

## NIGERIA

A statistical profile  
of birth registration



The image shows a woman in a yellow hijab and a patterned headband, sitting and holding a baby in a light-colored outfit. She is holding a birth certificate from the National Population Commission of Nigeria. The certificate is titled 'Certificate of Birth' and includes fields for the name of the child, date of birth, sex, and place of birth. A green circular stamp is visible on the certificate. In the background, another woman in a pink hijab is partially visible.

ORIGINAL

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION  
Certificate of Birth

1. Name of Child: *Kenneth*

2. Date of Birth: *15/12/2017*

3. Sex of Child: *Male*

4. Place of Birth: *Kaduna*

5. Full Name of Father: *Abdullahi*

6. Full Name of Mother: *Chibwe*

7. Place of Residence: *Kaduna*

8. Date of Issuance: *15/12/2017*

9. Signature of Registrar: *[Signature]*

10. Signature of Mother: *[Signature]*

11. Signature of Father: *[Signature]*

12. Date of Registration: *15/12/2017*

13. Registration Number: *15121437*

14. Issued at: *Kaduna*

15. Issued by: *[Signature]*

16. Issued for: *[Signature]*

17. Issued to: *[Signature]*

18. Issued by: *[Signature]*

19. Issued to: *[Signature]*

20. Issued by: *[Signature]*

21. Issued to: *[Signature]*

22. Issued by: *[Signature]*

23. Issued to: *[Signature]*

24. Issued by: *[Signature]*

25. Issued to: *[Signature]*

26. Issued by: *[Signature]*

27. Issued to: *[Signature]*

28. Issued by: *[Signature]*

29. Issued to: *[Signature]*

30. Issued by: *[Signature]*

# NIGERIA

## A statistical profile of birth registration



This data brief presents the latest available survey data on current levels of birth registration and certification in Nigeria. It also includes trends in prevalence over time and projected levels of birth registration in the future under different scenarios. This publication is part of a series of data briefs on birth registration produced for a subset of countries, selected on the basis of data availability and targeted for strategic action to strengthen birth registration systems.



1. CURRENT LEVELS  
OF BIRTH REGISTRATION  
AND CERTIFICATION



2. ASSESSING PROGRESS  
AND LOOKING AHEAD



TECHNICAL NOTES

# 1. CURRENT LEVELS OF BIRTH REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

## FIGURES

STATISTICS ON CHILDREN  
UNDER 5 / UNDER 1

1.1 Percentage of children under age 5 and infants under age 1 whose births are registered



1.2 Percentage distribution and number of infants under age 1, by birth registration status



1.3 Percentage distribution and number of children under age 5, by birth registration status



1.4 Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by state



1.5 Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by background characteristics

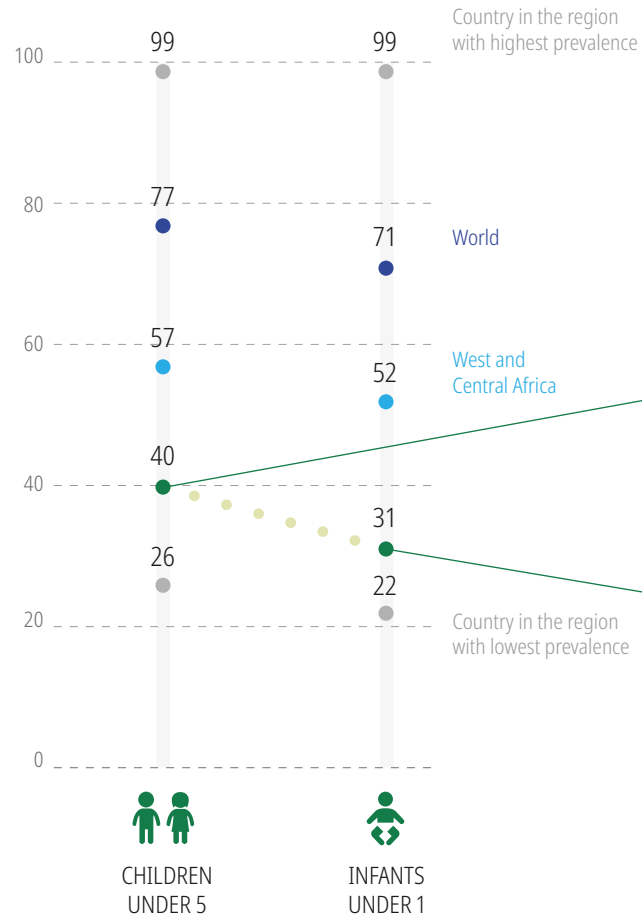




## Levels of birth registration in Nigeria are well below world and regional averages

**FIGURE 1.1**

Percentage of children under age 5 and infants under age 1 whose births are registered



