

IUSSP Webinar:  
Potential and Actual Implications of COVID-19 on  
Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights  
in Africa: Nigeria Perspective

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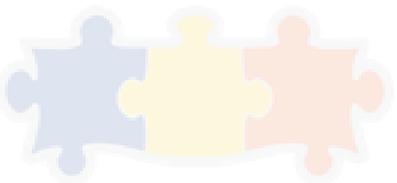
*JHUCCP/Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health  
Initiative, Nigeria*

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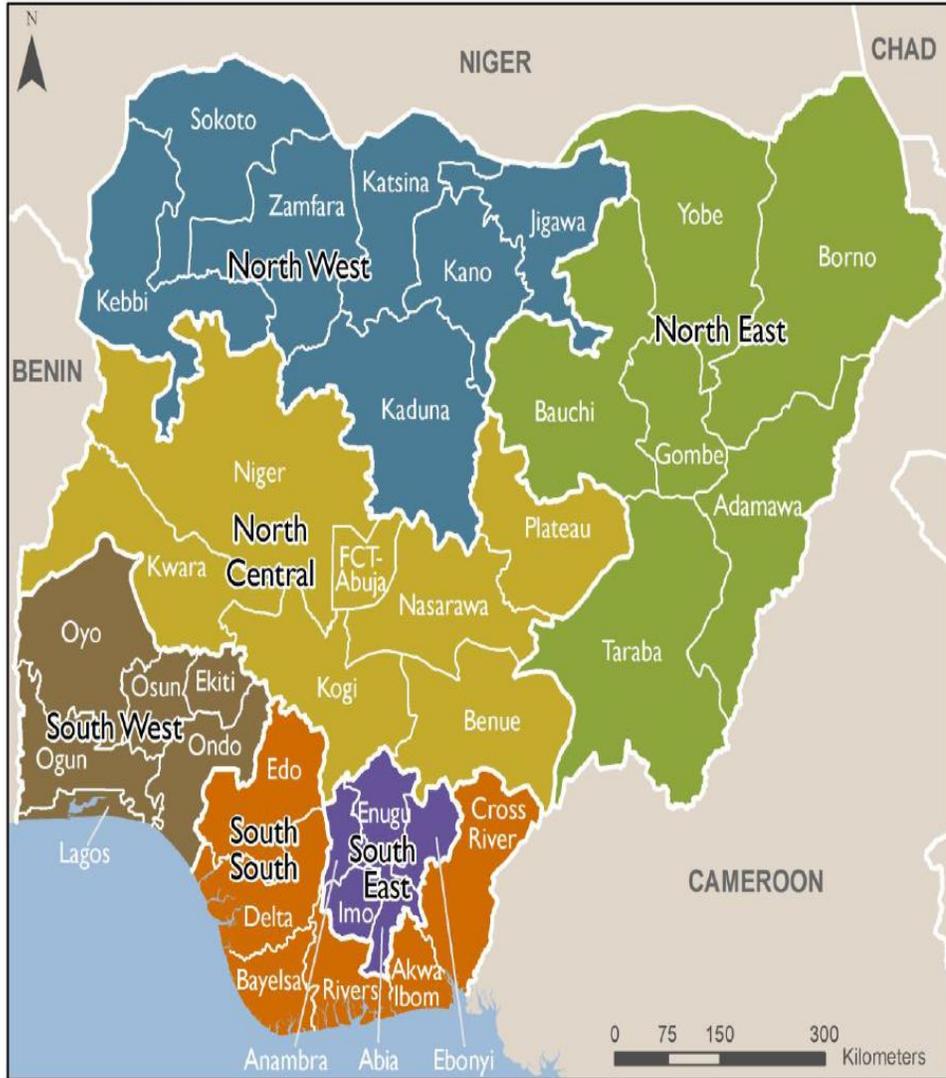


# Outline

- Nigeria in context – Country and adolescent statistics
- AYSRH Issues in Nigeria pre-COVID-19
- COVID-19 in Nigeria and its Impacts on Adolescent SRH
- Learning from the past: experience from last ebola crisis
- Conclusion and recommendations



