

# **JANUARY**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***KANO: 8,000 to benefit from FG Cash Grant for Rural Women Project***

Under the ongoing Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women Project, about 8,000 women across the 44 local Government Councils are to benefit from Kano state.

This was disclosed by the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, during the flag off ceremony of the project in Kano State.

Speaking through her Representative, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, and the Minister stated that the project was introduced in 2020 to sustain the social inclusion agenda of the President Buhari's administration.

"It is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural and peri-urban areas of the country.

"A cash grant of N20, 000 will be disbursed to about 125,000 poor women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory"

The Minister said the grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. She urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standards.

The Executive Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, in his remarks, commended the administration of President Muhammad Buhari for initiating programmes that are geared towards uplifting of the plight of the poor and vulnerable in the society, especially women and children.

He appreciated the Ministry for given Kano State a reasonable slot of the project for rural women of Kano state. Under the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), the Governor appreciated the enrollment of additional thirty five thousand beneficiaries from the fifteen Local government areas of the State and appealed to the Minister to approve the enrollment of the remaining 35,000 beneficiaries from these LGAs.

The Governor who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Yusuf NasiruGawuna, also requested for the expansion of the State Social Register to accommodate the remaining 29 LGAs of the State as well as additional beneficiaries of the Loan (Trader Moni, Market Moni and Farmer Moni) in the next round of the programme, among others.

In another development, over 4,000 beneficiaries across the 27 Local Government Councils of Jigawa State are to benefit from the Federal government grant for Rural Women Project.

The Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq disclosed this while flagging off the disbursement of the grant in Dutse, Jigawa State capital.

She said, "I have been following your Excellency's transformational effort and I am confident with this track record, various projects and programmes implemented by President Buhari's Administration will have the desired impact on lives of the people of Jigawa State. The Minister called on other stakeholders to support the Federal government in addressing the country's developmental challenges. The Executive Governor of Jigawa State, His Excellency, Muhammad Badaru Abubakar speaking through the Special Adviser on Economic Empowerment, Abba Muhammad Mujjadi commended Federal government gesture, noting that Jigawa State has benefitted from other Federal government Social Investment Programmes in the past

such as GEEP, CCT, HGSFP, among others in the past.” The Governor urged beneficiaries to make judicious use of the grant to assist themselves and their families.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**4th January, 2020**



*(left) Representing the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (Middle) representing the Governor of Kano State, the Deputy Governor, His Excellency Yusuf Nasiru Gawuna, (Right) beneficiary, Nafisa Dauda, during the Flag off of Federal Government Cash Grant to Rural Women in Kano State, held at the Coronation Hall, Government House Kano, on the 4th of January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*



*(2nd Left) Representing the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Left) Representative of the Governor of Jigawa State, Special Adviser on Economic Empowerment, Abba Mujjadadi, (1st Right) Kano State Focal Person, Bala Usman Chamo, (2nd Right) beneficiary, Lanre Muhammed, during the Flag off of Federal Government Cash Grant to Rural Women in Jigawa State, held at Manpower Development Institute Dutse Jigawa State, on the 4th of January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Farouq Urges NAPTIP To Use Data And Evidence Based System To Improve, Align Programmes With That Of The Ministry.***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has urged the newly appointed Director General of National Agency For the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to use data and evidence based system to improve or create programmes and align these programmes with that of the Ministry.

The Minister disclosed this during a courtesy visit by the Director General of NAPTIP, Imaan Sulaimon Ibrahim, in Abuja.

According to the Minister, “NAPTIP is core to the country and Ministry’s policy to annihilate human trafficking, prohibit all forms of domestic violence against persons and uplift the vulnerable from exploitative tendencies in a dignified manner”.

“The Federal Government of Nigeria has and continues to provide support and commitment to the Anti-Human Trafficking cause. Hence, it is my hope that you will build on previous success and strategic relationships to ensure a collaborative and Transformational approach to stemming human trafficking and domestic violence in Nigeria”.

Earlier, the Director General of NAPTIP, Imaan Sulaimon Ibrahim, reiterated NAPTIP’s commitment towards addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons in Nigeria and it’s attendant human rights abuses in its entire ramification as well as the fulfillment of the Federal Government’s international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol supplementing the United Nation’s Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC).

“In order to achieve its mandate, NAPTIP has put in the work and commitment to ensure that the vulnerable in the society are given a renewed hope for a sane and secured society”.

“From inception to date, the Agency has investigated of over ten thousand cases of human Trafficking, and it has prosecuted close to five hundred perpetrators of the crime”, she disclosed.

The DG said the Agency is faced with administrative and operational challenges such as inadequate funding, offices and operational vehicles that have hindered the growth of the development of the Agency.

She noted that NAPTIP being Law Enforcement and Crime fighting Agency of the Federal Government requires certain tools to assist officers carry out their assignments effectively such as firearms.” The Agency requires an Arms Squad of about one hundred operatives that will provide effective protective cover for its operations, physical security, access control and protection of critical infrastructure among other relevancies. This is applicable to other sister Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria, and in line with international good practice”, she said.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director (Information)**  
**11th January, 2021**



*(Middle) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (Right) The permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (Left) The Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), ImaanSulaiman – Ibrahim, during the courtesy visit of NAPTIP to the Ministry, on the 11th January, 2021. In Abuja Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Launches Cash Grant for 6,800 Rural Women in Katsina***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has flagged off the distribution of the Federal government's Special Cash Grant to 6,800 rural women in Katsina State including women with Disabilities.

The minister announced at the Muhammadu Buhari House in Katsina that beneficiaries for the program who are vulnerable women from the 34 Local Government Areas of the state will benefit from the cash grant targeted to serve as business capital for women to reduce the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on their households.

She noted that one-third of the beneficiaries were women with disabilities while two-thirds were widows, women from internally displaced families and other less privileged women from across the state.

"A total number of 6,800 beneficiaries are to benefit from the cash grant of 20,000 each including 203 women with disabilities. This is to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural women in Katsina State. It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the opportunity to increase their income, enhance their food security and contribute towards improving their living standard".

The Minister also disclosed that

N9.5 billion had so far been disbursed as Conditional Cash Transfer grants to 142,000 poor and vulnerable households in Katsina State since the inception of the program while President Muhammadu Buhari has given approval for the expansion of the Social Register to accommodate more poor and vulnerable Nigerians with the aim of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by the year 2030

In his response, Governor Aminu Bello Masari of Katsina State, who was represented by his Deputy, Alhaji Mannir Yakubu noted that since inception, the Conditional Cash Transfer scheme has lifted thousands of households out of poverty in the state. He urged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the grant.

"I want to thank His Excellency the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed forces for all his intervention programs of which Katsina state benefited immensely. We in Katsina state are grateful for the Special Grant for Rural women especially at this time that most are caught up in the hardship necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we want to assure you that the beneficiaries will make judicious use of the grants".

Earlier, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Empowerment and Special Interventions, Alhaji AbdulQadir Nasir disclosed that Home Grown School Feeding has employed over 10,000 women as cooks in the state and also fed 834 thousand pupils in 2,700 primary schools across the state.

Three cash distribution points have been designated, to ease the distribution process to the beneficiaries. They are Muhammadu Buhari House in Katsina, Old Government House, Banquet Hall, Government Secondary School Daura, and Government Secondary School Funtua.

Umar Farouq thereafter made a symbolic presentation of the federal government special grants for Rural Women to some women With Disabilities alongside the Deputy Governor and the Executive Secretary National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) James David Lalu and rounded off her flag-off with a courtesy visit to the Emir of the Daura Emirate, Alhaji Faruk Umar Faruk.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**13-01-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***More Women with Disabilities Receive Federal Government's Cash Grant As Programme Flags off in Kebbi***

The Federal Government's Special Cash Grant for Rural Women has been launched in Kebbi state with more women with disabilities benefiting from the Programme. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq made a symbolic presentation of N20, 000 to more than 30 women with disabilities during the flag off at the Presidential Banquet Hall, in Birnin Kebbi on Thursday.

In her remarks, Umar Farouq noted that the Special Grant for Rural Women is aimed at providing support to very vulnerable citizens in the country.

"I am delighted to have you all converge on this venue for the purpose of flagging off the Federal Government's cash grant for rural women, which is a significant social protection programme of President Muhammadu Buhari's government, aimed at uplifting the most vulnerable groups out of poverty.

"A total number of 4,200 beneficiaries are to benefit from the cash grant of 20,000 each to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural women in Kebbi State.

Since the inception of President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration in 2015, Government has paid more attention to protecting and promoting the plight of the poor and vulnerable in the country".

The Minister noted that Kebbi State has received a total sum of N1,056,200,000.00 (One Billion, Fifty-Six Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) from the Federal Government's Conditional Cash Transfer programme from inception with 76,804 Poor and Vulnerable Households (PVHHs) from 5 Local Councils including Jega, Gwandu, Bagudo, Shanga, and Dango/Wasagu LGA's currently benefiting in Kebbi State.

In his response, the Executive Governor of Kebbi State Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu expressed gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari for his compassion for the vulnerable and poorest in the society.

The Governor who was represented by the Secretary to the Kebbi state government Babale Umar Yauri, mni said that the Special Cash Grant will bail many women out of poverty as they will put the funds to use which will in turn assist in feeding many families.

"The Kebbi state government must thank President Muhammadu Buhari on behalf of the beneficiaries whose lives have been impacted positively.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Chief of Staff to the Governor Suleiman Muhammad Argungu thanked the Minister for bringing Federal government's empowerment program to the state, promising that the women will use the grant for vegetable cultivation, poultry and other petty businesses.

In attendance at the Federal Government Special Cash Grant flag off in Kebbi state was the Executive Secretary of the Persons With Disabilities Commission Mr James David Lalu, traditional rulers, members of the state House of Assembly, Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries and local government chairmen.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**14-01-2021**





## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMFARA STATE TO PROVIDE DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO VICTIMS OF ARMED BANDITRY – MINISTER**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development, HajiyaSadiya Umar Farouq has said that the Ministry will work with the Government of Zamfara State to provide support and lasting solutions to thousands of displaced persons in the State. The Minister disclosed this when the Governor of Zamfara State His Excellency, Bello Muhammad Matawalle paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Minister in Abuja on the 16th of January 2020.

HajiyaSadiya Umar Faruoq expressed her pleasure at the Governor's visit noting that it was timely and a welcome gesture. The Governor on his part congratulated the Honourable Minister on her appointment stating that in the few months she has steered the affairs of the Ministry she has proved she is the right person for the job adding that, "as a virtuous daughter of Zamfara State he had no doubt that she would perform excellently well and impact positively on the many Nigerians affected by humanitarian emergencies, disasters and social issues.

Discussions between them centred on the humanitarian issues in Zamfara Stateand options for providing lasting solutions. The Minister noted that "while the recent spate of banditry in parts of Zamfara State is unfortunate and worrisome, I am confident that collaborative efforts between the government at the State and Federal level as well as other relevant stakeholders can work together to ensure victims are provided with immediate relief and durable solutions to their plight". She Commended the Governor for the efforts of his Government in managing the situation and providing immediate relief and support to the victims of attacks in the State.

The meeting which had in attendance the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Tijjani Umar and top officials of the Zamfara State Government has set the stage for robust collaborations between the Ministry and the State.

**Halima Oyelade**

SA, Media to Honourable Minister

16<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **247 FULANI WOMEN RECEIVE FG RURAL WOMEN CASH GRANT**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has launched the Federal Government Special Cash Grant for Rural Women at the Fulani settlement of Hutawa near Birnin Kebbi.

About 247 Fulani women under the umbrella of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria MACBAN will receive N20, 000 each to improve their economic wellbeing.

The Minister who visited the

Fulani settlement located on the outskirts of Birnin Kebbi at the weekend expressed happiness at the economic empowerment training being given to the Fulani women by the Kebbi state government.

“I am delighted to see that these Fulani women are being taught the modern methods of yoghurt production using cow milk. This will go a long way in empowering them to be self reliant and able to provide for their families.

“I enjoin all the Fulani women who have received this training by the Kebbi state government to put it to practice as this will also improve the economic status of not just the women but the state and country at large”.

Among the recipients of the Federal Government’s Special Cash Grant for Rural Women is 65 year-old Baba Hauwawu who could not contain her excitement when she was presented with the cash by the Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq.

She expressed gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari for the Grant and said that she will use the N20, 000 to start a Furabusiness.

”May God bless and keep Baba Buhari for giving me this money. Now I will go and buy Fura and also start a cattle rearing business”.

The Federal Government’s Special Cash Grant for Rural women has so far been launched in 16 states including Plateau, Sokoto, Imo, Ebonyi, Nassarawa, Kebbi, Katsina, Bauchi, Taraba, Ekiti, Ondo, Adamawa, Gombe, Kano , Jigawa and Zamfara states.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**17-01-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **VP OSINBAJO LAUDS HUMANITARIAN MINISTER FOR COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE REGISTER CASH TRANSFER PROJECT**

Vice President Prof Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON has commended the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq for her innovation in upgrading the Rapid Response Register (RRR) for the Covid-19 Cash Transfer Project.

Prof Osinbajo gave the commendation when he launched federal government's emergency intervention database for the urban poor, a cushion for those further impoverished by the Covid -19 pandemic.

"I must commend the Hon. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and her team not only for this innovative effort but for the discipline and resourcefulness that they have brought into the execution of the project to deliver it so promptly and so well.

"With the RRR which uses a wholly technology-based approach, we are primed to achieve an end-to-end digital foot-print in cash transfers for the urban poor which also helps us achieve our financial inclusion policy under the Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access programme (EFInA).

"The groundbreaking success of the RRR now emboldens us to achieve our aspiration of a social security programme for a minimum of twenty million Nigerians in the next two years. This will be the largest of its kind on the continent".

The Vice President also hinted that federal government will seek funding for the intervention program as the country deserves a social security scheme that will not only alleviate poverty but also create wealth for millions of those waiting for the opportunity.

This he said is a testament to the commitment of the Federal government of Nigeria to create opportunities for millions of Nigerians to exit poverty with dignity and hope.

Earlier in her keynote address, Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq described the implementation of Humanitarian and Social Protection Programmes in Nigeria as a critical milestone in building a Shock Responsive Social Protection delivery system for the country.

"It is critical because it completes the full saturation of the urban and rural geographies in the registration of the poor and vulnerable people across Nigeria. As you may be aware, the National Social Registry, which is the repository for these databases, has largely captured the rural poor households due to the very important prioritization process it uses by starting from the poorest communities, wards and Local Government Areas (LGAs). This was done to achieve equity and ensure that the poorest people are the first on the register".

She said that the database was needed to develop the capacity for rapid response to any emergency including natural or man-made disasters such as crisis of banditry, insurgencies, communal crisis, emerging food crisis and displacement arising thereof, as well as climatic changes or similar pandemics.

The RRR is designed to rapidly identify, register and provide people who were not previously captured in the social register, with succor.

