Between 2007 and 2013, birth registration in Nigeria nearly tripled, from 23 per cent to 60 per cent. Still, more than 1 million children under 5 years lack a registered identity.

Despite overall improvement in birth registration, birth registration has increased much more among advantaged sub-groups than disadvantaged sub-groups. A child whose mother has never been to school is three times less likely to be registered than a child whose mother attended secondary school or higher. Children from the poorest 20 per cent of households are six times less likely to be registered than children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households.
Geographic disparities are also significant. Children from the North-West and North-East geographic zones are at least two times less likely to be registered than children from the southern zones. Birth registration is particularly low (less than 20 per cent) in Bauchi, Borno, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara.

Birth registration by geopolitical zone (MICS 2011)

Knowledge of how to register a birth among mothers whose child’s birth was not registered by geopolitical zone (MICS 2011)

Birth registration by States (MICS 2011)

Notes: (1) Sources of data: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey-3 (MICS3) 2007, MICS 2011 and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013; (2) All indicators, except ratios, are expressed in percentages. (3) Birth registration: percentage of children under 5 years whose births have been registered; (4) 95 per cent LCL and 95 per cent UCL: 95 per cent lower / upper confidence limits, representing the uncertainty range around the estimate; (5) Inequity concept is shown as the difference in the indicator estimate between advantaged groups and disadvantaged groups for each background characteristic. The longer the line between the two groups, the greater the absolute inequality.
In Nigeria, nearly half of all children aged 5-14 years (47 per cent), or 21 million children, are involved in child labour. Child labour is highest among the youngest children: 57 per cent of children aged 5-11 years, or 19 million children, are working, compared with 17 per cent of children aged 12-15 years, or 2 million children.

Although disparities exist, child labour is present among all categories of the population, including among advantaged sub-groups. While child labour is higher among the poorest 60 per cent of households than among the wealthiest 20 per cent, a substantial proportion of children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households – 37 per cent – are involved in child labour. There is no clear trend tied to the mother’s education level, though the children of mothers who have attended secondary or higher education are slightly less likely to be involved in child labour.
The prevalence of child labour is high throughout Nigeria. There are only three States in which less than one third of children are engaged in child labour: Lagos, Abuja and Borno.
In Nigeria nearly half of all women (48 per cent) are married before the age of 18 and nearly one third of women aged 15-19 years (29 per cent) are currently married. Although this trend changed little between 2007 and 2011, the prevalence of early marriage increased slightly in 2013.

There are wide disparities in regards to women’s likelihood to marry early. Women are two times more likely to be married before age 18 in rural areas than in urban areas. Marriage before age 18 is also four times more common among women who did not attend school than among women with secondary or higher education. Women from the poorest 20 per cent of households are four times more likely to be married before age 18 than women from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households.

Early marriage (married before age 18) by background categories (MICS 2011)
Early marriage (married before age 18) by wealth quintiles (MICS 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quintile</th>
<th>95% LCL</th>
<th>95% UCL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second</td>
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<td>Middle</td>
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<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richest</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evolution of inequity in early marriage (married before age 18) by category (MICS 2007, MICS 2011 and DHS 2013)

Early marriage (married before age 18) by geopolitical zone (MICS 2011)

Geographic disparities are also important. Early marriage (whether before age 15 or age 18) is three to four times more common in the North-West and North-East geopolitical zones than it is in the three southern zones. In six States – Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe, Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara more than 75 per cent of women were married before age 18.

Early marriage (married before age 18) by States (MICS 2011)

Notes: (1) Sources of data: Multiple Indicator Clustery Survey-3 (MICS3) 2007, MICS 2011 and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013; (2) All indicators are expressed in percentages; (3) Married before age 15: percentage of women aged 15-49 married before age 15; (4) Married before age 18: percentage of women aged 20-49 married before age 18; (5) Women aged 15-19 currently married: percentage of women aged 15-19 currently married; (6) 95 per cent LCL and 95 per cent UCL: 95 per cent lower / upper confidence limits, representing the uncertainty range around the estimate; (7) Inequity concept is shown as the difference in the indicator estimate between advantaged groups and disadvantaged groups for each background characteristic. The longer the line between the two groups, the greater the absolute inequality.
In Nigeria, one quarter of women aged 15-49 years, or nearly 11 million women, report having undergone any form of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). Although the prevalence of FGM/C is lower among girls aged 0-14 years, one in every six girls under 15 years, or nearly 6 million girls, has undergone FGM. Prevalence of FGM/C among women is slightly higher in urban areas (32 per cent) compared with rural areas (19 per cent).

