

Save the Children

NIGERIA COUNTRY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016 ISSUE

A quarterly publication of country office activities from various projects

2nd Edition

June 2016

MORE NEWS...



DIGNITARIES COMMIT TO REACHING "EVERY LAST CHILD" AT GLOBAL LAUNCH



ABUJA BREAKFAST MEETING

State of the Nigerian Children report launched at breakfast meeting with development & Government partners.

> Pg 7

CAMPAIGNS



Dignitaries commit to reaching "Every Last Child" at Global Campaign Launch

Pg 5

ADVOCACY



NAFDAC Calls for Mutual Collaboration in Ensuring Compliance to the Breast Milk Substitute Code

Pg 4

FIELD VISITS



Country Director and SC UK visit project sites in Zamfara and Jigawa State

Pg 6

#EVERYLASTCHILD

LAGOS LAUNCH

SAVE THE DATE!!! 18TH AUGUST 2016

NUTRITION

Emirate Councils and Ward Development Committees to Support Nutrition Interventions to sustain the WINNN programme in Northern Nigeria

Page 8

STEER

STEER's organisational development initiative attracts \$39,000 grant to Nigeria

Page 12

ZAMFARA

Zamfara Speaker pledges to implement social protection interventions in LGAs.

Page 6



Millions of Children are denied the right to the education and healthcare they need because of who they are and where they live. We are campaigning to ensure that every child has what s/he needs to survive and learn.



Meet Kennedy Yibin, Zamfara AOM, as he talks about his journey so far with Save the Children

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

I am Kennedy Ambrose Yibin; I am from Fadan – Kagoma in Kaduna State, North-West Nigeria. I studied Business Administration and Management; I am also certified as a chartered Project Manager and a member of a host of professional bodies. I joined Save the Children in 2005 as a “Field Officer”.

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

I started as the Area Operations Manager in the Zamfara field office, it was like a new horizon and new frontiers to cover in supporting more children to survive. Moving from a single project office to a multi-project office, having to meet a whole group of new people were questions that puzzled my heart.

How has it been like working as an Area Operations Manager?

Working here as an Area Operations

Manager comes with the need for versatility beyond what you do in the past, supporting for instance 4 projects as an Area Manager means you have to have a good working knowledge of all the projects, you have to be able to provide solutions that would help the teams achieve their project’s goal. In a nutshell, for me working as an Area Operations Manager has been an experience I would cherish for a long time because it has pushed me beyond my comfort zones, it has placed me right in the middle of Save the Children’s “big” picture, also offers me the opportunity to communicate that “big” picture with colleagues, partners, contractors and stakeholders in the Area Office.

What do you like about the job?

The job offers me everything I would need to qualify it for “job satisfaction” at this moment. My idea of what I like about my job is not defined by the comfort the job gives me but by the opportunity the job offers me to solve problems. My present job offers me the opportunity to solve problems.

What is the most difficult part of your job?

The most difficult part of my job is taking responsibility for the failure of my team because nobody wants to fail; neither do I want to answer for failure. It becomes more difficult for me when I have to answer for failures as part of my job.

What inspired you to join Save the Children?

My inspiration came from the children whom I have worked with years back reminding me of how much the community activities we did with them in the past has impacted their lives to who they are now. There is no greater inspiration than seeing children without the hope of surviving but by your little support they have built resilience and not only survived but are fulfilling their potentials. The summary of my inspiration is that “with Save the Children; the results of your efforts are real not abstract.... the children are surviving and fulfilling their potentials”

What are the strategic duties you perform in your role as Area Operations Manager?

Some of my duties are: Leading and inspiring the team towards understanding Save the Children Values and Cultures and applying them in all we do. Leading in the delivery and implementation of the Country Restructuring model at the Area office. Oversight and Management of Program Operations in the Area – Overseeing day-day implementation of program activities and managing multiple grants across multiple sectors. Leading in Budget and Finance Management – ensuring expenditures are in compliance to Awards regulations and strict adherence to SC financial regulations.

Would you join Save the Children again if you had another opportunity to be a part of us again?

Absolutely Yes! I left before and came back you remember. If I leave again, I know I would come back again. Any opportunity to be part of Save the Children in the future gets my YES!



NAFDAC Calls for Collaboration in Ensuring Compliance of the Breast Milk Substitute Code

By George Akor, Advocacy and Policy Advisor, Abuja

The Acting Director General of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC), Mrs. Yetunde Oni has pledged the agency's leadership to ensure that Nigerian children are well fed from infancy with the right quality of food for their survival, mental and physical development.

Mrs. Yetunde Oni made this pledge recently during a meeting between senior officials of the agency and Save the Children Nigeria at the corporate headquarters of NAFDAC in Abuja.

The meeting was to forge a sustained relationship with NAFDAC in ensuring compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. The World Health Organization adopted the Code in 1981 as a global health public strategy to protect breastfeeding from aggressive promotional campaigns by milk formula manufacturers. The Code recommends restrictions on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes, such as infant formula, to ensure that mothers are not discouraged from breastfeeding and that substitutes are used safely if needed.

