



NIGERIA VISITOR OVERVIEW

Purpose: The purpose of this visitor guide is to provide travel guidance to the visitors traveling to Nigeria. This includes the following:

1. [Key Reminders](#)
2. [Emergency Contact Card](#)
3. [Visitor Essentials](#)
 - a. [Risk Rating](#)
 - b. [Personal Security Recommendations](#)
 - c. [Evidence Action Operations](#)
4. [Pre-Travel Logistics](#)
 - a. [Entry Requirements](#)
 - b. [Travel Vaccinations](#)
5. [Arrival Logistics](#)
 - a. [Flying In](#)
 - b. [Accommodations](#)
 - c. [Getting Money](#)
 - d. [Getting Around Town](#)
6. [Communications and Electricity](#)
 - a. [Mobile Phones](#)
 - b. [Electricity](#)
 - c. [Internet](#)
7. [Additional Country Information](#)
 - a. [Abuja Overview](#)
 - b. [Recommended Restaurants and Activities](#)
 - c. [Climate and Dress](#)
8. [Social and Cultural Concerns](#)
 - a. [Language and Culture](#)
 - b. [Social Dynamics](#)
9. [Security Concerns](#)
 - a. [Political Dynamics](#)
 - b. [Terrorism](#)
10. [Health and Safety](#)
 - a. [Health Concerns](#)
 - b. [Infrastructure and Emergency Services](#)
 - c. [Country Information and News](#)
11. [Appendices](#)

KEY REMINDERS

- All staff must get approval from their supervisor via the [Travel Authorization Form](#) in advance of planning or taking any travel.
- All visitors to Nigeria should inform the Regional and Country HR lead and Nigeria Admin team as soon as travel is approved with a supervisor and no later than one (1) week prior to any planned travel. Send all **flight details, planned activities/meetings** and intl. and local contact info and highlight any ground transport or other support requests to Nigeria admin team.
 - All local transportation and accommodation arrangements are made by the local office.
- Ensure that you satisfy all travel and entry requirements (including visa paperwork and vaccinations). Request visa letters through the HR team, if needed.
- Ask the operations team for a copy of the Nigeria Country Guide and Alerts from International SOS. Review it thoroughly.
- Register your trip with MyTrips with International SOS.
- Malaria is present and prophylaxis is recommended; yellow fever is endemic, so a valid yellow fever card may be required for onward travel.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

THIS VISITOR OVERVIEW DOES NOT PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE HEALTH, SAFETY OR SECURITY RISKS IN NIGERIA. IT HAS BEEN CREATED USING INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF EVIDENCE ACTION OR ITS STAFF. PRIOR TO TRAVEL CONSULT WITH YOUR MANAGER, HR, AND THE RESOURCES REFERENCED HEREIN TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION.

EMERGENCY CONTACT CARD

Print and carry a copy of the Emergency Contact Card on your person at all times.

Always contact the local HR team or ISOS in the event of any health or security incident.

CONTACT	TITLE	CONTACT NUMBER(S)
Tope Ogunbi	Country Director	+234 703 903 9830
Lukman Abdulraheem	Associate Manager, Operations & Logistics	+234 803 423 5818
LOCATION	ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBER(S)
Abuja Office	Plot 839 Ibrahim Idris Street, Abuja.	+234 907 339 2000
Ibadan Office	Office 13, Vine Branch Medical Centre Annex, Olubadan Palace Way, Dandaru Area, Mokola, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria	+234 806 263 2958
Lagos Office	Smart Executive Administration Services. No. 16B Mobolaji Bank, Anthony Way, Maryland, Lagos State	+234 703 914 9960
Rivers Office	2nd Floor, Deborah Lawson House, Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt	+234 816 310 6162
Local Emergency Number	Fire/Police	112, 997
International SOS Member # 11BYCA733671	International SOS Assistance Center (24/7)	London Call Center 44-208-762-8008 US Call Center in Philadelphia: 1-800-523-6586 Or 1-215-942-8226

VISITOR ESSENTIALS

NIGERIA OVERVIEW

1. Risk Rating

1. **Risk Overview:** The overall Risk Rating for Nigeria is HIGH due to crime and terrorism concerns and an inconsistent government capacity to address both. The Risk Rating for Abuja is MEDIUM. As a planned city with strong governmental

and police presence, crime rates are lower in Abuja. However, the city is a possible target for terrorism. Risk ratings and risk factors vary considerably across the country. Updated risk ratings for locations are available via Nigeria's Risk Rating page through ISOS. If the Nigeria profile is inaccessible through the link, please login through ISOS's subscriber login first using Evidence Action's membership number found on the Intranet.

