

DEMANDING FOR JUSTICE: MAPPING THE NIGERIAN END SARS PROTESTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Photo: Ehimetalor Akhere Unuabona



CONTEXT

Protests in the most recent Nigerian End SARS movement began on October 4, 2020, sparked by a video that spread on social media of a man allegedly being killed by someone in this police force. Thousands of people protested, expressing their anger over the harassment and extrajudicial killings by this Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), and demanding for the federal government to abolish SARS, with the movement gaining support internationally as well. The government ordered the immediate dissolution of the task force on October 11 soon after protests erupted, but local activists remained concerned following this order because the officers of this unit were redeployed into other police units. The protest movement quickly evolved into broader demands for police reform, greater respect for human rights, respect for democracy, the strengthening of educational and health systems, and job creation. The UN Human Rights Commission has reported that economic inequality has reached extreme levels as nearly 70% of the national population lives below the poverty line. These protesters' demands for governmental reform come at a time when public frustration with the quality of the country's institutions and social services are high. The power of this decentralized movement in raising awareness and organizing around social change is suspected by analysts to have a significant impact on the political landscape of the country going into the 2023 elections.

SPATIAL QUESTIONS

1. What Nigerian states have the highest protest density during the height of the pro-End SARS movement in October 2020?
2. What Nigerian states have comparatively worse living standards and is there a nexus between these indicators and the location of protests, to predict where future protests are more likely to occur?

