

# Nigeria: Population and Demographic trends

Bolatito Ogunbiyi Atlas Fellow, Population Action International

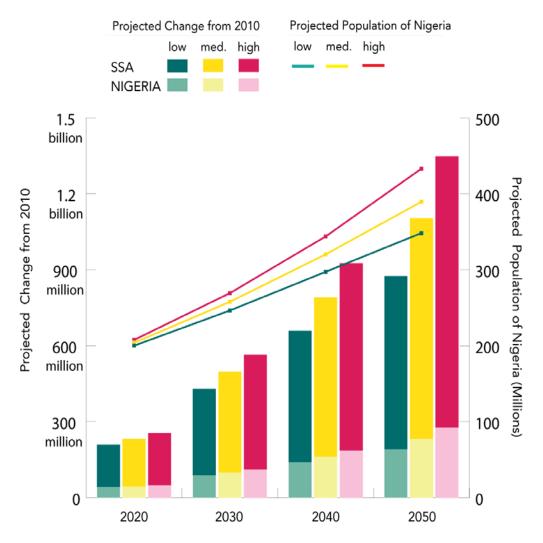
Nigeria Beyond the Headlines: Population Health, Natural Resources, and Governance

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC, April 25 2012

# **Population growth in Nigeria**

Rapid population growth - will double by 2050, from 158 million in 2010 to 389 million

Of the 1.1 billion people who are projected to be added to SSA by 2050, about 20% will be born in Nigeria

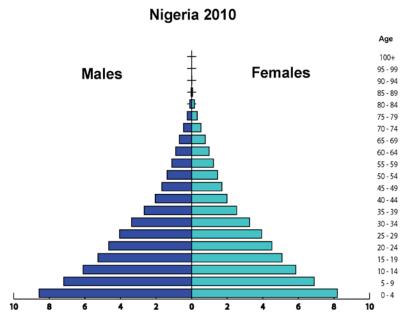


Source: Compiled by Population Action International from UNPD 2011

# Why Rapid Population Growth?

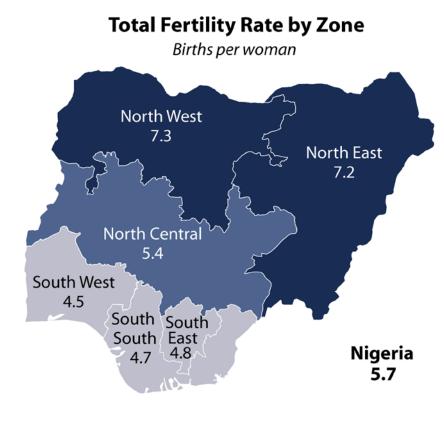
Young age structure - 42.8% of the total population below 15 years

Persistent high fertility rate- 5.7 children per woman



Percent of Total Population

*Source: Compiled by Population Action International from UNPD 2011* 

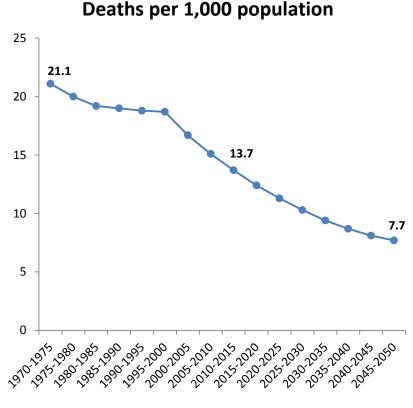


Source: NDHS 2008

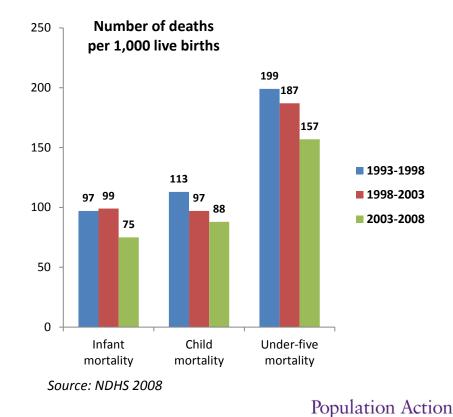
# **Reducing Mortality**

### So is childhood mortality

### **CDR** is falling



Source: Compiled from UNPD 2011

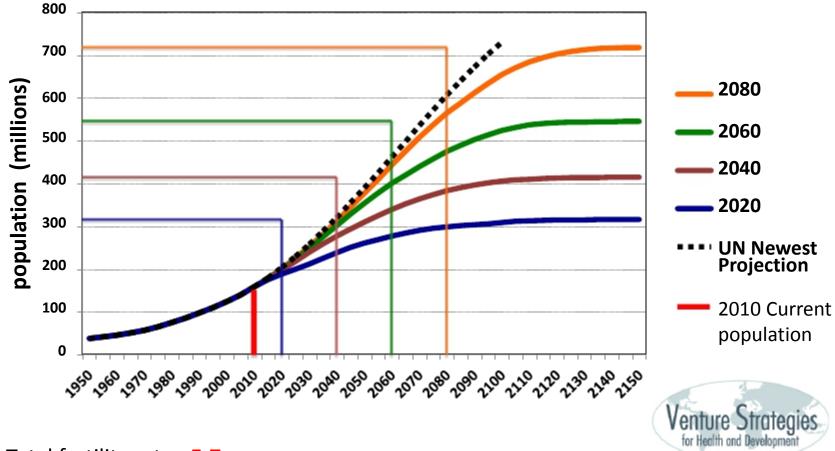


A L

HEALTHY FAMILIES HEALTHY PLANET

The year in which a country reaches replacement level fertility has a major impact on its ultimate population size.

