

Country Disease Outlook

Nigeria

August 2023



World Health Organization

African Region

Background

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a country in west Africa, bounded by Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and the Atlantic Ocean. It is a lower middle-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 2,184 (2022) and a population of 219 million (2022), making it Africa's most populous country.

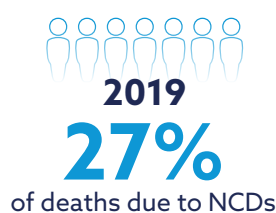
Key points

- ◆ Nigeria has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 27% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Nigeria improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is not yet meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Nigeria is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 84% of the 31.7 million people targeted were treated with MDA.
- ◆ Nigeria's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been suboptimal and well below the 90% target rate. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine reached just 56%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 59%. The low coverage rates, in combination with the large population, resulted in 3.3 million under-immunized children and 2.3 million zero dose children. It is important for Nigeria to continue to strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases in the future.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 27% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a significant public health problem in Nigeria with an estimated 65.4 million cases in 2021 (with an incidence rate of 298.6 cases per 1000 population), resulting in 193,512 deaths. This equates to approximately 30% of the worldwide deaths from malaria. Despite the high burden, the country is off track to meet the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria as the malaria incidence rate has increased since 2015 and has the gap from the target has widened each year.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

With an estimated incidence rate of 229 TB cases per 100,000 in 2021, the burden is still high, however the rate continues to fall since 2015. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has decreased from 62 to 53 per 100,000 population between 2015 and 2021. The TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people decreased from 23 to 6.2 in the same period.

Nigeria has met two of the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ There is limited data on the number of people living with HIV know their status.
- ▲ 98% of the people living with HIV that know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 95% of people living with HIV and on treatment are virally suppressed.

Approximately 1.7 million people were receiving anti-retroviral treatment in 2021.

Neglected tropical diseases

Nigeria is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and trachoma. In 2020, 26.5 million of the 31.7 million people targeted (84%) were treated with MDA.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are Human Africa trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*), leishmaniasis (cutaneous), Buruli ulcer, taeniasis and cysticercosis,

leprosy, and rabies.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Nigeria. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 565 per 100,000 in males and 546 in females in 2021.

Nigeria has implemented efforts on the NCD progress indicators on areas including the NCD policy and plan, tobacco taxes, tobacco advertising bans, tobacco health warnings, and alcohol taxes, however there is limited progress against a subset of the indicators. These include tobacco smoke free/pollution, tobacco media campaigns, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

Childhood Immunization

Nigeria's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been suboptimal and well below the 90% target rate. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine reached 56%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 59%. The low coverage rate in combination with the large population, resulted in 3.3 million under-immunized children and 2.3 million zero dose children. It is important for Nigeria to continue to strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases in the future.

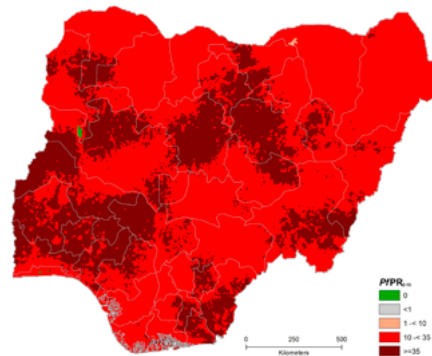
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 126 to 111 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, although it is still well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate declined from 37 to 35 per 1,000 live births in the same period, remaining above the SDG target of 12

MALARIA

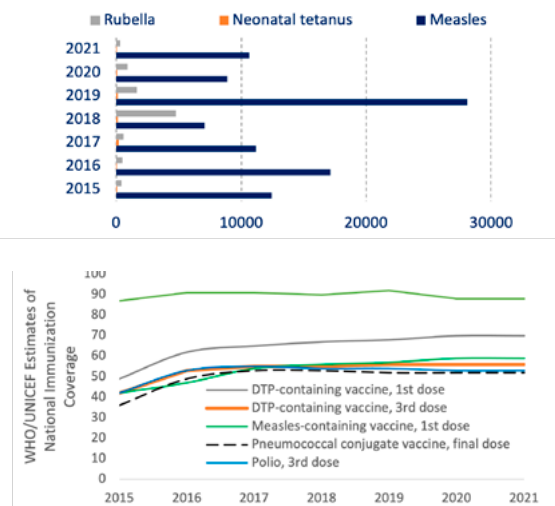
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
213.5 million	65.4 million	193,512

ITN use in children under five years 52.2% and 42.0% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick

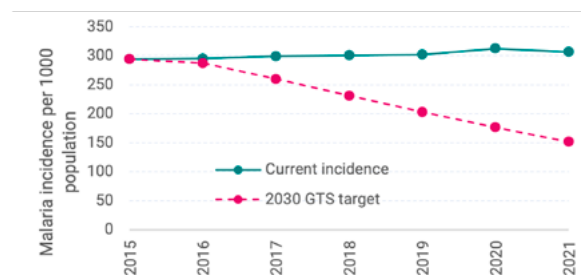


Plasmodium falciparum malaria prevalence in children in Nigeria in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



Malaria incidence in Nigeria since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is not on track for GTS targets



Zero dose children 2.3 million Under-immunized 3.3 million

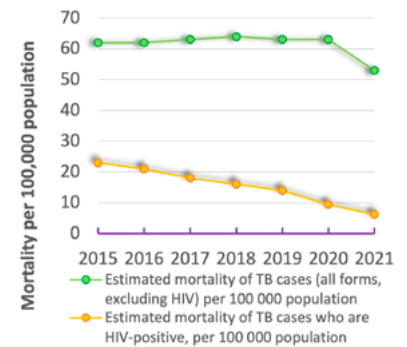
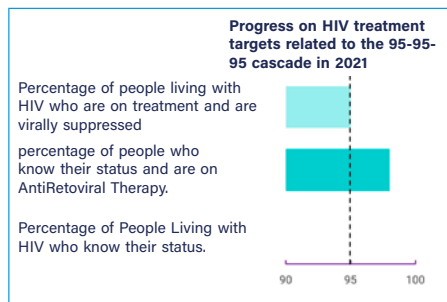
WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage remains low in Nigeria.

Measles, neonatal tetanus and rubella remain public health problems in Nigeria.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

- 1.7 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 82% Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 12% of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

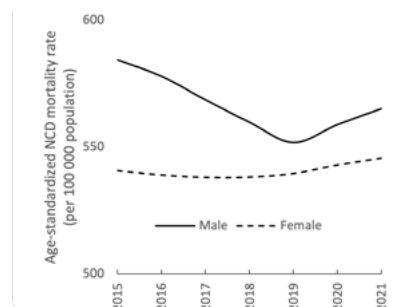
Unknown Domestic funding for TB
12.3% Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved
- Partially achieved
- Not achieved/Unknown



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)

- Lymphatic filariasis
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Schistosomiasis
- Trachoma
- Onchocerciasis (non-endemic)

PC-NTDs treatment in 2021
 31.7 Million targeted for MDA
 26.5 Million treated with MDA

OTHER MAJOR NTDs

- Human Africa trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*)
- Leishmaniasis (cutaneous)
- Buruli ulcer
- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Leprosy
- Rabies