

# National and Global Attention Needed for Women in Nigeria Who Deliver with No One Present

The percent of women who give birth with no one present (NOP) has been a concerning feature of Nigerian Demographic and Health (DHS) surveys. While attention usually is paid to the six in every ten women who deliver at home (but in the presence of others), the NOP sub-segment of home deliveries, which accounted for 14% of all births in 2013 (more than 1 million women), was brought to global attention by TSHIP in a 2014 article published in the Public Library of Science One journal.

State governments are obligated to ensure that every woman has timely access to and uses skilled care to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. In 2015, TSHIP completed extensive qualitative research in Sokoto, Bauchi, and Zamfara States. Most women who delivered alone lived in northern Nigeria, were older, already had three or more children, had low levels of literacy, and were in the bottom fifth of income levels.

Globally, more than **ONE MILLION** women deliver with no one present

TSHIP also learned that lack of household financing for health, mothers' misplaced confidence that past safe pregnancy indicated no need for attended care in future deliveries, and lack of husbands' support for facility-based delivery were among the most common reasons for women who deliver alone.

TSHIP enlisted the participation of Jama'atu Nasril Islam/Nigeria Aid Group, the largest Islamic nonprofit in Nigeria, to sensitize communities in Sokoto and Bauchi States and Northern Nigeria as a whole to the problem of NOP delivery.

Remarkably, the percentage of women who delivered with NOP in Sokoto State dropped from 25 in 2008 to less than 1% in 2013. TSHIP, meanwhile, continues to advocate for women's access to income, universal health coverage, and investment in female literacy.

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'08 2009 2010 2011 2012 '13  
BIRTHS IN SOKOTO WITH NOP