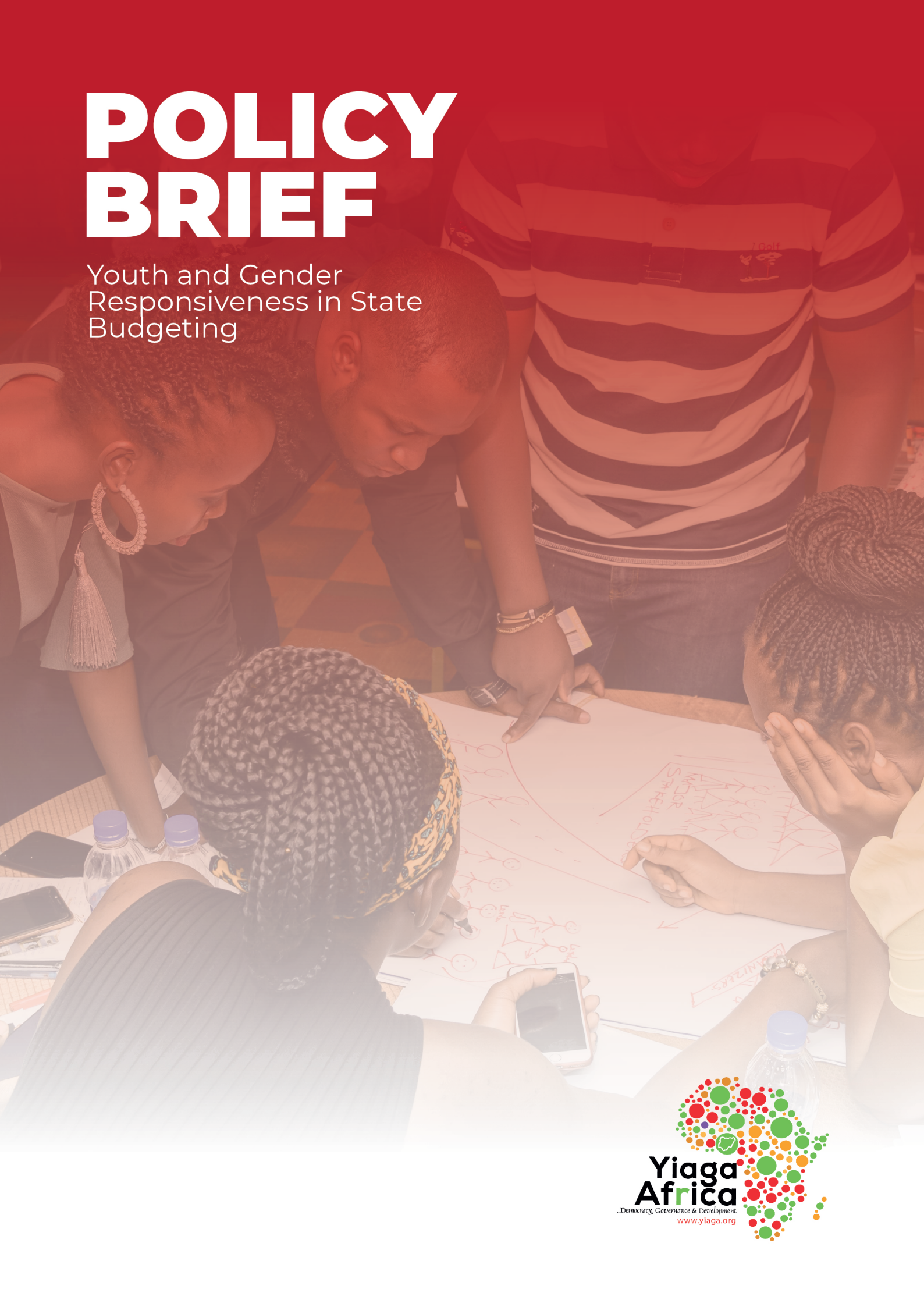


POLICY BRIEF

Youth and Gender
Responsiveness in State
Budgeting



1. Introduction

The focus of youth development programmes in Nigeria have gone through various phases since the 1960s. While the Ministry of Youth and Sports plays a major role in initiating and implementing the policies targeted at enhancing outcomes for youths, various administrations complemented the process using Social Programmes such as YouWin (Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria) and the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP). Other programmes under the NSIP are: the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), and the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP).

