**ABIA STATE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION (ABSCFN), 2021 2ND QUARTER MEETING.**

**DATE: TUESDAY, 29TH JUNE, 2021.**

**VENUE: OFFICE OF THE ES, ABIA STATE PLANNING COMMISION, UMUAHIA.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

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| **S\N** | **NAMES** | **DESIGNATION & SECTOR** |
|  | Dr. Nnenna Chikezie | PS/ES ASPC |
|  | Goddy Onwuchekwa | Rep. State Director NOA |
|  | Emesiobum Favour Oluchi | Head, Nutrition Unit, Min. of Agric. |
|  | Obia Felix M. | Ag. Perm. Secretary, Ministry of Science & Tech. |
|  | Nkuche Ngozi O. | Director, Child Rights, MOWASD |
|  | Nmerechi Ofoegbu | State Nutrition Officer Abia SPHCDA |
|  | Mrs Uchechi Clara Azubuike | Head, Dietetic Dept. F. M. C Umuahia |
|  | Engr. O. O. Uko | PM, Abia RUWASSA |
|  | Ihemanma Chikaodi | Rep. Abia ANRiN Project Coord. |

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Onwuka Micheal (Scientific Officer – Nutrition/Recorder)

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|  | ACTIVITY | RESPONSE | RECOMMENDATION |
| 1.0 | **OPENING:**  The meeting started at exactly 2:34 pm. Opening prayer was said by Emesiobum Favour Oluchi, member from Ministry of Agriculture. |  |  |
| 2.0 | **ATTENDANCE:**  A total of 10 persons attended the meeting with 1 person (Head, Dietetic Dept, ABSUTH, Aba) that excused herself from the meeting. The attendance list is attached to the minutes. |  |  |
| 3.0 | **WELCOME REMARKS:**  The chair person welcomed all to the 2021 second quarter meeting. She talked about the role good nutrition plays in averting malnutrition especially under nutrition in children. She said that the problem of malnutrition is a multi sectoral problem. No one sector can solve it alone. That is why all of us from different sectors in the state must make our inputs according to our sectors to see that malnutrition in Abia state is tackled. She quickly highlighted the roles each sector needs to play in helping the under nourished child in Abia State and in Nigeria. She added that it is the duty of each member here representing his/her sector to ensure that Nutrition activities in that sector are included in the sector’s annual budget. She also stated that the State Planning Commission would do everything within its capacity to enshrine it in the state budget. |  |  |
| 4.0 | **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**  The minutes of the last meeting was read by all, corrected and adopted by Dr. Nnenna Chikezie. |  |  |
| 5.0 | **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING:**  **Domestication of National Policy on Food & Nutrition in Abia:** The Chairperson asked if we have a Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition in Abia state and why UNICEF didn’t support the 5 day meeting as promised in the past.  The chair person asked about the ANRiN project in Ministry of Health and why can they not support.  The chair person asked further to know if it was World Bank that removed the proposed activities from the GCF work plan.  **Action Point:** A “no objection”, should be sought from the World Bank to allow inclusion of those activities in the work plan.  Going further on the no objection issue, the chair person emphasized on the need to accommodate the three activities saying that the World Bank knows there is a support for nutrition from Abia State Government. She added that the committee would take it up from where the secretary stopped and ensure we get a no objection so that the state’s score card will go high. To achieve the above we should have it captured in ANRIN work plan as quickly as we can.  **Establishment of Crèches:**  The chair person asked how the Crèche come in.  Mr. Felix Obia, a member from Ministry of Science & Tech suggested that the Crèche should go to areas with high population of civil servants.  The chairperson reacted to his suggestion, stating that we need to take the project one at a time because of issues of funding. She also highlighted the qualities of a standard Crèche which includes good space, availability of good quality staff, etc. Above all, the most important thing is a very good environment so that the children won’t get exposed to one disease or the other as a result of poor environment. She then suggested that we start off with establishing one at the State secretariat, and then if it grows, we could look around and raise another one elsewhere.  Mrs. Nkuche Ngozi from Ministry of Women Affairs supported the suggestion.  **Visit by Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning:**  Another issue from the previous meeting which the chairperson brought up was on the proposed visit by Federal Ministry of Finance, Bugdet and National Planning to Abia SCFN. She asked whether meeting has held | The secretary responding to the question stated that when the proposal was sent to UNICEF in November, 2020, the Nutrition Specialist said the timing was already close to the Christmas celebration season, that we should shift it to first quarter of 2021. In January 2021, when she called the UNICEF Enugu Field Office Nutrition Specialist to find out the date for the proposed meeting, she said that she’ll call back later. After she got a text message from her saying that we should hold on for now concerning the proposed meeting that there are some new developments in their office.  In response the State Nutrition Officer said Domestication of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition is one of the activities she proposed to ANRiN PIU for the GCF Work plan, but that she observed during the work plan review that all the activities she proposed for GCF work plan were removed.  The secretary responding said that she is not sure it is World Bank that removed it. She then added that during the midterm review meeting organized by World Bank, she talked about this issue. She reminded all present that every state that already has a Food and Nutrition Policy was supported by one Development Partner or the other;  The secretary responded to this saying that during the November meeting, it was observed that the Crèche in Ministry of Agric should be re-established  The secretary answered and informed the committee that the meeting is yet to hold. The people from FMFBNP said they would let us know when they are ready for the meeting. | The Chairperson should speak with World Bank on this.  The committee to raise a memo to the governor to inform him about the NGF requirements |