## NIGERIA



**40%**

CHILDREN  
UNDER 5



**31%**

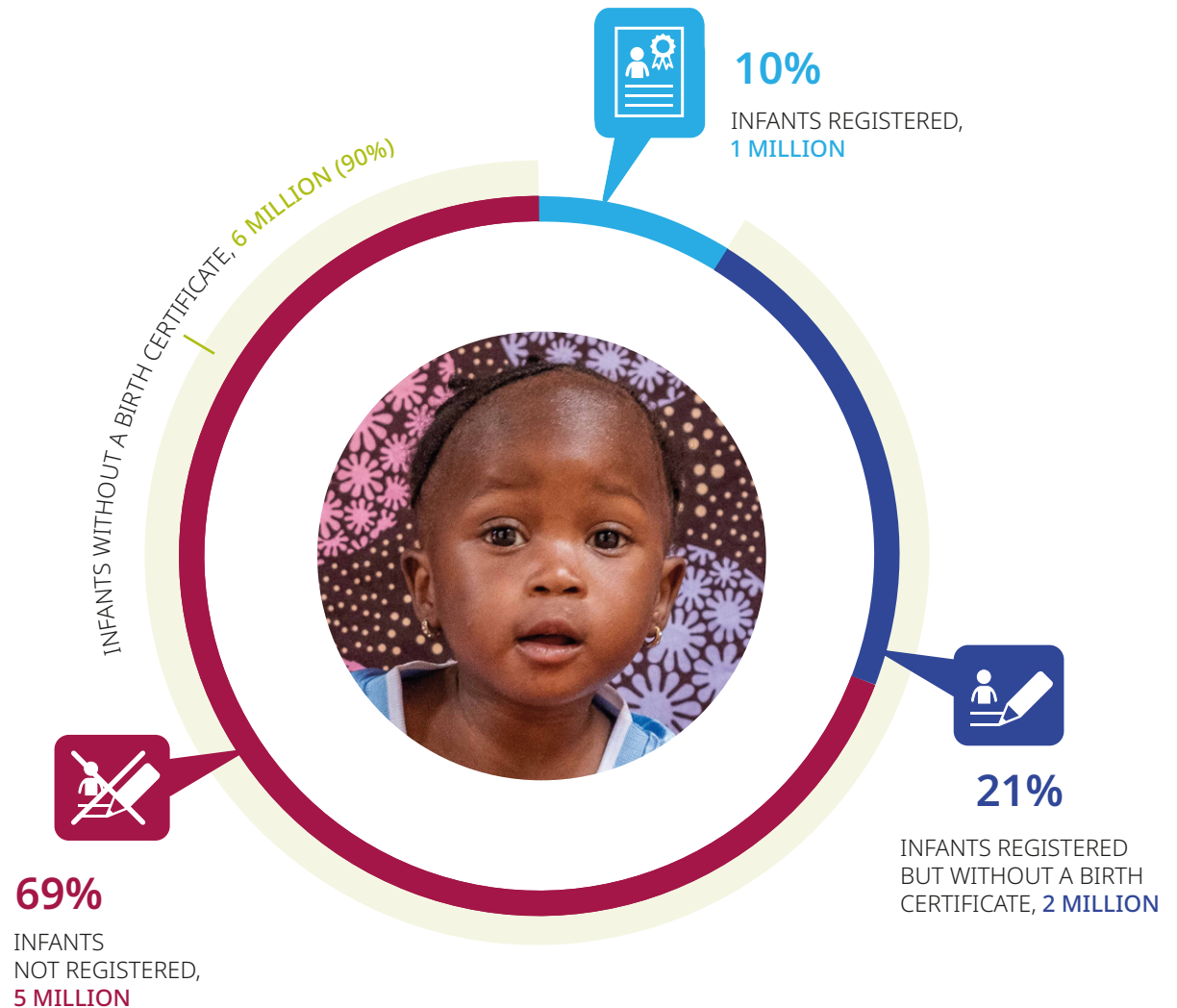
INFANTS  
UNDER 1



Much more needs to be done in Nigeria to ensure timely registration: Nearly 7 in 10 infants (or 5 million) are not registered and fully 9 in 10 infants (or 6 million) do not possess a birth certificate

**FIGURE 1.2**

Percentage distribution and number of infants under age 1, by birth registration status