2. Risk ratings are based on security dynamics as assessed by International SOS. Current Risk Ratings may be found on [SOS's Risk Rating page here](#). *Evidence Action does not independently conduct risk assessments.*
3. For the most current security alerts and advisories, please see [International SOS's Security Alert page](#) and the [US Dept. of State Travel Advisories](#).

2. Personal Security Recommendations

1. ALWAYS carry a photocopy of the identification page of your passport (not the original), a copy of your visa/work permit.
2. Do not to walk around outside of hotels or around the office after dark.
3. Always use a taxi, esp. in early morning and evening hours. Use only recommended/branded taxis. See [below](#) or contact the admin team for advice and recommended providers.

3. Evidence Action Operations

Program & Office Locations: Evidence Action Nigeria started in February, 2016. The program in partnership and collaboration with relevant governmental agencies such as the Federal Ministries of Health and Education as well the states ministries of health and education seeks to deworm school age children between the ages of 5 to 14 years. Evidence Action Nigeria started in Cross River State as the first state for her program implementation. In 2017, Evidence Action Nigeria expanded to three additional states of Rivers, Ogun and Oyo. The organization further added Lagos state as another of her project states in Nigeria. Currently, the organization with a staff strength of 25 persons is currently implementing the school-based deworming program in 5 states of Cross River, Rivers, Oyo, Ogun and Lagos states. The organization has its head office located at Abuja with a south-west office at Ibadan, Oyo state, the south - south office located at Port Harcourt, River's state and the Lagos office.

PRE-TRAVEL LOGISTICS

1. Entry Requirements

1. **Visa Requirements:** *All visas should be procured before arrival into the country.* All foreign nationals require visas to enter Nigeria, except those from members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). **Visit the Nigeria Immigration Service website (<https://portal.immigration.gov.ng/>) to apply for a visa online and/or contact your local embassy to confirm current regulations and visa fees prior to travelling.** Contact the in-country team in securing any required visa letters, work permits or supporting documentation.
2. Should you be unable to process your visa at your country of stay and require a Visa on Arrival, the Nigeria team will apply for approval of a visa on arrival from the Nigeria Immigration. A copy of your confirmed return ticket, a passport photograph and the data page of your passport will be required. Kindly wait to obtain all approvals of the government from the Nigeria team before boarding your flight.
3. Ensure to have all the approved documents and present them to the immigration officers for the issuance of your visa upon arrival at the airport in Nigeria.
4. **Special Considerations:** The Nigeria office will assist to write the visa reference and invitation letters; the type of visa being applied for is always indicated in these letters.
5. **NOTE:** Nationals of some countries require transit visas even if they do not leave Nigerian airports. Consult your airline for more information.
6. **Other Requirements:** Valid passport with 6 months of validity and a return ticket are required for entry.

2. Travel Vaccinations

REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	ROUTINE (up to date)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Yellow fever - Required for all travelers > 9 months of age. Note: A yellow vaccination card is required for entry and onward travel from/to Nigeria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hepatitis A & B – Typhoid – Meningococcal Meningitis (Consider) – Rabies (Consider) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tetanus-diphtheria – Measles- mumps-rubella – Influenza – Polio – Varicella (chicken pox)

Most vaccines are ideally received 2+ weeks prior to travel. Consult a travel clinician to determine which vaccines and prophylaxes are appropriate for your itinerary and when it is safe to travel.

