



Lagos State Nutrition Interventions:

A Trend Analysis of Government Investments





Introduction

Nutritional status of children

Child Nutrition Indicators

(Too short for their Age)



17.2%

Stunting in children under 5-years of age

This means that approximately **1-in-6 children** in Lagos is affected by stunting, which is characterised by a low height for their age.

(Too thin for their Height)

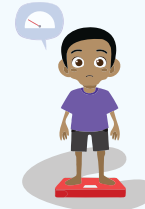


6.4%

Wasting among children under 5-years of age

This means that approximately **1-in-16 children** in Lagos is affected by wasting, which indicates a low weight for their height.

(Too thin for their Age)



13.3%

Underweight among children under 5 years of age

This means that approximately **1-in-8 children** in Lagos is underweight, indicating a lower weight than expected for their age.

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018

Infant and Young Child Feeding



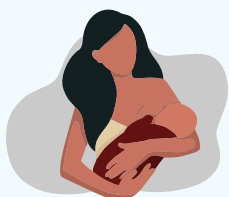
only **78.9%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Vitamin A

Approximately 1-in-5 children aged 6 to 59 months receive Vitamin A in Lagos state.



only **60.6%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Deworming tablets

Approximately two out of every three children (or 1 in 2) aged 6 to 59 months receive deworming tablets



only **58.6%** are Breastfeed within 1 hour of birth

Approximately 1-in-2 children are breastfed within one hour of birth

Exclusive Breastfeeding rate:

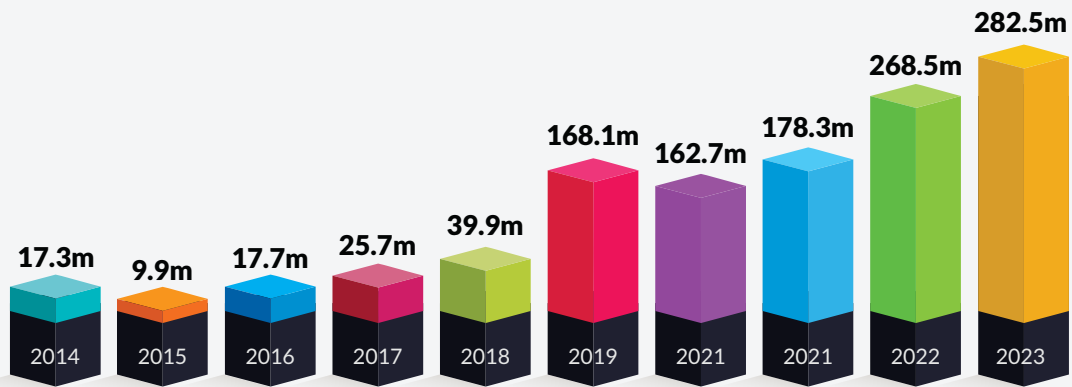
Due to a low sample size at the state level, it is not possible to provide any statistically meaningful presentation of the exclusive breastfeeding rate

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018



Budgetary Allocation

Nominal Budgetary Allocation (₦)

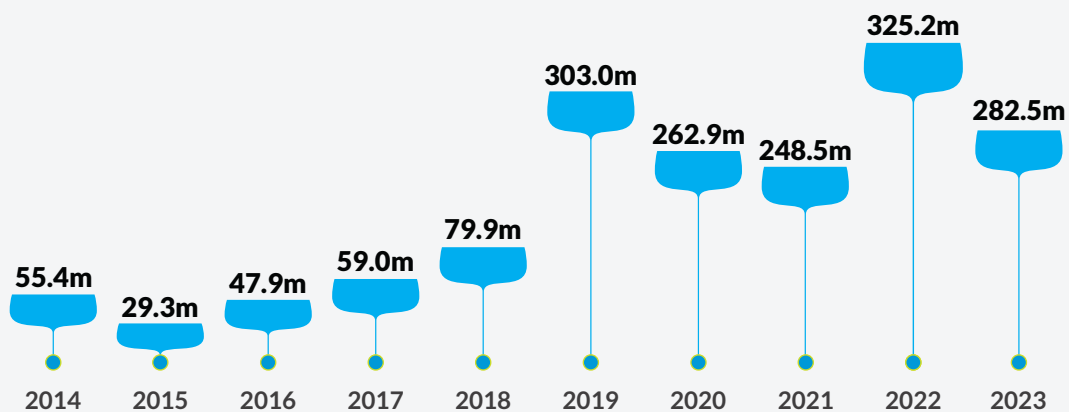


Between 2014 and 2023, budgetary allocations for nutrition interventions in Lagos State have varied. Starting at N17.39 million in 2014, they dropped to N9.94 million in 2015 before rising again, with a notable increase to N39.95 million in 2018. The allocation peaked in 2023 at N275.29 million. Despite these incremental rises, the funding is still insufficient to tackle nutritional challenges effectively. Sustained investment is essential to enhance children's nutrition in Lagos State, as proper nourishment is vital for their healthy development.

