



SAVE THE CHILDREN PARTNERS THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO END CHILD MARRIAGE BY 2030

HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY



3 Million children out of school in N/east Nigeria, UN seeks \$1 billion response plan for IDPs

ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS



Save the Children donates toilets to Lagos schools through the SDI project

HEALTH



Save the Children Calls on FG to improve health care delivery for mothers and children in Nigeria



Antonio Guterres sworn in as United Nations secretary-general



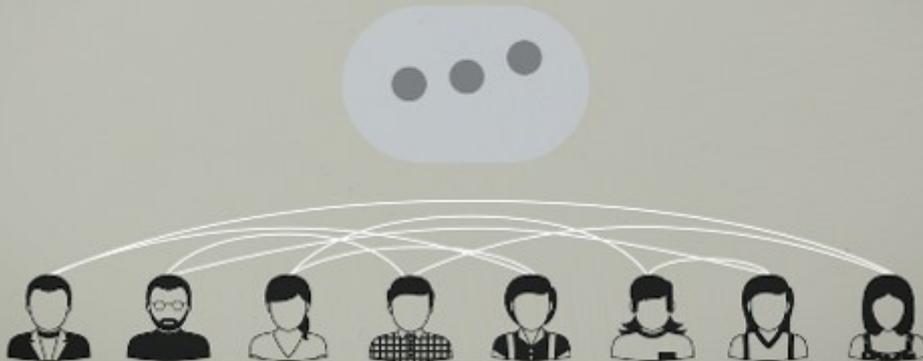
Amina Mohammed Confirmed As UN Deputy Sec Gen



PHOTOS: Staff end of year Party in Abuja

Save the date: Workplace by Facebook is coming on 22 February!

#GETCONNECTED



If only there was a truly global online social platform where staff could connect with each other, no matter where they are or what language they speak, so we could share knowledge, expertise, skills and build networks outside of our own communities.....

The Knowledge Workstream is excited to introduce **Workplace**; a new social collaboration platform for internal communication, collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Workplace is a new enterprise tool from the largest social network company. It will give our staff a new way to connect and share knowledge and expertise around the world. The platform will be rolled out globally across Save the Children on Wednesday, 22 February 2017. **All Save the Children staff will be invited to join via an email link on this day.**

The Workplace project sits within our global strategy and will help improve the systems we use to share knowledge and allow us to do more for children. In October 2016, we piloted the platform with around 1,500 staff with great success; 73% signed up and used it on a regular basis.

Find out who your 'roll-out champion' is in your office and connect to understand the benefits of Workplace. If you have been part of the Workplace pilot and would like to offer support to your local roll-out champion, please email workplace@savethechildren.org.

Workplace FAQ

The use of a new platform can raise a lot of questions, we have tried to answer a lot of them here. If you have any more please email us FacebookatWork@SavetheChildren.org

What is Enterprise Social Networking (ESN)?

Enterprise social networking is defined as an organisations use of an internal social network or platform to connect individuals who share similar business/professional interests or activities. Unlike external and personal social networks, the term enterprise is added to emphasise that this is a dedicated network for professional communication and collaboration, a business tool.

ESN aims to enable organisations to be completely digitally connected, allow colleagues to connect seamlessly with each other across silos and across the globe. ESN gives management the opportunity to have a finger on the pulse of the organisation and provide a deep sense of connection to the organisations strategy, mission and to each other, breaking down barriers in the process.

Why does Save the Children need ESN?

Due to the federated nature of the organisation there is a tremendous demand to provide a common, global online platform where discussions and communities of practice can be hosted. For a number of years now we have seen a strong desire from employees to communicate with colleagues in a quick, efficient, informal, social manner. Without a globally recommended and supported platform staff have been using their personal Facebook, What's App groups, Slack, Google groups and a range of other unsupported tools.

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WORKPLACE FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN
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I welcome you into a peaceful new year.

