

Annual budgetary allocation for Family Planning in West Africa

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Executive Summary

This concept note focuses on the review of the annual budgetary allocation to family planning in the five selected West African countries, namely Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. The aim is to compare the amount the selected countries allocated to family planning annually. It was discovered that although the five countries have dedicated budget lines for family planning, and are consistent in the budgetary allocation, there was evidence of dwindling allocation among the country over the six (6) years period.

Background

Family planning has been proven to be one of the means of preventing maternal and child mortality. Often time, domestic allocations for family planning budgets are minimal compared to the total funding needed to deliver quality programs and care. In July 2012 and subsequently 2017, global community of FP stakeholders came together for the London Summit on Family Planning in pursuit of an ambitious yet essential goal; ensuring 120 million additional women and girls in the world's 69 poorest countries have access to effective family planning information and services by the year 2020. At this conference, many West African countries including Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Liberia, etc. made series of commitments particular on the need to increase their annual allocation to family planning for better result.

Objective

The concept not is crafted with the following objectives:

1. Examines the annual West African countries funding commitment to family planning in the annual budget documents.
2. Compare the FP budget allocation trend among selected five West African Countries.

Target Indicator

The target indicator is the annual expenditure on family planning from the government's domestic budget.

Methodology

The concept note is based on the review of the policy document and statistics from five West African francophone and Anglophone African countries namely Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone between 2016 and 2021. The annual budget allocation for Family planning was used as the basis for measuring the commitment to family planning programs and compare for references.

Domestic Funding for FP in Selected West African Countries

Giving the series of commitments made by many Africa countries over the past years to increase their budgetary allocation to family planning, many of them translated the commitment into reality with dedicated budget lines in their various annual fiscal documents. With a dedicated family planning budget of \$744,006 in 2017, the government of Ivory Coast increased allocation to \$930,000 in the 2018 (25% increase) fiscal year. In Liberia, the sum of \$90,000 was allocated for the family planning supplies and subvention to Family Planning Association in the country. This was reduced drastically to \$10,000 in 2021. While there was no allocation to the family planning supplies in 2018 and 2019, the country did not budget any funds as subvention to the family planning association in the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years.

In Nigeria the situation is not different, in 2016, the sum of about \$3.1 million was allocated for related FP activities, this was reduced to N1.2 billion (about \$3.1 million) in 2020 and subsequently reduced to \$2.1 million in 2021 Fiscal year. The total amount allocated in 2020 has been released. The \$3.1 million 2020 allocation is a fulfillment of the government commitment in 2017, even it was weakened by the exchange rate. The 2019 allocation also had a shortfall of 75%.

Table 1: FP Budget Allocation 2016-2021 in US\$

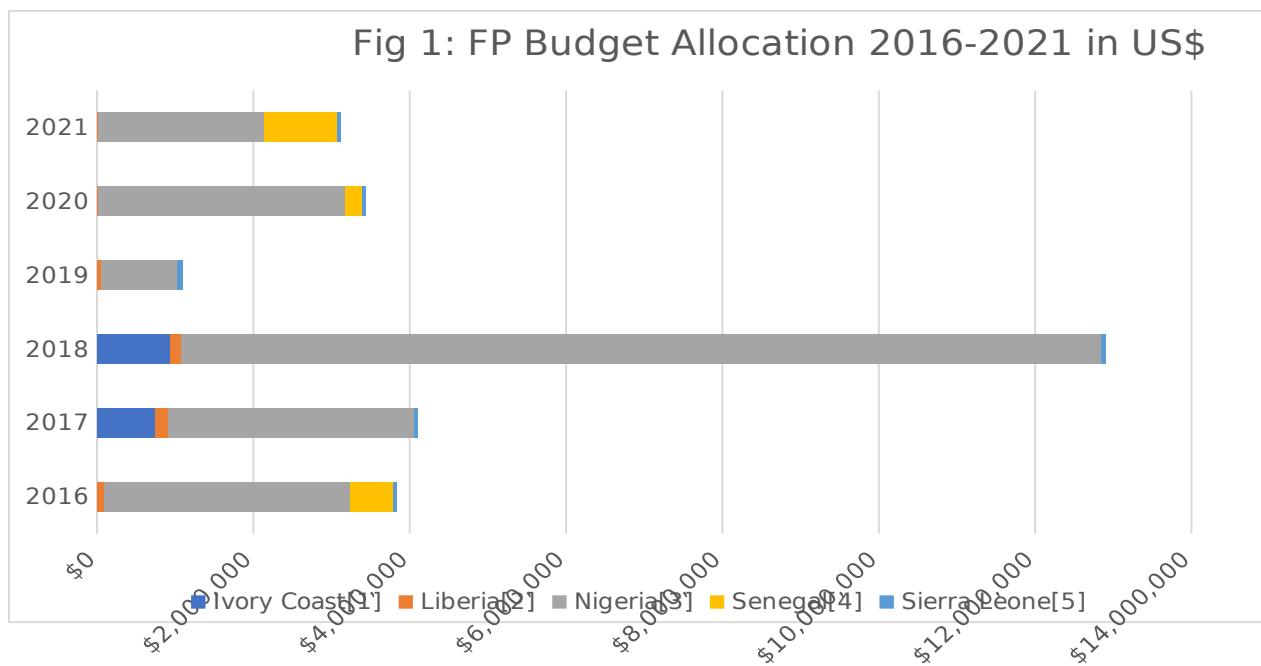
West Africa						
Countries	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ivory Coast ¹	N.A	\$744,006	\$930,000	N.A	N.A	N.A
Liberia ²	\$90,000	\$160,000	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