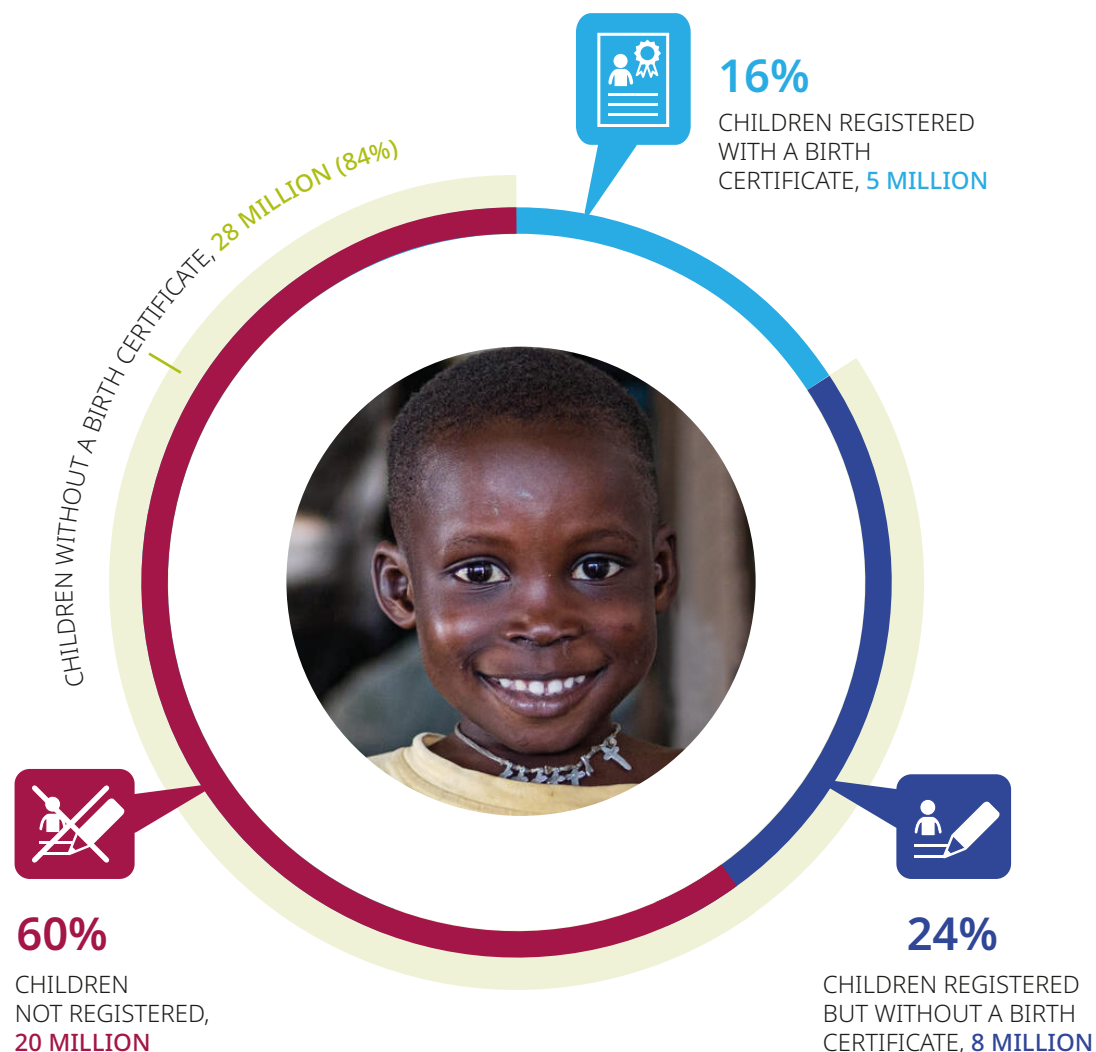


Nigeria is home to 28 million children under 5 without a birth certificate. This includes 20 million unregistered children and 8 million children whose births are reported as registered but lack proof in the form of a birth certificate

The births of 6 in 10 children are not registered; over 8 in 10 lack a birth certificate

FIGURE 1.3

Percentage distribution and number of children under age 5, by birth registration status

