

Japa: Not Brain Drain, But National Gain?

Assessing the Impact of Emigration on
Nigeria's Development

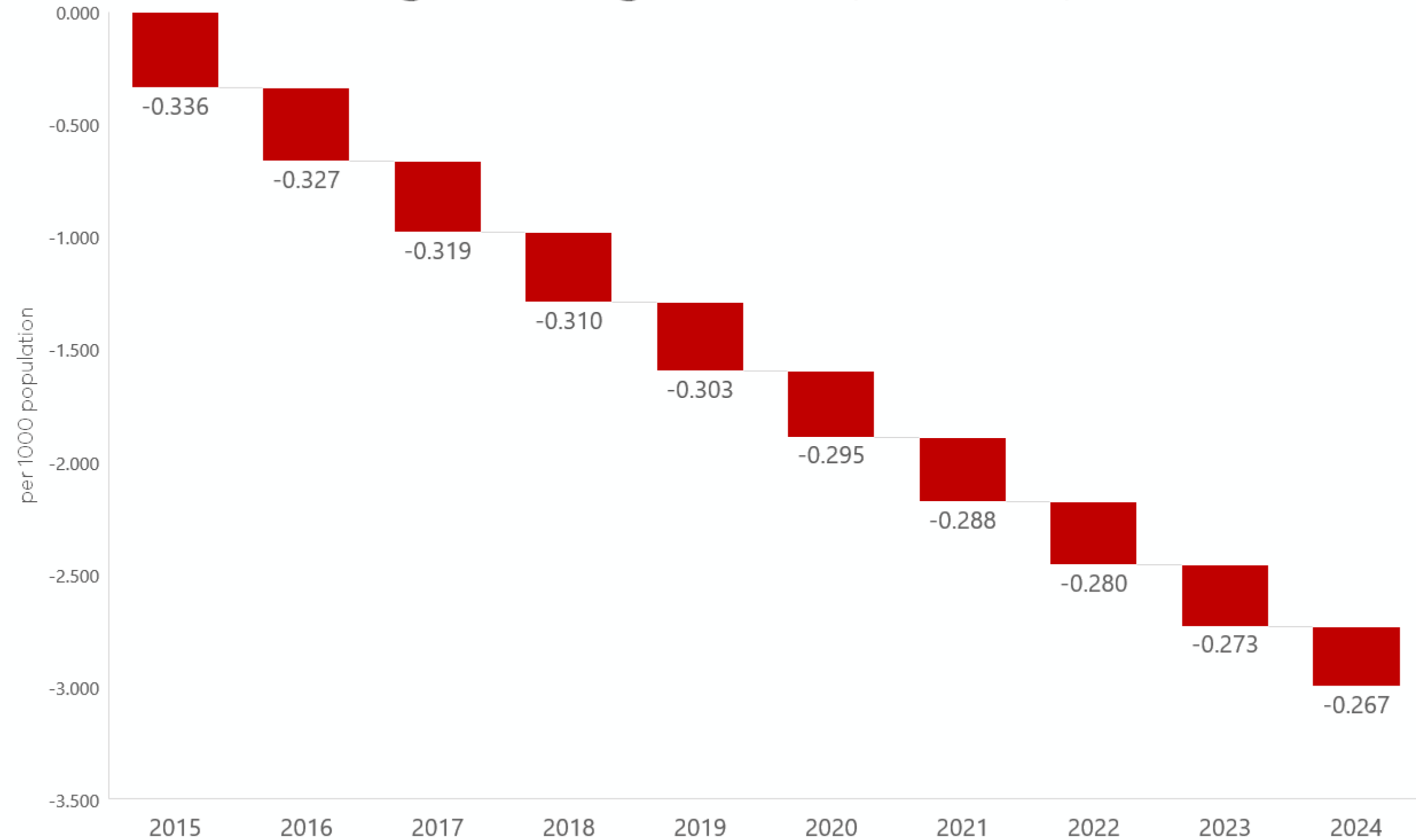
February 2024

www.spurt.solutions



Nigeria's net migration rate decreased from 33 emigrants per 100,000 people in 2015 to 27 in 2024

Nigeria Net Migration Rate (2015 - 2024)



