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Abbreviations

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

Glossary

The Yoruba alphabet includes the letters *ɛ*, *o* and *s*; *ɛ* and *o* 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).

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Abiku</i> | spirit child |
| <i>Agan</i> | barren woman |
| <i>Agbẹbi</i> | midwife |
| <i>Agbo</i> | herbal medicinal drink |
| <i>Airọmọbi</i> | infertility |
| <i>Ajẹ</i> | witch |
| <i>Akọ sẹ jaye</i> | destiny |
| <i>Aladura</i> | spiritual African Christian churches |
| <i>Aran</i> | worm |
| <i>Aran ginisa</i> | <i>ginisa</i> worm living in the uterus, which may cause infertility |
| <i>Asejẹ</i> | medicinal soup |
| <i>Aşiri</i> | secrets that will cause embarrassment if revealed |
| <i>Aşisi</i> | sexually transmitted infection – gonorrhoea |
| <i>Baba</i> | father, address of respect for older men |
| <i>Babalawo</i> | Ifa priest / traditional spiritual healer / herbalist |
| <i>Èbu</i> | black medicinal powder |
| <i>Èda</i> | sperm flowing out of the vagina |
| <i>Elewe ọmọ</i> | herbalists, mostly women |
| <i>Emere</i> | wicked spirit |
| <i>Gbẹrẹ</i> | incision mark with medicine rubbed into it |
| <i>Idile</i> | patrilineage |
| <i>Igbadi</i> | waistband |
| <i>Ifa</i> | major Yoruba deity who is in direct contact with <i>Olurun</i> (Supreme God of Yoruba) |
| <i>Iju</i> | fibroid (in the uterus) |
| <i>Iya</i> | mother |
| <i>Iya abiku</i> | mother of an <i>abiku</i> child or children, mother whose children die young |
| <i>Juju</i> | magic, charm, spell |
| <i>Kaun</i> | potash, used in cooking <i>and</i> for self-abortion |
| <i>Ọba</i> | king |
| <i>Ogogoro</i> | local gin |
| <i>Ọkọ orun</i> | spirit husband |
| <i>Ọlọmọ wẹwẹ</i> | traditional healer specialised in reproductive health, literally: owner of small children |
| <i>Orişà</i> | deity |
| <i>Oruka</i> | ring |
| <i>Woli</i> | priest in <i>Aladura</i> Church |