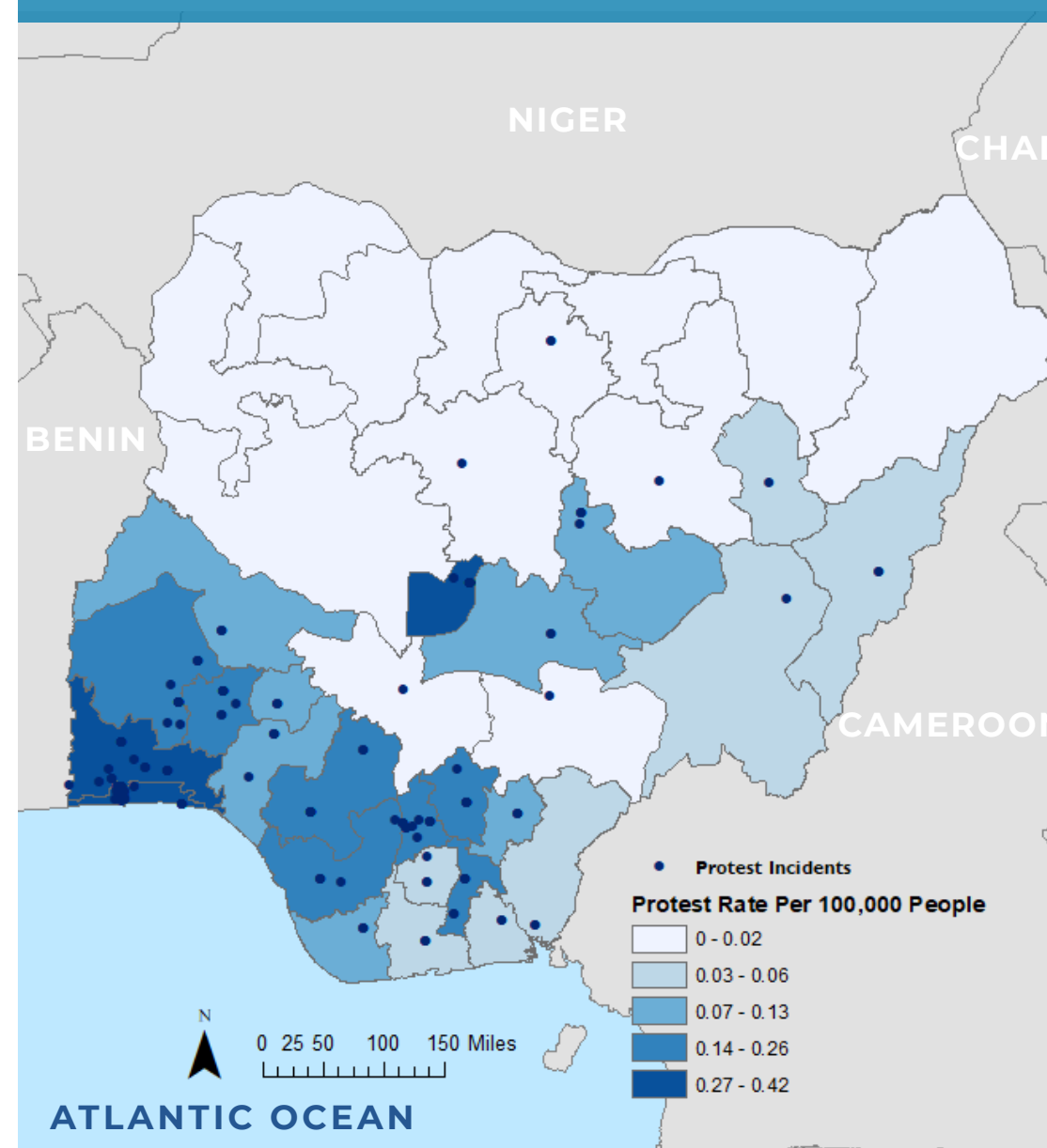
METHODS

1. Pro-End SARS protest incidents in October 2020 were mapped and joined to the underlying municipal boundaries. Protest counts were normalized by population per state to calculate protest rate per 100,000 people.
2. Data for each of the six socioeconomic indicators (child labor, child marriage, HIV/AIDS prevalence, adult literacy, antenatal care, and unemployment) were mapped and ranked to create a total quality of life vulnerability analysis per state.
3. To examine the relationship between each socioeconomic indicator and the rate of protest per state, the correlation was mapped and the R-squared value of the trend-line between protests and each indicator was calculated.