Welcome to this, our first newsletter of 2017, and may I wish you all a peaceful New Year! The past three months have been incredibly busy for the Nigeria programme with a visit from Kevin Watkins CEO of SCUUK in November followed by a visit by Tove Wang, CEO of SC Norway in January. Both were very moved by the situation in the North East and pledged to work hard to find resources to enable us to reach out to more children in need of our help. We have reached almost 250,000 children since we started our response at the very end of 2014 and we have achieved this against a very poor funding background and despite security risks that our staff have had to work with every day.

As our humanitarian work grew so it has put significant additional demands on our operations team under Tunde Ojei as the development programmes have also gone from strength to strength. The CDGP met its target to reach 50,000 pregnant women by this month and the WINNN project has prepared for a follow up project expected from DfID soon. STEER has opened up for us new areas of work in Cross Rivers as well as in Lagos, and our health work continues to bring improvements to the treatment of children and infants. Throughout this Programme Managers have had to struggle with the dramatic fall in value of the Naira which has caused some major underspends in some projects but which we have learned to manage by working with the members to develop additional activities. We are also about to expand out Stop Diarrhea Initiative project to a poor area on the edge of Abuja. This is at the request of the donor.

So the Country Programme as a whole remains dynamic and innovative and I am sure we will see further growth through 2017. The pace of change however means that we have to be prepared to adapt to the new challenges. This has meant we have had to reinforce the management capacity of the humanitarian team by creating a position of Director of Humanitarian Response and we should welcome Rasha Al Jundi to this position. We have also embarked on re-arranging our campaigning and advocacy work and in this Sophie Sutcliffe has taken up the lead. I am very happy that this has given me the opportunity to bring David Olayemi closer to the centre of the SMT as a senior adviser on political and external affairs. He will be exploring areas of work and potential threats and opportunities that we have not been able to explore in the past. I greatly value his input in this new role.

I know that changes at the senior management level can result in uncertainty for staff and that is why I am closing on this point. We have made tumultuous changes in our structures and procedures over the past two years. Our staff number has increased by over 100 and we will have to continue to live with change if we want the programme to remain dynamic. It is when we stop changing that we should start worrying about the future.

So please accept a personal and heartfelt thank you to each of you for the dedication and commitment you show each day. If any of you have concerns about anything please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly – phone, email, skype etc. and I promise to take the time to try to resolve them.

Ben Foot

Country Director

Save the Children Nigeria

Meet Angela Samba as she talks about her journey so far with Save the Children in Nigeria

Can you tell us about you and when you joined Save the Children?

I am Angela Samba, Voice and accountability advisor for the WINNN project, based in Katsina field office. I joined Save the Children June 2012 I started work as an LGA T.A on the ECHO funded nutrition project in Katsina

How was it like when you started with Save the Children in the Katsina Office?

Working in Katsina field office has been a great experience for me, it was not easy in the beginning but the team there made it easy to adapt, I have learnt a lot and I have been given the opportunity to contribute for the growth of the team and the larger organization. I met colleagues who became friends that have turned family, we learn from each other and support each other to grow.

How has it been like working as a Voice and Accountability Advisor for Save the Children?

It is very interesting, I get to engage people both on the demand side; creating awareness of nutrition issues, supporting communities to demand for nutrition services and promote positive behavior change for improved nutrition and on the supply side; work with CSOs and the media to secure commitment from the government for nutrition and improve support for nutrition intervention in the states.

What do you like about the job?

The direct impact my job has on the lives of children, makes me smile. I see results on the spot and that makes me want to do more



What is the most difficult part of your job?

Having to depend on others to meet your objectives can be challenging, It is not easy trying to change people's lifestyle, it takes a lot of patience and persistence to get there, and sometimes I find myself doing the same thing over and over.

What inspired you to join Save the Children?

My love for Children and working with Children inspired me and I am glad I took the step.

What are the strategic duties you perform in your role as Voice and Accountability Advisor?

I provide technical support for the WINNN state teams to develop strategies and plan for implementation of activities that will make nutrition a priority both on the part of communities and on the part of policy makers.

