



## AS IT IS

# Woman in Mali Gives Birth to 9 Babies

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A woman from the West African nation of Mali gave birth to nine babies, five girls and four boys, on Tuesday.

The mother is 25-year-old Halima Cisse from the northern part of Mali. She originally thought she was carrying seven. A test late in her pregnancy failed to show the other two babies.

The Malian government flew her to Morocco so she could receive better medical care. The babies were delivered by cesarean section, a **surgery** that removes the babies from the **uterus**.

Multiple births are rare. The chance of having even two babies, known as twins, is about one in 80. The chance of having five babies is about one in 40 million.

Mali's health minister is Fanta Siby. She was pleased with the "happy outcome" of the pregnancy. She told the AFP news agency, "the mother and babies are doing well so far." They will stay in Morocco for several weeks.

Doctors in Mali who followed Cisse's pregnancy were concerned about the health of both the mother and the babies. In pregnancies that large, it is rare that all the children survive.

Guinness World Records reports that American Nadya Suleman gave birth to eight babies, six boys and two girls, in California in 2009. All of them survived.

In 1971, an Australian woman, Geraldine Mary Brodrick, gave birth to nine babies, but only seven were born alive.

I'm Dan Friedell.

*Dan Friedell adapted this story for Learning English based on reports from AFP and Reuters. Hai Do was the editor.*

*Have you ever heard of five or six babies being born at once? What about nine? Tell us in the Comments Section and [visit our Facebook page](#).*

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## Words in This Story

**surgery** *-n.* medical treatment in which a doctor cuts into someone's body in order to repair or remove damaged or diseased parts

**uterus** *-n.* the organ in women and some female animals in which babies develop before birth

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