According to records, about 24.3 million poor and vulnerable individuals were identified at the end of 2020 and registered into the National Social Register. Each beneficiary will receive five thousand naira for a period of six months.

The RRR according to IorwaApera, the National Coordinator of the National Social Safety-Nets NASSCO, is designed using scientifically validated methods of satremote sensing technology and data analysis.

In attendance was the Minister of Labour and Employment Dr Chris Ngige, the Country Director World Bank Shulsham Chaudhun, the Permanent Secretary Bashir Nura Alkali, the Director Humanitarian Affairs Alhaji Ali Grema and other dignitaries.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**  
**19-01-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***NSIP Expanded To Reduce Poverty***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the expansion of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIPs), as part of his vision to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in the next 10 years.

The Minister stated this at the opening ceremony of 4th Annual review of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, held in Abuja.

She said the expansion include an addition of 5 million pupils in non-conventional educational settings in the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP); the Npower program to create jobs for a total of 1million beneficiaries; GEEP programme to provide loans to an additional 1million traders, farmers and market people and the Social Register is to accommodate an additional 1million households.

Others are the launch of the Special Rural Women Grant Programme, which will reach women in the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT; the launch of the Shock Responsive Social Register, which would provide grants to 1million identified vulnerable persons in urban areas and the creation of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, to better manage the needs of persons with special needs.

“It is therefore safe to say that we have been working tirelessly to ensure that vulnerable Nigerians are brought into the Federal Governments Social Protection umbrella which seeks to support, empower and level the playing field so that they are better equipped to handle economic and social shocks while contributing their quota to society and to the betterment of our great nation.

“The National Home-Grown School Feeding Program is an important intervention because of the multiple wins it is capable of delivering. It is a vehicle for reducing hunger, promoting educational gains, health status improvement and economic stimulation. Such programmes are recognised as positive indicators for Countries who are on track to achieve sustainable development. The long term benefits to our children and the future of the Nation cannot be over emphasised. Thus we must resolve to remain steadfast in ensuring that this program reaches its objectives and improves the lives of its beneficiaries.

The Minister commended the efforts of the Program Managers, State Focal Persons and other partners for effectively coordinating the NSIPS program and urges them to fully participate in the review program and share knowledge to fulfil Mr President’s vision of addressing poverty in Nigeria.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Bashir Nura Alkali, urged all the Focal Persons Program Managers, government and non – governmental stakeholders to continue to support the Ministry in the most co-ordinated way to achieve the mandate of improving the lives of the vulnerable Nigerians that are targeted in the programme especially the Nigerian Child.

He said, “The event is an opportunity to share experience of success and reflect and discuss amongst ourselves complex challenges plaguing the programme and proffer solution on how to be more effective”.

The Technical Assistant to the Honourable Minister on NHGSFP, Zainab Abubakar, in her opening remarks said, this year’s review is to assess progress made since the 3rd annual review meeting, identify challenges encountered along the way, proffer sustainable solution to those challenges, hear from the States on how the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme is running in their States, review the NHGSFP implementation manual and develop a work plan for 2021.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**DD (Information)**  
**18th January, 2021**



*(Middle) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (2nd Right) The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Right) S.A to the President on National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), Dr Mohammed Nasir Mahmoud, (1st Left), Senior Special Adviser to The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Dr. Engr. Umar Bindu, (2nd Left), State Focal Person Ekiti State, Victor Kolade, during the 4th Annual Review of the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme, held at NAF Centre, Abuja, on the 18th January, 2021.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG To Formulate National Policy on Ageing - Farouq***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has informed stakeholders at a one-day stakeholder's engagement meeting for the establishment of National Senior Citizens Centre that the Federal Government will soon come up with a National Policy on Ageing for Older Persons.

Speaking, she said, "Let me at this juncture commend and appreciate Mr. President for signing into Law the National Senior Citizens Centre Act which will pave way for the establishment of Community Based Prototype systems such as Community Safe Spaces for the Elderly, Leisure and Day-care Centres which the private sector can key into.

"I would like to inform you that the present Administration is making concerted effort to bring un stream very soon, the National Policy on Ageing which will also drive the process of mainstreaming emerging issues of Older Persons and enact laws to protect the Rights and privileges for the Ageing Population in Nigeria".

Continuing, "It is my hope that this very important meeting will bring out implementation strategies that would impact positively on Older Persons to ensure access to basic social protection and social services necessary to break the circle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion".

She said the meeting would provide a platform for them to rob minds in order for them to come out with credible recommendations that would assist Government in setting up the National Citizens Centre.

"I enjoin you to continue to strategize for the full realisation of achieving agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which has set out a universal plan of action to achieve sustainable development in balanced manner and seek to realise Human Rights of all people. This calls for leaving no one behind for ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals are met for all segment of the society, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, including older Persons".

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Bashir Nura Alkali reiterated that, "currently through the Ministry's activities and Programmes, societal understanding of Ageing is gradually improving.

He urged participants to work assiduously towards ensuring that the purpose of the meeting, which is to see to the smooth take off of the Centre and develop an implementation strategy for this important Act and popularize it, is achieved.

The Permanent Secretary said the Ministry will do everything within its powers to assist the meeting to come up with modalities for the workings of the provisions of the Act.

The Representative of the Country Director, Technical Officer, Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent and Healthy Ageing, Dr. Joy Ufere, in a good will message, reaffirm the commitment of WHO to not only support the process but be part of the implementation to provide human resource and other things possible to make it a reality.

She enjoined all stakeholders to ensure that the voice of the older persons is heard and they survive.

Present at the event were the Representative of the Minister of Health, National Coordinator, Health Care for Older Persons Programme, Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Saidu Ahmed Dumbulwa, Senator Dr. Eze Ajoku, President Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN), Representative of the World Health Organisation, Dr. Joy Ufere, Prof. Kate Oreh, St. Catherine's Educational Recourse Centre, Abuja, amongst others.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**DD (Information)**  
**21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021**



*(Middle) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Director Legal Services, Mr Garba Haqanawega, (2nd Right) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Health, National Coordinator Health Care for Older Persons Programme, Dr Saidu Ahmed Dumbulwa, (1st Right), President Coalition of Societies for the Right of Older Persons in Nigeria, Senator, Eze Ajoku, (1st Left) Professor Muhammed Mustapha , Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, during the Stakeholders' Engagement of the Establishment of Senior Citizens Center in the Country, on the 21st January, 2021, Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***KANO: 8,000 to benefit from FG Cash Grant for Rural Women Project.***

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This was disclosed by the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, during the flag off ceremony of the project in Kano State.

Speaking through her Representative, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, the Minister stated that the project was introduced in 2020 to sustain the social inclusion agenda of the President Buhari's administration.

"It is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural and peri-urban areas of the country.

"A cash grant of N20,000 will be disbursed to about 125,000 poor women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory"

The Minister said the grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. She urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standards.

The Executive Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, in his remarks, commended the administration of President Muhammad Buhari for initiating programmes that are geared towards uplifting of the plight of the poor and vulnerable in the society, especially women and children.

He appreciated the Ministry for given Kano State a reasonable slot of the project for rural women of Kano state. Under the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), the Governor appreciated the enrollment of additional thirty five thousand beneficiaries from the fifteen Local government areas of the State and appealed to the Minister to approve the enrollment of the remaining 35,000 beneficiaries from these LGAs.

The Governor who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Yusuf NasiruGawuna, also requested for the expansion of the State Social Register to accommodate the remaining 29 LGAs of the State as well as additional beneficiaries of the Loan (Trader Moni, Market Moni and Farmer Moni) in the next round of the programme, among others.

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The Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq disclosed this while flagging off the disbursement of the grant in Dutse, Jigawa State capital.

She said, "I have been following your Excellency's transformational effort and I am confident with this track record, various projects and programmes implemented by President Buhari's Administration will have the desired impact on lives of the people of Jigawa State. The Minister called on other stakeholders to support the Federal government in addressing the country's developmental challenges. The Executive Governor of Jigawa State, His Excellency, Muhammad Badaru Abubakar speaking through the Special Adviser on Economic Empowerment, Abba Muhammad Mujjadadi commended Federal government gesture, noting that Jigawa State has benefitted from other Federal government Social Investment Programmes in the past such as GEPP, CCT, HGSFP, among others in the past."

The Governor urged beneficiaries to make judicious use of the grant to assist themselves and their families.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**4th January, 2020**



*(2nd Left) Representing the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Permanent Secretary' of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Left) Representative of the Governor of Jigawa State, Special Adviser on Economic Empowerment, Abba Mujjadi,(1st Right) Kano State Focal Person, Bala Usman Chamo ,(2nd Right) beneficiary, Lanre Muhammed, during the Flag off of Federal Government Cash Grant to Rural Women in Jigawa State, held at Manpower Development Institute Dutse Jigawa State, on the 4th of January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **5,000 Women to Benefit from FG Cash Grant in FCT**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that 5,000 women are to benefit from the on-going Federal Government Special Cash Grant for rural Women, drawn from the six Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Minister disclosed this during the flag off ceremony of the project in Abuja.

She said the cash grant of N20, 000 per beneficiary is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries “It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standards.

“It is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural and peri-urban areas of the country. I am optimistic that with the support and cooperation of the Honourable Minister of FCT and other stakeholders present here, we will remain on track of lifting 100 million out of poverty by 2030” she added.

Earlier, the Honourable Minister of State for FCT, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, commended President Muhammadu Buhari for initiating the programme “You will agree with me that the launch of this programme is a bold statement by the government. It is reiterating the readiness of this administration to do all that is necessary to join the comity of nations to fight the global economic down turn and to put in place the needed shocks to withstand any future eventualities”.

She said the President is putting all hands on deck and ensuring that all his Ministers especially the Ministry through which this is domiciled is doing the best to reach and uplift the down trodden. That is why we salute the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, because it is not easy, FCTA is convinced of its roles to provide the right environment for this to happen within the FCT and committed to support the Minister and all development actors to realise this objective. She thanked the Minister for her zeal and determination towards the realisation of the people’s oriented programme.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021**



*2nd Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (1st Right) Minister of State for FCT, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu (2nd Left) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Left) Director Humanitarian Department, Grema Ali Alhaji, and a Beneficiary, Ruth Kadiri during the Flag - Off of the Federal Government Cash Grant For Rural Women in FCT, on 21st January, 2021.*

*Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG TASKS 63 INDEPENDENT MONITORS IN ABIA STATE ON PATRIOTISM***

Independent Monitors of the National Social Investment programs in Abia state have been advised to exhibit a high level of dedication and patriotism while carrying out their assignment, to ensure the realization of the set goals and objectives of the programs.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq gave the charge at the flag-off training and onboarding of Independent Monitors held at the Michael Okpara Auditorium Umuahia Abia state on Thursday February 25, 2021.

The Minister who was represented by the state team leader for the training, Mr. Abdulkarim Ilyasu said that the federal government is committed to reducing the level of poverty in the country through the SIPs and other efforts.

“Today we are flagging off the training of 63 Independent Monitors who will monitor the programme at the community level. The Independent Monitors will be assigned to monitor programme beneficiaries within their locality in schools, households, and market clusters with the focus of ensuring that the Primary Objectives of these programmes are achieved.

“It is therefore my expectation that you carry out this responsibility with outmost diligence and sincerity. Please be informed that the Ministry will not hesitate to take you off the Programme if you are found violating the terms of your engagement. I therefore urge you to carry out this task with a sense of patriotism as we all work towards the vision of Mr. President to lift 100 Million Nigerians out of Poverty in the next 10 years”.

In his welcome remarks, the State Focal Person on Social Investment Programs to Abia state Government Mr. ChinenyeNwaogu described monitoring and evaluation as a critical component of federal government’s intervention programs including Home Grown School feeding, Conditional Cash Transfer, GEEP and N-power.

“These programmes are aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of those occupying the lowest rung of the socio-economic ladder. It is at no cost to the beneficiaries.

“I thank President Muhammadu Buhari for sustaining these programmes and also appreciate the federal government for funding SIPs“

MrNwaogu also thanked the state Governor Dr.Okezie Ikpeazu for sustaining poverty alleviation programs which he said are top on his developmental agenda.

“Gov Ikpeazu is committed to mainstream Social inclusion programmes in Abia State. Abia has remained a reference state in the implementation of Social Investment Programme. I therefore charge the independent monitors to take their work very seriously and maintain the integrity of the Programme”.

Goodwill messages were also delivered by the state Director of the National Orientation Agency, Lady Ngozi Okechukwu and the Head, State Cash Transfer Unit Mr.OkeziemNwoko.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**25-01-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***PRESIDENT BUHARI INAUGURATES PRESIDENTIAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON ALTERNATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME***

President Muhammadu Buhari has inaugurated an 18-member Presidential Steering Committee on Alternate School Programme ASP.

At the inauguration which took place at the Presidential Villa January 26, 2021, President Buhari charged the ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to coordinate and lead the deployment of a National Plan which will address the issue of out-of-school children in the country.

The President said that it was unacceptable to see children abandoning formal school to engage in menial jobs and child labour in the markets, streets and workshops.

“While we continue to sustain our efforts on providing formal and conventional education through the activities of the Universal Basic Education Commission under the Federal Ministry of Education, it is still a common sight to notice children abandoning formal school to become apprentices in shops, workshops and markets, whilst many others choose to loiter at markets, become cart pushers and hawkers. These are not acceptable”.

President Buhari implored all members of the committee to take the assignment with utmost seriousness adding that “the future of our young people is at stake”.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Committee Umar Farouq thanked the President for his support to the Ministry and for granting the approval for the Alternate School Programme.

The minister noted that the number of Out-of-School children was increasing at an alarming rate, adding that there is urgent need to address the problem with deft response required of such an exigent matter.

“Education serves as a catalyst for the all-round growth and development of any individual. Thus, for any nation to thrive, adequate investment in human capital, by increasing access to quality education, must be prioritised. The United Nations identifies quality education as one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for attaining sustainable development”.

The Minister lamented the challenges facing the country due to the growing number of out of school children which cuts across the entire nation.

“Those mostly affected by this scourge include the girl-child, predominantly in the North, almajiri-children in the North, children of nomadic pastoralists spread across the country, incidence of boy child drop-out mainly in the South-East and South-South regions, street children in the South-West, commonly referred to as area boys, particularly around the Lagos axis, children of migrant fishermen in the South-South, and more recently the internally displaced children in the North-East, occasioned by the Boko Haram insurgency and insecurity”.

Umar Farouq assured the President that the Committee will leverage on the Ministry’s social protection instruments including N-Power, the Conditional Cash Transfer and the Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes to provide tailored delivery mechanisms targeted at the country’s out of school children.

“By integrating basic education with religious education and vocational training, the Alternate School Programme will increase access to education without altering social norms and cultures. Consequently, every child, including those in the most peculiar of circumstances, will have access to learning opportunities”.

According to UNICEF, Nigeria currently has the highest number of out of school children globally, while it is estimated that approximately 10.5 million children aged 5 to 14 years are not in school. Statistics also show that only 61 per cent of children

within the 6 to 11-year age bracket regularly attend primary school while the North has an abysmal net attendance rate of 35.6 per cent.

