

Issue brief  
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# National Population Policy & Family Planning



Photo Credit: The Guardian News, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Link: <https://guardian.ng/news/buhari-moves-against-high-fertility-rate-launches-revised-population-policy/>

By

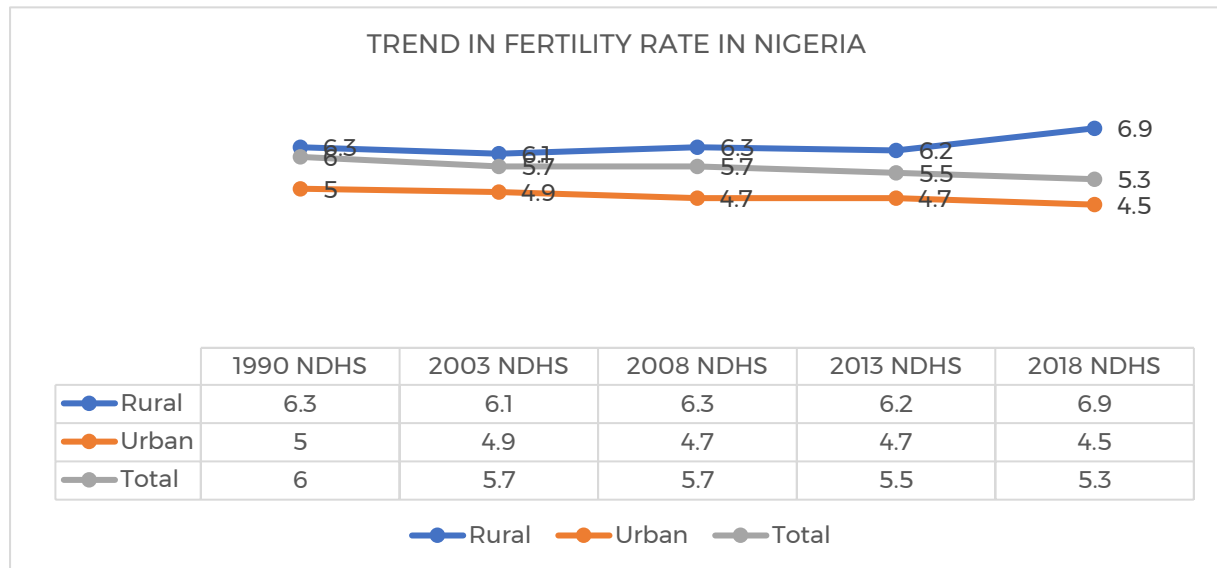
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June 2022

## Context

The Federal Government of Nigeria (through the National Population Commission) updated the National Policy on Population in 2021 to accommodate key issues that emerged since it was last revised in 2004. The goal of the new policy on population is to achieve a demographic dividend for sustainable development. Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa (20% of the entire continent). According to the United Nations World Population Prospect (WPP), Nigeria may become the third most populated country in the world with a population of over 400 million in 2050. A pertinent issue is the mismatch between the current population growth and Nigeria's GDP.



The population structure puts Nigeria in a demographic crisis characterized by the youthful bulge, unemployment, emigration, national killing nationals, and a high maternal mortality rate. Over 40% of Nigerians are living below the international poverty line. Despite the low GDP, the fertility rate is as high as 5.3, with the population growing by almost 3.2%. The patient/doctor ratio is above the WHO recommended ratio by 1000. Only 39% of pregnant women give birth at health facilities. Therefore, maternal mortality is as high as 576 per 100,000, and infant under-5 mortality rates are 67 and 132, respectively. Unemployment is 33%, and 10 million children are out-of-school. Therefore, the nation may be at more risk of insecurity.

***Family Planning and Fertility Management is adopted as one of the critical strategies for achieving the policy goal. The decline in fertility is essential for a demographic dividend. Fertility must decline substantially (below 3%) for countries to attain the demographic dividend. In pursuit of this, the FGN through the Federal Ministry of Health made a robust commitment to FP2030 using a vision to make Nigeria a country where everyone can make informed choices and has equitable and affordable access to quality family planning and participate as equals in the society's development. Without increased investments in family planning, Nigeria may miss the opportunity for accelerated economic growth.***

