

PRESS RELEASE

PRESIDENT COMMITS MORE MONEY TO HEALTH

Health Alert, the Budget Advocacy Network, Save the Children UK, World Vision and Oxfam, applaud the President's recent commitment to increase the health budget in 2012. Following the announcement of the drastic cut to the health budget from 11% of the total national budget in 2011, to 7.4% in 2012, civil society organisations and NGOs swung into action, calling for an urgent revision to the budget.

It seems that the President has heard our call!

On Monday the 19th, in a meeting with civil society organisation Health for All Coalition, His Excellency the President promised to **seriously look into developing a supplementary budget to the 2012 Health Budget**. He also stated **"it is better to remain at 11% as in 2011 than to go below by 7.4% if it cannot be increased further"**.

The beneficiaries of the Free Healthcare Initiative, and the public generally, can be reassured that the President remains committed to providing quality healthcare and to securing the success of this important initiative. In addition to this, the President has indicated that he also remains committed to achieving the Abuja target of allocating 15% of the total national budget to health by 2015.

Health Alert, the Budget Advocacy Network, Save the Children UK, World Vision and Oxfam, urge the President to act on his commitment and ensure that a supplementary budget for health is introduced, and that the allocation is revised to 11% as in 2011. We also call on the President to announce a clear timeline for achieving the 15% Abuja target.

We thank the President for responding decisively to our concerns, and look forward to seeing the budget for health in 2012 increased.



Budget Advocacy Network