The Alternate School Programme, is an innovative and flexible approach to learning and skills development, ensuring that education is designed to specifically address the needs of the target beneficiaries and is delivered conveniently, without unnecessary encumbrances. By targeting out of school children, the program will ensure that more children are equipped with basic literacy skills, reasoning capabilities and technical and vocational expertise that will enable them to live fulfilled lives.

It is also expected to significantly reduce the number of out of school children in Nigeria, provide access to inclusive and equitable quality education, eliminate child labor, facilitate the effective integration of religious discipline and vocational training with basic education, provide opportunities for children to develop life supporting skills from vocational and entrepreneurship training to improve their chances of future success, improve the quality and outcome of basic education in the country and foster tolerance, unity, and integration of all children with diverse backgrounds into the larger society.

The Presidential Steering Committee has been mandated to

Refine the vision of the initiative,

Ensure engagement and effective uptake of the ASP initiative across the country, Review and approve all work, implementation plan, expected deliverables, feedbacks and reports as proposed and

Undertake any other task that can enhance the effective delivery of the initiative by the Ministry.

Members

1. Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development - Chairman
2. Minister of Education Co-Chairman
3. Minister of State of Education Member
4. Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals - Member
5. Minister of State, Budget and National Planning - Member
6. Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum - Member
7. Executive Secretary, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC)-Member
8. Director General, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) - Member
9. National President, Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) - Member
10. Representative, United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative - Member
11. Representative, United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) - Member
12. Representative, Global Partnership for Education - Member
13. Chair, Private Sector Advisory Group (SDGs) - Member
14. Chair, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development - Member
15. Chair, Senate Committee on Basic Education - Member
16. Chair, House Committee on Basic Education - Member
17. Hon. Dr. Shehu BalarabeKakale - Member.
18. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Bashir Nura Alkali- Secretary.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**26-01-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Press Statement: Farouq Sympathizes With Victims, Directs Assessment***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has sympathised with the victims of the recent Sokoto Central Fire Market incident which destroyed shops worth Billions of Naira. In a statement issued by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, the Minister is saddened by the news because of the huge lose to the victims especially in this hard times when people are trying to make ends meet.

Farouq commended all the Federal and State fire authorities, traders and concerned citizens that assisted in putting off the fire. “The Federal government is disturbed by the frequent fire disasters in the country and I urge all market authorities to put in place preventive measures in markets and sensitise shop owners on safety precautions to forestall fire outbreaks.

“I directed the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to work with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), to assess the situation and report back within two weeks for the provision of necessary humanitarian assistance,” the Minister said.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***4000 Women to Benefit from FG's Cash Grant in Kaduna State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that over 4,000 women in Kaduna State are to benefit from the on-going Federal Government Rural Women Cash Grant Programme.

The Minister who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, said, "It is consistent with the President Buhari's Administration national vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years. It is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural and peril-urban areas of the country.

"A cash grant of N20, 000.00 will be disbursed to about 125,000 poor women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Our target in Kaduna State is to disburse the grant to over 4,000 beneficiaries across the 23 Local Government Councils of the state. The grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standard."

Continuing, "We believe with the complementary effort of the Kaduna State Government, the target beneficiaries will be adequately covered within the next few days. I am optimistic that with the support and cooperation of Your Excellency and other stakeholders present here, we will remain on the track of lifting 100 million out of poverty by 2030. To the beneficiaries, Let me however reiterate that this money belongs to you and you alone. It is meant for you to use in any small business venture you deem fit" the Minister added.

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency Malam Nasir El- Rufai, represented by his Deputy, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, reaffirmed the States support and enthusiasm on the initiative which will provide a platform for the empowerment of rural women as part of the social inclusion and poverty alleviation agenda.

According to her, "we recognize that this programme is not the first and will serve as part of social inclusion and empowerment for rural women.

She said that the State is honoured by the presence of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs at the Flag off of the grant.

The Deputy Governor mentioned that the Kaduna State has a robust social protection policy and the main trust is to have a well-structured integrated social protection system that is capable of reaching the poorest and vulnerable citizens in the state.

She disclosed that the Kaduna State Executive Council has approved the Social Register as the primary source of data for interventions like the one flagged off in the State by the Federal government.

She enjoined the beneficiaries to reciprocate the gesture of the Federal Government by making use of the support they have received to enhance their livelihood.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**27th January, 2021**





*(3rd Left) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (2nd Right) the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Her Excellency, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, (2nd Left), Honourable Yusuf Ibrahim Zailani, Speaker Kaduna State House of Representatives, (1st left) a beneficiary, Zainab Abdullazeez, during the flag off of Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Reiterates Commitment to Alleviating Poverty***

The Federal government has reiterated its commitment to addressing the plight of poor and vulnerable in the country with the distribution of N20, 000 each to 8000 women in Lagos State, in the ongoing Federal Government Special Cash Grant for Rural Women Project.

This was disclosed by the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar farouq, at the flag off ceremony of the programme in Lagos State.

Speaking through her representative, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, and the Minister stated that “our target in Lagos State is to distribute the grant to over 8000 beneficiaries across all the Local Government Councils of Lagos State.

“The grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standards” she said.

The Minister told the beneficiaries that the grant belongs to them and should use it in any small business venture they deem fit that will improve your lives.

The Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Babajide Olushola Sanwo – OLu, represented by his Deputy, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat commended President Muhammadu Buhari for initiating the Special Cash Grant for rural women which is in line with the state agenda and reflects the commitment of government to the achievement of the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs).

He said “Today’s event is a further testimony of our government determination to change the socio-economic development narrative of this country and Lagos State to the level where our women will be the corner stone or center piece of our strategy in fighting poverty through empowerment.

“We will continue to initiate specifically designed empowerment programmes that will assist in cushioning the effect of this COVID-19 Pandemic on all the citizens especially our rural women and their small businesses.

The Governor said the initiative will go a long way in boosting their businesses and assist them to overcome post COVID-19 socio-economic challenges.

He appealed to the beneficiaries of the grant not to see the grant as a share of national cake but use the grant to boost their businesses and trade for greater income.

One of the beneficiaries Mrs. Monsuratu Ogundipe appreciated Mr. President and the Honourable Minister for providing them with N20,000 grant to add to their businesses and promised to use the grant judiciously to grow her business and be an employer of labour.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**29th January, 2021**



*(1st Left) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (2nd Left) The Deputy Governor, Lagos State, His Excellency Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat, (3rd Left) Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Honourable. Mrs Yetunde Arobieke, (1st Right) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (3rd Right) a Beneficiary, oluwatoyin Alade, during the Federal Government Special Grants for Rural Women in Lagos, held at Police College Ground Oba Akinjobi Way, G.R.A Ikeja, on the 29th, January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Disburses Cash Grant to 3,500 Women in Ogun State***

The Federal government has commenced the disbursement of Federal government Special Cash Grant for Rural Women to 3,500 women in Ogun State.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian affairs disaster management and social development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, flagged off the programme in Abeokuta the capital of Ogun State.

The Minister who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, said that the Grant for Rural Women programme was introduced in 2020 to sustain the social inclusion agenda of President Buhari's Administration. It is consistent with the President's now national vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

It is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural and peri-urban areas of the country.

"A cash grant of N20,000.00 will be disbursed to about 125,000 poor women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory.

"Our target in Ogun State is to disburse the grant to about 3,500 beneficiaries across all Local Government Councils of the State. The grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standard" she disclosed.

Farouq told the beneficiaries that the money belongs them and should be used in any small business to improve their lives.

The Executive Governor of Ogun State His Excellency, Prince Dapo Abiodun, Represented by the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency, Engr. NoimotSalako – Oyedele, said COVID-19 had been a big challenge for everyone across the world and Nigeria is not left out. It has seriously impacted on economies and the ability for people to earn a living.

He disclosed that the state came up with some intervention programmes last year which provided palliatives to the people of the state.

The Governor also said that the state has benefitted from several Federal government schemes such as the Survival fund and others.

He said Ogun State is happy to be part of the beneficiaries of the Federal government Cash Grant for rural women.

Governor Abiodun told the beneficiaries that the money is not a bonus but should be invested in expanding their businesses to increase their income.

He implored all the beneficiaries to be patient and orderly in receiving their money.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**30th January, 2021**



*(2nd Right) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (4th Left) The Deputy Governor of Ogun State, Her Excellency Noimat Salako-Oyedele, (2nd Left) Special Adviser to Governor on Women Affairs, Honourable AdijatAdeleye, (1st Left) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (3rd Left) Honourable Commissioner Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, Barrister Femi Ogunbanwo, (1st Right) Permanent Secretary Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, MrOrasanya Kehinde, (3rd Right) a Beneficiary Saidat Akande, during the Federal Government Special Grant for Rural women in Ogun State, held at the Government Office, Ogun State, on the 30th January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Flags Cash Grant for Rural Women in Enugu State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has flagged off the distribution of Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women in Enugu State.

The Minister said 3,000 rural women across all the local government areas of the State will benefit from the project.

The Minister who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali said the grant is specifically designed to improve the living standards of the women across the country.

Farouq called for the support and cooperation of the State governments and other stakeholders to improve the livelihood of the ordinary Nigerians.

The Executive Governor of Enugu State, His Excellency, RT. HON. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi speaking through the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency, Lolo Cecilia Ezeilo, said “It is gratifying to note that despite the economic and revenue challenges, the Buhari’s led administration is continuing with and even expanding the Social Investment Scheme for enhancing social inclusion which is adjudged the largest social protection programme in Africa.

The Governor thanked the Ministry for positioning Enugu State among the First set of beneficiaries of the cash grant for rural women Project.

He requested that the state be accorded maximum opportunities in other components of the National Social Investment Programmes and enjoined the beneficiaries to make wise use of the grant to help government realise its aim of providing the grant.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**31st January, 2021**



*(2nd Left) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Left) Representative of the Governor of Enugu State, The Deputy Governor of Enugu State, Her Excellency, Lolo Cecilia Ezeilo, (3rd left) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, and Beneficiaries (from Right) Chukuatam Victoria, Chukwuma Amaka, during the Federal Government Special Grant for Rural Women in Enugu State, at Bon Hotel, Presidential Road, Enugu, on the 31st January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***2,800 Women to Benefit from FG Cash Grant in Anambra State –Farouq***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that 2,800 women are to benefit from the Federal Government Special Cash Grant for Rural Women Project in Anambra State.

The Minister made this known at the flag off ceremony of the project in Awka, Anambra State.

Speaking through the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, she said the grant was introduced in 2020 to sustain the social inclusion agenda of President Buhari's Administration.

"It is consistent with the President's now national vision of lifting, 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years" she noted.

Farouq told the beneficiaries that the N20, 000 per beneficiary belongs to them and should be used in any small business venture they deem fit to improve their living standards.

The Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency, Chief Willie Obiano, represented by the Commissioner of Social Welfare, Children and Women Affairs, Mrs. Ndidi Mezue, thanked the Federal government for empowering the vulnerable women in the state. The Governor urged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the money to improve their livelihood.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> January, 2021**



*(Middle) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (2nd Right) Representative of the Deputy Governor of Anambra State, Commissioner Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs, Ndidi Mezue , (1st Left) Director Special Needs, Mrs Nkechi Onwukwe (1st Right) a Beneficiary, Mrs Caroline, during the Federal Government Special Grant for Rural Women in Anambra State, at Professor Dora Akunyili Women Development Centre Awka, On the 31st January, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

# FEBRUARY

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***FG Flags-Off Training of 5000 Independent Monitors for NSIP Programme***

The Honourable minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has flagged off the training of 5000 Independent Monitors for effective monitoring of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) programme.

The Minister disclosed this during the flagged off of the event in Abuja.

According to the Minister, “5000 Independent Monitors will be assigned to monitor the programme beneficiaries at community level in school’s household and market clusters with the focus of ensuring that the primary objectives of these programmes are achieved.

Farouq said, “The NSIP Programme was created by the t President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 with the mandate of lifting citizens out of poverty through the number of Social Interventions which include the job creation programme : N-POWER, Nation Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Cash Transfer programme (CCT), and Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP). These Programme were moved to Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development in 2019 following the creation of the Ministry. “The training follows and intensive two weeks’ workshop at the National Level by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee setup by the Ministry to develop a Framework and Data Tools for effective monitoring process. While the initial training to acquaint with the schedule of duties, the Ministry will ensure you continue to receive the regular training and guidance for effective monitoring within the communities you are assigned.

She urged them to carry out the responsibility with outmost diligence and sincerity and that the Ministry will not hesitate to take them off their engagement with security agents such as EFCC and the ICPC to monitor these programmes.

Earlier, the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Grema Ali, said there is a great task ahead of them as they shoulder the responsibility of Monitoring the NSIP Programme in various communities. He said the programme is flagged off to support the vulnerable citizens of in the society.

The Focal Person for Federal Capital Territory Mrs. ChinwenduEteyen Amba said that,” The Monitoring team will ensure checks and balances which will guarantee a seamless exhibition of the team to achieve results.

She appealed to the Honourable Minister to include the secondary school in the FCT in the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program.

The Director of the National Orientation Agency Mrs. Mary Tanko said the participants should pay attention to the rules and responsibilities, concentrate on the presentation, ask questions where necessary in order to play their role very well, adding that the objective of the programme is to make sure the objective of the NSIP is achieved.

**Felicia Adeyemo**

**For: DD (Information)**

**February 4, 2021**





*(3rd Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (2nd Left) Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (1st Right) Director Finance on Account NSIP, Prince Musa, (1st Left) Director Special Needs, Mrs Nkechi Onwukwe, (2nd Right) FCT Focal Person, chiwenduEteyen Amba, (3rd Left) Director National Orientation Agency FCT, Mary Tanko, during The Training of Independent Monitors, for The Intergrated National Social Investment Programme In The Federal Capital Territory, on the 4th February,2021, At NAF Conference Centre Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***HUMANITARIAN MINISTER SYMPATHIZES WITH VICTIMS OF TIPPER GARAGE FIRE OUTBREAK***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq is deeply saddened by the fire incident that razed the Tipper Garage Market on 3rd Avenue in Gwarimpa Abuja in the early hours of Thursday February 5, 2021.

Umar-Farouq who sympathized with the traders especially those who lost their lives in the inferno described the outbreak as tragic.

Six traders who lost their lives in the fire were said to be trapped in their stalls having passed the night there.

According to eyewitnesses, a faulty electrical spark in one of the lock-up shops was the cause of the inferno.

Reports said the fire which started at midnight lasted over two hours before it was put out by the men of the FCT Fire Service.

Goods worth millions of Naira went up in flames while several other traders sustained various degrees of burns while many houses around the market were also affected by the fire.

The Minister sympathizes with families and relatives of the dead and praise God to grant them eternal rest.

