



Zambia Medical Association 2022 Budget Expectations

PRESS RELEASE

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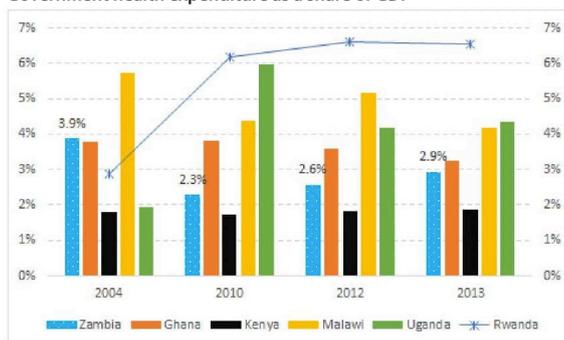
Zambia Medical Association (ZMA) is a membership organization of Medical Doctors in the Republic of Zambia. Founded in 1964, the association has been providing support services to its members by representing their professional interests, advocating for better health on behalf of the people of Zambia. The mission of ZMA is to build a healthy and productive nation by promoting high standards of medical practice and influencing policy and public opinion on health matters in Zambia.

The Zambia Medical Association is looking forward with great interest to the 2022 National Budget; the first of the five year term of the newly elected government.

Historically all the budgets have fallen short of the 15% health financing target according to the Abuja Declaration, to which Zambia is a signatory. None of the previous governments have managed to achieve that.

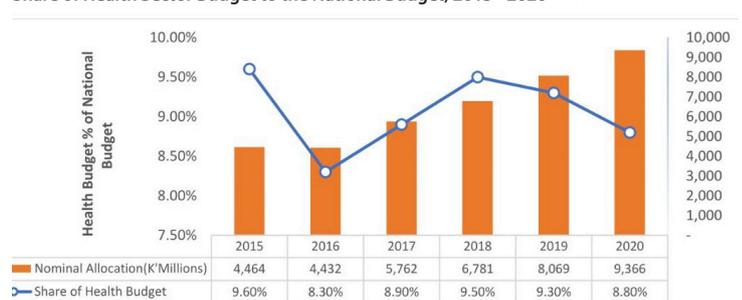
Notwithstanding that, the budgets released over recent years have been averaging around 5% in effect. For example, from the 2018 health facilities allocation, only 8/12 operational grants were released. This reduced further to only 3/12 in 2019, before increasing to 10/12 in 2020. This underfunding creates operational challenges for service delivery points with the resultant increase in out of pocket expenditure for the public negatively impacting attainment of universal health access (UHC).

Government health expenditure as a share of GDP



Source: WHO NHA (2004-2013)

Share of Health Sector Budget to the National Budget, 2015 - 2020



∴ Author construction based on budget speeches



COVID-19 has further complicated the financing challenges and so our expectations in this year's budget is not only an increase in budgetary allocation towards the 15% of the national budget for health, but further increase the fiscal space, taking into consideration the historical gaps, reducing of waste and improvement in the timely release and execution of the budget.

We also expect increase in primary health care budgetary and policy support in addition to seeing the government dismantle public debt in accrued personnel emolument owed to healthcare workers.

We expect the government to optimize the existing health facilities to operate to their capacities by facilitating installation of adequate equipment, revamping supply chain management of essential drugs and medical supplies, establishment of staff positions, effecting timely promotions, recruitment of new Human Resource for Health (HRH) across the whole spectrum of service provision in order to improve the health worker: patient ratio, support private sector growth by remapping and dynamizing objectives/operations of the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) and finally effectuate prompt disbursement of operational grants that speak to all six (6) pillars of ideal health systems management by addressing Service Delivery, Health Workforce, Health Information Systems, Access to Essential Medicines, Financing and Leadership/Governance.

Signed

Dr. Crispin Moyo
President
ZAMBIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

