs and escape economic hardship.

Released on International Migrants Day (18 December), these data speak to an international migration crisis that has seen thousands of would-be emigrants return home with stories of fear, torture, and even the selling of emigrants as slaves.

Key findings

- One-third of Nigerians say they have considered emigrating, including 11% who say they have given “a lot” of thought to the idea (Figure 1).
- Among those who have considered emigrating, 12% say they are taking concrete steps to leave the country, such as seeking a visa, while 35% say they plan to leave within the next year or two but are not yet making concrete preparations, and 52% say they've considered emigrating but have not made specific plans yet.
- The most common reasons for leaving cited by potential emigrants are to find work (35%) and escape economic hardship (24%) (Figure 2).
- About eight in 10 potential Nigerian emigrants are aged 35 or younger, including 45% who are 25 or younger (Figure 3). Eight in 10 potential emigrants have at least a secondary education, including 35% who have post-secondary school qualifications. About half (52%) live in urban areas.

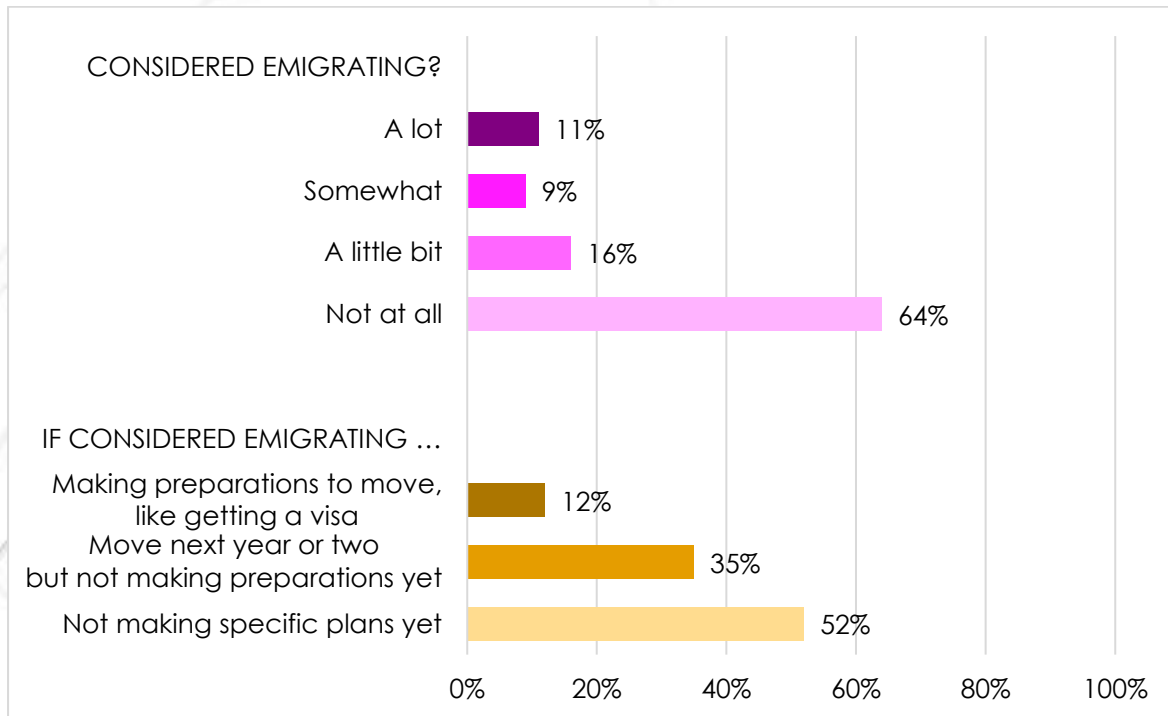
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 35 countries in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer national partners in Nigeria, CLEEN Foundation and Practical Sampling International, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,600 adult Nigerians between 26 April and 10 May 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Nigeria in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

Charts

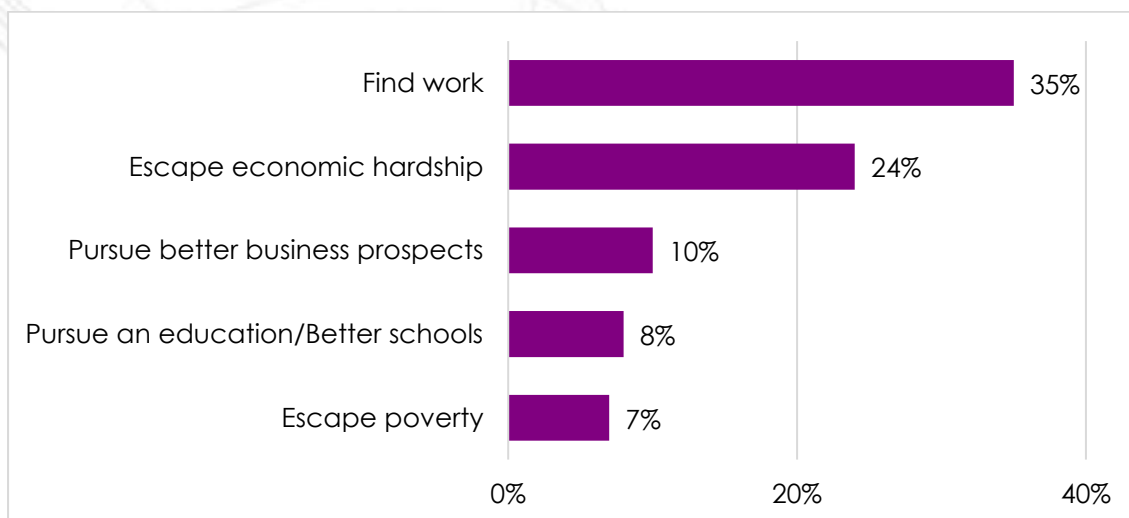
Figure 1: Considered emigration | Nigeria | 2017