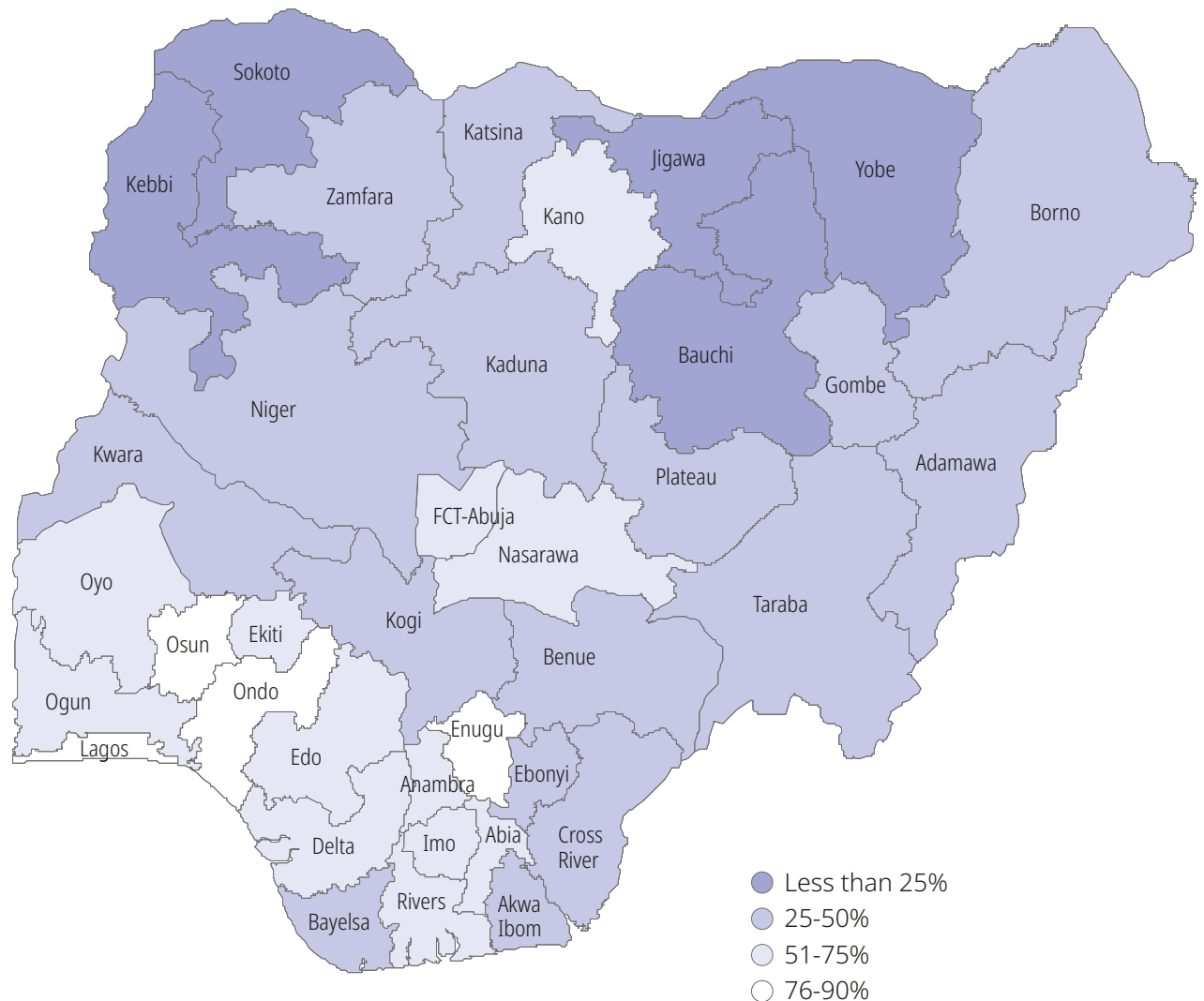




Levels of birth registration are highest in Enugu, Lagos, Ondo and Osun and lowest in Bauchi, Jigawa, Kebbi, Sokoto and Yobe states

