

# Nigeria

Nigeria faces challenges related to the high growth rate of its large population. The total and adolescent fertility rates are high and modern contraceptive use remains low. The weak health system, women's low social status, and harmful traditional practices continue to present significant barriers to efforts to improve women's health. The maternal mortality ratio has only decreased by 24 percent since 1990, and remains very high. A policy for free maternal care services is being implemented. Nigeria has a strong body of registered midwives, and relicensing is compulsory every three years. However, access to quality care in rural and remote areas is problematic, due to difficulties in retaining qualified health care providers. In 2009 the Ministry of Health launched the Midwives Service Scheme to address shortages of midwifery cadres at the primary health care level. In response to the shortage of faculty in education institutions, retired midwives are being recruited to fill gaps.

## ▶ COUNTRY INDICATORS\*

Total population (000); % urban	158,259; 50
Adolescent population (15-19 yrs) (000); % of total	16,899; 11
Number of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) (000); % of total	37,425; 24
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	5.7
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	40
Births per year (000)	6,003
% of all births registered	33
Number of maternal deaths	50,000
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	39
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 births)	42
Number of pregnant women tested for HIV	820,865
Midwives are authorized to administer a core set of life-saving interventions	Partial
Density of midwives, nurses and doctors per 1,000 population	2.0
Estimated workforce shortage to attain 95% skilled birth attendance by 2015	6,790
Gross secondary school enrolment (male; female) %	34; 27
Literacy rate (age 15 and over) (male; female) %	72; 49

## ▶ MDG INDICATORS

Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	840
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	39
Contraceptive prevalence rate (modern methods) (%)	15
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women age 15-19)	123
Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit; at least four visits) (%)	58; 45
Unmet need for family planning (%)	20
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	143

## ▶ MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE<sup>1</sup>

Midwives (including nurse-midwives) <sup>2</sup>	88,796
Other health professionals with some midwifery competencies <sup>3</sup>	–
General practitioners with some midwifery competencies	–
Obstetricians	Unavailable
Community health workers with some midwifery training	117,568
A live registry of licensed midwives exists	No

## ▶ MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

Midwifery education programmes (direct entry; combined; sequential)	Yes; Yes; Yes
Number of midwifery education institutions (total); number of private	74; 27
Duration of midwifery education programmes (in months)	6 to 60
Number of student admissions (first year)	–
Student admissions per total available student places (%)	>100
Number of students enrolled in all years (2009)	7,375
Number of graduates (2009)	–
Midwifery education programmes are accredited	Yes

## ▶ REGULATION

Legislation exists recognizing midwifery as an autonomous profession	Yes
Midwives hold a protected title	Yes
A recognized definition of a professional midwife exists	Yes
A government body regulates midwifery practice	Yes
A licence is required to practise midwifery	Yes
Midwives are authorized to prescribe life-saving medications	Yes



### MIDWIFERY BAROMETER

Midwives per 1,000 live births	-	○
Birth complications per day; rural	2,727; 1,364	●
Lifetime risk of maternal death	1 in 23	●
Intrapartum stillbirth rate (per 1,000 births)	19	●
Neonatal mortality as % of under-5 mortality	28	●

#### ► PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

A midwives association exists	Yes
Number of midwifery professionals represented by an association	-
Association(s) affiliated with ICM; ICN	Yes; Yes

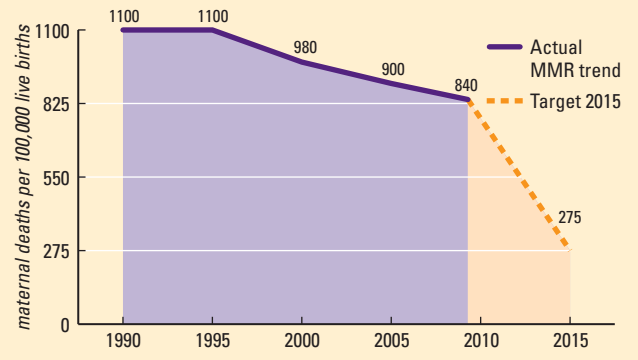
#### ► POLICIES

A national maternal and newborn health plan exists that includes the midwifery workforce	Yes
The plan is costed	-
The national health workforce plan specifically addresses midwifery	Yes
Compulsory notification of maternal deaths	No
Systematic maternal death audits and reviews	-
Confidential enquiry for maternal deaths	No
Compulsory registration of all births	Yes
All maternal and newborn health services are free (public sector)	Yes

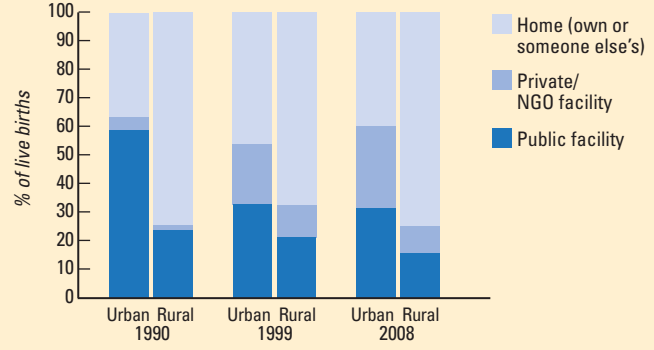
#### ► SERVICES

Number of facilities providing essential childbirth care	Unavailable
Number of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) facilities	Unavailable
Number of Comprehensive EmONC facilities	163
Facilities per 1,000 births	-

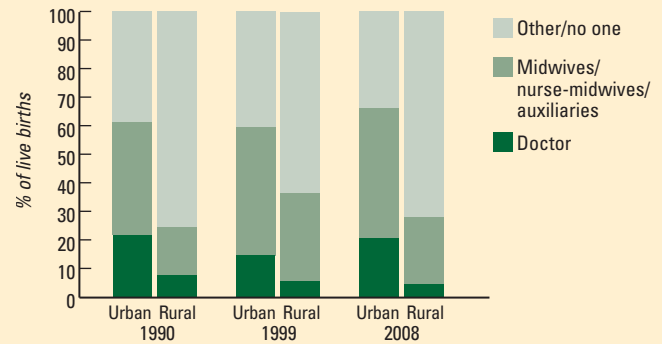
### Trends in maternal mortality: 1990–2015



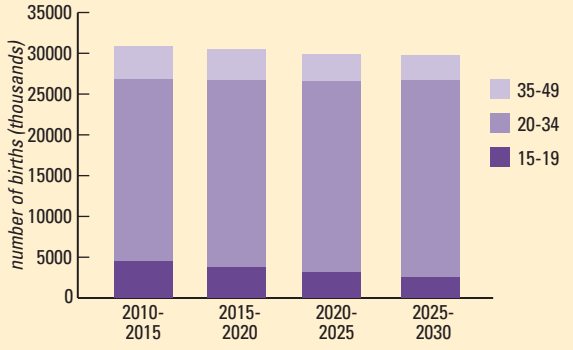
### Where women give birth: urban vs. rural



### Who attends births: urban vs. rural



### Projected number of births, by age of mother



**Explanatory notes:** \*Annex 2 provides a complete list of source data. All data sources are from 2008 unless otherwise stated. Where country respondents stated that data were not available, the term 'Unavailable' is used. In all other instances, '-' is used to denote a nil response or data that requires further verification. 1. 2008 estimates based on country data returns and the WHO Global Atlas of the Health Workforce. 2. Includes midwives, nurse-midwives and nurses with midwifery competencies. These figures do not necessarily reflect the number of practising midwives or the ICM definition of a midwife. 3. Auxiliary midwives and auxiliary nurse-midwives.