COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF AN EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE CSOs AND MEDIA ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCING FOR NUTRITION IN KADUNA STATE ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF) HELD AT CHIMCHERRY HOTEL, BARNAWA KADUNA STATE ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2018.

Preamble

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in partnership with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) organized a Roundtable Dialogue. The Dialogue aimed at bringing under one roof the state’s executive, legislature, CSOs and the media to identify opportunities for financing nutrition, understand existing efforts by the State towards increasing domestic investment for nutrition and addressing nutrition emergency, giving cognizance to the importance of timely release of funds for nutrition, increased domestic investment for the scale-up of CMAM, and increased budget line for nutrition in Kaduna state. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. While malnutrition constitutes a serious setback to socio-economic development of a nation, sustainable growth in Kaduna state cannot be achieved without prioritized attention to scale-up and sustain investment for nutrition.
2. The basic causes of malnutrition include inadequate knowledge and financial resources, lack of political will as well as other socio-economic and environmental challenges.
3. Kaduna State in 2017 records 17,989 children admitted to CMAM out of which 11,324 were cured, 1515 defaulted, 214 not recover, and 150 died (Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey, 2017).

4. As at 2017, the state records 4.1% Severe Acute Malnutrition, 27.9% Stunted, 11.7% wasting, 16.1% under-weight rates (Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey, 2017).

5. Wide knowledge gap on nutrition issues and facts among relevant authorities hamper sustainable allocation for nutrition intervention.

6. Lack of uniformity in data presentation across the levels of government on nutrition budgetary allocation and utilization.

7. Inadequate citizens participation and impact assessment on budgetary performance to inform areas of citizens’ needs and priority backpedals nutrition interventions in the state.

8. Inadequate legislative oversight on nutrition budget to ensure timely release and utilization of fund.

9. The persistent delay in budgetary release by the Ministry of Finance with resultant recycling of budget hampers funding for nutrition interventions.

10. Inadequate media involvement in budgetary planning and processes delay information accessibility to raise policy and public consciousness on nutrition funding.

11. Lack of appropriate follow-up on the approved allocation to nutrition by responsible officers, delays release of nutrition funding, performance and intervention.

**Recommendations:**

Participants recommended as follows:

1. Improved citizens’ participation for needs assessment in budgetary process to ensure accountability in nutrition budget.
2. Enhance legislative-constituent relation through constituency outreach to understand budgetary priority and achieve community-driven nutrition intervention.
3. Strengthen the capacity of relevant officials across the line ministries on nutrition issues and budgetary requirements.
4. Regular legislative oversight by relevant committees to enhance timely release and judicious utilization of nutrition budget in the state.
5. Ensure transparency and accountability in nutrition budgetary release by relevant MDAs for high impact and efficiency.
6. Create legislative-executive-CSOs synergy through policy and legislative information accessibility to civil society groups and the media to enhance timely and accurate information for public and policy advocacy.
7. Create a formidable advocacy group among civil society and the media to promote synergy in policy, legislative and public advocacy on nutrition funding.
8. Develop social media platform for civil society and the media to communicate development and share information on nutrition funding and interventions.

**Action points:**

- Stakeholders to meet with the members, House Committees on Health and Appropriations to discuss issues bothering release of nutrition budget
- Civil society groups to officially write the Chairs of House Committees on Health, Appropriations, Education, Women Affairs to enable harmonization of nutrition budget.
- Participants to create a WhatsApp group as a follow-up action on nutrition funding.
Signed:

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