



# Save the Children

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NIGERIA COUNTRY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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A quarterly publication of country office activities from various projects

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# Save the Children at UNGA



Dear colleagues,

Now that the busy week of United Nations General Assembly has come to an end, we wanted to share an update with you.

First of all, we want to thank everyone for all their tremendous work. A special mention to the US team but especially Debra Jones and the New York Advocacy Office, who have worked particularly hard to plan such a well-coordinated and successful event.

This year's UNGA had a particular focus on the refugee crisis, with two summits held on the issue.

After months of negotiations by all 193 UN Member States, the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants was adopted at a High-Level Summit on Monday. In a major breakthrough the Declaration includes a commitment for all Member States to ensure that refugee children have a quality education "within a few months" of being displaced.

The Obama Leaders' Summit on Refugees, where Carolyn represented us, saw fifty-two countries and international organizations make pledges in support of refugee communities and to increase the number of refugees in school by one million globally. Altogether, at least 17 refugee-hosting country governments participating in the Summit committed to strengthen and adapt their policies so that more refugees can attend school.

Save the Children will continue to work to ensure that the commitments made across the two of these Summits make real and lasting change for refugee and migrant children.

Another key theme for us this week was the need to now move from ambition to action and create a roadmap for how we will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. One year on and fourteen to go, the world is already half a century off track in terms of progress, and far more infrastructure and financing is needed to achieve the ambitious vision of the goals by 2030.

With the unfolding crisis in Syria overshadowing proceedings, we used every opportunity to highlight this issue and met with the UN Special Envoy to Syria.

We have taken part in hundreds of events and meetings to urge world leaders attending this week to live up to their responsibilities to children and reach every last child:

- On Sunday, we kicked off with the Global Goals World Cup game where girls played soccer to tell the world about the Global Goals. Jonas acted as judge and host and Save the Children Denmark drove our participation. As one girl playing said, if people don't know about the goals, we will have no hope of meeting them. Carolyn participated in a plenary interview with BBC moderator Alan Kasujja and UNHCR head Fillippo Grandi to kick off the Social Good Summit and talk about our report, *Forced to Flee: Inside the 21st Largest Country*.

- We made a big push for education and education in emergencies. The Education Commission launched their report. Helle is a member of this initiative headed up by Gordon Brown, and the findings show it is possible to give all children a quality education by 2030 if leaders make political commitments and increase financing. We had a chance to discuss the findings of the Commission with Rihanna who is going to be a champion for education. Tove has been appointed board member of the Education Cannot Wait initiative fund, which approved their first initial investments of more than \$42 million to Chad, Yemen and Syria. Education Cannot Wait also received new funding from Denmark (\$11.3 million) and Canada (\$20 million). We must keep up the pressure to achieve this

ambitious vision, and to this end we convened a roundtable of civil society CEOs to discuss how we can ensure the world increases its investments in education and take the report further.

- We joined the Every Woman, Every Child Steering Committee, appointed by Ban Ki-moon, to help lead efforts for an end to all preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths by 2030. We have also committed to spend \$2 billion on humanitarian efforts to support this.

- We also now sit on the SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Lead Group. At the launch event here at the UN, Helle highlighted how the world can make good on its promise to end all forms of malnutrition in the next fifteen years.

- Led by Save the Children US as well as other members, we spoke in a wide variety of private sector high-level panels and meetings with key partners—including Accenture, JNJ, P&G, Unilever, GSK, AirBnB, TOMS, UN Global Compact and many others—to build on the increasing importance and interest of the private sector in the vision and implementation of the SDGs. This engagement will be key to the success of the SDGs.

- We also convened a roundtable bringing together powerful advocates for women and girls at to discuss how we can strengthen our collaborative efforts and make the greatest impact on the lives of women and girls at a global level. At the Global Citizen Summit, Helle launched the Girl Agenda, an initiative headed by Save the Children to lobby the next UN Secretary General takes up the important issues affecting women and girls. The Girl Agenda was also handed into David Nabarro by Carolyn and our two youth delegates.

- Patricia participated in a panel discussion with the Canadian Government, led by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stephane Dion. The panel focused on diversity and included a discussion on how we can embrace diversity and work together to build stronger communities. She also accepted an award on behalf of Save the Children from The MasterCard Foundation, which acknowledged our close working relationship under our Youth in Action program.

This year, in addition to our traditional advocacy work, we used innovative approaches to have the greatest impact. At one event, we linked live to a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan for the first time ever in the UN. We also hosted a photo exhibit inside the UN using Patrick Willocq's striking photos, and ran a full-page ad with the support of some of our donors in the New York Times.

