



Strengthening Nutrition Financing in Nigeria for Vulnerable Groups: A Multisectoral Analysis of the 2025 Federal Budget and State-Level Commitments



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Executive Summary

The 2025 Federal Government of Nigeria's nutrition budget, as analysed by the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC), reflects a commitment to addressing the nation's escalating malnutrition crisis through a multisectoral approach. With a total allocation of ₦170.42 billion, marking a 33.92% increase from 2024, the budget prioritizes direct interventions, notably the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (₦100 billion) and maternal and child health initiatives. This funding, representing a 749% increase over five years, aligns with the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (NMPFAN) 2021-2025,

surpassing the federal government's expected contribution by 1,092%. Despite this progress, significant cuts in capacity building (74.9% decrease) and advocacy (4.28% decrease) funding could hinder long-term sustainability, while inflation and resource allocation inefficiencies remain critical challenges.

At the state level, nutrition financing reveals stark disparities in commitment and prioritization. Kaduna State leads with an unprecedented ₦47.58 billion (6.02% of its budget), integrating health, education, WASH, and livelihood support to address malnutrition comprehensively. States like Kano (1.00%) and Gombe (1.63%) also demonstrate strong multisectoral strategies, emphasizing school feeding, WASH infrastructure, and community engagement. However, states such as Jigawa (0.13%), Niger (0.26%), and Plateau (0.27%) allocate minimal budget shares, limiting their capacity for high-impact interventions. The sparse inclusion of specific line items for micronutrient supplementation, such as Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) and Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS), particularly in states like Ebonyi and Jigawa, underscores gaps in targeted programming for vulnerable populations like pregnant women and adolescent girls.

The report highlights the need for balanced funding across all nutrition categories, enhanced inter-sectoral coordination, and increased state-level budget transparency to optimize nutrition outcomes. Recommendations include institutionalizing coordination mechanisms, scaling evidence-based programs, and strengthening data systems for monitoring and evaluation. Civil society organizations and development partners are urged to advocate for equitable funding, provide technical support, and align interventions with national priorities. Citizens are encouraged to engage in nutrition education and hold governments accountable to ensure timely and effective delivery of nutrition services, fostering sustainable progress toward Nigeria's nutrition and food security goals.

About dRPC

The development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing sustainable development, research, and capacity building across Nigeria and beyond. Established to bridge the gap between policy, practice, and community impact, dRPC focuses on generating evidence-based solutions to address socio-economic challenges. Through collaborative partnerships with governments, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international development agencies, dRPC drives initiatives in areas such as health, education, livelihood, poverty and economic empowerment, democracy and good governance, climate action, peace and humanitarian, and gender equality.



The organization conducts rigorous research, implements innovative projects, and provides technical assistance to support informed decision-making and inclusive development. With a commitment to empowering local communities, dRPC emphasizes participatory approaches, ensuring that marginalized groups, including women and youth, are central to its programs. Over the years, dRPC has built a reputation for delivering high-impact interventions that align with global development goals, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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1.0 Context

The Federal government of Nigeria presented the 2025 Appropriation Bill, titled the "Budget of Restoration: Securing Peace and Rebuilding Prosperity," to the National Assembly in December 2024 with a total expenditure of ₦49.7 trillion. This budget increased by 41.9% increase from 2024 in naira terms. While some ministry received more funding, other experience cut in their budgetary allocation. For instance, the healthcare allocation increased by 58.53% in naira terms, from ₦1.62 trillion in 2024 to ₦2.56 trillion in 2025. The agriculture budget reduced by -68.14 from ₦996.9bn in 2024 to ₦636.1 bn 2025. Water resources funding reduced by -

28.6% from ₦296.6bn in 2024 to ₦211.79bn. The National Policy on Food and Nutrition in Nigeria (2016) and the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (NMPFAN) 2021–2025 recognized the role of inter-agency collaboration in promoting nutrition financing in Nigeria. The National Assembly subsequently increased the proposed budget to the sum of ₦54.99 trillion, representing a 10.64% increase compared to the initially proposed 2025 budget and a 56.85% increase compared to the final approved 2024 budget. The implications of these changes for nutrition cannot be overemphasized, as increased funding is critical to addressing Nigeria's growing malnutrition crisis, although challenges such as inflation and effective resource allocation remain significant hurdles.

Nutrition is a cross-cutting issue in Nigeria, affecting various aspects of society and requiring a multi-sectoral approach to address its challenges effectively. Nutrition impacts not only health but also economic productivity, education, and overall development. In Nigeria, malnutrition is a significant public health concern, with recent statistics from 2024 indicating that approximately 5.4 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition, with 1.8 million experiencing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), marking an alarming 80% increase in cases. The prevalence of stunting among children under five is reported at 40%, while 8% are wasted. The situation is exacerbated by a projected 33 million people, including over 16 million children, facing food insecurity in 2025 due to ongoing conflict and climate challenges. Contributing factors include poor dietary quality, inadequate access to nutritious food, and insufficient healthcare services, which collectively hinder efforts to combat malnutrition and its associated impacts on health and development in the country.¹ In this regard, this report provides an understanding of the budgetary allocation for nutrition-related expenditures in the approved 2025 FGN budget.

2.0 Methodology

The methodology for this report involved a detailed review of the Federal and 11 the selected State Government of Nigeria's 2025 approved nutrition budget. The analysis utilized budget documents, policy frameworks, and sectoral plans, including the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (2021–2025). Key data points were extracted from various ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) to categorize and evaluate nutrition-related expenditures. Key search terms include nutrition, nutrients, diet, vitamin, iodine salt, feeding, supplement etc. comparative approach was used to assess year-over-year changes in budget allocations, focusing on strategic priorities such as direct interventions, capacity building, and policy development. Additionally, cross-sectoral alignment with the goals of the National

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-one-million-more-children-expected-suffer-acute-malnutrition-2025-hunger-crisis-deepens>; <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/nigeria/nigeria-situation-report-22-july-2024>; <https://www.icrc.org/en/news-release/nigeria-admissions-malnourished-children-rise-amid-four-year-high-food-insecurity-due>

