



Nasarawa State Nutrition Interventions:

A Trend Analysis of Government Investments



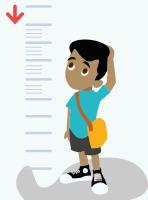


Introduction

Nutritional status of children

Child Nutrition Indicators

(Too short for their Age)



31.4%

Stunting in children under 5-years of age

This means that approximately one in every three children in Nasarawa is affected by stunting, which is characterised by a low height for their age.

(Too thin for their Height)



20.5%

Wasting among children under 5-years of age

This means that approximately one in every five children in Nasarawa is affected by wasting, which indicates a low weight for their height.

(Too thin for their Age)



5.6%

Underweight among children under 5 years of age

This means that approximately one in every eighteen children in Kano is underweight, indicating a lower weight than expected for their age.

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018

Infant and Young Child Feeding



only **58%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Vitamin A

Approximately six in every ten children aged 6 to 59 months receive Vitamin A in Nasarawa state



only **40.5%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Deworming tablets

Approximately four in every ten children aged 6 to 59 months receive deworming tablets



only **23.8%** are Breastfeed within 1 hour of birth

Approximately two in every eight children are breastfed within one hour of birth

Exclusive Breastfeeding rate:

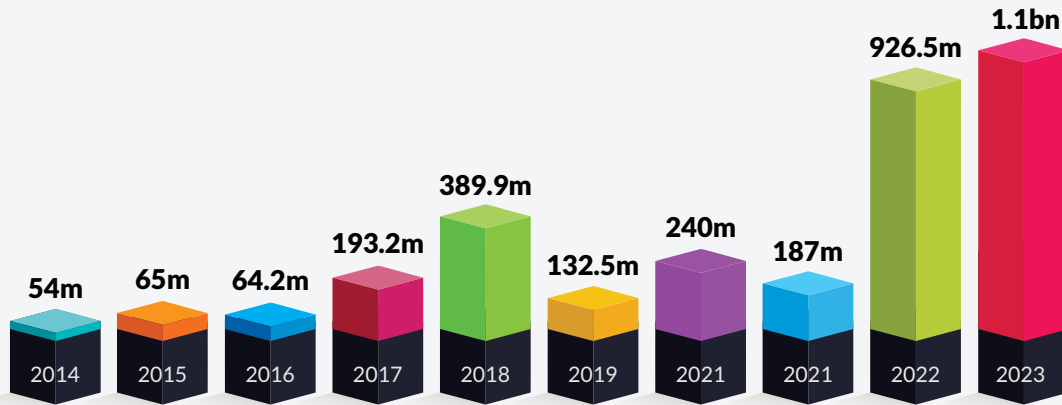
Samples at state level are too low for any meaningful statistical presentation

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018



Budgetary Allocation

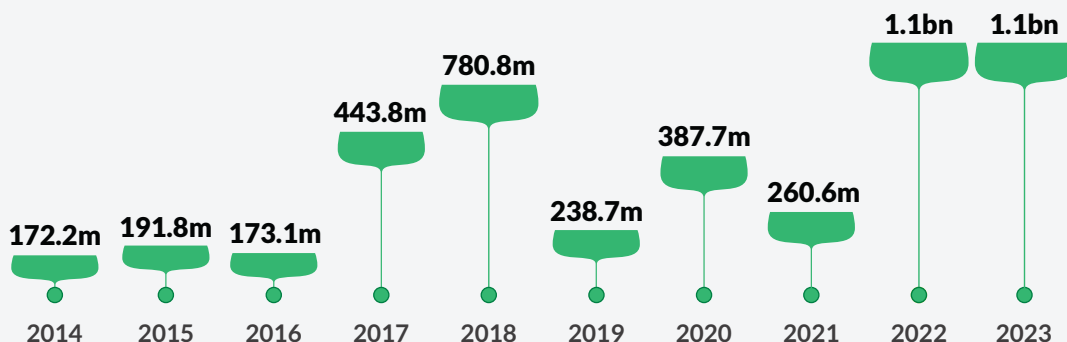
Nominal Budgetary Allocation (₦)



From 2014 to 2023, Nasarawa State's budget for nutrition interventions varied significantly. Starting at N54 million in 2014, it modestly rose to N65 million in 2015, then dipped to N64.2 million in 2016. In 2017, there was a marked rise to N193.2 million, peaking at N389.93 million in 2018. It then dropped sharply to N132.5 million in 2019, with a moderate increase to N240 million in 2020. The allocation decreased again to N187 million in 2021, but soared to N926.5 million and N1.19 billion in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Despite these fluctuations, the funding for nutrition in Nasarawa State remains insufficient to tackle the existing nutritional challenges. Consistent and increased investment is crucial to enhance the nutritional well-being of children in the state, considering the vital role nutrition has in their overall development.

