

NIGERIA

NTD LEARNING JOURNEY



HOSTED BY
THE END FUND

20TH - 23RD OCTOBER 2024

ITINERARY

OVERVIEW

As Nigeria approaches several elimination milestones, we're delighted to offer attendees the opportunity to join local partners, END Fund staff and investors, and other stakeholders to learn more about the remarkable progress made in the country and celebrate the achievements of the incredible community that has made such progress possible.

SUNDAY 10/20/24

ALL DAY
ARRIVALS & TRANSFER TO
TRANSCORP HILTON

17:00-20:00
WELCOME DRINKS
RECEPTION + DINNER
(ORIENTAL TERRACE +
BUKKA RESTAURANT)

MONDAY 10/21/24

6:00-7:45
BREAKFAST
(BUKKA RESTAURANT)

8:00-12:45
PROGRAM VISITS
(MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL
+ OWNER OCCUPIER MODEL
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE)

13:30-14:45
LUNCH

14:45-16:30
AID-X LAB TOUR
(FMOH)

PM
DINNER AT LEISURE

TUESDAY 10/22/24

9:00-12:00
PARTNERS WORKSHOP
(TBC)

12:00-13:30
LUNCH
(ORIENTAL RESTAURANT)

14:00-16:00
ADVOCACY MEETINGS

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

18:30-19:30
COCKTAIL RECEPTION
(TRANSCORP HOTEL)

19:00-22:00
CELEBRATORY GALA DINNER
(TRANSCORP HOTEL BALLROOM)

WEDNESDAY 10/23/24

7:00-9:00
BREAKFAST
(BUKKA RESTAURANT)

9:00-12:00
PROGRAM VISIT
(OPTIONAL)

12:00-13:00
LUNCH
(OPTIONAL)

13:00-17:00
ADVOCACY MEETINGS

CULTURAL VISIT
(OPTIONAL)

PM
DEPARTURES



DAY 1

If you are flying into Abuja and have booked your airport transfer through Elevate, you will be greeted at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport by a trip representative. Guests will be supported through immigration if they have requested this service, and then connected with a driver to be transported to the hotel (Transcorp Hilton Abuja).

At 5PM, attendees are invited to gather as a group for a welcome reception at the Oriental Terrace, followed by dinner at the Bukka Restaurant.

DAY 2

Breakfast is available at your leisure starting at 6AM in the Bukka Restaurant. At 8AM, the group will depart for the first program visit, heading to Model Primary School for a mass drug administration (MDA) and conversation with the school's medical team and patients. The group will then head to Owner Occupier Model Primary Health Care Centre Kubwa, where you will tour the facility and meet patients who received hydrocele surgery (a symptom of lymphatic filariasis) and the surgeons who are overseeing their treatments.

The group will have lunch at a local restaurant at 1:30PM, then continue on to meet with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and tour their AiD-X lab, which houses a multi-diagnostic automated microscope utilized for rapid detection of schistosomiasis.

Guests will then return to the hotel and have dinner at their own leisure this evening.

DAY 3

On Day 3, guests will gather for the partners workshop, which will bring together local and international programmatic partners from Nigeria and other END Fund-supported countries, along with representatives from the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health, END Fund staff, and other stakeholders. This workshop provides attendees with the opportunity to hear directly from the remarkable network of actors driving the progress made toward NTD elimination, sharing insights on the achievements secured so far and the challenges encountered along the way. Breakfast will be served outside the meeting room.

Guests will enjoy lunch at the hotel, then participate in optional sightseeing or advocacy meetings - details of which will be confirmed with individuals.

A cocktail reception and gala dinner will take place at the hotel ballroom from 7PM this evening. Guests will enjoy speeches, dinner, and entertainment to celebrate the progress made during the more than decade-long partnership between the END Fund and our Nigerian partners.

DAY 4

Breakfast will be available at your leisure starting at 6AM in the Bukka Restaurant. Depending on departure times, guests may attend a community MDA. The afternoon may include advocacy meetings or optional sightseeing until 5PM, before evening departures.

Guests will be transferred to Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV) based on individual departure times.



