A unique opportunity to use football to improve birth registration awareness and completeness in Nigeria

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Nigeria is a football-loving nation and has won silverware at international footballing events. By 2016, the country had won five of the under-17 world championships that had ever been held since the tournament’s inception in 1985 (16 tournaments). Brazil ranked next with number of three trophies. Nigeria also has the highest number of football players on the African continent, many of whom are youth.1 As at2006, there were over 6.5 million foot-

FOOTBALL AS A TOOL AGAINST AGE FRAUD

In August 2016, ahead of an African qualifier between Nigeria and the Niger Republic, MRI screening was carried out on the Nigerian contingent and revealed that 26 members of the Nigerian team were above the age limit and subsequently disqualified from the tournament.4 This discovery came barely 1 year after Nigeria had won its latest under-17 world champi-

Nigeria was born. He/she is aware of the day that the child

CALL TO ACTION

With the level of interest and follow-

African Footb

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Discussion

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Figure 1 Using football to improve birth registration awareness.

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