I am responsible for ensuring the SCI CRM is functional on the WINNN project for accountability

What are your career goals?

I aspire to acquire new skills, be better at my job and take up higher positions.

What do you love most about the team you work with in Katsina?

The humor in the team helps to cool off the stress of the day.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Travelling, spending time with family & friends and watching movies.

Save the Children Calls on FG to improve health care delivery for mothers and children in Nigeria

As part of its prevailing efforts at ensuring child survival and development around the world, Save the Children International joined the global community on December 13, 2016 to commemorate the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day in Lagos, Nigeria. Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated globally on the 12th of December, and has become the annual rallying point for the growing movement for Health for All. UHC day marks the anniversary of the United Nations' historic and unanimous endorsement of universal health coverage in 2012.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means everyone can access quality health services without financial hardship. The UHC day provided an avenue for SCI to join the growing global consensus to announce to the world that UHC is a smart investment and an achievable goal everywhere, to which countries have committed to, through their endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Target 3.8, under Goal 3).

Among the major problems Nigeria must address to eliminate preventable deaths of mothers and children under five (109 per 1000 live births, according to UNICEF State of the World's Children report, 2016), in its bid to achieve UHC, is the availability and performance of its health workforce.

The Area Operations Manager, Lagos and Calabar, Roy Chikwem, urged the country to intensify efforts in improving the situation: "We need to do more to improve health care delivery for mothers and children in the country as the figures reflect high numbers of deaths among under-fives".

According to the Nigeria DHS, 2013, 62% of deliveries in Nigeria are without a skilled health worker present. This is nearly 15x higher for wealthy women



compared to poor and nearly 7x higher in the south compared with the northwest. There is only 2 skilled health worker for every 1000 Nigerian. In Nigeria, poor health outcomes for newborn babies and under-5 children are due largely to the poor supply and quality of health services delivered, as a result of limited human resources, a lack of lifesaving commodities and equipment, and inadequate infrastructure.

In keeping with, Save the Children's health advocacy thrusts in Nigeria an around the world, particularly, the cutting-edge of the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) global campaign, the UHC day commemoration served as an opportunity to share the urgency of these priorities with members of the public. It was an avenue to put a spotlight on SCI's call for increased national commitment to, and investment in, UHC, by building universal, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services (RMNCAH) at the primary health care level as the first priority and prioritizing the poorest and most marginalized groups. The event was marked with a press briefing that featured reporters and

editors from both traditional and new media practices. Civil Society Organisation (CSO) partners were also present to tackle the conversation.

Through the GSK funded Health Workers' Capacity Building (HCB) project, within the next three years SCI will continue to improve access to lifesaving, quality healthcare by directly building the capacity of 5,000 frontline health workers. HCB also aims to Influence policy change to improve the delivery of quality health services to mothers, newborn babies and children under the age of five in three selected states – Lagos, Gombe and Kaduna. According to Dr. Opeyemi Odedere, MNCH Adviser, the objectives of HCB is to "ensure that health workers are correctly applying improved skills and knowledge in the provision of MNCH services and also to enable a policy environment which supports the delivery of quality MNCH services in the three states by 2018". Save the Children leveraged the press briefing to call for increased national commitment and investment towards UHC, by building RMNCAH services at primary health care level as a first priority and prioritising access for the poorest and most marginalised and excluded groups.



SAVE THE CHILDREN PARTNERS THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO END CHILD MARRIAGE BY 2030

Vice President, His excellency Prof. Yemi Osinbajo delivers his address at the launch of the campaign to end Child Marriage in Abuja

Save the Children in partnership with development organisations and the Federal ministry of Women Affairs led the Vice President in unveiling the Campaign Logo and the Launch of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nigeria.

The Launch of the campaign to End Child Marriage in Nigeria makes Nigeria the 16th country to join the African Union's Campaign to end child marriage by 2030.

Speaking during the Launch, the Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development, Senator Aisha Alhassan said Child marriage limits young girls in fulfilling their potentials.