PROGRAM VISITS & PARTNER WORKSHOP AGENDAS

MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER

6:00-8:00AM

BREAKFAST

8:00AM

DEPARTURES FOR THE DAY

9:45-10:50AM

SCHOOL-BASED MDA VISIT

11:10AM-12:45PM

OWNER OCCUPIER MODEL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE

1:30-2:45PM

LUNCH

3:45-4:30PM

AID-X LABORATORY TOUR

TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER (PARTNERS WORKSHOP)

8:00-8:30AM

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

8:30-9:00AM

PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS

9:00-9:25AM

OPENING REMARKS

9:25-10:25AM

NIGERIAN NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

11:00-11:20AM

FLAGSHIP FUND OVERVIEW

11:20AM-12:45PM

END FUND PROGRAM PARTNERS
FIRESIDE CHATS W/ Q&A

12:45-1:00PM

CLOSING REMARKS

WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER

7:00-9:00AM

BREAKFAST

9:00AM

DEPARTURES FOR THE DAY

10:30-11:20AM

COMMUNITY-BASED MDA VISIT

12:00-1:00PM

LUNCH



NIGERIA OVERVIEW



HISTORICAL & POLITICAL OVERVIEW

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with more than 223 million citizens, has a rich cultural heritage and dynamic history that have shaped its political landscape. Since gaining independence from Britain in 1960, Nigeria has navigated a path marked by both challenges and remarkable resilience.

Following several decades of military rule, the country transitioned to democracy in 1999, during a pivotal moment that ushered in the Fourth Republic, which continues to this day.

Nigeria operates as a federal republic, with a political structure that includes three tiers of government: federal, state, and local. The country is divided into 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Abuja, with each state having its own government. Nigeria's federal system is designed to manage its vast ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity, with the country home to more than 250 ethnic groups.

At the federal level, Nigeria has a presidential system of government. The President serves as both the head of state and the head of government, and is elected for a four-year term with the possibility of re-election for a second term. The National Assembly, Nigeria's bicameral legislature, consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives, responsible for making laws and overseeing the executive branch.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Nigeria is rich in natural resources and has a diverse economic landscape, resulting in one of the largest economies on the continent. The Nigerian economy is heavily influenced by its vast oil and gas reserves - a key source of revenue since the 1970s. Agriculture also remains a significant sector, employing a large portion of the population and contributing to food security.

From the turn of the millennium to the mid-2010s, Nigeria's economy experienced broad-based growth of more than 7% per year on average. However, in the years since, the country has faced several challenges. In June 2024, the inflation rate hit a 28-year high of 34.19%, while the naira has also depreciated significantly, placing significant stress on the resources of the country and its citizens.

Despite such challenges, several reasons for optimism remain. The country is experiencing rapid growth in its services sector, particularly in telecommunications, financial services, and the tech industry. Nigeria's young and growing population, with its entrepreneurial spirit, also presents a significant opportunity. With African countries expected to account for 70% of the growth in the global workforce over the next three decades, Nigeria will be an increasingly significant economy, with its population predicted to grow to 392 million people by 2050. With sufficient support in education, healthcare, and infrastructure, Nigeria's young, innovative and increasingly digitalized population can drive significant economic progress.