ARRIVAL LOGISTICS

1. Flying In

1. Airport Arrivals: Staff will likely arrive through Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport (ABV) in Abuja or Murtala Mohammed Airport (LOS) in Lagos, which is one of West Africa's hubs. ABV is much safer and more relaxed, so it is the preferred arrival location.
2. Note: Visitors arriving at Lagos but heading to Abuja need to transfer to the domestic terminal at LOS. Most airlines provide shuttle buses. In the absence of shuttle bus, the Nigeria office will provide a driver for pick up. Give yourself at least 60 minutes to transit between the airports.
3. Arrival Advice: Formalities can frequently be slow. If carrying a large amount of luggage, you may be asked to open your bags by customs or drug law-enforcement officers. The final arrivals procedure is to match your baggage tags with your ticket. There is no need to tip any airport staff apart from porters (tip of \$2-\$5 is sufficient).
4. Arrival Transport (from ABV): The office will prearrange for approved transportation. The drivers should hold a sign with the Evidence Action logo and/or your name. Ensure you are able to verify the identity of the person meeting you.
5. Security briefing will be conducted with you within the first day of arrival in Nigeria.

2. Accommodations

All hotel reservations and other logistics should be arranged through the admin team.

3. Getting Money

1. Currency: The Naira (NGN; symbol ₦) is Nigeria's official currency. 1 Naira = 100 kobo.
2. Exchange Rate (as of this writing/editing): 1 US Dollar = 776.532 Naira, 1 Euro = 871.865 Naira. Go to www.oanda.com for the current rates.
3. Getting and Carrying Cash: USD and Euros can be easily exchanged, but it is often easiest to withdraw from ATMs. \$50 and \$100 bills get better exchange rates.
4. The government of Nigeria has fixed an artificially high rate for local currency (the Naira) in terms of its value in exchange for foreign currencies.
5. Credit Cards: The economy is largely cash-based, but use of credit cards is becoming more common, especially at hotels and nicer restaurants and stores. Note: Alert your credit card company that you will be travelling to Nigeria and trip duration as many credit card companies may freeze your account when you use it in Nigeria.
6. ATMs: ATMs are generally safe to use. Foreign credit and ATM cards that are enabled for international withdrawals can be used in Abuja. (Work with your home bank to enable.) Zenith Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank, and Standard Chartered are recommended for Visa cards and GT Banks for MasterCard cards. These banks are easily accessible from the office and once in country, the country staff will provide more advice on procuring cash locally.

4. Getting Around Town

1. Local Transport: Evidence Action visitors typically travel by air. Local ground transport must be coordinated through Operations and Logistics Unit.
2. Walking: Walking at night is not advised.
3. Taxis: Weekend and evening travel is typically by taxi. Taxi-related crime is relatively high in Abuja, so visitors and office staff should make use of the office recommended taxis. If you choose to take a taxi off the street, kindly endeavor to download any of the e-hailing taxi services e.g., Uber or Bolt taxis which are relatively more comfortable & secured, confirm the identity of driver prior to boarding & please share details of your ride with the logistics focal person for tracking, if the need arises.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRICITY

1. Mobile Phones

A local sim card (compatible with an unlocked phone) may be requested from the in-country team before or on arrival.

2. Electricity

1. **Voltage and Frequency:** AC 50 Hz; 230 volts
2. **Reliability of Power Supply:** Weak infrastructure, under-investment and inadequate maintenance mean that power cuts, surges and other interruptions are common; protective devices for sensitive equipment are imperative. Electricity outages are common.



3. Internet

There is wireless internet at the office. Ask a colleague for the password. Outages do occur. Dongles (4G sticks) are also available and work well in Abuja. Contact the in-country team for details.

ADDITIONAL COUNTRY INFORMATION

ABUJA OVERVIEW

1. City Orientation

1. **City Overview:** Abuja took over from Lagos as Nigeria's capital in 1991, though the decision to move the federal government to the middle of the country was made in 1976 and construction of the new city began in the early 1980s. As a consequence of its modern history, Abuja is Nigeria's most well-planned city. It is punctuated by wide boulevards and is dominated by a huge outcrop - Aso Rock - which is also the name of the official residence of the head of state in Abuja.
2. **Evidence Action Office Location in the FCT:** The office is located in the Jabi District of Abuja.

2. Recommended Restaurants and Activities

See [Appendix B](#) for recommended restaurants and suggested local destinations.