While stating that the prevalence rate of exclusive breastfeeding of babies in Nigeria is low, the Acting Director General said the time is ripe for all

actors to work together to improve strategies that safeguard infant and children feeding.

"We need a lot of sensitization, enlightenment and advocacy to achieve aims for our children. There is no reason for child mortality and we should do what we can to ensure this trend ends," she said.

Mrs. Oni said that NAFDAC is working towards identifying health facilities where wrong information is provided to mothers on using breast milk substitutes to feed their babies. According to her, modalities are in place to ensure that health messages displayed in health facilities do not contain information on breast milk substitutes. Making a case for infant feeding, she said, "Exclusive breastfeeding should be encouraged and promoted, while complimentary feeding made from nutritious local foods should be made available for infants after 6 months."

The Acting Director General called for continuous mutual collaboration between NAFDAC and Save the Children, from the angle of child feeding, to ensure that infant mortality is reduced in Nigeria to the barest minimum. To promote child survival and maternal health, she said it is also important to consider appropriate feeding for pregnant women.

Mrs. Oni stated that mothers need to be trained on the use of local foods for supplementary feeding for their children.

"Good feeding will promote immunity of children and thus help in preventing certain ailments that may affect children," she said.

Speaking earlier, Save the Children's Director of Advocacy and Campaign, Dr. David Olayemi called on NAFDAC to tackle the kinds of information provided at health facilities with respect to infant feeding. "Posters, for example, not giving the right information on milk formulas often times mislead mothers," he said.

Dr. Olayemi noted that partners like Save the Children will give NAFDAC all the support needed and within her disposal, in ensuring compliance of the Breast Milk Substitute Code. The agency on its part is expected to take leadership in this direction, he said. With the world aiming for a fifty percent rate of exclusive breastfeeding by 2025, "Nigeria needs to learn what other countries like Ghana have done to get high rates of Exclusive Breastfeeding," he stated.

Karina Lopez, Save the Children's Head of Nutrition, noted that it is important to control the situation of the marketing of breastmilk substitutes as it is now before it spirals out of control. She said the milk industry has influenced people into believing that giving expensive milk formulas is better than giving breastmilk, or commercial sophisticated and packaged food is better than homemade food which is more nutritious in value and cheap to prepare. "If efforts are made to control this, then efforts on preventing incidences of malnutrition would be much easier," she said.

NAFDAC is a Nigerian government agency mandated by law to ensure compliance of the Code in the country. The agency is responsible for regulating and controlling the manufacture, importation, exportation, advertisement, distribution, sale and use of food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, chemicals and packaged water.



Dignitaries and Celebrities commit to reaching ‘Every Last Child’ at Global launch

By James Bigila, Media Coordinator, Abuja

Save the children Nigeria recently joined over 70 countries around the globe to Launch it's next priority campaign, "Every Last Child" in Nigeria with government dignitaries, religious leaders and Nigerian top celebrities in attendance. The event started with a press briefing with the Nigeria Media, which was led by the Country Director, Ben Foot, the Global Deputy CEO of Save the Children International, Janti Soeripto, the Director for Advocacy and Campaigns David Olayemi and the Head of Child protection, Anne Kpason.

Janti Soeripto also spoke on the global campaigns and highlighted the three pillars of the campaign, education, health and protection as been important in reaching every last child. She said that the report by Save the Children shows that recent progress in fighting extreme poverty is often not reaching children who need it most – because of geogra-

phy, their gender or ethnicity, a disability or because they are victims of conflict.

Ben Foot, country director for Save the Children Nigeria, said, "Despite progress and in that process, we have actually left behind millions of children in Nigeria who are not benefiting from education, health care and protection."

The event of the official launch immediately followed the press briefing with opening remarks from the Country Director speaking about the next campaign to participants. Janti Soeripto also spoke on the need to reach the most deprived and excluded children with the involvement of everyone, the media, Governments, and other key stakeholders towards reaching Everylast child.

Rev Fr. Emmanuel Ojeifo and Dr. Mansur Mohammed, Christian and muslim religious leaders respectively, also made their presentations on the roles they

would be playing in reaching every last Child.

As stated in a press release by Save the Children Nigeria, discrimination in a major challenge faced by children all over the world. It was also stated that "this discrimination is deadly. Of the 16,000 children still dying each day from preventable causes, a disproportionate number are from these excluded groups". The highlight of the event also featured a presentation from one of Nigeria's Movie celebrities, Stephanie Linus. In her presentation she stated how her life changed through the empowerment she got as a child with education despite challenges she faced growing up as a child.

The representative of the Wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Bagudu, Wife of the Kebbi state Governor was joined by the

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Zamfara Speaker pledges to implement social protection interventions in LGAs.

By James Bigila, Media Coordinator, Abuja



The Speaker of the Zamfara State House of Assembly, Hon. Sunusi Garba, today received in parliament, a delegation from Save the Children International at the Zamfara State House of Assembly, Gusau. Speaking while addressing the delegation he said that “if not for the work of Save the Children in communities in Zamfara State, the state would have lost many lives from preventable causes such as Malnutrition.”

