

**STATE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION (SCFN)  
QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT CIRENE HOTEL  
ABAKALIKI.**

The meeting started with registration as the participants were coming.

Opening prayer was said at 10:03am by Elder NdukaOzo, Chairman, Ebonyi Chamber of Commerce and after that self introduction was done by all the participants.

The State Nutrition Officer, MrCyprainOgbonna started by apologizing to the house for starting the meeting late. He went further by stating the Objectives of the meeting as an avenue that will help us to tackle malnutrition in the State and move forward. He stated that this meeting will help us to achieve so many things since the budget has been approved by Government of Ebonyi State.

Opening remarks was taken by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning and Chairman SCFN, Mrs Patricia Okiri She thanked God that made it possible for the meeting to hold despite all challenges and also for keeping us safe. She stated that the meeting is for second quarter and also apologized for not being able to hold the first quarter. The SCFN Chairman said that we should put our heads together in this second quarter meeting to fight the scourge of malnutrition in the State.

**Goodwill messages:**

The Chairman, Mrs Patricia Okiri read her goodwill message in which she appreciated all and presented the meeting objectives as follows;

1. Read minutes of last meeting and discuss matters arising
2. Review of 2021 SCFN annual operation plan and budget
3. Review of Ebonyi State Nutrition Score Card
4. Update on RUTF distribution & documentation/ plans for sustainability

Ebonyi State SCFN will develop State priority plan for Food and Nutrition in alignment with the national plan with a view to incorporate them in 2022 State Budget. She challenged all to channel our collective efforts in changing

Ebonyi State as the most troubled state to the best. She appreciated all and urged all to support the SCFN in reducing the rate of malnutrition in Ebonyi State.

USAID-IHP goodwill message was taken by Dr Oladipo as he thanked all for coming and said that IHP is here to fight Malnutrition in Ebonyi State. He promised their full support and wished all a happy deliberations.

A video clip was played by the SNO in which the scourge of malnutrition and how things can be changed for better was played. The video showed how deep malnutrition has eaten the society deep and how it continues to run genealogical in families.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting:**

This was read by the secretary of the Committee, Mr Cyprain Ogbonna and after which corrections were made in the parts of the omission of some participants that were present during the last meeting, which are members from NBS, EBADEP and NTA. After the corrections it was adopted by Mrs Asouzu Nwabumma Chairperson Nutrition Society of Nigeria, Ebonyi State Chapter and seconded by Dr Anthony Oko-Isu from Alex Ekwueme Federal University.

Dr Oladipo presented the Budget work plan and shared the good news of the approved budget. He said that SCFN is now captured in Ebonyi State budget which means that every year; there will be budget for the SCFN. He said that the approved budget is where the committee should then focus on for their priority actions. Chairman of the committee apologized for being occupied with State assignments during the development of the work plan which happened in September 2020 and went further to narrate her ordeal on how she followed it up for approval with the help of Hon. Commissioner for Finance. She challenged the committee to come up with some proposals that will be used to assess the budget.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and State Orientation, Mr Uhoro Ken N said that it will be good if the SCFN should pay an advocacy visit to the Governor as the Chairman of the committee supported the Perm. Sec. Dr Oladipo said that IHP will develop a strong advocacy tool that will be used during the advocacy. Prof. Adaeze Nwuzo suggested that the committee should first meet someone that is close to Governor who will present the case before the advocacy

visit. On this note, Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Commissioner for Finance and CAN Chairman were suggested.

NBS suggested that he can help the committee to carry out some sampling that will capture all LGAs showing the number of the malnourished children which at the end there will be a data to present as what the committee has done. On that note he was told that the data for evidence is not a problem as there are data and pictures that are available from Community Management of Acute Malnutrition data base at the three designated health facility in the three zones of the State.

The Chairman asked if the pictures of the malnourished could be used with their names and addresses so as to drive the point better but the SNO said that it is unethical that only the data will be used for the advocacy.

After so many deliberations, the committee agreed on paying an advocacy visit to CAN President, Commissioner for Finance, media DGs, Secretary to State Government, Special Adviser to Governor on Religion and welfare matters and finally to Governor.

AsouzuNwabumma suggested that the committee should see the DG of EBBC for getting a slot in the media for a radio program.

Nigerian Governors Forum Nutrition Scorecard Data collection Tool was shared to participants and all attended to it immediately and submitted back to the secretariat. Then the Nutrition Scorecard for Ebonyi was analyzed by DrOladipo as he lamented on it and said that our little efforts would have saved the State from being on red although efforts are been put in place for the change.

AnyiamChukwudum from AkanuIbiam Federal Polytechnic Unwana suggested that in the cases of going for advocacy visits that some members that are well grounded in the particular field should be selected to go for the advocacy so as to drive the point well.

DrAnthony Oko-Isu from FUNAI said that the advocacy committee should be set immediately and he called it Budget Implementation subcommittee. He said that the subcommittee will work in line with the secretariat to help release the fund. He listed some members that should be in the committee as Chairman of the committee Mrs Patricia Okiri, Perm Sec Min. of Information, MrUhuo Ken, Prof

AdaezeNwuzor, MrCyprain Ogbonna, IHP and AsouzuNwabumma. After so many suggestions the subcommittee was charged to pursue the Fund approval and release which will help to track implementation.

A presentation on the Update of RUTF distribution was taken by the SNO/Secretary SCFN in which he shared the total number of children currently malnourished that are receiving RUTF in the three CMAM centers. He lamented on how it was a struggle to release fund to carry 115 cartons of RUTF from Ogun State that was given free to the State. After the presentations some questions came up that led to the teaching of how to use MUAC tape and what the RUTF looks like.

**AOB:**

AnyiamChukwudum said that there should be a letter to appoint or nominate members of the committee as members of SCFN and not just stating it orally. He said that this will help anyone that wants to put it up for appraisal to have a back up evidence. On that note it was agreed to be written and distributed.

DrUzomaAsiegbu made vote of thanks and urged all to keep the passion in which all have been driving on, and believe that with God the committee will achieve all the goals. She closed the meeting with a prayer by 4:10pm.

**ATTENDANCE LISTS AND PHOTO SPEAKS**

USAID

IHP

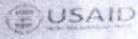
Activity:  
Venue:  
Date:

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NAME OF ACTIVITY MANAGER

SIGNATURE/DATE



IHP USAID INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Activity:  
Venue:  
Date:

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NAME OF ACTIVITY MANAGER:

SIGNATURE/DATE



**NUTRITION SOCIETY OF NIGERIA, EBONYI STATE CHAPTER  
CHAIRMAN MRS ASOUZU NWABUMMA DEMONSTRATING ON HOW  
TO IDENTIFY MALNOURISHED CHILD IN OUR HOUSE HOLDS DURING  
THE SECOND QUARTER MEETING AT CIRENES HOTELS ABAKALIKI**



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF SCFN MEMBERS AFTER THE SECOUND  
QUARTER MEETING, THIRD PERSON SEATED FROM THE RIGHT IS THE  
PERM SEC/CHAIRMAN SCFN **MRS PATRICIA OKIRI**