We also reached those outside the UN by speaking to media. We were interviewed by CNN, Sky News, Channel 4 News, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 5 live. Our *Forced to Flee: Inside the World's 21st Largest Country* report was featured in Devex, Mashable and UN Dispatch, and our call for a step up in SDG implementation in the New Statesman.

The two young women who joined us, Hiba and Anoyara, were an inspiration to all. They participated in dozens of events, spoke passionately about the issues refugee children and girls are facing globally, and shared their journeys on social media.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Debra Jones, Director and United Nations Representative for Save the Children ([Debra.Jones@savethechildren.org](mailto:Debra.Jones@savethechildren.org)). A full report on our activities will be available in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Helle, Carolyn, Tove, Jonas, and Patricia





## Meet Faith Ette, Humanitarian programs officer as she talks about her journey so far with Save the Children

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

I am Faith Ette, I joined Save the Children on the 5th of June, 2015 as an Intern with the advocacy/campaign unit. I am currently the Humanitarian Program Officer.

*How was it like when you started with the Humanitarian team?*

It was really tasking because in the Humanitarian team, everything is fast-paced due to the emergency situation in the North East.

But i quickly adapted to the job with the help of other colleagues in the Humanitarian team.

*How has it been like working as a Humanitarian programs officer?*

It has been an interesting and purposeful journey thus far. There is a sense of fulfilment that comes when you know your efforts results in saving lives.

*What do you like about the job?*

I have got the best colleagues which makes the job no matter how tasking fun to accomplish.

*What is the most difficult part of your job?*

There is no difficult part in the job. As I learnt how the Humanitarian unit works, all I needed to do was prioritize and know who to approach/who has the solution to what task was proving challenging..

*What inspired you to join Save the Children?*

I have always wanted to make an impact in my society especially in children's life and what better way to accomplish that than to join Save the Children which gives me the needed leverage to create the required change.

*What are the strategic duties you perform in your role as Humanitarian Programs Officer?*

As the Humanitarian Programme Officer, I am mandated to provide the various thematic areas in the Humanitarian unit (Food Security and Livelihood, WASH, Nutrition, Child Protection and Education) adequate support in ensuring effective delivery in its implementation activities. I augment the administrative duties of the Humanitarian unit while also serving as a communication link between Humanitarian team in the country office and field office (vice versa) and with internal and external stakeholders regarding Humanitarian matters.

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

Absolutely Yes! Any opportunity to be part of Save the Children in the future gets my YES!

*What are your career goals?*

To build my capacity in the Humanitarian and Emergency response management and provide project management support to the unit while developing overall technical and managerial skills in development programming.

*How do you spend your leisure time?*

My leisure time is so precious I spend it a lot with family, read novels and watch movies.



## FG to fully implement the National Health Act in 2017 – Minister of Health

*By James Bigila, Media Coordinator, Abuja*

The Honourable Minister of Health (State), Dr. Osagie Ehanire has expressed the government's commitment to fully implement the National Health Act in 2017 with provisions made for the implementation of the act in 2017.

He expressed this commitment while receiving Save the Children Nigeria team led by Dr. David Olayemi, Director for Advocacy and Campaigns, Dr. Abimbola Williams, Head of Health and other members of the health team from Save the Children. Nigeria's National Health Bill was signed into law by Ex-President Goodluck Jonathan on December 9, 2014. The Nigerian Senate passed the National Health Bill into law following its 3rd reading at the National Assembly.

The aim of the Act is to establish a framework for the Regulation, Development and Management of a National Health System, to set standards for rendering health services in the Federation and other matters concerned therewith. The Act is set to achieve the Universal Health Coverage and meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) target. The Act also provides for the elimination of quacks from professionalism and provide basic health funds needed by Nigerians

The Act was also enacted for the purpose of providing healthcare insurance to certain class of people who are actually deprived

The Act seeks to help Nigeria reduce maternal and infant mortality rate. More pregnant women would have access to free delivery services while their children are assured of standard pediatric services in the nation's health facilities

The Act provides that there would be improved funding of health care services at the grass root so that people don't have to travel far to access medical services. Through this Act states can also participate in improving health centers through a counterpart fund that would enable them benefit from the consolidated funds.

Despite the act been passed into law, much has not been achieved towards the implementation of the act, hence Save the Children's call on government and its agencies towards the full implementation of the act across the nation.

The global Campaign which recently got launched by Save the Children was also introduced to the Minister as Dr. Olayemi stressed that more work needs to be done in ensuring that every Nigerian child is protected, has access to quality

health care and is also educated to at least Junior Secondary School in the country.

In his opening remarks, Dr David Olayemi from Save the Children thanked the Honourable Minister for opening his doors to Save the Children, the visit been the first to the Honourable Minister since inception of the new administration. He expressed Save the Children's commitment to partner with the Nigerian government towards health issues as it relates with Nigerian Children.