¹ Côte d'Ivoire Allocates US \$930,000 to Purchase Contraceptives in 2018, <https://www.advancefamilyplanning.org/cote-divoire-allocates-us-930000-purchase-contraceptives-2018>

Nigeria³	\$3,145,589	\$3,159,333	\$11,760,862	\$977,517	\$3,166,226	\$2,134,564
Senegal⁴	\$555,607	N..A	N.A	Nil	\$216,686	\$926,000
Sierra Leone⁵	\$45,512	\$45,512	\$60,590	\$72,221	\$44,561	\$51,743

Source: Compiled by the author.

It could also be observed from the above table that while the sum of \$555,607 was allocated for family planning in Senegal in 2016, no fund was allocated in 2019 and the amount allocated in 2020 was \$338,921 less than the 2016 allocation. Although this was further increased to \$926,000 in 2021 fiscal year. The US\$926,000 budgeted by Senegal's Ministry of Health and Social Action for FP in 2021 was in alignment with the country's FP2020 commitment. This reverses the trend of decline in this allocation between 2016 (CFA 300 million) and 2019 and 2020 CFA 117 million (approximately \$216,686). It was part of the means to support the annual contraceptive needs of approximately 160,000 family planning users.



² The Liberia budget is prepared in dollars. See "Liberia Budget documents", <https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/docs/the-national-budget>

³ The annual budget estimate in US\$ is based on the official exchange rate for each year: 253.5 in 2016, 305.8 in 2017, 306.1 in 2018, 306.9 in 2020, 379 in 2020 and 2021.see "Nigeria - Official exchange rate", <https://knoema.com/atlas/Nigeria/topics/Economy/Financial-Sector-Exchange-rates/Exchange-rate>

⁴ Senegal Increases Government Budget for Health, Including Family Planning
<http://www.healthpolicyplus.com/impacts.cfm?country=126>

⁵ Sierra Leone Annual Budget, <https://mof.gov.sl/annual-budget/> The fund is based on the US\$1 to SLL 10,094 to Sierra Leone, see "US Dollar (USD) to Sierra Leone (SLL) exchange rate history", <https://www.exchangerates.org.uk/USD-SLL-exchange-rate-history.html>