# Nigeria in Context



## Nigeria

- Estimated Population: 208,664,163 (est.), Most populated in Africa, 7<sup>th</sup> most populated in the world
- Maternal Mortality: 512/100,000 live births
- Total Fertility Rate: 5.3
- CPR: 17% | mCPR: 12%
- Births attended by skilled health personnel: 43.3%
- Under 5 Mortality rate: 132/1000
- Met need for modern FP: 35.7%

## Adolescents, 15-19 years

- Estimated 33% of total population, 60m+
- Adolescent birth rate: 106/1000
- mCPR 15-19: 2.4%
- Unmet need for FP 15-19: 12.2%
- Females >14 years, Intimate partner violence: 29.5%
- Women 15-49 years who make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use & RH care: 28.5

# Typical SRH Issues of Adolescents in Nigeria

- Vulnerable to unique health problems - unsafe abortion, unplanned pregnancies, and health issues associated with early marriage
- Negative RH outcomes attributed to limited access to information and youth-friendly services at the community level
- Improved access to RH services documented to reduce risky behaviors and improve health outcomes –
- Creating A/Y friendly services does not bring change automatically – poor utilization
- Stigma and discrimination at service sites and in the community also pose barriers to health care



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# COVID-19 in Nigeria

- Diagnosed in Nigeria –Feb. 28, 2020
- Nigerian government introduced first locked down on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2020
- Depth of lock down varies across the country, total and partial

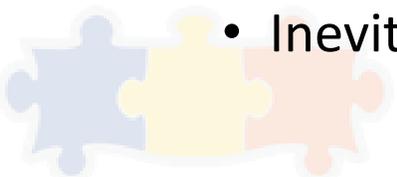


# Implications of COVID-19 Lock down and restrictions on adolescents SRH in Nigeria

- Redeployment of service providers to attend to COVID-19 related activities
- Closure/non-availability of some SRH services - to prevent transmission - or need for personnel or need for facility space
- Poor desire to access facilities for fear of being infected by COVID-19
- Hinderance to Implementing Partners activities may affect provision of prevention messages on SRH information and services for adolescents
- Fear of being labelled as COVID-19 patient may impact visit for SRH services
- Fear of possibility of being forcibly traced/tested at the health facility
- Misunderstanding of the stay-at-home order to mean facility closure
- Increased cost of items and transportation for those accessing service
- Chemists, pharmacies prioritizing COVID-19 related consumables impacts adolescent procurements of condoms
- Lockdowns often increase girls' vulnerability to gender-based violence

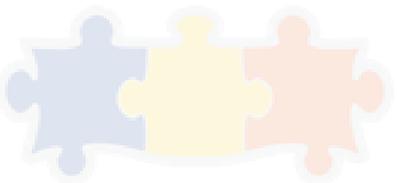
# Learning from the past: Crisis, lockdowns have implications for SRH, especially for adolescents

- Complications from pregnancy and childbirth is the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19, with increase in crisis settings.
- Plan International's "Living Under Lockdown" report found that when schools were closed during the Ebola crisis, there was a steep increase in **unintended teenage pregnancies**;
- Staggering 75% increase in MM among adolescents over 18 months period during Ebola crisis
- Projections from UNFPA shows that about 47 million women may be unable to use modern contraceptives if the lockdown happens for six months. This may result in up to 7 million unintended pregnancies
- Inevitable implications for unsafe abortion and deaths



# Conclusions & recommendations

- Crisis, lockdowns and restrictions increase the challenges of adolescents in accessing SRH services in settings like Nigeria
- Learnings from prior epidemics like Ebola can be a critical starting point for governments
- Putting in place critical resources and systems, and promoting SRH can prevent health system disruptions that could have overwhelming and lasting consequences on individuals, families and the global community, particularly adolescents.





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brighter future*

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**THANK YOU !!!!**