Source: Lagos state budget

Analysing Inflation's Impact on Nutrition Intervention Budgets: A Closer Look at Allocations

Inflation -Adjusted Budgetary Allocation(₦)

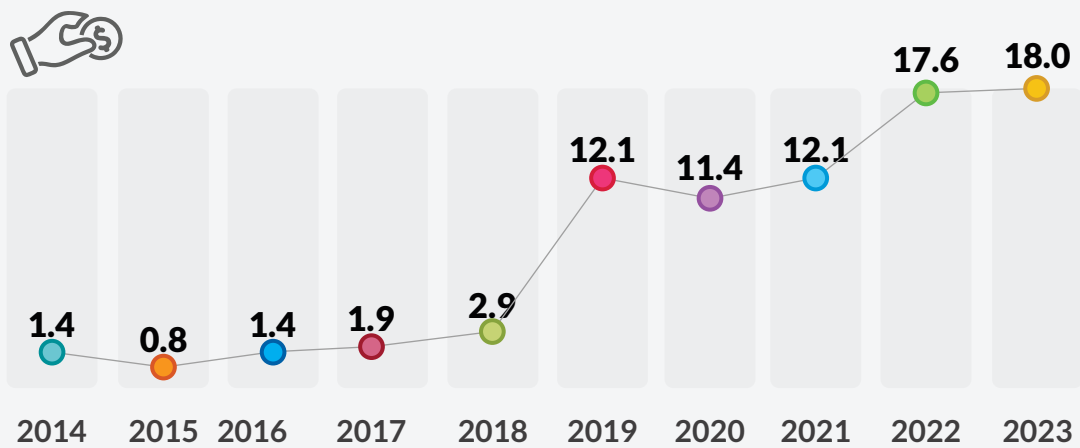


Inflation and Real-Term Budget Changes: Although the nominal budget for nutrition intervention programs rose from N17.39 million in 2014 to N19.94 million in 2015, inflation effectively diminished its real value to N29.34 million. In 2019, there was a significant increase to an inflation-adjusted N303.03 million. From 2016 to 2021, the budget consistently grew in real terms, notwithstanding inflation. However, the 2023 allocation is expected to decrease to N282.59 million in real terms. This underlines the importance of accounting for inflation in budgetary planning, as it can considerably lessen the actual efficacy of funds, even with apparent nominal increases.



Comparing Budgetary Allocations to Population Growth: An Examination of Real Value of Investment in Nutrition intervention

Per capita Budgetary allocation for Nutrition intervention (₦)



**Population - estimate based on 3.25percent growth rate

The nominal budget for nutrition intervention in Lagos has consistently risen, from N17.39 million in 2014 to a projected N282.59 million in 2023. Simultaneously, the population has grown from 11.77 million to an estimated 15.70 million in the same period, based on Central Bank of Nigeria's projections.

However, the per capita public allocations for nutrition intervention have not followed a consistent upward trend. They fell from N1.48 in 2014 to N0.82 in 2015, then gradually reached a peak of N17.66 in 2022, with a slight increase to N18.00 in 2023.