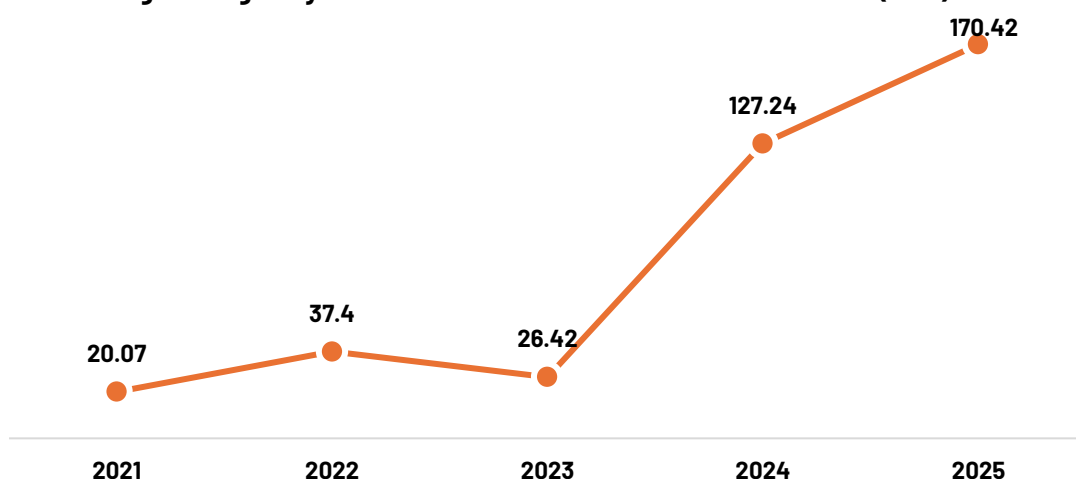
Policy on Food and Nutrition was examined to determine the consistency and adequacy of funding in meeting national nutrition targets.

Quantitative analysis was employed to calculate percentage changes in funding, with a focus on identifying areas of increased investment and sectors experiencing budgetary declines. This approach enabled the identification of potential challenges, such as imbalances in resource distribution across critical areas like advocacy, capacity building, and research. A thematic classification of expenditure categories further contextualized the government's priorities, supporting a comprehensive evaluation of how effectively the approved budget addresses Nigeria's nutrition challenges.

3.0 Nutrition Budget Overview

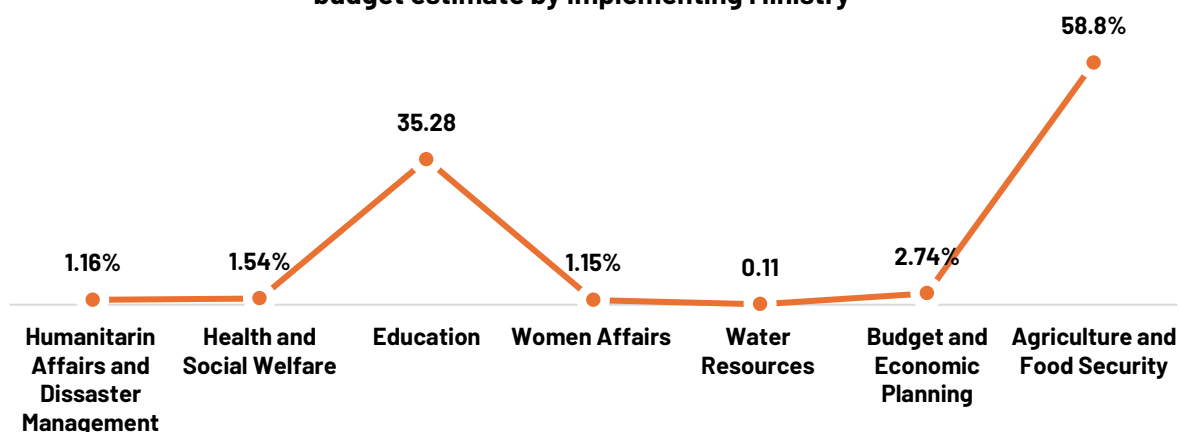
The Federal Government of Nigeria approved a sum of N170,42 billion for nutrition-sensitive interventions in 2025, representing a 33.92% increase compared to the N127 billion allocated in 2024. This rise is part of a broader trend of increasing investment in nutrition-related activities, which has grown from N20.7 billion in 2021 to N170.42 billion in 2025, a 749% increase over five years period. This funding reflects a multisectoral approach, with resources allocated across various ministries to address nutrition challenges comprehensively.

Fig 1: Budgetary Provision for Nutrition Activities 2021-2025 (Nbn)



The approved 2025 budget nutrition budget shows that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security allocated the largest share, amounting to ₦100.21 billion. The Federal Ministry of Education follows with ₦60.12 billion, reflecting investments in school feeding programs and nutrition education. Other notable allocations include the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (₦4.68 billion), and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (₦178.35 million), focusing on access to clean water to support hygiene and nutrition. While the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's allocation (₦2.63 billion) emphasizes medical and welfare-based interventions, and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (₦255 million) aims to promote nutrition for women and children, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management receives ₦1.98 billion, targeting vulnerable populations.