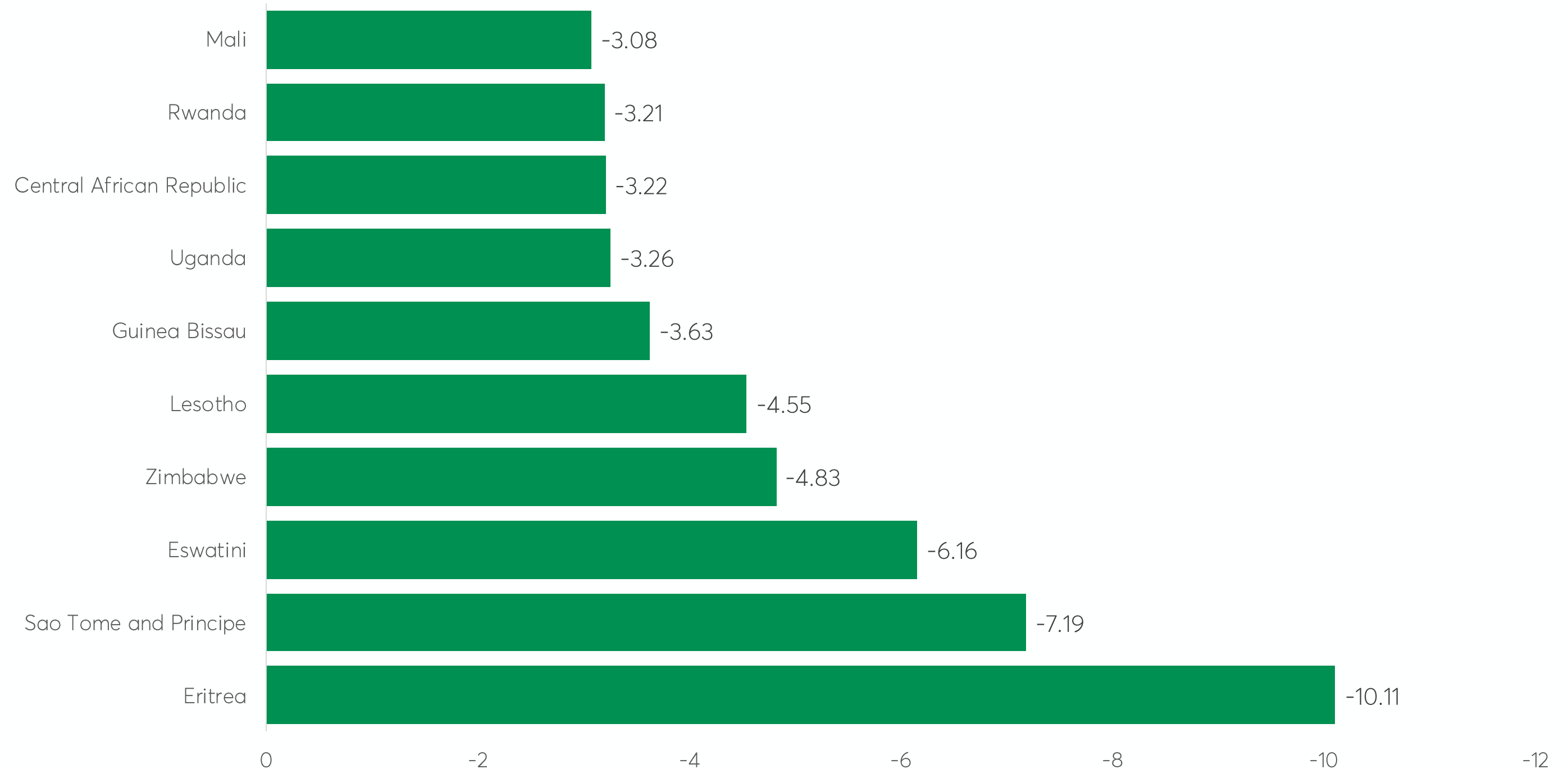
Despite the decline in Nigeria's net migration rate from 33 emigrants per 100,000 in 2015 to 27 in 2024, it's imperative to not hastily assume a reduction in emigration. With recent trends like the 'japa' phenomenon, where individuals emigrate Nigeria en masse, we must consider the possibility of increased immigration, altering the net migration dynamics

In 2024, Nigeria witnesses a net migration rate of -0.267, indicating a departure of 27 individuals per 100,000