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

Inflation -Adjusted Budgetary Allocation(₦)

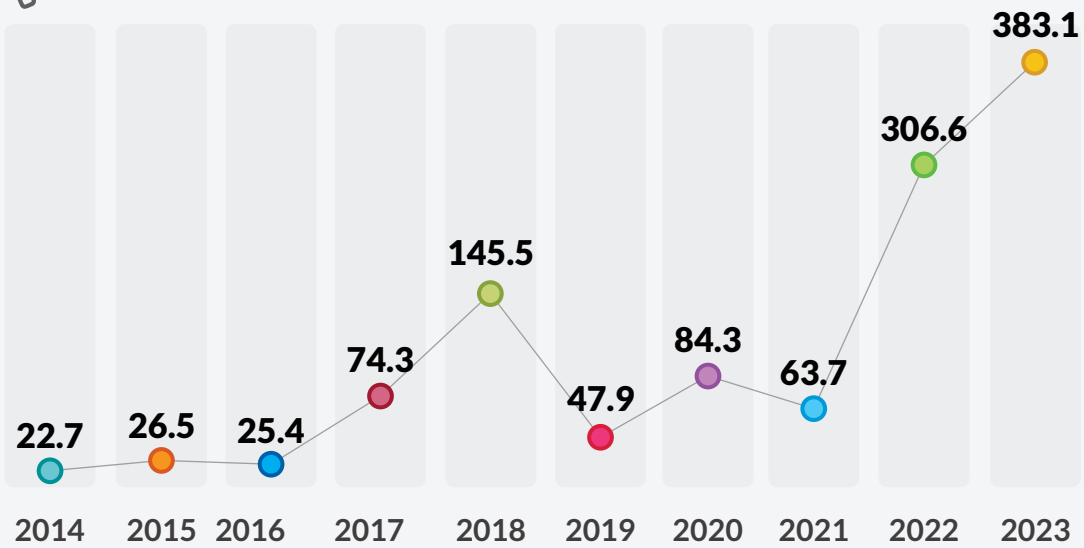


Inflation and real-term budget changes in Nasarawa State saw a nominal increase from N54 million in 2014 to N65 million in 2015, but inflation-adjusted values were N172.28 million and N191.84 million respectively. The budget leaped to N193.2 million in 2017, equating to N443.89 million when adjusted for inflation. From 2018 to 2021, despite inflation, the budget rose consistently in real terms, peaking at N389.93 million in 2018, or N780.80 million adjusted for inflation. In 2022, the allocation sharply rose to N926.5 million, equating to N1.12 billion in real terms, and further increased to N1.19 billion in 2023. These numbers highlight the need to consider inflation in budget planning. Despite nominal rises, inflation can significantly diminish real value, emphasising the importance of inflation-adjustment for precise budgeting and decision-making.