New innovations have been put in place by the government to address youth unemployment, have better access to credit and enhance young person's inclusion in the political space. This include programmes that were put in place to in the context of the global sustainable goals (SDGs), the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP, 2017 – 2020), the Economic Sustainability Plane (ESP) and the Presidential Youth Empower Scheme (PYES).

The 2019 National Youth Policy also identifies strategic policy thrusts for achieving the stated goals of the National Youth Policy. The policy thrusts are: Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth; Participation, inclusiveness and equitable opportunities for all Youth; Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth Development; Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle; and Partnership-building and effective collaboration. Under the productive workforce and sustainable policy thrusts, the targets are grouped into four:

- Education, capacity-building and skills development;
- Employment creation and entrepreneurship;
- Youth in Agriculture; and
- Youth and ICT.

Other programmes put in place by the government to address Youth employment include the Special Public Works (SPW) programme and the Nigerian Youth Investment Fund (NYIF). The Special Public Works (SPW) programme seeks to empower about 750,000 young unemployed persons a three month job placement at the local government level with a monthly salary of 20,000 naira¹. On the other hand, the Nigerian Youth Investment Fund (NYIF) is an initiative of the federal ministry of youth and sports development that is funded by the Central Bank of Nigeria. The scheme seeks to expand

access to finance for youths to enable them build businesses that will create jobs. The plan targets young people between the ages of 18 – 35 years and is to run for the period 2020 – 2023.

As with previous years, total Federal Government Expenditure has continued to increase. Sadly, this has been accompanied by a rising youth unemployment, poverty and exclusion especially for young people. How positioned the 2021 Budget of Federal Government is in empowering and raising the livelihood of young people, is the focus of this report. Evidence is also drawn from five states across the country: Akwa Ibom, Borno, Enugu, Kaduna and Lagos States.

The analysis examines the 2021 budget of Akwa Ibom, Borno, Enugu, Kaduna and Lagos State priority for youth development and youth responsive public service delivery. It also examines if the budget is responsive to the needs and priorities of young people relative to the 2020 budget.

2. Methodology

The report adopts a desk review of the 2020 and 2021 budget of Akwa Ibom, Borno, Enugu, Kaduna and Lagos States. The analysis focuses of budgetary allocation to sectors with direct expenditure on youth projects and programmes. The sectors, which are also consistent with those identified in the National Youth Policy, are: Agriculture and Rural Development; Health; Humanitarian Affairs; Youths and Sports Development; Education; and Women Affairs.

3. State Level Analysis

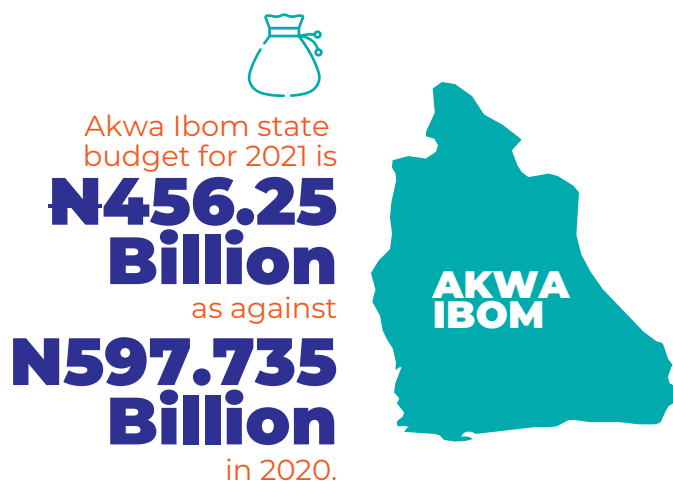
1. Government commitment to youth focused projects and programmes are often not accompanied with the required public financing.
2. Funding for youth projects are programmes do not prioritize funding of projects that would benefit persons with disabilities.
3. Sporting activities remains the major focus of youth budget. Diversifying these projects to include those projects in the digital space would also be important.
4. While projects that are focused on youths would benefit both male and female, the direct mention of projects that would benefit the girl child would be vital.
5. There is need for increased funding for projects that are targeted at addressing the drivers of gender based violence and rehabilitation of victims of gender based violence.