Compared to Nigeria's migration rate where 27 of every 100,000 people emigrate, Eritrea has the highest negative migration rate in Africa with 1,000 out of every 100,000 people emigrating the country

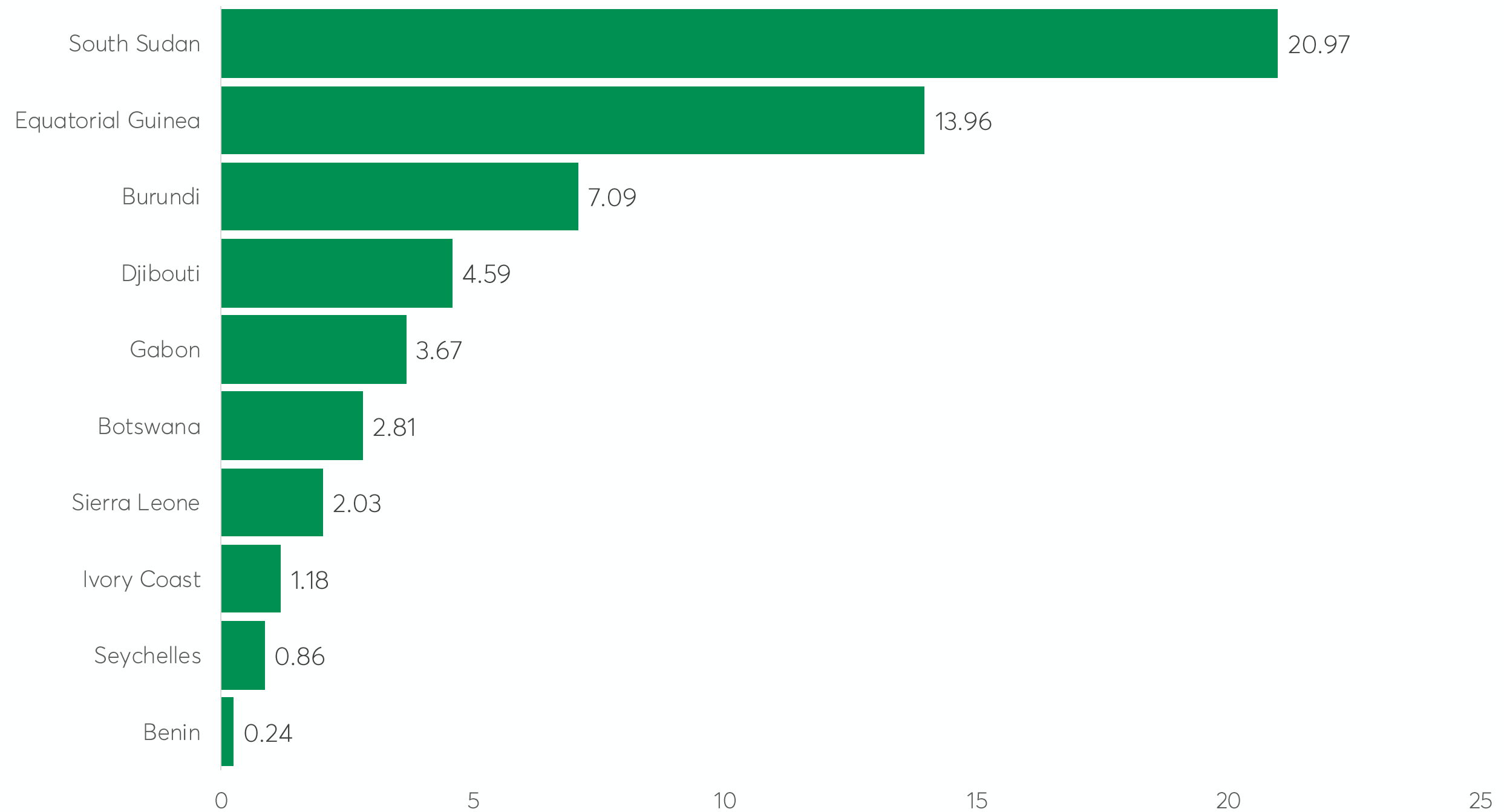
Expanding the lens to encompass Africa's diverse migration landscape. Eritrea faces the continent's highest negative migration rate, with 1 departure per 100 individuals

10 African countries with the highest negative net migration rates



Conversely, South Sudan has the highest positive net migration in Africa with 2,100 in every 100,000 people being immigrants

