REPORT ON FOUR DAYS WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS OF THE ADAMAWA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND COMMITMENT TO NUTRITION FINANCING AND 21 LGAs CHAIRMEN/VICE CHAIRPERSONS ON UNLOCKING RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION INTERVENTION AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVE, HELD ON THE 12TH -15TH, MAY, 2025 AT CONFERENCE HALL, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, JIMETA-YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE.

BACKGROUND

Adamawa state like many regions in Nigeria, faces significant nutrition challenges, particularly among children under five years. Malnutrition remains a critical public health concerns contributing to high rate of stunting wasting, and micro nutrient deficiencies. Poor dietary, inadequate health care access, food insecurity, and low awareness of optimal infant and young child feeding practices have exacerbated the situation. Despite various intervention funding for nutrition remains inadequate and inconsistent limiting the reach and impact of programme aimed at addressing malnutrition. Legislative commitment, Local Government intervention and sustainable financing strategies are essential to ensure long term nutrition interventions that can improve health outcomes.

State Planning Commission being the secretariat for both State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN) and Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition (LGCFN) as stipulated in the State food and Nutrition Policy document is responsible for Nutrition policy, planning and coordination in the state. Against this backdrop, the Commission engages the Members of the State House of Assembly and Chairmen/Vice Chairperson of the 21 Local Government Area in the State, on advocating for unlocking resources by the LGAs Chairmen to support Nutrition activities at the Local government level.

OBJECTIVES

i. Increase awareness; educate the members of House of Assembly and LGAs Chairmen on the current nutrition situation including malnutrition trends and funding gaps.
ii. Advocate for resource Mobilization; Encourage LGAs to prioritized nutrition financing through the state budget and innovative mechanism.
iii. Promote investment in the Child Nutrition Matching Grant (CNMG); highlight the benefits of co-funding nutrition intervention through state and local government partnership.
iv. Strengthens Legislative Action; Develop a legislative :framework that supports sustainable financing for nutrition programs
v. Develop a commitment Plan; Secure LGA legislative commitment to increase and release budgetary allocation for nutrition.

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Therefore, a communique document was rolled out as actionable points for tackling malnutrition in the state and at the LGA levels as stipulated in the approved food and nutrition policy document by Members of House of Assembly and Local Government Chairmen.

Key Resolutions and Legislative Commitment

- ❖ Ensure the establishment of dedicated budget lines for activities across all relevant MDAs
- ❖ To ensure increased budgetary provisions to scale up Nutrition intervention across the state
- ❖ Collaborate with UNICEF to facilitate legislation that extends paid maternity leave from 3 to 6 months, and allows nursing mothers to have adequate time for exclusive breastfeeding
- ❖ Ensure the creation of dedicated Nutrition budget lines in all 21 LGAs
- ❖ All Hon. Members of the House of Assembly have agreed to commit N10 million each from their Constituency projects funds to support Nutrition intervention across the state.

Key Resolutions and Chairmen's Commitment;

i. All LGA Chairmen should allocate budgets, ensure timely release, and efficient utilization of Nutrition funds in the 2026 budget
ii. Establishment of the Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition in all 21 LGAs
iii. All LGA Chairmen should incorporate Nutrition intervention through the supplementary budget of 2025 to address the immediate malnutrition challenges
iv. ALGON to partner with the state planning Commission on donor intervention at the Local Government level
v. To domesticate 6months paid maternity leave at the Local Government level
vi. Establishment of Crèche in 21 LGAs
vii. Vice Chairperson should coordinate the activities of Nutrition in the local government committee on Food and Nutrition with the Chairmen to provide oversight functions

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology used during the capacity building workshop include;

i. Participants went through an Overview of nutrition activities in Adamawa
ii. Discussions/plenary sessions

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OUTPUT OF THE MEETING:

- Participants have common understanding about the nutrition challenges and opportunities in the state
- Participants have better knowledge on legislative support for nutrition financing including commitment to the Child Nutrition Matching Grant.
- Participants have concrete resolution on increasing and timely releasing of nutrition budgets
- Participants have common knowledge on development of an Action Plan for LGAs legislative oversights and accountability on nutrition financing.
- Participants have suggested proactive measures to strengthened partnership between the State Assembly, Executive arm, Local Governments, and Development Partners to sustain funding for nutrition programs

RECOMMENDATIONS/ FOLLOW UP ACTIONS/ WAY FORWARD

i. To developed a Legislative draft for the Food and Nutrition policy document
ii. Facilitate a legislation that extends paid maternity leave from 3 to 6 months, and allows nursing mothers to have adequate time for exclusive breastfeeding.

