

Canadian University Students Overseas NIGERIA, THE AFRICAN GIANT

The Canadian University Service Overseas is an independent, non-profit, development agency which sends skilled workers overseas to help the nations of the Third World train their people to cope in a fast-changing, technological world.

Set up in 1961, it originally recruited mainly young, university graduates. Now, as the needs of developing countries change, it has more requests for volunteers skilled in trades and technology. Age is no longer a barrier; many volunteers have years of experience to contribute as well as basic knowledge.

In the last 16 years, CUSO has sent 6,000 Canadians to 65 different countries. Most are posted overseas for two years and are paid counterpart salaries by the host country or agency. CUSO pays health and life insurance costs, return air-fare and "settling-in" and resettlement allowances.

In the coming year CUSO will be sending 400 volunteers overseas to help in the fields of education, health, agriculture, business and technology including engineering and auto mechanics. Any skilled worker who is a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant can apply through a CUSO Local Committee.

CUSO also undertakes various projects within Canada to increase public awareness of development issues and will help groups wanting to organize education projects. And it provides financial and material support for specific development projects initiated and directed by Third World agencies. Funds come from business, groups and individuals across Canada.

Nigeria Fact Sheet

Nigeria is the African giant. It is a country with more of just about everything than any other country on the African continent -- more people, more color, more children in school, more farmers, more pulsating large cities,

more good road and more plush cars, more wealthy men and women, more noise and irrepressible vitality, more painters and musicians and actors, more traders and hustlers and more problems. Scale is all in Nigeria - so it is appropriate that the problems are large indeed.

The dizzying euphoria that resulted from the quadrupling of crude oil

production has been falling steadily for some years. Recognizing the facts of scarcity of foodstuffs, high prices and falling production, the military government launched Operation Feed the Nation - a program to encourage an increase in food production. Nevertheless food production is still on the decline and food imports run into the billions

or secondary schools, commercial or teachers' colleges and higher studies. The UPE program, officially launched in 1976, is compulsory. Teacher requirements are staggering and CUSO's role in Nigeria is mainly in the field of education.

Both the OFN and UPE programs are now suffering from the government cutbacks.

Nigeria's size, geographic position, population and economic strength have vaulted it into a leadership position on the continent. With a population of 80 million, Nigeria is the largest of the coastal countries of West Africa, with a diverse terrain ranging from tropical rain forest on the coast to grassland and, on the northern border, the Sahara Desert. One in four Africans is Nigerian.

The country is divided into 19 states and there are at least 10 major ethnic groups and 250 different languages and dialects. English is the language of administration, commerce and education.

The CUSO program in Nigeria is the organization's largest single country program and has been operating since 1962, mainly in the field of teacher placements.

Science, English and math teachers are in particular demand, along with teacher-trainers for the colleges. CUSO's involvement in the fields of health and agriculture has been minimal but a strong effort is now being made to program in these areas as well as in the technical area.

price in 1973 and 1974 became the premise for a \$50 million development plan. But the oil revenues didn't materialize because of the devalued dollar and a reduction in demand for crude oil in industrial nations. Due to the 40 per cent shortfall in revenue, programs are being slashed. Inflation in 1977 was estimated at 31 per cent, with food price increases substantially higher.

Before the oil boom, agricultural production was the major source of domestic income and 70 per cent of Nigerians still work in farming. At one time Nigeria was a major producer of groundnuts, cotton, cocoa and palm oil, all of them primarily for export.

However, agricultural

of naira (Nigerian currency.)


Nigeria also has a Universal Primary Education program to provide all children with six years of schooling. Students take a comprehensive test of basic English, arithmetic and other skills to determine whether they can proceed to technical

Don't just

Sit On it!

It's your world now. Why not make your contribution by becoming a volunteer with us for two years in a developing country.

Do it! The sooner you apply the sooner we can place you in a suitable posting.

How to apply: Contact Canada Manpower Office, 1st Floor Main Building as an alternative CUSO 



Concerned? Qualified? Adaptable?

Contact your nearest CUSO committee, or write:

CUSO, 151 Slater, Ottawa K1P 5H5