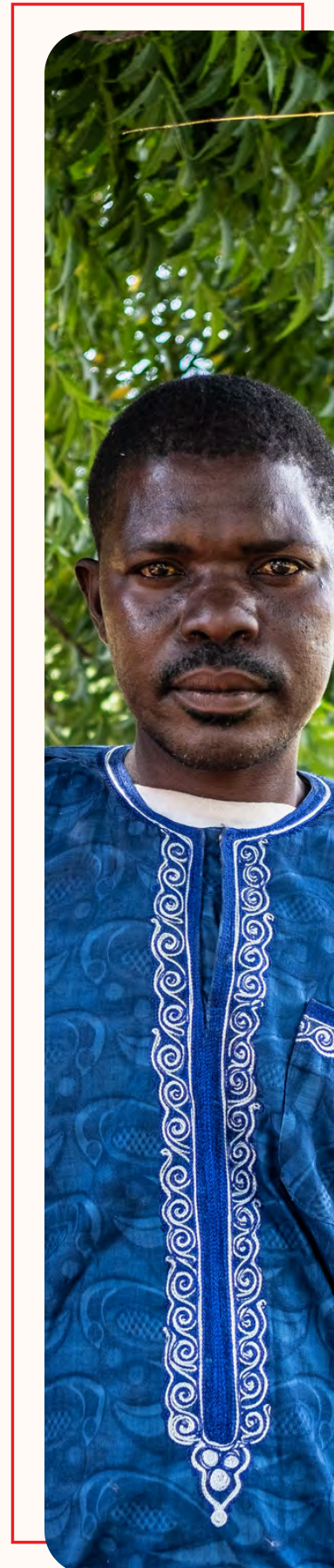
THE END FUND IN NIGERIA

The END Fund has an audacious but achievable goal: ending neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Nigeria, where more than 166 million people currently require treatment. All five NTDs that can be treated with preventative chemotherapy are present in the country: river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and intestinal worms.

The first mass treatment for NTDs began in Nigeria in the 1990s. However, the first NTD Master Plan was not launched until 2013. This document laid out a plan to treat more than 60 million people for NTDs in five years, but due to funding shortages, it was never fully achieved. In 2023, the second NTD Master Plan for Nigeria was released, covering 2023-2027, with a view to eliminating NTDs in Nigeria by 2030.

Since 2013, the END Fund's work with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and programmatic partners has provided approximately 270 million treatments for people at risk of NYDs. With an initial scope of targeting only river blindness in 2013, the END Fund now supports activities targeting all five NTDs in eight states alongside our partners, MITOSATH, CBM, Health and Development Support, and Helen Keller International. National organizations deftly navigate the diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and political contexts in areas where MDA is needed.

Local and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, popular national figures, and the international community have all played a vital role in the effort to end NTDs in Nigeria. The END Fund's investments in Nigeria are strategically designed to expand the capacity of our partners, fill gaps in implementation, and support the Ministry of Health to achieve its national goals for NTDs.



NIGERIA: NTD PROFILE

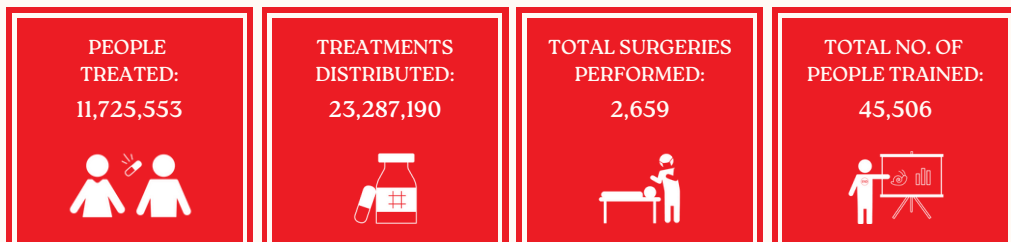
Nigeria is regarded as one of the 'big three' highest-burden countries for NTDs in Africa, along with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT RISK:



Through our collaborative programs, the END Fund supports the Nigerian national NTD program to achieve control and elimination targets for all five of the diseases under our portfolio.

THE END FUND IN NIGERIA (2023)





PARTNERS:



INTESTINAL WORMS

Nigeria has the highest burden of intestinal worms in the world, with 48 million people requiring regular treatment. Intestinal worms wreak havoc on the development of children, causing malnutrition, anemia, stunted growth, and impaired cognitive function. Studies show that children who are dewormed are 25% more likely to attend school and go on to earn more than their peers who did not have access to treatment.

In 2015, Nigeria saw a significant scaling-up of deworming programming, with millions of children reached for treatment through broad school-based campaigns. Recognizing the limitations related to non-enrolled children, in 2017 the FMoH expanded treatment to include community-based methods, with the aim of treating at least 75% of the population. By the end of 2019, more than 90% of school-age children were being treated for intestinal worms.

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

Nigeria has the third largest burden of lymphatic filariasis in the world. Since 2015, the END Fund has supported mass drug administrations that have resulted in several states no longer requiring treatment for the disease. By 2025, we expect 21 million fewer people to require treatment for lymphatic filariasis.

People who have already been infected with lymphatic filariasis require further treatment. Lymphatic filariasis causes lymphedema, the irreversible swelling of the limbs that can cause significant mobility issues. As such, people with lymphedema report lower earnings and higher rates of depression. The END Fund supports lymphedema management, which reduces swelling and prevents infections.