**FIGURE 1.4**

Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by state

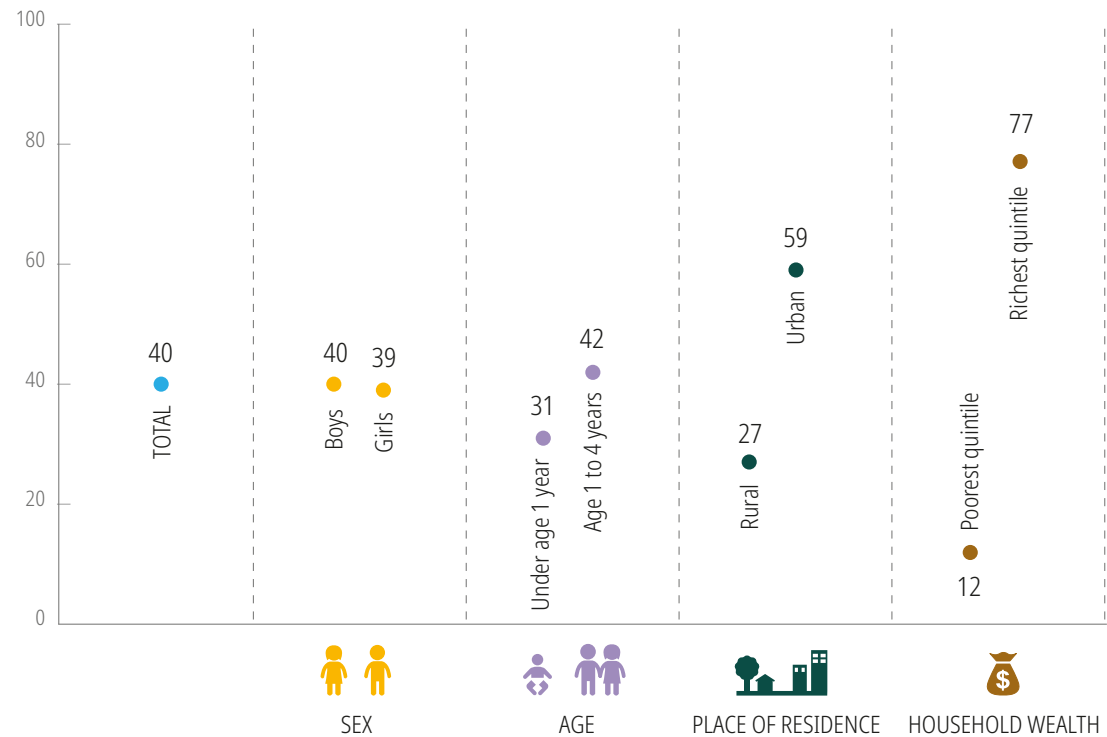




Children are much less likely to be registered when they live in rural areas or in the poorest households. Birth registration becomes more common after a child's first birthday

**FIGURE 1.5**

Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by background characteristics



## 2. ASSESSING PROGRESS AND LOOKING AHEAD

### FIGURES

### STATISTICS ON CHILDREN UNDER 5

**2.1** Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, observed and projected



**2.2** Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by household wealth quintile



**2.3** Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by place of residence



**2.4** Average annual rate of change (%) in the percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, observed and required to achieve universal registration by 2030, by state



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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION  
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (FORM B/1)  
(All Entries in Block Letters)

**BIRTH REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION CARD**

DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	NAME OF CHILD	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME OF LANGUAGE / DIALECT	ADDRESS OF CHILD'S HOME
07-10-24	M	ABUBAKAR MUSA ABU	AKURE OYO STATE	YORUBA FON	ADOLETA LAGOS STATE

Signature: [Signature]