In keeping with 2011 levels, in 2013, 23 per cent of Nigerian women favoured the continuation of FGM/C. Among women who had undergone FGM/C, 40 per cent favoured the practice’s continuation.

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In keeping with 2011 levels, in 2013, 23 per cent of Nigerian women favoured the continuation of FGM/C. Among women who had undergone FGM/C, 40 per cent favoured the practice’s continuation.
Disparities in FGM/C prevalence related to education level or wealth index are much more important among women aged 15-29 than among girls under 15 years. Women with no education or from the poorest 20 per cent of households are two times less likely to have undergone any form of FGM than their wealthier, more educated counterparts. Disparities in FGM prevalence among girls were much less pronounced.

Female genital mutilation/cutting prevalence among women by education (MICS 2011)

Female genital mutilation/cutting prevalence by mother’s education among girls (MICS 2011)

Female genital mutilation/cutting prevalence by wealth index (MICS 2011)

Female genital mutilation/cutting prevalence among women by wealth index (MICS 2011)

Female genital mutilation/cutting prevalence among girls

Geographic disparities were significant. In some States there is almost no FGM, whereas in others, the FGM prevalence is very high. There are also notable geographic differences in FGM prevalence between women and girls. Although FGM prevalence among women aged 15-49 is two to three times higher in the three southern geopolitical zones, FGM prevalence among girls under 15 years is highest in the South-West and North-West geopolitical zones. At the State level, FGM prevalence is lower among girls than among women except in three States in the North-West geopolitical zone: Jigawa, Kano and Katsina.

Female genital mutilation/cutting among women by geopolitical zone (MICS 2011)

Female genital mutilation/cutting among girls by geopolitical zone (MICS 2011)
Attitudes towards domestic violence

In 2013, more than one in every three women (35 per cent) stated that a husband is sometimes justified in hitting his wife, down from nearly half of women (46 per cent) in 2011. This decline has been observed in both urban and rural areas, though the decrease was more significant in urban areas (40 per cent in 2011 compared with 26 per cent in 2013).

Disparities in attitudes towards domestic violence widened between 2011 and 2013. Accepting attitudes are less common among women with secondary or higher education (40 per cent compared to more than 50 per cent among women with lower levels of education); and lower among women from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households and women who have never been married or in a civil union.

In three States, more than two in three women have accepting attitudes towards domestic violence: Benue, Cross River and Osun.

Notes (1) Sources of data: Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey (MICS) 2011 and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013; (2) All indicators, except ratios, are expressed in percentages. (3) Accepting attitudes towards domestic violence: percentage of women who state that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the following circumstances: (a) she goes out without telling him, (b) she neglects the children, (c) she argues with him, (d) she refuses sex with him, (e) she burns the food; (4) 95 per cent LCL and 95 per cent UCL: 95 per cent lower / upper confidence limits, representing the uncertainty range around the estimate; (5) Inequity concept is shown as the difference in the indicator estimate between advantaged groups and disadvantaged groups for each background characteristic. The longer the line between the two groups, the greater the absolute inequality.
In Nigeria, orphan school attendance improved significantly in both rural and urban areas between 2007 and 2013. In 2013, 9 in every 10 children aged 10-14 years who have lost both parents were attending school, compared with only 6 in every 10 orphans attending school in 2007. In urban areas nearly all orphans are attending school.

In 2007, fewer orphans attended school than non-orphans. Today, orphans are more likely to attend school than any other children, in both rural and urban areas. No differences have been observed between female and male orphan school attendance.