In men, lymphatic filariasis can cause severe swelling of the scrotum; a condition called hydrocele. These hydroceles can grow to be the size and weight of a bowling ball, causing constant pain. However, they are completely reversible with surgery. Since 2020, the END Fund has supported more than 7,000 surgeries for patients with hydrocele.

RIVER BLINDNESS

River blindness is caused by parasites that spread from the bite of black flies; the parasites enter the body and migrate up to the eyes causing irreversible blindness. The river blindness elimination program is the oldest among the NTD programs in Nigeria, dating back to the 1990s. Today, 43 million people still require annual treatment for river blindness in Nigeria. However, increased national efforts, donor support, community awareness and participation in treatment, and environmental monitoring of black flies have resulted in a decline in new cases and interrupted transmission of river blindness in 11 states. Another 11 states are approaching this milestone, as they are suspected to have also interrupted transmission and are undergoing confirmation surveys.

SCHISTOSOMIASIS

More than 49 million people are living in areas that are endemic for schistosomiasis. Recently, the END Fund and its partners have seen great success in schistosomiasis programming with several areas seeing a dramatic reduction in prevalence of the parasitic disease. A recent assessment of the endemicity of schistosomiasis in Akwa Ibom state indicated that treatments delivered had been effective and the state could change its treatment from mass drug administration to only focus on cases as they emerged, in line with the WHO guidelines.

TRACHOMA

Trachoma is known to be endemic only across the Sahelian states of the north, known as the 'trachoma belt'. Repeated infections from trachoma cause the eyelashes to turn inwards, painfully scratching the cornea with every blink until a person permanently loses their sight. In advanced cases, the only way to prevent blindness is with surgery. These surgeries can be completed by a single, mobile ophthalmic nurse during a procedure lasting less than 30 minutes and at a cost of less than \$100. In the past, the END Fund has worked in Gombe State to address the backlog of nearly 16,000 people who require surgery for trachoma.

TRAVELING TO ABUJA

ABUJA

Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria, located in the center of the country within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It was officially declared the capital in 1991, replacing Lagos, due to its more central location, which facilitates equal accessibility from all parts of Nigeria. Abuja was a planned city, designed and built during the 1980s, and is known for its modern infrastructure, well-planned layout, and government buildings.

As the center of Nigeria's government, the city hosts the Presidential Complex, the National Assembly, and the Supreme Court. It also houses numerous embassies, international organizations, and headquarters of major corporations.

The city is a melting pot of various ethnic groups, including the Gwari, Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo, and as one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa, attracts people from all over Nigeria and beyond.

WEATHER

Abuja lies at 1,180 feet (360 meters) above sea level and as such, has a cooler climate and less humidity than is found in Lagos. The average temperature in Abuja in October for a typical day ranges from a high of 86°F (30°C) to a low of 70°F (21°C). October is deemed the last month of the rainy season so please anticipate there may be downpours during this time.



MAJOR LANDMARKS OF ABUJA

ABUJA NATIONAL MOSQUE

Also known as the Nigerian National Mosque, it features golden domes and a towering minaret. The mosque is one of the most recognizable symbols of Abuja and caters to Nigeria's large Muslim population.

ASO ROCK

An iconic granite rock formation that stands as a prominent feature of Abuja's landscape and holds significant political and cultural importance. The Presidential Complex, Nigerian National Assembly, and Supreme Court are located near Aso Rock.

ASO ROCK PRESIDENTIAL VILLA

The official residence and office of the President of Nigeria, located near Aso Rock.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CENTRE

This impressive cathedral with its modern architectural design serves as a major place of worship for Christians in Nigeria.

NIGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX

The National Assembly Complex is the seat of the National Assembly, the legislative body for Federal Republic of Nigeria. Built in 1999, the landmark features distinctive architectural structures, including the domed building where the country's legislature meets.

ZUMA ROCK

Located just outside Abuja, this monolithic rock is often called the "Gateway to Abuja." It is one of Nigeria's most iconic natural landmarks and appears on the country's 100 naira note.