Dr. Olayemi congratulated the Ministry of Health for achieving a Polio free Nigeria for two years running. He said "We also want to congratulate you and Nigerians because Nigeria is marking the second year of polio elimination in Nigeria."

Dr. Olayemi also expressed happiness with the government's school feeding program which is been piloted and also the universal health coverage aimed at providing 10,000 primary health care centers that are well refurbished to cater for the health needs of Nigerians even in the rural communities.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)





## Corruption freezes development - President Buhari tells World Leaders at UNGA

President Muhammadu Buhari recently told world leaders that corruption freezes development and undermines the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Presenting Nigeria's Statement at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA71) in New York, on the theme, "Sustainable Development Goals: a Universal Push to Transform the World," the President restated that "fighting corruption remains a cardinal pillar" of the current administration.

President Buhari said Nigeria remained committed to achieving the SDGs, which he noted, "underscore the imperative for our collective will towards finding enduring and sustainable solutions to addressing global disparities."

He also expressed delight that the anti-corruption campaign has started yielding positive dividends including significant recovery of stolen assets.

"The recovered funds are being channeled towards the development of critical infrastructure and the implementation of social inclusion programmes for our people,"

President Buhari said, adding that the capacity of government agencies was being strengthened to institutionalize reforms that will ensure transparency and good governance.

He said that Nigeria will continue to call for speedy and unconditional recovery of illicit assets stashed abroad, stressing that "Nigeria supports the development of an international legal framework to enforce anti-corruption measures and strengthen existing international institutions to effectively deal with corrupt practices."

While acknowledging that Nigeria is not spared the adverse effects of the current global economic downturn, the President noted that his administration remained undeterred and has embarked on comprehensive diversification reforms by shifting emphasis to non-oil sectors of "mining, agriculture, industrialization, infrastructure development and the creation of the enabling environment for Foreign Direct Investment."

He stressed that "Our strategic objective is to stimulate the economy, restore growth and accelerate recovery. In doing this, we are taking measures to reduce the cost of governance and increase expenditure on infrastructure and ensure environmental best practices."

On Climate Change, President Buhari said that Nigeria is proud to have been part of the process leading to the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, and supports the African Union initiative on the Great Green Wall to halt desertification.

While attributing the drying up of Lake Chad to the negative consequences of Climate Change, he called for global support to raise \$14 billion US Dollars being the estimated cost of restoration of the Lake over a five-year plan.

The President said that it was in furtherance of the country's commitment to environmental sustainability that Nigeria launched the cleanup of Ogoniland, even as he called on development partners and multinationals to contribute to the Ogoniland Restoration Fund.

The Nigerian leader also spoke on dangers posed by global terrorists, adding that "Nigeria has made remarkable progress in our resolve to defeat Boko Haram whose capacity to launch orchestrated attacks as a formed group has been severely degraded. In the last few months, their operations have been limited to sporadic use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) against soft targets."

Nigeria, he noted, will continue to fight terrorism "based on the established rules of engagement and in conformity with international best practices," as he called for enhanced international cooperation to defeat the global scourge.

President Buhari also stated Nigeria's position on flow of migrants, statehood for Palestinians in conformity with Security Council resolutions; the vital role of youth to national development; nuclear security and the reform of the United Nations Security Council to give Africa adequate representation.

"Nigeria stands ready to serve Africa and the world on a reformed Security Council to advance international peace and security," the President declared.

*From the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity*



## SDI supports Technical Working Group Meeting in Lagos for the Implementation of WHO/ UNICEF 7 Point Plan

*By Lawrence Adetokunbo, Advocacy Officer, Lagos*

The Stop Diarrhoea Initiative (SDI) Technical Working Group (TWG), which is made up of the different heads of departments at the Shomolu Local Government Area Secretariat, has the mandate of giving technical support to the SDI project and the Government, towards the implementation of the WHO/ UNICEF 7 point plan. The TWG steers the implementation of the intervention and is focused on influencing desired supportive policies and budgetary changes and decisions in favour of the project, and comprises various thematic groups such as: child health and nutrition, advocacy, behavior change and communication (BCC), community mobilization and school health. The 2- day TWG workshop created an avenue for the SDI project team to share their progress report, as well as their work plan on the intervention for the rest of 2016.