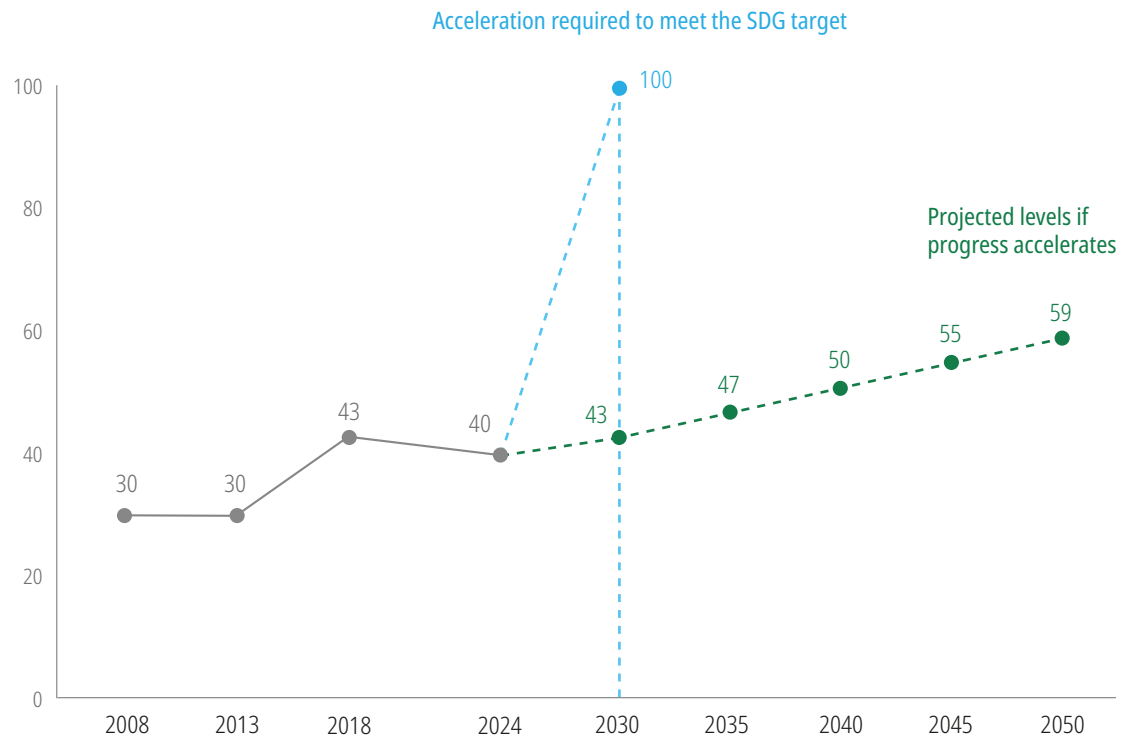
Date: 07-10-24

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of universal birth registration by 2030 is far out of reach for Nigeria: The country needs to both reverse a recent declining trend and dramatically accelerate progress

If Nigeria could match the average level of progress observed in countries with increasing birth registration, levels could rise steadily over the coming decades

**FIGURE 2.1**

Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, observed and projected



**HOW TO READ THE PROJECTIONS**

The projection scenarios build on existing trends. They show expected levels of birth registration in the future if different conditions are met:

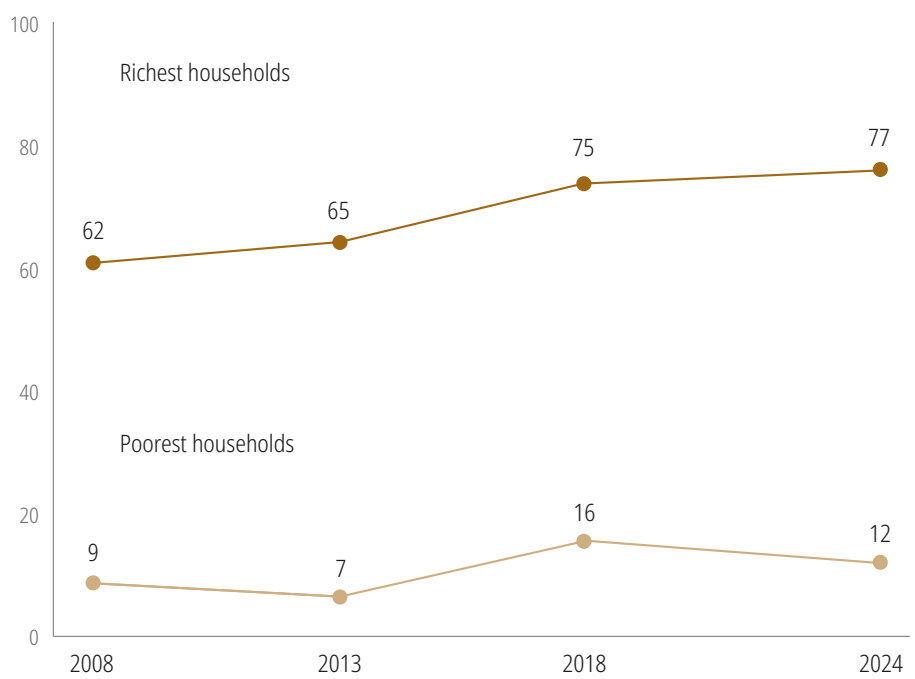
**Acceleration required to meet the SDG target:** This scenario shows the progress that is required to meet universal birth registration by the 2030 target.

**Progress accelerates:** This scenario shows what could happen if the country were to accelerate to match the average level of progress among all countries globally with a positive rate of change. This scenario takes into account the slowing effect that occurs as countries near universal coverage of birth registration, in light of observed challenges in completing the 'last mile'.

Children in the poorest households continue to lag far behind when it comes to birth registration; no progress has been made to close this gap over time