Notes: (1) Sources of data: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2011 and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013; (2) All indicators, except ratios, are expressed in percentages. (3) Orphan school attendance: percentage of orphan children (who have lost both parents) aged 10-14 years who are attending school; (4) Non-orphan school attendance: percentage of non-orphan children (whose parents are alive, who are living with one or both parents) aged 10-14 years, who are attending school; (5) Ratio: ratio of orphans school attendance rate over non-orphans school attendance rate. (6) 95 per cent LCL and 95 per cent UCL: 95 per cent lower / upper confidence limits, representing the uncertainty range around the estimate.
In Nigeria, 40 per cent of children under 5 years and more than half of children aged 2-5 years have been left without adequate care. One in every three children has been left under the supervision of another child younger than 10 years old; and one in every four children has been left alone for more than one hour at a time. No difference was observed between boys and girls.

Trends in prevalence of inadequate care of children under 5 years (MICS 2007 and MICS 2011)

Disparities between rich and poor, urban and rural or educated and non-educated households are not significant. Although children whose mothers have a secondary education or higher and children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households are slightly less likely to be left with inadequate care, the differences are not substantial.
Inequity in prevalence of inadequate care of children under 5 years by category (MICS 2011)

Prevalence of inadequate care of children under 5 years by wealth quintile (MICS 2011)

Geographic disparities are important in regards to inadequate care of children. A child from Ebonyi, Cross River or Kaduna States is three times more likely to be left with inadequate care than a child from Lagos or Osun States.

Prevalence of inadequate care of children under 5 years by States (MICS 2011)

Notes:
1. Sources of data: Multiple Indicator Clustery Survey-3 (MICS3) 2007 and MICS 2011.
2. All indicators are expressed in percentages.
3. Inadequate care: percentage of children under age 5 left alone or in the care of another child younger than 10 years of age for more than one hour at least once in the past week.
4. 95 per cent LCL and 95 per cent UCL: 95 per cent lower / upper confidence limits, representing the uncertainty range around the estimate.
5. Inequity concept is shown as the difference in the indicator estimate between advantaged groups and disadvantaged groups for each background characteristic. The longer the line between the two groups, the greater the absolute inequality.
Notes: (1) Sources of data: Multiple Indicator Clustery Survey (MICS) 2011, MICS 2007 and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2010. (2) All indicators, except ratios, are expressed in percentages. (3) Birth registration: percentage of children under 5 years whose births have been registered. (4) Child labour: percentage of children aged 5-14 years who are involved in child labour. (5) Married before age 15: percentage of women aged 15-49 married before age 15. (6) Married before age 18: percentage of women aged 15-49 married before age 18. (7) Adolescent currently married: percentage of women aged 15-19 currently married. (8) FGM among women: percentage of women age 15-49 years who report to have undergone any form of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C). (9) FGM among girls: percentage of girls age 0-14 years who have undergone any form of FGM/C, as reported by mothers. (10) Approval of FGM: percentage of women aged 15-49 years who state they favour the continuation of FGM/C. (11) Domestic violence justified: percentage of women who state that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the following circumstances: (a) she has left children; (b) she has failed to do her work as a housekeeper; (c) she argues with him; (d) she refuses sex with him; (e) she burns the food. (12) Inadequate care: percentage of children under age 5 left alone or in the care of another child younger than 10 years for more than 1 week. (13) In 'Socioeconomic absolute inequities', indicator values are shown for the poorest 20 per cent (green circles) and the richest 20 per cent (blue circles). The longer the line between the two groups, the greater the absolute inequality. (14) Ratios of the highest indicator value over the smallest value are shown for urban/rural, 20 per cent richest / 20 per cent poorest; max / min = maximum value of all zones / minimum value of all zones. (15) 95 per cent LCL and 95 per cent UCL: 95 per cent lower / upper confidence limits, representing the uncertainty range around the estimate.
Inadequate care by area of residence (MICS 2011)

Female genital mutilation (MICS 2011)

Ratio between advantaged groups and disadvantaged groups (MICS 2011)

Socioeconomic absolute inequities (MICS 2011)

Ratio between disadvantaged groups and advantaged groups (MICS 2011)