| 6.0 | **OTHER DISCUSSIONS:**  The chairperson asked the secretary to give the committee a rundown of the Abuja meeting.  The secretary gave a brief overview of the 2 day Stakeholders’ meeting she attended with the Chairperson on 7th – 8th June, 2021. The meeting was on National Response for Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit being planned to be held in Tokyo Japan in December, 2021. Nutrition for Growth (N4G) is a global pledging moment to drive greater action toward ending malnutrition and helping ensure everyone everywhere can reach their full potential. The objectives of the meeting were:   * To articulate and recommend SMART and implementable commitments at Tokyo 2021 N4G summit. * To come up with a strategy that will ensure the Vice President represents Nigeria at Tokyo 2021 N4G summit. * To come up with strategies to ensure Government fulfills commitments made.   At the end of the 2 day meeting, participants were able to suggest 4 SMART and implementable commitments for the Nigerian Government which will be presented at the N4G Summit under 4 subheads – Impact; Financial; Programmatic and Policy. These include:-   * To reduce stunting in children under age five from 37% to 18% by 2025 * Sustainable Financial Investments   of USD 117 million annually for the period of five years   * Ensure at least 5% of basic Health care provision Fund * Ensure at least 60% implementation of the NMPFAN) Plan 2021-2025 * Ensure Nutrition is captured in the National Development Plan (MTNDP/MTEEF)   After the briefing, the Chairperson said the peak of today’s meeting would be to populate the scorecard questionnaire from NGF as we have 7th of July as deadline for submission. The chairperson asked the secretary to read out the NGF nutrition scorecard questionnaire. This was done and the members present made their inputs answering the questions. While reading out the questions in the questionnaire, a lot of questions and discussions went along with each question raised in the questionnaire. On the issue of funding for the SCFN, Mr. Felix Obia from Ministry of science and Tech asked about the SCFN budget, who has been financing the previous committee meetings?  Following the secretary’s response, Mr. Obia Felix pleaded with the Chairperson to use her office to help facilitate the release of funds since nothing had been released so far.  On the issue of Priority Nutrition programs, The secretary asked the member ministries to write out priority Nutrition programs which their ministry can do and submit to her for collation and submission to NGF.  On the issue of 6 months maternity leave, the house noted that Abia State gives only 4 months maternity leave to civil servants. Engr. Uko, from Abia RUWASSA suggested that we all should search out for the Federal circular that talk about the 6 months maternity leave.  However, the chairperson reacted to this and said it must be in the national policy and can’t be in place in the state until we have fully domesticated the nutrition policy since it’s a policy thing.  Mr. Obia Felix, a member from Ministry of Science & Tech, requested that a copy of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition be shared to every committee member. The secretary promised she would have the soft copy sent to every committee member  **Action Points:** 1. The Chairperson directed that the exact amount for the year should be gotten from then Director, Budget, Abia SPC. | The Secretary, responding, told the house that SCFN budget is in the SPC’s budget. | Raise a memo on establishment of crèche, first put it on the SCFN group platform for inputs before submission to Governor.  Every sector represented in the SCFN should write out their priority Nutrition Programs for the year, for onward submission to NGF.  Look for Federal Policy and circular that talk about the 6 months maternity leave for our SCFN to use and pursue that for Abia state.  Secretary should share copy of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition to members who do not yet have it. |
|  | **AOB:-**  Engr. O. O. Uko of Abia RUWASSA talked about the Exploratory Dialogue meeting on Food System held in Imo Concord Hotel, Owerri, Imo State on 6th April, 2021, which was attended by 5 members of the Abia SCFN. He voiced his dissatisfaction as regards the welfare of the participants during and after the program, saying that the state was to sponsor that trip but it was not done.  The Chairperson asked the secretary to make a proposal for the Owerri trip. |  | Secretary should raise a proposal for the Owerri meeting and the 2 SCFN meetings held so far this year. |
|  | **CLOSING**  Mr. Obia Felix a member from Ministry of Science & Tech. moved a motion for adjournment, Goddy Onwuchekwa member representing states Director NOA supported. The meeting ended at about 4:11 pm with a closing prayer by Mr. Chikaodi Ihemamma rep. ANRIN. |  |  |