¹ <https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/nigeria-youth-investment-fund-2020/>

6. Most projects in Ministries that are targeted at Youths are procurement based. Engendering the public procurement process in a manner that gives priority to youths to carry out youth-based procurement and project implementation, would also be important.
7. The social investment programmes are concentrated on Livelihood support to Households and vulnerable people; Advocacy and Social Re-orientation programmes; and Agricultural Production & Value chain programmes.
8. The details to allow for how these projects and programmes would be monitored, however, are not contained in the budget. Partnering with CSOs and capacity strengthening for state legislatures, would be important to ensure effect tracking of the budget implementation process and oversight of the appropriated funds by the state legislature.
9. Zonal distribution of the expenditure outlay shows that more than 80% of the capital expenditure would be implemented in the northern senatorial zone of the state. For a state with wide spread cases of insecurity, insurgency and violent extremism, ensuring adopting a balanced approach to spending for projects would desirable to foster inclusive public spending.
10. The Multi-year budget structure of Enugu recognizes the need for the establishment of ICT Hub in Enugu and Obollo for youths. It also creates room for the a project titled Enugu Youth in Business Loan Program; and the construction of Workshops for Vocational Skill Acquisition/Literacy for adult and in and out of School youths/Students,(three Workshops per year). Analysis of the 2021 and 2020 budget, however shows that there was no provision for these projects. Such projects are those that would have direct impact of the welfare of youths.
11. Continuous engagement with the government on how such programmes can be implemented would be critical to enhancing the welfare of young persons in the state. For instance in 2020, the sum of N250 million was allocated for the establishment of ICT Hub in Enugu and Obollo for youths. Tracking this project would ensure commitment to its completion and ensure transparency.
12. The 2021 budget of Kaduna State prioritizes allocation to social sector and positions the agricultural programmes as a vehicle to empower young persons. One of the project that has the highest allocation and focused on youths is the agro Processing Productivity, Enhancement and Livelihood project.
13. Addressing the drivers and factors fuelling insecurity and conflict in rural communities, would be essential to implementing projects that seek to empower youths through agriculture. Strengthening the agricultural value chain (from farm harvest to transportation, marketing and distribution), will also be important to empowering young people.
14. Advocacy and empowerment issues around youth empowerment would involve building the capacity of young persons to become part of the procurement process that are meant to execute projects meant for youths.
15. Also, situating school projects within the safe school initiative would be vital. This would not only address the exposure of schools to the activities of bandits and kidnappers but also help to keep young people in school as well reverse the trend of out of school children.

4. State Level Analysis

The state level analysis covers five states: Akwa Ibom, Borno, Enugu, Kaduna and Lagos States. The findings from the analysis of the budget are:



Akwa Ibom State

- Akwa Ibom state budget for 2021 is N456.25 billion as against N597.735 billion in 2020. This represents a decline of 23.67% in total expenditure for 2021 from 2020. The share of capital expenditure also declined from 62% in 2020 to 53% in 2021.
- The state's capital budget is structured into five broad sectors: Administration; Economic;
- Law and Justice; Regional; and Social. Total capital allocation for projects in the 2021 budget for Akwa Ibom State declined by 34.67% from 2020. Despite this reduction, the commitment to each sector in terms of share remained the same for all sectors.
- Total allocation to youth specific projects in the 2021 budget for Akwa Ibom state amounts to N1.634 billion. This accounts for 0.67% of the total capital budget of N241.450 billion. In the 2020 budget, total allocation to youth specific projects amounts to N598.16 million and accounts for 0.16% of the total capital budget of N369.58 billion.
- Projects and programmes in the Ministry of Youth and Sports account for the highest share of projects to Youths in Akwa Ibom State Budget. In 2020, the share of youth focused in the state's budget that is domiciled in the Ministry of Youth and sports accounts for 51% and 74% in the 2021 budget projects in the Akwa Ibom state budget office margin/ Ministry of Finance as well as the Ministry of Labour and Manpower planning, also accounts for some level of youths projects.