10 African countries with the highest positive net migration rates

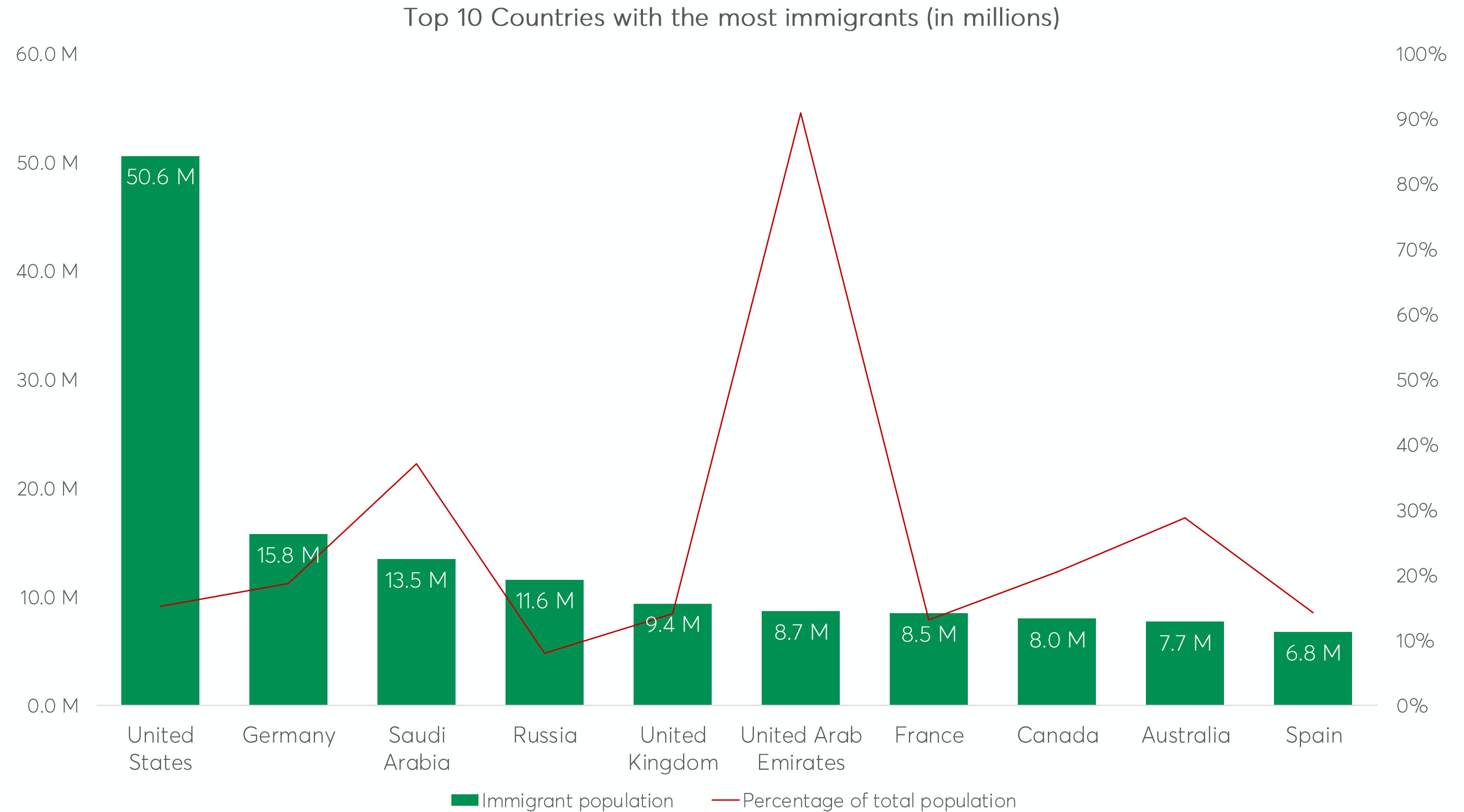


The net migration rate for the entire African continent in 2024 stands at -0.350 per 1000 inhabitants

Contrastingly, South Sudan emerges as a beacon of positivity, boasting the highest net migration rate in Africa with 21 in 1000 people migrating into the country