The forum was also an opportunity for the SDI project team to build the capacity of the TWG and to equip them with richer information about the rota- virus vaccine. Chief of Party of SDI, Dr. David Atamewalen, described the administration of Rota-Virus Vaccine (RVV) as one of

the most critical element of the SDI intervention, and explained that for this reason Save the Children will continue to collaborate with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), the State Primary Healthcare Board PHCB), the Lagos State Ministry of Health (LMOH) and Glasko Smith kline towards ensuring that the safest and best practices are employed in the dissemination of the vaccine. In keeping with best practices and evidence- based multi- sectorial approach, Save the Children will also be conducting a rapid assessment of Lagos State cold chain system; conduct a baseline assessment of rota virus incidence in children under-5 in Shomolu/Bariga LGA prior to the rollout, so as to this determine the efficacy of the vaccine when compared to the final assessment; and involve the private sector (private health care providers).

The TWG expressed their excitement at the fact that Shomolu would be the pace-setter community, where the rotavirus vaccine will be piloted in Nigeria. In response to this, the Chief of Party (COP) said that SDI will be collaborating the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, to host a larger stake holder's meeting which is geared towards

enriching community participation in the project. The COP expressed his deep appreciation to the TWG members for their keen interest in SDI and urged them as custodians of the intervention to continue be the voice of children and the SDI project through their various offices. The TWG forms the sustainability structure of the SDI project, as their decisions as heads of department will further entrench the 7 point plan within Shomolu LGA. The Advocacy Committee of the TWG, have resolved to speak for priority budgeting for the key elements of the 7 point plan in their upcoming 2017 budget. According to Mr. Arogundade T. Olusegun, HOD Agriculture and Social Services, "The training has improved my skills as a TWG member. It will also enhance my performance in advocacy and other thematic groups towards sustaining the SDI project. With this training I can easily defend the project at the local government level". SDI is the first platform that presents the 7 point plan as a single comprehensive strategy for the control and management of childhood diarrhea in Nigeria.

## SDI Trains Primary School Teachers on Child- Friendly Participation Techniques for Diarrhoea Prevention and Control

By Lawrence Adetokunbo, Advocacy officer, Lagos



Roy Chikwem, Area Operations Manager, Lagos and Calabar, David Atamewalen, Chief of Party, SDI and and Clare Hanbury, Child Participation Specialist, sharing some fun time with the children

Recently, Save the Children facilitated a powerful and engaging session of Child Participation for school health teachers and head teachers from 10 schools in the Shomolu LGA and Bariga LCDA of Lagos.

The facilitators shared child participation methodologies, activities for children, children centred- messages across the 7 point plan, monitoring techniques for school health clubs with the teachers. The first three days were for learning, the forth day was a field visit during which Roy Chikwem, Area Operations Manager, Lagos and Calabar, and David Atamewalen, Chief of Party the SDI, accompanied the teachers to the field to put their learning into practice.

**“We are learning how to use all kinds of methods and techniques to eradicate diarrhea in our communities. How effective the 7 point agenda would be in engaging children to spread this message around their communities”- Mrs. Fabilola Asst. Health Teacher National Primary School, Gbagada (Bariga LCDA, Shomolu LGA, Lagos).**

Clare introduced the teachers to Zuzu and Zaza, the wise rainbow- parrots, who coach the children on the 10 messages for healthy living and the prevention of diarrhea. times to wash their hands and good hygiene practices to stay healthy.

Some of their messages included: Wash your hands properly, add water, a little soap, rub for 20 seconds, rinse and air dry. Food that helps you GO plus food that helps you GROW plus food that helps you GLOW is good food that keeps your body strong. Breast milk is the only food and drink a baby needs from birth to 6 months. It has Go, Grow & Glow!

The teachers shared their experiences of how to make their health lessons more fun and engaging for the children through the use of puppets to get their children to learn diarrhea prevention and control.

One teacher remarked, “Children love puppets a lot! Zuzu and Zaza will be a fun exercise for the children. I can bet with that this role play, they will remember all the messages vividly!” On the last day the teachers came together for reflection and action planning for the school year.

One of the participants, Mrs. Adefioye F.F. Health Officer National Health Primary School, Gbagada, said

“I enjoyed all aspects of this workshop very much. I have attended many seminar in the past and none of them has been like this. This one has been really interesting and engaging. It enlightened us with many new techniques and fun activities through which we can engage the children to share this message with their homes and communities. Save the Children provided materials and other aids that will really support our work with the children to do what needs to be done to eradicate diarrhea in a fun way. When we used Zuzu and Zaza puppets on the field yesterday, it immediately attracted the interest of the children and they responded very excitedly to our message.”

Other innovations employed during the training included work on memory techniques, the use of choral speaking to remember the curriculum and using games and drawings and symbols to bring into their work.