“Child marriage threatens girls’ lives and health, and it limits their full potential”, said Aisha Alhassan, minister for women affairs and social development.

Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Aisha Alhassan who

was also part of the campaign noted that 65 percent of northern Nigerian girls get married before 18.

She said “In 2015, an estimated six million girls were married by age 15 years. Child marriage is extremely prevalent in the Northeast and Northwest geo-political zones of Nigeria. Northern Nigeria has one of the highest rates of early marriage in the world with an estimated 65 percent of children married off before the age of 18 years.

Alhasan also confirmed that the ministry in collaboration with Save The Children International and United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) partnered with the ministry by engaging two consultants to carry out research on ending the harmful traditional practice. “The detrimental consequences of child marriage on children, families, communities and nations at large are evident. There are always high maternal mortality and morbidity,

illiteracy, lack of skills, unemployment, low income and widespread misery among the victims of child marriage especially female victims.

“The vision of the National Strategy Document therefore is to have zero child marriage in Nigeria by 2030 and the goal of the campaign is to reduce child marriage by 40 percent by 2020. This is achievable if all stakeholders will network, pull resources together and make budgetary provisions for implementation of activities and programmes that will end child marriage in Nigeria.” she said. She further said, in order to scarp this tradition that all hands must be on deck. “Protection of our children is our duty. All of us need to join hands to achieve this through provision of adequate services and comprehensive preventive efforts so that our girls and boys can have access and have quality education” she said

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90,000 children are expected to die in Nigeria over the next 12 months, UNICEF warns

Unless action is taken, 240 children will die everyday, the United Nations children's agency says

Tens of thousands of children are at risk of starving to death in [Nigeria](#) unless the world takes action, the United Nations children's agency has warned.

Labelling it the world's most under-funded humanitarian crisis, Unicef said the terrorist insurgency of [Boko Haram](#) has left 400,000 children severely malnourished and millions more in desperate need of humanitarian assistance after they fled their homes.

The agency warned that 90,000 children could die of Severe Acute Malnutrition in the coming year unless the international community takes swift action. That amounts to more than 240 child deaths each day.

Doune Porter, Unicef's chief of communications in the west African nation, told *The Independent* that despite attempts to raise global awareness of the crisis in [November](#), the number of children at risk of starving to death has increased further.

Forecasting a "tragedy" if the rest of the world continues to turn its back, she said: "Three months ago we estimated that over the year in the three states most effected by conflict – Borno Yobe and Adamawa — 4000,000 would suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition. This projection has now increased to 450,000.

"We continue to be hampered by a lack of funds and by access security in the region. There are a lot of children who we can't reach because of insecurity and attacks in certain areas.

"If the situation continues where we can't reach people or we do not have enough funding, we estimate that one in five of these children — 90,000 of them — are expected to die in the coming year."



UNICEF warns 90,000 children could die of in the coming year — amounting to almost 250 child deaths each day — unless the international community takes swift action Save the Children

The conflict in North-eastern Nigeria has led 1.7 million people to flee their homes to live in other communities or refugee camps within Nigeria as well as neighbouring Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

Unable now to generate an income to support their families, trade has been limited and food prices have escalated as a result.

Displaced people in the worst-affected areas of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa have been unable to farm and are now suffering from a severe food crisis.

In total, 15 million people have been affected, with seven million people in need of urgent life-saving assistance — more than half of them children.

"Acute malnutrition is an extremely dangerous condition for children. It's clinging to life. It makes them nine times more likely to die from an ordinary illness such as pneumonia and diarrhea," said Ms Porter. "In this crisis there are children starving to death. And we can't reach these children if

we don't have the funding. So few people know about the depth of this crisis. She added: "We're scaling up the efforts. But this is a crisis that is so big that we really need the world to mobilise around the children of north-east Nigeria. If we don't get the funding, then we cannot reach the children whose lives we could save. And that's a tragedy."

Mike Sunderland, Save the Children's West and Central Africa's media manager, has been working with malnourished children in Nigeria and warned that as well as the children being treated, there are thousands more that haven't yet been reached.