## Nigeria



African Institute for Development Policy

iging Development Research, Policy & Practice

Total fertility rate: **5.7** Unmet need for family planning: **20%** 

## "Why Population Matters"

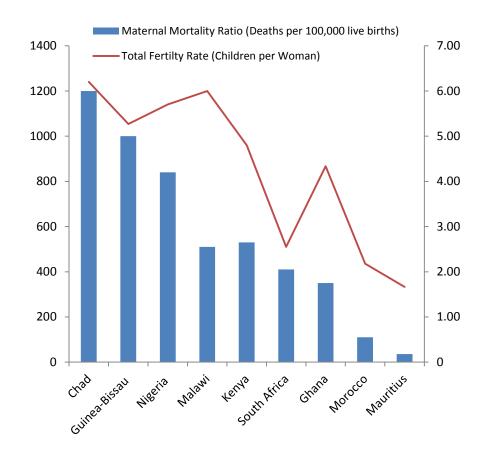




# To Health

- High population density and urbanization drive infectious disease spread
- Frequent overlap among countries with youthful population, high HIV prevalence and low access to family planning

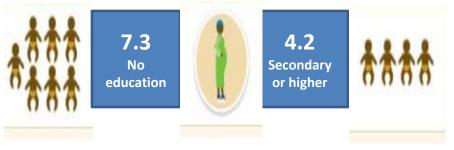
# Countries with high maternal mortality also have high fertility rates



Source: WHO, WB, UNICEF and UNFPA 2010. Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008. Geneva: WHO; Measure DHS

# **To Education**

- Smaller family sizes allow more children to be educated, especially girls
- Link between educational achievement and poverty
- Educated women have fewer children



Source: NDHS 2008

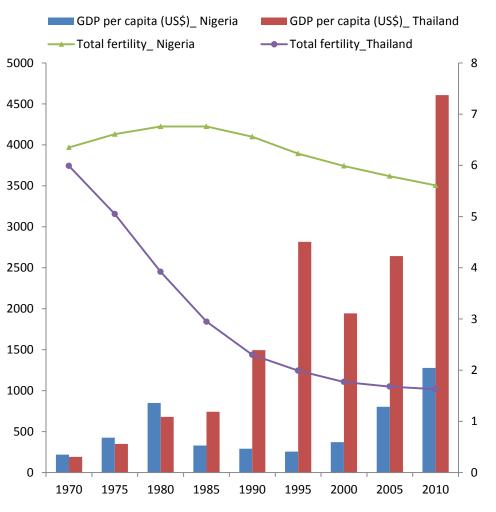
# **To Employment**

- High number of workingaged people implies more jobs needed
- Increasing unemployment rate, 23.9% in 2011, 21.1% in 2010 & 19.7% in 2009
- 14 million Nigerians are unemployed
- Rate highest among youths (15-24 years) and in the rural areas



# **To Economic Growth**

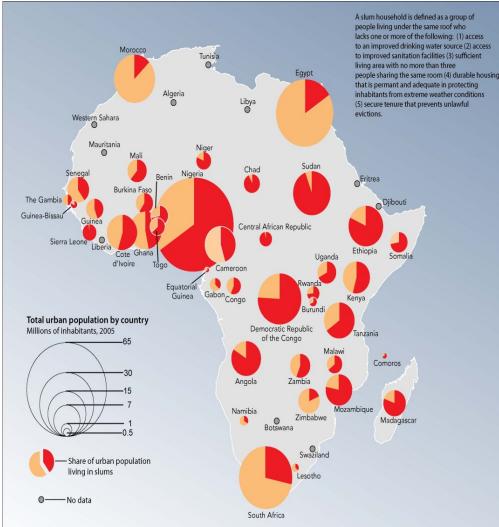
Countries like
 Thailand have shown
 that there can be no
 economic growth
 without reduction in
 population growth