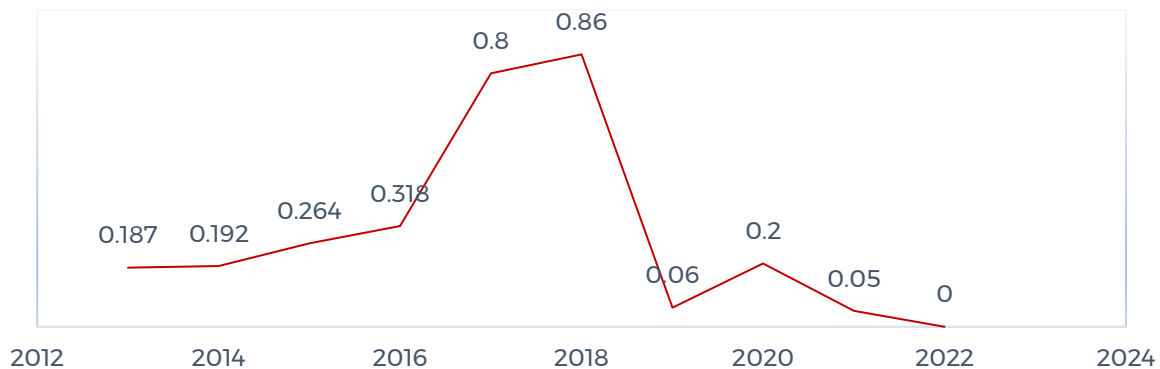
## The intersectionality between Family Planning and the National Population policy

- The National Population Policy identifies Family planning as a national development agenda.
- The National Population Policy recognizes family planning as a critical strategy for the realization of the policy goal.
- The National Population Policy eliminates the fear of some officials in the position of allocating local resources to family planning.
- The National Population Policy expands collaborations.
- 1% of the health budget for family planning at all levels of government in the FP2030 Commitment

### The Big Question

How sincere can the government be in the implementation of the policy? The policy was first developed in 1988 and revised in 2004. What steps is the government taking to ensure that this current policy will not end the previous one?

**FP BUDGET AS A % OF HEALTH BUDGET**



It is worthy of note to state that the National Population Commission has already constituted a Technical Working Group on the population Policy.

### Implementing the National Population Policy

The responsibility for this policy implementation is everyone's responsibility, but the FGoN may take considerations of the following.

- The apparent poor domestic funding. The year policy was launched; no fund was allocated to family planning in the FG budget
- The difficulty with translating policy to action at all levels.
- Increase awareness of the policy even at subnational levels.
- Family Planning programming for the adolescents
- Urgent action to prevent untimely releases of budgeted funds for family planning
- Compliance of the subnational with the recently launched policy
- Ensuring the accountability component at the national and subnational levels.

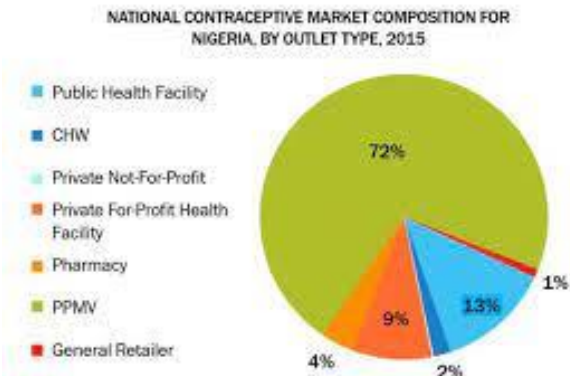
### How Does FP Contribute to the Achievement of the Goal of the NPP (Sustainable Development)?

- The decline in Fertility Rate: Means fewer dependents and increased saving for productive investment.

- Decreased Mortality and Morbidity: Women become stronger, and they have time and energy to improve their lives and be productive. Family saves money for development purposes.
- Healthier families, wealthier families, and more educated children.

### What is the role of CSOs and Government?

- Government should expand collaborations to include civil society.
- Devising a sure system for tracking family planning data across public and private sectors.
- CSO advocacy for National Health Insurance Scheme to provide FP services coverage and for the Basic Health Provision Fund to provide for FP coverage and funding as integral to PHC.
- Supporting the PPMV, community pharmacists, and other private sector actors to offer free Family planning services



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- [The Challenge of Attaining the Demographic Dividend | PRB](#)
- <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries-west-africa-nigeria/nigeria-economic-outlook>



### Profile

**The Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PAS) is a health accountability network of Nigeria civil society organizations working to catalyze national and state governments to make adequate provision for child and family health in Nigeria through evidence-based advocacy for domestic financing and building champion within the executive & legislature. The PAS project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.**

**PAS is anchor by the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC), an indigenous Nigerian non-profit with a mission to build capacity for developing partnership within and across the Nigerian third sector.**

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