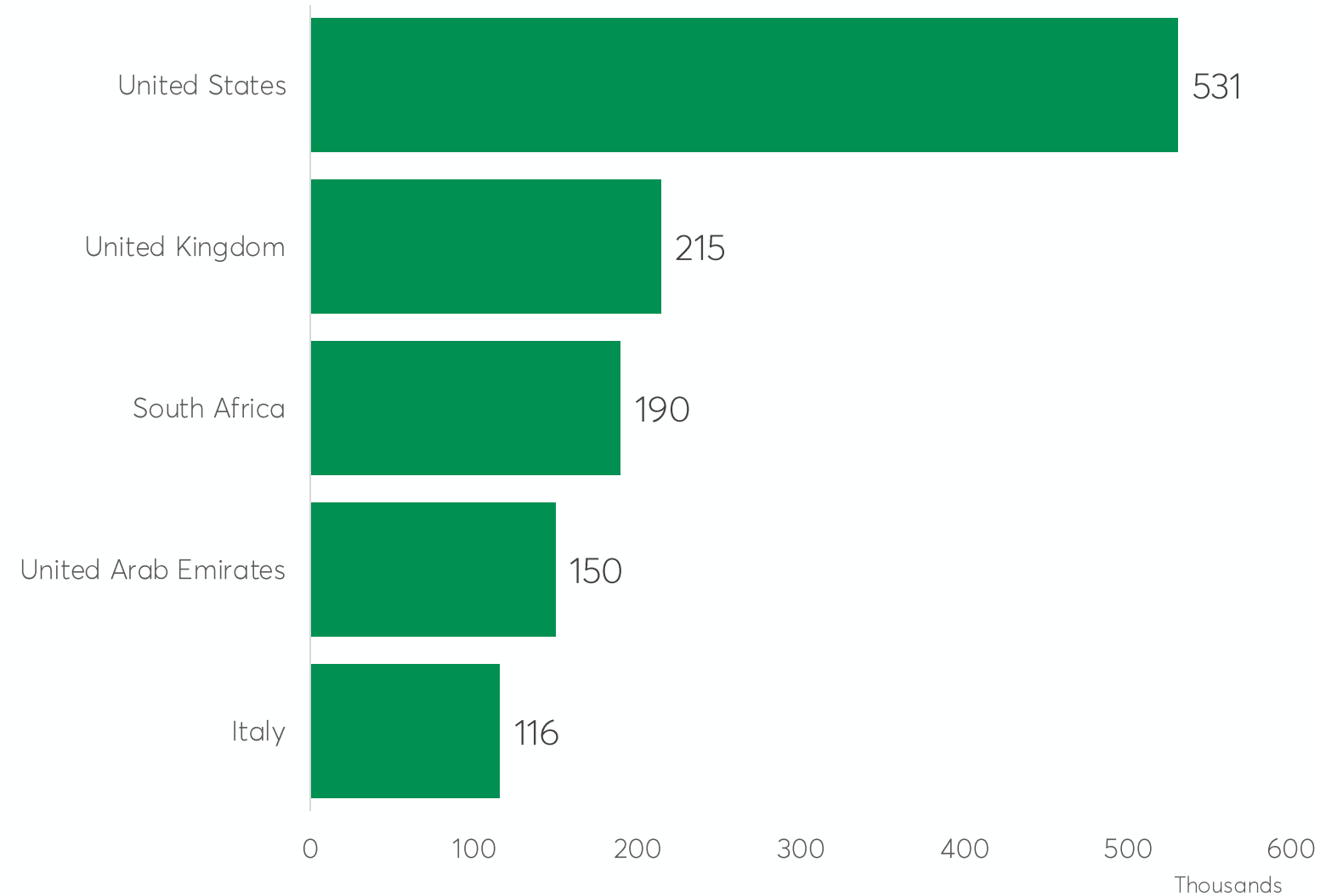
USA is the primary destination for global immigrants, with 50.6 million immigrants, 15% of its population

Exploring further, the USA emerges as a global magnet for migrants, with 50.6 million immigrants, including a significant number from Nigeria, seeking opportunities

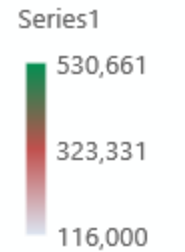


Focusing on Nigerian migrants, the USA is also the top destination, with an estimated 530,661 seeking educational and employment prospects

Top 5 countries with the highest number of Nigerian migrants (in thousands)



Top 5 countries with the highest number of Nigerian migrants



Economic hardship, political instability, and the appeal of better opportunities abroad are the factors influencing migrants' decision to leave their home country

Behind every migration lies a story of push factors, driving individuals from their homelands. Economic hardship, political instability, and the appeal of better opportunities abroad shape their decisions.