Using an innovative tool called, the rainbow flower, and the facilitators’ mission was to help the teachers understand the seven key characteristics of participatory health programs with children. Clare remarked that “the tool helps the teachers understand the distinctions between working as traditional health education teachers, and working in a deeply participatory way with children when you have a chance of making a real impact on the children and their families health. The teachers’ character seemed to soak up these fun methods.” The seven characteristics: Roles- as a teachers, facilitators, and Coaches; Wheels- understanding, action, reflection; Skills- through listening, asking open questions and organizing groups; Words- important, relevant fun; Locations- clubs, schools, homes and community, Values- creativity, community, clarity; and Connections- head, body, heart. Roy and David assured the children and that, Save the Children will continue to train its partners and beneficiaries to ensure that all its interventions here in Nigeria, and particularly in Lagos state, guarantees that children’s voices form the basis of all programme activities.





## AISHA BUHARI LAUNCHES NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY

*By James Bigila, Media Coordinator, Abuja*

Save the Children Nigeria applauds the Federal Government of Nigeria and in particular the Ministry of Budget and National planning on the recent launch of the National Food and Nutrition policy for Nigeria.

The policy which was launched on the 6th of September 2016 by the Wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Buhari seeks to improve the nutritional status of all Nigerians, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, i.e., children, women, and the elderly.

The Wife of the President of Nigeria launched the Revised National Policy on Food and Nutrition and also celebrated her investiture as the Chief Nutrition Champion in Nigeria in recognition of Her commitment to the reduction of malnutrition in the country through Her pet Programme “Future Assured” which focuses on advocacy for commitment to nutrition intervention funding and ensuring food security in the country particularly in the IDPs sites and the north east/west.

A Goodwill message was delivered by Dr. Liman Mohammed, National Programme Manager WINNN (Working towards improving Nutrition in Northern Nigeria), Save the Children International on the work we do in terms of creating awareness around Early BreastMilk Initiation, Maternal Nutrition/Nutrition in Pregnancy, Exclusive Breastfeeding, Complementary Feeding and (WASH) Water and Sanitation Hygiene. An exhibition showcasing visibility Materials such as posters and flyers with detail information on our WINNN- based programs was carried out afterwards.

Specifically, the policy seeks to improve food security at the household and aggregate levels to guarantee that families have access to safe food that is adequate (both in quantity and quality) to meet the nutritional requirements for a healthy and active life.

It will also enhance care-giving capacity within households with respect to child feeding and child care practices, as well as addressing the care and well-being of mothers.

The policy will improve the provision of human services, such as health care, environmental sanitation, education, and community development and also improve the capacity within the country to address food and nutrition problems; and

The National food and Nutrition policy seeks to raise understanding of the problems of malnutrition in Nigeria at all levels of society, especially with respect to its causes and possible solutions.

With the alarming statistics of the World Bank on the index of malnourished children in Nigeria, the need to carry everybody along in the fight against malnutrition has become a burden on the shoulder of the First Lady of Nigeria.

It is said that food is the best medicine for human development. However, stakeholders have disclosed that the feeding culture in Nigeria does not reflect good nutrition.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)





## Stakeholders call for programme expansion in more LGAs in WINNN implementing States.

*By Lanem Kuma, Senior Program officer, WINNN*

“The Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) programme is a comprehensive nutrition programme that addresses the scourge of undernutrition in 3 LGAs in 5 Northern States, but there is need to scale up this efforts to other LGAs in these states. These were comments from participants at the 2016 Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) Scientific Conference held in Makurdi, Benue State with the theme: Tackling the Scourge of Hidden Hunger in Nigeria. The conference which lasted from 21st to 23rd September, 2016 witnessed presentations from individuals and organizations including government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), international donor agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and community based organizations working on different aspects of nutrition.

Olajumoke Oladapo, Nutrition Adviser on the WINNN programme presented a paper on Micronutrients Deficiency Control (MNDC) in WINNN - A Case Study of Tackling Hidden Hunger in Northern Nigeria. Participants appreciated the WINNN programme focus and interventions that tackles hidden hunger which includes

Micronutrients supplementation through Maternal Newborn and Child Health Week (MNCHW) and routine services, , Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), treatment for severe acute malnutrition through local health systems, Advocacy and coordination and Operations Research and Impact Evaluation (ORIE).

Olajumoke shared with participants that, since inception of the WINNN programme in September, 2011, a total of 9,232,400 unique children under 5 were reached with Vitamin A supplements; 6,113,848 women (unique pregnancies) were reached with Iron supplementation and 597,702 women and mothers of children under 24 months were reached with counselling on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in the target Local Government Areas in the 5 WINNN implementing states.

On community IYCF, participants were made to understand that WINNN promotes dietary diversification through periodic food demonstration for mothers and caregivers of children aged 6 – 8 months, 9 – 11 months and 12 – 23 months. Accordingly, 597,702 pregnant women and mothers of children under

24 months were reached through counselling on appropriate IYCF in the target Local Government Areas since September 2011.

