



# RAPID

## POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Nigeria

359 Million People by 2040

#### CALL TO ACTION

- ☐ Increase funding for birth-spacing commodities
- ☐ Pass the National Health Bill to fund primary health care and reproductive health
- ☐ Provide free family planning and reproductive health services in the national minimum health insurance packages



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
OF NIGERIA



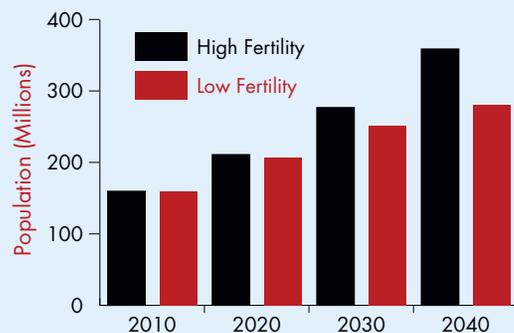
Photo by pjoetter

At current fertility levels, the population will more than double by 2040

At current fertility levels, the population will grow by 32% in just the next 10 years

## Nigeria's Population in 2040

Under Two Fertility Scenarios



Source: Projections using the Spectrum System of Policy Models

“I call on all governments, community, religious and traditional leaders to support the right of all women to access maternal health care. Thousands are dying due to poverty, illiteracy, lack of access to health care and the denial of permission or delays in seeking medical services.”

Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III  
20th Sultan of Sokoto  
Sokoto Declaration, 2009

If Nigeria's population grows more slowly, it will be easier to invest in people and businesses and to improve health and education.

### 1 . . . .

#### Rapid Population Growth

If high fertility continues in Nigeria, its population of 170<sup>1</sup> million in 2012 could grow to 359 million people by 2040. If contraceptive use increased by two percentage points each year, then Nigeria's population would still be very large—at 281 million by 2040.

The main way to slow population growth is to provide family planning to all those who want it, allowing couples to achieve their desired family size. Helping couples plan families contributes to national development. Smaller families are more likely to achieve health goals, invest more in each child, contribute more to national development, and improve family wealth and employment.

<sup>1</sup> 2012 World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau.

### 2 . . . .

#### Reducing Fertility

##### Improves Health and Education

With lower average fertility, less money is needed for education and health. By 2040, the savings in primary education alone would amount to US\$37 billion, while in health, savings would amount to US\$45 billion. By re-investing these savings, Nigeria could improve health and education services. A healthier, educated labour force will have the skills needed to grow the economy.

##### Reduces Food Imports

With a manageable population size, less food would be consumed, less land would be required to grow food, and fewer imports would be needed to supplement local production.

### 3 . . . .

#### What Can Be Done

- Increase funding for and availability of family planning commodities and services
- Expand access to family planning commodities through community distribution and public and private clinics
- Pass the National Health Bill to support primary health care, including reproductive health

#### Summary

The future size of Nigeria's population will pose security challenges and affect the economy, environment, social sectors, and the ability of Nigeria to feed itself. Achieving the Vision 2020 goals will be unlikely if Nigeria does not first slow the rate of population growth.

#### National Vision

The Nigerian National Policy on Population and Sustainable Development (NPPSD) is a strategy to meet challenges posed by rapid population growth. It addresses linkages between population and development issues. The NPPSD policy document targets an annual national population growth of 2 percent or lower and a fertility rate reduction of at least 0.6 children every five years. To accomplish this, the document sets a goal to increase modern contraceptive prevalence by at least 2 percentage points each year. Rapid population growth threatens Nigeria's capacity to reach its national Vision 2020 and achieve its NPPSD targets.