

ENUGU STATE REVISED 2020 HEALTH BUDGET ANALYSIS

Introduction

On the 28th, March 2020, the two index cases of the coronavirus were discovered in Enugu State. Today the state has recorded 905 confirmed cases under which 485 have recovered and 19 death recorded. To cushion the effect of the pandemic the state government has to emulate the option of amending its 2020 approved budget with the hope of tackling the pandemic and also redistribute the available resources for efficiency. In essence, the revised budget was streamlines along Covid-19 and non-covid-19 emergency responses. This brief critically examines the states of health funding under the new budget arrangement including the family planning funding.

Revised 2020 Budget

The Enugu State Governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi signed into law the revised 2020 budget of N146.3billion on the 29th of July 2020. He revised budget according to him reflect changes in the resource envelope as well as the corresponding adjustments in the expenditure (recurrent and capital) to respond and cushion the recessive consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of the State. Unlike the other PAS-states where the revised health was cut, both the capital and recurrent health budget was increased by 12% and 24% in the revised 2020 respectively. Also, the overall revised health budget was increased by 18%.

The increase in the health budget might be unconnected with various new budget lines to address the pandemic. For instance about 500,000,000 was allocated for the COVID-19: Laboratory equipment, Procurement of Basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other medical equipment in the public healthcare centres in the State; 1.8 billion for the reconstruction of general hospital in Oji River, Awgu and Enugu Ezike; 600,000,000 for the construction of isolation centres in Oji River, Awgu, Enugu Ezike and Orba; 818,000,000 for the construction and equipping of Primary Health Centre Type 3 in seven LGAs in the state, etc. Many existing budget lines were also increased significantly to meet address the health emergency. Such line includes equipping of Enugu State Infectious Disease Hospital (Former Colliery Hospital) which was increased from 39 million to 400 million; purchasing of Ambulance/vehicles for incidence response for evacuation of trauma/infectuous patients or their contacts for testing was increased from 75 million to 250 million, etc.

Therefore, the overall revised health budget to the revised 2020 budget size is 8.7% compared to the 6.4% of the approved budget. This shows that shortfall for the Abuja declaration is now 6.3%.

Table 1: Approved and Revised 2020 Health budget

Budget Components	Approved Budget	Revised budget	% increase/decrease
Recurrent Health Budget	5,167,442,266	6,447,642,289	24.77%
Capital Health Budget	5,710,000,000	6,420,967,500	12.45%

Total Health budget	10,877,442,266	12,868,609,789	18.31%
Total Budget Size	169,557,658,300	146,374,641,080	13.61%
Total Health Budget as Parentage of the Budget Size	6.4%	8.7%	

FIG 1 ■ Approved Budget

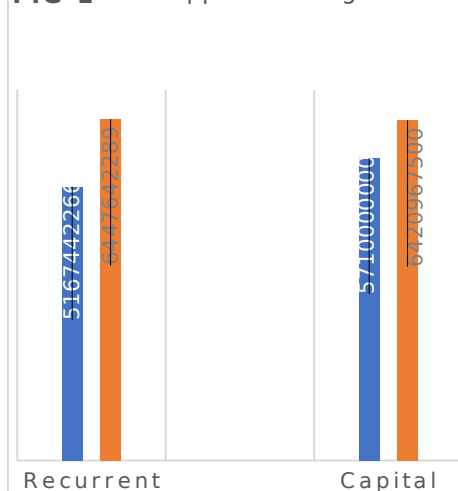
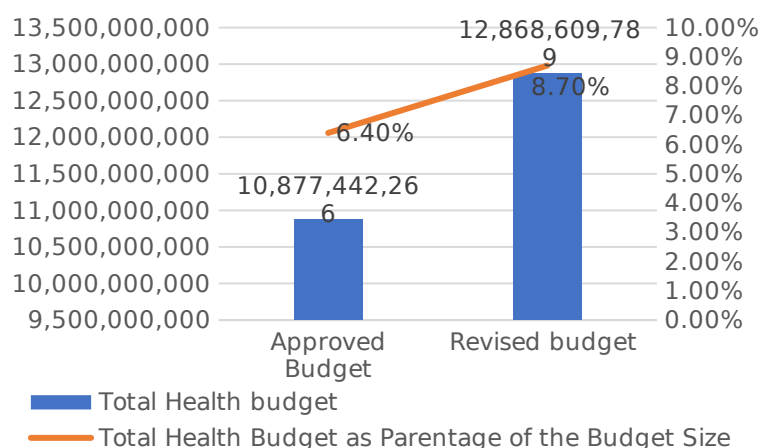


