



# SWOP 2023: A Case for Rights and Choices

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**BUJA, Nigeria** – On Thursday, 8 May, UNFPA Nigeria in conjunction with the National Population Commission (NPC) launched the State of the World 2023 (SWOP) report in Abuja.

Titled 8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities, the case for rights and choices, the theme of the annual publication consolidated its previous edition, by amplifying the available opportunities and prospects for an increasing population to accelerate action towards attaining the 3 transformative results by guaranteeing reproductive rights and choices.

With projections indicating the global population figures stood at 8 billion in October 2022, the news generated mixed reviews globally. However, UNFPA and its partners through this annual publication have provided evidence-based advocacy indicating that with proper population management measures in place, the growing global figures, present latent opportunities for increasing reproductive health & rights; sustainable growth and development. This was reiterated during the Nigerian leg of the global commemoration to an audience composed of government representatives, members of the diplomatic corps, UN sister agencies and humanitarian & development partners.

## **FAMILY PLANNING CAN REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY**

With the SDG target for maternal deaths set as a global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, participants urged collaborations that would promote rather than hinder progress towards ending preventable maternal mortality in Nigeria. As the current national figure was 512 deaths per every 100,000 live births, there were also calls for deepening of platforms that would guarantee reproductive rights and choices that would translate into harnessing of demographic dividends.

## **CENSUS 2023 WILL PROVIDE CRUCIAL DATA FOR NATIONAL PLANNING**

With the last Nigerian census conducted in 2006, the shortage of credible data for national planning made it imperative to have another housing and enumeration exercise. The SWOP launch was an opportunity to amplify this message to the new administration which resumed after the conclusion of the 2023 elections. With preparations for another census already at a crucial stage, it was important to finalise the process and prevent the loss of any progress already made during the build up to the eagerly anticipated exercise.



# SWOP 2023 Quotes

“ More newborns are surviving; more children are going to school & reaching adulthood. In Nigeria, lifespan has increased from 45.9 years in 1994 to 55.8 years in 2022, with a 0.57 percent annual increase in the last 3 years (2019-2022). ”



**Ms. Ulla Mueller**  
*Resident Representative UNFPA Nigeria.*

“ Given the current population growth, Nigeria stands to gain if significant & targeted investments are made in providing quality education that respond to the dynamics of the global market; which favor girls & protect them from forced/early marriage. ”



**Alhaji Nasir Isa Kwarra**  
*Chairman National Population Commission (NPC).*

“ There is no reason why women should be dying in the process of giving us life. We all know the lowest hanging fruit to reduce maternal death is family planning. Family planning to reduce all the high risk pregnancies. ”



**Professor O. A. Ladipo**  
*renowned Obstetrician and Gynaecologist*

“ What we maintain and practise is Family spacing. If the services are available, we urge all women to take up such services. Our group has members in all 774 LGs in Nigeria and we can encourage this. ”



**Representative of Women-led NGO**

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## MEDIA MENTIONS

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- <https://youtu.be/2pOq8EzTEbl>

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- **NPC, UNFPA Launch Nigeria's Situation Report - YouTube**

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- **UNFPA Asks Federal Govt to Fix New Date for Population, Housing Census - YouTube**

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- <https://punchng.com/nigerias-population-hits-216-million/>

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- <https://independent.ng/fg-pledges-collaboration-with-unfpa-to-implement-recommendations-of-world-population-report/>

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- <https://tribuneonlineng.com/nigerias-investment-in-population-will-respond-to-global-labour-market-dynamics-%e2%80%95-npc/>

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