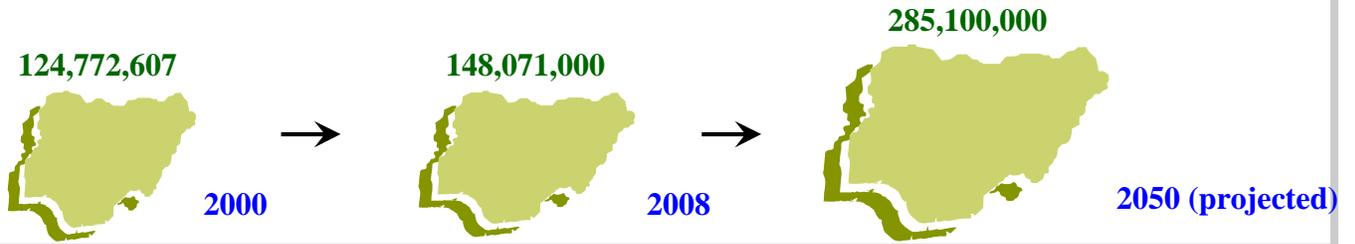




Population and Failing States Nigeria



Population and Failing States

Failing nations, almost without exception, have high population growth rates. *Foreign Policy* and the Fund for Peace publish an annual ranking of failed states. All of the top ten countries in the 2009 Failed States Index have total fertility rates (the average number of children born by a woman over her lifetime) substantially higher than the global average (2.6). Six of them had TFRs of 5.0 or higher. High fertility rates are often associated with high maternal and infant mortality rates. Early teenage pregnancy and unhealthy birth spacing, in particular, are associated with poor health outcomes for mothers and infants. High population growth rates may make it more difficult for failing states to provide adequate schooling, nutrition, immunization, and other essential services. Population pressures can also lead to environmental degradation, food insecurity, and even conflict.

Nigeria's Population Profile

- Population as of mid-2009: 152,600,000 (PRB)
- Projected Population mid-2050: 285,100,000, a projected increase of 87% from 2009 levels (PRB)
- Population growth rate: 2.6% (PRB)
- Percent of population living in urban areas: 47% (PRB)
- Population under the age of 15: 66,484,000 or 45% (PRB)
- Life expectancy at birth (both sexes): 47 years (PRB)
- Percent of the Nigerian population living below the poverty line of \$1 a day : 70.2% (PRB)

Maternal and Child Health Trends

- The maternal mortality rate in Nigeria is 1100 per 100,000 live births (UNICEF)
- 35% of births are attended by a skilled health personnel (PRB)
- Infant mortality rate: 75 per 1,000 live births (PRB)

- Child mortality rate under age 5: 133 per 1,000 children (PRB)
- 27% of children under the age of 5 are underweight. (PRB)
- 38% of children have had their growth stunted (UNICEF)

Fertility in Nigeria

- Current total fertility rate: 5.7 (PRB)
- 15% of married women ages 15-49 use contraceptives (PRB)
- 9% of married women ages 15-49 use modern contraceptives (PRB)

Sources:

[Population Reference Bureau](#)

[UNICEF, Info By Country: Nigeria Statistics](#)

Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Fertility Trend

Nigeria's total fertility rate (average number of children born by a woman in her lifetime) has declined only slightly in the past few decades. UNICEF estimated the TFR at 6.8 in 1990 and 5.4 in 2007. The Population Reference Bureau estimates the current TFR at 5.7 (2009). Furthermore, Nigeria has actually reversed in what is called the demographic transition. "Nigeria's population age profile has remained virtually unchanged since 1975. This is unusual, compared to most developing countries, which have been experiencing at least gradual declines in fertility and mortality" (PAI, "The Shape of Things to Come,").

Family Planning

Nigeria has the world's seventh highest population, and is projected

to be the sixth most populous nation by 2050 (UN, "World Population to 2300"). A USAID/Global Health report notes that "meeting the need for family planning...can reduce population growth and make achieving the MDGs more affordable in Nigeria" (USAID, "Achieving the MDGs").