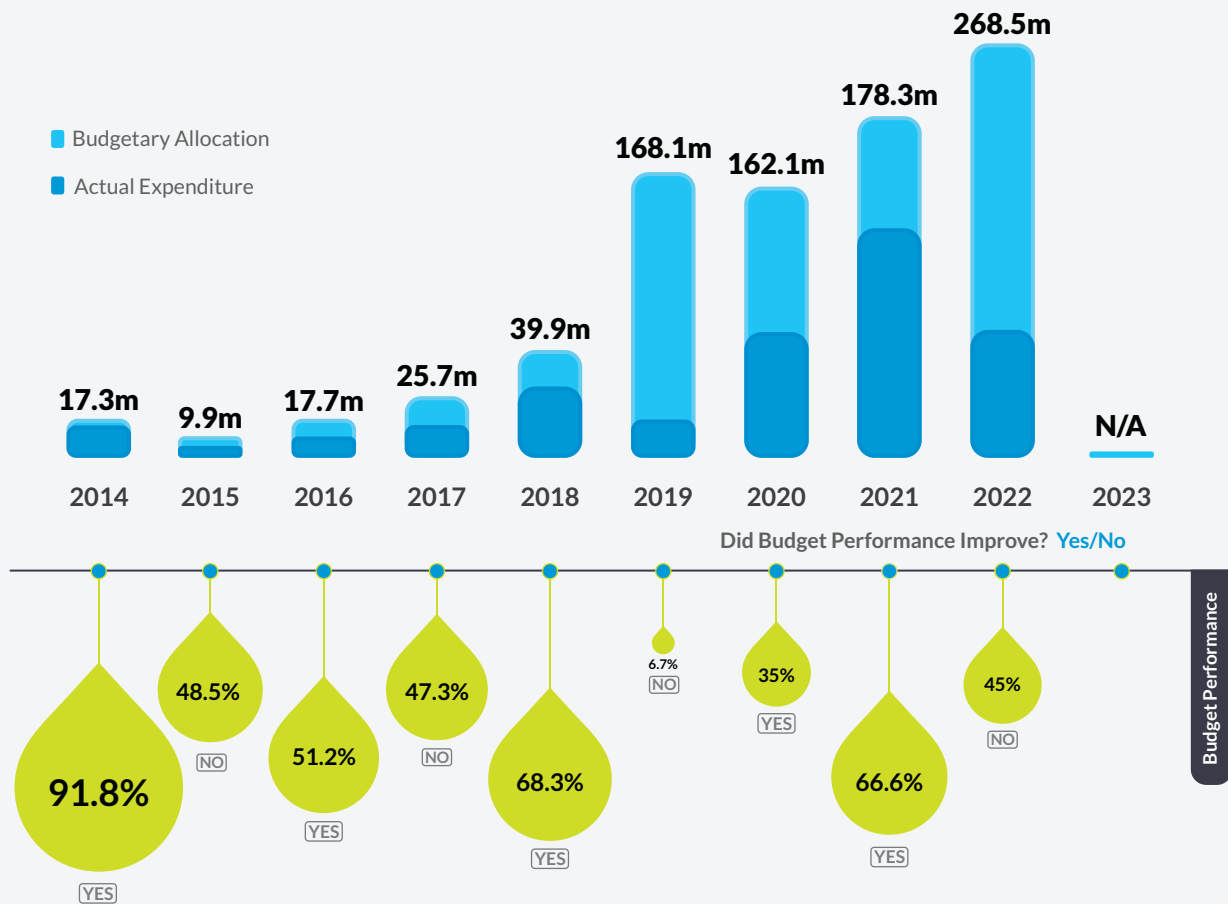
This analysis emphasises the importance of considering population growth when assessing the impact of budgetary allocations. Although the nominal budget has increased, the per capita figures provide a more accurate representation of the actual funds available per person for nutrition intervention. The data reveals that the budgetary allocation is markedly insufficient.

Source: Lagos State government, Fiscal Tables, CBN



Evaluating the Performance and Credibility of Nutrition Intervention Budget Allocations

Budget Performance Trend (₦) ▾



In 2014, Lagos State's nutrition intervention programs were allocated N17.39 million, and 91.84% of this sum was effectively used, signifying an improved budget performance. Yet, performance fell sharply to 48.5% in 2015, despite a lower allocation of N9.94 million. Subsequent years saw fluctuations: a rise to 51.28% in 2016, a fall to 47.31% in 2017, and an increase to 68.34% in 2018. In 2019, with a higher allocation of N168.19 million, performance plummeted to just 6.72%.

This trend implies severe underfunding in the execution of nutrition intervention programs, even with considerable allocations. Performance improved in 2020 and 2021 to 35.00% and 66.66%, respectively, but then declined, falling to 45.00% and 20.37% in 2021 and 2022.

