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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired immune deficiency syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>Antenatal care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAN</td>
<td>Christian Health Association of Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D&amp;C</td>
<td>Dila(ta)tion and curettage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>Demographic and health survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVA</td>
<td>Electrical vacuum aspiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus group discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOMWAN</td>
<td>Federation of Muslim Women’s Associations of Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Family planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH</td>
<td>General Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human immunodeficiency virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFH</td>
<td>International Family Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS</td>
<td>International Projects Assistance Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPF</td>
<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCD</td>
<td>Intra-uterine contraceptive device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVF</td>
<td>In-vitro/vivo fertilisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSS</td>
<td>Junior secondary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGA</td>
<td>Local Government Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMH</td>
<td>Lagos Island Maternity Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSHMB</td>
<td>Lagos State Hospital Management Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUTH</td>
<td>Lagos University Teaching Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCH</td>
<td>Maternal and child health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>Maternal mortality ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVA</td>
<td>Manual vacuum aspiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCP</td>
<td>Oral contraceptive pill(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC</td>
<td>Primary health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID</td>
<td>Pelvic inflammatory disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>Postpartum abstinence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPFN</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSI</td>
<td>Population Services International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFH</td>
<td>Society for Family Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS</td>
<td>Senior secondary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STD(I)</td>
<td>Sexually transmitted disease (infection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Traditional birth attendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOP</td>
<td>Termination of pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>Vacuum aspiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHARC</td>
<td>Women’s Health and Action Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

The Yoruba alphabet includes the letters ẹ, ọ and ṣ; ẹ and ọ correspond to the opening vowel sounds in ‘bet’ and ‘not’ respectively, s is pronounced ‘sh’. Yoruba is a tonal language with three pitches: high (’), medium (”) and low (‘) – these pitches are not always indicated in texts; I also did not include them. Yoruba has no plural form of nouns; by numerals and/or the context of the sentence it has to be deduced whether plural or singular is meant (see also Eades 1980:xiii).

Abiku spirit child
Agan barren woman
Agbẹbi midwife
Agbo herbal medicinal drink
Airomọbi infertility
Ajẹ witch
Akọ ẹ jẹye destiny
Aladura spiritual African Christian churches
Aran worm
Aran giniṣa ginisa worm living in the uterus, which may cause infertility
Aṣẹjẹ medicinal soup
Aṣiri secrets that will cause embarrassment if revealed
Aṣọsi sexually transmitted infection – gonorrhoea
Baba father, address of respect for older men
Babalawo Ifa priest / traditional spiritual healer / herbalist
Ebu black medicinal powder
Eda sperm flowing out of the vagina
Elewe ọmọ herbalists, mostly women
Emere wicked spirit
Gbẹrẹ incision mark with medicine rubbed into it
Idile patrilineage
Igbadị waistband
Ija major Yoruba deity who is in direct contact with Olorun (Supreme God of Yoruba)
Iju fibroid (in the uterus)
Iya mother
Iya abiku mother of an abiku child or children, mother whose children die young
Juju magic, charm, spell
Kaun potash, used in cooking and for self-abortion
Oba king
Ogogoro local gin
Ọko orun spirit husband
Olopa wewe traditional healer specialised in reproductive health, literally: owner of small children
Orisa deity
Oruka ring
Woli priest in Aladura Church