

# Biting Off More Than You Can CHEW: What a Baseline Assessment Reveals about Community Health Workers in FCT and Plateau State

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## Overview

USAID's Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus Nigeria is implementing a multi-year program to build the capacity of public and private providers to deliver quality family planning (FP) services, including long acting and reversible contraceptives (LARCs) through in-service training. In 2018, SHOPS Plus conducted a baseline assessment to inform program start-up and implementation. The data from the assessment provided valuable insights regarding CHEWs/CHOs and their role in FP provision. Prior to this assessment, little information was available about CHEWs/CHOs, specifically their numbers, whether they are currently providing family planning services, and their in-service FP training.

## Task Shifting Policy



The Government of Nigeria developed the Task Shifting and Sharing Policy in 2014 with the aim of increasing access to services currently included in the essential health package. In particular, the policy allows CHEWs to insert and remove IUCDs and contraceptive implants.

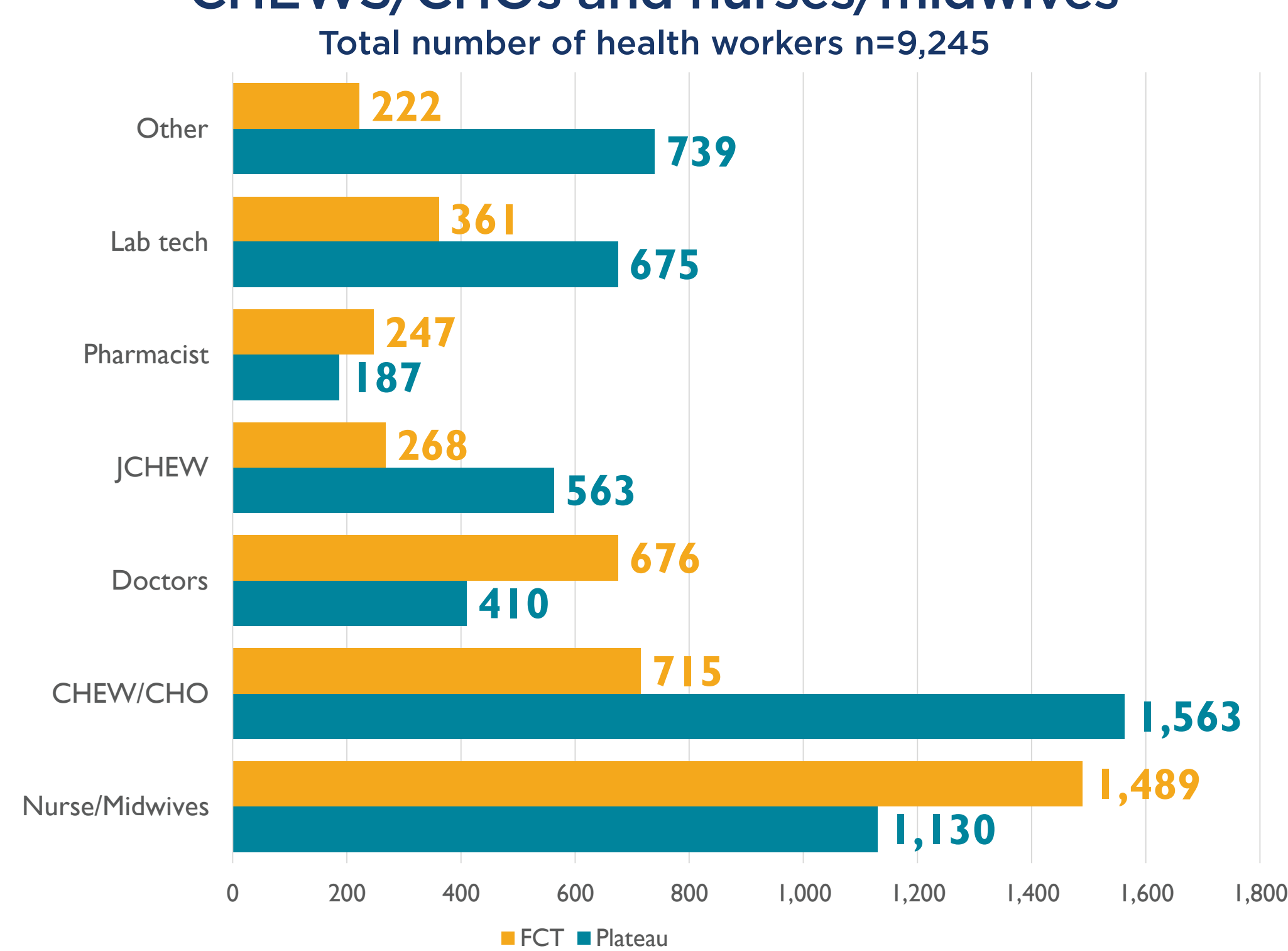
## Methods

- In May/June 2018, SHOPS Plus in collaboration with Hanovia Limited surveyed 1,150 public and private health facilities employing 9,245 health workers.
- The survey was administered to all public and private health facilities known to be providing FP services in FCT and Plateau state according to the Federal Ministry of Health, the FCT and Plateau State Primary Health Care Development Board, and the Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria.
- Data collectors interviewed each facility's officer-in-charge using a tablet-based survey tool.