The speaker said this while receiving the team from Save the Children at the House of Assembly, Gusau who are on a working visit to project locations in Zamfara State Nigeria.

He appreciated Save the Children for the life saving interventions provided through its Nutrition programs and Cash transfer program for Nursing mothers in the state.

He also committed to ensure the State Government sets aside finances in subsequent budget to fund the interventions by Save the Children in Zamfara State Nigeria.

The team was led by the Country Director, Ben Foot who thanked the state Government and the law makers

for creating budget lines for Nutrition in the state and also supporting the work of the Child Development Grant Program in Zamfara State.

Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) is a 6-year project funded by DFID, which started in September 2011. The aim of the project is to reduce child mortality by decreasing the incidence and prevalence of under-nutrition in Nigeria, with a focus on Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara States. The programme is implemented by a partnership that includes the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children and Action against Hunger (ACF).

WINNN deploys multiple platforms to improve breastfeeding and Complementary feeding, including the IYCF package and the provision of Micronutrients/ iron supplementation for children under 5 and pregnant women. The Child Development Grant program is a 5 year DFID funded project towards tackling poverty and hunger and reducing malnutrition in children in Jigawa and Zamfara States Nigeria. Save the Children is leading the INGO Consortium delivering the program.

Infant mortality rate down in our communities - Emir of Anka



The Emir of Anka, Alhaji Mohammad Ahmad Anka recently received the Country Director, Save the Children Nigeria at his palace together with the Traditional Council of Chiefs in Zamfara State.

Speaking while addressing the Delegation, he commended the efforts of Save the Children international for reducing the Infant mortality rate in the state and also counselling mothers on the importance of Exclusive breastfeeding which has now improved the nutritional status of babies born in Zamfara State particularly Anka local government area. Ben Foot, the Country Director of Save the Children in his opening remarks said, “We thank you very much for the support and enabling environment you have created to enable us carry out our work in Zamfara State. We want to say thank you very much”.

The Representative of the Emir who read the Emir's speech also expressed appreciation to the work of Save the Children and promised to ensure the cooperation of the people of the State in all Save the Children's programs.

Save the Children has been working in Zamfara State Nigeria, implementing the Child Development Grant program and Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) project in select local governments in Zamfara state.

The aim of the project is to reduce child mortality by decreasing the incidence and prevalence of under-nutrition in Nigeria, with a focus on Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara States.

Zamfara approves N10million schools orchard programme for 10 secondary schools in the state

By Ibrahim Isah, Advocacy officer, Zamfara State



Group Photo of members of the Zamfara State BMS Code Compliance and Monitoring committee inaugurated by the State Commissioner for Health

Zamfara State Agency for Community and Social Development Project has approved N10million orchard project in ten pilot public secondary schools of the state, General Manager of the project, Alhaji Garba Muhammed has said.

Receiving officials of the State Food and Nutrition committee in his office, the general manager said Zamfara is part of the first seven of 24 states that qualified for the World Bank Assisted project implementation in the country.

He disclosed that the agency had received hundreds of application for various community intervention projects aimed at improving the lives of citizens and eradicate poverty, saying that the agency had included nutrition orchard project among beneficiaries of the first batch funds disbursement.

Alhaji Garba revealed that the disbursement of the funds to the successful beneficiaries may commence before the end of June this year.

Earlier, the State Chairman of Food and Nutrition Committee, Alhaji Kabiru Muhammed Gayari, told the agency general manager that the committee had secured N1million (representing 10% conditional counterpart funds) for the proposed establishment of schools

orchard programme in ten public schools of the state.

He said the establishment of the orchard and schools nutrition clubs would go a long way in creating awareness among schools communities on the potential benefit of nutrition education within the societies.

Gayari disclosed that the committee has constituted a five member committee that would come up with a framework on the implementation of the project in the selected schools.



Members of BMS Code Compliance and Monitoring committee in a meeting in Zamfara State

Zamfara State budgets N100 Million for the take off of the State Health Care Board

By Ibrahim Isah, Advocacy officer, Zamfara State

Zamfara State Government has inaugurated a 16-member Steering committee on the domestication and implementation of National Health Act approved in 2014 by the federal government in the State.

Inaugurating the committee in Gusau, Zamfara state capital, the State Commissioner for Health, Honourable Suleman Adamu Gummi, said the formation of the committee was in line with the power vested on the state by the act to constitute a committee that would facilitate the smooth operation of the act in the state.

Hon Suleman Adamu expressed present administration determination to work with relevant local and international organizations to support the state in reducing maternal mortality, improving access to health services within the communities, and reaching underserved hard to reach communities with the best integrated health care package.

The Commissioner while commending Save the Children for its various high level advocacy supports to the state towards getting the Act being implemented in the state, said government is committed to award contract worth N1.5billion for the rehabilitation and expansion of some general hospitals in the state, in order to ensure a conducive atmosphere for health workers and clients.