Meanwhile, Minister Umar Farouq has since directed the National Emergency Management Agency to assess the damages caused by the fire for immediate provision of relief and intervention materials.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**04-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SGF, UMAR FAROUQ CALL FOR INTERSTATE GOVT COLLABORATION IN NATIONAL POVERTY ERADICATION STRATEGIES**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has called for a working partnership between state governments and the ministry to stamp out poverty in the country.

The minister made the call at a virtual extra-ordinary meeting of the Forum of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Secretaries to State Governments which was convened on Friday 5th February, 2021, at her instance at the Office of the SGF.

The meeting themed 'Strengthening National Poverty Eradication Strategies and Policies' is targeted at effectively coordinating poverty eradication programs in Nigeria using a single document in all the states of the federation.

In her presentation, Umar Farouq emphasized that poverty remains the number one challenge in the country, hence the need to coordinate and synchronize effectively, all programmes aimed at eradicating poverty in Nigeria.

"A careful evaluation of all major programmes and projects of Government since independence on poverty reduction, alleviation and eradication shows that there is a need to harmonise and rationalise intervention strategies and their implementation which will lead to an environment where all programmes are centrally coordinated and monitored with a view to making the overall impacts transparently felt by all Nigerians. Though many actions were taken to address this in the past, the 2018/2019 Poverty and Inequality data in Nigeria, as released by the National Bureau of Statistics shows that the range of poverty headcount is between a high of 87.3% in Sokoto State to a low of 4.5% in Lagos, with a national average of 40.2%.

"This alarming situation and the strategic need to address it is the primary reason why the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari established the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to provide National Coordination, strategies and policies for intervention.

"To ensure that these activities are well harmonised, it is imperative to intensify consultations to acquire the desired partnerships and coordination to succeed. This reality and indeed the key stake held by the State Governments in this process is the main reason why I requested the SGF to kindly avail us this platform to consolidate our partnerships and cooperation. Therefore, in order for us to succeed in attaining this vision, securing a partnership between the Ministry and the various State Governments is paramount. This meeting today therefore is the first but significant step in cementing this inters- governmental synergy for the benefit of vulnerable people in our country".

In his opening remarks, the SGF Mr Boss Mustapha emphasized the need for a well-coordinated National, rather than disparate States and Federal programmes aimed at addressing poverty and called on all the Secretaries to the State Governments to ensure effective machinery for state level coordination and federal level interphase with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

"The theme of this Forum: strengthening National Poverty Eradication Strategy is a pointer to the importance of dealing with the unacceptable levels of poverty in Nigeria. This situation is not abating in spite of the various efforts of government at all levels. Ineffective coordination between and within various levels of government have been long implicated as a reason for a not too visible performance. It is therefore, necessary to fill gaps, block leakages, remove overlaps and increase collaboration and partnerships between the

Federal and State Governments through the office of SSGs so that we have a real National effort at tackling poverty in the country”.

The Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen in her goodwill message, called for the full integration of women, Children and youths in poverty reduction programmes and pledged her commitment to support the coordination efforts.

using the agricultural sector as a key driver of poverty eradication efforts in the country, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural

Development Alhaji Mohammed Sabo Nanono solicited a three-tiered collaborative policy implementation through state, multi-MDA and community levels to unlock greater opportunities for arbitrageurs across all levels.

One of the major resolutions of the forum is the need for the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to anchor collaborative efforts across Federal level Ministries, Extra-Ministerial Departments and Agencies, States and Local Governments, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector to harmonies efforts and ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency.

It also called on all Secretaries to the State Governments to strengthen existing coordination mechanisms and where absent, set one up to ensure effective coordination and synchronization at the state level, harmonization and complementarity between and within Ministries and agencies as well as appropriate interphase with the federal government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

The meeting had 60 virtual participants including Mr Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Alhaji Mohammed Sabo Nanono, Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, the Statistician General of the Federation, Dr. Yemi Kale, Chairman Dr. Doyin Salami, members of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) as well as Secretaries to State Governments from 22 States and Permanent Secretaries.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**06-02-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Refugee Commission Meets Cameroonian Officials over President Buhari's Repatriation Directives***

A Technical Working Group of the Tripartite Commission for the voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon has ended in Maroua, Cameroon.

The Federal Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), Senator Basheer Garba Mohammed Lado met with officials of the Cameroonian government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Maroua, Cameroon at the weekend to develop practical modalities to continue the repatriation of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon.

The meeting is coming on the heels of President Muhammadu Buhari's directive that all Nigerian refugees in Cameroon be returned home safely to a life of dignity with immediate effect.

The Commissioner who was represented by the commission's Director of Refugees and Migration Tai Hassan Ejibunu stated that the importance of the meeting on the Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon including the support of the Humanitarian Affairs ministry cannot be overemphasized.

Senator Lado, who is also the Chairman, Technical Working Group of Nigeria on the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees, said that the TWGs' meeting is a forerunner to the Tripartite Commission (TC) meeting scheduled to hold February 10, 2021.

"The meeting this week will provide the latitude and platform for officials of both countries to have in-depth discussions on the protocols and strategies to follow in repatriating several thousands of Nigerian Refugees that are stationed in Minawao Camp in the Republic of Cameroon. I urge officials of both countries to be open in their discussions while putting into consideration the interest of the refugees, following international best practices and the guidance of our technical partner, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Offices in Nigeria and Cameroon.

"I thank the UNHCR Country Representative in Nigeria, Ms. Chansa Kapaya for her invaluable contribution, assistance and collaboration in all spheres to ensure that discussions are held regularly on how best to tackle the repatriation of these Persons of Concerns (PoCs) to Nigeria.

"The Governor of Borno State, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum has demonstrated uncommon passion in ensuring that the citizens of his State in Cameroon are repatriated home in safety and given a new lease of life. His reintegration plans for the PoCs will assuage the losses and fears of the refugees upon their return to Borno State".

Following a series of meetings in 2017 initiated by the then Commissioner and now Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouk, 134 Nigerians were successfully returned from Cameroon.

Recommendations of the meeting

The Ministry was represented at the TWG meeting by the Deputy Director, Humanitarian affairs. Charles Nwanelo Anaelo.

The return of the refugees will also be in line with the Commission's ongoing resettlement city project which will shelter thousands of displaced persons in two-bedroom housing units across some states consisting of primary health care and education centres, security outposts, worship houses, skill acquisition centres, markets and farmlands for use by the returnees.

The commission's Project Reliance is another programme aimed at providing a stable means of livelihood for the returnee refugees, empowering them through start-up capitals and empowerment tools in more than 50 different vocations and businesses of their choices.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**07-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG APPROVES NATIONAL POLICY ON AGEING FOR OLDER PERSONS IN NIGERIA**

The Federal Executive Council has ratified the National Policy on Ageing for Older Persons in Nigeria.

The approval was given on Wednesday February 10, 2021 at the FEC meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The objective of the policy is to have a society where senior citizens are guaranteed security, independence, participation, comprehensive care, self-fulfillment and dignity. It covers intersecting spectrum of issues and opportunities for older women and men in urban and rural settings, older persons living with disabilities, older migrants, internally displaced older persons, Poor older persons and older persons that are full of vigour contributing to the progress of families, communities and the larger society.

During her presentation, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq stated that the objective of seeking the approval of the Council is to uphold the rights and dignity of seniors by providing an age-friendly environment to maximize their potentials for self-fulfillment.

This she said will cause a fundamental positive change in perception and attitude about ageing and an inclusive society.

“We seek approval for the Ageing for Older Persons policy to guarantee an improved quality of life for senior citizens in Nigeria and strengthen the traditional support systems for them, to provide the framework for the regulatory mechanism on ageing issues, to guarantee adequate and sustainable income, security and healthy ageing , to ensure that the fundamental human rights of older persons are upheld and protected and to develop a functional data management system for effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation of ageing programming”.

The development of the policy document on Ageing for Older Persons in Nigeria began in 2018 under the then Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development following the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which guarantees the rights of every Nigerian.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**11-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG SENDS RELIEF ITEMS TO 707 HOUSEHOLDS IN KWARA AFFECTED BY COMMUNAL CRISES.**

The Federal government has provided succour for 707 households affected by communal crises in Ondo and Oyo states which led them to relocate to Kwara state for safety and security reasons.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq made the presentation in Ilorin today while sympathizing with the victims.

Umar Farouq stated that President Muhammadu Buhari directed the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to activate the National Emergency Management Agency humanitarian response mechanism to ensure that the displaced population is provided with basic humanitarian items.

“I am in Kwara State today to

Convey the sympathy of the Federal Government to the persons affected by the communal crises.

“President Muhammadu Buhari is concerned about the situation and has directed the Ministry to ensure that the displaced population is provided with basic humanitarian items.

“Based on an assessment carried out by NEMA, I am glad to inform Your Excellency that I have brought relief items approved for the 707 households comprising

4, 242 displaced persons identified to be living in communities across Asa, Irepodun, Kaiama, Moro, Ilorin West and Ilorin East Local Government Areas of this state”.

The relief items are made up of food and non-food items including

707 10kg bags rice, beans, garri, maize, 70 kegs of 20 litres vegetable oil, 35 bags of 20 kg salt, 118 packets of seasoning cubes, 59 cartons of tin tomatoes, 1414 mattresses, 1414 sets of mosquitoes treated nets, 1414 sets of blankets and 1414 nylon mats. Other items include 500 pieces of wax prints materials, 2242 pieces of plastic buckets, cups, plates and spoons, 100 sets of diapers, 50 cartons of soap, 50 cartons of detergent and 118 sets of tents.

Six local government councils were affected during the crisis while 1543 women were displaced.

In another development, the Minister also flagged off the Special Cash Grant for Rural Women in Kwara state.

2,560 women will benefit from a one-off cash grant of N20, 000 each.

“It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the opportunity to increase their income, enhance their food security and contribute towards improving their living standard”, Umar Farouq said.

In his address, Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq praised the federal government for its foresight in creating a ministry to cater to the needs of the vulnerable.

“This is the only government that has looked into the plight of the poor in this country with a resolve to ameliorate the scourge.

“The Conditional Cash Transfer is a system that works. N20, 000 may look small to those living in the urban cities but in Kwara state, a woman used her meagre grant to build a school.

“It is not the amount that matters but the creativity that will go into turning over that amount and this is where I give the thumbs up for women.

“We are grateful for the interventions and the Social investment programmes and we hope that peace is restored as quickly as possible so that those affected can return safely back to their homes”, the Governor stated.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**13-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG flags-off distribution of Special Cash Grant for Rural Women in Niger State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has flagged off the distribution of special cash grant for rural women in Government House, Niger State.

She disclosed that a total number of 4,000 beneficiaries are to benefit from the special cash grant of N20, 000 each to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural women in the State.

She told the beneficiaries that the grant is meant to support them economically. It should be utilized positively to provide engaging income generating activities that would improve their security and standard of livelihood in the nation's economy.

The Minister said the grant is part of the effort of the Federal Government to eradicate poverty and hunger across the country.

Farouq said the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, has the mandate to manage and formulate the implementation of fair focused social inclusion and protection of the programme in Nigeria through NSIP.

“The Ministry seeks to not only cater for the immediate needs of the communities but also develop policies and programmes that address the root causes of socio-economic vulnerabilities by economically empowering communities and building their resilience against vulnerabilities such as food, insecurity and poverty across the 36 States, including the Federal Capital Territory” she added.

Earlier, the Governor of Niger State, His Excellency, Abubakar Sani Bello, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government of Niger State, Ahaji Ibrahim Matani, expressed his gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari's government through the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs for supporting the State, noting that the State is faced with challenges such as kidnapping, cattle rustling and other insecurity leading to displacement of persons especially women and children.

Governor Bello said NSIP has made very impressive mark through GEEP, NHGSFP and other Social Interventions which have been consistent, resilient and practicable.

“Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many enterprises have gone down, mostly affecting women and children who are now in need of empowerment”, he said.

Niger State Focal Person on NSIP, Hon. Barr. Amina Musa Gu'ar said the beneficiaries are drawn from 25 Local Government Areas of the State which is to create awareness of President Muhammadu Buhari's continuous effort to uplifting the lives of the poor and the vulnerables.

She urged the rural women to use the funds judiciously to uplift them from poverty and to have a success story to tell in the nearest future.

The Permanent Secretary Women Affairs of the State, HajiaSalamatu Aminu, expressed her gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari for the humanitarian gesture and ensuring that women are relieved from the ugly incident of COVID-19 and also to alleviate poverty. She urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the funds.

**Adeyemo Felicia**

**For:Deputy Director (Information)**

**14<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**





*Fifth from the left is the Hon. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Sadiya Umar Farouq, 3rd left Adviser/ Focal Person NSIP Hon. Barr. Amina Musa Gu'ar, 1st left DG NEMA, AVM Basheer Muhammadu Muhammed, 2nd left, Perm. Sec. Women Affairs, Hajia Salamatu Aminu mini, 4th left Minister of State Foreign Affairs Amb. Zubaru Dada, 6th left SSG Niger, Ibrahim Matani and others during the Flag- Off of the Federal Government special cash grant for Rural Women at Government House, Minna, Niger State.*

Photo: TaibatAjiboye

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE PLOTS ROADMAP FOR ALTERNATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

The National Steering Committee on Alternate School Program held its inaugural meeting on Monday at the Treasury House, Abuja.

The meeting sets the ball rolling for mapping out strategies and an action plan to address the challenges of out-of-school children in Nigeria and to rapidly reduce the number by providing them with quality basic education and skills in special settings not addressed in a conventional school system.

In her opening remarks, the co- chairperson, convener of the meeting and Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq said that Nigeria topped the list of out-of-school children in the world, hence the decision of the federal government to develop strategic plans by the recently inaugurated Steering Committee.

“You are all aware that Nigeria is the leading Nation in the World with the most out-of-school children. Consequently, President Muhammadu Buhari launched the Alternate School Programme ASP to ensure that every out-of-school child in Nigeria gains access to quality basic education, irrespective of social, cultural or economic circumstance.

“The Alternate School Programme is expected to help provide opportunities for out-of-school children to develop life supporting skills from vocational and entrepreneurship training for effective functioning in the society.

“Each member of this National Steering Committee has been carefully chosen in expectation of the immense value you will bring in charting the strategic direction of this programme”.

The Alternate School Programme is designed to improve access to education for all Nigerians children in line with the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-4) on ‘Qualitative and inclusive education for all and significantly reduce the number of Out-of-School-Children through the integration of formal and informal educational systems.

It aims at eliminating or substantially reducing itinerancy, child begging and foster tolerance, unity and integration of all children with diverse backgrounds.

The Terms of Reference for the National Steering Committee include ensuring engagement and effective uptake of the ASP initiatives across the country, refining and focusing on the vision of the initiative, reviewing and approving all work, implementation plans and undertaking any other task that will enhance the effective delivery of the initiative.