Mr Sunderland told *The Independent*: "We're seeing a lot of widespread malnutrition of children, children with missing parents. Around a million children have been moved from their homes. This is a widespread humanitarian crisis.

[Culled from the Independent UK](#)

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Antonio Guterres sworn in as United Nations secretary-general



Former Portuguese prime minister Antonio Guterres has been sworn in as secretary-general of the United Nations, becoming the ninth UN chief in the body's 71-year history.

The former UN refugee chief was elected to the top job by acclamation in the General Assembly in October.

He takes over from Ban Ki-moon on January 1.

Mr Guterres performed well in answering questions before assembly members and his executive experience as prime minister and as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 -2015 propelled him to first place among 13 candidates vying for the job in informal polls in the Security Council.

After the sixth poll, the council nominated him by acclamation and his name was sent to the assembly for final approval.

After being sworn in by General Assembly president Peter Thomson, Mr Guterres addressed the 193 member nations, saying the world body must work to simplify, decentralise and make more flexible its sprawling bureaucracy.

"It benefits no one if takes nine months to deploy a staff member to the field," he said.

"The United Nations needs to be nimble, efficient and effective.

Mr Guterres also said he would send a clear signal that gender parity "from top to bottom" within the organization would be among his first priorities.

Guterres 'man for the job' in challenging times

The swearing-in came after the 193 General Assembly members paid tribute to Mr Ban, ending with a standing ovation for the native South Korean.

The swearing-in ceremony included the UN's top leaders and was attended by dignitaries including Myanmar politician and Nobel peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power lauded Mr Ban's accomplishments while in office and said she was confident Mr Guterres is the right person to replace him.

[READ MORE VIA LINK](#)

Nigeria's Amina Mohammed confirmed as new UN Deputy Secretary-General



New United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on recently announced Nigeria's Environment minister, Amina Mohammed as his Deputy Secretary-General (DSG).

Guterres made the announcement through Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman of the outgoing Secretary-General.

Guterres also announced the appointment of two other women into high-profile positions at the UN. Ms. Maria Viotti of Brazil (Chef de Cabinet) and Ms. Kyungwha Kang of the Republic of Korea as Special advisor on policy, a new role he intends to create.

"I am pleased to announce that I will be appointing Ms. Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria as my Deputy Secretary-General, and Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti of Brazil as my Chef De Cabinet," he said.

"I am happy to count on the efforts of these three highly competent women, whom I have chosen for their strong backgrounds in global affairs, development, diplomacy, human rights and humanitarian action," he added.

Amina Mohammed, the current Nigeria's Minister of Environment, served as UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to outgoing Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning.

She was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Before joining the UN, Mohammed worked for three successive administrations in Nigeria, serving as Special Adviser on the Millennium Development Goals.

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SAVE THE CHILDREN DONATES TOILETS TO LAGOS SCHOOLS THROUGH THE SDI PROJECT

By Adetokunmba Lawrence, Lagos

Rita Michael Edet II, a Primary Six pupil of St Paul UNA Primary School, Shomolu, Lagos could hardly conceal her excitement as she joined guests to commission a new toilet facility donated to her school yesterday. She was all smiles as she turned on the tap in the building and water gushed out for her and her mates to wash their hands.

“This new toilet is neat, It’s lovely, it’s beautiful. I always try not to use the old toilet unless I’m very pressed. It’s always smelling, full of urine and no water to flush. It’s full of germs,” she quipped as her classmate Michael Edet nodded in agreement.

The excitement was palpable among teachers and pupils in Shomolu LGA and Bariga LCDA of Lagos state as Save the Children International, in partnership with Reckitt Benckiser (RB), a multinational consumer goods company, handed over rehabilitated and newly constructed toilet facilities to 8 public primary schools in the area in an effort to promote hygiene education among the schools children.

