

Dr Henry Victor Doctor, BSocSc, MA, PhD



Henry Doctor is a demographer and public health researcher. He serves as a Coordinator of Information Systems for Health in the Department of Science, Information and Dissemination in the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, Egypt. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and held technical, academic, and research appointments with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Columbia University, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of the Western Cape, Statistics South Africa, and the University of Malawi. His work has contributed to health system strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Prior to his appointment in WHO, Dr Doctor was a research expert at UNODC in Country Office Nigeria where he led the design and implementation of large-scale population-based and aerial surveys to estimate the prevalence of drug use and cannabis cultivation in Nigeria.

Dr Doctor also led efforts to set up Nahuche Health and Demographic Surveillance System in Zamfara State, Nigeria, which was a platform for testing interventions to improve maternal, newborn and child health. To-date, the Northern Nigeria project became one of the successfully delivered and effective projects to be implemented in a low-income, disadvantaged and complex environment. Over a 5-year period, the success stories and lessons learned from implementing the Nigeria Project have been documented in over 20 peer reviewed papers in which Henry was the lead author in half of the publications.

Dr Doctor's research interests include Mortality; Fertility Transitions; Religion and Demographic Behavior; Demographic Surveillance and Longitudinal Health Research; and Health Systems Operations Research. Some of his research has been published in peer reviewed journals such as AIDS; BMC Public Health; Reproductive Health Matters; Maternal and Child Health Journal; Studies in Family Planning; and PLoS ONE.