Women's Rights and Reproductive Health

According to Amnesty International, "Violence against women is a continued problem, with gender discrimination standard in both law and practice. The most common kinds of violence against women include sexual and familial violence, genital mutilation, and forced marriage. Discriminatory laws regarding divorce and employment make it difficult for women to flee such situations." (AI, "Nigeria Human Rights").

Development Goals

High fertility rates pose a significant challenge to economic advancement and the attainment of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria.

Health

At 1,100 deaths per 100,000 live births, the maternal mortality ratio is extremely high, and the infant mortality rate is hardly much better, at 100 deaths per 1,000 live births (Population Reference Bureau). Nigeria also has the second greatest number of people living with HIV/AIDS, with an estimated 2.6 million infected (CIA World Factbook).

Food Security

USAID's May 2009 Food Security Update is cautiously optimistic, reporting that "household food security is generally stable across the country," but goes on to warn that "widespread fuel scarcity and high fuel cost are raising concern over transport cost(s)" (USAID, "Nigeria Food Security Update").

Poverty

Despite being the world's sixth largest oil exporter, 64% of Nigerians live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 per day (UNICEF). Most of the oil comes from the poor and undeveloped Niger Delta region. A UNDP report states "the Niger Delta should be a gigantic economic reservoir of national and international importance...In reality, the Niger Delta is a region suffering from administrative neglect, crumbling social infrastructure and services, high unemployment, social deprivation, abject poverty, filth and squalor, and endemic conflict." (UNDP, "Niger Delta Human Development Report").

Education and Literacy

A large youth population is inimical to improving schools in Nigeria. And while literacy rates are encouraging, primary and secondary school enrollment is poor, especially for girls. Because of the correlation between increased female education and reduced fertility rates, higher primary and secondary school enrollment rates for girls is needed to promote a healthy and stable demographic (UNICEF).

Gender Disparity

In Nigeria, women are approximately 58% of all those infected with HIV/AIDS (Population Reference Bureau). As the most vulnerable group to HIV infection, empowering women with the agency to make non-coerced decisions regarding sexual activities and child bearing could protect women's health, reduce the number of women with HIV, and decrease the number of children annually born with HIV.

Environment

Environmental degradation is a serious problem, especially in the Niger Delta, where oil extraction has caused leakages and spills. In addition, Nigeria has been a world leader in deforestation, with an average annual loss of 3.3% of forested land between 2000 and 2005, according to the 2005 FAO Global Forests Resource Assessment.

Conflict

Conflict and political rivalries threaten development and achievement of the MDGs in Nigeria. An April 2006 briefing at the United States Institute of Peace described conflict in Nigeria as "a three-pronged crisis involving Muslim-Christian relations, the Niger Delta region, and presidential term limits" (Wee).

Special Reports

[Achieving the MDGs: The Contribution of Family Planning – Nigeria, USAID/Global Health](#)

In addition to the cost savings incurred by addressing unmet need, greater use of FP services can contribute directly to the MDG goals to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. The study shows that addressing unmet need in Nigeria could be expected to avert 18,849 maternal deaths and almost 1.1 million child deaths by the target date.

[Failed States Index 2009, Fund for Peace, \(June 2009\).](#)

In partnership with *Foreign Policy*, the Fund for Peace produces an annual ranking of failed and failing states. Using a scale of 1-10, the study looks at 12 indicators of instability, including demographic pressures. The 2009 FSI, ranks Nigeria as the 15th most unstable state. The 2009 report finds that:

The demographic pressures indicator remained at 8.2 for the FSI 2008. Nigeria has a population growth rate of 2.4% and the life expectancy is 48 years. Approximately 5.4% of the adult population is living with HIV/AIDS, and the infant mortality rate is 93.93 deaths per 1,000 live births. Nigeria has a very large youth bulge, with 42.2% of the population under the age of 15.