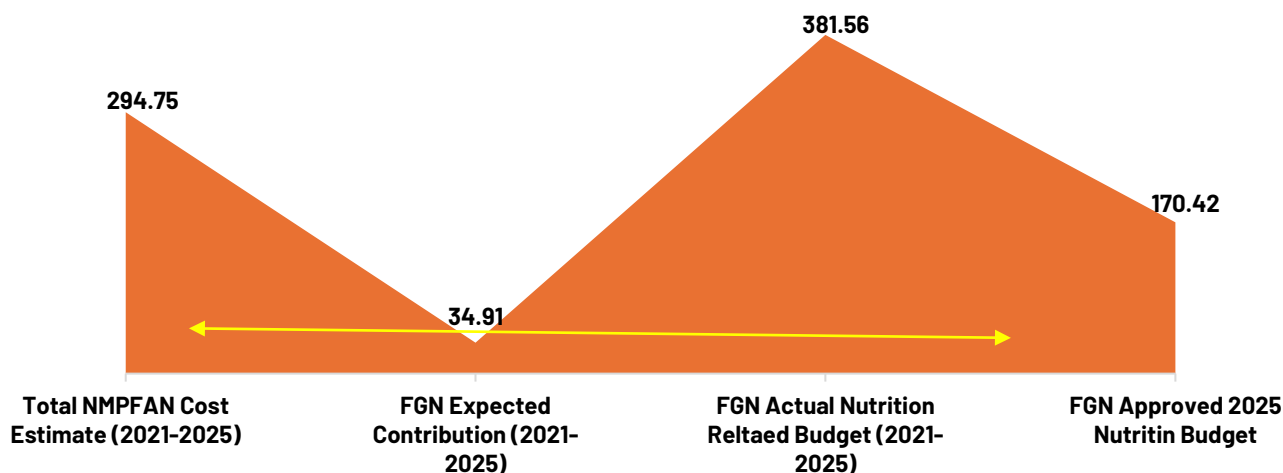
Fig 2: Share As a % of total nutrition funding in the approved 2025 budget estimate by Implementing Ministry



4.0 Nutrition Budget Vs National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition 2021 – 2025

The National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (NMPFAN) 2021-2025 is a strategic framework developed by the Nigerian government to combat malnutrition and food insecurity through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach. The plan outlines roles for various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), alongside civil society, private sector, and development partners, to ensure collaborative implementation. Key objectives include reducing malnutrition rates by 50%, increasing exclusive breastfeeding rates to 65%, and reducing stunting among children under five years to 18% by 2025. The NMPFAN integrates nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions across sectors like agriculture, health, education, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) while promoting joint funding mechanisms and leveraging data-driven tools like the Food System Dashboard to monitor progress. For five years period, the plan estimated ₦294,745,586,859.76 for its implementation. Out of this funding, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) is expected to contribute ₦34,906,309,362, which accounts for 11.8% of the total amount. Over the same five-year period, the actual FGN nutrition funding represents 129.45% of the total estimated cost for the five-year implementation of the National Multisectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition (NMPFAN) and a 1,095.98% of the FGN's expected contribution.

Fig 3: Nutrition Budget Vs National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition 2021 – 2025 (₦bn)



5.0 Nutrition Budget Classification

Here, the Federal Government of Nigeria's nutrition activities across various ministries are classified into seven categories: Policy and Governance, Capacity Building and Training, Research and Development, Infrastructure and Equipment, Direct Interventions (Nutrition and Food Security), Awareness and Advocacy, and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Supervision. Over the past five years, the Federal Government of Nigeria has steadily increased its budgetary allocation to nutrition-related initiatives. In 2021, the nutrition budget stood at ₦20.07 billion, with Direct Interventions (₦19.71 billion) making up the majority. Policy and Governance received ₦46.58 million, while Infrastructure and Equipment was allocated ₦24.28 million. Research and Development funding reached ₦280.56 million, and Capacity Building and Training got ₦8.25 million. Awareness, Advocacy, and Monitoring components had no recorded allocations that year.



By 2022, the budget rose significantly to ₦37.4 billion. Direct Interventions remained dominant at ₦36.6 billion, followed by Infrastructure and Equipment at ₦153.6 million. Research and Development dropped to ₦205 million, while Policy and Governance remained unchanged at ₦46.6 million. Awareness and Advocacy received ₦294.3 million, and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Supervision was allocated ₦73.5 million. Notably, there was no allocation to Capacity Building and Training in 2022. However, in 2023, the total budget declined to ₦26.4 billion. Direct Interventions dropped to ₦25.9 billion, Capacity Building and Training received ₦110.1 million, and Infrastructure and Equipment had ₦147.5 million. Research and Development further declined to ₦120.1 million, and Awareness and Advocacy was ₦114.8 million. Policy and Governance rose modestly to ₦61.9 million, while there was no budget for Monitoring and Supervision that year.

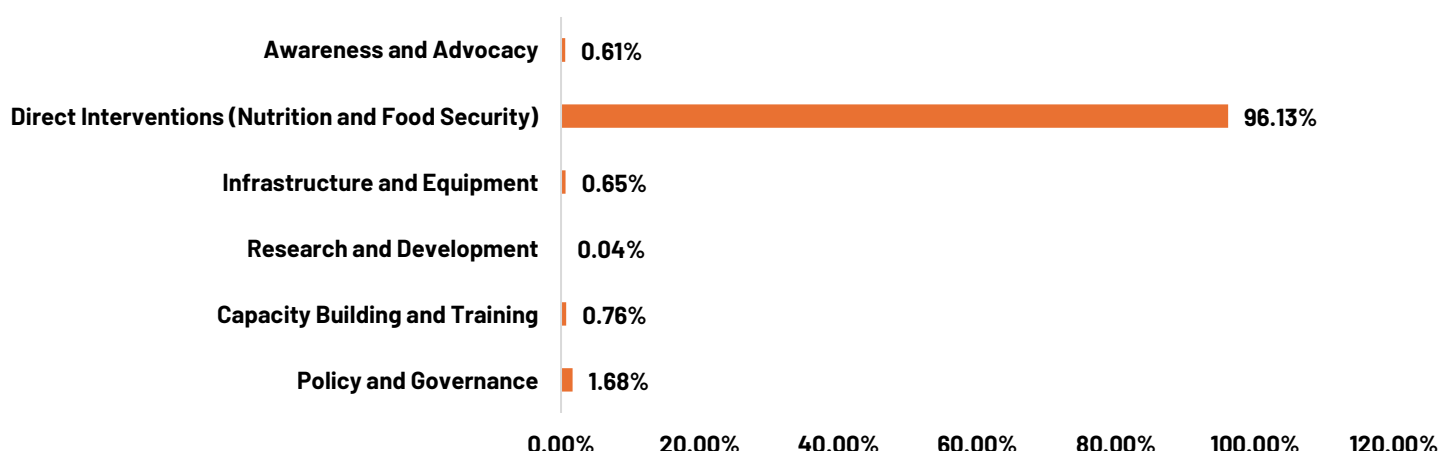
The Federal Government of Nigeria's nutrition budget for 2024 and 2025 shows significant shifts in funding priorities, with an overall increase of 33.92% from ₦127.2 billion in 2024 to ₦170.4 billion in 2025. Policy and Governance allocations more than doubled, increasing from ₦1.89 billion to ₦2.86 billion (50.95%), indicating a strengthened focus on strategic oversight and planning. Research and Development surged by 950.72%, rising from ₦7 million in 2024 to ₦73.6 million in 2025. Infrastructure and Equipment funding also increased by 43.12%, from ₦772 million to ₦1.1 billion. On the other hand, allocations for Capacity Building and Training dropped sharply by 74.9%, from ₦5.16 billion to ₦1.29 billion. Similarly, Awareness and Advocacy fell slightly by 4.28%, from ₦1.08 billion to ₦1.03 billion. The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Supervision category saw a substantial rise of 139.57%, from ₦97 million to ₦232.5 million. The standout category remains Direct Interventions, which accounted for the bulk of the budget in both years, increasing from ₦118.2 billion in 2024 to ₦163.8 billion in 2025 reflecting a 38.55% rise. However, the declines in Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Supervision funding may create gaps in program delivery and long-term sustainability.