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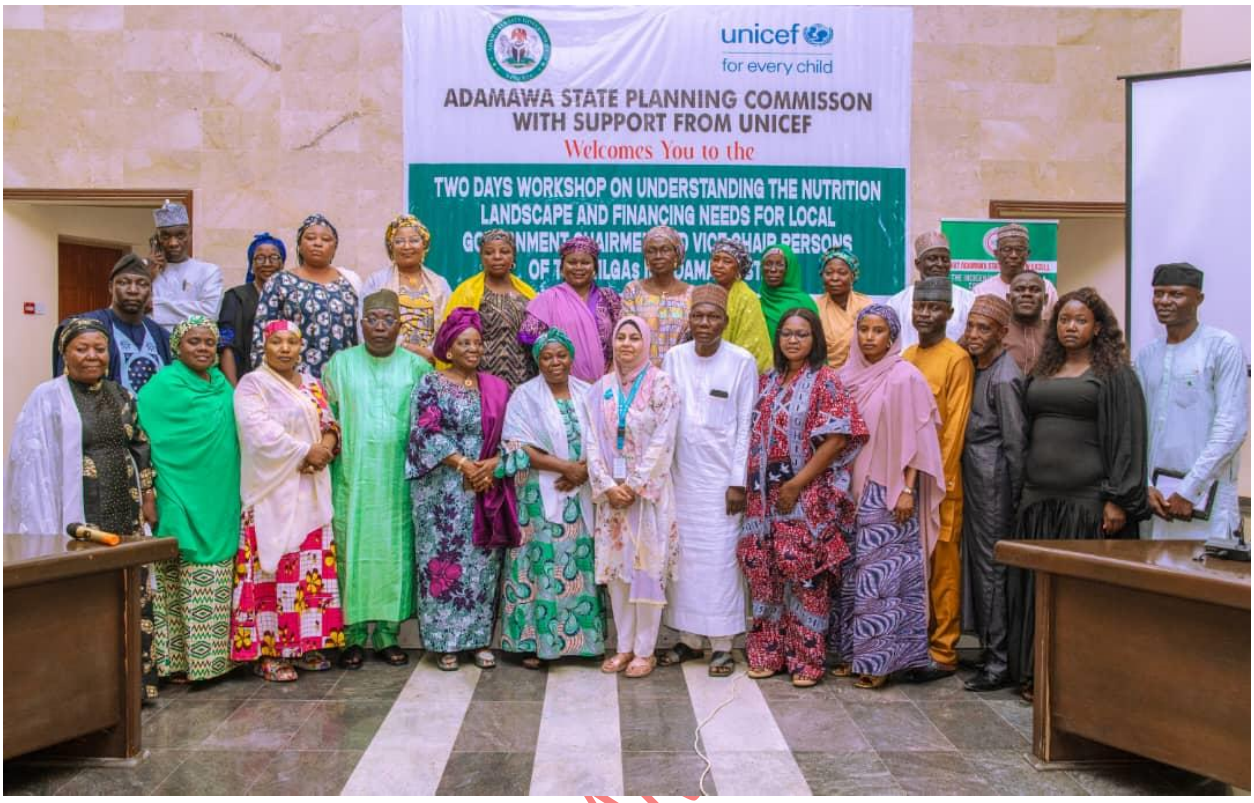
PHOTO GALLERY



Group photograph of the participants



Cross-Section of the participants during the Workshop @ Yola, Adamawa State