The 17 man committee is co- Chaired by the Minister of Education Mallam Adamu Adamu. Other members are the Minister of State of Education, Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals, Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Executive Secretary, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Representatives of United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Global Partnership for Education. Others are Chair, Private Sector Advisory Group (SDGs) Chair, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development - , Chair, Senate Committee on Basic Education, Chair, House Committee on Basic Education, Hon. Dr. Shehu BalarabeKakale, Director General NYSC, and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Bashir Nura Alkali- Secretary.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**15-02-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***National Register Has Database for Evidence Impact Tracing For Social Development Project- Farouq***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has announced that the National Social Register (NSR)

She disclosed this at the first Ministerial Dialogue on the National Social Register in Abuja.

According to the Minister, “We welcome all MDAs and partners, to utilise the database of the poor and vulnerable Nigerians to support any effort that contribute to lifting people out of poverty.

“Because of the size of the database, Ministries of Health, Women Affairs, Labour and Employment, Education, Agriculture, Youth, and many MDAs would find relevant database for pro-poor interventions. Currently, some of the programmes under the European Union funding stream are accessing the NSR database for their interventions. The United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), United Nations Women (UN Women) have also mined this database for its interventions, similarly, the National Health Insurance Scheme has mandated all State Contributory Health Management Schemes to mine from the register for social insurance schemes.

“At the State level, Anambra, Lagos and Kaduna States have mandated all their Ministries to mine the database for their pro-poor interventions.

“As of 31st January 2021, out of the estimated 82.9 million (40.2 percent) Nigerians living below the poverty line, we have identified and registered 26.8 million poor and vulnerable individuals, equivalent to about 6.3 million households in our country. We are expecting another 20 million to be added to the database and held in the Rapid Response Register – a shock responsive intervention register, specifically targeted at urban informal workers impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic. This database capacity is unprecedented in the history of our dear country.

Continuing, “In 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics estimated that 40.2% (equivalent to 82.9 million) Nigerians live below the poverty line on less than one dollar ninety cents (US\$1.9), and another 10 million were expected to fall below the poverty as a result of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 by the end of the year.

“The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), under the current administration, prioritized social protection (SP) interventions as a key strategy towards reducing poverty and addressing the effects of socio-economic vulnerabilities with two key instruments: the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) – which is currently under review; and, the joint FGN-IDA/World Bank National Social Safety-Nets Project (NASSP) – all initiated in 2016. The FGN further established the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development in August of 2019, to institutionalize all its social investment programmes”.

The Minister said, “ the Social Register has coverage across the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT. We are in 601 LGAs out of the 774 LGAs in Nigeria. We have covered 7,320 wards, and 72,363 communities. This structure automatically provides the biggest database for any social inclusion or social protection intervention”.

She also reiterated that, “ the rich database in the NSR provides us the opportunity to easily coordinate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and achieve more effective coordination, documentary evidence of impact, and begin to bend and flatten the poverty curve in Nigeria”.

In his opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali stated that the NSR is an aggregated duplicate copy of States Social Registers. The register is built using a bottom-up community driven approach. The target method is designed to achieve the goal of identifying poor households correctly and efficiently.

The main target process uses approaches from geographic targeting to individual assessment to community -based targeting. The aggregation process starts from the community to the political wards, LGAS and State levels after due diligence. Duplicates of the state's social register are kept at the Federal level and consolidated as NSR. The database is owned held by each state.

” The NSR is also designed to accommodate other forms of registers such as the Rapid Response Register (RRR) and the Unified Register of Beneficiaries as a subset. These other registers do not go through the same vigorous process as the NSR but use a uniform framework which will be used to expand the evidence-based beneficiaries of different intervention sand the economic movement of beneficiaries.

“NSR IS part of the on-going effort of the Ministry to cushion the socio-economic impact of poverty on human capital development, human security situation and the vicious circle of the economic implications of poverty. This effort is coordinated through the NASSCO in collaboration with the World bank” he said.

The International partners at the programme such as the United Nations Women, UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, and DFID testified to the accuracy and benefits of the NSR and pledged to support the Ministry in the expansion of the project.

Relevant MDAS who spoke at the event also promised to use the register for their various social interventions.

Present at the event were the Ministers of Women Affairs, Dame Paullen Tallen, Youth and Sports, Sunday Dare, Minister of State Education, Emeka Nwajiuba, Labour and Employment, Dr.Chris. Ngige (virtual), Representative of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Andrew Adejo, Representative of the Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, National Coordinator, National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO), Apera Iorwa, among others.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director (Information)**  
**February 16, 2021**



*(2nd Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (2nd Left) The Honorable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, (1st Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, DG National Identity Management Commission, Aliyu Aziz Abubakar, (1st Left) Minister of State for Education, Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, during the Ministerial Dialogue on Use of The National Social Register of Poor and Vulnerable Households for Social Protection Programming and Poverty Reduction Interventions Nationwide, held at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja. On 16th February, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UMAR FAROUQ APPEALS FOR SAFE RETURN OF ABDUCTED NIGER STUDENTS**

Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq have appealed for the release and safe return of 27 students of Government Science College in Kagara, Niger State.

This incident which occurred in the early hours of Tuesday left one student dead. Minister Umar Farouq condemned the abduction in its entirety and prayed for the immediate and safe return of the students.

“Our prayers are with the students and staff as well as family members of students of Government Science College, Kagara, in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger state where 27 students, 3 staff and 12 of their family members were abducted by gunmen earlier today.

“We pray for the repose of the soul of the student who was killed and comfort for his family even as we condemn the abduction of these young students whose only crime remains getting an education.

“All of us at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development are praying for their rescue, safe return and that this is resolved soon.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**17-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Humanitarian Minister Sad Over Ethnic Violence in Ibadan***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster management and social development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has expressed sadness over the avoidable ethnic violence that occurred in Shasha market, Ibadan, Oyo State.

This was contained in a statement issued by the the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali.

The Minister said in a community where different ethnic groups co-exist, people should learn to live in peace, tolerate one another and be patient with each other. “It is unfortunate that a minor misunderstanding had generated into conflict that claimed lives and properties.

“I commensurate with the families that lost their beloved ones as well as those who lost their properties May Allah grant the departed eternal rest.

“It is good news that relevant security agencies have intervened and normalcy is gradually returning to the community.

“As the government is restoring peace to the conflict area, victims would be provided with necessary relief materials” the Minister stated.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**18th February, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Farouq Commiserates with Victims of Borno Camp Fire***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has commiserated with the victims of the Borno IDP Camp fire disaster which occurred in the early hours of Wednesday.

This was contained in the press statement issued by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali.

The Minister said it was unfortunate that the inferno claimed three lives, two adults and an infant, about 3,600 IDPs affected and hundreds of shelters razed down.

Farouq directed that the cause of the fire be investigated to forestall future occurrences. She also advised that cooking inside the makeshift homes be discouraged.

She commended the Chairperson of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Yabawa Kolo, and other SEMA officials who paid prompt visit to the camp to sympathize with the victims.

She has directed that relief materials be dispatched to the camp to cushion the effect of the incident.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**18th February, 2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***HUMANITARIAN MINISTRY SENDS SOS TO MAIDUGURI IDP CAMP FIRE VICTIMS***

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has activated the National Emergency Management Agency humanitarian response mechanism to ensure that victims of the Maiduguri IDP camp fire incident are immediately provided with basic humanitarian items to ameliorate the effects of the fire outbreak which has displaced many families.

The Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq made the statement while sympathizing with Internally Displaced Persons at the Customs Area of Maiduguri where more than 600 shelters were razed by fire and 3,600 persons displaced. Three lives were also lost in the inferno.

Umar Farouq who expressed sadness at the casualties stated that the spate of fire incidents in the country was becoming worrisome.

“I am depressed by the number of fire incidents which have occurred in 2021 alone. Some were accidents while some could have been avoided.

“I pray for the souls of those lost in this fire outbreak while the Humanitarian Affairs Ministry will beef up measures to protect lives and property in the various IDP camps across the country and guard against a reoccurrence”.

Meanwhile the National Emergency Management Agency has deployed sets of tents to provide make shift shelters for the IDPs at the customs House camp.

Priority will be given to the vulnerable victims especially women, children and the aged in the distribution of the relief items.

In addition, food items and basic household materials are being made available to the IDPs.

The Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Yabawa Kolo said on Wednesday that the inferno might have stemmed from a cooking fire that got out of control in one of the tents.

NEMA and the SEMA are currently collaborating to put measures in place to avoid a recurrence through advocacy and sensitization in the camps.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**18-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Engages 90 Independent Monitors for NSIP in Kogi State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that 90 Independent Monitors for the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP) have been engaged in Kogi State by the Federal Government, to monitor programme beneficiaries in their locality.

The Minister made this known at the Opening ceremony of the training section organised by the Ministry for the Monitors in the state.

The Minister who was represented by the Assistant Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, of the Ministry, Hajiya Safiya Sani, said the Monitors are to monitor the programme beneficiaries within their locality in Schools, Households and Markets, to ensure that the primary objectives of the programmes are achieved.

“While this is the initial training to get you acquainted with your schedule of duties, the Ministry will ensure you continue to receive regular training and guidance for effective monitoring within communities you are assigned. You will be closely supervised by officials of the Ministry and your activities will also be monitored by the Ministry and other Stake holders at the state level”, she said.

Farouq warned that the Ministry will not hesitate to take any monitor off the programme if found violating the terms of engagement.

“We are also working with security agencies like DSS, EFCC and ICPC to monitor the programmes. If found engaging in any form of malpractice or fraud, you will be handed over to them for investigation and prosecution”, She said.

The Minister urged them to carry out their responsibility with utmost diligence and sincerity.

The Focal Person of Kogi State, represented by Hajiya Khadijat Karibo, and the representative of the Director General, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Ambassador Mohammed. O. Abdullahi, commended the Federal government for initiating social intervention programmes aimed at lifting Nigerians out of poverty.

They called on the Monitors to be committed to their assignments and be transparent and honest in the discharge of their duties.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**20th February, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***NSIP: Farouq Charges Independent Monitors to Be Patriotic and Transparent***

The Independent Monitors engaged by the Federal Government for the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP), currently undergoing training across all states of the federation have been charged to be patriotic in the duties to achieve the vision of Mr. President of lifting 100million Nigerians out of poverty in the next 10 years.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, gave the charge at the Opening ceremony of the training programme organized by the Ministry for Monitors in Gombe State.

Speaking through her representative, Abubakar Mohammed, the Minister disclosed that 87 Independent Monitors are been trained in Gombe State to monitor programme beneficiaries in their locality, with the focus of ensuring that the primary objectives of the programmes are achieved.

She urged the Monitors to carry out their tasks with utmost diligence, sincerity and patriotism. “The NSIP was created by President Muhammad u Buhari in 2016 with the mandate of lifting citizens out of poverty through a number of social interventions which include Job creation programmes – N POWER, National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Conditional cash transfer programme (CCT) and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP). These programmes were moved to the Federal Ministry of humanitarian Affairs, Disaster management and social development, in 2019 following the creation of the Ministry.

“The scope of these programmes is large with about 13million citizens cross the 36 states and the FCT benefiting from the Federal government intervention” she stated.

The Gombe State Focal Person, Hajia Dijatu Bappah, told the Monitors that they were nominated based on trust and advised them to adhere strictly to laid down rules and regulations guiding their assignments.

She enjoined them to be trustworthy and avoid fraudulent activities. The Director, National Orientation Agency, in the state, Sarah Yapwa, stated that the National Social Intervention Programmes have empowered the Nigerian youths with skills which is aimed at reducing unemployment, alcoholism and drug abuse among the Nigerian youths.

She also said that the poor and vulnerable also benefited in the social intervention programmes of President Buhari’s administration.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**20th February, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Engages 87 Independent Monitors for NSIP in Gombe State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that 87 Independent Monitors for the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP) have been engaged in Gombe State by the Federal Government, to monitor programme beneficiaries in their locality. The Minister made this known at the Opening ceremony of the training section organised by the Ministry for the monitors in the state.

The Minister who was represented by Mr Abubakar Mohammed at the event, said the Monitors are to monitor the programme beneficiaries within their locality in Schools, Households and Markets, to ensure that the primary objectives of the programmes are achieved.

” While this is the initial training to get you acquainted with your schedule of duties, the Ministry will ensure you continue to receive regular training and guidance for effective monitoring within communities you are assigned.

“You will be closely supervised by officials of the Ministry and your activities will also be monitored by the Ministry and other Stake holders at the state level”, she said.

Farouq warned that the Ministry will not hesitate to take any monitor off the programme if found violating the terms of engagement.

“We are also working with security agencies like DSS, EFCC ND ICPC to monitor the programmes. If found engaging in any form of malpractice or fraud, you will be handed over to them for investigation and prosecution”, She said.

The Minister urged them to carry out their responsibility with utmost diligence and sincerity.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**20th February, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***HUMANITARIAN MINISTER GRIEVES NAF PLANE CRASH***

Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has expressed deep sorrow following the crash of a Nigerian Air Force Beechcraft King Air B350i Aircraft on Sunday in Abuja.

The plane was said to have developed an engine problem six minutes after take-off and crashed nine minutes after the problem was reported.

Umar Farouq expressed sadness on the crash and loss of lives aboard the aircraft.

“I am deeply shocked and saddened by this tragic occurrence. I sympathize with the Nigerian Air force and the families of those who lost their lives in the crash.

“The Nigerian Air force has been of immense help to our humanitarian activities since the creation of the Ministry. They have helped to airlift humanitarian relief for Persons of Concern (POCs) especially during the lockdown period to curtail the spread of Covid 19 in 2020 and to victims of flood, banditry, communal clashes and other disasters.

“We appreciate the services of the air crew especially the pilots who have put in hundreds of hours of flying us to and from areas affected by disasters and other humanitarian issues.

“We pray that God will console the families they left behind and grant them the fortitude to bear the loss of their dear ones”, Umar Farouq said.

Seven passengers were reportedly onboard the ill-fated aircraft including two crew members.

The plane was en-route Minna when it crashed short of the Abuja runway.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**21-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***NSIP: FG Trains 57 Independent Monitors in Taraba State***

The Federal Government has trained 57 Independent Monitors to monitor programme beneficiaries for the National Social Investment programmes in Taraba State.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, disclosed this while declaring open the training programme organized by Ministry for Independent Monitors in the state.

The Minister who was represented by the Chief Administrative Officer in the Ministry, Wiyeh Silas, said the Monitors were not government workers but youths engaged in their communities to monitor the beneficiaries of the social investment programmes. She charged them to be patriotic, honest and sincere in the discharge of their duties. She warned against fraudulent activities and anyone found guilty will be prosecuted by the security agencies.

The Focal Person of Taraba State, Beatrice Kichitna, commended the Honourable Minister and her team for bringing on board new Independent Monitors to ensure full implementation of the NSIP programmes.

She enjoined them to learn what they were thought to ensure the success of the Federal government social investment programmes in the state.

The State Director, National Orientation Agency, N. B. Nyama, stated that NOA is saddled with the responsibility of monitoring and gathering information and feedback from the public about government policies, programmes and achievements.

