



A staff member at the Dusuman health clinic Outpatient Therapeutic Unit near Maiduguri takes an upper arm measurement.

© TOMMY TRENCHARD / SAVE THE CHILDREN

Nigeria



Research objective

To enable data users to identify the best available data source for a set of 17 key nutrition indicators (see Table 1) according to priorities for the specific data use.

The purpose of this data profile is:

- 1 To summarize all available primary data sources and secondary data aggregation platforms¹ for key nutrition indicators representative at the national level in Nigeria.
- 2 To assess the identified data sources for each indicator across four dimensions (see details in key to Table 2): (i) validity and comparability, (ii) timeliness, (iii) accessibility, and (iv) representativeness.
- 3 To identify data gaps in the national data system to effectively track progress on nutrition and/or inform policy and program decisions for improving nutrition in Nigeria.

¹ All types of data aggregation platforms were included such as scorecards and data visualization tools that reported on at least one of the target indicators for this assessment in a West African country.

² *Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework: Operational Guidance for Tracking Progress in Meeting Targets for 2025*, Geneva: WHO, 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

³ World Health Organization NCD monitoring framework

⁴ *Transform Nutrition West Africa* inception report. 2018

TABLE 1
17 key nutrition indicators

		WHA target	Nutrition status	Drivers
Children	U5 stunting			
	U5 wasting			
	U5 overweight			
	Low birthweight			
	Exclusive breastfeeding			
	Early initiation of breastfeeding			
	U5 anaemia			
	Minimum acceptable diet			
	Minimum dietary diversity			
Women of reproductive age	Anaemia			
	Wasting			
	Obesity			
	Minimum dietary diversity			
Adult	Sodium intake			
	Hypertension			
	Diabetes			
	Overweight and obesity			

The indicators included in this assessment cover maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) status, underlying behaviours that drive nutritional status, and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Several of the indicators track Nigeria's progress on global nutrition targets.^{2,3} In addition, the selected indicators represent important regional nutrition challenges and priority issues.⁴

TABLE 2

Indicators		U5 stunting	U5 wasting	U5 overweight	Low birthweight	Exclusive breastfeeding	Early initiation of breastfeeding	U5 anaemia	Minimum acceptable diet	Minimum dietary diversity	Anaemia	Wasting/thinness	Obesity	Minimum dietary diversity	Sodium intake	Hypertension	Diabetes	Overweight and obesity
Population		Children								Women of reproductive age				Adults				
Primary source ⁵	Quality																	
Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (2013)	V	++	++	++	++	++	++		++	++		++	++					
	T	++	++	++	-	++	++	0	++	++	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0
	A	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+		+	+					
	R	++	++	++	++	++	++		++	++		++	++					
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (2016/17)	V	++	++	++	++	++	++		++	++					-			
	T	++	++	++	+	++	++	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	A	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+					+			
	R	++	++	++	++	++	++		++	++					++			
National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHS) (2018)	V	++	++	++		++	++		++	++								
	T	++	++	++	0	++	++	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	A	+	+	+		+	+		+	+								
	R	++	++	++		++	++		++	++								
Food Consumption and Nutrition Survey (FCNS) (2001/03)	V	?	?									++	++					
	T	-	-									-	-					
	A	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
	R	+	+									+	+					
Nigeria General Household Survey (GHS) (2015/16)	V	?	?															
	T	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	A	+	+															
	R	+	+															
STEPS Survey (2003)	V															+		++
	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-		-
	A															-	0	-
	R															-		-
Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) (2015)	V							++										
	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	A							+										
	R							++										

KEY TO TABLE 2

Dimension	List of items	Rating	
V Validity/ comparability	Does the data source use the specified global measurement method for the indicator or can it be calculated from other indicators in the dataset?	++	Uses the standard measure and specifies the method of measurement/calculation
		+	Uses the standard measure, but no information is given on the method of measurement/calculation
		-	Uses a different measure than the standard & the standard measure cannot be calculated from other indicators in the dataset
		?	The measure is not specified in any way
T Timeliness	Does the data collection respect the recommended frequency for the indicator?	++	Data collected according to the recommended frequency and last data collection within the window
		+	Data not collected according to the recommended frequency, but last data collection within the window
		-	Data not collected according to the recommended frequency and last data collection not in the window
		?	No information on the year of collection
A Accessibility	Are the results of the survey published?	++	Report and datasets publicly available
		+	Report publicly available and datasets available after authorization
		-	Report publicly available but datasets not available
		?	No information on the survey retrieved
R Representativeness	Is the survey representative at national and first-level administrative divisions?	++	Representative at national and first-level administrative divisions
		+	Representative at national level but not at first-level subdivision
		-	Subnational survey
		?	Representative at national level but no information on representativeness at first-level administrative divisions