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 3.05 percent growth rate

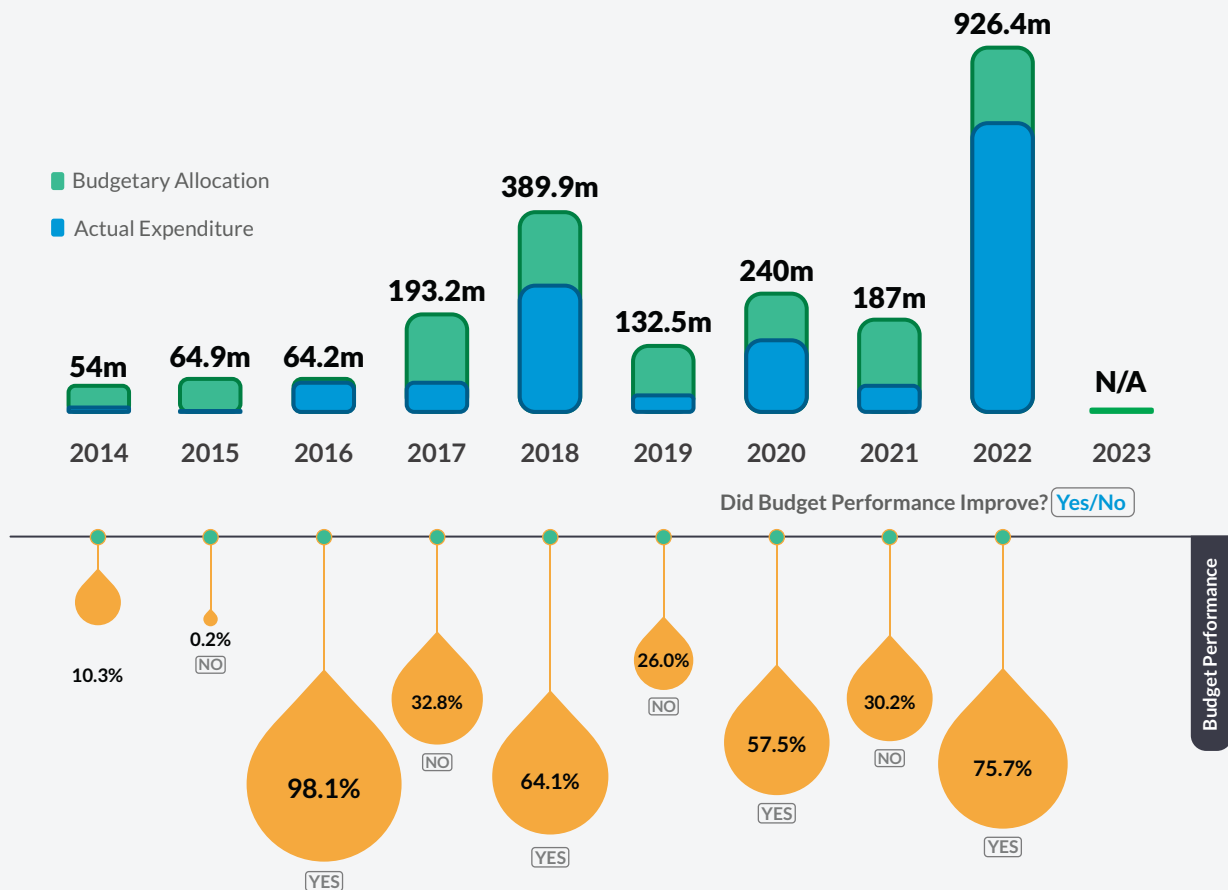
Over the past decade, Nasarawa State's nutrition intervention budget has fluctuated, rising from N54 million in 2014 to N1.19 billion in 2023, with significant variations in between. Concurrently, the population increased from 2.38 million to 3.11 million, but per capita allocations have been inconsistent, reaching N383.13 in 2023.

These trends highlight the need to align budgetary increases with population growth. While overall funding has grown, a more nuanced view of per capita allocations reveals a need for further enhancement to meet the population's nutritional needs adequately. Nasarawa State's efforts, particularly in 2017, 2018, and 2020, are praiseworthy, but continued investment, efficiency, and effective monitoring are essential to improve nutrition outcomes.



Evaluating the Performance and Credibility of Nutrition Intervention Budget Allocations

