

Communique on the Two-Day Legislative Engagement on Improved Nutrition

Location: Dover Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos

Date: 26th - 27th June 2024

Theme: Prioritizing Nutrition - A Pathway to Human Capital Development

Preamble:

A two-day legislative engagement focused on improving nutrition in 13 focal states—Lagos, Kano, Kebbi, Kaduna, Jigawa, Niger, Nasarawa, Benue, Enugu, Bayelsa, Gombe, Sokoto, and Cross River—was held at the Dover Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, from 26th to 27th June 2024. The theme of the engagement was "Prioritizing Nutrition - A Pathway to Human Capital Development."

Objectives:

1. To highlight the critical role of nutrition in human capital development.
2. To discuss strategies for improving nutrition policies and implementation in the focal states.
3. To engage legislators in understanding their roles in promoting nutrition as a priority in their respective states.
4. To foster inter-state collaboration on best practices and effective nutritional interventions.

Key Discussions:

1. The Importance of Nutrition:

- Nutrition as a foundation for healthy living and its direct impact on education, productivity, and economic development.
- The link between malnutrition and cognitive impairments, poor health outcomes, and reduced economic productivity.

2. Policy Frameworks and Legislative Actions:

- Current nutrition policies and gaps in the 13 focal states.
- Implementation of the six month paid maternity leave
- The need for robust legislative frameworks to support and enforce nutrition-related policies.
- Learnings on successful legislative actions from other regions and countries.

3. Funding and Resource Allocation:

- The importance of adequate funding for nutrition programs.
- State should prioritize the Child Nutrition Fund which is a counterpart fund by the state government and UNICEF with ratio 1:1
- Strategies for mobilizing resources from government, private sector, and international partners.

4. Inter-Sectoral Collaboration:

- The role of various sectors, including health, agriculture, education, and social protection, in addressing nutrition.
- Case studies on effective multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition improvement.

5. Community Engagement and Awareness:

- Strategies for increasing community awareness and participation in nutrition programs.
- The role of traditional and social media in disseminating nutrition information.

Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations by the legislators that will address malnutrition and food Insecurity in Nigeria:

- Include Nutrition as a subject in the elementary school curriculum
- Encourage the establishment of home and school gardens
- Establish a Ministry or Agency for food and nutrition across states
- Set-Up a committee on food nutrition across the state legislative arm.
- Conduct fiscal space analysis to measure financial leakages and reallocate funds appropriately to improve nutrition funding.
- Participation of ALGON, executives, and academia in subsequent legislative retreats
- Participation of NGF secretariat in subsequent legislative retreat.

Resolutions:

The following are some of the resolutions from the legislative engagement:

1. Policy Enhancement:

- Legislators committed to reviewing and strengthening existing nutrition policies in their states.
- A call for the development of comprehensive state-specific nutrition action plans.
- To foster effective collaboration through joint high-level meeting with both the executive and legislators

2. Increased Budgetary Allocation:

- Advocate for increased budgetary allocation to nutrition programs in the state budgets by 4% for nutrition sensitive MDAs and 10% for nutrition specific MDAs.
- Ensure timely and efficient disbursement of allocated funds.
- Commit to funding nutrition interventions through constituency projects.

3. Legislative Advocacy and Oversight:

- Legislators to actively advocate for nutrition as a priority in legislative discussions and decision-making processes.
- Regular oversight to ensure effective implementation of nutrition programs and policies.
- Include nutrition as a standing committee or include nutrition in the existing committees in the state legislative arm

4. Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Promotion and partnerships between government, civil society, private sector, and international organizations to enhance nutrition initiatives.
- Establishment of inter-state working groups to share best practices and coordinate efforts.

5. Public Awareness Campaigns:

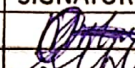
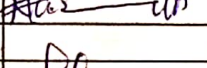

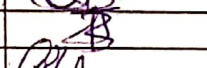






- Launching of extensive public awareness campaigns to educate communities on the importance of nutrition.
- Utilization of various media platforms to reach diverse audiences with nutrition messages.

Conclusion:

The legislative retreat seeks to harness renewed commitment from the participating states to prioritize nutrition as a key driver of human capital development. The resolutions adopted will serve as a roadmap for improving nutrition outcomes across the 13 focal states. Continuous monitoring and collaborative efforts will be essential to achieve the desired impact on the health and well-being of the populations in these states.

Signed:

Names and Titles of Key Participants

S/N	NAMES	DESIGNATION	STATE	SIGNATURE
1	RT. Hon Abdulmalik Sarkindaji	Speaker HoA	Niger	
2	Hon. Muhammed Bello Idris	Majority Leader HoA	Sokoto	
3	Hon. Siddi Buba	Chair. Health HoA	Gombe	
4	Hon. Nasir Umar Paiko	Member HoA	Niger	
5	Hon. Rilwan Sahabi	Member HoA	Kebbi	
6	Sir. Moses Tor Leva	P.S/Chair SCFN	Benue	
7	Nkem Ubang	D.D SPC	Cross river	
8	Saidu Adamu	SNO	Jigawa	
9	Idisi Yibatama	SNO	Bayelsa	
10	Dalhatu Danladi	SCFN Sec	Kano	
11	Ada Nwobodo	ASNO	Enugu	
12	Jessica Bartholomew	State Coordinator	Kaduna	
13	Jonah Aboki	State Coordinator	Nasarawa	
14	Samuel Akinyode	State Coordinator	Lagos	

Date: 27th June 2024