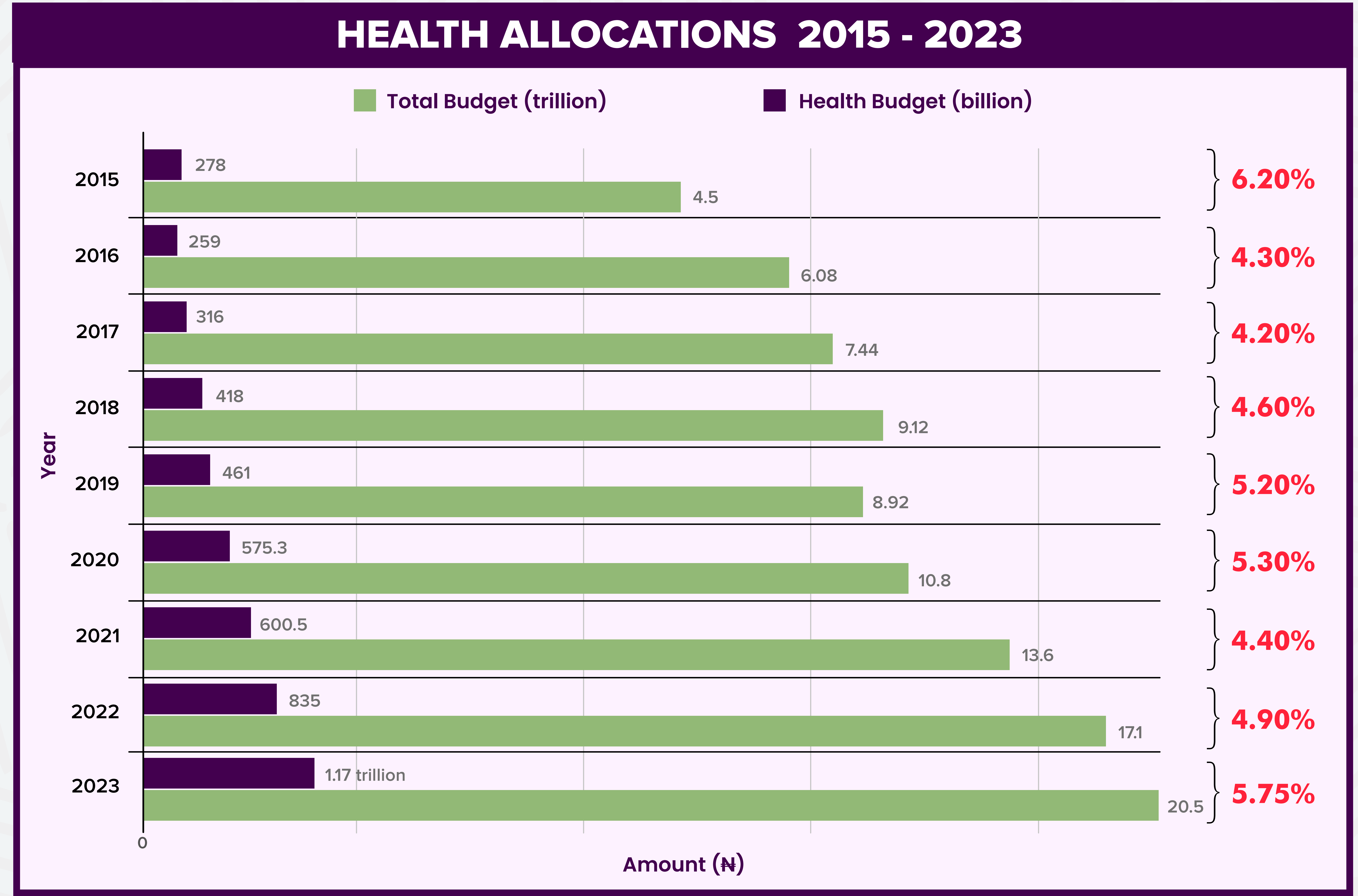


# COVID-19 AND BUILDING A STRONG HEALTH SYSTEM

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. **The virus was declared a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020 and a pandemic on March 11, 2020.** Since then, several strains of the virus have been discovered.

For the first time in the history of health funding in Nigeria, over a trillion naira was allocated to the sector in the 2023 Budget. In April 2001, the member countries of the African Union met in Abuja and pledged to set a target of allocating **at least 15% of their annual budget to improve the health sector** (African Union Declaration).



The Ministry of Health was allocated **5.75% of the total budget**. While there are allocations to healthcare under other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), **Nigeria has not met the 15% target**. However, this period provides an opportunity to build a strong healthcare system that will **see reduced child mortality, maternal mortality and morbidity of communicable and non-communicable diseases**, while catering for the holistic wellbeing of all citizens. Furthermore, health allocation is not enough. Money must be allocated to the right elements like prevention of sickness through our primary health care system; and transparently implement the budget.

### COVID-19

As of February 10, 2023, Nigeria recorded;

**266,583**  
confirmed cases

**259,904**  
discharged cases

**3,155 deaths**

Source: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC)

DISEASE	AVERAGE DEATHS PER DAY/WEEK	VACCINE	CURE
Malaria	476 per day in 2020		
Tuberculosis	438 per day in 2020		
Diarrhea	396 per day in 2020		
Pneumonia	185 per day in 2021		
COVID-19	3 per week in 2022		

Source: Medline plus, NACA, Tbfacts, WHO

**While COVID-19 deaths are lower than other diseases, COVID-19 has a vaccine, but no cure. It is therefore very important to follow the NCDC protocols to prevent spread of the disease.**

*“Better health is central to human happiness and well-being. It also makes an important contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer, are more productive, and save more.”*

- World Health Organization (WHO)

#WashHands

Source: EiE Research

#MaskUp