He said NOA will be working with other security agencies to monitor the activities of the Independent Monitors and called for the cooperation of the participants for the success of NSIP in Taraba State.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**22nd February, 2021**



*(1st left) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Chief Administrative officer in the Ministry, Wiyeh Silas, (2nd left), Taraba State Focal Person, Beatrice Kichitna, (3rd left) Taraba State Director, NOA, N. B. Nyama, and others during the training of independent monitors for NSIP in Taraba State, 22nd February, 2021*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***HUMANITARIAN MINISTER CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS IN BORNO***

Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has condemned insurgent attacks on residents of Borno state which left 10 persons dead and 47 injured.

Boko Haram insurgents fired Rocket Propelled Grenades shots from Kaleri on the outskirts of Maiduguri on Tuesday night.

Two densely populated communities Gwange and Adam Kolo areas including a children's playground were mostly hit by the grenade.

Umar Farouq who expressed sympathy for the victims of the grenade attack and the dead described the bombardment of residential areas by the insurgents as inhuman and insensitive.

"I condemn in its entirety, the attacks on innocent residents of Gwange and Adam Kolo commutes.

"The Humanitarian Ministry through its Agency NEMA is already working with SEMA to assess the extent of damage in the attacked communities for possible provision of relief and non-relief items.

"We sympathize with the state government and victims, especially those who lost their lives in the attacks. We pray for the souls of the departed".

The injured have since been taken to the State Specialist Hospital, and the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital for treatment.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**24-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Trains 99 Independent Monitors to Ensure Implementation of NSIP in Niger State***

The Federal government has trained 99 Independent Monitors to ensure implementation of National Social Investment programmes (NSIP), in Niger State. The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, disclosed this during the opening ceremony of the training programme organised by the Ministry for Independent Monitors for NSIP in Niger State.

Speaking through her representative, the Assistant Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, the Minister said the monitors will be assigned to monitor programme beneficiaries at community level in schools, households and market clusters with focus of ensuring that the primary objectives of these programmes are achieved. she charged the participants to carry out their responsibility with utmost diligence and sincerity and the Ministry will not hesitate to relief any monitor of its duties if found violating the terms of engagement.

The Niger State Focal Person, Barrister Amina Musa Guar, said the Monitors were selected so that SIP can be monitored throughout the 274 wards of the 25 Local Government Areas of Niger State.

She said the four components of SIP are domiciled in the Office of the Focal Person, the various programme Managers and Head of Unit, for the purpose of implementation.

Guar advised them to synergies with the SIP Office of the State for the success of the programmes.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**25th February, 2021**



*(2nd left) Representative of the Honourable Minister, Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster management and social development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Assistant Director Planning, Research and Statistics of the Ministry, Safiya Sani, (2nd Right), Niger State Focal Person, Barrister Amina Musa Guar, (1st left) Representative of the DG NOA, Alh Yahaya Ibrahim Gbongbo, (1st Right) Rep. of the Perm. Sec., Director M and E State Planning Office, Niger State, Alhaji Shaba, during the training of Independent Monitors for the NSIP, in Niger State, 25th February, 2021*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG TASKS 63 INDEPENDENT MONITORS IN ABIA STATE ON PATRIOTISM***

Independent Monitors of the National Social Investment programs in Abia state have been advised to exhibit a high level of dedication and patriotism while carrying out their assignment, to ensure the realization of the set goals and objectives of the programs.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq gave the charge at the flag-off training and on boarding of Independent Monitors held at the Michael Okpara Auditorium Umuahia Abia state on Thursday February 25, 2021.

The Minister who was represented by the state team leader for the training, Mr. Abdulkarim Ilyasu said that the federal government is committed to reducing the level of poverty in the country through the SIPs and other efforts.

“Today we are flagging off the training of 63 Independent Monitors who will monitor the programme at the community level. The Independent Monitors will be assigned to monitor programme beneficiaries within their locality in schools, households, and market clusters with the focus of ensuring that the Primary Objectives of these programmes are achieved.

“It is therefore my expectation that you carry out this responsibility with utmost diligence and sincerity. Please be informed that the Ministry will not hesitate to take you off the Programme if you are found violating the terms of your engagement. I therefore urge you to carry out this task with a sense of patriotism as we all work towards the vision of Mr. President to lift 100 million Nigerians out of Poverty in the next 10 years”.

In his welcome remarks, the State Focal Person on Social Investment Programs to Abia state Government Mr. Chinenye Nwaogu described monitoring and evaluation as a critical component of federal government’s intervention programs including Home Grown School feeding, Conditional Cash Transfer, GEEP and N-power.

“These programmes are aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of those occupying the lowest rung of the socio-economic ladder. It is at no cost to the beneficiaries.

“I thank President Muhammadu Buhari for sustaining these programmes and also appreciate the federal government for funding SIPs“

Mr Nwaogu also thanked the state Governor Dr.Okezie Ikpeazu for sustaining poverty alleviation programs which he said are top on his developmental agenda.

“Gov Ikpeazu is committed to mainstream Social inclusion programmes in Abia State. Abia has remained a reference state in the implementation of Social Investment Programme. I therefore charge the independent monitors to take their work very seriously and maintain the intergrity of the Programme”.

Goodwill messages were also delivered by the state Director of the National Orientation Agency, Lady Ngozi Okechukwu and the Head, State Cash Transfer Unit Mr.Okeziem Nwoko.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**25-01-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Humanitarian Minister Worries Over Zamfara School Girls Abduction***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has condemned in totality the abduction of hundreds of female students in the Government Girl's Secondary School, Jangebe in Talata Matata, Local Government Area of Zamfara State, by suspected bandits, in the early hours of Friday, 26th February, 2021.

In a statement issued by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, the Minister said the abduction happened barely two weeks after terrorists abducted students of Government Science College kagara in Niger State. The Minister expressed concern over the frequent abduction of innocent school children in the country. She described the act as regrettable, inhuman and traumatic and should be condemned at all levels.

Farouq stands in solidarity with the parents and guardians of the children and prays for the safety and immediate release of their wards. She assured the parents of Federal Government's determination in securing the safe release of their children.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director (Information)**  
**26th February, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***NSIP: FG Trains 256 Independent Monitors in Adamawa State***

The Federal Government has trained 256 Independent Monitors to monitor programme beneficiaries for the National Social Investment programmes in Adamawa State.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, disclosed this while declaring open the training programme organized by Ministry for Independent Monitors in the state.

The Minister who was represented by the National Coordinator of NSIP, Dr. Umar Bindir, said the Monitors were carefully selected across the 21 Local Government Areas of the State.

She charged them to be patriotic, honest and sincere in the discharge of their duties. She warned against fraudulent activities and anyone found guilty will be prosecuted by the security agencies.

Mrs. Mary Yuwadi, the Adamawa State Focal Person of the programme, said that the training of the monitors was timely and that the recruitment and training of the monitors would significantly help in monitoring the progress and challenges of the social investment activities in the state.

She said that about 28,503 vulnerable and poor households across the 21 local government areas of the state were receiving monthly stipend of N5, 000 each under the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT).

“Under the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), popularly known as School Feeding in Adamawa, over 1,047 Primary Schools and about 2,300 cook vendors are benefitting from the programme. Also, under the Federal Government Entrepreneurship Empowerment Programme (GEEP) about 38,827 men and women benefited from the soft loans issued in 2018. While in the N-Power Programme, about 11,324 youths in the state benefited since 2017 to 2020 July,” Yuwadi said.

She advised the monitors to be serious and transparent as well as exhibit integrity while discharging their respective duties for the smooth implementation of the programmes.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director (Information)**  
**26/2/2021**



*(3rd Right) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Dr. Umar Bindir , (2nd left) Mrs Hauwa Gadzama (2nd Right) Adamawa State Focal Person, Mary Yuwadi (1st Left) State Director ,National Orientation Agency (NOA) Mohammed Bashi (1st Right) Programme Manager, Home Grown School Feeding, Hauwa Dattijo Hamaja, during the training of independent monitors for NSIP in Adamawa State, 25th February, 2021*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY CELEBRATES PARTNERS ON WORLD NGO DAY***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has extolled the virtues of the ministry's partners as they celebrate the World NGO Day.

Umar Farouq praised the contributions of Non-Government Organizations to humanity on a day set aside to celebrate, commemorate and collaborate with the various NGOs around the world.

The Minister highlighted the various achievements and roles played by the NGOs.

“Today, we celebrate the Non- Government Organizations and our other partners who have played a critical role in the sustenance of humankind especially during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The importance of NGO workers and their selflessness for the betterment of our society, country and the world at large cannot be overemphasized.

“The non-profit organizations and other non- government partners have ensured that people whose livelihoods were crippled due to the scourge, especially during the lockdown were given a lifeline through their voluntary supplies of food, sanitizers, masks, drugs and other humanitarian relief items.

“We celebrate you today as we look forward to maintaining better relationships to be able to assist humanity during crisis situations”.

February 27th every year is observed as the World NGO Day in more than 89 countries.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**27-02-2021**

# **MARCH**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***UMAR FAROUQ REVALIDATES APC MEMBERSHIP***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouk has renewed her Membership of the ruling party, the APC in Zamfara state.

Umar Farouq revalidated her membership as a staunch member at the APC Headquarters in Gusau at the weekend.

She was thereafter presented with her membership Card by the state caretaker chairman of the party, Hon Alh Lawal M Liman Gabdon Kaura.

The colorful ceremony was witnessed by dignitaries, state party executives, state party elders, the Vice chairman Northern zone APC, Alh Abdullahi ja'oZurmi, the caretaker chairman for Zurmi local government APC Alh Dan Maigadi and APC stakeholders from Zurmi local government as well as others from Zamfara State.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**01-03-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***3,000 Women Benefit from FG Special Grant in Kogi State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that 3,000 rural women selected from all the Local Government Areas of Kogi States are to benefit from the Federal Government Special Grant for Rural Women Project.

She disclosed this at the flag off ceremony of the programme in Lokoja, Kogi State. Represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, the Minister said, "Our target in Kogi State is to disburse the grant to about 3,000 beneficiaries across all Local Government Councils. The grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standard by using the fund as seed to boost their trade and business for greater income and not to see it as their own share of the so-called National Cake. We believe with the complementary effort of the State Government, the target beneficiaries will all be adequately covered within the next few days. I am optimistic that with the support and cooperation of Your Excellency and other stakeholders present here, we will remain on track to improving the livelihood of the ordinary Nigerians".

In a similar development the Minister acknowledged the immense contribution of His Excellency the Governor of Kogi State, Yaya Bello, the State Executive Council and the State's Focal Person in actualizing the success of the programme during the courtesy visit to the Office of the Deputy Governor of the State, Chief Edward David Onoja.

The Governor of Kogi State represented by the Deputy Governor, Edward Onoja expressed his gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari and the Honourable Minister for consistently breaching the gap between the rich and poor over the past five years through the various National Social Investment Programmes, such as Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme, Conditional Cash Transfer, National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, the N-Power and the Special Grant for Rural Women Project.

He said that with the 3000 beneficiaries, vulnerable women involved in small scale businesses will be greatly impacted financially.

He urged the beneficiaries and everyone present to pray for the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration and our leaders.

The Kogi State Focal Person for National Social Investment Programme, Prince Abdulkareem Suleiman, said, poverty eradication is a major objective of this administration and pledged to support the Minister in her determination to improve the livelihood of women in Kogi State.

A beneficiary of the cash grant, Miss Christopher Queen Odede, thanked President Buhari for the grant and promised to use the money judiciously.

The Chairman, People Living with Disabilities in Kogi State, said before the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, PWDs were neglected but today the President has given them a voice and people have begun to see ability in disability. He called on the Federal government to provide enabling environment for the PWDs to showcase their abilities.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**2nd March, 2021**



*(2nd Right) the Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Right) the Representative of Kogi State Governor, Deputy Governor of the State, Edward David Onoja, (4th Right) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (3rd Right) Focal Person, National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), Kogi State, Abdulkareem Suleiman Onyekehi, (1st Left) a Beneficiary, Christopher Queen, during the Flagg-Off of the Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women in Kogi State, held at Kogi State Government House. On 2nd March, 2021, Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **COVID-19 VACCINES WILL CUSHION HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA- Umar Farouq**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has expressed delight in the arrival of 3.92 million doses of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines today.

The minister stated at a brief ceremony to receive the consignment at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport on Tuesday that the vaccines will help reduce the humanitarian issues in the country.

“Let me start by expressing my happiness for the arrival of the first consignment of the Covid 19 vaccines. This demonstrates a milestone in the history of this country in the fight against COVID- 19.

“COVID 19 is not only a health emergency but a humanitarian challenge for us in the ministry but with these vaccines now to be administered on our citizens, it will really go a long way in cushioning the humanitarian challenges that we are facing.

”I use this opportunity to appreciate President Muhammadu Buhari for the support he has given to the Presidential Task Force through the chairman and SGF Mr Boss Mustapha . We are all pleased and we hope that these vaccines will effectively be utilized” Umar Farouq said.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force Mr Boss Mustapha also described the arrival of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines as a milestone in the history of the country and international response to Covid-19.

“In the last one year, the whole world has been attacked by this virus.

”The successful development of vaccines and the accelerated process for emergency authorization has brought hope to humanity all over the world. The delivery of these vaccines was made possible as a result of the resourceful leadership provided by President Muhammadu Buhari, the National Assembly and major financial support from our friends globally”.

The PTF Chairman said that the federal government is expecting an additional 84 million doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine from COVAX this year, which will serve 20% of Nigeria’s over 200m population.

He stated that government will begin the vaccination of frontline healthcare workers who are the highest-priority recipients in Abuja on March 5 followed by strategic leaders on March 8.

The AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) is from Mumbai.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**02-03-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Flags off Special Cash Grant in Akwa Ibom State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has flagged off the disbursement of N20,000 cash grant to 2,700 poor women selected from all the local government areas of Akwa Ibom State.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary Bashir Nura Alkali, the Minister said, "the grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries. It is our hope that the beneficiaries of this programme will make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standard by using the fund as seed to boost their trade and business for greater income and not to see it as their own share of the so-called National Cake.

"A cash grant of N20, 000.00 will be disbursed to about 125,000 poor women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Our target in Akwa Ibom State is to disburse the grant to about 2,700 beneficiaries across all Local Government Councils. The grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries".

The Minister said that "with the complementary effort of the State Government, the target beneficiaries will all be adequately covered within the next few days. I am optimistic that with the support and cooperation of His Excellency Chief Udom Emmanuel and other stakeholders present here, we will remain on track to improving the livelihood of the ordinary Nigerians. To the beneficiaries, let me however reiterate that this money belongs to you and you alone. It is meant for you to use in any small business venture you deem fit and that will improve your lives. Please ensure that you use it for this purpose.

The Deputy Governor represented by the Honourable Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Welfare Dr. Ini Adiakpan, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for the various National Social Investment Programmes saying, "it has gone a long way to cushion the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic".

She solicited for more grants to include more women and also hopes for more programmes of this nature.