According to him, plans are underway to ensure the State Primary Health Care Board becomes fully functional. Government had made adequate provision in this year's budget for the proper take off of the board in due course. A total sum of N100million was budgeted to this effect.

The committee has the State Commissioner of Health as Chairman with permanent secretaries of key Ministries, Chairman, State House Standing Committee on Health, State Coordinator of National Health Insurance Scheme, State Chairman of Association of Private and Medication Practitioners of Nigeria, Representative of Civil Society Organizations, as members of the committee.

Emirate Councils and Ward Development Committees to Support Nutrition Interventions to sustain the WINNN programme in Northern Nigeria

By Lanem Law Kuma, Senior Programme Officer, WINNN

Twelve Emirate Councils in Northern Nigeria have made commitments to sensitize relevant stakeholders in the communities (health workers, religious leaders, women and youth groups, local government elected officials and individual philanthropists) on the importance of adequate financing for nutrition and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices in communities within the Emirate Councils. They also committed to facilitate the inclusion of representatives of the Emirate Councils in the Local Government Food and Nutrition Committees.

The commitments came at the end of a 2 day sensitization workshop organized by the DFID funded Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) programme. The workshop was focused on shedding light on the current burden of malnutrition in Northern Nigeria. The gathering provided a platform for leaders from the affected states to build a consensus on what the roles and responsibilities of Emirate Councils should be in supporting nutrition interventions in their various communities, particularly, as the WINNN programme approaches its close-out by 2017.

The Emirate Councils in attendance comprise Hadejia and Kazaure Emirate Councils in Jigawa State, Daura Emirate Council in Katsina State, Gwandu and Argungu Emirate Councils in Kebbi State. Others are Fika, Machina and Ngazargamu Emirate Councils in Yobe State and Shinkafi, Bakura, Bungudu and Gusau Emirate Councils in Zamfara States.

Similarly, the WINNN programme also held a 2 day Training of Trainers workshop for members of Ward Development Committees (WDCs) in the WINNN supported Local Governments Areas (LGAs). The workshop was focused on the Prevention of Malnutrition at the Community Level, and had in attendance representatives of the various WDCs



Representatives of Emirate Councils in the 5 WINNN Implementing States held in Kaduna

WDCs across Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Zamfara and Yobe states. At the end of the workshop, the WDC members made commitments to support Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) activities at the ward levels.

The Ward Development Committees are part of the institutional framework in the states for community involvement and participation. The Committees comprise influential stakeholders in the communities who are brought together to sustain community development initiatives. Their roles include mobilization of resources, monitoring development interventions among other tasks.

In order to work towards sustaining the gains of the WINNN programme, even after its close out in 2017, representatives of the WDCs present at the workshop developed an action plan and signed a communique, committing to raise the voice of communities on nutrition issues and service delivery. They pledged to link the Ward Focal Persons and Community Volunteers with the Ward Development Committees for ownership and sustainability of

WINNN interventions and to promote the cultivation and distribution of healthy local foods through home and community gardening including support for the formation of community-based farmers cooperatives.

Other commitments made include creating awareness within the communities towards participation of pregnant women at Ante Natal Care (ANC) sessions, encouraging early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding of infants in the first 6 months after delivery, facilitating dialogues among community members to address cultural beliefs that hinder the adoption of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, in partnership with traditional and religious leaders. In addition, they committed to the Mobilization of community members to adopt community-led appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices, including discouraging open defecation and promoting community-led creation of wells and other sources of safe drinking water.



Jigawa State renews commitment to work with Save the Children towards program delivery

By Kighir Othaniel, Advocacy officer, Jigawa State

Recently, Jigawa state Government renewed their commitment to work with Save the Children.

This was disclosed by the Deputy Governor of Jigawa State represented by Head of Service of the State in the State.

The deputy Governor informed SCI team that the State Government is committed to engaging with willing Development partners to address the developmental needs of the State. He also expressed satisfaction with SCI activities in the state and promised government commitment in the partnership. He stated this during the Country Director's visit to Jigawa State. During the visit, the Country Director informed the Government that "Save the Children is still committed to supporting Jigawa State". He informed the Government about his organisations plan to implement a new project "Life Step" a Canadian Government supported project in the State. He informed the State Government that the goal of the project is to give children especially girls the opportunity to achieve their full potentials by addressing their developmental needs using a three pillar approach; prevention, protection and empowerment.

Ben Foot in his remarks said, "This project will adapt a community-based approach, while building the capacity of indigenous organizations to enable children and families to continue accessing such services in an effective and sustainable manner is enhanced".

Responding, the Permanent Secretary Budget and Economic planning expressed satisfaction with the new project saying it is one of the state Government priorities. "the State has put in place a policy support girl child education". The Executive secretary, Primary Health Care Development Agency in his response also expressed satisfaction with the project saying education has a multiplier effect on all aspects of life. He opined addressing illiteracy will improve many other challenges which bedeviled the state in recent times such as malnutrition, sanitation issues, Reproductive health issues and infant mortality.

The team later called on the Government to create nutrition budget lines in all the relevant MDAs to address nutrition challenges in the State. The PS budget also committed to ensure the creation of the Budget lines.