**FIGURE 2.2**

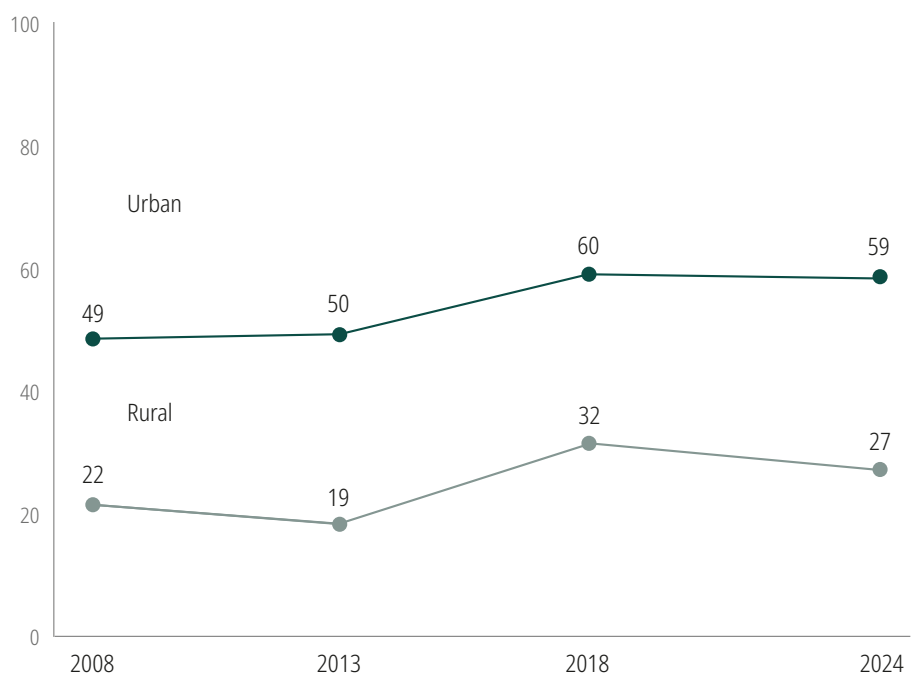
Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by household wealth quintile



Children living in rural areas are still less likely to be registered than children living in urban areas

**FIGURE 2.3**

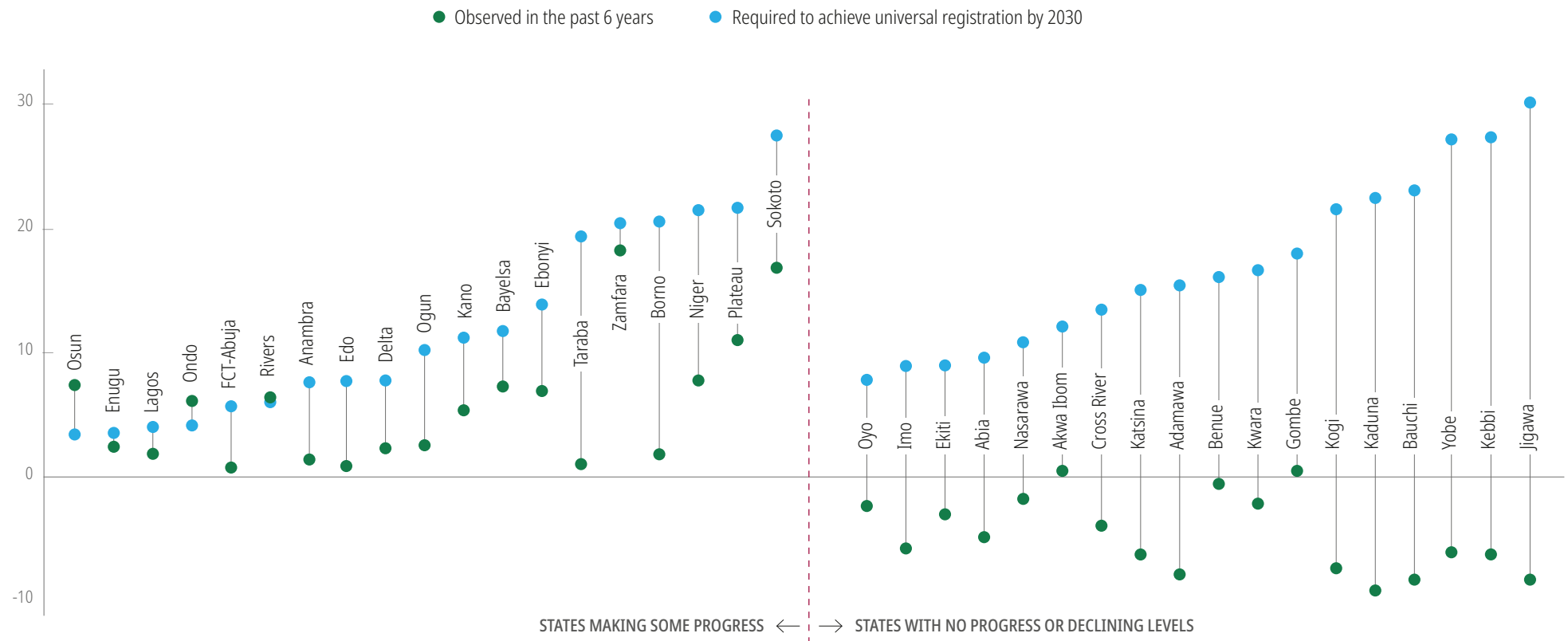
Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by place of residence



