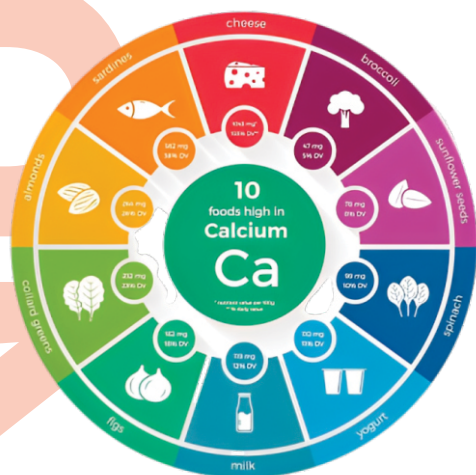




Niger State

Nutrition Interventions:

A Trend Analysis of Government Investments



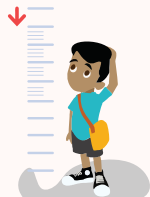


Introduction

Nutritional status of children

Child Nutrition Indicators

(Too short for their Age)



28.2%

Stunting in children under 5-years of age

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

(Too thin for their Height)



14.4

Wasting among children under 5-years of age

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

(Too thin for their Age)



4.7%

Underweight among children under 5 years of age

This means that approximately one in twenty-one children in Niger is underweight, indicating a lower weight than expected for their age.

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018

Infant and Young Child Feeding



only **36.3%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Vitamin A

Approximately one in every three children aged 6 to 59 months receive Vitamin A in Niger state



only **12.9%** of Children (6 - 59 months) receive Deworming tablets

Approximately one in every eight children aged 6 to 59 months receive deworming tablets



only **71.1%** are Breastfeed within 1 hour of birth

Approximately seven in every ten children are breastfed within one hour of birth

Exclusive Breastfeeding rate:

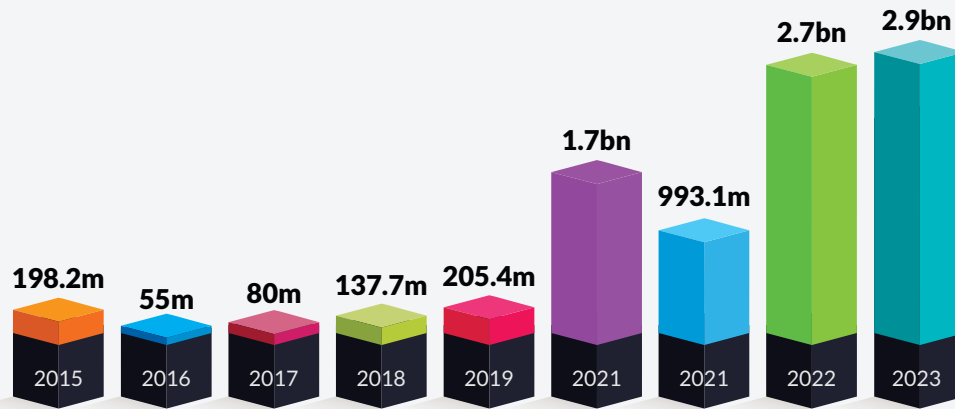
Samples at state level are too low for any meaningful statistical presentation

Source: Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018



Budgetary Allocation

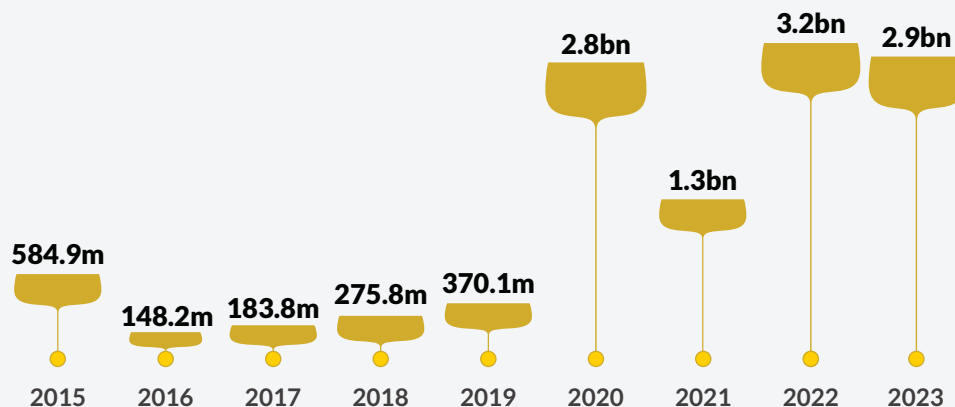
Nominal Budgetary Allocation (₦)