All respondents were asked: How much, if at all, have you considered moving to another country to live?

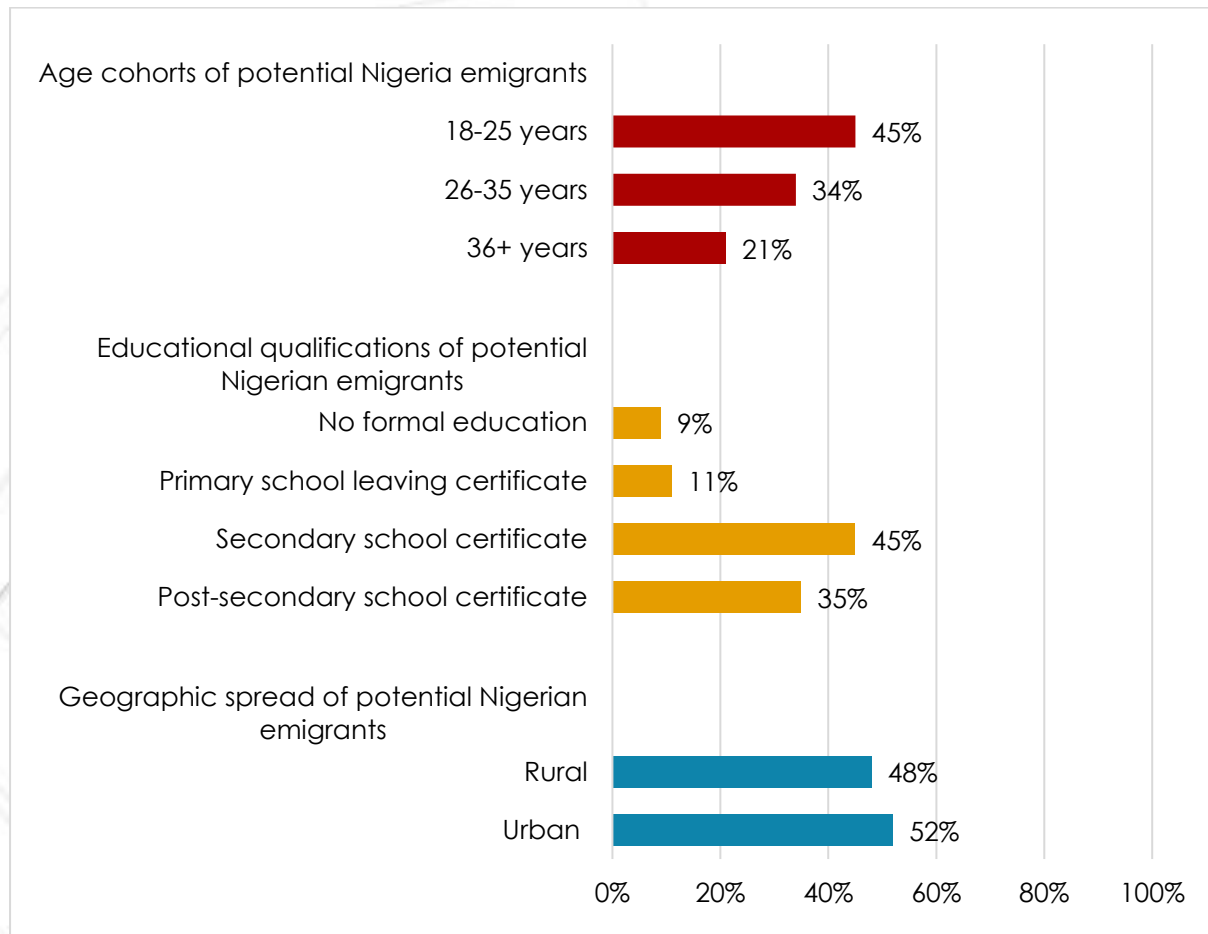
Respondents who said they had considered emigration "a lot," "somewhat," or "a little bit" were asked: How much planning or preparation have you done in order to move to another country to live?

Figure 2: Most important reasons why Nigerians desire to emigrate | Nigeria | 2017



Respondents who said they had considered emigrating were asked: There are several reasons why people leave their home to live in another country for an extended period of time. What about you? What is the most important reason why you would consider moving from Nigeria? (Note: Respondents who said they had not considered emigrating are excluded.)

Figure 3: Who among Nigerians has considered emigrating? | by age, education, and rural-urban residence | Nigeria | 2017



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