While about half of Nigerian states have made some progress in improving levels of birth registration, practically all states require acceleration to achieve the SDG target of universal registration by 2030

**FIGURE 2.4**

Average annual rate of change (%) in the percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, observed and required to achieve universal registration by 2030, by state



# NIGERIA'S TRANSFORMATIVE ELECTRONIC BIRTH REGISTRATION INITIATIVE

Nigeria is spearheading a major transformation of its birth registration system: It is moving beyond isolated campaigns towards an integrated, digitally enabled and sustainable national framework for universal birth registration. Central to this change is the deployment of electronic birth registration technologies that link civil registration with digital health services and national identity systems.

A pivotal milestone in this journey was the signing of a Partnership Compact Agreement in January 2025. The agreement formalizes collaboration across key institutions to strengthen birth registration and legal identity services nationwide. It was signed by the National Population Commission, the National Identity Management Commission, the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria, UNICEF Nigeria and Barnksforte Technologies Limited, who collectively committed to a strategic, coordinated framework for operationalizing digital birth registration at scale.

Leveraging this partnership, electronic birth registration has now been embedded into routine health-care delivery. In other words, frontline health workers and community birth attendants use digital tools to register births at the point of care, including in underserved and rural communities. The approach ensures that births occurring outside formal health facilities are promptly captured, and that children who

have limited contact with health systems are identified and linked to essential services. Now operational in 14 States and the Federal Capital Territory, this partnership is driving momentum towards national coverage, ensuring impact reaches children and families across Nigeria.

A key feature of Nigeria's digital strategy is the interoperability between birth records, health information systems and the National Identification Number – enabling every child to receive a verifiable legal identity from birth. This linkage not only strengthens individual legal identity but also integrates civil registration data into national planning, immunization tracking and social service delivery.

To sustain this expansion, stakeholders across federal ministries, state agencies, local governments and development partners are co-designing operational

frameworks, process workflows, and governance mechanisms that align digital registration with service delivery and identity management. This inclusive design approach helps ensure that the solutions developed are contextually appropriate, technically feasible and locally owned – foundational elements for long-term success in achieving universal birth registration and legal identity for all children in Nigeria.



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## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Data sources

The analysis of current levels of birth registration and certification in Nigeria is based on the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2023-2024. This was the latest officially endorsed data source for global monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 16.9.1 at the time this profile was produced. Data for other countries are from UNICEF global databases, 2025, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), DHS, other nationally representative surveys and civil registration systems. For detailed source information by country, see <[data.unicef.org](https://data.unicef.org)>. Demographic data are from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects 2024*, Online Edition.

### Methods for trend and projection analysis

Since 1999, a total of nine household surveys in Nigeria (five MICS and four DHS) have collected data on birth registration. For the purposes of assessing trends over time at the national level, only four DHS (2008, 2013, 2018 and 2023-2024) were used, since these sources are comparable in the way in which data on children's birth registration status and possession of a birth certificate are collected. A final point in the



trendline for 2024 corresponds to the latest available estimate from 2023-2024 since this is the most recent survey. Results from the five MICS were excluded from the trend analysis because they applied a question formulation that, while consistent across surveys, differs from that of the DHS and affects comparability of the results.

Given that the country has observed a decline in the prevalence of birth registration when comparing the two most recent data points in the trendline, only two projection scenarios are depicted in this profile. These illustrate what levels of birth registration could be in the coming years, building upon observed trajectories and how they might accelerate. The first scenario illustrates the acceleration of progress required to achieve the SDG target of universal birth registration by 2030. The second depicts an acceleration of progress matching the average level of progress among all countries globally with a positive rate of change, accounting for slowing effects in light of available evidence. Such evidence suggests that progress slows

as levels of birth registration approach 100 per cent, and that additional gains and improvement become more difficult to achieve in this 'last mile'.

Figure 2.4 shows the average annual rates of change (AARC) that have been observed over a six-year period (that is, between 2018 and 2024) and the AARC that would be required to meet the SDG target of universal birth registration by 2030. For statistical purposes, 'universal birth registration' is defined as a prevalence of 99.5 per cent or higher.

## General notes and map disclaimer

Key message titles were developed taking into account confidence intervals. Thus, in cases where the title indicates a difference among demographic or population groups, it has been confirmed as statistically significant.

Maps are stylized and not to scale. They do not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

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