From 2015 to 2023, Niger State's budget allocations for nutrition interventions varied widely. Starting at N198.2 million in 2015, it fell to N55 million in 2016 before moderately rising to N80 million in 2017. It continued to grow, reaching N137.75 million in 2018, N205.45 million in 2019, and surging to N1.79 billion in 2020. Despite a decrease to N993.16 million in 2021, the budget jumped to N2.71 billion in 2022 and peaked at N2.948 billion in 2023, as reported by the Niger State Government. Despite these increases, the funding still falls short of what is required to meet the state's nutritional challenges. Ongoing and substantial investment is vital to improve children's nutritional status in Niger State, given nutrition's crucial role in their development.

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

Inflation -Adjusted Budgetary Allocation(₦)

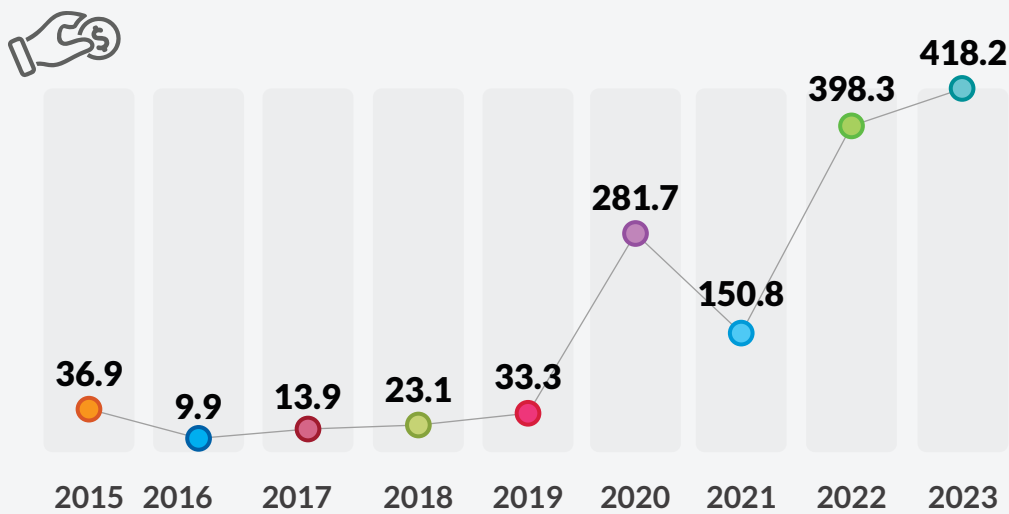


In Niger State, the nominal budget rose from N198.20 million in 2015 to N55 million in 2016, but inflation reduced its actual purchasing power to N584.98 million and N148.29 million respectively. After a significant increase in 2017, the budget consistently rose in real terms from 2018 to 2021, peaking in 2020 at N1.793 billion, or N2.897 billion with inflation adjustment. In 2022, it jumped to N2.714 billion, requiring N3.288 billion in adjusted terms. These figures emphasise that, despite nominal increases, inflation can diminish the real value of funds, highlighting the need for considering inflation in budget planning.



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

Niger state's budget for nutrition intervention has fluctuated over the past decade, starting at N198.2 million in 2015, dropping notably in 2016, then gradually increasing, with significant rises in 2020 and 2023 to nearly N2.95 billion. Meanwhile, the state's population grew from 5.37 million to 7.05 million during the same period. While total allocations have notably increased, the per capita funding for nutrition has seen a complex trend, with an initial increase in 2015 to N36.91, a steep drop, a gradual climb, and then significant changes in recent years, reaching a peak of N418.23 in 2023.

