

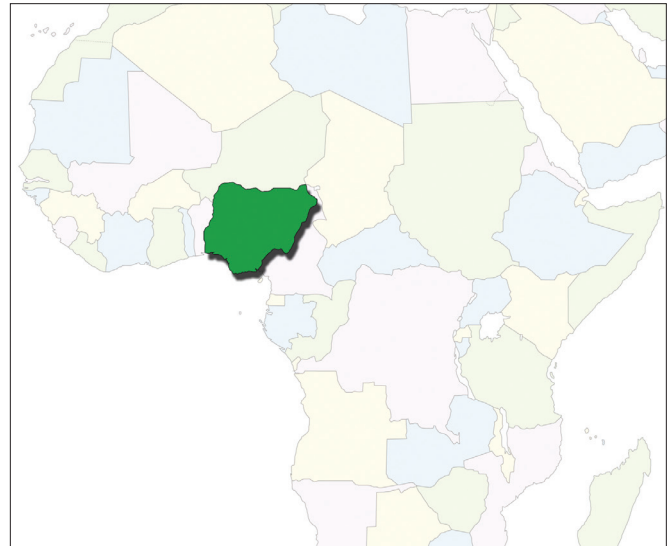
MEASURE Evaluation in Nigeria

With an estimated population of more than 153 million, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. Experts also consider it one of the world's fastest growing economies. These factors present both opportunities and challenges to strengthening the many facets of this West African country's health sector. Generally, Nigerians face many obstacles to receiving quality care. Low ratios of doctors to people, lack of access to health services and numerous infectious diseases hinder Nigeria's progress. "The health condition in Nigeria is highly deplorable," said Kola Oyediran, MEASURE Evaluation's Senior Resident Technical Advisor in Nigeria. "Among the most common diseases in Nigeria are malaria, pneumonia, measles, gonorrhea, typhoid, tuberculosis, chicken pox, diarrhea and, more recently, AIDS."

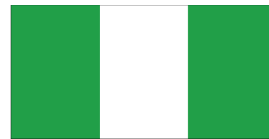
Life expectancy at birth is 48 years, with the healthy life expectancy being 42 years. The infant mortality rate is 75 deaths per 1,000 live births, and more than 19 percent of children die before the age of 5 (191 deaths per 1,000 live births.) In 2010, Nigeria ranked 142 of 169 countries on the United Nations Development Index, a composite national measure of health, education and income. According to the World Health Organization, Nigeria's adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 3.1 percent; the country has the third largest number of people living with HIV. The epidemic varies by region, with Ekiti State in the southwest zone having the lowest prevalence rate (1 percent), and Benue State in the north-central zone having the highest rate (10.6) percent, according to USAID. More than 2 million children have been orphaned by the virus.

MEASURE EVALUATION IN NIGERIA

MEASURE Evaluation has been working in Nigeria since early 2000, with a wide breadth of activities. In addition to Oyediran, the in-country team includes four other



COUNTRY FLAG



DEMOGRAPHY

Population: 152,616,000

Population Growth Rate: 1.966%

Age Structure:

0–14 years: 41.2%

15–64 years: 55.7%

65 years and over: 3.1%

Death Rate: 16.31 deaths/1,000 population

HIV-RELATED DATA

Adult HIV Prevalence: 3.1%

People Living with HIV: 2,600,000

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

Infant Mortality Rate: 75 infant deaths/1,000 live births

Total Fertility Rate: 5.7 children born/woman

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 1,100 maternal deaths/100,000 live births (2005)



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individuals—M&E Resident Advisors Samson Bamidele and Dr. Dayo Adeyemi, OVC M&E Resident Advisor Dr. Yinka Falola-Anoemuah and Administrative and Finance Officer Nafisah Koguna. “Nigeria is unique in MEASURE Evaluation’s portfolio because it is one of our largest countries and also has such diverse activities,” said Stephanie Mullen, MEASURE Evaluation’s Country Focal Person for Nigeria. “We work in a lot of different health areas with several ministries and a variety of partners.”

During Phase III, MEASURE Evaluation has assisted with HIV/AIDS, orphaned and vulnerable children, malaria and other infectious disease activities while working toward building capacity and strengthening the country’s health information system, including the launch of innovative partnerships with Obafemi Awolowo and Ahmed Bello universities.

Strengthening Information Systems and M&E Capacity

Building capacity within Nigeria to carry out monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities is a critical step to improving the country’s health system. “Monitoring and evaluation are at the center of sound service delivery, including HIV/AIDS-related care and support,” explained Oyediran. “They are necessary for the achievement of evidence-based policymaking, budget decisions, management and accountability.”