Securing financial commitment from government to lead the response to improve nutrition and collaboration amongst all stakeholders for comprehensive impact of interventions has been the focus of WINNN advocacy. Participants commended the results of WINNN advocacy particularly in the reactivation of State Food and Nutrition Committees, creation of nutrition budget lines in all implementing states, releases of fund in Zamfara, Kebbi and Jigawa states and provision of enabling environment for nutrition with the National launch of the Food and Nutrition Policy and Plans in the country Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) is a six year (September 2011 – August 2017) comprehensive nutrition programme funded by UK's Department for International Development and implemented by UNICEF, Save the Children International (SCI) and Action Against Hunger (AAH), in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria and the State Governments of Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara.

## Governor Bello Masari vows action towards tackling malnutrition in Katsina state

By Lanem Kuma, Senior Program officer, WINNN

On sighting the before and after picture of a severely malnourished child who had been successfully treated in one of the outpatient clinics supported by the WINNN programme in Katsina for SAM, the Governor of Katsina State Rt Hon Masari had this to say; “Hearing that the child in this photo is from Katsina makes me feel guilty, and we must take drastic action to change this ugly picture”.

The Governor made this comment while receiving the WINNN Team including the National Programme Manager, Dr. Mohammed Liman from Save the Children alongside UNICEF’s Chief of Nutrition Mr. Arjan de Waqt at the Katsina State Governor’s lodge in Abuja Abuja. Governor Masari admitted that before the visit by the WINNN team, he would not have believed that malnutrition is caused by other developmental challenges as against his hereto firm believe that malnutrition is a consequence of poverty.

The meeting was an advocacy visit to the Governor which also had in attendance the Secretary to the State Government, Commissioner for Health, Senior Special Adviser on Development Partners and Donor Agencies, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and other top Government officials. The objective of the high level visit was to solicit for a more responsive partnership and greater commitment from the State Government in ensuring that the budgeted resources for nutrition interventions in the state’s annual budget is release and to advocate for the scaling up as well as sustaining the successes of the WINNN programme in the state.



**“The Governor also made reference to the recently approved budget releases to all its local government to support nutrition interventions and also promised to continue to accord greater priority to budget releases and implementation in the LGAs”.**

The Governor was optimistic about the readiness of his administration’s to adopt the WINNN theory of change to tackle malnutrition in the state and promised a holistic scale up that includes both the preventive interventions and treatment of malnutrition.

To further ensure that the promises become reality, Hon Aminu Bello Massari delegated the Commissioner for Health to explore ways of incorporating nutrition interventions in the soon to be launched Saving One Million lives so that the interventions could be provided in an integrated manner. In the same manner Hon Masari promised to expedite action for the passage of the newly drafted Primary Health Care Bill and also immediately called for the review the draft Katina State Nutrition Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan by the Commissioner for Health.





## Technocrats and Legislators commit to Nutrition Resourcing and Budget Tracking in WINNN implementing States

By Lanem Kuma, Senior Program officer, WINNN

Infant, Child and Maternal deaths, illnesses and sufferings, low per capital income and economic loss, decreased gross domestic product (GDP), underdevelopment and social vices were some of the consequences of not funding nutrition interventions identified by Chairmen of House Committees on Health from the State Houses of Assembly, State Accountant Generals, Permanent Secretaries of state ministry of budget and planning, Permanent Secretaries of state Ministry of Health and Chairmen state committees on nutrition from the 5 Northern states of Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zangara recently in a training workshop on nutrition resourcing and budget tracking in Abuja.

The efforts to reduce the incidences of malnutrition and particularly, the prevalence of under nutrition in the above states is supported by a 6-year project, Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID), which started in September 2011. WINNN is primarily focused on nutrition specific interventions, Micronutrients supplementation, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) programming, community management

of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and Government coordination, funding and ownership. It also has an independent component, operational research impact evaluation (ORIE).

According to Hon. Abubakar Mohammed, Chairman, House Committee on Health in the Katsina State House of Assembly "Lack of adequate information by Members of Parliament to enact the right legislation to address undernutrition is one challenge that was militating against nutrition resourcing and budgetary appropriation and monitoring." He assured stakeholders that the Legislators have become more concerned on issues of malnutrition than before as a result of engagement with the WINNN programme.

Legislators and Technocrats from the states appreciated and acknowledged the food and nutrition policy approved by the Federal Executive Council and expressed the need for all ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in the states to have specific interventions as defined by the policy. They commended the involvement of states Accountant Generals in nutrition interventions as it offers a window of opportunity for assessing funds with less bureaucratic

bottlenecks.