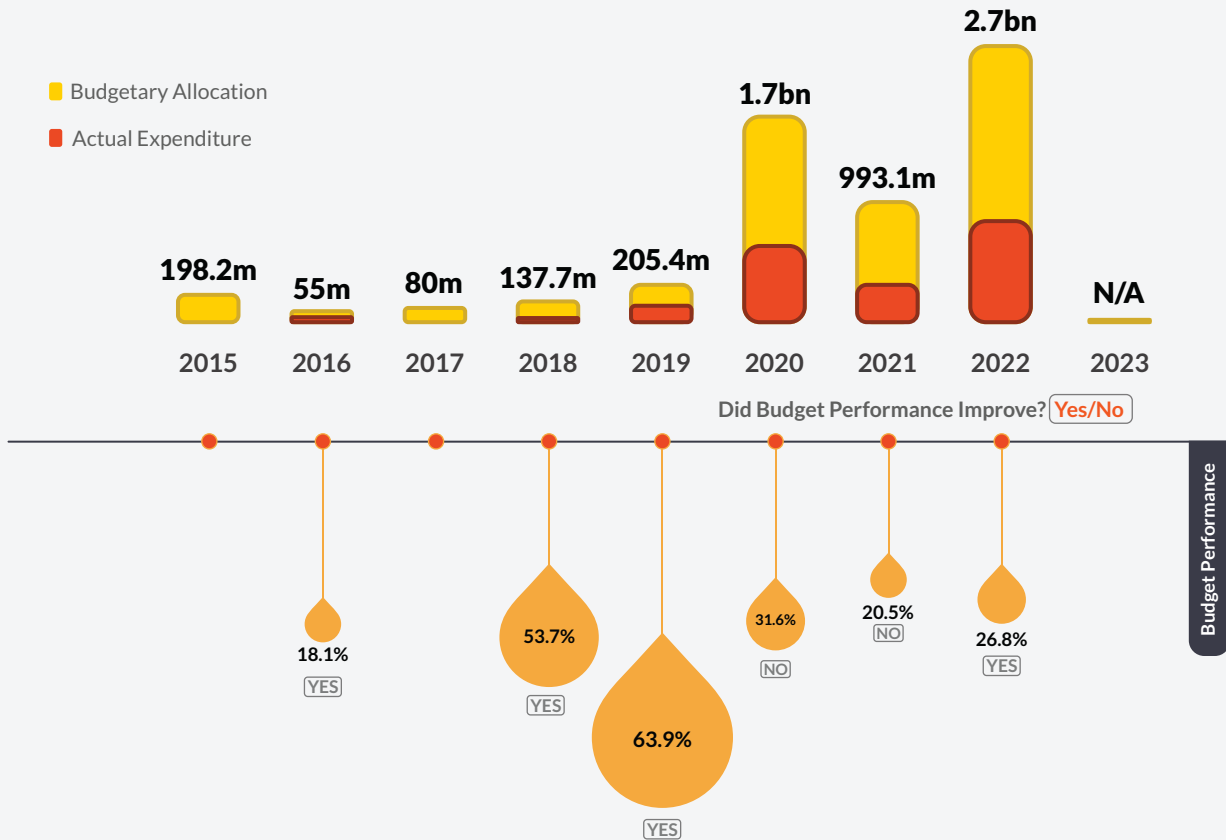
These numbers emphasise the need to consider population growth alongside budget changes. Even with substantial increases in per capita allocation, continuous efforts are needed to align funding with population growth. The state government's recent investment increases are commendable, but sustained and expanded investments are vital to meet individual nutritional needs. Effective resource utilisation and innovative strategies will be essential for maintaining and improving nutrition outcomes in Niger state.

Source: Niger State government, Fiscal Tables, CBN



Evaluating the Performance and Credibility of Nutrition Intervention Budget Allocations

Budget Performance Trend (₦)



