Trend Analysis of Nutrition budget in Nigeria

Nasarawa State
The Impact of Malnutrition in Nigeria

Overview of malnutrition in Nigeria

**Vitamin A Deficiency**

- An estimated 200k - 500k children who are vitamin A-deficient become blind every year.

- It may increase children's risk of infection with decrease in growth rates, bone development and the likelihood of survival from serious illness.

**Low Exclusive Breastfeeding Rates**

- Increased incidence of infectious morbidity, as well as elevated risks of childhood obesity, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, leukaemia, and sudden infant death syndrome.

For mothers, failure to breastfeed is associated with an increased incidence of premenopausal breast cancer, ovarian cancer, retained gestational weight gain, type 2 diabetes, myocardial infarction, and metabolic syndrome.

**Unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

- Over 700 deaths daily of children under the age 5 from diarrhoeal diseases due to a lack of appropriate WASH services.

Increased vulnerability to water-borne diseases, transmission of diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera and dysentery, as well as typhoid, intestinal worm infections and polio.

Source: UNICEF
**INTRODUCTION**

**Child Nutrition Indicators**

- **31.4%** Stunting in children under 5-years of age (too short for their Age)
- **5.6%** Wasting among children under 5-years of age (too thin for their Height)
- **20.5%** Underweight among children under 5 years of age (too thin for their Age)

**Infant and Young Child Feeding**

- **58%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Vitamin A
- **40.5%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Deworming tablets
- **23.8%** are Breastfeed within 1 hour of birth
- **Exclusive Breastfeeding rate:** Samples at state level are too low for any meaningful statistical presentation

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018
Part One: **Budgetary Allocation**

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When budgetary allocation for nutrition intervention was adjusted for inflation, the amount allocated for nutrition intervention in 2022 was lower than what the state allocated in 2014.

Per capita allocation for key Nutrition intervention stood at N32.77 per person per annum in 2022, down from 2018 high of N145.53 per person per annum.
Part Two: **Budget Performance Trends**

*Nasarawa State government underspent its Nutrition sector budget despite lower than expected allocation.*

It is quite clear that budget performance for the Nutrition sector is very low. For instance, budget performance was only 30.25 per cent in 2021. That raises a seriously low-budget credibility challenge. The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) framework strongly encourages governments’ actual expenditure to not deviate significantly more than 5 per cent from allocation. Given that Nasarawa state had consistently underspent its budget between 2014 and 2022 (except in 2016), it will be important for the state to improve the credibility of its budget tailored to addressing malnutrition.

**Source:** Nasarawa State Government, Fiscal Tables
Part Three: **Budget Execution Trends**


### Per capita Nutrition sector spending

- **Per capita nutrition allocation in Nasarawa State stood at US$0.05 (N19.30) per person in 2022, the lowest allocation since fiscal year 2019.**

- **Actual expenditure on key nutrition intervention has fallen from the 2018 high of N93.29 per person per annum to N19.30 per person per annum.**

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Source: Nasarawa State Government, Fiscaltables Research, NBS Nigeria
Despite the reiterated commitment to prioritize financing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, this has yet to be achieved. Budgetary allocation for nutrition interventions increased from the 2013 level of N54 million to N99 million in the fiscal year 2022. However, the budget allocation for nutrition intervention in Nassarawa state in 2022 was lower than 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 levels.

When adjusted for inflation, budget allocation for Nutrition intervention by the Nassarawa state government in 2022 remains below the 2014 level. Also, Per capita, the public allocation for Nutrition Intervention has fallen from the 2018 high of N145.53 per person per annum to N32.77 per person per annum in the fiscal year 2022.

Actual public spending on key interventions to address malnutrition has fallen from the 2018 high of N93.29 per person per annum to N19.30 per person per annum. Actual spending on key nutrition interventions stood at N56.57 million in 2022. when adjusted for inflation (using the 2022 price), spending on key nutrition interventions remains below the 2018 level of N417.45 million.

The Nasarawa State government underspent its budget for interventions to address malnutrition despite the lower-than-expected allocation. Budget performance for the nutrition intervention remains very low. For instance, budget performance was only 30.25 per cent in 2021. Efforts should be scaled to address these impediments to ensure smooth budget implementation and improve budget performance, especially for the key nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
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CALL TO ACTION

We hereby call on the government of Nasarawa State;

To timely release nutrition allocation in the 2022 budget across the nutrition line Ministries, Department and Agencies and ensure increased accountability of released funds.

To ensure efficient utilization of released allocations for nutrition intervention as outlined in the state-specific multisectoral plan of action for nutrition.

To increase funding allocation by at least 20% for nutrition in all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies in the 2023 budget.

To fully implement the Nasarawa State Multisectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition by providing adequate funding in the 2023 state annual budget.
TREND ANALYSIS OF NUTRITION BUDGET IN NASARAWA STATE

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