3. Climate and Dress

1. **Climate:** Abuja is mostly hot, with daytime temperatures in the mid-80s (F) during and nighttime temperatures in the 70s during the rainy season. During the dry season (Nov-Feb) daytime temperatures reach above 100 degrees (F) and can drop into the 50s at night. Annual average rainfall is around 1,800mm (72 inches), but the heaviest rains start in March and continue until July, with August typically being dry and comfortable.
2. **Dress:** Lightweight clothes are essential, and an umbrella or lightweight raincoat should be carried at all times during the rainy season. Business casual is appropriate for the office, but business formal is appropriate when visiting ministry offices. Clothing that reveals too much cleavage or flesh (back/chest/ stomach) is not appropriate.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONCERNS

1. Language and Culture

1. **Official Language(s) and use of English:** English is the official and business language. Up to 250 languages are spoken, but most Nigerians speak English.
2. **Social and Business Conduct:** There are a wide range of cultures in Nigeria, and all cultures have their own customs and lifestyle. Be considerate of local customs. There is an easy mix between the expatriate community and Nigerians, both in business and socially.
 - a. Avoid discussing religion due to ongoing tensions.
3. **Greetings:** 'You are welcome' is a common greeting. Shaking hands is common, and should always be undertaken with the right hand. Greetings and courtesies are generally not significantly different from the general standards of Western courtesy and protocol.
 - a. Pushing the palm of your hand forward with the fingers spread is considered impolite in Nigeria. Waving, especially very close to someone's face, is considered insulting. Never wave to try to attract the attention of a waiter/waitress.
4. **Tipping:** A 10% tip is customary for most services if a service charge has not been included in the bill.

5. **Meetings:** Small-talk can dominate early conversation; physical contact is frequent and should not be greeted with surprise. Titles such as doctor, chief and director should always be used when applicable, including attention to honorific and religious titles. Apparent disrespect is taken seriously, particularly in conversations with tribal or religious leaders.
6. **Unusual/unfamiliar laws:** The legal system is corrupt, and politics, religion, kinship, ethnicity and wealth often exert influence on decisions. Recent reforms have not successfully tackled the entrenched corruption in the legal system. The judicial process in Nigeria can be extremely slow; progress is often dependent on unrelated considerations.

2. Social Dynamics

1. **Religion/Ethnicity/Race:** Serious communal violence caused by ethnic and religious divisions can break out with little or no warning, especially in the north. Under Jonathan's tenure, the militant Islamist extremist sect Boko Haram resurfaced, replacing the southern-based, ethnic-Ijaw Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger delta (MEND) as the country's main security threat. Sharia (Islamic law), which has been in place in Bauchi, Borno and Yobe states since 2000, has sparked off incidents of violence in other northern areas, particularly Kaduna and Kano, and in the plateau state of Jos, which are home to large Christian minorities.
2. **Homosexuality:** Homosexuality is illegal under Federal law, covering the whole of Nigeria. It is punishable by up to 14 years of prison in the conventional court system. Homosexual staff may face some harassment if they are open about their sexual orientation. Discretion is strongly advised. Contact local staff with any questions/concerns.
3. **Gender/Risks to Women:** Western women may find the attitude of Nigerian men offensive but, if ignored, this attitude should not interfere with business. However, any concerns should be reported to the in-country team immediately.

SECURITY CONCERNS

1. Crime

Nigeria has high rates of nonviolent and violent crime. Be very cautious in using ATMs and watch your card activity closely. Many criminals are armed; staff members should never resist if accosted by an assailant, as this greatly increases the chances of violence being used. Travel at night, outside cities or in high-crime areas should not be considered at any time, and walking should be avoided, even during the day. Nigeria reportedly has one of the world's highest kidnapping rates, but wealthy nationals and oil workers are typical targets.

2. Political Dynamics

1. **Political Dynamics:** For information about current political dynamics, see the [US State Dept. webpage](#) or contact in the in-country team.
2. **Next Elections:** The next scheduled presidential election will be in 2027.