Officials of the Shomolu Local Government were on hand as the Save The Children staff moved from



one school to the other to inspect the new facilities and formally present them to the government for use by the schools. The tiled toilets were fitted with wash hand basins water tankers and in separate sections for male, female pupils and teachers, all designed to help the schools prevent the menace of diarrhoea, one of the leading causes of death among children. Handing over the facilities, Save The Children’s Area Operation Manager, Lagos and Cross River, Mr.

Roy Chikwem thanked the Local Government and teachers for giving the organisation and its partners the opportunity to impact on the children through the rehabilitation and construction of the facilities.

“Our work is to ensure children are protected and these facilities are being provided to ensure improved sanitation facilities and hygiene education that will result in the development of healthy behaviours by the children for life.”

He urged the teachers to encourage their pupils to use the facilities as they would at home. Chikwem also stressed the need for the children to cultivate the habit of washing hands and ensure that the facilities are also kept clean at all times. Receiving the facilities on behalf of the SUBEB chairman, Mrs. Bunmi Oteju the LGA’s Director, Co-Curricular thanked Save The Children and RB for the gesture and assured them that the government would ensure that the facilities are maintained and kept clean to protect the children against diarrhoea and other diseases caused by poor hygiene and poor sanitation.

[READ MORE VIA LINK](#)



3 Million children out of school in N/east Nigeria, UN response plan seeks \$1 billion for IDPs

By James Bigila, Media Coordinator., Abuja

Recently the Chief Executive of Save the Children Norway, Tove R. Wang, briefed the press on preparations for the *Oslo Humanitarian Conference on the crisis in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region* – a major international donor conference to be held in Oslo, Norway on 23rd and 24th February 2017

She met with journalists in Abuja to brief them on the situation in north-east Nigeria where she visited Save the Children's humanitarian programmes in Borno State. She provided feedback on her impressions of her visit and in particular how the crisis impacts on children missing out on education.

In her briefing, she disclosed that the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria is seeking more than US\$1 billion to address the needs of those in crisis. The United Nations estimates that around 450,000 children will suffer severe acute malnutrition with 300,000 in Borno alone. The UN crisis response plan aims to reach around 7million people and there are 3 million children denied their right to education

Nigeria is faced with an emergency rooted in opposition to western education. 80% of

displaced children live in host communities and have little or no access to education. 3 million children are denied access to education and the best chance of a stable future where they can prosper, which is likely to further fuel a cycle of violence in the region.

Over 1,200 schools have been destroyed, while more than 500 teachers killed and 19,000 displaced. An already weak education system has collapsed and many schools remain closed. Targeted abductions and attacks on schools have left children and their parents in constant fear. An entire generation is at risk of losing their right to education.

Speaking during the press briefing, the CEO for Save the Children Norway said, "For the situation in Nigeria, 10 million children are out of school, living in areas affected by the crisis. Nigeria has been deeply affected by the crisis as 3m children are out of school as a result of the crisis in North east, this is a huge gap and there is a large population of IDPs in North east. I saw some education activities in the camp, and also children's eagerness to learn", She said.

According to her, Nigeria is faced with an emergency rooted in opposition to western education. "80% of displaced children live in host communities and have little or no access to education" 3 million children are denied access to education, denied the best chance of a stable future where they can prosper, she noted.

Tove further added that an already weak education system has collapsed and many schools remain closed, as they have been demolished or lack the necessary teachers and learning materials. Save the children has been responding to the humanitarian crisis in the Northern region ,through intervention in the education sector.

Also speaking, the Country Director, Ben foot acknowledged the efforts of the government in tackling the crisis and also providing the needed education interventions but he stressed that more funding needs to be directed at the children in Northeast Nigeria to reactivate schools so that they can return back to the classrooms to learn.

[READ MORE VIA LINK](#)

Lawmakers and Stakeholders in WINNN States commit to increased Nutrition resourcing in Northern Nigeria



WINNN Chief of Party, Dr. Mohammed Liman (3rd Right) with some of the Legislators and Chairmen SFNCs

By Lanen Kuma, Senior Program Officer, WINNN

Parliamentary advocacy for increased nutrition budgetary provision and timely releases for the year 2017, and the promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices to Household levels are some of the major actions to be taken by the Members of State Houses of Assembly (SHoA) and Chairmen of State Committee for Food and Nutrition (SCFN) of the 5 states (Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara), supported by the DFID funded 6 year (2011 – 2017) programme, Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) being implemented as a consortium by Save the Children, Action Against Hunger and UNICEF.