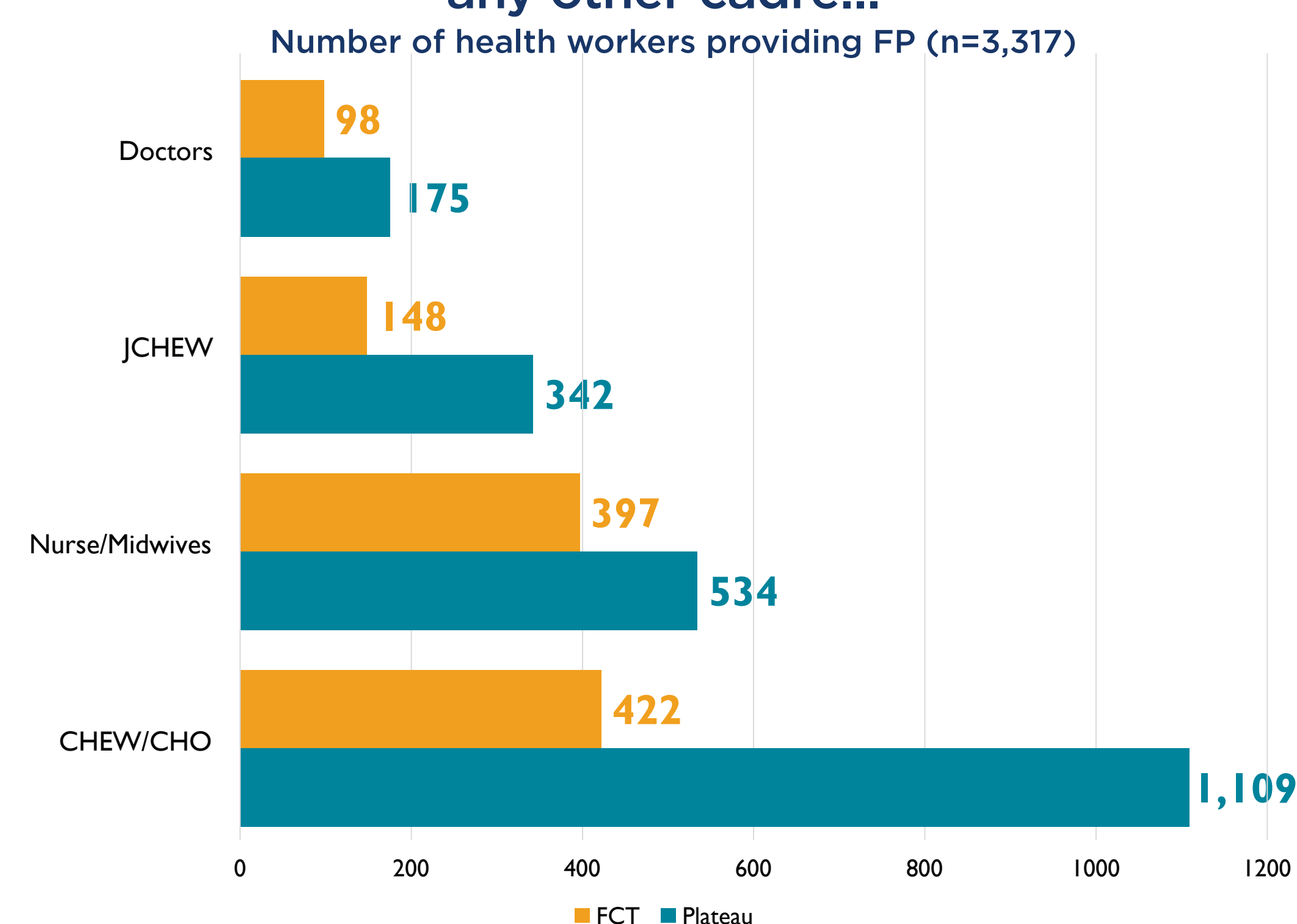


## Findings

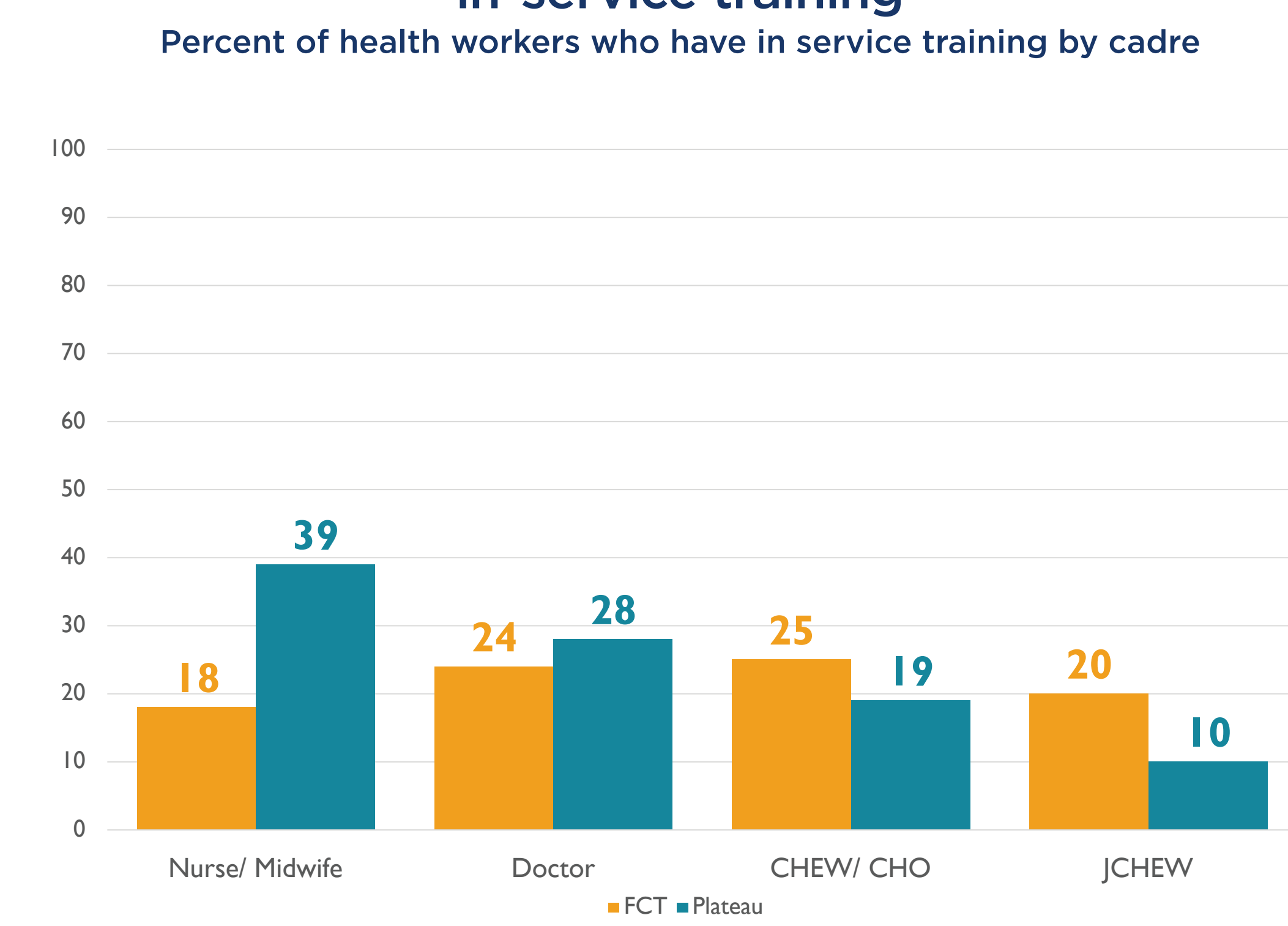
### The majority of health workers are CHEWs/CHOs and nurses/midwives



### More CHEWs/CHOs deliver FP than any other cadre...



### ...however, fewer CHEWs have received in-service training



### Reaching potential clients and supporting choice by building capacity of providers

- SHOPS Plus is increasing access to family planning information and services and supporting the scale up of the task shifting policy. By training CHEWs/CHOs and other cadres in FCT and Plateau, SHOPS Plus is building the capacity of providers to deliver a full-range of FP services.
- In the first year of the project, SHOPS Plus trained 37 trainers and 151 CHEWs/CHOs with an enhanced curriculum that addresses gender dynamics and provider bias leading to 6,077 new users of FP methods.



### As a result of SHOPS Plus training, the percentage of facilities offering LARC services increased from 33% to 45%

SHOPS Plus trained facilities providing LARCs baseline