3. Terrorism

Terrorism and social or political unrest may disrupt in and around Abuja, but the Evidence Action office is not a known target. Note that government buildings, places of worship and large social gatherings are possible targets and should take seriously any warnings or threats given out on these facilities. Economic hardship and shortages of essential items, notably petrol (gas), can spark off anti-government protests and violence.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Health Concerns

1. **Standard of Medical Care in Country:** Public medical facilities in Nigeria generally are of a poor standard, but some private facilities provide good quality care. Serious medical cases will require international evacuation. Contact the in-country team for referrals.
2. **Food & Water:** Tap water is NOT safe to drink. Avoid food from street vendors/markets.
3. **Diseases & Illnesses:** Malaria and Yellow Fever are present in all areas of Nigeria. Other major diseases include dengue, typhoid and measles. For detailed information, visit the [CDC's page for Nigeria](#). Malaria prophylaxis is strongly recommended for anyone staying in Nigeria for less than 2 years. Confer with a medical professional/travel clinician to determine whether and which prophylaxis is appropriate for you.

2. Infrastructure and Emergency Services

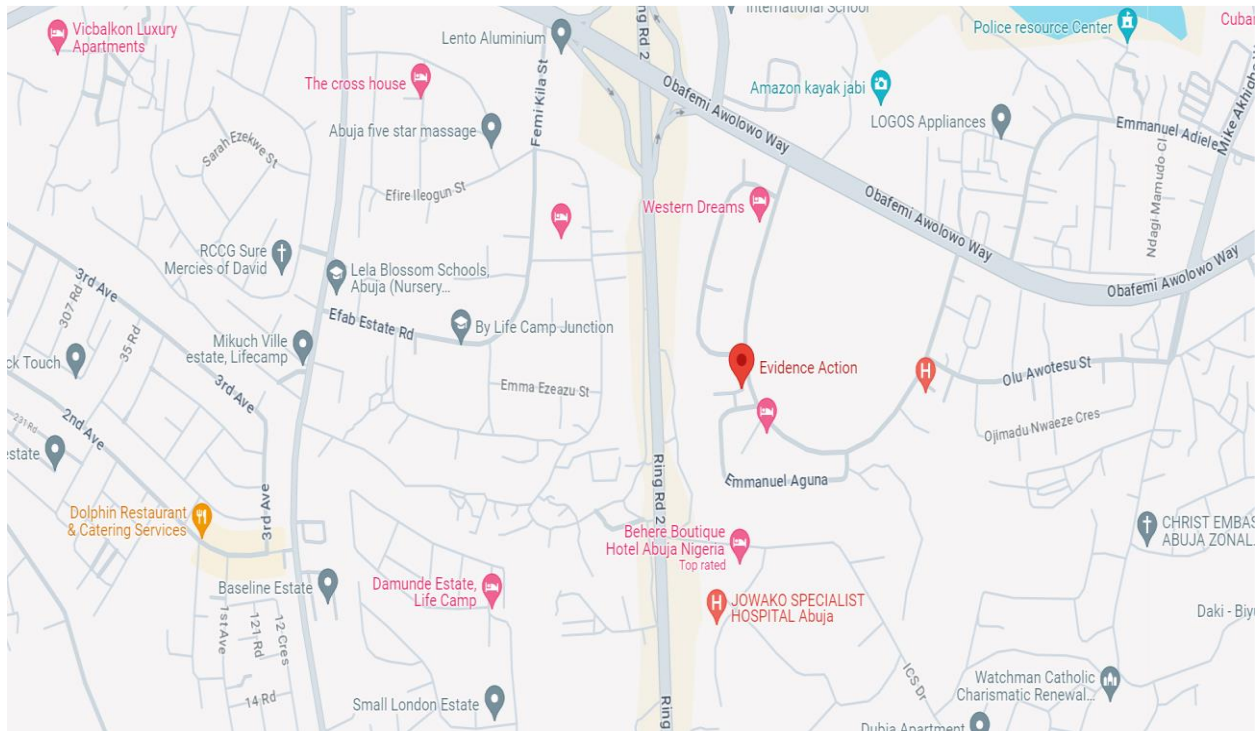
1. **Roads:** In some areas roads are poorly lighted and maintained, with inadequate traffic lights or stop signs, resulting in hazardous traffic conditions. Urban areas, particularly Lagos, are prone to traffic jams during the day. Keep car doors and windows locked while on the road to reduce the risk of falling victim to crime.
2. **Nigerian Police:** Law enforcement agencies include the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), which includes the Police Mobile Force (officially called the PMF but known locally as MOPOL), and a traffic police force. MOPOL officers are the main public order and counter-terrorist force. Police have been known to use false pretexts to detain people and demand bribes. The army is sometimes deployed alongside the police to deal with crime, etc.
3. **Emergency Services:** Emergency response vehicles are of a very low quality and should not be used. Use private transport. Contact the in-country team if you need emergency transport.