Another decision made was to have the Secretary to the States Government (SSGs) to be Chairmen of the State Steering Committees on Food and Nutrition while Secretaries/Clerks of Standing Committees on Health in the State Houses of Assembly to be members. They expressed assurances in taking appropriate steps in ensuring high turnover of Medical Officers, Nurses and community health extension workers (CHEWs) at out-patient therapeutic (OTP) and Stabilization Care Centres in addressing capacity gaps

"I assured you, when it comes to budgeting for nutrition, we will make it possible." Said Hon Mohammed Lawan Garba, the Chairman, House Committee on Health in the Jigawa State House of Assembly. "It is also necessary for us to enlighten the people on proper nutrition." He advised.

## STAFF BIRTHDAYS (JULY - SEPTEMBER)

## JULY

Mustapha Mustaphabe	-	01 Jul
Fatimah Musa	-	02 Jul
Gbenga Ajaiyeoba	-	02 Jul
Oluwabanke Babs-Babata-		02 Jul
Kwame Boate	-	03 Jul
Bello Aliyu Yahaya	-	07 Jul
Isah Waziri	-	07 Jul
Lawal Rabiul Tsafe	-	07 Jul
Tanko Langaya Muhamma-		07 Jul
Christi Faith Freeman	-	08 Jul
Mercy Odeh	-	09 Jul
Lillian Sunday	-	10 Jul
Wilfred Okanda	-	10 Jul
Faruk Abdullahi Chiromar-		12 Jul
Fekadu Melesse Tizazu	-	12 Jul
Selya Elmina Tyav	-	14 Jul
Ibrahim Musa	-	15 Jul
Nura Muhammad	-	15 Jul
Salisu Isah Ibrahim	-	15 Jul
Akpan Edward Chukwudi	-	17 Jul
Mukaila Adamu	-	18 Jul
Adamu Mohammed	-	19 Jul
Salisu Hussaini	-	20 Jul
Babatunde Ojei	-	21 Jul
Christopher Aruku	-	21 Jul
Aisha Sulaiman	-	22 Jul
Zirem Lawi	-	23 Jul
Victoria Audu	-	24 Jul
Adeniji Olugbesan	-	25 Jul
Latifat Ibahim	-	25 Jul
Sylvester Ejembi Ikwebe	-	27 Jul
Yetunde Oluymi	-	27 Jul
Faith Ette Idongesit	-	28 Jul
Olukemi Abimbola Adeyoy-		28 Jul
Richard Musa	-	29 Jul
Tomilola Oduguwa	-	30 Jul

## AUGUST

Victoria Ndukwe	-	01 Aug
Yunana Kyari	-	01 Aug
Godday Abu Ogar	-	02 Aug
Jerry Ijishakin	-	02 Aug
Grace Alheri Dalah	-	05 Aug
Oluwatoyin Oyekenu	-	06 Aug
Shaibu Muhammed	-	06 Aug
Olusola Adebola	-	08 Aug
Celestina Nkechi Ene-Orji-		09 Aug
Joseph Apeh	-	10 Aug
Mohammed Bello	-	10 Aug
Moses Ezeji	-	12 Aug
Ayoola Emmanuel Olasuyi-		14 Aug
Charity Morris	-	15 Aug
Henriata Tafarki	-	16 Aug
Labiba Hauwa Katagum	-	18 Aug
Ramatu Bello	-	18 Aug
Michael Adewumi	-	19 Aug
Abdulsalam Lawal	-	20 Aug
Yakubu Godwin Sambo	-	21 Aug
Calvin Funthige Chingir	-	22 Aug
Ademola Kadri	-	24 Aug
Isah Ibrahim	-	25 Aug
Yossy Sunday Pwajok	-	25 Aug
Benedict Raphael Ibanga	-	30 Aug
Ishaku James Mshelia	-	31 Aug
Yahaya Ibrahim	-	31 Aug

## SEPTEMBER

Lucy Avu	-	01 Sep
Lanem Kuma	-	02 Sep
Muhammed Gimba	-	03 Sep
Kabiru Dahiru Muhammad-		04 Sep
Omolola Gbemisola Morgan-		04 Sep
Noah Audu	-	05 Sep
Usman Bello	-	05 Sep
Emmanuel Stephen	-	07 Sep
Maryam Kabir	-	07 Sep
Ekene Ifedilichukwu	-	09 Sep
Isaac Tyotim	-	11 Sep
Roy Ugochukwu Chikwem-		12 Sep
Umar Bishara	-	12 Sep
Fatima Aboki	-	14 Sep
Manuel Oyinbo	-	15 Sep
John Olan	-	16 Sep
Aderonke Are-Shodeinde	-	17 Sep
Akintunde Roy Sawyerr	-	17 Sep
Babatunde Lawani	-	19 Sep
Henry Ngabo	-	19 Sep
Kennedy Yibin	-	19 Sep
Abdullahi Amidu Isah	-	20 Sep
Endurance Nwahiriri	-	21 Sep
Zainab Ayuba	-	21 Sep
Badamasi Tanimu	-	23 Sep
Kamilu Zainu	-	23 Sep
Mohammed-Kabir Abdulsalam		24 Sep
Tavershima Timothy Aoraan		25 Sep
Inyogba Salu	-	26 Sep
Susan Dyedang Akila	-	26 Sep
Paul Ehigie	-	28 Sep
Adetokunbo Diane Lawrence		29 Sep