In 2004, MEASURE Evaluation helped the Nigerian government develop and implement the Nigerian National Response Information Management System (NNRIMS), a routine HIV/AIDS information system. Since its implementation, MEASURE Evaluation has continued to help improve the reporting and use of the system throughout the country. In 2009, it collaborated with the National Agency for AIDS Control (NACA) to conduct an assessment of the system. “Data from the NNRIMS has helped government institutions and stakeholders in reporting and making informed decisions,” said Oyediran. “As a result of our technical assistance, NACA and NASCP as well as a few sub-national states are able to generate reliable, timely and accurate information to improve the coordination of HIV/AIDS activities in their states where, previously, no HIV-related reports were being generated.”

In 2010, MEASURE Evaluation expanded its capacity-building efforts by collaborating with two Nigerian universities, Obafemi Awolowo University, in the

southern city of Ile-Ife, and Ahmed Bello University in the northern city of Zaria. Four years earlier, in 2006, MEASURE Evaluation began conducting short-term M&E training courses in Nigeria, knowing that it wanted to eventually build capacity of local institutions to take over the trainings. To start, the universities will implement short-term M&E workshops, with the goal of eventually incorporating M&E courses or tracks into their Master of Public Health program curriculums. “With this strategy, Nigeria will have two institutions fully capable of meeting the M&E training needs in the country,” Oyediran said.

Orphaned and Vulnerable Children and Family Planning

Traditionally, efforts to care for children made orphaned and vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Nigeria were carried out by extended family members with support from community and religious groups. Over time, though, HIV/AIDS response heightened the government’s awareness of the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC). “This brought the need for the government to take a lead role in the provision of a standardized care and support system for the children,” explained Anoemuah, who focuses on OVC monitoring and evaluation.

MEASURE Evaluation has contributed to this effort by assisting stakeholders, most notably Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD), to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyze and use strategic information for OVC programs. “It has been really interesting working with the Federal Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Social Development in the OVC area and helping to harmonize their data plan,” said Mullen.

In 2008, MEASURE Evaluation supported the government in conducting a Situation Assessment Analysis on orphaned and vulnerable children. The analysis reported that 17.5 million children fall into this category in Nigeria, and the findings were vital for planning and implementing future OVC programs. Currently, MEASURE Evaluation is providing technical assistance to the government in developing a new National Plan of Action for OVC for 2011–2016.

MEASURE Evaluation has also continued its assistance to Nigeria’s Community Partnership for Action in the Social Sectors (COMPASS) project, which seeks to improve

health education of the country's women and children. The project intends to integrate reproductive and child health education and primary school education interventions in 51 local government areas in the states of Bauchi, Kano, Lagos and Nasarawa, as well as the Federal Capital Territory. These areas have high infant and child mortality rates and low levels of primary schooling, especially for girls.

During Phase II, MEASURE Evaluation began collaborating with the Center for Research Evaluation and Resource Development to implement baseline and midline surveys to evaluate the COMPASS project. In Phase III, MEASURE Evaluation assisted with an endline survey, which included a large-scale household survey and surveys of health facilities and public and private primary schools in the five states. Results from the endline survey were compared to results from the previous surveys to document changes in indicators in order to measure the project's impact.

Malaria Post-Bednet Study

In May and June 2009, the Malaria Consortium distributed more than 4 million long-lasting insecticidal-treated nets (LLINs) in Kano State to pilot the free net distribution recommended by the Nigeria National Malaria Control Program and the Roll Back Malaria

initiative. The ultimate goal is universal coverage—one net for two people—in Nigeria by 2015.

In order to assess the campaign strategy to achieve this goal, MEASURE Evaluation partnered with USAID/Nigeria, Support to Nigeria Malaria Program and Research Marketing Services to conduct a comprehensive post-campaign household survey in Kano State. "The survey found that, generally, the campaign was effective in increasing bednet coverage," Oyediran said. "However, better distribution and more education through a greater variety of outreach methods is needed."

Working at the State Level

So far, MEASURE Evaluation has been working primarily at the national level. Recently, though, it began focusing on the state level in three states—Kano, Lagos and Anambra. Each of these states will have its own advisor sitting in the State Agency for the Control of AIDS and work collaboratively with the State Ministry of Health to improve the state health information system especially HIV and AIDS. "It will really help build capacity in those organizations at the state level," explained Mullen. "When working at the national level only, it can be hard to tell how much information goes down to the lower levels, so this is a nice opportunity."