**REPORT OF 2020 LAST QUARTER MEETING OF EKITI STATE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION HELD ON TUESDAY, 22ND – WEDNESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 2020 AT KOLTOTEL HOTEL & SUITE, ADO – EKITI.**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning in collaboration with UNICEF Akure Field Office organized a day quarterly meeting of Ekiti State Committee on Food and Nutrition for the third quarter of year 2020. This meeting ought to have been held before this time, but for the outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic which clamped down on nearly all activities across the globe particularly on gathering of people, which was highly prohibited not only in the State but in the country at large. Immediately after the relaxation of some of measures put in place by the State Government on social gathering, there came the opportunity to hold this meeting ,because so many activities of the Committee needed urgent attention, part of which was the reason for this meeting.As it is known, Ekiti State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN) was set up among other mandates to coordinate the planning and implementation of all food and nutrition activities in the State and local government levels and ensure adequate budgetary provision for food and nutrition activities in the annual budget. This, the committee this the committee had done till date.

The objectives of the meeting were delivered by Mr. Ade Adesanmi, the State Nutrition Officer/Committee’s Secretary which were as follows:

**1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the State Nutrition Costed Workplan.

* To look at the 2020 Food and Nutrition Activies in each of the line MDAs;
* To discuss on the activities of the line MDAs of the Committee to be includedin the 2021 Workplan to be able to achieve the target and Objectives of the Committee in Ekiti State.

The Participants at the meeting included the following;

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning – Chairman Senior Nutrition Officer, SPHCDA - Secretary

Director Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning,

Members of Ekiti State Committee on Food and Nutrition across Nutrition related MDAs

Nutrition Officers from State Primary Health Care Development Agency,

Nutrition Focal Persons from 16 LGAs

The Nutrition Specialist from Unicef Akure Office was not in attendance as a result of the outbreak of Covid-19

**2.0 ACTIVITIES**

**2.1 OPENING**

The Meeting started at 10:54am with a recap of the last meeting of the committee which was head immediately after the lockdown was relaxed by the Senior Nutrition Officer from State Primary Health Care Development who is the Secretary of the Committee, . Thereafter, there is an an Opening prayer led by Mrs. Awe Omotola, from mthe Ekiti State College of Health and Science Technology. Also, the self- introduction of the participant at the meeting was followed.

**2.3 OPENING REMARK BY MR. LEKE ADEFOLAJU PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.**

The Permanent Secretary MBEP Mr. Leke Adefolaju, Chairman of the State Committee on Food and Nutrition, in his opening remark welcomed all the members to the year 2020 Third Quarter Meeting of Ekiti State Committee on Food and Nutrition. While speaking, he made it known he was fully briefed on the efforts of the Committee in domesticating National Policy on Food and Nutrition in 2017 and together with the development of a Costed Nutrition Strategic Plan of Action to power the implementation of the policy document in the State. He commended the efforts of the UNICEF in supporting the State to achieve this and the quarterly meetings of the Committee so as to constantly meet to deliberate on the strategic directions to the nutrition activities both at State and Local Government levels of the State. He reiterated that though the State Committee on Food and Nutrition has made a lot of progress towards the achievement of their mandate, the nutrition situation in the State is still not at its best as evidenced by the recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) report. For the State to be at its best, several steps till need to be taken,part of which was to intensify efforts towards incorporating the Costed Workplan in the State Planning Documents - Medium-term Sectoral Strategy and the Budget, for effective implementation of the document. He said a meeting of the critical stakeholders in Budget and State Planning Documents preparation was held recently at the ministry while budget processes were on going in the State in order to discuss the best way to achieve having a dedicated budget line for Nutrition Activities. To the glory of God, the effort yielded a fruitful result. He used the opportunity to inform the committee of the integration of the document into the State MTEF with the assurance that a good number of the planned activities in the Workplan would be accommodated in the 2021 State Budget. All these was to show the commitment of Ekiti State government towards Food and Nutrition matters in the State with reflections in programmes on Agricultural Development, Health and Human Development as well as Poverty Reduction. He concluded by thanking the UNICEF for their support to Ekiti State. Since the inception of the Office in Akure, there has been a tangible increase in the tempo of activities of the UNICEF in the State. It is on record that Ekiti had been a recipient of various assisted projects which are complimentary to the efforts of the State Government for excellent service delivery to the good people of Ekiti State. He therefore commended the Committee members for their cooperation and contribution to ensure the Committee achieved this great and encouraged them to do more because whatever they did is for the betterment of the future yet onborn

Reaction from the

The PS was appreciated for his effort in ensuring that the policy has been included in the State Plan

He further said in order to reduce the indices confronting the State on Nutrition Stunting..there is the need to act fast now that the 2 years had gone out of the life span of the document before review every hands must been on deck for its effectiveness.