Table 1: Federal government of Nigeria nutrition budget for the past four year (₦)

Classification	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% changes (2024-2025)
Policy and Governance	46,587,818	46,587,818	61,890,286	1,893,381,298	2,858,000,000	50.95%
Capacity Building and Training	8,250,010	Nil	110,137,161	5,157,729,260	1,293,456,896	-74.9%
Research and Development	280,564,192	205,046,414	120,081,650	7,000,000	73,550,980	950.72%

Classification	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% changes (2024-2025)
Infrastructure and Equipment	24,282,000	153,593,746	147,464,957	772,044,501	1,104,917,315	43.12%
Direct Interventions (Nutrition and Food Security)	19,711,502,417	36,627,612,738	25,864,497,183	118,244,536,549	163,822,733,459	38.55%
Awareness and Advocacy	Nil	294,288,821	114,823,420	1,078,000,000	1,031,775,019	-4.28%
Monitoring, Evaluation and Supervision	Nil	73,543,953	Nil	97,030,738	232,458,753	139.57%
Total	20,071,186,437	37,400,673,490	26,418,894,657	127,249,722,346	170,416,892,422	33.92%
As a % of the Budget Size	0.14%	0.21%	0.12%	0.36%	0.31%	-

Fig 4: Share As a % of total funding in the approved 2025 budget estimate



6.0 Breakdown of the Approved 2025 Nutrition Budget

6.1 Policy and Governance

The approved nutrition budget for 2025 outlines strategic investments to enhance agricultural development, food security, and nutrition governance with a total funding commitment of ₦2.86 billion. A significant portion of the funds, amounting to ₦200 million, is allocated to the review of existing agricultural laws and the drafting of new ones to support agribusiness and investment in the sector. This will potentially foster an environment conducive to agricultural growth, ultimately bolstering food and nutrition security. Further budget allocations focus on the coordination and scaling-up of various national initiatives. This includes the coordination, collaboration and scaling-up implementation of the food system transformation pathways and nutrition in all the 36 states and FCT. with an investment of ₦25 million. Another key area of focus is the establishment of the Nigerian Food System Dashboard, a data-driven tool designed to track the state of food and nutrition in the country, with a significant investment of ₦2.5 billion. These measures are complemented by the review and dissemination of national guidelines, the development of sector-specific strategic action plans, and the integration of nutrition into water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs. The funding for this category increased by 50.95% compared to the 2024 funding.

6.2 Capacity Building and Training

The 2025 nutrition budget focusing on capacity building and training emphasizes strengthening the skills and knowledge of various stakeholders involved in food and nutrition security with funding commitment of ₦1.29 billion. ₦80 million is allocated to promoting home gardening, home economics, and nutrition knowledge transfer at the state and local government levels under the Renewed Hope Initiative. This

initiative targets community-level engagement to boost food security and improve nutrition practices. Furthermore, ₦404.2 million is dedicated to building capacity in project monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) to ensure efficiency and high performance in nutrition programs. This training will enhance the ability of program implementers to assess outcomes, refine strategies, and maximize impact in the food and nutrition sectors.

Other key investments include training for women and adolescent girls on nutrition-sensitive income-generating activities, which will receive ₦30 million to cover two geopolitical zones. Capacity building for health workers is another crucial focus, with ₦79.7 million allocated for specialized competencies in nutrition interventions, and an additional ₦99.6 million for training on the management of severe acute malnutrition at six tertiary institutions. The budget also includes funding for skill acquisition and development programs for 500,000 youths and women artisans, ₦115 million for upskilling food and nutrition teachers and vendors. The funding for this category decreased by 74.9% between 2024 and 2025.

6.3 Research and Development

Another focus of the approved 2025 nutrition funding is research and development with a funding commitment of ₦73.55 million. One key area of investment is the research and development of indigenous nutraceuticals to combat nutritional deficiencies in children and improve the well-being of the elderly, with ₦7 million set aside for this purpose. Additionally, ₦10 million will support the research and development of plant-based nutritional and medicinal foods, which aim to improve well-being, enhance food security, and contribute to job creation and poverty alleviation. This approach highlights the potential of local, sustainable food sources to address nutrition-related challenges in the country. Another portion of the budget, ₦10 million, is allocated for general nutrition research, which will likely explore a range of topics critical to advancing the country's food and nutrition security. The funding for this category increased by 950.72% in the approved 2025 budget compared to the 2024 funding.