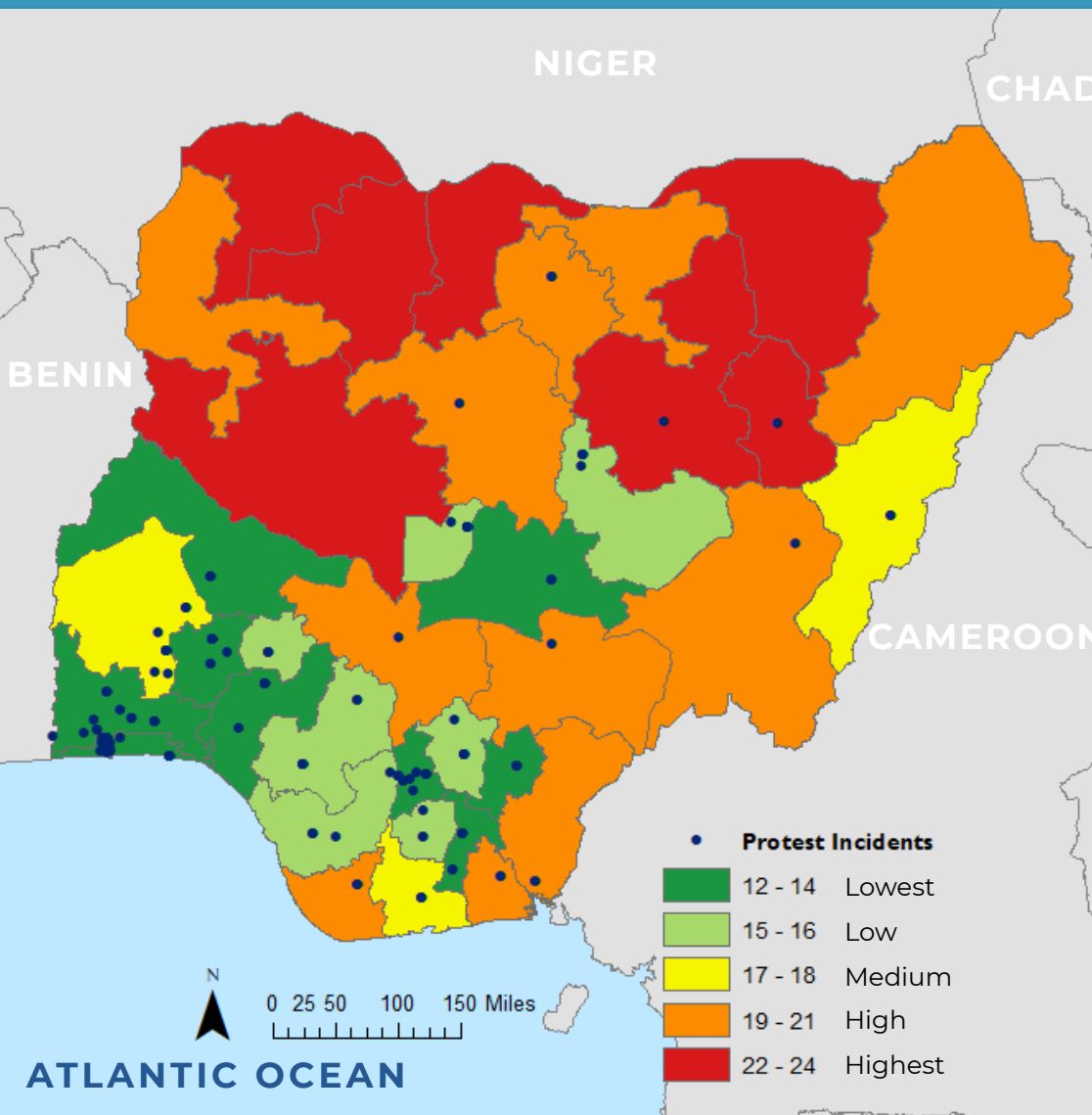
DATA SOURCES

- Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) for protest incidents data (October 2020)
- ESRI for world map boundaries
- National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria for socioeconomic indicator and population data (2016)
- Office for the Surveyor General of the Federation of Nigeria (OSGOF), Ehealth, and the United Nations Cartographic Section (UNCS) for country and state administrative boundaries (2017)
- Contextual information about the End SARS movement come from Oluwole Ojewale's ["Youth protests for police reform in Nigeria: What lies ahead for #EndSARS"](#) (Brookings, October 29, 2020) and Stephanie Busari's ["Nigeria's youth finds its voice with the EndSARS protest movement"](#) (CNN, October 25, 2020)

PROTEST DENSITY, OCTOBER 1-30, 2020



COMPOSITE SOCIOECONOMIC VULNERABILITY INDEX



STATE BOUNDARIES



RESULTS

1. The state with the highest number of End SARS protests was Lagos. After normalizing this by population, the state with the highest protest rate per 100,000 people was in Federal Capital Territory (Abuja).
2. The states that were within the highest ranking of socioeconomic vulnerability were Bauchi, Gombe, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara. Of these, the highest ranking vulnerability was Yobe. When analyzing the correlation between each of the indicators and the protest locations, the R squared values don't indicate strong relationships, positive or negative. However, the trend-lines of the scatterplots depict that the strongest of these is a negative correlation amongst those states whose women had no antenatal care visits and protest density. The second strongest is a positive correlation amongst the states with higher rates of adult literacy and protest density. In general, however, there are a significant number of outliers for each of the socioeconomic indicators and do not support the notion that there are consistent correlations between quality of life and rate of End SARS protests during this time period. Other indicators to examine could be the difference between urban and rural populations, as well as household access to internet or mobile phone ownership - both of which would support protester mobilization and perhaps signify greater protest density.

LIMITATIONS

The data available for socioeconomic indicators by state in Nigeria is limited; the most recent dataset available for each indicator varies greatly from 2007 to 2017. Further, the ACLED dataset of protest incidents may have missed attributing several occurrences to the pro-End SARS movement, which would have affected the accuracy of protest density in each state. Additional analysis may benefit from including protest incidents from November as well. Lastly, the most recent population data was collected by the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics in 2016, but the 2020 population data will affect each state's normalized protest rate.

PROTEST COUNTS PER STATE IN OCTOBER 2020

Abia.....6	Cross River.....2	Gombe.....1	Kwara.....3	Plateau.....5
Adamawa.....2	Delta.....10	Imo.....3	Lagos.....44	Rivers.....3
Akwa Ibom.....2	Ebonyi.....3	Jigawa.....0	Nasarawa.....2	Sokoto.....0
Anambra.....11	Edo.....10	Kaduna.....1	Niger.....0	Taraba.....1
Bauchi.....1	Ekiti.....3	Kano.....2	Ogun.....15	Yobe.....0
Bayelsa.....3	Enugu.....7	Katsina.....0	Ondo.....5	Zamfara.....0
Benue.....1	Federal Capital Territory (Abuja).....15	Kebbi.....0	Osun.....12	
Borno.....0		Kogi.....1	Oyo.....15	

Cartographer: Chloe Pan

Projected Coordinate System:

