

## Communiqué

**Communiqué Issued at the end of a two day budget for Health and Nutrition Meeting with key stakeholders of Nutrition line Ministries from Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Nasarawa and Niger States, held on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018, at Grand Cubana Hotel, Jabi, Abuja, jointly organized by Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria, Save the Children International and Alive & Thrive**

The initiative by Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria and other development partners – Save the Children International and Alive & Thrive in bringing the five states together is a welcome development which helps in charting a way forward for appropriate budgeting and timely release of funds for nutrition.

The following observations were made during the meeting:

1. States budgetary allocation to the health sector is yet to meet the 15% Abuja declaration and within the existing budgetary allocation of the states, nutrition is grossly inadequate.
2. States budgetary allocation to nutrition relevant MDAs (MoA, Water Resources, MoE, Min. of Budget & Planning/Planning & Budget Commission, ADP, MWASD, MoI) on nutrition sensitive interventions are grossly inadequate.
3. It has been observed that the release of funds for nutrition is a challenge in all the states.
4. There is lack of explicit provisions for nutrition specific interventions in the budget.
5. In some states, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) personnel do not possess the requisite competence and skill to initiate and follow through budget process and program implementation for nutrition.
6. Inadequate statistical data for planning and decision making with respect to nutrition
7. Huge dependence by the states on donor agencies for funding nutrition activities, and where such initiatives exist, some states do not oblige the counterparts' funds committed either timely or not at all.
8. Currently, nutrition intervention activities are heavily tilted towards health sector while it has a multi-sectoral perspective.
9. More attention is being focused on treatment of malnutrition cases at the expense of prevention.

### Recommendations

In the light of the foregoing, the following recommendations were arrived at: -

1. All the states should work towards achieving the 15% Abuja Declaration on health in the 2019 budget and beyond with specific budget line items defined for nutritional interventions.

2. States to create specific nutrition budget lines and adequately fund same for nutrition relevant MDAs (MoA, Water Resources, MoE, Min. of Budget & Planning/Planning & Budget Commission, ADP, MWASD, Mol) in the year 2019 budget and beyond.
3. There is a compelling need to introduce innovative ways of financing nutritional interventions across the states e.g. creation of trust/endowment funds, philanthropic interventions, corporate social responsibilities (CSR).
4. Strong and sustained advocacy by groups such as development partners, civil society organizations, community/opinion leaders and professional bodies to advocate to the state executives e.g through the Governors' Forum to prioritize timely release of funds for nutrition activities.
5. Institutionalize release of funds either by way of standing orders.
6. Recruit, train and deploy personnel to implement nutrition programs.
7. There should be a statistical survey by the state bureau of statistics/department on nutrition including establishing a data bank on all nutrition activities in the states to inform appropriate planning.
8. Domestication of the National multi-sectoral plan of action for nutrition (NMSPAN) at the state level.
9. Attention should be given to prevention in addition to management of cases of malnutrition with the aim to halt new cases.
10. Legislation to institutionalize resources for nutrition interventions especially as it relates to adequate provision and timely release of funds.
11. Creation of Agency on nutrition at National and State levels.

#### Members of the communique Committee

- Hon. Abdullahi Adamu (Niger State) - Chairman
- Muktar Ado Yakasai (Kano State)
- Dr. Zainab Kwaru Muhammad-Idris (Kaduna State)
- Bello M. Yohanna (Nasarawa State)
- Dr. Neyu Iliyasu (Kaduna State) SPHCDA
- Mrs. R.O Hassan (Lagos State)- Secretary
- Mary Ajakaye (Abuja)- Administrative support