... AS STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO ENFORCING GIRL CHILD EDUCATION.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs in Jigawa State has committed to the enforcement of Girl Child Education in the state.

The commissioner made this commitment in her office during advocacy visit to her by SC Jigawa and the coalition partners. She stated that she is pushing the government to mobilize neighbouring state governors to address the challenges of street begging, hawking and child abuse collectively.

In a related development during the Country Directors Visit to the State the Commissioner also committed to support any initiative that will address girl child education and empowerment in the State.

She made this commitment in line with the recognition of the fact that there are holistic benefits for the education of women and children and its role in societal development.

WINNN supports the bi-annual implementation of MNCHWs in the 5 implementing states

By Wemimio Onikan, KM Assistant, Abuja

Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) is a 6-year project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). WINNN commenced in September 2011 and ends August 2017. The project is being implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and an INGO consortium lead by Save the Children (SC) and Action against Hunger, in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria and the State Governments of Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara. The WINNN implementation is made up of four outputs; Integration of Micronutrient Intervention into Routine Primary Health services, Delivery of Effective Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) intervention in selected states and Local Government Areas in Northern Nigeria, Delivery of Effective treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) through Local Health Systems in selected states and LGAs in Northern Nigeria and Strengthening of Nutrition Coordination and Planning Mechanisms at National and State levels.

A recent study on barriers affecting women's attendance and utilization of MNCHW services was conducted in 2014 by the Operations Research and Impact Evaluation (ORIE) component of WINNN. Findings revealed a very low awareness of the MNCHW program amongst caregivers who had never attended the campaigns. One of the reasons identified as the basic cause of the low awareness or attendance is that MNCHW is often confused with other health related campaigns.

To address the identified barrier of lack of awareness and the subsequent low turnout by caregivers during the campaigns, WINNN developed a package of Community Mobilization activities targeting the increase in turnout of caregivers during the week. Amongst the activities implemented were; Community Dialogues with Religious and Community Leaders from

all the political wards in the 5 WINNN implementing states to enlighten the leaders on the importance and benefits of the MNCHW. In addition to this, WINNN deployed mobile teams for taking the services to identified hard to reach areas during the 2015 MNCHWs campaign rounds as well as the piloting of community dramas in Kebbi & Zamfara states during the 2015 November round of MNCHW.



Sensitization Workshop for Representatives of Emirate Councils in the 5 WINNN Implementing States held in Kaduna

Going by the Government reported data for the 2015 rounds of MNCHW, there is a noticeable increase in the number of caregivers during the campaigns. For instance, during the May 2015 round of MNCHW in Zamfara, data showed that the total number of pregnant women reached with Iron Folate supplementation across the state was 116,789 and this increased to 130,465 by the November 2015 round. Vitamin A coverage for children 6-59 months was 690,348 during the May 2015 round and increased to 699,695 in the November round.

In Kebbi, 153,399 pregnant women received Iron Folate supplementation during the 2015 May round and this increased to 167,366 during the November round. Similarly, Vitamin A coverage for children 6-59 months in Kebbi was 688,077 during the May round and increased to 699,695 during the November 2015 round.

Gombe State domesticates Food and Nutrition Policy and 5 years operational plan

By Akpan Effiong, Advocacy officer, Gombe State

Following the development and finalization of the National Food and Nutrition Policy in Nigeria, the Gombe State Government, with support from Save the Children Nigeria Program, embarked on a process to domesticate the food and nutrition policy within the state.

In addition to the domestication of the policy, the state also recently developed a multi-sectoral costed operational plan to guide the strategic decision making and program implementation for Nutrition in the state.

The first step of this process was the conduct of a stakeholders' workshop to develop the state Food and Nutrition Policy, as well as the costed operational plan.

Adequate food and optimal nutritional status are the foundation blocks for the building of healthy, secure lives, and thus form the basis for development in any nation. It is well known that the basic cause of the food and nutrition problem is poverty and weak policy implementation entrenched in the mechanisms of governance and institutions which drive the economy. Conceptually, food insecurity, inadequate dietary intake, and infectious diseases are the immediate causes of malnutrition. Under nutrition is most severe in northern Nigeria. Across this region of the Sahel belt, a third of children under five are underweight, half are stunted, and a fifth are wasted. The stunting rate for children under the age of 5 is put at 51% in the North West, 48% in the North East, 29% in the North Central, 20% in the South West, 20% in the South South and 10% in the South East while wasting is 10% in North West, 12% in North East, 29% in North Central, 7% in South West, 6% in South South, and 5% in South East. According to the 2015 SMART Survey, Gombe state has relatively poor indices of malnutrition compared to the National average.



Gombe State releases N17m as counterpart fund for the procurement of therapeutic food

By Akpan Effiong, Advocacy officer, Gombe State

Through Save the Children advocacy efforts, the Gombe State Government has approved the release of N17 million for nutrition focused interventions in the state. Over a million children under five die every year in Nigeria, 35% of them due to causes attributed to malnutrition.