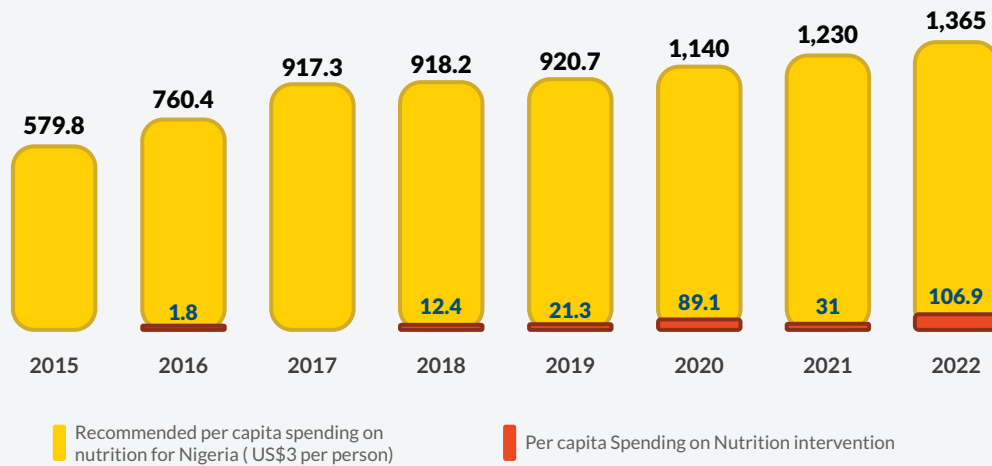
The review of Niger state's annual budget allocations and performances for nutrition interventions from 2015 to 2022 reveals varied commitment and inconsistent results. In 2015, the budget was N198.2 million, with no data on expenditure. The allocation dropped to N55 million in 2016, with 18.18% performance. After fluctuating allocations and missing data, there was a jump to N137.75 million in 2018 and improvement to 53.72% performance. Increases continued through 2019 but dropped sharply in 2020 to 31.66%, despite an allocation of nearly N1.79 billion. In 2021 and 2022, the budget changed to N993.16 million and N2.71 billion, with performances of 20.58% and 26.83%, respectively.

These numbers reveal inconsistent and fluctuating budget performance, deviating markedly from PEFA's global best practices of no more than +/- 5% deviations. The findings call for a comprehensive review and potential reform in Niger state's budgeting and expenditure process for nutrition interventions, emphasising the importance of efficient utilisation to enhance the effectiveness of these programs.



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

Per capita Spending (₦) ▾



Niger State in North Central Nigeria has suffered from chronic underinvestment in nutritional interventions between 2015 and 2022. The data reveals a bleak picture with no recorded spending in 2015 and 2017, and significantly low investments in other years. For example, in 2016, the state invested only N1.80 per person, compared to the recommended N760.47.

By 2022, the gap between actual and recommended spending grew to N1,258.10 per person. This neglect of nutrition, vital for health, well-being, and productivity, raises serious concerns about the potential impacts on education, economic growth, and quality of life in Niger State.



Summary of key Findings

The analysis of budgetary allocations for nutrition interventions in Niger State, Nigeria from 2015 to 2023 reveals several critical findings:

Fluctuating Budget Allocations: The budget allocations for nutrition interventions in Niger State have shown significant fluctuations over the years. While there have been notable increases in some years, such as 2022 and 2023, the overall trend has been inconsistent. From a low allocation of N55 million in 2016 to a high of N2.948 billion in 2023, the funding remains volatile.

Impact of Inflation: When adjusted for inflation, the real-term value of budget allocations fluctuates even more. Inflation has consistently reduced the purchasing power of the allocated funds, highlighting the importance of considering inflation when planning budgets.

Population Growth and Per Capita Spending: The population of Niger State has been steadily increasing during the period under review. Despite some increases in per capita spending on nutrition interventions, the actual amounts invested per person remain significantly lower than the recommended levels. Continuous efforts are needed to bridge the gap between per capita allocations and population growth to ensure sufficient funding for effective nutrition interventions.

Budget Performance and Implementation: The budget performance for nutrition interventions in Niger State has been inconsistent. Some years have seen improvements in budget utilisation, while others have experienced a decline. The overall trend deviates from global best practices, highlighting the need for better budget planning and implementation strategies.

Underinvestment in Nutrition Interventions: There has been a chronic underinvestment in nutrition interventions in Niger State. The per capita spending on nutrition interventions has consistently fallen short of the recommended levels, demonstrating a need for increased investment to address the nutritional challenges effectively.

In summary, Niger State has experienced fluctuations in budget allocations for nutrition interventions, with challenges related to inflation, population growth, budget performance, and underinvestment. These findings emphasise the need for sustained and increased investment in nutrition interventions to improve the nutritional status and overall well-being of the population in Niger State.



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