6.4 Infrastructure and Equipment

The 2025 nutrition budget for infrastructure and equipment is focused on enhancing the physical and logistical capabilities needed to improve nutrition services and delivery across the country with funding commitment of ₦1.2 billion. The sum of ₦300 million is allocated for the construction of a Nutrition/Dietetics Building with biomedical annexes, while an additional ₦439.1 million is earmarked for the construction of a Nutrition and Dietetics Complex. These infrastructure projects will strengthen the country's capacity to provide specialized nutrition and dietetic services, essential for improving public health. In addition, ₦60 million is dedicated to completing a Dietetics Unit, ensuring that critical nutrition services can be delivered more effectively. The budget also includes funding for the procurement of essential equipment and vehicles to support nutrition services. This includes ₦100 million allocated for providing logistics and inputs for the setup of homegrown gardens, an initiative to boost local food production and nutrition. These investments in infrastructure and equipment are crucial for building a robust and sustainable nutrition framework in Nigeria. The funding for this category increased by 43.12% in the approved 2025 budget compared to 2024 funding.

6.5 Direct Interventions (Nutrition and Food Security)

A total of ₦163.82 billion is allocated under the direct interventions for nutrition and food security allocates substantial resources toward addressing malnutrition, improving food access, and supporting vulnerable populations. A key initiative is the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), with a significant allocation of ₦100 billion to provide nutritious meals to school children across the country. This initiative is crucial for tackling child malnutrition and supporting education. Additionally, ₦60 billion is set aside for a school nutrition feeding program, targeting primary schools to enhance the nutritional status of students. Complementing this, ₦1.8 billion is allocated for home-grown school feeding, which supports local food production and involves communities in nutrition-related activities.

The budget also emphasizes empowering vulnerable groups, particularly women, youth, and pastoralist communities, with ₦53.7 million for supporting livestock production value chains in northern Nigeria. Another notable intervention is the scaling-up of maternal, infant, and young child nutrition programs, including micronutrient deficiency control and nutrition surveillance systems, which will receive ₦69.2

million. Emergency nutrition interventions are also a priority, with 500 million allocated for managing acute malnutrition and stunting in high-burden states, alongside ₦102.5 million to provide essential nutritious commodities during emergencies that may result in malnutrition. Moreover, ₦100 million is designated for providing nutrition-sensitive income-generating equipment and starter packs for self-help groups in selected states. The funding for this category increased by 38.55% in the approved 2025 budget compared to 2024 funding.

6.6 Awareness and Advocacy

Under this, the sum of ₦1.03 billion is allocated to increase public engagement and disseminating nutrition-related information to diverse groups across the country. The sum of ₦25 million is dedicated to advocacy and publicity through radio and television campaigns aimed at promoting initiatives like the "Feed Yourself" program and school gardening for improved nutrition. This will help raise awareness in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Additionally, ₦30 million is earmarked for nutrition education targeting religious and traditional leaders, as well as men and boys in two geopolitical zones, ensuring that key community figures are involved in promoting healthy nutrition practices. Another priority is educating vulnerable women and adolescent girls on nutrition across six geopolitical zones, with ₦10 million allocated for this purpose.

The budget also supports national and international conferences, seminars, and workshops on nutrition intervention programs, with ₦20 million set aside to facilitate these knowledge-sharing events. To further build momentum for nutrition awareness, ₦39.8 million is allocated for quarterly roundtable dialogues with media executives, aimed at improving media coverage of nutrition topics in Nigeria. Community outreach initiatives receive significant attention, with ₦30 million dedicated to raising awareness about healthy aging nutrition and the availability of care services for older persons. The budget also includes funds for commemorating nutrition-related national and international days and events such as World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Week, with ₦19.9 million for these activities. Moreover, there is a focus on engaging the private sector to promote the industrial fortification of staple foods and in-country production of essential nutrition commodities, with ₦33.2 million earmarked for these initiatives. The funding for this category decreased by 4.28% in the approved 2025 budget compared to the 2024 funding.

6.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating nutrition activities aims to enhance the tracking and oversight of nutrition initiatives across different levels of government and sectors. A total of ₦232 million is allocated for various such as the Nutrition Dashboard and Performance Management System, with an allocation of ₦10 million. This platform will enable more effective monitoring of nutrition interventions and data, helping to assess progress and identify gaps in implementation. Additionally, ₦19.9 million is earmarked to maintain the data repository platform for nutrition services, human resources, and information, which will enhance the National Nutrition Information Management System. This will help in tracking performance, improving decision-making, and ensuring that nutrition interventions are on target.

The budget also allocates resources for regular monitoring and supervision, including ₦39.8 million for quarterly integrated supportive supervisory visits to sub-national levels to ensure the effective implementation of nutrition programs. Furthermore, ₦33.2 million is set aside for quarterly meetings of the Nutrition Technical Working Group, which will provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss progress, challenges, and solutions. To ensure that nutrition activities are being monitored at both the national and sub-national levels, ₦10 million is allocated for food and nutrition supervision. Additionally, ₦33.2 million is designated for the evaluation of the implementation of national integrated guidelines for foodborne diseases and surveillance responses at the sub-national levels. The funding for this category increased budget 139.57% in the approved 2025 compared to the 2024 funding.

7.0 State Level Analysis

The state-level nutrition budget analysis for 2025 reveals significant variations in both the volume of funds allocated and the prioritization of nutrition within state budgets. Kaduna State stands out with a remarkable allocation of ₦47.58 billion, which represents 6.02% of its total budget by far the highest both

in absolute terms and as a percentage. This level of investment signals strong political will and a potentially robust framework for implementing comprehensive nutrition interventions. Other states like Gombe (1.63%), Kano (1.00%), and Katsina (0.63%) also demonstrate relatively strong commitments, suggesting a growing recognition of the importance of nutrition in development planning, particularly in northern Nigeria. In contrast, several states such as Jigawa (0.13%), Niger (0.26%), Ebonyi (0.27%), and Plateau (0.27%) reflect lower prioritization of nutrition in their budgets. While some of these states still make modest investments, the limited funding may constrain their ability to scale high-impact interventions or respond to nutrition emergencies. It's also worth noting that while some states like Ebonyi and Jigawa include allocations for Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS), overall, line-item budgeting for specific nutrition interventions such as Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) and MMS remains sparse or unspecified across most states.