The statistics are more alarming in the northern part of the country where Gombe state is situated. In the north, half of all children under five are stunted, and one in five suffers from acute malnutrition. This has profound implications for health and for human development, and presents a major obstacle to attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in the country. In committing resources to fund nutrition interventions, Gombe state has provided leadership and has responded to the crisis. Proper and effective use of the resources will provide basic, cost-effective services for the prevention and management of malnutrition for children and mothers. Save the Children facilitated its platforms (MNCH coalition and champions) in the process as well

as other stakeholders. Advocacy efforts targeted at policymakers and legislators in the state by Save the Children has been largely responsible for this feat.

... AS WARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES BOOST ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION

As part of the process to empower WDCs to drive accountability processes in immunization in Gombe state, monthly meeting were held in Funakaye and Billiri LGAs. SC supported the WDCs in the 2 Local Government Areas to conduct monthly feedback meetings. In Funakaye, a broken down solar borehole was fixed by members of the WDC to boost water supply in the health facility,

Bajoga community is currently being mobilized to construct a new borehole. The WDCs recently advocated for the allocation of more health workers in the state. This has helped health workers to run a 24-hour service which hitherto had

was not operational before.

In one of the targeted LGAs, the WDCs were involved in mobilization and monitoring of the planned immunization activities due to an outbreak of polio in the neighboring states of Borno. One of the key issues that came out of the exercise was the refusal of some groups (Internally Displaced Persons) resident in their communities to subject their children for immunization.

The turnout during the Immunization Plus Days was large as the WDCs were able to mobilize residents to participate in the polio vaccination. The WDCs have been able to mobilize resources within their ranks to repair broken down boreholes and blown out roof due to rainstorm within their communities. Committee members have fashioned other means of assisting their communities to access health care.



STEER's organisational development initiative attracts \$39,000 grant to Nigeria

By Adeyemo Olusola, Quality Improvement Coordinator, Abuja

The resource mobilization team of African Community and Environmental Health Initiatives (ACEHI) organization, Bauchi has been writing proposals as a way to source for grants for the organization since 2011. The proposals usually passed initial technical evaluation but on reaching the organizational assessment stage, donors often dropped them. For this reason, the organization was only able to win one out of every five grants applied for since inception. On joining the System Transformed for Empowered Action and Enabling Response (STEER) project in 2014, an organizational capacity assessment was conducted by STEER's Organization Development (OD) team on ACEHI, and it was no surprise that the organization had a baseline score of 15%. Over the next few months, the OD team worked with ACEHI and provided support and guidance, in areas including development of organization templates, policies, staff training and mentorship. With the technical support provided, ACEHI was able to address some of the identified gaps in all the assessment domains which included; poor governance, weak human resource management and lack of updated

referral and linkage systems. Twelve months down the line, a follow up organization capacity assessment result shows a much more improved score of 68%.

This has translated to success in grants applied for by the Organization. ACEHI recently won N7.8m (\$39,000) grant to implement the USAID-funded Nigeria Education Crisis Response Project managed by Creative Associates International in partnership with International Rescue Mission, which aims to expand access to quality learning opportunities for displaced, out-of-school children. In addition, the organization also won a grant of N13m (\$65,000) to implement the World Bank funded HIV/AIDS Program Development Project 2 (HPDP 2), which aims to reduce the risk of HIV infections by scaling up prevention interventions and to increase access to HIV testing and counseling, care and support services.

Currently, ACEHI has a functional board and written constitution, financial and human resources policies, gender policy, and Vulnerable Children policies are in place and functional. STEER OD team has also strengthened ACEHI's partnership with other relevant organizations that

are into VC programming through which health, education, protection and other services are rendered to children.

ACEHI is one of the over 60 organizations whose organizational capacity have been improved and strengthened by the USAID-funded STEER project in Nigeria. With improved organization capacity, ACEHI hopes to access more grants in the future in order to implement more projects to benefit and improve the lives of children and community members in Bauchi state.



ACEHI conducting nutritional assessment for Vulnerable Children in Bauchi State.

Read what our online audience says about our work in Nigeria



facebook.com/SaveTheChildrenNigeria

EMIR OF ANKA AND CHAIRMAN, ZAMFARA STATE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL PLEDGES MORE SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY SAVETHE CHILDREN IN ZAMFARA

"Thank you for saving the children's life, and thank you for selecting zamfara state".

- Mudassir Abubakar

ZAMFARA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY COMMITS TO SUSTAIN THE LIFE SAVING INTERVENTIONS BY SAVETHE CHILDREN IN ZAMFARA STATE'

"Keep the good work going guyz... #Kudos #TeamZamfaraSCI

- EL-Ameen LawalYaqub

GSK AND SAVE THE CHILDREN PAY COURTESY VISIT TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH

"That's Impressive!"

- Jacob Vincent

GOVERNMENT DIGNITARIES AND CELEBRITIES COMMIT TO EVERY LAST CHILD.

"I was there live.. it was really a great moment and success."