CUSTOMS & CULTURAL ETIQUETTE

Dressing conservatively is appreciated, especially in public and formal settings. Traditional attire is also highly respected, and wearing it can be a sign of appreciation for the culture.

Nigerians are expressive, and body language is a big part of communication. Maintaining eye contact is important, but be mindful of cultural differences in the level of directness considered polite.

Nigeria is diverse in terms of religion, with significant populations of Christians and Muslims, as well as various indigenous beliefs. Being respectful of different religious practices and holidays is important.

POWER DYNAMICS

While philanthropists' and third-sector professionals' actions are well-intentioned, it is important to consider any divergence between one's intention to create a positive impact and the reality of that impact.

All individuals are subject to holding implicit biases about other groups, including the people and culture of Africa. Oppressive tropes that present Africans as impoverished and helpless sustain power imbalances and can diminish the agency of individuals that one hopes to support. The END Fund seeks to ensure that the communities we work alongside and serve are recognized with a people-first approach that reflects and appreciates their agency, contributions, and the unique value that every individual represents.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- READINGS**
 - 'Things Fall Apart' by Chinua Achebe: a classic novel depicting the Igbo society.
 - 'Half of a Yellow Sun' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: a powerful story set during the Biafran War.
 - 'My Watch' by Olusegun Obasanjo: an autobiography by the former Nigerian president.
- PODCASTS**
 - The Nigerian Experience: for insights into Nigerian society and culture.
 - I Said What I Said: for a podcast about life and happenings in Nigeria.
 - The Afrocombs Podcast: for information on African history, culture, and society.
- MUSIC**
 - Fela Kuti: the pioneer of Afrobeat music.
 - Burna Boy: a giant of contemporary Afro-fusion.
 - Yemi Alade: a star popular for her Afro-pop hits.
 - WizKid, Tiwa Savage, Davido, Tems, Omah Lay, & Fireboy DML: stars popular for their Afro-influenced hit songs.

GREETINGS & CONVERSATIONS

It is customary to greet elders first. Nigerians will typically genuflect (a deep bow from males or a curtsy from females) to greet an elder - the lower the body position, the older the person being greeted. However, this style of greeting is generally not expected from non-Nigerians.

Common greetings include, "Good morning," "Good afternoon," and "Good evening." In Yoruba, you may hear "Bawo ni" (How are you?). In Hausa, it's "Sannu" (Hello), and in Igbo, "Kedu" (How are you?). Conversations often begin with inquiries about health, family, or work. Jumping straight to business without some small talk can be seen as rude.

Handshakes are a common greeting. It's polite to offer a handshake with your right hand. As Nigeria has over 350 tribes, greeting is by no means homogenous; when in doubt, it is ideal to greet by giving a slight nod with your hands joined together in front of you as a sign of respect.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Many visiting Africa like to take photos of people to demonstrate their exposure to new cultures and experiences. However, the subject of your photos has the dignity and authority to consent to be photographed. Please always ask for permission respectfully before taking pictures of people, and expect to approach this situation sensitively. Also, ask for permission if you plan to post or otherwise share photos of these individuals. For children, please ask their parents/guardians or elders. Some people may refuse to be photographed, but please try not to take this personally.

On the other hand, you may find that many individuals will be interested in taking a photo with you without ever having met you before. Do feel free to respectfully decline this request if you are uncomfortable.





HEALTH & IMMUNIZATIONS

If traveling from outside of the country, please be sure to check the [CDC website](#) for updated information about vaccinations and health concerns and check with your medical provider about individual requirements.

You should carry an adequate supply of any prescribed medications you require. Medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage in their original, labeled containers only.

MONEY

The official currency is the Nigerian Naira (₦). Ensure you have enough local currency as some places do not accept credit cards.

Please notify your bank and credit card companies of your travel plans in case they view your activity as fraudulent and block your card. Credit cards, primarily Visa and MasterCard, are accepted in larger establishments and at your hotel. Most merchants will charge an additional 3-5% of the bill for a credit card transaction. Cash is more appropriate everywhere else and is recommended in smaller stores. Be sure to have an adequate amount of cash on hand when you leave for the site visits. Bring newer USD bills that are in pristine condition (no rips, tears, smudges, markings, creases, etc.) to exchange. Note that traveler's checks are no longer commonly used.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Travellers to Nigeria must ensure that their passport:

- Is current and valid for at least 6 months beyond your trip departure date (April 23, 2025).
- Has at least 2 blank pages for the entry and exit stamps, or more if you are visiting several countries on this trip. The last two amendment pages are unacceptable for visas and immigration stamps.