The Legislators and SCFN Chairmen made this declaration after a Bi Annual Review Meeting organized by WINNN. The Legislators vow to advocate for the sustenance of the current WINNN interventions in all the Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the five

states with expansion of IYCF and OTP services to additional LGAs by the individual States' Government; in view of the closeout of the WINNN programme by August 2017.

The Arewa Consultative Forum, the Northern Governors' Forum, the Speakers' Forum, and Northern Governors' Wives Forum are key targets for the planned advocacy visits by the Legislators, SCFN and WINNN with a view to sensitizing them on issues of malnutrition in Northern Nigeria and the need for increased ownership, funding and sustenance. Similarly, the Chairmen of States Food and Nutrition Committees agreed to pay advocacy visits to the Commissioners for the Ministries for Local Government, in states where nutrition counterpart contribution from the Local Governments has stopped.

In addition, the law makers pledged to

facilitate the development of a framework and comprehensive justification for a Bill on Nutrition funding in all the 5 states for enactments of law by the Honorable Houses of Assembly. On the other hand, the Chairmen of States' Food and Nutrition Committees resolved to start holding meetings with Executive Chairmen of the LGAs during Joint Account Committee meetings, to solicit for funding of nutrition activities.

The Arewa Consultative Forum, Northern Governors' Forum, Speakers' Forum, and Northern Governors' Wives Forum are key targets for the planned advocacy visits with a view to sensitizing them on issues of malnutrition in Northern Nigeria

Islamic Clerics increase Support for Appropriate IYCF Practices in Northern Nigeria



WINNN Chief of Party, Dr. Mohammed Liman (3rd Right) with some of the Legislators and Chairmen SFNCs

By Lanen Kuma, Senior Program Officer, WINNN

The Council of Ulama's in Jigawa State, North West Nigeria has intensified airing of Islamic messages supporting the promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices in households using the free air time given to them by the state radio station, Radio Jigawa. Mallam Yushau Abubakar Dutse, the Executive Secretary of the Council, confirmed that the action is to bring about behavioural change among mothers, fathers and other household members in the state, particularly, as it regards micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women, early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding from 0- 6 months and children receiving minimum acceptable diet from 6 -up to 24 months.

This has been some of the key interventions of the DFID funded programme, Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN). The programme is aimed at enhancing the nutritional status of children under five years old through delivery of high impact nutrition

interventions in five Northern States namely, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara.

Strengthening the capacity and involvement of Islamic Clerics to sustainably promote appropriate IYCF practices and related nutrition interventions in Northern Nigeria is expected to address some of the barriers to behaviour change on the issue of IYCF. Generally, Islamic Clerics are often one of the most respected figures in their communities and they play a powerful role in shaping attitudes, opinions and behaviours because they are revered by most community members and political leaders.

In achieving this, **WINNN** developed IYCF training modules and Islamic sermon guide supporting appropriate IYCF in collaboration with Islamic scholars. The Programme trained a total number of 543 Imams and Islamic Preachers on IYCF from the over 150 political wards in the 15 supported Local Government Areas (LGAs). The training was complimented with key messages

supporting IYCF from the Quran.

In Shanawa political Ward, Shinkafi LGA of Zamfara State, one of the Imams that participated in the step down training at the community level, Liman Malam Hamisu who was formally opposed to some of the appropriate IYCF practices has since, after the training, taken it upon himself to engage in voluntary sensitization of his community members on IYCF. Consequently, the participation of community members in IYCF activities such as support group meetings and food demonstration has greatly increased in Shanawa Ward.