Fig 2: Enugu Revised 2020 Health Budget



Source: Approved and Revised Anambra State 2020 Budget

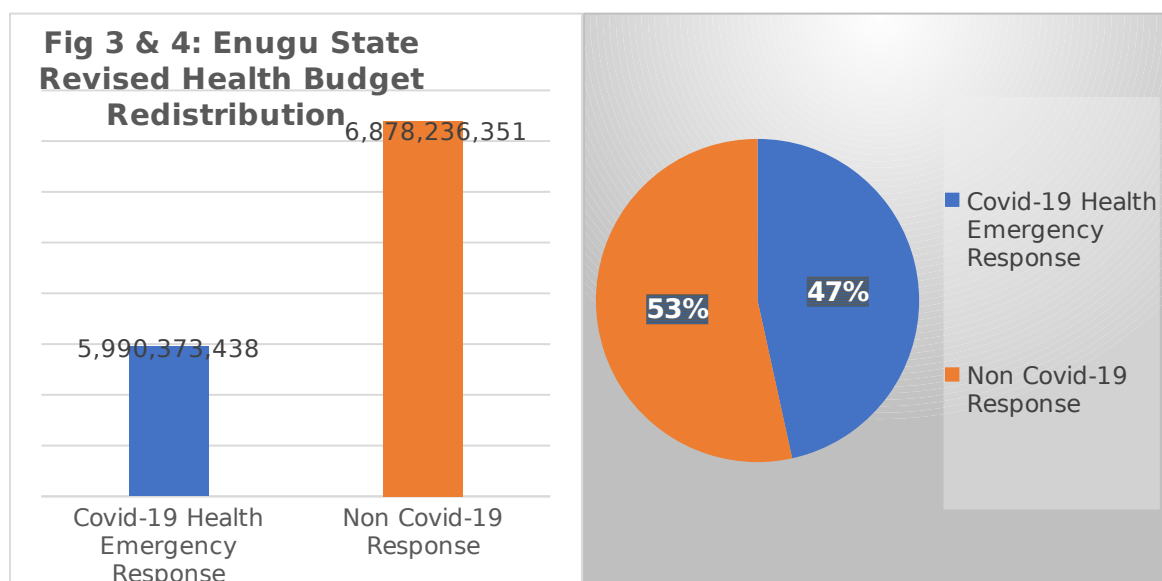
Disaggregation of the Revised Health budget

Because of the pandemic, the revised health budget is classified into Covid-19 and non-covid-19 response. From the 12,868,609,789-health revised 2020 budget, 5,990,373,438 was allocated for the Covid-19 Health Emergency Response while 6,878,236,351 for non Covid-19 health response. The Covid-19 health emergency response constituted about 53% of the total revised health budget while non Covid-19 constituted about 47% of the total health revised budget.

Table 2: Enugu State Revised Health Budget Redistribution

Health Budget Components	Revised Health Capital	Revised Health Recurrent	Total Revised Health Budget
Covid-19 Health Emergency Response	4,661,000,000	1,329,373,438	5,990,373,438
Non Covid-19 Health Response	1,759,967,500	5,118,268,851	6,878,236,351
Total Revised Health Budget	6,420,967,500	6,447,642,289	12,868,609,789

Source: Approved and Revised Anambra State 2020 Budget



Source: Approved and Revised Anambra State 2020 Budget

The State government's efforts towards overcoming the pandemic is further illustrated with the total funding commitment for the health sector compared to other aspect of the state social and economy activities greatly affected by the pandemic. Out of the 24,364,379,118 set aside to fight the pandemic, 5,990,373,438 is for the health emergencies. This represent 24.4% of the total State's covid-19 funding commitment. Given the fact that there is no known established funding threshold on the amount expected to be spends on the health emergency, each state responds based on the available resources and revenue projections. Therefore, the 24% total state Covid-19 funding commitment is commendable. This is because while attending to the health issues, there is also need to improve the economic shock such as the food scarcity, unemployment and the inflation imposed by the pandemic.

Table 3: Covid-19 Health emergency response to total State Covid19 response

Description	Revised Capital Budget	Revised Recurrent Budget	Total Allocation
State Covid-19 Emergency Response	22,143,005,680	2,221,373,438	24,364,379,118
Covid-19 Health Emergency Response	4,661,000,000	1,329,373,438	5,990,373,438
% of Covid-19 Health Emergency Response to State Covid-19 Emergency Response	21%	59.8%	24.4%

Source: Approved and Revised Anambra State 2020 Budget

Revised Budget and Family Planning

Family planning is one of the key major PAS-issue areas. Between 2015 and 2020, the state government has allocated 98,410,400 for Family planning related issues such as Family Planning & population control programme; child and adolescent reproductive health programme; and reproductive health programme-improve reproductive. Within these six years period, only 43,910,400 once release in 2015 (constituting about 44.6%). In the 2020 fiscal year, 19,740,000 was allocated but was cut by 24% in the revised 2020 budget. In essence, the government's commitment to FP is low (See table 4 below).

Table 4: Family Planning 2020 Revised Budget Cut

FP budget lines	Approved 2020 health budget	Revised 2020 Health Budget	% Cut
Family Planning (FP) Programme	9,500,000	4,750,000	50%
Reproductive Health Programme- Improve reproductive Health through Infection Prevention and Control skill acquisition, focused Antenatal care/Post Natal Care, and training of doctors on Advanced Life Saving Skills (ALSS)	5,000,000	5,000,000	Nil
Advocacy for child and adolescent reproductive health programme	5,000,000	5,000,000	Nil
Total	19,500,000	14,750,000	24.3%

Source: Approved and Revised Anambra State 2020 Budget

Findings

- I. The Enugu State government increased its health budget by 18%.
- II. The revised health budget was classified as Covid-19 and non-covid-19 health responses. While the covid-19 health emergency response constitutes about 53% of the total revised health budget, non-covid-19 health response constituted about 47%.
- III. 24% of the total state budgetary allocation on Covid-19 is set aside for the health sector. This ranges from the construction and equipping of primary health centres across the state, laboratory equipment to payment of the health workers hazard allowances.
- IV. The Health budget compared to the total budget size increased from 6.4% in the approved budget to 8.6% in the revised budget.
- V. Lastly, family planning funding was reduced by 24.3%.

Recommendations

- I. Effective monitoring of disbursement of the allocated fund is key.
- II. The civil society must ensure that the 47% health budget allocated for the non-covid-19 response is releases and utilized appropriately.

- III. Although most of the covid-19 intervention in the revised budget are also to address the health-related issues as noted above, there is a need to pay more attention to the non covid-19 health-related issues. This is because significant numbers who are not Covid-19 virus positive and are suffering from various ailments ranging from cancer to malaria also need prompt affordable, accessible and quality health care in their various domains in the state.