Budget Performance Trend (₦) ▾



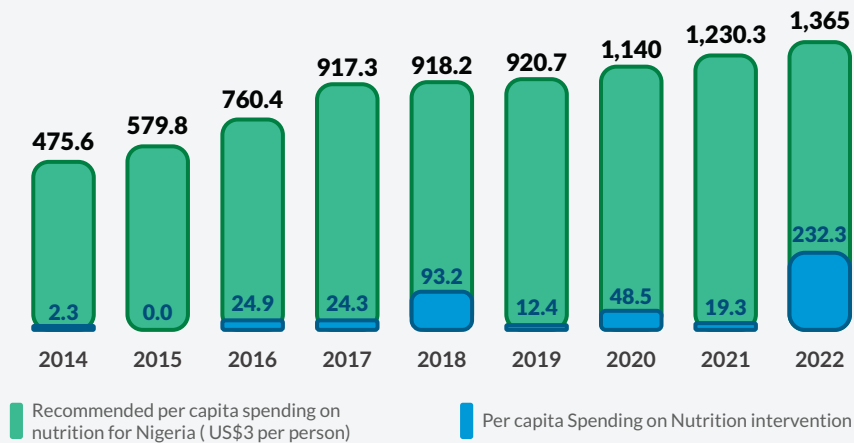
In 2014, a N54 million allocation saw a 10.31% performance. In 2015, the allocation rose to N65 million, but performance plunged to 0.20%. 2016's allocation decreased slightly to N64.2 million, but performance soared to 98.15%. Performance then fell to 32.80% in 2017, despite a higher allocation of N193.2 million. 2018 saw allocation rise to N389.93 million with 64.11% performance, followed by declines in both allocation (N132.5 million) and performance (26.02%) in 2019. 2020 saw improved performance at 57.53% on a N240 million allocation, but declined in 2021, then increased to 75.77% in 2022.

This data reveals stark inconsistency and significant fluctuations in Nasarawa State's budget performance for nutrition interventions, deviating notably from PEFA's global best practice guidelines of no more than +/- 5% deviation. Such fluctuations call for a thorough examination and possible restructuring of the budget process for nutrition interventions. With nutrition's vital role in public health, efficient use of allocated budgets is essential. Enhancing the effectiveness of interventions requires optimal and consistent use of budget allocations.



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

Per capita Spending (₦) ▾



Nasarawa State in North Central Nigeria exemplifies chronic underinvestment in nutritional interventions, with a concerning trend from 2014 to 2022. The investment in 2014 was a mere N2.34 per person, far below the recommended N475.65. In 2015, it dropped to an almost negligible N0.05 per person, against recommended spending of N579.84. This trend persisted, with the gap between actual and recommended spending widening, culminating in a peak underinvestment of N1,211.03 per person in 2021, when only N19.3 was spent against a recommended N1,230.

This sustained underinvestment in nutrition, which directly affects health, wellbeing, and productivity, can have long-term consequences on education, economic growth, and general prosperity. It is imperative for the Nasarawa State Government to take urgent steps to bridge this investment gap. Prioritising nutrition funding is not just an investment in health, but also in the state's future prosperity and development. This investment will foster healthier, more productive citizens, driving the state's growth.



Summary of key Findings

The comprehensive analysis of the budget allocations for nutrition interventions in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, from 2014 to 2023 has uncovered several important findings and themes.

Inconsistent and Inadequate Funding: The budget allocations for nutrition interventions have experienced significant fluctuations from N54 million in 2014 to an anticipated N1.2 billion in 2023. Despite some increases, the overall funding falls short of what is necessary to address the state's nutrition challenges effectively. When inflation is considered, the real-term value of the budget is significantly reduced, highlighting the importance of more robust and strategic funding approaches.

Population Growth and Per Capita Spending: The growing population of Nasarawa State compounds the challenges of providing adequate nutrition support. The per capita public allocations for nutrition interventions have seen inconsistent changes and, despite some increases, remain well below the levels required as per global best practices.

Budget Performance and Implementation: The actual utilisation of budget allocations has been highly inconsistent and generally poor, with major deviations from the global best practice of +/- 5%. In several years, despite significant budget allocations, only a small percentage of the budget was effectively used. This implies that issues of administrative efficiency, transparency, and potential corruption may be impeding the effective use of funds.

Chronic Underinvestment in Nutrition Interventions: The per capita spending on nutrition interventions by the Nasarawa State Government from 2014 to 2022 was starkly below the suggested per capita spending. This demonstrates a severe underinvestment in nutrition interventions over an extended period, which could have long-term negative implications on the state's health, productivity, and overall development.

In summary, while Nasarawa State has seen nominal increases in budget allocations for nutrition interventions, real-term values, population growth, and implementation issues indicate significant obstacles to securing adequate nutrition for its population. Urgent attention and rectification are needed to address these issues effectively, combat malnutrition, and promote healthy development in Nasarawa's growing population. Furthermore, improved data collection and transparency in budget allocations and implementation will be key to achieving these objectives.



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