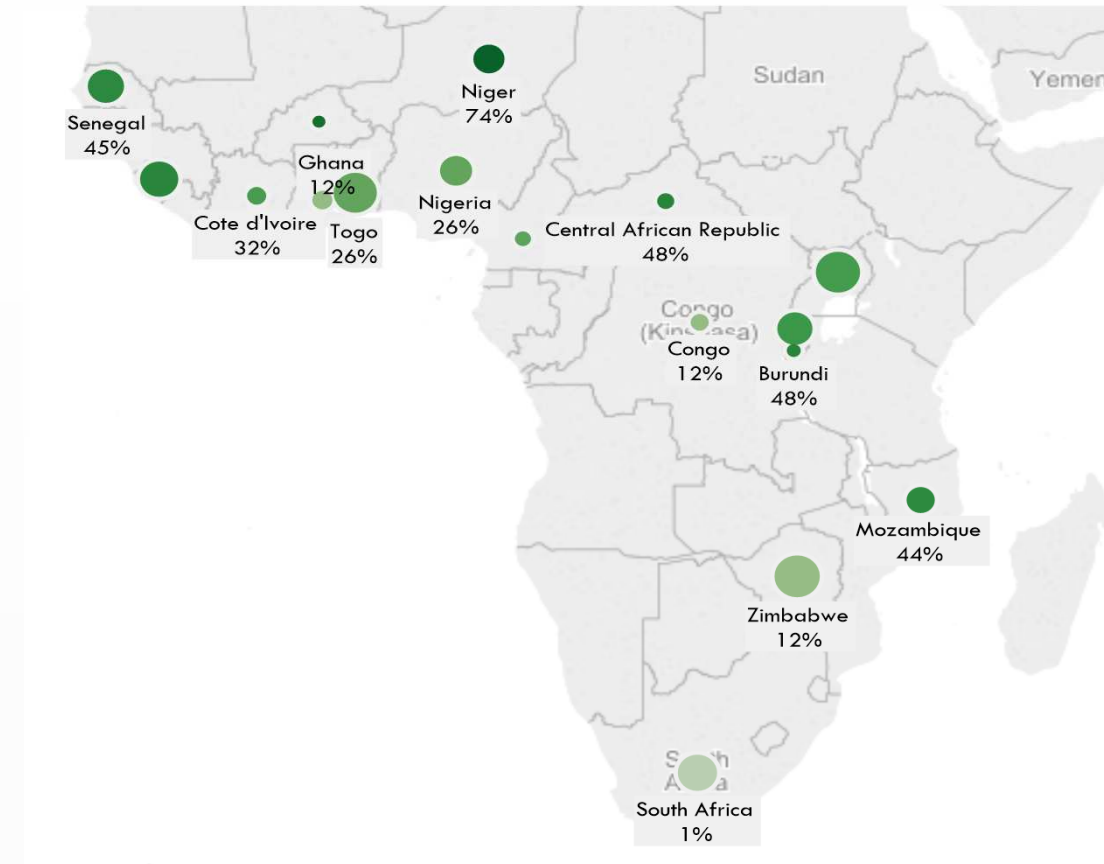


Number: 19

Population in Severe Poverty



Data Source: Human Development Report (2014)

One out of every four persons in Nigeria is suffering from severe poverty. That is what the map on the left tells us. Severe poverty is “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_poverty). In addition to all these, those who are severely poor live on less than a dollar a day.

In effect therefore it means that one-quarter of every Nigerian suffer this fate. Compare Nigeria with our neighbour, Ghana. Only about one out of every eight persons fall within this category. What of South Africa that with rebasing we overtook as the largest economy in Africa? Only one out of every 100 persons fall within this category. Even Zimbabwe and Congo are better. What has our oil wealth done for us?

Who is indeed the true giant of Africa? Is it the country with so much wealth but cannot feed/take care of 26% of its citizens or a smaller country that effectively takes care of about 98.5% of its citizens? Nigeria wake up!

- Martin Oluba | PhD, DBA