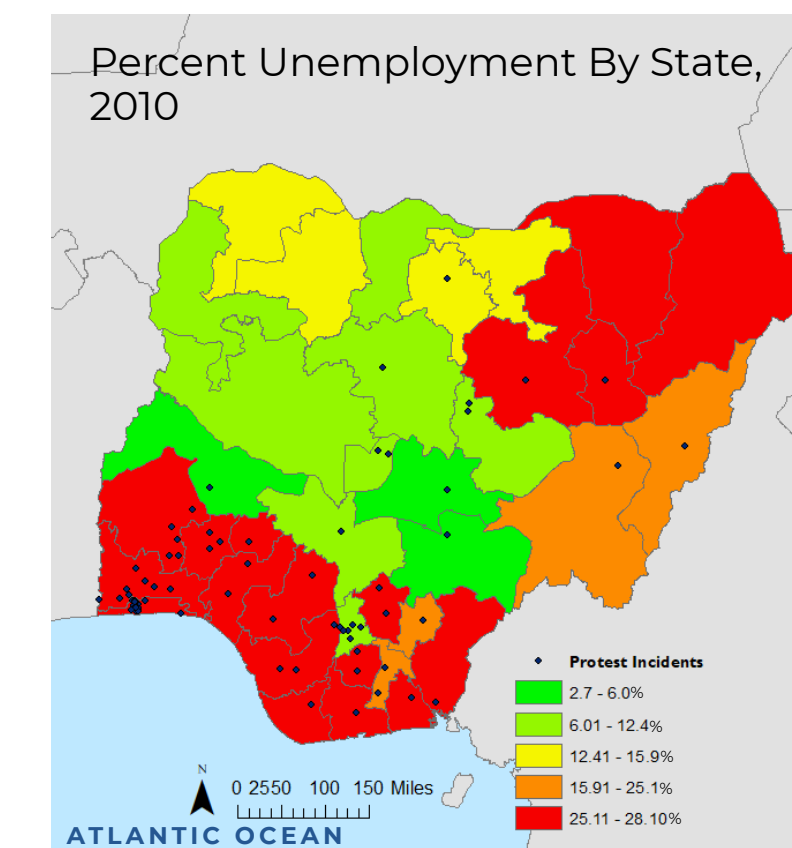
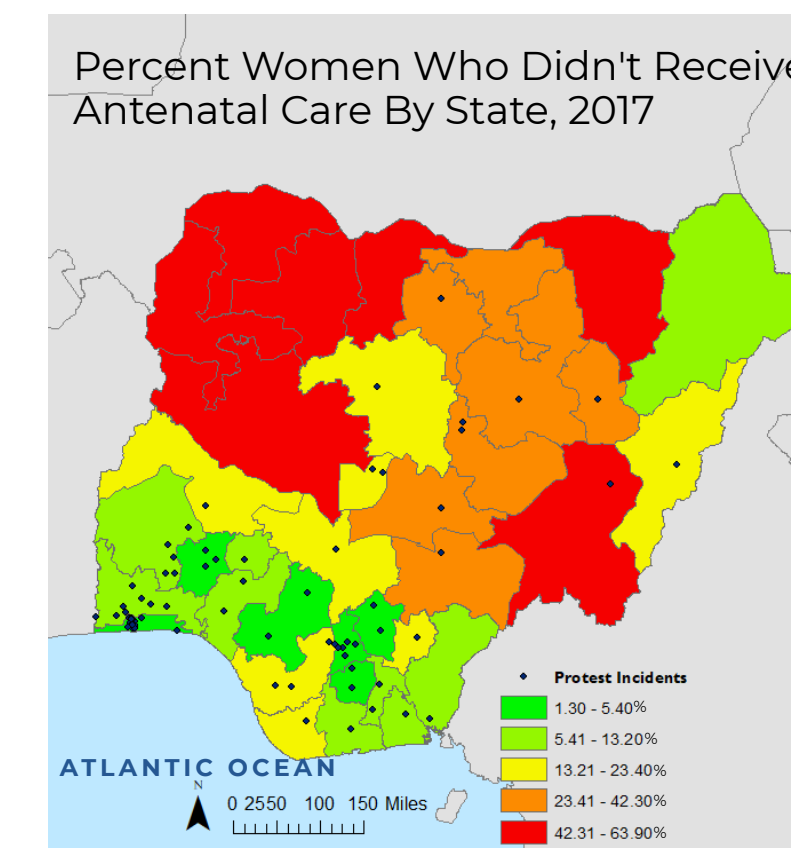
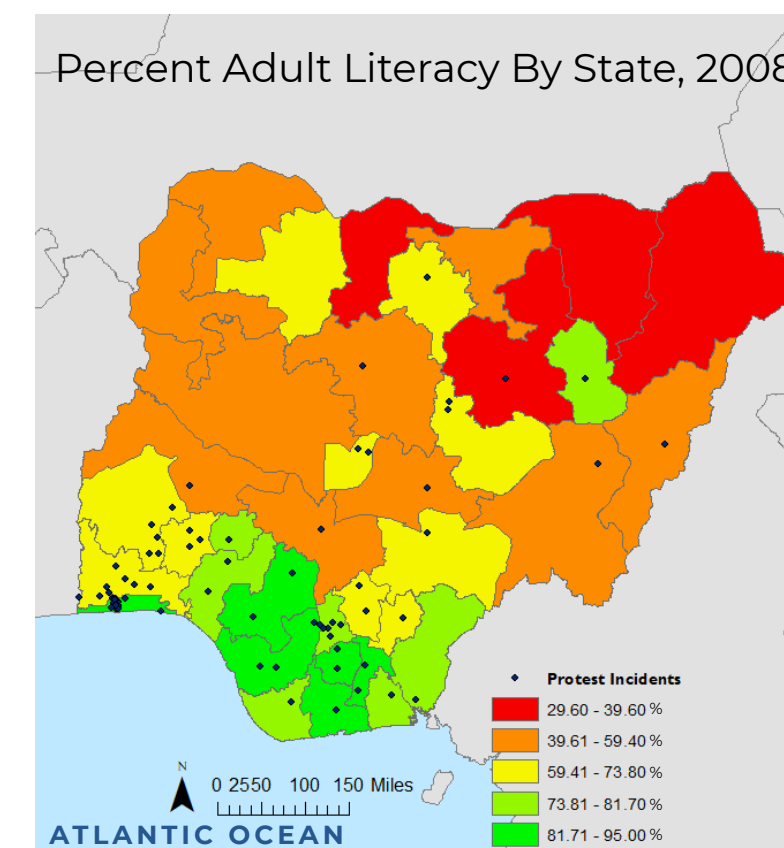
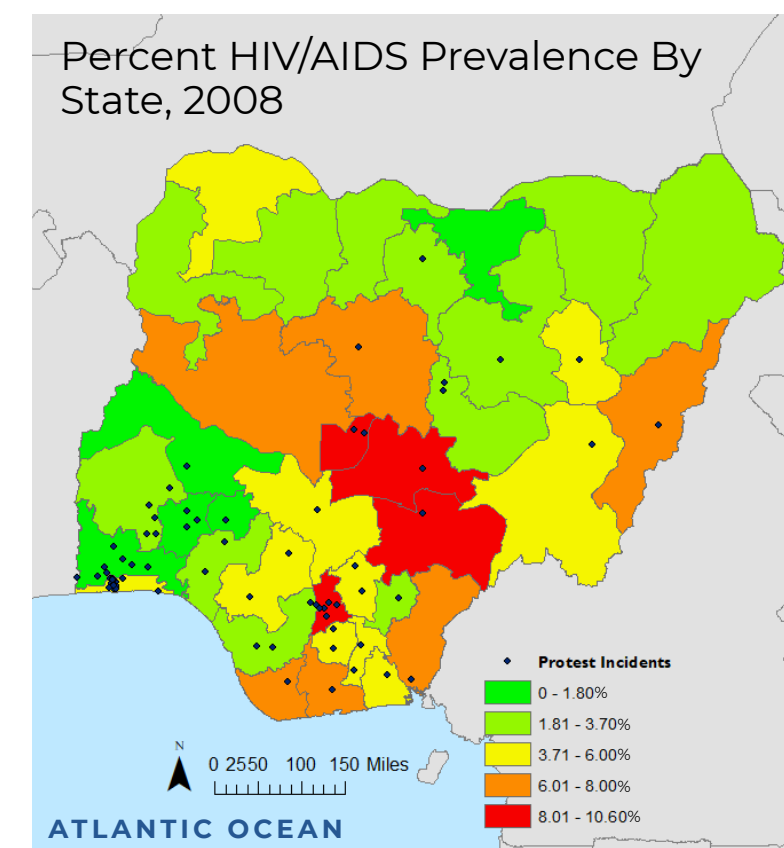
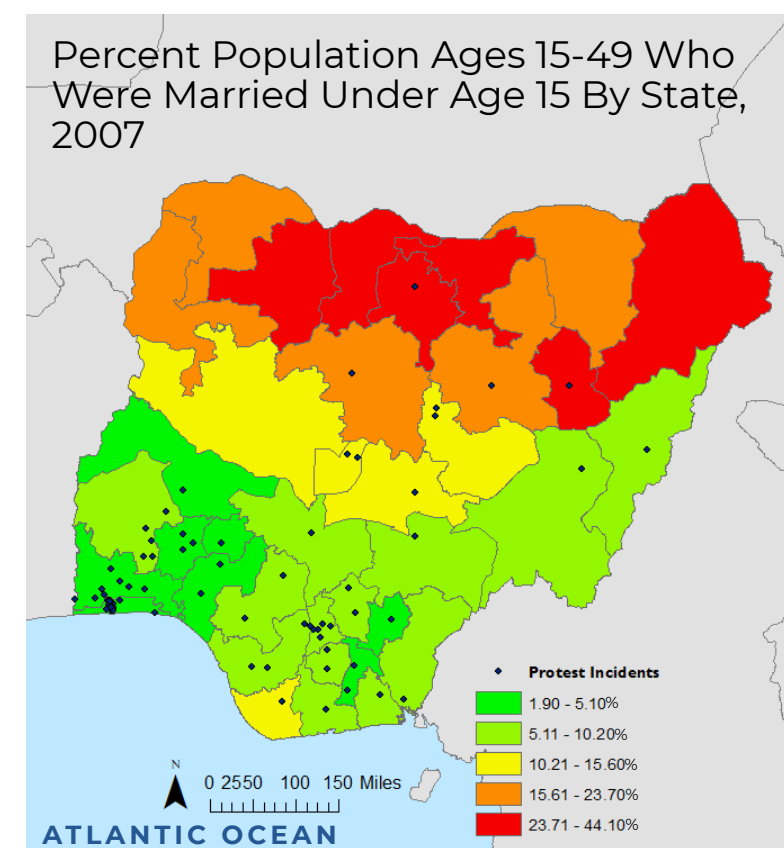
