



## Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund**



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, passed away suddenly during the evening of 4 June 2017 in his home in West Harrison, New York. Born on 6 February 1949, the 68 year-old Nigerian was a physician and global leader of public health, and the empowerment of women and young people, with a strong focus on promoting human rights in population and development.

His professional background was in health and medicine and he had extensive knowledge of the global and national frameworks and processes critical to UNFPA's work.

After his appointment as UNFPA Executive Director, effective on 1 January 2011, he spearheaded efforts in the international community to advance the milestone consensus of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994.

Upon moving into his second term in 2015, Dr. Osotimehin introduced new reforms that increased the effectiveness and efficiency of UNFPA and outlined a more robust vision for improving the lives of women, adolescents and youth around the world with a focus on maternal health and voluntary family planning. He also steered UNFPA's humanitarian action and efforts around eliminating gender-based violence and other harmful practices.

Dr. Osotimehin completed his medical studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1972 and received a doctorate in medicine from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, in 1979. He was named Professor at the University of Ibadan in 1980 and headed the Department of Clinical Pathology before being elected Provost of the College of Medicine in 1990. He previously served as Nigeria's Minister of Health and as the Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of HIV and AIDS, which coordinated all HIV/AIDS work in Nigeria. The UNFPA Executive Director also served in various advisory boards and councils, and chaired the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Demographic Dividend. He was a Global Agenda Trustee for the Forum's Global Challenge on Economic Growth and Social Inclusion, and co-chaired the Family Planning 2020 Reference Group, and also served as Chair of the National Action Committee on AIDS, between 2002 and 2007. Dr. Osotimehin received the Nigerian national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger, in December 2005.

The UNFPA leader truly understood that the 1.8 billion young people in the world are its greatest hope for the future, and his vision inspired staff, partners and heads of state to keep the health and rights of the world's women, girls and youth high on the global agenda.

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin was married and had five children and several grandchildren.