The state's Focal Person on Social Investment Programme, Dr. Godwin Akpan, described the exercise as timely and germane as it seeks economic empowerment to rural women. He solicited for the inclusion of the youth and men in subsequent programmes.

A beneficiary Mrs. A.P Caroline Usen, expressed her joy for being selected for the grant, she said she has been hearing of government giving grants but felt it was for a section of the country.

Earlier, during a courtesy visit on the Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom state, His Excellency, Moses Expo, the Minister applauded the Governor, his Executive Council and the State focal Person for joining in the flag off and the preparations made towards the success of the event. The Deputy Governor, His Excellency, Moses Expo, expressed gratitude to Mr President and the Minister for empowering the women of the state to improve their livelihood.

He solicited for more slots for the state in subsequent programmes to be able to touch the lives of more people.

The Deputy Governor also requested the Ministry to come to the aid of the state in times of natural disasters or conflicts.

**Rhoda Ishakulliya**  
**Deputy Director Information**  
**4th March, 2021**



*(1st Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (2nd Right) the Representative of the Deputy Governor of Akwa-Ibom State, the Deputy Speaker and Chairman Social Welfare, Rt. Hon. Felicia Bassey, (3rd Right) Director Humanitarian Affairs of the Ministry, Grema Ali Alhaji, (1st Left) a beneficiary of the Grant, Inyene Daramfom, during the Flag-off of the Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women in Akwa-Ibom State, held at Women Development Centre, IBB Avenue, Uyo. On 4th March, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG SENDS RELIEF ITEMS TO SHASHA VICTIMS-Flags off Rural Women Cash Grant in Oyo***

The Federal government has delivered food items to 928 households and 5, 568 displaced persons in the Sabo, Ojoo and Akinyele areas of Oyo state. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq made this known during a visit on Thursday to Ibadan in Oyo state where hundreds of persons were reportedly displaced following communal clashes in Shasha area.

She expressed sympathy for persons affected by the crisis, adding that the federal government has activated immediate response by providing basic humanitarian relief items to the community.

“I have brought with me relief food items approved based on the initial assessment for the 928 households and 5, 568 displaced persons identified to be in Sabo, Ojoo and Akinyele.

“The Federal Government will be guided by the detailed assessment carried out by NEMA and the Oyo State Government officials to provide further support that may be necessary for rehabilitation”.

Umar Farouq commended the State government and security agencies for their prompt intervention in bringing the situation under control while appreciating traditional rulers and community leaders for the restoration of peace in the area.

Items handed over to the state government for onward distribution to the affected persons include 928 bags of rice and garri (10kg) 928 bags of beans (25kg) 46 kegs of vegetable oil (20 liters) 46 bags of salt (20 kg) 155 packets of seasoning cubes and 71 cartons of tin tomatoes.

Earlier, the Minister also flagged off Federal Government’s Special Cash Grant for Rural Women in the state.

A total of 5,280 beneficiaries are to benefit from the cash grant of 20,000 each to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural women in Oyo State.

In her address, Minister Umar Farouq said the State has received a total sum of N992,715,000.00 (Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Naira only) from the Federal Government’s Conditional Cash Transfer programme since its inception, impacting the lives of 14,021 Poor and Vulnerable Households from 28 Local Government Areas.

“I must note at this point, that the social register is being expanded to cater for more poor and vulnerable households in Oyo State. The Rural Women’s Cash Grant is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural Nigeria. A grant of N20,000.00 will be disbursed to over 150,000 poor rural women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. The grant is expected to increase access to financial capital required for economic activities”.

The Chief of Staff Chief Bisillaka who represented the state governor, Oluseyi Abiodun Makinde, thanked the Federal Government for the cash grant initiative.

He assured that the state government is committed to creating and improving opportunities for people to live a meaningful and fulfilled life.

“I advise the beneficiaries to take advantage of the current women’s emancipation initiative both globally and locally, involve in governance, seek political positions and take advantage of different policies of government to change the society.

The Minister of Youth and Sports Sunday Dare harped on the need to empower more women while the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion Alhaja Fausat Joke Sani thanked His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari for consistently making efforts to empower the poor and vulnerable in the country.

Umar Farouq later made symbolic presentations of the cash grant to some physically challenged women and urged them to make good utilization of the money. Other dignitaries at the flag off include the Minister of State for Niger Delta, Senator Tayo Alasoadura, Director General, National Emergency Management Authority, AVM Muhammadu Alhaji Muhammed (rtd), Chief of Staff to Governor Seyi Makinde, Chief Bisillaka, Oyo State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion Faosat Sanni, Commissioner for Youths and Sports Seun Fakorede and Chairman Oyo APC, Chief Akin Oke among other dignitaries.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**  
**05-03-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***HUMANITARIAN MINISTRY CELEBRATES WOMEN ON IWD-Committed To Women Leadership Inclusion***

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development say it is committed to ensuring that women are included in top leadership roles.

The Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq made this known at this year's celebration of the International Day of Women hosted by the Ministry of Women Affairs in Abuja on Monday.

In her goodwill message, Umar Farouq stated that ensuring the inclusion of women in leadership roles was necessary to close the gender gap.

“My Ministry in carrying out its mandate of socially and economically including and protecting the vulnerable, will remain committed to including women at leadership levels, as policy makers, beneficiaries and advocates, in order to close the gender gap”.

The Minister also urged women to play exemplary roles to the younger ones and support one another in other to secure the future for women.

“It is pertinent that we continue to denounce all forms of violence in our society, especially against women and as we press for progress in our different areas of leadership, we must continue to be exemplary role models to provide mentorship and encouragement for the next generation of women. We should all take it as a source of pride that we are always willing to support one another, thereby securing a better future for us all. This is the essence of today's celebration, and I urge us all to remain committed to this vision”.

The minister noted that this year's celebration comes with the unprecedented change following the coronavirus pandemic which now necessitates action to spur women and men into taking bold steps towards closing the gender gap and addressing the roles of women in the new normal brought about by the pandemic.

“We must understand that gender equity sets the stage for gender equality. According to the new voices of change, also brought about by a pandemic of systemic and structural discrimination, ‘If equality is the end goal, equity is the means to get there in a resilient manner”.

In her remarks, the Minister of Women Affairs Dame Pauline Tallen congratulated women all for their contribution to nation building.

Earlier, the United Nations Country Representative Ms Comfort Lamptey praised women for their engagement and participation in the development of the nation despite the marginalization across sectors while the Executive Director United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS UNAIDS Winnie Banyima condemned social injustice against women and children.

This year's International Women's Day is themed “**Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a covid-19 world**”.

The 8th of March is set aside every year to celebrate and honour women globally through the recognition of their achievements without bias to their nationality, ethnicity, and culture, and religious affiliation, economic or political background.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**08-03-2021**



*The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG, UN, NGOs SEEK MORE HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR NORTH EAST INSURGENCE VICTIMS**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq says there is a growing need to assist displaced people otherwise affected by the crisis in north-eastern Nigeria through the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

The Minister made the remark at a virtual appeal launch of \$1 billion targeted at 6.5 million most vulnerable people in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states.

Umar Farouq said the need to seek more support for the affected persons, especially women and children has become a priority following the conflict in north-east Nigeria which is now in its twelfth year and has impacted many Nigerians.

“The Federal Government of Nigeria remains committed to addressing the plight of the affected people and in leading the response to ensure the safety, security and provision of lifesaving assistance to those in need, in collaboration with international humanitarian community.

“We are facing additional challenges in terms of security and access for humanitarian partners which are why we have developed the National Humanitarian Development Peace Framework. I am encouraged that the NHDPF emphasizes promoting longer-term durable solutions. We must always look forward, beyond the immediate crisis, to ensure that we help people, re-establish their lives and strengthen communities, so that we can reduce dependence on aid and promote resilience and self-reliance”

The minister pledged federal government’s continued support and cooperation of the humanitarian community to address the suffering of the people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states as elaborated in the Humanitarian Response Plan and articulated in the National Humanitarian Development Peace Framework.

At the launch of the appeal funds, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Edward Kallon noted that the only solution to the crises in the area was to prevent humanitarian crises by embracing peace.

“We will continue to search for a durable solution to the crises through advocacy, dialogue and peace building. This is the time for stakeholders to use this opportunity to solve the problems in the crises areas. In 2020, over 3 million people were provided with basic humanitarian needs. Today, 8.7 million people are in need of humanitarian aid.

“The year 2021 marks the 12th year into the conflict and our 6th year of collective response to dire humanitarian needs of an immense extent. Millions of people are affected by insecurity and violence”.

In her address, an advocate of the Borno State Network of Women Led Civil Society Organizations Ann Darman, stated that

Protection continues to be a key issue and challenge for women and girls in conflict settings, particularly in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states.

“Sexual and gender-based violence continue to pose risks in the lives of many women and girls and we must do more to protect these vulnerable ones”.

The UN and its partner NGOs are appealing for US\$1 billion to provide critical humanitarian assistance to 6.4 million people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**16-03-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Osun State: Over 3000 Receive FG Cash Grant Of N20,000 Each***

The Federal government has disbursed N20, 000 each to over 3,000 women in Osun State, under the Special Cash Grant for Rural Women Project.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, represented by the Director Finance and Account, Dr. Matthew Dada disclosed this during the flag off ceremony of the programme in the state.

“A cash grant of N20, 000 each will be disbursed to about 125,000 poor women across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Our target in Osun State is to disburse the grant to over 3,000 beneficiaries across the 30 Local Government Councils of the State.

“In line with President Muhammadu Buhari’s social inclusion, up to 5% of the total number of beneficiaries is allocated to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). We encourage the State governments to take a cue from this and other provisions in the Discrimination against Persons with Disability (Prohibition Act 2019),” the Minister said.

She commended the Executive Governor of Osun State, His Excellency Chief Adegboyega Oyetola, for promoting the plight of the poor and vulnerable in the State and urges other stakeholders to be committed to uplifting the poor and vulnerable in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Governor of Osun State, His Excellency, Chief Adegboyega Oyetola, the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Wole Oyebamiji, said that no society is truly secure until there is proper plan put in place to take care of the most vulnerable.

He commended the initiative by the Federal government to support her citizens especially coming in the wake of the novel Coronavirus pandemic that has disrupted economic activities globally.

He continued by saying that “because we are assured that building a virile State demand that we constantly put the needs of our people first, every effort to take care of the vulnerable is a vote for the peace, security and prosperity of the nation and its constituents States”.

The Governor thanked the President for his sustained commitment to combating poverty in the country.

He also appreciated the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, for the passion and commitment to the seamless implementation of the programmes which continue to impact numerous lives across the country.

The wife of the Governor, Her Excellency, Mrs. Kafayat Oyetola, expressed her gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs for considering the Women in Osun State for the special Grant and also requested that women should have more positions in government.

She urged the women present to make judicious use of the grant citing herself as an example of a person that started small and has made progress.

The Senior Special Adviser to the Osun State Governor on Social Intervention Programmes, Lukman Abimbola Bello, said Osun State has social intervention programmes such as Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme, which has engaged over 50,000 youths. Others include the Old Age Welfare Programme tagged “Agba Osun” with a monthly stipend to support aged people, OYES, O MEAL and Agba Osun Cash Support.

**Rhoda Ishakulliya**  
**DD (Information)**  
**16/3/2021**





*(Middle) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Director Finance and Account of the Ministry, Dr. Matthew Dada, (1st Left) the wife of the Governor of Osun State, Her Excellency, Kafayat Olaitan Oyetola, (1st Right) a beneficiary of the Federal Government Special Grant for Rural Women in Osun State, Omolade Odun, during the Flag-off ceremony held at Staff Development Centre, Osogbo, Osun State, on 16th March, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Women's Participation in Governance Critical to Sustainable Development- Sadiya Umar Farouq***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq says that

Women's participation in governance at all levels plays a critical role in the sustainable development of the country.

The Minister made this known in a goodwill message at the 65th UN Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held on Monday at the Army Resource Center Abuja.

Umar Farouq said that the inclusion of women in all levels of governance will enable the building of governance structures that are fair, equitable and a representative of women across all sectors in the country.

“Achieving this will entail concerted efforts in policy making, capacity-building on gender mainstreaming and continuous engagement with all actors and stakeholders, so that we are able to tackle the root cause of all forms of discrimination against women, particularly in the area of leadership and gender-based violence”.

Umar Farouq described this year's theme which focuses on women's participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence against women as apt, considering the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on gender-based violence.

“Reports have also shown a spike in unpaid care work, where women bear the brunt of children-out-of-school, heightened care needs of older persons and re-prioritized health care services. With women primarily at the receiving end of the socio-economic effects of the pandemic, having more women in leadership and governance could not be more urgent”

The Minister called on women in position to use their influence to advocate for women's rights in all spheres of public life.

“Critical also, is the need to pave the way for participation of the younger generation of women and girls, achievable by strengthening political commitment and fostering collaboration for the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 5 which is to Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls”.

In her keynote address, the Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen who convened the Programme noted the progress covered by women in Nigeria since the Beijing Declaration 26 years ago.

Dame Tallen thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for the support given to women for political positions in 2023.

“In 2023, women will have cause to smile. We will push for the amendment of the constitution in APC for more women to participate in politics. This will help modify strategies to help those who want to take part in politics.

“Education and Empowerment of Women are essential ingredients for repositioning; therefore, we call on women in position to reach out to young and aspiring women in the communities and raise women politicians for the future”.

The theme for this year's session is ‘Women's Full and Effective Participation and Decision-making in Public Life as well as the Elimination of Violence, For Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls’.

**Nneka Ikem Anibeze**

**SA Media**

**22-03-2021**



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FG CELEBRATES 10-YEAR COLLABORATION WITH SWITZERLAND**

The federal government has described its relationship with Switzerland in the last 10 years as impactful, unique and exemplary.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq made this known at a Joint Event to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Nigerian-Swiss Migration Partnership in Abuja on Tuesday.

Umar Farouq who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Bashir Nura Alkali said the decade long alliance has been a success.

“For us in Nigeria, it is a celebration of success. I must state that Nigeria believes in strategic collaboration and partnership and has engaged and entered into bilateral and multilateral partnership both intra and intercontinental. In all these, the Nigeria/Switzerland bilateral partnership is outstanding and enjoys a unique kind of strategic relationship based on mutual trust and respect for each other. Permit me to state that our partnership with the Swiss in all its ramifications is often used as a reference point in our diplomatic engagements with other nations”.

The Minister explained that the Nigeria-Swiss Bilateral Partnership on Migration conducted under the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and signed in 2011 has proven to be a model of diplomatic pragmatism on issues of common interest especially migration.

In her remark, the Head of Federal Department of Justice and Police

Switzerland, Karin Keller-Stutter praised the resilience and positivity of the Nigerian government in ongoing efforts of the various branches of migration management, in dealing with humanitarian tragedies as well as the fight against extremism.

“It is this positivity and resilience that nurtured the foundation of our Migration Partnership which has become a cornerstone of our bilateral relations.

