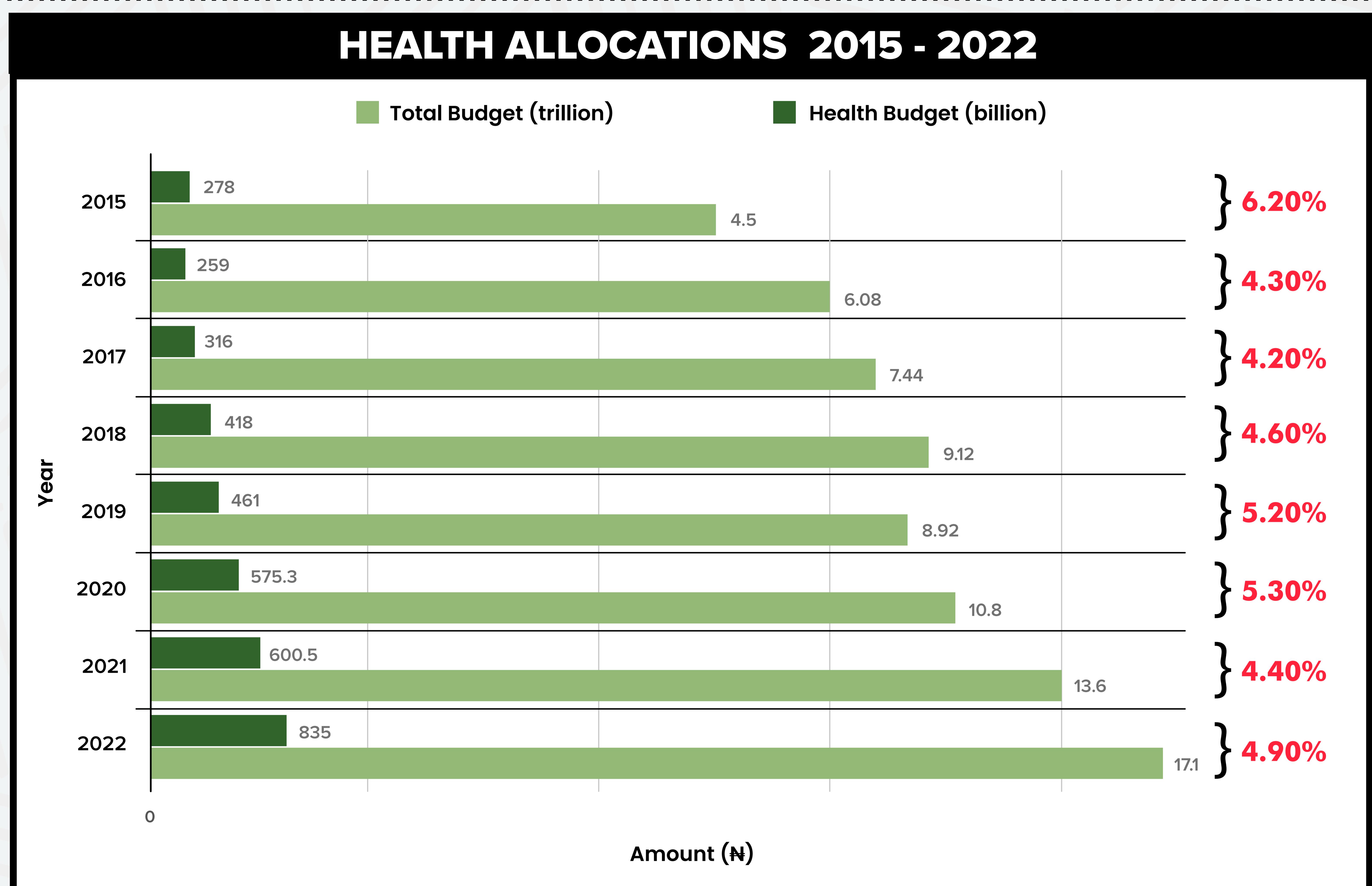


COVID-19 AND BUILDING A STRONG HEALTH SYSTEM

Nigeria's COVID-19 index case was confirmed on February 27, 2020, raising early concerns about Nigeria's capacity to handle the pandemic. COVID-19 can be lethal and it's contagious. It has claimed many lives including notable Nigerians like the former Chief of Staff to the President, federal and state lawmakers, a former state Chief Judge, a former governor, traditional rulers, clerics and health practitioners among others.

The health sector is underfunded by the government. 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).



Nigeria has not met this 15% target. However, the pandemic 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 November 8, 2022, Nigeria recorded;	
266,138 confirmed cases	259,460 discharged cases
3,155 deaths	

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