Issues for Advocacy and Engagement

Government commitment to youth focused projects and programmes are often not accompanied with the required public financing.

Funding for youth projects are programmes do not prioritize funding of projects that would benefit persons with disabilities.

Sporting activities remains the major focus of youth budget. Diversifying these projects to include those projects in the digital space would also be important.

While projects that are focused on youths would benefit both male and female, the direct mention of projects that would benefit the girl child would be vital.

There is need for increased funding for projects that are targeted at addressing the drivers of gender based violence and rehabilitation of victims of gender based violence.

Most projects in Ministries that are targeted at Youths are procurement based. Engendering the public procurement process in a manner that gives priority to youths to carry out youth-based procurement and project implementation, would also be important.



The 2021 Budget of
Borno State is

**N248.39
Billion**

compared to

**N597.735
Billion**

in 2020.



Borno State

- The 2021 Budget of Borno State is N248.39 billion compared to N108.86 billion in 2020. The share of capital budget in the 2021 budget is 72% compared to 49% in 2020 budget. The distribution of capital expenditure to the aggregate sectors in the 2021 and 2020 shows that the social sector has the highest share of allocation in the 2021 budget, while there was a reduction in the shares of the other sectors. The focus in improving the share of funding to the social sector (education, health, and youths etc.) in 2021 is to address social issues that drive inequality and fuel conflict.
- Projects and programmes aimed at youth empowerment and job creation are situated with the Ministries of Agriculture, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Poverty Alleviation, Women Affairs, and Youths and Sports. Provisions for projects aimed at addressing the drivers and factors that fuel insecurity and violent extremism in the state, were not clearly provided. The capital projects for Borno state in the 2021 budget gives priority to social sector projects rather than those classified as economic sectors. The social investment programmes are concentrated on Livelihood support to Households and vulnerable people; Advocacy and Social Re-orientation programmes; and Agricultural Production & Value chain programmes.

Issues for Advocacy and Engagement

The capital projects for Borno state in the 2021 budget gives priority to social sector projects than those classified as economic sectors. The social investment programmes are concentrated on Livelihood support to Households and vulnerable people; Advocacy and Social Re-orientation programmes; and Agricultural Production & Value chain programmes.

The details to allow for how these projects and programmes would be monitored, however, are not contained in the budget. Partnering with CSOs and capacity strengthening for state legislatures, would be important to ensure effect tracking of the budget implementation process and oversight of the appropriated funds by the state legislature.

Zonal distribution of the expenditure outlay shows that more than 80% of the capital expenditure would be implemented in the northern senatorial zone of the state. For a state with wide spread cases of insecurity, insurgency and violent extremism, ensuring adopting a balanced approach to spending for projects would desirable to foster inclusive public spending.



The approved total expenditure for Enugu state in 2021 is

N169.85 Billion

as against

N169.56 Billion

in 2020.



Enugu State

- Enugu state is one of the states in the Southeast region of the country. Though known as the Coal City of the country, the state is mostly considered a civil service state. Public expectation about the use of public expenditure to enhance the delivery of public goods and services would therefore be very high. Knowing how the 2021 budget of the state has been structured to enhance better development outcomes especially for young persons would therefore be vital.
- The 2021 budget of Enugu state was tagged the Budget of Recovery and continued growth. The budget continues the states 3 year multi-year expenditure programming that situates the current fiscal year in the context of the next 3 years budget. The approved total expenditure for Enugu state in 2021 is N169.85 billion (N169,845,758,500). This represents an increase of 0.17% over the initial total budget of N169.56 billion (N169,557,658,300) in 2020 and the 16.03% of the revised 2020 budget of N146.37 billion (N146,374,641,080) for COVID-19 adjustment.
- With regards to the distribution of projects across for youths and other general developmental purposes, allocation for youth, gender and poverty alleviation in the 2020 budget account for 35.40% and 25.23% in the 2021 budget. When situated within specific projects that are targeted at youths, the share of youth projects in the 2021 Enugu state budget is about 0.53%. State budgets must therefore be made to target youth specific projects rather than being situated within generic contexts.