- Ege Eric

AS SAVE THE CHILDREN LAUNCHES #EVERYLASTCHILD

"These are achievable with committed minds. We all have a role to actualize these goals. #EveryLastChild!"

- Husayn Zaguru



www.twitter.com/savechildrenNG

Jigawa State Commissioner for Women Affairs to Champion Girl child Education @savechildrenNG

- Kighir Othniel @meetothy

An #AIDSfreegeneration is possible if we continue to fight mother-child transmission! @wellbeingafrica @savechildren-NG

- Mother's Kit @brownbutton_org

Thanks @DFIDNigeria @Dfid_nutrition support #WINNN programme providin comprehensive nutrition response north Nigeria

- StopMalnutritionNg @arjandewagt

@savechildrenNG yes,if we must reduce under 5 Mortality, malnutrition must be tackled n gud healthcare provided

- Japhet Ade Olugbogi @docjaph

@savechildrenNG unveils state of the Nigerian Child Report. Discusses disparities & deprivations amongst others. #leavenochildbehind

- Hilary Ogbonna @HilaryOgbonna

i will nt stop talking until every child is reached with the necessary vaccine #NigeriaImmunize #CHROpinionpoll @CHRNaija @savechildrenNG

- Doris @dorisninsenre

#EveryLastChild #everychildmatters All hands on deck to reach every last child @savechildrenNG

- Kennedy Yibin @KYibin



www.instagram.com/savechildrenNG

ENSURING THAT NIGERIAN #CHILDREN GROW UP HEALTHY IS ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES THIS #WORLDHEALTHDAY

"Pretty awesome"

- @egorgoryachii

WE ARE COMMITTED TOWARDS COMBATING #MALNUTRITION IN #MOTHERS AND #CHILDREN AGED 0-24 MONTHS

"Absolutely brilliant"

- @amarimba

In 2010, the #EveryOneCampaign carried out a road show to sensitized over 500,00 grassroots #Women and #Children on their individual roles in ending the needless deaths of #Mothers and #Children under 5 and their responsibility to own a community led plan that ensures that #Mothers and #Children stay healthy

"This is great".

- @msapants

Save the Children's child friendly spaces have been created as a trauma relief to make children happy again.

"Hi, I love what you do... Please I'll love to work with you!"

- zeelix_cakes

PHOTONEWS: #EVERYLASTCHILD CAMPAIGN LAUNCH - ABUJA



Hon Abdulmumin Jibrin signing the petition to support the everlast child campaign



Child rights advocates dance at the global launch of EverlastChild campaign in Abuja



A presentation been led by Atiku from GSS Gwagwalada at the campaign launch



Country Director, Ben Foot at the Campaign Launch



Kwame Boate, Deputy Country Director and Maurine Nzeribe, Director of Awards at the event



Eric Hazard, David Olayemi, Bauchi and Kebbi state first Ladies and Seyi Abejide at the event



Nigerian Music Celebrities, Timi Dakolo and Banky W at the event



Nigerian Celebrity Compere, Obi-Uchendu Ebuka at the event



Cross section of students from GSS Gwagwalada at the event



Hon Abdulmumin Jibrin and the Global Deputy CEO of SCi, Janti Soeripto



Janti Soeripto and Ben Foot pose with the kids



Save the Children Staff pose with celebrity Musician, Timi Dakolo



Nigerian Actress, Stephanie Linus Okereke at the event with other dignitaries



Celebrities and government functionaries launch the global report at the event



Ebuka and Kemi Adetiba doing their thing as compere at the event

PHOTONEWS: COUNTRY OFFICE ACTIVITIES (APRIL - JUNE 2016)



Country Director Ben Foot, visits a CDGP site with the UK SCI team on a monitoring visit



Country Director watches as a Community Volunteer educates nursing mothers



Country Director with beneficiaries of CDGP project



The Emir of Anka recieved the Country Director and the UK team in Anka LGA



Eamon, (SCI UK) Ben Foot, Country Director and Arthur (SCI UK) at the Emir's palace



Group photo with the Zamfara State Traditional Council members at the Emir's palace



Country Director with the some chiefs at the Emir's palace



NAFDAC DG hosts Save the children team on an advocacy visit at NAFDAC head office



Deputy Speaker, Zamfara State House of Assembly recieving the Country Director



Country Director, Eamon (SCi UK) with some members of the Pariliament in Gusau



Country Director Ben Foot giving his opening remarks on a courtesy visit at ZMSHA



Zamfara State House of Assembly members in a group Photo with SCI team



Hon. Minister of Health with Country Director and British Council representatives



janti Soeripto, Global Deputy CEO SCI in a group photo with SCI team in Kaduna State



janti Soeripto, Global Deputy CEO SCI in a group photo on a visit to Kaduna State

STAFF BIRTHDAYS (APRIL - JUNE 2016)

APRIL:

2nd: Yusuf Mustapha, Bob-Uchenna Nwankwere, Aliyu Baba;
 4th: Chachu Tadicha, Fatima Larai Tahir; 9th: Friday Odeh,
 12th: Rabiu Tsafe Umar; 13th: Innocent Pius Banki; 18th:
 Lukman Afolabi, Peter Adomi Magoh; 20th: Faith Afolabi,
 Solomon Mengiste Bahiru, Wilson Ajawu; 22nd: Aji Abubakar;
 23rd: Lola Tosin Aladesanmi, Olamide Majoyeogbe;
 24th: Ana Karina Lopez Aguirre, Ogonna Jane Onyekwelu,
 Samuel Nuhu Odiba. 25th: Ebere Ann Esonu

MAY:

2nd: Hafsat Musa Mogaji, Kehinde Oteju; 3rd: Gbolahan
 Emeka Abiade; 5th: Eleazar Ibrahim, Jacob Billiyok, Jibrin
 Mohammed Aminu, Mustapha Tanko, Suleiman Mohammed,
 Zainab Yazid; 6th: Hassan Dan gwaggo Bungudu;
 10th: Ime David Samuel - Etukudoh, Joseph Paul Edor,
 Maureen Chiemeka Aso; 11th: Arit Effiom Ekpenyong,
 Tolulope Soyannwo; 14th: Collins Anyamhul, George Akor;
 15th: Aishatu Suleiman, Manasseh Bala, Omolara Adeleke,
 Oyefunke Muzarat Koleowo; 16th: Ayomide Omotola,
 Millicent Waithagu, Nelson Enemali; 17th: Abraham Ahmadu;
 18th: Eunice Victor; 22nd: Rupert Ossai; 23rd: Innocent
 Binchak; 25th: John Antigha - Antigha Bassey; 28th: Busayo
 Okundaye; 30th: Olanrewaju Soremekun

JUNE:

2nd: Chukwuendozie Abazie, Mercy Jibrin, 4th: Aniefiok
 Dominic Effiong, Opeyemi Olubunmi Odedere; 5th: Abiola
 Alade, Joseph John, Nasiru Musa; 6th: Akeem Adesina
 8th: Samuel Adegbembo; 9th: Chukwuemeka Agha,
 Oluwaseun Okediran, Saratu Iliyasu, 10th: Dauda Nasiru;
 12th: Teddy Ifeanyichukwu Ukadike; 13th: Oluseyi Elizabeth
 Abejide; 14th: Jife Tobun; 15th: Mohammad Bello Sameer,
 Oluwatosin Emmanuel Osunnuyi; 16th: Aminu Yakubu,
 David Olarewaju Olayemi, Isah Dikko; 17th: Justus Aiyejube,
 Orkuma Othaniel Kighir; 18th: Joseph Friday;
 20th: Ransomed Chibueze; 23rd: Amina Nurudeen
 24th: Halima Dikko, Kabira Isah, Mary Emmanuel-Idowu
 26th: Nwamaka Ivy Ifionu, Olatunde Keshinro;
 29th: Talitha Ibrahim Yusuf

STAFF WEDDINGS (APRIL - JUNE 2016)

APRIL:

1. Wedding ceremony between Ridwan Akorede, SPRING
 (Nutrition Coordinator) & Maemunah Mojisola.

Took place on : Saturday 14th May 2016

send in your congratulatory messages to Ridwan.awosanya@
 savethechildren.org or call him on 08039467225

MAY:

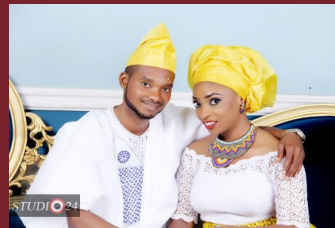
Wedding ceremony between Omololaoluwa Morgan
 (Nutrition Project Coordinator) & Oladipupo Daniel.

Took place on: Thursday, 5th of May 2016

send in your congratulatory messages to Omolola.Morgan@
 savethechildren.org or call her on 08020505990

JUNE:

Wedding ceremony between Faith Idongesit Ette
 (Humanitarian Program Officer – Abuja) and Olalekan
 Lukman Isiaka



Took place on Saturday, 4th June 2016

2. Wedding ceremony between Nkasi Obim Nebo and Seth
 Nwosu (Finance Analyst- Abuja).



Took Place on: Saturday, 4th June 2016

send in your congratulatory messages to seth.nwosu@
 savethechildren.org or call him on 08038665840.

3. Wedding ceremony between Celestina Ene-Orji (HR
 Assistant- Abuja) and Marcel Uzendu.

Took place on: Saturday, 18th June 2016.

Send in your congratulatory messages to Celestina.Eneorji@
 savethechildren.org.



PUBLICATION COMPILER:

James Bigila
Media Coordinator

CONTRIBUTORS:

Isah Ibrahim, Akpan Effiong, Othniel Kighir,
Hope Oduma, Lanem Kuma, George Akor
Olushola Adeyemo, Grace Olomiwe, Fatimat
Adesina



Save the Children

**FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
CHANNELS**

www.facebook.com/savethechildrenNigeria
www.twitter.com/savechildrenNG
www.instagram.com/savechildrenNG

For comments, suggestions and story ideas
please
contact:

James Bigila - james.bigila@savethechildren.org