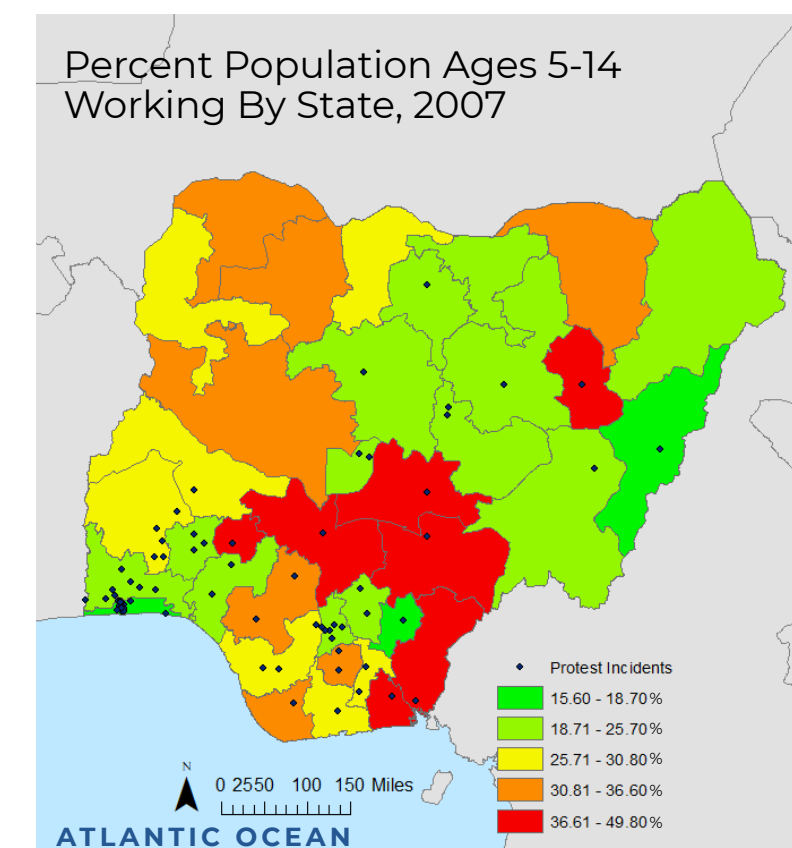
Nigeria Mid Belt Transverse Mercator

Course: GIS for International Applications

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SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATOR VULNERABILITY RANKING



CORRELATION BETWEEN PROTEST RATE (X) AND SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATOR (Y)

