

NIGERIA POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

FACTSHEET
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This snapshot presents findings from the RAPID (Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development) model, which projects the social and economic consequences of rapid population growth on various health and non-health sectors. It is intended to complement a larger suite of materials on RAPID and offer quick, easy-to-use facts and figures that demonstrate the impact of population growth on development and the need to invest in family planning in Nigeria as a viable, long-term solution.

Nigeria Population Policy

The Federal Government of Nigeria included the following main goals in its National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (NPP), from January 2004:

- Achieve accelerated economic growth, eradicate poverty, protect the environment, and provide high-quality social services
- Achieve balance between population growth and available resources
- Improve the reproductive health of all Nigerians

The NPP also included the following sets of targets:

- Reduce the annual national population growth rate to 2% or lower
- Reduce the total fertility rate by at least 0.6 children every five years
- Increase the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) by at least 2 percentage points each year

2017 Nigeria Population Profile

Estimated population **192 Million**



Annual growth rate

3.2%

Average number of children per woman

5.4



- **Population growth trend:** From 40 million in 1950 to 192 million in 2017. Over this time, the total population of Nigeria increased five-fold. If the population continues to grow at 3.2%, the rate of the last census, it would double in just over 20 years and increase three-fold by 2050 to 543 million.
- **At present, the CPR is about 15.5%.** The rapid population growth rate is primarily a result of high fertility occasioned by low use of contraceptives.



Impact of Slower Population Growth Rate

If Nigeria achieves its NPP target for annual CPR growth rate (2%):



23 million

fewer primary students will need to be educated in 2050



2.8 trillion

less will be required to purchase rice imports between now and 2050



52,000

fewer doctors will need to be trained between now and 2050



19 million

fewer new jobs will be required between now and 2050

What We Must Do

- It is essential that Nigeria's family planning programme receive adequate political and financial support. This has not been the case in the past, especially from the government's budget.
- It is critical that all ministries consider population in key policy and planning decisions. Ministries should not merely account for population growth, but must also recognise that population growth is variable and can be influenced through their advocacy efforts.
- Governmental and nongovernmental organisations and affiliations—including the private sector—must be able to work together to bring about necessary actions, including programme implementation and engagement in public-private partnership activities to help reduce fertility.
- High-level officials must publicly support efforts to reduce population growth. These officials not only decide on policies that affect population growth, but they send an important message to everyone that reducing population growth is beneficial.

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