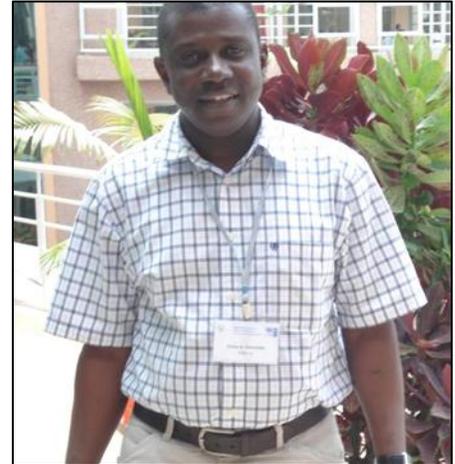




## Nigeria’s Champion for Data-Driven Decision Making (7 September 2012)

Today, Nigeria is in the midst of implementing its [Vision 2020](#), one of Africa’s most ambitious national development plans. Designed to grow Nigeria into one of the world’s 20 largest economies by 2020, this plan outlines hundreds of goals and targets for government agencies. Specific targets in this plan include: doubling the country’s GDP per capita, halving its maternal mortality and HIV prevalence ratio, and almost tripling the number of fully immunized children; all between 2008 and 2013. In pursuit of these goals, the Nigerian government has worked to adopt a data-driven approach to its programming. Implementation of this approach has come to depend on the advocacy and support of “data leaders” within Nigeria’s many government agencies. Biyi Fafunmi is one such leader.

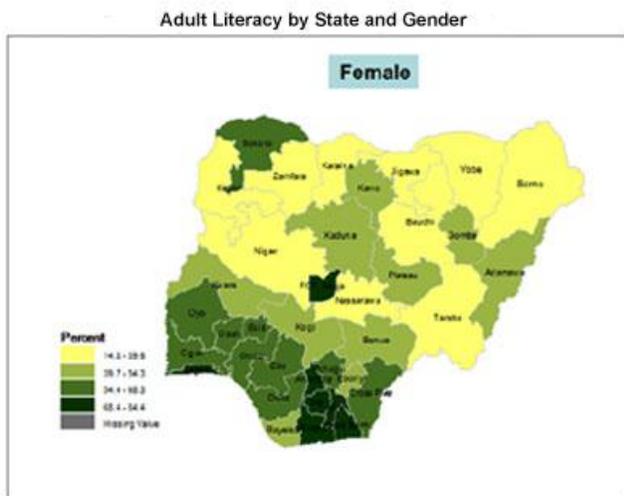


**Biyi Fafunmi**

After joining Nigeria’s National Bureau of Statistics ([NBS](#)) in 2006, Biyi quickly realized that NBS’s staff and stakeholders were not taking full advantage of the data available to them. “I wanted people to understand the usefulness of the data they were producing,” he said.

Later that year, Biyi attended a workshop led by the [DevInfo Support Group](#) where he discovered DevInfo’s rich visualization features. “Using (*DevInfo’s*) maps and charts, it allows users to understand better than simply looking at the tables, rows, and columns to determine which state is doing well,” Biyi said. “Just looking at a map, the different colors speak directly to the situation much more clearly than viewing tables.” Biyi became determined to master DevInfo to demonstrate the untapped potential of NBS’s data.

### Biyi Fafunmi/NBS – MDG Presentation – Adult Literacy (any language) by state and gender





Over the last six years, Biyi has gone on to create nearly a dozen DevInfo databases focused on topics ranging from agriculture, to crime, to HIV. Developed in collaboration with Nigeria’s Statistician-General (SG), these databases have given staff and stakeholders a new perspective on NBS data.

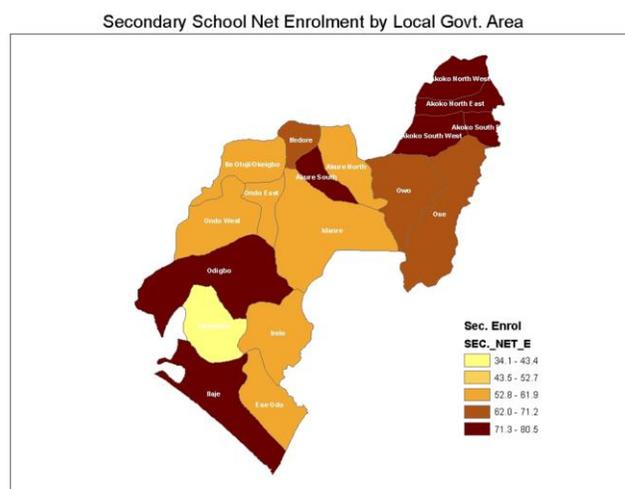
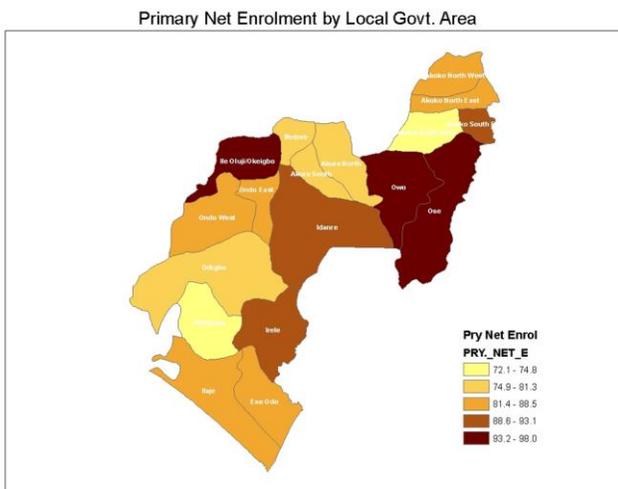
Outside of his work with the SG, Biyi took the initiative to independently develop additional DevInfo databases for use by other agencies. This led him to create and present DevInfo visualizations to a variety of organizations including Nigeria’s [MDG Office](#), [UNDP](#), and [UNICEF](#) Nigeria. In 2011, Biyi went even further when he created a pilot version of NigerianInfo allowing others to access and visualize NBS data. This database, largely a compilation of Biyi’s other DevInfo adaptations, is scheduled to be released on the NBS’s [website](#) in the coming months.

Going forward, Biyi believes DevInfo will continue to be a key tool for monitoring the implementation of Vision 2020. “For the development plan, it’s important to know the trend of the issues in the country – and for that, DevInfo is useful” he said.

### Biyi Fafunmi/NBS – MDG Presentation Nigeria Maternal Mortality Rate



### Biyi Fafunmi/NBS – MDG Presentation – Primary and Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate in Ondo State





# DevInfo

Facts. You decide.

Once [DevInfo 7.0](#) is released this fall, Biyi wants to upload NigerianInfo's data into the DevInfo 7.0 data catalog. In doing so, Biyi hopes that Nigeria's citizens, government officials, and civil society organizations will find additional uses for this data to make more informed data-driven decisions in their pursuit of a more prosperous Nigeria.

*For more information, please contact Biyi Fafunmi, Assistant Director, Information, Communication and Technology Department and Head, Data Management Division, National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria, at [biyifafunmi@nigerianstat.gov.ng](mailto:biyifafunmi@nigerianstat.gov.ng).*