3. Country Information and News

1. **Media:** Nigeria's media scene is one of the most vibrant in Africa. State radio and TV have near-national coverage and operate at federal and regional levels. Some online news sources include:
 - a. **The Guardian** - influential, privately-owned national daily (www.thengnews.com/)
 - b. **Daily Trust** - Abuja-based daily (<http://www.news.dailytrust.com/>)
 - c. **Leadership** - Abuja-based daily (<http://www.leadershipnigeria.com/>)
 - d. **Vanguard** - Lagos-based, widely-read daily (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/>)
2. **U.S. State Department Information:** [Travel Advisory](#); [STEP Traveler Enrollment Registration](#) (US Citizens only).
3. **Centers for Disease Control:** <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/Nigeria.aspx>

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: EVIDENCE ACTION OFFICE MAP



View Map in Google: <https://goo.gl/maps/FsAibrpMviWLoqYLA>



APPENDIX B: DINING & RECREATION

1. Local Restaurants

1. BluCabana Restaurant & Café – 1322 Shehu Yaradua Way.
2. Jevinik Restaurant – 494 Bangui Street, Wuse 2, Samuel Ladoke Akintola Boulevard (African Meals)
3. Gardenia by Muchkins – Maitama Amusement Park, IBB Way, Abuja
4. District Restaurant and Lounge – 38A Gana Street, Abuja (Continental and Oriental Food)
5. The Vue – Novare Mall, Wuse Zone 5 (Pan Asian Restaurant)
6. Taj Bistro – 1 Atabara Street, off Kampala, Wuse 2.

2. Places to Visit

1. Paint & Sip Studios – 2044, Aguyi Ironsi St., Trinity Garden, Maitama
2. The Usual Karaoke Lounge – 466 Alex Ekueme Road, Jabi
3. Jabi Boat Club, Abuja – 26 Alex Ekwueme Way, District 900001, Abuja.
4. Avrum Restaurant, Café and Lounge – 7, Kampala Street, Off Adetokunbo Ademola Cres, Wuse 904101, 2 (Karaoke available, every Thursday).
5. Trukadero by CityBowl – 131b Adetokunbo Ademola Cres, Wuse 2 904101 (Bowling and Karaoke)

APPENDIX C: VISITORS TRAVELERS CHECKLIST

Example fields and responsibilities are outlined below.

Guidance

1. Form will originate from the Associate Manager, Operations who will be the point person.
2. Form should be submitted to all responsible parties a minimum of 5 business days prior to arrival.

Flight Information

Port of Arrival	Carrier	Arrival Flight Number	Date of arrival	Time of Arrival	Date Departure	Time of Departure	Responsible
							Traveler / Visitor

Funder Code to charge expenses

Funder	Program	Department	Activity	Responsible
				Traveler / Visitor

Local Phones & Sim

Phone Requested Y/N	Sim Card Requested Y/N	Responsible
		Traveler / Visitor

Invitation Letter/ VISA Requirements

Date Needed	Full Name on Letter	Passport Country	Passport Number	Responsible
				Traveler / Visitor

Airport Pick-Up/Drop-Off

Pick-up Date	Pick-up Time	Driver Name/No	Drop-Off Date	Drop-Off Time (Departure time to Airport)	Driver Name/No	Contact Lagos Y/N	Responsible

							<i>Lukman/Faith</i>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---------------------

Hotel Arrangements

Hotel Name	Date of Check-In	Date of Check-Out	Hotel Address	Responsible
				<i>Agnes /Faith</i>

Hotel Pick-Up/Drop-Off to EA Office or Destination

Pick-Up/Drop-Off Dates	Pick-Up Time	Drop-Off Time	Additional Comments	Responsible
				<i>Agnes /Faith</i>

Local Number Assigned

Phone Number	Network	Responsible
		<i>Lukman/Faith</i>

Office Space & Security Info

Office Space Allocated	Responsible		Security Briefing (Date)	Responsible
	<i>Lukman</i>			<i>Frank</i>