Trend Analysis of Nutrition budget in Nigeria

Niger 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**

- **28.2%** Stunting in children under 5-years of age (too short for their Age)
- **4.7%** Wasting among children under 5-years of age (too thin for their Height)
- **14.4%** Underweight among children under 5 years of age (too thin for their Age)

**Infant and Young Child Feeding**

- **36.3%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Vitamin A
- **12.9%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Deworming tablets
- **71.1%** 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

Budgetary allocation for nutrition interventions increased from the 2015 level of N198.2 million to N2.71 billion in the fiscal year 2022.

Per capita public health allocations

Per capita allocation for key nutrition intervention stood at N398.39 per person per annum in 2022, up from the 2016 level of N9.9 per person per annum.

Population - estimate based on 3.46% growth rate

Source: Niger State government, Fiscal Tables, CBN
Part Two: **Budget Performance Trends**

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The Niger State government underspent its Nutrition sector budget despite lower than expected allocation. Budget performance was only 20.58 percent in 2021.

The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) framework strongly encourage governments’ actual expenditure to not deviate significantly more than 5 per cent from allocation. Given that Niger state has consistently underspent its budget, it will be important for the state to improve the credibility of its budget tailored to addressing issues in the nutrition sector. The trend of budget performance has been on the decline since 2020.

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

Actual spending on key nutrition interventions stood at N204.35 million in 2021, down from the 2020 high of N567.68 million.

**Budget Execution Trends (₦)**

Actual expenditure on key nutrition intervention has fallen from the 2020 high of N89.18 per person per annum to N31.03 per person per annum in 2021.

Per capita Nutrition sector spending

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Population - estimate based on 3.05% growth rate
Summary of key Findings

Budgetary allocation for nutrition interventions increased from the 2015 level of N198.2 million to N2.71 billion in the fiscal year 2022. When budgetary allocation for programs that address malnutrition and other nutrition-related interventions was adjusted for inflation, the amount allocated in 2022 was the highest since 2015.

Execution of the program budget aimed at addressing malnutrition and other nutrition-related challenges continues to be plagued by several impediments, including the low absorption capacity, delayed release of funds, non-release of funds, and complexities in the procurement processes. The Niger State government underspent its Nutrition sector budget despite lower than expected allocation.

Budget performance was only 20.58 percent in fiscal year 2021. Efforts should be scaled up to address these impediments to ensure smooth implementation of the budget and improve budget performance especially for the key nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Actual spending on key nutrition interventions stood at N204.35 million in 2021, down from the 2020 level of N567.68 million. Compared with the population, Per capita nutrition allocation in Niger State stood at N31.03 per person in 2021, down from the 2022 level of N89.18 per person per person annum.
We hereby call on the government of Niger 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 Niger State Multisectoral Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition by providing adequate funding in the 2023 state annual budget.