BUDGET BRIEF FOR NIGER STATE
Malnutrition is a condition that occurs when people consistently do not consume or absorb the right amounts, types of food and essential nutrients.

One of the main indicators of childhood malnutrition is stunting—when children are too short for age. Stunted children have poor cognitive and brain development which prevents them from reaching their full potential in life in an increasingly competitive world.

Malnutrition is caused by several factors including lack of food, improper feeding and caring practices, economic and political structures, low status and lack of education among women, etc.

Therefore, a multi-sectoral approach is required for a reduction and eventual eradication of the scourge.

As a matter of urgency, there has to be multi-faceted, multi-stakeholder and multi-level interventions at scale in order to produce substantial outcomes in the short to medium term.

**Child Nutrition Indicators**

- **33.9%** of Children under-5 are Stunted (Too short for their Age)
- **5.4%** of Children under-5 are Wasted (Too thin for their Height)
- **16.2%** of Children under-5 are Underweighted (Too thin for their Age)

NNHS 2018
Infant and Young Child Feeding

Only 45% of children (6-59 months) receive Vitamin A
Only 48.2% of children (6-59 months) receive Deworming tablets
Only 12% are breastfed within 1 hour of birth

NNHS 2018

Good nutrition is not just an outcome of development, but also a driver of economic growth and human development. Every dollar spent in scaling up nutrition interventions targeting the first 1,000 days of life yields a return of at least $16.5.

Furthermore, Undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies during the first 1,000 days of life can reduce a child’s IQ by up to 10 per cent. Undernourished children are therefore likely to complete fewer years of school and have a reduced earning potential of at least 10 per cent of their lifetime earnings. Collectively the costs of poor nutrition as a result of impaired national productivity represent an estimated loss of 2-3 per cent of a country’s GDP, yet these losses can be as high as 16 per cent in some states. Furthermore, it contributes to 45 per cent of deaths of children under 5 years of age and approximately 40 per cent of maternal deaths.

Thus, under-nutrition pushes individuals into a vicious cycle of ill health, poverty, and unnecessary suffering perpetuated across generations.

Improving Nutrition in the Niger state will:

- Reduce Maternal and Child mortality rates
- Promote optimal growth & development
- Increase future earning potential
- Decrease the risk of infectious diseases
Political Commitment for Nutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific Budget Line for Nutrition</td>
<td>Some Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely Release of Funds</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Maternity Leave with pay</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functional State Committee of Food and Nutrition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Budgetary Allocation Nutrition Specific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>BUDGETARY ALLOCATION (N)</th>
<th>ACTUAL SPENDING (N)</th>
<th>BUDGET PERFORMANCE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>198,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>18.18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>137,746,250</td>
<td>74,000,000</td>
<td>53.72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>191,450,000</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Niger state government

### Key ASKs

- **To increase funding for Health and Nutrition** (with reference to 1% Consolidated Revenue Fund for nutrition-Exclusive Breastfeeding, Maternal Nutrition, IYCF and staple food fortification) in Niger State.
- **State Executive Council to approve and fully fund the State Specific Multi-sectoral plan of action for Nutrition**
- **To timely release funds allocated for nutrition in all nutrition line ministries in the 2020 budget and ensure increased accountability/management of released funds**
- **To improve nutrition coordination across the institutional structures documented in the National Policy on Food and Nutrition (NPFN).**

### Acknowledgement

This brief is made possible by Civil Society – Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria with the support of the Partnership for Improving Nigerian Nutrition Systems (PINNS) Project. It is a project designed to strengthen the Nigeria nutrition systems to be more Result-driven, Effective, Serviceable, Efficient and Transparent (RESET). It is being implemented in five focal states namely Kaduna, Lagos, Nasarawa, Kano and Lagos.