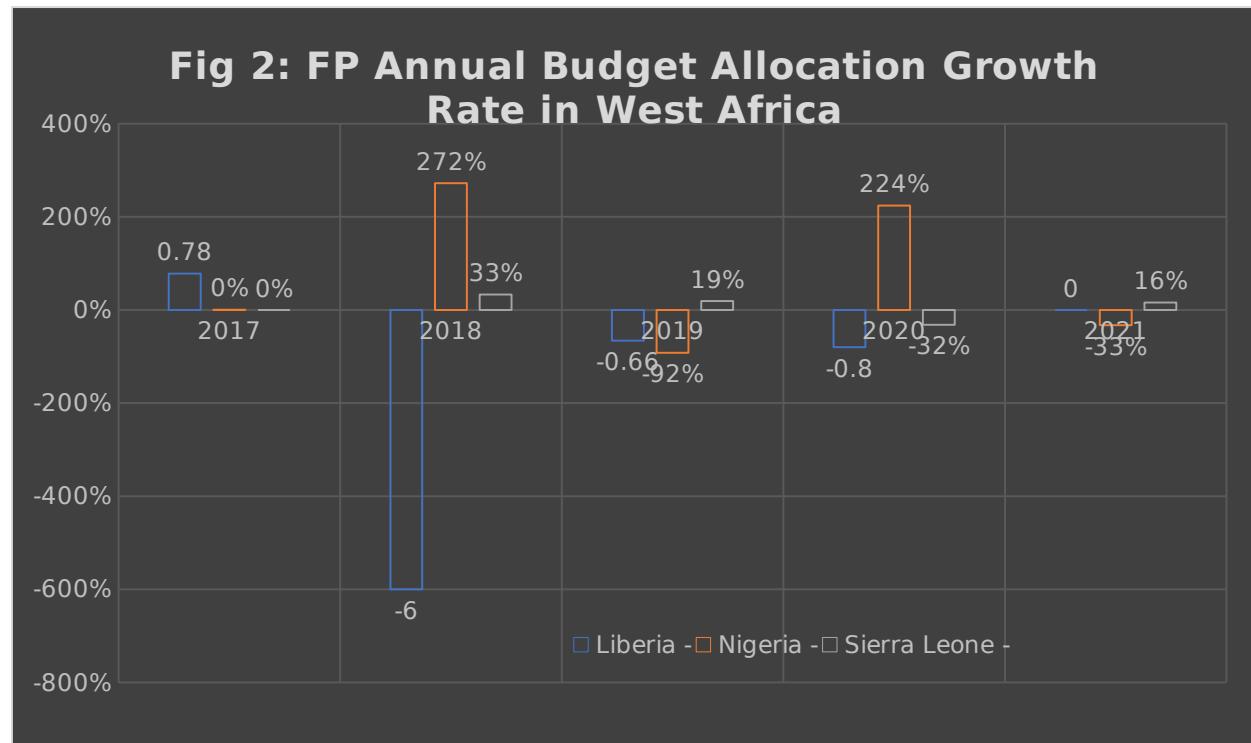
A cursory look at the budgetary allocation to FP in Sierra Leone also shows a dwindling trend. While the FP budget was increased from \$45,512 in 2016 to \$72,221 in 2019, the allocation was reduced to \$44,561 in 2020 and subsequently increased to \$51,743 in 2021.

Annual FP Allocation Growth

The nominal growth in the Anglophone West African countries in table 2 below shows that Nigeria has the highest budget for family planning between the five years, 2017 and 2021. The family planning budget allocation only grew by -74% in five years in Liberia and 36% within the same period in Sierra Leone.

Table 2: FP Annual Allocation Growth

Years	Liberia	Nigeria	Sierra Leone
2017	78%	0.4%	0%
2018	-6	272%	33%
2019	-66%	-92%	19%
2020	-80%	224%	-32%
2021	0%	-33%	16%
Average Growth	-74%	371.4	36



Discussion

It could be deduced from the above that there is consistency in the annual budgetary FP allocation in Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone, even though there was evidence of a decrease in the past years. While countries like Senegal and Sierra Leone increased their annual 2021 FP spending, this was reduced in Nigeria and no cut was witnessed in Liberia when compared to the 2020 budget.

In terms of growth rate, while Liberal family planning allocation only had a single growth rate in 2017, the country FP funding has been on negative growth since 2018 and remain static in 2021 with no increase or decrease whatsoever. In Nigeria, the FP domestic allocation was increased by 0.4% in 2017, 272% in 2018 and was negative in 2019. It raised again by 224% and entered negative again in 2021. On average, Nigeria has an average FP allocation growth rate of 371.4% in the five years. Sierra Leone increased its FP allocation annually until 2020 when it was reduced by 32%. It rose again in 2020 by 16% and on average, the country has a 36% growth rate in the five years.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper has examined the annual allocation to family planning in the five selected West African countries and has established that the selected countries allocate funds to family planning annually except where no information is available on the actual allocation annually. It also demonstrated that some of the allocated funds was on decrease except for Senegal and Sierra Leone when considering the latest allocation for 2021 compared to the previous 2020 fiscal year. It is, however, recommended that there is a need to increase domestic resource mobilization for family planning from the government, the private sector, and the public. Domestic government funding that is predictable and reliable is especially critical for sustainability. The government should ensure that the allocated fund is in alignment with the countries FP costed implementation plan for effective and implementation and productivity.

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