COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A POLICY DIALOGUE ON THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION AS A CHILD RIGHT ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) IN COLLABORATION WITH AISHA BUHARI FOUNDATION HELD AT FESTRA HOTEL, KATSINA STATE ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2019.

Preamble

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in collaboration with Aisha Buhari Foundation (ABF) organized a Policy Dialogue on the prevention and treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) as a child right. The meeting aimed at bringing critical stakeholders under one roof to brainstorm exhaustively on their roles and responsibilities towards adequate and sustainable investment on nutrition, and how they can ensure SAM is recognized as a human right issue, while galvanizing fulfillment of government’s commitments to funding and prioritization of prevention and treatment of SAM through sustained support for Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) activities in the state. After deliberating exhaustively on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. Existing delay in the domestication and implementation of Child Right Act in Katsina state remains a major impediment in sustainable intervention towards prevention and treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

2. Lack of Nutrition Budget Plan to adequately provide guide and direction for nutrition interventions and financing in the state.

3. While in 2019 Katsina state had released sum of N147million for nutrition intervention, the sum of N250million was allocated for the procurement of RUTF and N150million for other nutrition intervention in 2020 Appropriation Bill.
4. Inadequate awareness on appropriate nutrition intake through food preparation process at household levels backpedals effort at enhancing adequate nutrition status.

5. Existing abuses of RUTF at facility and household levels are serious challenges to the treatment of SAM cases in the state.

Recommendations:

1. Encouraged specialization in Food and Nutrition study at tertiary institution levels to bridge existing human resource gaps in nutrition.

2. Full implementation of the National Health Act 2014 to enable state access to the Basic Health Care Provision for efficient funding and operationalization of the Primary Health Care centres in the prevention and treatment of SAM in the state.

3. Enhanced involvement of community and traditional institutions in awareness creation, training and retraining programmes to encourage ownership in the prevention and treatment of SAM in the state.

4. Increased focus on prevention, while sustaining treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition at all levels.

5. Actionable commitments on nutrition with political curiosity for full implementation in the state.

6. Well-informed households on existing preventive measures against Severe Acute Malnutrition.

7. Agenda setting by the media on public, policy and community awareness on the prevention of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

Action points:

This comprises three things to ip
Ministry of Women Affairs:

- Capacity building for Desk Officers to cascade prevention and treatment across the grassroots.
- Support Food Demonstration Table in all the facility.
- Support establishment of backyard garden at household levels.

Agric Ministry:

- Promote preservation and handling of agriculture commodity
- Create awareness on the importance of local food production and accessibility at all levels.
- Train women on the adoption and practice all knowledge gained

Media:

- Special report on grassroots sensitization of improving nutrition through local meal
- Assessing the impact of nutrition interventions carried out at all levels
- Raise community awareness and sensitization on prevention and treatment of SAM
- Create community awareness through special report on the use of available local food.

CSOs:

- Establish linkages on malnutrition with traditional rulers, religious leaders and households
- Capacity building for households on prevention and treatment of malnutrition
- Practical demonstration on causes and benefits of nutrition
- Public sensitization on the prevention and treatment of SAM
- Advocacy to the governance on budgetary allocation timely release of fund for the prevention and treatment of SAM
- Advocacy to the state government for auditing on the procurement and utilisation of RUTF

Ministry of Budget and Planning
• Ensure the work plan is approved and signed by the Governor
• Ensure timely release of allocated budget to nutrition

Health

• Support male involvement in nutrition
• Scale up existing programmes on nutrition, especially at grassroots level.
• Scale up local production of food using locally sourced resources.
• Set up M and E committee at grassroots level

BUK

Create awareness on the classes of food