The low presence of IFA and MMS-specific allocations raises concerns about targeted micronutrient programming for vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and adolescent girls. Only Kano State explicitly allocates funds to both IFA (₦20 million) and MMS (₦144 million), and Ebonyi and Jigawa show modest MMS allocations. This suggests that despite overall increases in nutrition funding in some states, micronutrient interventions are either underfunded, bundled into larger programs without visibility, or not budgeted explicitly, which could undermine efforts to combat micronutrient deficiencies, maternal anaemia, and child stunting at scale.

Table 2: State Level Nutrition Budget for the Year 2025

States	Total Nutrition Fund	As a % of the Budget Size	Iron Folic Acid (IFA)	Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS)
Adamawa	1,808,516,200.00	0.37%	N/A	N/A
Borno	2,626,047,000.00	0.43%	N/A	N/A
Ebonyi	1,209,000,000.00	0.27%	N/A	220,000,000.00
Gombe	6,030,000,000.00	1.63%	N/A	N/A
Jigawa	909,000,000.00	0.13%	N/A	50,000,000.00
Kaduna	47,580,774,286.00	6.02%	N/A	N/A
Kwara	1,876,095,641.00	0.32%	N/A	N/A
Katsina	4,339,789,249.00	0.63%	N/A	N/A
Kano	7,214,531,577.25	1.00%	20,000,000	144,000,000.00
Niger	3,981,933,427.98	0.26%	N/A	N/A
Plateau	1,363,050,000.00	0.27%	N/A	N/A

Source: States Approved 2025 Budget Documents

The breakdown of these activities across some selected states is presented in the subsequent paragraphs.

Adamawa

The 2025 nutrition budget analysis for Adamawa State reveals a total allocation of ₦1.81 billion, representing 0.37% of the state's total budget. While this percentage is modest, the budget demonstrates a diverse and multisectoral approach to addressing malnutrition and related vulnerabilities. Significant investments include ₦721.35 million for office equipment to support coordination of the state's nutrition support programme suggesting a strong focus on institutional strengthening and administrative infrastructure. Additionally, ₦300 million has been allocated for the purchase of food and nutrition items during emergencies, which is essential for humanitarian response in a state often affected by displacement and food insecurity. Beyond administrative and emergency provisions, the budget includes notable components for community engagement, capacity building, and school-linked interventions. For instance, ₦94.8 million is set aside for community sensitization on malnutrition, while another ₦30 million targets the procurement of food kits for vulnerable groups. The inclusion of funds for activities such as the revalidation of pupils for the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and training of feeding vendors on health and hygiene indicates alignment with national social protection schemes and nutrition-sensitive programming in schools. Moreover, the state allocated over ₦530 million to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, including water treatment plants and school-based water systems. This reinforces

a critical link between WASH and nutrition, acknowledging that poor sanitation and hygiene significantly contribute to undernutrition. Overall, while the budget share is relatively low.

Borno State

The 2025 nutrition budget analysis for the state shows a total allocation of ₦2.63 billion, representing 0.43% of the total state budget. While this may seem modest in percentage terms, the breakdown reveals a significant focus on health-led nutrition interventions. The largest share, ₦2.12 billion, is allocated under a combined program for communicable disease control, reproductive health, and nutrition, indicating an integrated approach to public health and nutrition. This reflects the recognition of malnutrition as both a health and development issue, especially in contexts with high disease burdens. Additional health sector allocations, such as ₦250 million and ₦20 million, further reinforce the state's commitment to nutrition through health service delivery. However, the allocations to education and agriculture for food and nutrition are notably limited, with ₦22 million allocated for school nutrition programs and just ₦6 million for agriculture-based food and nutrition initiatives. This highlights a gap in multi-sectoral engagement—particularly in sectors like education and agriculture, which are crucial for sustainable nutrition outcomes through school feeding, dietary diversification, and food system resilience. The inclusion of ₦200 million for innovative financing in food and nutrition within Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and Jere shows localized targeting, likely in response to urban vulnerability and displacement. Overall, while the budget indicates an intent to address nutrition challenges, there remains room for improvement in cross-sectoral coordination and investment beyond the health sector.

Ebonyi State

Ebonyi State's 2025 nutrition budget, totalling ₦1.21 billion and accounting for 0.27% of the total state budget, presents a highly diversified investment strategy that combines both clinical nutrition responses and agricultural innovation. Major allocations go toward tackling acute malnutrition, including over ₦462 million dedicated to the production and procurement of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), Micronutrient Powders (MNP), and Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS). These funds, along with ₦200 million for maternal and child health programs and ₦240 million for breastfeeding and complementary feeding education, reflect strong emphasis on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition. This shows that Ebonyi is not only addressing treatment but also investing in prevention and early childhood development through behaviour change communication and outreach. In parallel, the budget highlights creative nutrition-sensitive approaches aimed at enhancing food access and livelihoods. The ₦100 million allocated to demonstration farms for biofortified crops and ₦20 million for engaging women and youth in agriculture aim to strengthen the nutrition-agriculture linkage while promoting local food systems. Institutional development is also prioritized, with multiple small but important allocations for equipping the Nutrition Department, State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN), and refugee support programs. While the percentage of the overall budget may be modest, the state's approach stands out for its integration of treatment, prevention, and food-based solutions, suggesting a clear intent to build a resilient and inclusive nutrition system across the state.

Gombe State

Gombe State's 2025 nutrition budget is ₦6.03 billion (1.63% of the total state budget) as part of a deeply integrated, systems-based approach to tackling malnutrition and its structural drivers. The state allocates substantial funding to a broad spectrum of activities from direct interventions like complementary feeding in emergencies and fortified food procurement (₦900 million) to large-scale investments in school feeding (₦1.2 billion) and community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM). What distinguishes Gombe's approach is its strong emphasis on governance and coordination, with consistent funding for stakeholder meetings, technical reviews, monitoring and evaluation, and development of a nutrition database. These efforts support accountability and adaptive planning, ensuring that resources are not only mobilized but effectively targeted.

Moreover, Gombe embeds nutrition within a larger health, education, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) ecosystem. Massive investments in WASH infrastructure including the SURWASH World Bank project and state-led initiatives totalling over ₦3.5 billion demonstrate the government's understanding of

how poor water access and hygiene exacerbate malnutrition. Additionally, nutrition education is integrated across sectors, with training for teachers, caregivers, and traditional leaders, and the inclusion of nutrition in school curricula. The state also funds creche establishment, tracking of student health, and mass media campaigns, reflecting a behaviour change orientation.

