

SECRET

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**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH FOR INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME(NHGSFP) ON THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN NIGERIA.**

The purpose of this memo is to inform Council on the impact of the NHGSF programme and the role of the Federal Ministry of Health.

**1.0. Background**

The Nigerian HGSF programme aims to deliver a government-led, cost-effective school feeding programme with a specific focus on the development of smallholder farmers and local procurement to spur growth in the local economy. Whilst focused on providing food to children, this food-based safety net programme will indirectly also help improve food security in the beneficiary households. The intended benefits of HGSF will accrue to a wide range of stakeholders.

The main objectives of the HGSF programme are as follows:

**1 School Enrolment and Completion:** The programme aims to improve the enrolment of primary school children in Nigeria and reduce the current dropout rates from primary school which is estimated at 30%.

**2 Child Nutrition and Health:** The programme aims to address the poor nutrition and health status of many children and thereby also improve learning outcomes.

**3 Local Agricultural Production:** Linking the programme to local agricultural production has direct economic benefits and can potentially benefit the entire community as well as the children. The programme aims to stimulate local agricultural production and boost the income of farmers by creating a viable and ready market via the school feeding programme.

**4. Creating Jobs and Improving Family and State Economy:** The programme aims to create jobs along the value chain and provide a multiplier effect for economic growth and development.

Total target beneficiary population- the programme is targeted to reach 12.8 million pupils in Primary one to three by the end of academic year 2018/19. The cost of feeding per child is at an agreed cost of ₦70 (\$0.33) per day, an annual budget of ₦93billion (\$295million) was approved within the ₦500billion (\$1.59billion) Social Investment Fund.

Initially two states from each geopolitical zone were selected for a pilot school feeding programme based on the multi-dimensional poverty index. The multi-dimensional poverty Index (MPI) is a measure of acute poverty. It identifies deprivations across health, education and living standards. However, the enrolment of the States selected to the pilot programme was further based on the states commitment to the programme.

**2.0. Collaboration with Health sector in Nigeria.**

In collaboration with other partners and stakeholders the health sector is responsible for ensuring effective links between the Primary health care delivery and state school feeding programmes are created. The Ministry provides guidance on menu guidelines, standards for hygiene and food handling and implementation of integrated health interventions using the platform of the school feeding programme. Others include:

Ensuring Healthy environment:

- Lack of information
- Food safety and hygiene

- Food and nutrition standards
- Linkage to PHCs
- Tailoring basic health care packages on the school platform
- e.g. deworming activities
  - micronutrient supplementation,
- Hygiene and Health seeking behaviour
  - Wash programs
  - Food vendor training manual
  - Menu standardisation
  - Health insurance for pupils and cooks

### 3.0. STATUS OF NHGSFP.

The NHGSFP is currently been implemented in 24 states in Nigeria. Currently a total of **8228383** pupils are being fed by 85,332 cooks in about 40,252 public primary schools (Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi and Imo (South East); Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta (South South); Ondo, Osun, Oyo and Ogun (South West); Benue, Niger and Plateau (North Central); Kaduna, Jigawa, Kano, and Zamfara, Niger (North West); Bauchi and Borno (North East).

De-worming has been concluded in collaboration with the NTD unit of the FMOH in 6 States (Bauchi, Jigawa, Abia, Ogun, Plateau and Osun) and second round will commence in May 2018 so far 2,737,553 pupils.

- The FMOH supported with developing the training manual and the training of the **85,332** cooks on the program.
- NHGSFP leverages on the institutional structures within the states to implement the programme. The State have signed an agreement with the FGN to be responsible for the cost for operational activities, logistics of recruiting cooks and delivery of meals as well as monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

### 4.0 Challenges on Programme

As much as the NHGSFP leverages on the institutional structures within the FGN and the states to implement the programme. Challenges has been encountered with this collaboration. One of such is the need to ensure standards are adhered to in terms of Health and Hygiene, the Programme has been able to mitigate these issues by working closely with the NHEALTH volunteers on the Job creation cluster of the National Social Investment Programme.

Some of the Basic Roles and responsibilities of the Ministry OF Health Include

- Ensure that all schools comply with the standards of providing school health services-, The ministry is leveraging on the M and E activities of the Programme, to measure weight and height measurements of the pupils
- Provision of manuals of implementation / observation training manual – The Ministry had some challenges in delivering on this task because of the unbudgeted activities, however the FMOH partnered with a private sector Organization to deliver on the food safety and Hygiene Standards of the programme. The organization HEBRON Limited has technically and Financially supported the Trainings and is to deliver on the trainer manuals.
- Provision of essential drugs- the Provision of drugs has also been stalled by the lack of funding. Funding to ensure the service is delivered and monitored, The FMOH leveraged on the activities and funding of the NHGSF programme and State Government to roll out the first-round school-based deworming programme. The second round is pending.
- At the State ministry of health(s) are to monitor the implementation of programme and to water and sanitation facility in the schools in collaboration with the Ministry of water resources and environment.

### 5.0 Prayers

Council is invited to note the following:

- I. Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) is a school feeding programme that provides food produced and purchased locally within the country to school children to address child hunger and malnutrition”.
- II. Children under 15 make 45% of Nigeria’s population,24% of children under 15 yrs. are malnourished
- III. 110 Million Nigerians live below poverty line due to high unemployment.
- IV. Because of poverty many children have poor nutrition and health status, which affects learning outcomes
- V. That the Federal Ministry of Health should have a dedicated team with dedicated budgetary allocation for the implementation and monitoring of the health services of the NHGSFP. Some of the core departments include , Family Health (School health and Nutrition), Public health, Food Safety, and Neglected tropical diseases
- VI. That the Federal Ministry of health should collaborate with Federal Ministry of Education/ UBEC to ensure healthy school environment
- VII. That the Federal Ministry of health should collaborate with the NHGSF program to provide WASH facilities and Deworming drugs to pupils in public primary schools benefitting on the programme.
- VIII. That the Federal Ministry of health and the State counterparts should ensure the health status of the cooks on the program- medical screening, trainings on food hygiene and safety as well as Health Insurance
- IX. The need to begin discussions around providing health insurance for the pupils and the cooks working collaboratively with the community, NHIS and NPHCDA.

**Honourable Minister of Health**

**June 2018**