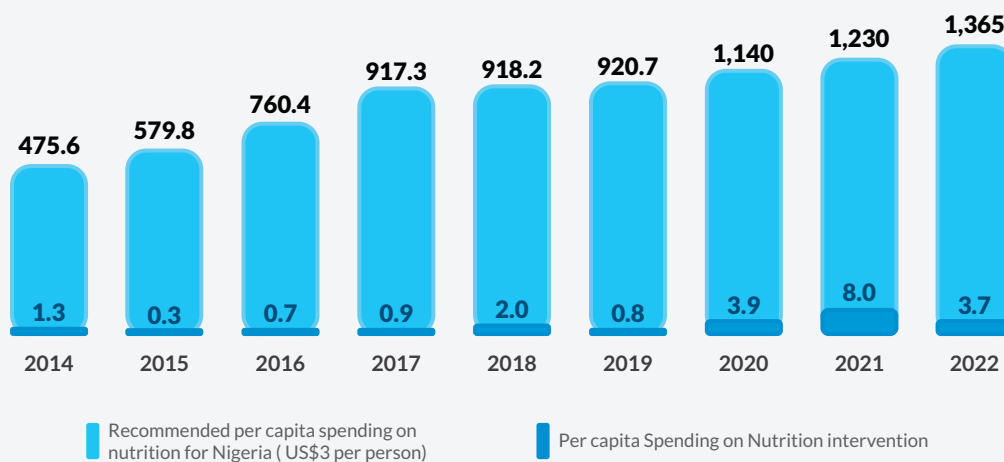
These findings diverge significantly from PEFA's global best practices, which advocate for budget deviations of no more than +/- 5%. This discrepancy demands a critical review and reinforcement of budget implementation mechanisms. The success of nutrition intervention programs relies directly on the optimal use of these budgetary allocations.

Comparing Actual Spending on Nutrition to Population Growth: An Examination of Real Value of Investment in Nutrition intervention



Comparing Actual Spending on Nutrition to Population Growth: An Examination of Real Value of Investment in Nutrition intervention

Per capita Spending (₦) ▼



Indeed, the analysis of per capita spending on nutrition interventions by the Lagos State Government between 2014 and 2022 reveals a cumulative investment of merely N22.26 per person. This figure is alarmingly low when compared to the total recommended investment of N8,308 per person over the same timeframe, based on a suggested per capita expenditure of US\$3.

The Lagos State Government has committed only 0.28% of the necessary investment for nutrition, illustrating a considerable and prolonged shortfall in funding. This marked disparity emphasises a significant and extended underinvestment in nutrition interventions and underscores the urgent need for substantial improvements in the financing of these essential programmes.



Summary of key Findings ▼

This detailed analysis of the budgetary allocations for nutrition interventions in Lagos State, Nigeria from 2014 to 2023 reveals several critical themes and findings.

Inconsistent and Insufficient Funding: While the nominal budget allocations for nutrition interventions increased from 17.39 million Naira in 2014 to a projected 275.29 million Naira in 2023, this funding remains inadequate to address the nutritional challenges in Lagos. Moreover, when adjusted for inflation, the real-term value of the budget is subject to significant reductions, underscoring the need for more sustainable and strategic funding approaches.

Population Growth and Per Capita Spending: The population of Lagos has been steadily increasing during the same period, which compounds the challenge of ensuring adequate nutritional support. Per capita public allocations for nutrition intervention have not seen consistent increases, and despite recent rises, they remain significantly lower than global best practices.

Budget Performance and Implementation: The implementation of budget allocations has been highly variable and often poor, with significant deviations from the global best practice of +/- 5%. In 2019, for example, despite a substantial budget allocation, only 6.72% of the budget was effectively used. This suggests that issues of administrative efficiency, accountability, and perhaps corruption may be hampering the effective utilisation of funds.

Underinvestment in Nutrition Interventions: The analysis of per capita spending on nutrition interventions by the Lagos State Government between 2014 and 2022 reveals a cumulative investment of merely N22.26 per person. This figure is alarmingly low compared to the total recommended investment of N8,308 per person, based on a suggested per capita expenditure of US\$3. The Lagos State Government has committed only 0.28% of the necessary investment for nutrition, illustrating a considerable and prolonged shortfall in funding. This marked disparity emphasises a significant and extended underinvestment in nutrition interventions and underscores the urgent need for substantial improvements in the financing of these essential programmes.

In summary, the situation in Lagos is characterised by nominal increases in budget allocations that are offset by real-term reductions, population growth, inconsistent per capita spending, and implementation challenges. The newly highlighted underinvestment in nutrition interventions is alarming, illustrating a significant shortfall in funding. These issues represent substantial barriers to providing adequate nutrition for the city's children and call for immediate attention and correction.



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