Issues for Advocacy and Engagement

The Multi-year budget structure of Enugu recognizes the need for the establishment of ICT Hubs in Enugu and Obollo for youths. It also creates room for a project titled Enugu Youth in Business Loan Program; and the construction of Workshops for Vocational Skill Acquisition/ Literacy for adults and in and out of School youths/ Students, (three Workshops per year). Analysis of the 2021 and 2020 budget, however, shows that there was no provision for these projects. Such projects are those that would have a direct impact on the welfare of youths.

Continuous engagement with the government on how such programmes can be implemented would be critical to enhancing the welfare of young persons in the state. For instance in 2020, the sum of N250 million was allocated for the establishment of ICT Hub in Enugu and Obollo for youths. Tracking this project would ensure commitment to its completion and ensure transparency.



The approved total expenditure for Kaduna state in 2021 is

**N246.67
Billion**

as against

**N223.6
Billion**

in 2020.

Kaduna State

- The 2021 budget of Kaduna state is nicknamed the Budget of Recovery. The budget is situated within the 3- year expenditure programming of the state that provides for a cap estimate for each project line by 2023. The approved total expenditure for Kaduna state in 2021 is N246.67 billion (N246,667,587,219). This represents an increase of 10.32% over the revised 2020 budget of N223.6 billion (N223,601,718,247). The share of capital budget in the 2021 budget is 67% as against 65% in 2020.
- In terms of sectoral distribution of the capital budget, the social sector had the largest share of allocation in the 2020 budget and maintained dominance in the 2021 budget. The focus on the social sector is an indication of priority placed on education, health and community development. Nevertheless, the recent spate of violent extremism in the communities and cases of school pupils/ teachers kidnapping, could require continuous engagement if the desired outcomes are to be achieved.
- Although the general distribution of budgetary allocation shows that the projects targeted at youths could be up 33.48% of capital expenditure, specific youths projects account for only 4.88%.

Issues for Advocacy and Engagement

The 2021 budget of Kaduna State prioritizes allocation to the social sector and positions the agricultural programmes as a vehicle to empower young persons. One of the projects that has the highest allocation and focused on youths is the agro Processing Productivity, Enhancement and Livelihood project.

Addressing the drivers and factors fuelling insecurity and conflict in rural communities, would be essential to implementing projects that seek to empower youths through agriculture. Strengthening the agricultural value chain (from farm harvest to transportation, marketing and distribution), will also be important to empowering young people.

Advocacy and empowerment issues around youth empowerment would involve building the capacity of young persons to become part of the procurement process that are meant to execute projects meant for youths.

Also, situating school projects within the safe school initiative would be vital. This would not only address the exposure of schools to the activities of bandits and kidnappers but also help to keep young people in school as well reverse the trend of out of school children.



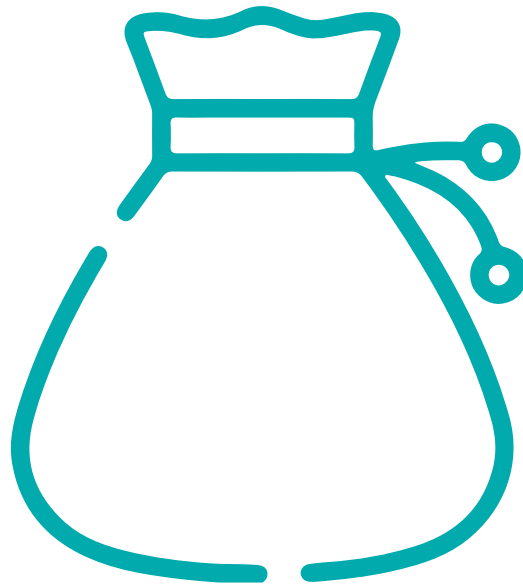
The approved total expenditure for Enugu state in 2021 is

N1.163 Trillion

as against

N805.7 Billion

in 2020.



