COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A RETREAT FOR RELEVANT COMMITTEES IN KANO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION AS A CHILD RIGHT ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) AT JIGAWA HOTEL, DUTSE, JIGAWA STATE ON 21ST FEBRUARY, 2020.

Preamble

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized a Retreat for relevant Committees in Kano State House of Assembly on prevention and treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) as a child right. The Retreat aimed at enlightening members of relevant committees on SAM issues and how they can ensure that SAM is recognised as a human right issue and prioritization of funding for the Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) through appropriate legislative process. After deliberating exhaustively on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. Globally, Nigeria remains second and the highest country in Africa with malnutrition related burden.

2. While malnutrition reduces the GDP of a nation by 8%, Nigeria records the highest burden of malnutrition in Africa.

3. Malnutrition impedes physical growth and cognitive development of child with no fewer than 2.5million children affected in Northern Nigeria.

4. Kano state has concluded work on the domestication of a costed 5-year State Policy on Food and Nutrition, presently awaiting budgetary releases and cash-backing.

5. Effort is currently on going for the local production of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in Nigeria through the support of Federal Government, National Institute of Scientific Research and Development and development partners.
6. Kano State House of Assembly had in 2020 Appropriation allocated 15% of the state’s budget to health sector with increasing priority to nutrition intervention.


8. Delayed budgetary release and cash-backing is major challenge to sustainable nutrition intervention in the state.

Recommendations:

1. Immediate implementation of the State’s domesticated National Policy on Food and Nutrition with holistic Strategic Plan of Action to guide adequate and sustainable nutrition intervention in the state.

2. Embracing coordinated multi-sectoral approach to financing nutrition through constructive synergy and integrated nutrition budgetary allocation and service delivery across the line Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

3. Reintroduction of legislative framework to domesticate the National Child Right Act for passage by Kano State House of Assembly to secure healthy and productive future of children with adequate nutrition status as a child right.

4. Encouraging local production of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic (RUTF) for sustainable procurement, replenishment and dissemination.

5. Proactive effort by the state towards sustainable procurement and dissemination of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to avert reported cases and dreaded impact of stock-out in the state.

6. Prioritising immediate curative measure to address Severe Acute Malnutrition, while galvanising preventive measures in the state.
7. Encouraging scale-up of Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) to yet-to-reach Local Government Areas in the state for adequate coverage and enhanced attendance in the state.

8. Increased synergy among the state’s legislators, executive, civil society and the media for proactive nutrition intervention.

**Action points:**

- Members of the House committed to dedicated part of their constituency allowance for nutrition intervention.
- Member committed to prioritise representation and passage of Child Right Act.
- CSOs committed to enhance constructive working relationship with the State House of Assembly on sustainable nutrition intervention.
- Members committed to strengthen oversight on budgetary release.