Economic hardship



Political instability



Conflict



Environmental degradation



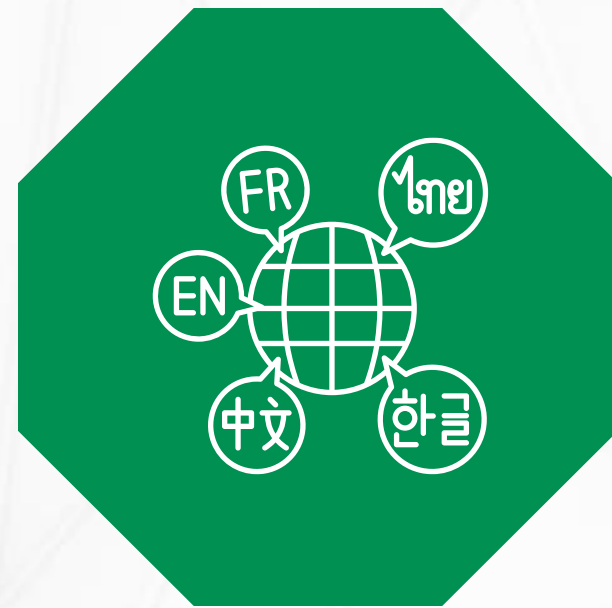
Migration delusion and obsession

On the other hand, education, visa policies, economic opportunities, security, and better healthcare are the pull factors influencing destination choice

Navigating this complex situation, Nigerian migrants reveal what influences their choice of destination. Economic opportunities, language, and family connections come together in the fabric of migration choices.