Lagos State

- Lagos State budget for 2021 is N1.163 trillion (N1,163,522,460,717.42). It is 44.41% higher than the revised 2020 budget of N805.7 billion (N805,701,073,456.56) in 2020. The size of capital expenditure in the 2021 budget is N704.86 billion and accounts for 60.58% of the total expenditure compared to the 58.23% share in 2020.
- The distribution of capital projects by sectoral classification shows that the economic sector has the largest share of capital allocation in the 2020 and 2021 Lagos state budget. In 2020 the share of the economic sector was 79%. In the 2021 budget, the share increased to 81%.
- Programmes directly labelled as Youth Programmes had a much higher proportion in the 2021 budget than in the 2020 budget
- The Agric YES programme is a major avenue via which programmes targeted at young people are delivered using the agric-preneurship in Lagos State. The project which have an allocation of N295 million in the 2021 budget, recorded an increase of nearly 6times the allocation it received in 2020. The state however is faced with congestion and rising urban slums.

Issues for Advocacy and Engagement

Lagos has a population of over 20 million people. Its biggest resources, therefore, are its people. The state however is faced with congestion and rising urban slums.

Using the size of its budget – with an annual budget size of over N1 trillion naira; the government of Lagos should continue to build capacity in the monitoring and tracking of projects in the Agricultural sector.

Conclusion

Nigeria's Rising Public Expenditure has been accompanied with rising youth unemployment rate. According to the ILO, there are about 38.1% working poor in sub-Saharan Africa and young people account for 23.5 per cent; with young girls being more disadvantaged than young men in access to work in the informal and formal economy.

Generally, unemployment situation worsened in Nigeria in 2020 as the unemployment rate went from 27.1% in 2020Q2 to 33.3% by 2020Q4. Sadly, youth unemployment increased more than the national unemployment rate. The reduction in underemployment rate from 28.6% to 22.8% for the national figure and from 28.2% to 21% for Youths, implies that people are settling for less, especially youths. Extending government social safety net programme to persons in the small and medium scale businesses would help to expand access to credit and other social programmes such as health insurance.

The Common wealth Youth development Index also shows that Nigerian youths are in the group of worse off countries when it comes to employment and opportunities creation, access to education and health care. The YDI is a composite index of 18 indicators that collectively measure progress on youth development in 183 countries, including 49 of the 53 Commonwealth countries. It has five domains, measuring levels

of education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, political participation and civic participation among young people. The YDI is guided by the Commonwealth definition of youth as people between the ages of 15 and 29, while recognising that some countries and international institutions define youth differently. By compiling the available stock of global youth-related datasets into one comprehensive and harmonised measure, the YDI enables users to gain a better understanding of youth development in a single snapshot. Moreover, the research that has informed the index also enables users to identify the areas in which collection of data on young people needs to be strengthened or expanded. The YDI makes it possible to compare the status and well-being of young people in different countries and regions. The overall YDI data shows that despite efforts made in improving the wellbeing of young people, Nigeria's YDI is below the global average of 0.616 in 2016.

Although Nigerian youths recorded relatively high scores in civic, and political participation, it recorded the least scores in health, education and employment related components of the Youth Development Index. This implies that while Nigerian youths have continued to increase their effort to engage in the policy making and governance process in the country, government efforts has not been commensurate in creating the needed jobs, access to health and education for youths.

About the Youth Organizing and Leadership project (YOL)

The Youth Organizing and Leadership is a three-year project funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to mobilize young people and their organizations for progressive social change. It aims at enhancing young people's power to influence public expenditure towards gender responsive public service delivery through progressive taxation.

The project intends to achieve three (3) key strategic objectives: Quality Gender Responsive Public Services through Progressive Taxation; Participatory Democracy and Youth Representation; & Economic Opportunities and decent work for Youth.