

Human Development - EU programmes presented at the Nigeria Health Commissioners Forum, Abuja 2 Sept 2021

The EU continues to be a key partner for Nigeria supporting human development and in response to the COVID 19 pandemic with EUR 50m. With some of the worst human development indicators in the world, rapid population growth and increasing number of people dropping into extreme poverty, the EU worked with UN agencies and the government in the response to COVID 19 and its unprecedented human development crisis which has exacerbated the vulnerability of the most disadvantaged groups.

Health:

- The EUD has used its support to WHO **health system strengthening programme** to push for health insurance as a tool to provide for Universal Health Coverage in Anambra and Sokoto States
- Polio eradication through WHO nationwide
- At the regional level, the **Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control in the ECOWAS** zone.

Nutrition:

- In this context, the EU funded 50MEUR **MNCH and nutrition programme** through UNICEF supported pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 reaching 2.500 000 beneficiaries with nutrition and antenatal care through condition cash transfers including additional funding support in response to the COVID 19 pandemic as well as continue primary health services helping beneficiary states in the COVID-19 response: Adamawa, Kebbi and Bauchi States

WASH

- The EU funded programmes in urban and rural areas have supported the **provision of water schemes, technical assistance and capacity development** to sector institutions and agencies responsible for improving access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene services in communities.
- The EU has committed more than EUR 260 million reaching more than 10 million people in 14 States. Still the gap remains: 62 million Nigerians live without access to portable water and have to spend more than 30 minutes traveling to fetch water and 47 million defecate in the open.

Food security and agriculture

- The EU has invested more than EUR 61 million in agriculture including in the conflict-affected Borno State reaching more than 1.8 million farmers helping them to increase production to be able to sell their harvest to pay for other basic needs.

Education

- With the closure of schools due to the pandemic, EU partners adapted programmes putting emphasis on preventing the spread and transmission of coronavirus among learners, teachers and parents through distribution of information, education and communication materials on coronavirus prevention in local language; dissemination of radio jingles on prevention from contamination and staying safe through SMS.

Social protection

- The EU has become a key player in the social response to the pandemic Co-Chairing, with UNICEF, the Social protection Development Partners Group. This is done at a critical time for Nigeria as the country is strongly hit by the impact of the pandemic bringing more people into food insecurity and extreme poverty. As main donor to the One UN Basket Fund to the COVID 19 response in Nigeria, the EU has advocated to include the social dimension in the programs going beyond health responses. No epidemic is ever just a health issue in isolation, and Covid-19 has emphasized this on the global stage.

Resilience and Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus

- EU Delegation continued to closely monitor the implementation of the **EU Support to Response, Recovery and Resilience in Borno State (EUR 153 million)** which was prepared jointly with ECHO, building on the Humanitarian Assistance efforts and mainly using ECHO partners for implementation. Activities include the restoration of basic health, education and WASH services and promoting livelihoods as well as cash transfers, vocational training and small grants for small business start ups with a special focus on women and youth, seed and livestock distribution and agriculture support.

Conflict Sensitivity and peacebuilding

- Conflict Sensitivity requires a shared analysis of the context where EU programmes and projects are implemented in order to avoid doing harm but also to maximise the impact of all programmes on peace dynamics.

Thank you.

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