Economic opportunities



Education



Visa policies



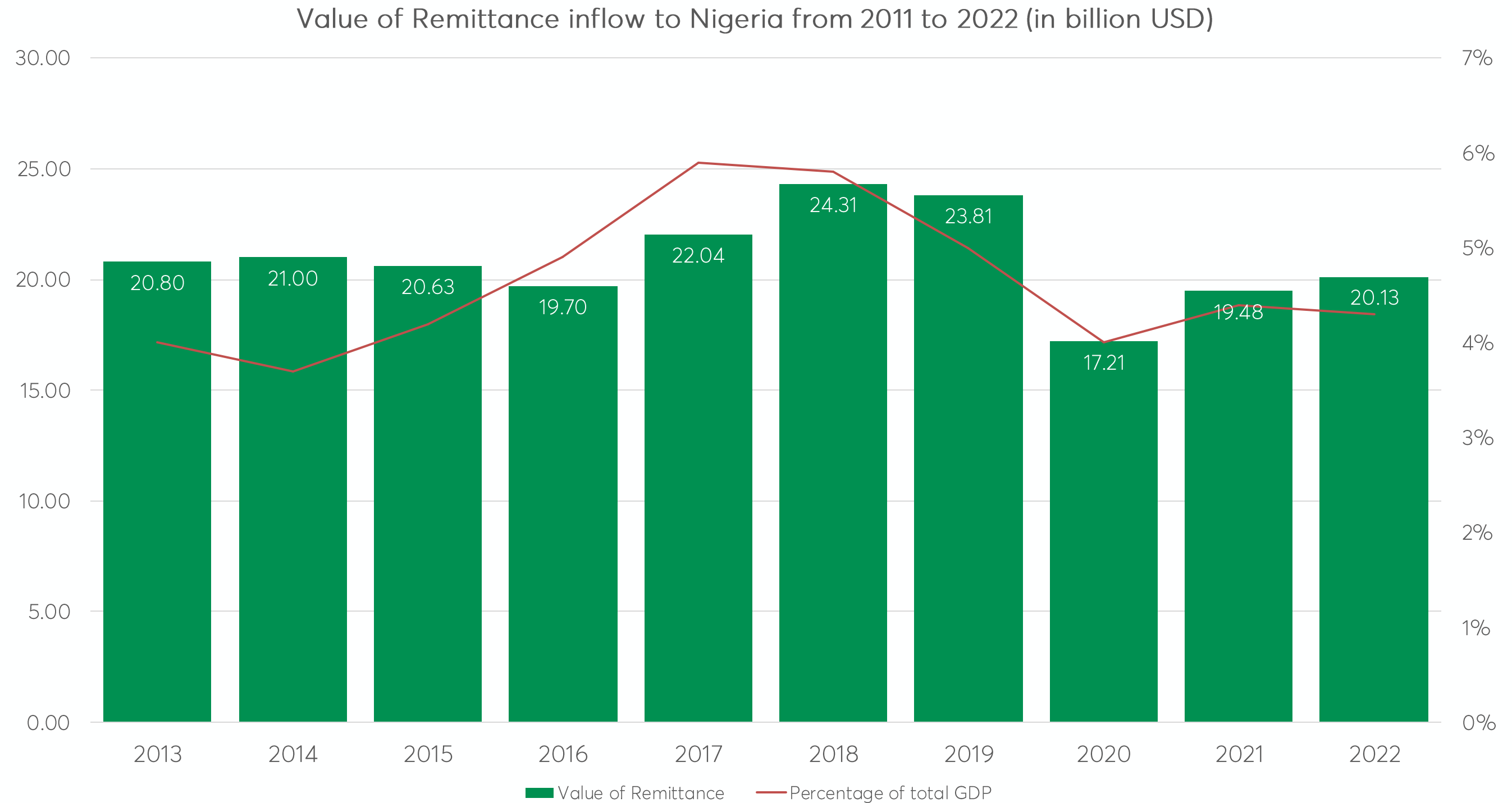
Security



Better Healthcare

Despite concerns over brain drain, Nigeria received \$209 billion in diaspora remittances between 2013 and 2022.

This highlights the enduring connection between migrants and their homeland, demonstrating that Nigerians in diaspora contribute to national development, thus challenging the notion that migration is entirely negative.



Nigeria's personal remittances in 2022 accounts for 38% of the entire remittance (USD 50 billion) to Sub-Saharan Africa.

However, it is not always a smooth voyage for immigrants. Cultural differences, language barriers, and varying levels of support shape the immigrant experience in host countries.

Adjusting to a new region comes with challenges, and immigrants face a spectrum of challenges depending on their circumstances. Though shared experiences like cultural differences and language barriers exist, different host countries offer varying levels of support and resources that can significantly impact the integration process.



Finding employment



Language barriers



Cultural differences



Housing and accommodation issues



Isolation from friends and family

Nigerian Government Policies On Migration

Examining Nigeria's migration policies is crucial as the nation seeks to harness the potential of its diaspora and effectively manage immigration. By doing so, Nigeria charts a course towards a brighter future.



1

Protection of migrants

Nigeria has ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, which came into force in 2003

2

Laws against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol) was established in July 2003 and amended in December 2005

3

Human rights of migrants

The protection of the human rights of migrants is an essential component of a comprehensive migration management system, and is a means of ensuring the equitable distribution of the benefits of migration

4

Diaspora policy

The 2021 Diaspora strategy has the objective to enhance, mobilise, and harness the potentials of Nigerians in the Diaspora for sustainable national development

5

Return migration

The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) oversees return policy issues, coordinating efforts across relevant ministries and agencies.

Conclusion



Emigration from Nigeria to developed countries (japa) can be beneficial for both Nigerians and Nigeria if managed properly. Data shows that Nigerians living abroad (in diaspora) contribute significantly to Nigeria's economy, primarily through remittances, which have averaged 5% of Nigeria's GDP over the past 10 years.

With a migration rate of -0.267 in 2024, an estimated 61,283 of 226 million Nigerians will migrate from Nigeria to developed countries. While some argue that this emigration has negative consequences for Nigeria, such as brain drain, there is not enough data to support this claim.

Overall, the positives of Nigerians emigrating to developed countries outweigh the negatives. The Nigerian government should create policies that are attractive to Nigerians in diaspora, such as making it easier for them to send money home and start businesses in Nigeria.

Migration to seek greener pasture is a win-win situation for both the host countries, receiving countries, and individuals involved, illegal migration, however, is a problem that everyone should work together to solve.

www.spurt.solutions
@Spurtsolutions

research@spurt.group
+234-816-113-0265

African Business Growth Partners

At Spurt!, we believe in the power of collaboration and leveraged networks to realise the opportunities of tomorrow.