Jigawa State

Jigawa State's 2025 nutrition-related budget of ₦909 million (just 0.13% of the total budget), indicate grassroots, skill-building approach that heavily emphasizes capacity development, hygiene, and school-based interventions. Much of the allocation goes toward training women, youth, and school staff on food processing, home gardening, dietary diversity, and breastfeeding practices building local ownership of nutrition solutions. The state also invests in equipping secondary schools with food and nutrition tools and ensures integration of food demonstration and dietary awareness programs for pupils, particularly at the basic and junior secondary levels. A notable share of the budget also targets sanitation infrastructure and hygiene awareness, with significant resources devoted to constructing toilets, urban sanitation facilities, and abattoirs to improve food safety and environmental hygiene. Campaigns on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), along with investments in equipment for SMEs and sanitary product distribution, indicate an effort to tackle the indirect causes of malnutrition. While the overall funding level remains modest, Jigawa's strategy combines preventive nutrition, community mobilization, and environmental health, offering a decentralized but practical model for long-term nutrition improvement though its potential impact may be limited without a scale-up in funding.

Kaduna State

Kaduna State's nutrition budget for 2025 stands out nationally, with an exceptional allocation of over ₦47.5 billion, constituting 6.02% of the total state budget, a scale rarely seen in subnational nutrition financing. This expansive investment spans multiple sectors and reflects a deliberate, government-wide strategy to address the underlying and immediate causes of malnutrition. The procurement of 5,000 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) alone accounts for ₦3.3 billion, demonstrating a bold commitment to tackling severe acute malnutrition. Meanwhile, the Kaduna Emergency Nutrition Action Plan (KADENAP) and extensive funding to the Primary Health Care Board reinforce the state's emphasis on health-based interventions. Complementing this, the Ministry of Education receives ₦3 billion for school-based food and nutrition programs, recognizing the critical role of education in sustaining long-term dietary and behavioural change.

What truly sets Kaduna apart is its integration of livelihood support, gender empowerment, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) into its nutrition strategy. From providing small ruminants and fish processing equipment to women farmers, to promoting labour-saving technologies like briquette stoves and manual grinders, the budget not only aims to improve nutrition outcomes but also reduce women's workload and enhance food system resilience. The inclusion of ₦40 billion for WASH infrastructure under the World Bank-supported SURWASH programme and additional commitments through PE-WASH underline a structural approach to tackling malnutrition's root causes. With cross-agency coordination funds and support for PLHIV nutrition through KADSACA, Kaduna exemplifies a model of multisectoral, equity-driven nutrition governance that merges health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure for transformative impact.

Kwara State

Kwara State's 2025 nutrition budget, totalling ₦1.88 billion (0.32% of the total budget), reflects a balanced blend of donor-supported programs, community-level interventions, and infrastructure-focused efforts. A major portion ₦655 million is tied to the World Bank-supported ANRIN project, underscoring the state's reliance on external funding for large-scale nutrition delivery. Notably, investments also extend to adolescent girls' nutrition, early childhood development, and school-based initiatives, such as the establishment of gardens and capacity building for caregivers. These efforts suggest a focus on both immediate nutrition needs and long-term behavioural change through education and engagement of women and youth. The integration of WASH infrastructure is also a critical feature of Kwara's nutrition strategy. With over ₦650 million allocated to joint UNICEF and Federal Government WASH programs

(SURWASH, PEWASH), the state acknowledges the essential link between clean water, sanitation, and malnutrition prevention. Complementing this are targeted efforts like rehabilitation of boreholes and toilets, support for OVCs, and data-driven planning through nutrition situation surveys and baseline assessments. The state's model emphasizes cross-sectoral collaboration, with nutrition as a shared responsibility of health, agriculture, education, and social protection offering a strong foundation for future scale-up if budget allocations increase.

Katsina State

Katsina State's 2025 nutrition budget of ₦4.34 billion (0.63% of the total budget) showcases a holistic, multi-tiered investment in nutrition-sensitive programming with a strong emphasis on vulnerable groups and emergency response. The largest single allocation ₦1 billion is devoted to feeding orphans, the less privileged, and displaced persons during Ramadan, indicating a blend of social protection, humanitarian relief, and religious obligations. Significant counterpart funding for ANRiN (₦700 million) and the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (₦718 million) reflects alignment with federal priorities and external financing, while a dedicated ₦500 million for RUTF procurement signals attention to severe acute malnutrition management. The budget also strategically weaves in livelihood and agricultural resilience, with funds supporting women's empowerment in food processing, seed procurement, and youth feeding in vocational centres. WASH programming is robust, including VIP latrine rehabilitation, sanitation materials, and rural water infrastructure across the 34 LGAs underlining Katsina's understanding of environmental health in combating malnutrition. Notably, the inclusion of line items for nutrition coordination, monitoring, and health care access for pregnant women and under-fives ensures operational structure and program delivery. Katsina's approach balances short-term food security with longer-term systems building, making it a model of how state nutrition investments can cut across sectors while remaining people centred.

Kano State

Kano State's 2025 nutrition budget, totalling ₦7.21 billion and constituting 1.00% of the total budget, reflects a robust, multi-sectoral strategy that deeply integrates food and nutrition across health, education, agriculture, WASH, and social protection. The largest allocations are directed toward school feeding programs including over ₦2.2 billion for early childcare and primary school feeding, and ₦1.75 billion for boarding schools demonstrating a strong emphasis on improving children's nutritional status and school retention. This is further complemented by investments in school gardens, nutrition curriculum development, and training for agricultural and home economics teachers, reinforcing nutrition-sensitive learning environments and promoting sustainability through food production education.