## NEW STAFF (JULY 2016)

Chibuzo Sylvia Dangana	-Database Manager, STEER
Valentine Mmaju	-IT Assistant
Karima Idris	-LGA Nutrition Assistant-Tsafe (CDGP)
Hafsat Rabiul	-LGA Nutrition Assistant-Anka (CDGP)
Anastasia Eke	-Finance Assistant
Adeniji Adeyemo	-Procurement Officer
Emmanuel Gabriel	-Child Protection in Emergency Officer
Kenneth Avu	-Case Management Officer
Joshua Lalai	-CPIMS Assistant
Kerenhappuch Judith Ishaya-	Human Resources/Admin Assistant
Aoraan Tavershima Timothy-	Finance Officer
Aisha Abdulsalam	-Finance Assistant NYSC
Anthony Ayela	-CPIMS Assistant
Abubakar Yerima Mohammed	-CPIMS Assistant
Chiamaka Glory Chukwekem	-Admin Assistants NYSC
Yossy Sunday Pwajok	-Programme Assistant NYSC
Ayoola Emmanuel Olasuyi	-Finance Officer
Bennett Emekoma	-Logistic Officer

## NEW STAFF (AUGUST 2016)

Halliru Matazu Abdullahi	-	Driver
Abisola Omoniyi	-	Social Accountability Coordinator
Herriata Tafarki	-	Awards Coordinator, STEER
Aminu Yakubu	-	Finance Coordinator
Kamilu Zainu	-	Cash Transfer Coordinator - CDGP
Mifthau Yahaya	-	NYSC Assistant MEAL

## NEW STAFF (SEPTEMBER 2016)

Anne Ukwuagu	-	Procurement & Supply Chain Manager
Oluwatosin Akomolafe	-	Knowledge Management Adviser
Oluwasola Gideon Olanipekun	-	M&E Director, STEER
James Ishaku Mshelia	-	FSL (E-Platform) Officer
Grace Dalah	-	FSL Senior Market Officer
Anthony Chima Mbaogu	-	Office Assistant
Emmanuel Okai Ofem	-	Award Coordinator
Ijeoma Nkiruka Ezioma Agbo	-	Child Health Adviser
Blessing Odejo	-	Office Assistant
Tobi Brian Mbaya	-	Education in Emergency (EIE) Officer



# PHOTONEWS: COUNTRY OFFICE ACTIVITIES FOR 3RD QUARTER



Save the children staff with Minister of Health (State) and other staff of the ministry



Country Director been led on a tour of the Photo Gallery for "Nigeria Hospitality" Exhibition



Dr. Abimbola Williams been interviewed during Health and Nutrition Media chat



Participants during the Spring close out event in Lagos



Kwame Boate & Dr. Olayemi on a tour of the Photo Gallery for "Nigeria Hospitality"



Dr. Adaeze Oramalu been interviewed during Health and Nutrition Media chat



Dr. Liman Mohammed in his address during the Nutrition Policy Launch at the ICC



Amarachi Ogbonna on a tour of the Photo Gallery for "Nigeria Hospitality"



UNICEF's Chief of Party, Nutrition Mr. Arjan De Wadt with Dr. Liman National program Manager, WINNN



Food distribution to Beneficiaries



Panelists during the Media press briefing on Health and Nutrition



Mrs Aisha Buhari listening to a presentation during the launch of the Nutrition Policy



Save the Children team with staff of FCTA during the Launch of Bill board - No to Child Marriage at FCTA



Resident of A host community showing "Nigeria Hospitality" to displaced people.



Displaced people in host community now have a source of livelihood - "Nigeria Hospitality"





**Save the Children**

**PUBLICATION COMPILER:**

James Bigila  
Media Coordinator

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Lawrence Adetokunbo,  
Lanem Kuma, Faith Ette  
Grace Olomiwe, Fatimat Adesina

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For comments, suggestions and story ideas  
please  
contact:

James Bigila - [james.bigila@savethechildren.org](mailto:james.bigila@savethechildren.org)