For non-Nigerian citizens, please note that all travelers who need a visa to enter Nigeria (citizens from all countries except those within the Economic Community of West African States) will require assistance to facilitate their permit to travel (PTR), which will pre-approve your visa on arrival (VOA). Please check [here](#) to determine if you need a visa to enter Nigeria.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Elevate staff will deliver safety briefings while in-country, but below are some basic safety rules:

- Avoid flashing money
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry
- Stick with the group
- Always ensure that others know of your whereabouts
- Avoid street protests or large gatherings
- Use only trusted transportation services, like hotel taxis or reputable ride-hailing apps - both Bolt and Uber are available

When engaging with police, it is recommended to nod in accordance, agree verbally, and ask politely what they suggest needs to be done to ensure a smooth resolution. It is not recommended to negotiate with police on the streets.

- Your guide can take you to exchange cash and will know where to get the best rates. Ask for smaller bills when getting cash, as some smaller vendors may not carry change for bigger bills.
- ATMs are widely available in Abuja. Generally, Visa is more widely-accepted and there is usually a small fee per transaction (on top of what your own bank charges).
- The END Fund trip to Nigeria officially starts on October 20 and ends on October 23. During this time, your meals, transportation, and gratuity for the guides and drivers have been covered by the program cost. Attendees will be asked to cover their own accommodation upon check out from the Transcorp Hilton Hotel.
- Tipping is always appreciated but not required. Feel free to leave a tip if you experience exceptional service - 10% is a common amount. Note that tips for guides, drivers, and restaurant staff at group meals have already been covered.

TIME

Nigeria follows West Africa Standard Time (WAT), which is UTC+1. Therefore, the time in Abuja will be 5 hours ahead of East Coast Time, the same time as British Summer Time (BST) in the UK, and 3 hours behind Gulf Standard Time.



PHONE & INTERNET ACCESS

Major network providers like MTN, Airtel, Glo, and 9mobile offer SIM cards at airports and in major cities. You'll need a valid ID to register a SIM card.

4G services are available in most urban areas, and data plans are affordable. Wi-Fi is also available in most hotels, cafes, and public spaces, though the speed can vary.

For communication, WhatsApp is widely used. It's also advisable to have ride-hailing apps like Bolt or Uber installed for easy transportation within cities.

BATHROOMS & WATER

We recommend carrying tissues with you when you leave the hotel for site visits or meals. Some remote areas, and some restaurants, do not have toilet paper provided. Please also remember to throw the toilet paper (or any other paper or feminine hygiene products) into the bin provided and not into the toilet, as this can cause problems with the sewage system.

We recommend not drinking tap water unless it's been boiled first. Bottled water is inexpensive and readily available. We encourage travelers to bring a reusable water bottle and replenish it from filtered refill stations whenever possible. Similarly, do not use ice unless you know it was made from filtered water.

ELECTRICITY

Nigeria uses type D and G electrical plugs. Type D has three round pins in a triangular pattern, while Type G has three rectangular pins. The standard voltage is 230V, and the frequency is 50Hz.

Please bring a universal travel adapter if your devices use a different plug type. If needed, the hotel may be able to provide an adapter.

LOCAL FOOD

Below are some of the iconic dishes of Nigeria's cuisine:

Jollof Rice: a beloved West African dish made with rice, tomatoes, and a variety of spices. Often served with chicken, beef, or fish. Be careful of being drawn into a 'Jollof-war argument', on which African country has the best jollof rice!

Pounded Yam and Egusi Soup: a popular Nigerian meal consisting of mashed yam served with a rich melon seed soup.

Suya: a spicy meat skewer, typically beef or chicken, grilled and served with onions and pepper.

Moi Moi: a steamed bean pudding made from ground peeled beans, peppers, and onions.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US



The END Fund

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Emergency Services Number: 112

In case of emergency, where possible, please notify your guide and the END Fund staff traveling with you.

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