Beyond education, Kano demonstrates notable health sector and community-level investment, including ₦144 million for Iron Folic Acid and Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS), and ₦202.5 million for social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). The state also prioritizes maternal and child health, with dedicated funding for training health workers, promoting exclusive breastfeeding, and distributing Vitamin A supplements. Additionally, strategic allocations support WASH (water chlorination, latrine construction, menstrual hygiene education) and social protection, including conditional cash transfers and support for vulnerable women and children. Kano's expansive approach anchored in institutional development, policy advocacy, and multi-level engagement positions it as a national leader in nutrition planning, with potential for high-impact outcomes if implementation is effectively coordinated.

Niger State

Niger State's 2025 nutrition budget, totalling ₦3.98 billion (representing 0.26% of the total state budget), reveals a comprehensive, community-driven strategy that emphasizes inclusive health, food security, and behavioural change. The largest allocations target maternal and child nutrition in all 25 LGAs (₦1.25 billion) and ANRiN-supported basic nutrition for children, pregnant, and lactating women (₦696 million), highlighting the state's commitment to reaching vulnerable populations at scale. Additional high-impact investments include ₦500 million for women's nutrition and ₦260 million for adolescent and maternal nutrition improvement, signalling gender-responsive planning. There's also strong backing for

coordination efforts with ₦584 million dedicated to quarterly SCFN meetings (supported by UNICEF and BMGF) ensuring effective planning and inter-agency alignment.

The state also places considerable weight on social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and nutrition education, with multiple initiatives promoting healthy feeding practices, adolescent nutrition, use of local foods, and curriculum development in educational institutions. Attention to agricultural diversification and biofortified crop promotion (₦200 million) demonstrates Niger's effort to link nutrition with food systems. Though the overall budget share is relatively low, the wide range of activities including support for IDPs, WASH in health facilities, and peer education reflects a well-rounded approach to tackling malnutrition. The inclusion of advocacy, public awareness, and school-based initiatives adds to the strength of this strategy, though its impact would be enhanced by increased funding and stronger integration across sectors like education and agriculture.

Plateau State

Plateau State's 2025 nutrition budget, totalling ₦1.36 billion and accounting for 0.27% of the total state budget, demonstrates a wide-ranging, multi-agency commitment to tackling malnutrition through both health and non-health sectors. A notable component is the ₦410 million in counterpart funding for the ANRiN project, underscoring the state's intent to sustain externally supported nutrition initiatives beyond donor cycles. Additionally, substantial allocations are made through the Ministries of Budget and Economic Planning (₦218 million) and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (₦177.5 million), reflecting an effort to mainstream nutrition into core planning, infrastructure, and WASH systems an approach critical for addressing the structural determinants of undernutrition.

The distribution of nutrition expenses across at least 10 ministries and agencies, including Education, Environment, Science and Technology, and Local Government, highlights Plateau's effort to embed nutrition in various sectors and government functions. Investments such as feeding programs for orphanages, procurement of micronutrients and obstetric drugs, and WASH-related nutrition relief indicate an attempt to reach vulnerable populations, including children, women, and youth in institutional settings. However, the relatively small amounts allocated to each intervention most falling below ₦50 million could dilute impact if not well-coordinated or strategically targeted. To fully leverage these efforts, Plateau may benefit from consolidating programs under a stronger, more centralized nutrition governance framework while maintaining cross-sectoral collaboration.



8.0 Conclusion

The 2025 Federal Government of Nigeria nutrition budget reflects a substantial commitment to addressing the country's growing malnutrition crisis through a multisectoral approach. With a significant increase in nutrition-related allocations rising by 33.92% from 2024 and amounting to ₦170.42 billion the budget prioritizes direct interventions, particularly school feeding programs, maternal and child health, and food security. This growth aligns with the goals of the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (2021-2025), with actual government contributions exceeding projected commitments.

However, while investments in policy, governance, infrastructure, and research have improved, sharp declines in critical areas such as capacity building and advocacy may undermine long-term sustainability and effectiveness of interventions.

At the state level, nutrition financing remains uneven, with states like Kaduna, Kano, and Gombe leading with robust, integrated strategies that include education, WASH, and livelihood components. In contrast, other states demonstrate lower commitment and fragmented implementation, especially in micronutrient supplementation and capacity development. The limited visibility of targeted nutrition line items especially for vulnerable groups like women and adolescent girls highlights the need for improved planning and budget transparency. Overall, while the increased funding signals progress, optimizing allocations, strengthening inter-sectoral coordination, and sustaining political will are essential to ensure meaningful, equitable, and sustainable nutrition outcomes nationwide.

9.0 Recommendations

a). Federal and State Governments

- Ensure balanced funding across all nutrition categories, including capacity building, advocacy, and monitoring not just direct interventions.
- Institutionalize and strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms between ministries and agencies.
- Increase state-level nutrition budget allocations and adopt transparent, line-item budgeting for key interventions like IFA and MMS.
- Guarantee timely release and efficient utilization of nutrition funds.
- Invest in robust data systems and dashboards for planning, monitoring, and evaluation at federal and sub-national levels.
- Scale up evidence-based programs like school feeding and maternal nutrition interventions nationwide.

b). Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Professional Associations

- Advocate for increased and equitable nutrition funding, particularly in low-priority states.
- Provide technical support for nutrition planning, budgeting, and implementation at national and state levels.
- Strengthen local capacity through training, workshops, and mentorship for health workers, teachers, and community volunteers.
- Facilitate community engagement and participatory monitoring to hold governments accountable.
- Disseminate context-specific best practices and promote behaviour change through grassroots campaigns.

c). Development Partners and Donor Agencies

- Align financial and technical support with Nigeria's national and state nutrition priorities.
- Prioritize long-term capacity building over short-term project delivery.
- Support research and impact evaluations to generate local evidence for policymaking.
- Coordinate with government and other partners to avoid duplication and promote program synergy.
- Provide targeted support for innovative, scalable interventions in maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition.

d). Citizens and Communities



- Participate in nutrition education initiatives, such as home gardening, breastfeeding support, and WASH awareness.
- Hold government accountable through community scorecards, public dialogues, and budget tracking.
- Promote and model healthy nutrition behaviours within families and communities.
- Engage local leaders, including religious and traditional authorities, to champion nutrition practices.
- Demand quality and timely nutrition services through grassroots advocacy and citizen platforms.

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