⁵ https://westafrica.transfromnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DA_database_primary_sources_Final.xlsx

Search for all primary sources and data platforms completed in November 2018 and data quality validation completed in December 2018. See technical note for further details on search strategy and assessment approach: <https://westafrica.transfromnutrition.org/output/data-integration-assessment-technical-note/>

1 Primary data sources (Table 2) and data platforms (Table 3)

- Seven primary data sources were identified of which six are nationally representative. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) covers the greatest number of indicators (10) followed by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which covers nine indicators.
- Twenty data platforms were identified. Most platforms (12) use data directly from primary data sources, mainly the DHS and MICS. The Global Nutrition Report covers the most indicators (16) followed by Countdown to 2030 (14).
- All indicators covering the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets are reported except anemia among women of reproductive age (WRA).
- Minimum dietary diversity for women of reproductive age (WRA) is not covered by any data source or platform.
- Diabetes, and anemia among WRA are not covered by any primary source. Nonetheless, several platforms include modelled estimates of these indicators from the World Health Organization (WHO) or the World Bank.⁶
- Indicators of child nutrition are covered by more data sources and platforms compared to indicators of adult nutrition.
- Indicators of nutrition status are covered by more data sources and platforms compared to indicators of nutrition drivers.

2 Assessment of primary data sources

- None of the data sources meet the highest standard across all four data source quality dimensions.
- All primary sources use the specified global measurement method for selected indicators, except for sodium intake. Information on the measurement method is missing for U5 stunting and U5 wasting in the Food Consumption and Nutrition Survey (FCNS), and the National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHS).
- There is only one data source (STEPS survey) reporting on hypertension, and overweight/obesity among the general adult population which is not nationally representative, publicly accessible, or timely.
- Two data sources are out of date and not within the window of recommended frequency for all reported indicators (STEPS and the FCNS). The most recent data are from the (NNHS) (2018). The DHS does not have timely or up-to-date data on the indicator of low birthweight, and indicators of low birthweight and sodium intake in the MICS are not within the recommended frequency.
- A publicly accessible report is available for all data sources; however, only five datasets are accessible after receiving authorization (DHS, MICS, NNHS, the Nigeria General Household Survey, and the Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS)), and two (FCNS, and STEPS) do not grant access to the datasets.
- Most data sources are representative at the national and a first-level administrative division except for the FCNS, which is representative at national level, between urban and rural populations, and at the agroecological zone level; the Nigeria General Household Survey, which is only representative at the national, urban/rural level, and in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria; and the STEPS, which is a subnational survey only representative of the urban and rural populations of Lagos.

3 Identification of data gaps

- No data are available on minimum dietary diversity or anaemia among WRA..
- To report fully on the status of WHA targets data are needed on anaemia among WRA.
- Data are lacking on key indicators of diet-related NCDs in Nigeria to report on NCD targets informatively.

⁶ Nutrition in the WHO African Region, Brazzaville: WHO; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

This publication has not been peer reviewed. Any opinions stated in this brief are those of the author and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by the International Food Policy Research Institute.

© 2019 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This publication is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). To view this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

To cite this publication:

Transform Nutrition West Africa (2019, June). Country Data Profile – Nigeria (Transform Nutrition West Africa, Country Data Profile #1) <https://westafrica.transformnutrition.org/output/country-data-profile-nigeria/>



Transform Nutrition West Africa is a regional platform to enable effective policy and programmatic action on nutrition. It is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation from 2017–2021 and is led by the International Food Policy Research Institute.

E IFPRI-tnwa@cgiar.org W transformnutrition.org/westafrica T twitter.com/TN_NutritionRPC