**2.2. PRESENTATION ON THE NUTRITION SITUATION IN EKITI**

In the presentation, Mr. Ade Adesanmi took time to open the mind of each participant at the meeting to various survey which give details of the Nutrition status in the State. It was discovered that Ekiti State stunted rate was so high 21.9%. he therefore said once a child is stunted, it is also very difficult to control. As result of the there is need to up our effort in order to ensure the Strategic Plan of Action of the Committee which has been Costed but it is yet to be put for implementation. Further in his presentation, he said the policy is meant for five years before it is review but two years has gone in the life span of the policy document, therefore it is necessary we do all we can to ensure effective implementation of the Costed workplan in the incoming years for the remaining 3 years of the policy before it is review. He therefore pointed out the target set by the committee to achive in 2021 workplan as follows

TARGET

**2.4 GROUP PRESENTATION ON THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2020**

After the presentation of the Njutrition Situation in Ekiti State, there is a group presentation of the activities carried out by the line MDAs in the outgoing year. The presentations were done as follows:

STATE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY **BRIEFING**

WATER CORPORATION **BRIEFING**

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) **BRIEFING**

HOMEGROWN SCHOOL FEEDING **BRIEFING**

EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL **BRIEFING**

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY **BRIEFING**

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS **BRIEFING**

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIOs (NGOs)**

The two representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the meeting, Community Health Advancement and Rural Empowerment Centre (CARE) and New Initiative for Social Development (NISD) give their own presentation as follows:

* Compilation of Social Register where the list of poor and vulnerable assisted were drawn;
* Focus on the right of women and Children;
* Monitoring of Gender Violence situation in the State to ensure its reduction to minimum point;
* Monitoring of SUBEB projects;
* Distributed of palliatives of various forms; and
* Reaching out to partners for collaboration and support.

**3.0 ISSUES AND OBSERVATION**

The following observation were raised at the meeting both in the presentation and general

observation from the previous activities of the committee.

* No proper information on the deworming of School Age Children carried out in schools;
* EKSUTH was not carried along on the nutrition activities in Schools thereby giving no room for effective data capturing.
* No data synergy among the institutions and between the MDAs as well. Hence, no effective collaboration.
* Vitamin supplement should be sourced from within rather than from outside the State to reduce the stress involved in distribution processes
* No properly prepared report from the MDAs thereby affected their presentations.

**4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

* Sensitization on the impact of Project conducted by the NGOs in order to know their activities
* Impact assessment should be carried out on the project initiated by the NGOs so as to ascertain their level of benefits to the society;
* There should be a record of activities of all the NGOs activities in order to avoid duplication of intervention since they are working for the betterment of Ekiti citizens
* MDAs should synergize on data compilation;
* Internal source for Vitamin for effective distribution;
* The Food and Nutrition Departments in Tertiary Institutions should collaborate with the LGA of their domain on adequate data gathering;
* MDAs should prepare a detailed of activities in the next meeting

**5.0 NEXT STEPS**

The next step to be taken as agreed by the committee members were as follows:

* The Costed workplan of the Committee should be given a separate budgetary provision as well as budget head since it has been projected for in the State MTEF document;
* There should be a presentation of detailed report of activities of each of the thematic group in the next meeting;

**6.0 CLOSING REMARKS BY MRS. OGUNLADE B. G. DIRECTOR MUTILATERAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

In her closing remark, Mrs. Ogunlade B.G., Director Multilateral Relations Department of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, she thanked God Almighty for making the meeting to be hitch-free despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe. According to her, the meeting ought to have been held long but because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which made both the first and second quarterly meeting unable to hold. Thus, a lot of activities had been lost to the pandemic in the course of the year unless otherwise rescheduled. She however opined that much can still be done if we all so desire it to be so. Further in the remark, she commended the efforts of the UNICEF team in Ekiti State for their efforts in terms of Food and Nutrition situation in the State and particularly for this meeting. The meeting would not have been possible if not for UNICEF support. She equally thanked the Chairman and other members of the Committee for their support especially during the last meeting held with some critical stakeholders and the Nutrition focal persons in the line MDAs immediately after Covid-19 lockdown was over in Ekiti State.

The meeting was called up to discuss way forward on the need for inclusion of the Food and Nutrition Strategy plan of Action into the State Planning Documents for effective implementation as part of post covid-19 measures. The document had been produced two years back but could not be implemented as a result of the fact that, it was not on the State Strategy Plan and annual budget thereby making it so difficult to track. She however announced that, the process of inclusion of the Strategic Plan of Action (Nutrition Costed Workplan) of the Committee had received a boost through the support of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leke Adefolaju, the Permanent Secretary, MBEP. She reiterated that by year 2021 budget, the committee should be able to celebrate another height of achievement of effective and implementable Food and Nutrition Costed Workplan with budget head in the State. She therefore advised each MDAs to give priority to Food and Nutrition related activities in their various MDAs anytime the opportunity presents itself. She thanked all the members for their time, contributions, efforts and patience and wished them journey mercies back to their various destinations .

**7.0 CLOSING**

**7.1** The meeting came to an end at 3:35 pm with a closing prayer by Mr. Asubiojo Michael Lekan, the Nutrition Focal Person for Efon Local Government.