Source: Compiled from World Bank 2012 and UNPD 2011

# **To Migration and Urbanization**

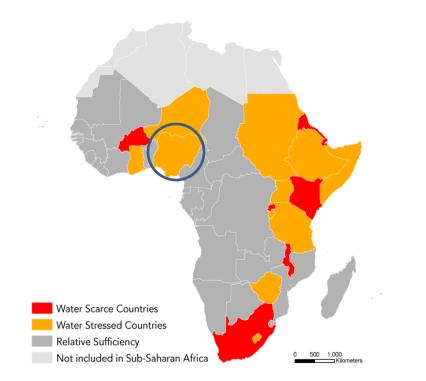
- Higher emigration than immigration
- Over 1 million Nigerian broad, mostly in Sudan (24%), USA (14%) and the UK (9%)
- International migration impacts receiving county age structure
- About 50% live in Urban areas, will be 75% in 2050
- Most of the expected population growth will be in urban areas
- The effect of rapid population growth in urban areas – poverty- over 60% of urban residents live in informal settlements



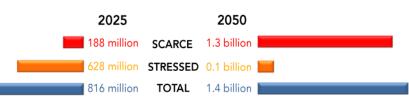
Sources: (1) Total urban population - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2010. World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision. Rome: United Nations. (2) Proportion of urban population living in slums - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division. Millenium Development Goals Indicators: 2011. New York: United Nations.

# **To Natural Resources**

- High population growth increases demand for natural resources like water
- Nigeria is 1 of the 15 countries in SSA suffering from water scarcity or stress
- Combined with anticipated changes in climate, water shortages likely to become more acute



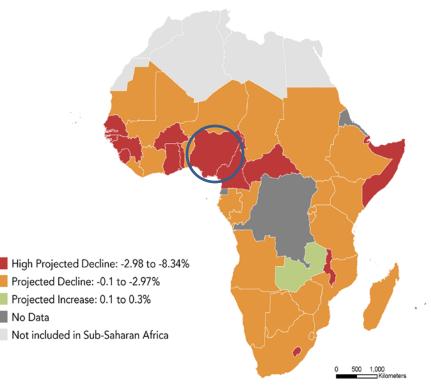
#### PROJECTED POPULATION LIVING IN WATER STRESSED OR SCARCE COUNTRIES



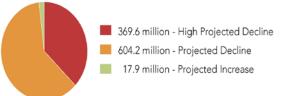
*Source: Map produced by Population Action International from UNPD 2011 and FAO 2011* 

# **To Agricultural Production and Food Security**

- Population is projected to grow but agricultural production is declining
- Pressure on the agricultural crop land is growing mostly due to population growth
- Population growth and climate change are likely to compound the challenge of food insecurity



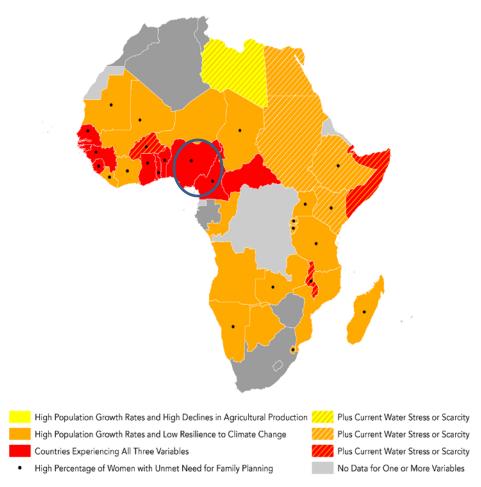
#### PROJECTED POPULATION BY CATEGORY



*Source: Map produced by Population Action International from UNPD 2011 and Iglesias, Ana, and Cynthia Rosenzweig. 2009* 

# **To Climate change and Resilience**

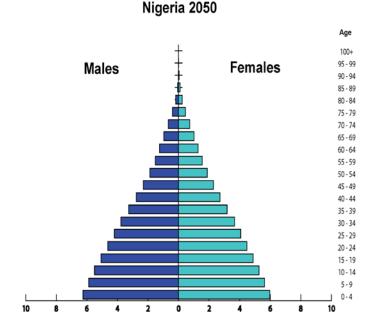
 Nigeria is one of the 15 hotspots countries in SSAcurrently experiencing high rates of population growth, high projected declines in agricultural production and low resilience to climate change



Source: Map produced by Population Action International from UNPD 2011, Malone, E L and A Brenkert. 2009, Iglesias, Ana, and Cynthia Rosenzweig. 2009, Measure DHS and FAO 2011

# **Security and Governance**

- Population, an underlying variable for conflict
- Large youth bulge, high youth unemployment rates makes young Nigerians more susceptible for recruitment into insurgencies
- Internal migration and population growth differentials within the geopolitical divide have often been implicated in political destabilization
- "When countries with youthful age structures achieve democracy, it is less likely to be sustained" (Cincotta, R. 2009)



Percent of Total Population

*Source: Complied by Population Action International from UNPD 2011* 

# **Policy considerations**

- Young population can be an asset if investment in Nigerian youths is prioritizededucation, jobs, infrastructure and health care
- Institutions and frameworks should integrate population dynamics in both national and foreign policy planning
- Improvement in social services is key
- Nigeria population growth: opportunity or challenge?