Earlier at the validation workshop on the key messages and sermon guide for Imams and Islamic preachers, the participating high level Clerics recommended that Muslim Ummahs should encourage girl-child education as this will have a direct impact on the women's ability to take the right decision on nutrition wellbeing for themselves as well as their children. "It is my first time of attending such a workshop..." said Malama Aisha Abdulhamid Ismail, Director of the Madrasatu Hadi Arwah in Katsina, Katsina State.



WINNN partners the Media and CSOs for Improved Nutrition Response

By Wemimo Onikan, Knowledge Management Assistant, Nutrition

Over the years, Media and Civil Society engagement has proved to be an effective way to influence policies by the Government, and increase awareness among the populace on right behaviours and practices. Since 2014, the Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) programme has been engaging with the media in different ways including Roundtable meetings, Field Visits, Workshops, press briefings/media chats etc. The programme has also been engaging with Civil Society Organizations in the 5 states where it is implemented (Katsina Kebbi, Zamfara, Jigawa and Yobe), building their capacity on Voice and Accountability for Nutrition.

To further build on this, WINNN held a Nutrition sensitization meeting and field visit for Media Executives and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to its implementing sites in Katsina state from 14th – 16th December 2016. The visit was aimed at sensitizing the key “News gatekeepers” and other CSOs on the current issues on Nutrition and the need for increased advocacy, working with

partners to sustain the gains / achievements made so far. Participants were drawn from the 5 WINNN implementing states and the National level and included Editors, Producers, News Managers and their deputies and some reporters from Africa Independent Television (AIT), Television Continental (TVC), Voice of America (VOA) Hausa Service, Daily Trust Newspaper, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) among others. Other participants include CSOs such as the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and CSO Nutrition Platforms from all 5 states.

The participants were taken through various capacity building sessions and visited an Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) site in Bugaje Community, Jibia Local Government Area (LGA), where children are treated for malnutrition. They also visited Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Support

Groups in Tartangariya Community, Bugaje Ward, Jibia LGA. A Media and CSO parley was held afterwards with representatives of the Katsina State Government, where the participants had the opportunity to learn what the Government is doing to address malnutrition in the state.

The outing was interesting and it was an eye opener for me as a person. It showed the picture of how things really are” – Chairman, Katsina State Nutrition CSO Platform

“I am impressed with how WINNN has made the people see the programme as theirs. Teaching the women how to make meals for their children with what they have available is good. Even if the programme ends, they will continue these things” – Mohammed Salisu Rabi, VOA Hausa Service

As a result of the capacity building sessions and field visit, participants committed to more advocacy to the Governments at their various levels for increased attention to nutrition.

PHOTO NEWS: IMAGES FROM COUNTRY OFFICE ACTIVITIES



CEO Save the Children Norway briefs the media on the Situation in North east Nigeria



Ben Foot, Country Director Save the Children Nigeria in a chat with Nigerian Media



Lagos State Field office commemorates the Universal Health Care Coverage UHC day with Media and CSOs



Dr. Opeyemi briefs the media and CSOs on the importance of Universal Health Care in Nigeria



Lagos state SCI staff in a group photo with Media and CSOs



Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, Fed. Min of Women affairs and donor partners launch campaign to end child marriage



UNICEF and Save the Children Staff in a group photo at the campaign to end child marriage in Abuja



Cross section of participants at the campaign to end child marriage in Abuja



Vice President His Excellency Prof Yemi Osinbajo and the Minister, Aisha Alhassan at the Campaign launch



Save the Children Field office in Lagos state commemorates the World Toilet day in Shomolu



Save the Children's CD Ben Foot and CEO Save The Children, UK, Kevin Watkins at a media briefing on Humanitarian crisis



Staff of Save the Children UK at a media briefing on Humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria



CEO Save The Children, UK, Kevin Watkins at a media briefing on Humanitarian crisis



Media colleagues at a media briefing on Humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria



Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria poses with Save the Children Staff to mark Child marriage launch

PHOTO NEWS: STAFF END OF YEAR PARTY, DECEMBER 2016





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