“Over the past decade, Switzerland and Nigeria have implemented more than 50 projects in areas such as migration management, preventing irregular migration, combatting human trafficking, facilitating return and reintegration or enabling sustainable labor migration.

Furthermore, the Migration Partnership has improved and facilitated direct technical discussions between our State Secretariat for Migration and the Nigerian Immigration Service.

We have also increased police cooperation between our Federal Police and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. These dialogues are crucial components of the successful implementation of the partnership”.

The Vice Chancellor, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Prof Charles O. Esimone congratulated the Federal Government and Switzerland on their 10-year pact and enumerated the university’s prompt response in sensitizing its students on migration.

“First, we hosted a Sensitization on the dangers of irregular migration jointly organized with NCFRMI and Civil Society Organization Network for Migration and Development. We launched Postgraduate Programs on Migration Studies and established a Centre for Migration Studies, the first in the Nigerian University System”.

The official brochure ‘10 years Migration Partnership between Nigeria and Switzerland’ was officially launched as well as a ceremony to launch the ‘Blue Bus Project’ implemented by NAPTIP, NDLEA and IOM. The Blue Bus project is a traveling awareness-raising exhibition of human trafficking.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**  
**23-02-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Delta State: 3,300 Vulnerable Women Receive FG Cash Grant on N20, 000 Each***

To sustain the Social Inclusion Agenda of President Muhammadu Buhari's led-administration, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has flag-off the N20,000 Federal Government 's Special Cash Grant for Rural Women Programme in Asaba, Delta State.

The Minister said, "This is consistent with the President's national vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years. It is designed to provide a one-off grant to some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in rural and semi-urban areas of the country. Our target in Delta State is to disburse the grant to about 3,300 beneficiaries across all Local Government Area Councils."

The Minister, who was represented by the Director Humanitarian Affairs of the Ministry, Alhaji Ali Grema, noted that President Muhammad Buhari's led-administration since its inception has paid attention to addressing the plight of the poor and vulnerable people in the country despite the economic slump and glaring revenue challenges adding that poverty reduction is now a major objectives of governments all over the world and it's a key goal every country is working towards in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable development goals.

According to Farouq, "poverty reduction goals require a combination of strategies, each targeting specific needs sectors among the population. This informed the decision by Mr. President to initiate the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) as a strategy for reducing poverty and enhancing Social Inclusion."

The NSIP is adjudged the largest social programme in Africa with over \$billion earmarked annually to cause positive changes in the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the country."

Furthermore, the Minister stated that the NSIP has impacted positively on the lives of the poor and vulnerable in Nigeria as millions of households have benefited from these NSIP Interventions in the last 5 years. This include the N-power programme which provided temporary income-generating opportunities for 500,000 unemployed youths, the National Home Grown School Feeding programme where over eight million Primary 1-3 pupils in public schools currently receive one meal per day and also over a million micro, small business owners accessed loans to boost productivity and payment of a monthly Conditional Cash Transfer of N5, 000 to 1 million indigent Nigerians to protect them against economic shock and gradually elevate them out of poverty-stricken she urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the grant to improve their living standards and boost their businesses.

Governor of Delta State, His Excellency, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa, expressed his gratitude to the Federal government for the grant given the the rural women in the State.

Speaking through the Honourable Commissioner of Women Affairs, Community and Social Development, Mrs. Flora Satan, the Governor said the programme is applaudable aimed at bringing succor to the vulnerable in the rural areas especially with the devastating effect of COVID-19 Pandemic. He said the programme came at the right time and it is a big plus to the women programmes that already exist in the state such as the cash grant for women, widow's welfare scheme and women entrepreneur programme.

Earlier, the Delta State Focal Person, National Social Investment Programme, Barr. Bridget Anyafulu, said the success of the Federal government Cash Grant for rural women will go a long way in alleviating the suffering of rural women, enhance the

economy of rural Nigeria, facilitate the economic recovery of the nation and set the country on the path of economic growth and sustainable development. She commended the Federal government for its bold initiative and courage to embark on its programme and assured the Ministry of the State's commitment to the success of the programme.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**Head, Press and Public Relations Unit**  
**23rd March, 2021**



*(1st Left) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Faro'uq, Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (2nd Right) The Representative of the Governor of Delta State, Honourable Commissioner of Women Affairs, Mrs Florence Alatan, (1st Right) Focal person National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) Delta State, Barr. Bridget Anyafulu, (2nd Left) a Beneficiary of the Grant, a woman with disability, EdoreAkpofure, during the disbursement of the Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women in Delta State, on 23rd March, 2021*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Humanitarian Minister Sympathizes with Victims of Katsina and Zamfara Market Fire***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has sympathized with victims of the Katsina and Zamfara States market fire.

This was contained in a statement issued by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali.

“The fire which razed dozens of shops and destroyed valuables worth millions of Naira in the two popular markets is unfortunate and I pray that such will never occur. I also pray that Allah will strengthen the victims over their losses”.

Farouq assured that the Federal government and the State governments will ascertain the losses and provide assistance to ameliorate the suffering of the victims. The Minister commended the State Governors of the two States for their prompt visits to the scene of the disaster to sympathize with the victims.

She equally appreciated the efforts of the firefighters and security agencies that assisted to control the fire.

The Minister re-emphasized the need for market authorities and shop owners to put in place preventive measures against fire disasters in markets across the country.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**23<sup>RD</sup> March, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Poverty Alleviation: FG Empowers 3,400 Women in Edo State***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has disclosed that 3,400 poor and vulnerable women in Edo State have been empowered with N20, 000 each during the flag off of the Federal Government Special Cash Grant in the State.

Speaking through her representative, the Director Humanitarian affairs, Alhaji Ali Grema, the Minister said the grant is expected to increase income and productive assets of target beneficiaries.

She enjoined the beneficiaries to make good use of the grant to generally contribute towards improving their living standards.

The Minister told the beneficiaries that the money belongs to them and them alone and should be used for the purpose it was meant for.

According to Farouq, "poverty reduction goals require a combination of strategies, each targeting specific needs sectors among the population. This informed the decision by Mr. President to initiate the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) as a strategy for reducing poverty and enhancing Social Inclusion."

The NSIP is adjudged the largest social programme in Africa with over \$billion earmarked annually to cause positive changes in the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the society.

Speaking through the Wife of the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency, Mrs. Maryam Philip-Shaibu, the Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Godwin Obaseki, commended the initiative of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration noting that the approach brings the government in direct contact with rural women, taking into cognizance their enormous challenges and the prevailing economic realities.

The Governor expressed his gratitude to the Federal government for the grant given to the rural women in the State.

Obaseki applauded the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration for its commitment to grassroot empowerment through such initiative and urged government at all levels to leverage on areas of comparative advantages in channeling intervention with a bid to reach the unreached amongst the citizens.

The Permanent Secretary of the state's Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Pastor Mrs. Dorcas Idehen, said that the Federal government 's initiative geared towards lifting the socio-economic status of rural women is highly recommendable.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**

**Deputy Director Information**

**24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**



*(2nd Left) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (2nd Right) the wife of the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Her Excellency, Mrs Maryam Philip-Shuaibu, (1st Left) Focal person National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) Edo State, Mrs Aluforkha ilfueko, a Beneficiary of the Grant, Akugbe James, during the disbursement of the Federal Government Cash Grant for Rural Women in Edo State, on 24th March, 2021. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***GENDER EQUALITY IS NOT A FEMINIST STRUGGLE- Sadiya Umar Farouq***

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq says Gender equality is not a struggle or an attempt to highlight the superiority of one sex over another.

The minister made the remark in a keynote address at the launch of NAPTIP Gender Policy document and Implementation Strategy held in Abuja on Monday.

Umar Farouq stated that Gender equality has always been wrongly perceived whereas the recent emphasis in addressing gender concerns is to ensure the integration of all in programming at all levels.

She said that the launching of the Gender Policy Document will ensure that policy makers are encouraged to analyze the society critically and recognize discriminatory practices against women and men generally.

“Women have mostly been in the frontline of gender matters. However, with recent efforts to enlighten the public, a broader understanding of gender equality through gender equity is being mainstreamed.

“The NAPTIP Gender Policy which we are here to launch today, aims at institutionalizing an internal gender mainstreaming strategy in NAPTIP and to ensure its operationalization in all entirety, to address gender gaps and contribute to the realization of the central goals of the National Gender Policy (2008).

“I believe that the launch of NAPTIP’s Gender Policy will complement the Agency’s operational strategies to curb gender-based violence and address gender gaps where they exist within the Agency’s internal operations. It will also chart a new course in the management of the Agency’s relationships with its various partners and clients”. The minister called on other Ministries, Departments and Agencies to emulate the process by adopting and strengthening measures to mainstream gender concerns in all their activities and programmes.

Earlier, the Director General of the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim explained that the policy document was part of a project declaration between the Government of Italy and UN Women, under the two-year programme on prevention of forced migration and trafficking in women and girls in Nigeria.

” It is my belief that, this document will promote a gender sensitive environment that addresses forced migration and trafficking, among others.

“The policy we are set to launch and disseminate today, is to ensure Inclusion of gender clauses and mainstreaming of gender into the policies, legislations, programmes and operations of NAPTIP, Gender-based victim support with proper documentation and disaggregation of data and prosecution of male and female offenders with attention to their gender needs”.

According to the DG, the document will among others strengthen the network of stakeholders, groups and individuals at all levels in Nigeria, and serve as resource mobilization process for support to the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Trust Fund.

In attendance also was the Minister of State for Education Hon. Emeka Nwajiuba, the UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS Ms Comfort Lamptey, representatives of the Governments of Italy and France as well as representatives of wives of Governors.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**29-03-2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Alternate School Programme Steering Committee Begins Collation of Out-Of-School Children***

The National Steering Committee on Alternate School Programme has begun collation of data of all out-of-school children in the country.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq made this known at the second meeting of the committee held on Tuesday at the office of the Accountant General of the Federation in Abuja.

The Minister noted that about 12 million children are currently out of school in the country, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

“This Committee will work with the statistics made available by the NBS to engage these out of school children.

“The Alternate School Programme possesses the potential for every child to gain access to quality education, irrespective of social, cultural or economic standing, as well as provide a means of improving household incomes for their respective families, through the Federal Government’s Social Investment Programmes, as delivered through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development. It also seeks to equip children with the requisite skills and wherewithal to engage with and contribute meaningfully to the Nigerian economy”.

Umar Farouq explained that the committee has worked closely with the Ministry of Education and other ministries to refine the concept of the Alternate School Programme.

“In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, we have spent the last few weeks in engagement with various stakeholders, in a bid to refine and strengthen the ASP Concept towards successful implementation of this programme; for it is upon this foundation that we can begin to erect necessary building blocks.

“The significance of each member of the National Steering Committee in providing the necessary leadership for the success of the programme cannot be overemphasized. And, as charged by Mr. President, the success of the Alternate School Programme will rely largely on inter-ministerial collaboration and effective stakeholder engagement”.

In attendance was Hon Emeka Nwajiuba, Minister of State for Education, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Bashir Nura Alkali, DG NYSC Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim, Representative of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, National Chairman Civil Society Strategic Group on SDGS, Dr Uzodinma Adirieje, ALGON Chairman Elder Otuonye, Hon. Balarabe Kakale, Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, Dr Ify Ukaegbu representing the SSA to the President on SDGs and Engr Bindir.

Virtual participants in the meeting include the Chairman Northern Governors’ Forum Dr Simon Lalong who was represented by the Deputy Governor of Plateau state Prof. Sanni Gwanle Tyoden, Prince Clem Agba, Minister of State Budget and National Planning and Chairman Private Sector Advisory Group Bolaji Balogun.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**30-03-2021**



*(From Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Honourable Minister of State for Education, Chuckwu Emeka Nwajiuba, the Permanent Secretary of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Bashir Nura Alkali, during the 2nd meeting of the Alternate School Programme National Steering Committee, on the 30th March, 2021, in Abuja.*

**APRIL**

**PRESS RELEASE**

***HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS***

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development highly appreciates the commendable actions taken by UNMAS in Nigeria and the Armed Forces of Nigeria and the North East Development Commission towards raising awareness and mitigating the risks posed by unexploded ordnance, mines and other Explosive remnants of war in conflict affected communities.

The Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq gave the commendation while marking the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Umar Farouq said that as part of the Ministry's efforts to raise mine awareness, the North East Development Commission NEDC in collaboration with a local partner Make safe Humanitarian Safety and Demining Services is currently organizing a series of mine risk awareness training for communities in the BAY States (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe).

“On this International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, we aim for an environment free of mines and other UXOs, where our people can live and work in a safe environment, conducive to development and where the people are fully sensitized about mine risks and needs of victims are met”.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**04-04-2021**



*The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Farouq Challenges Participants to Build Capacity in Social Protection***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has challenged participants of the training programme on Social Protection to build capacity in order to effectively manage, propagate and implement the mandate of the Ministry and policies of Federal Government.

She disclosed this at a 3- day training on Social Protection organized by the Child Development Grant Programme and Save the Children International in Lagos.

Speaking through her representative Mr. Kingsley Ngene, Special Assistant (Administration), she said the objective is to improve knowledge and provide deeper understanding of issues regarding social protection to support the strategic position of the Ministry in coordinating social protection programme implementation in Nigeria.

The representative of the Permanent Secretary, the SA to the PS, Abdulkareem Iliyasu expressed gratitude to the Ministry for making the training possible. He said that, "The Ministry has initiated the process of keying the staff into the Federal Government programme of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty within the next decade".

He urged participants to make use of the knowledge and ideas gained in the training to support the Federal Government achieve her objectives.

The National Programme Manager of Child Development Grant Programme, Ajumobi Kayode, said the aim of the programme is to strengthen capacity of social protection implementers, to design and implement appropriate social protection programmes for poor and vulnerable Nigerians.

The 54 Participants were drawn from all the departments in the Ministry and its agencies.

**Grace Osuji**  
**For: DD (Information)**  
**9th April, 2021.**



*Middle Row - (8th Left) Representative of the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, the Special Adviser Administration to the Minister, Kingsley Ngene (7th left) the SA to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Abdulkareem Iliyasu, (2nd Left) SA on Strategic Matters and Planning to the Honourable Minister, Mrs Halima Oyelade, (5th Left) Principal Information Officer, Grace Osuji, and other Staff of FMHADSD, NAPTIP, NCFRMI, NEDC, NEMA, and Disability Commission, during the Training on Child Development Grant and Programme for Social Protection, on 9th April, 2021, in Lagos.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***PWDS: FG Pledges Support for Local Producers of Assistive Devices for Persons with Disabilities***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has pledge support for Local Producers of Assistive Devices for Persons with Disabilities with the aim of ensuring that millions of them enjoy the right of independent living, inclusive and participation of local production of quality and affordable assistive devices.

The Minister disclosed this at the opening ceremony of a 3-Day Capacity Building of Identified Local Producers of Assistive Technologies, held in Makurdi, Benue State.

The Minister who was represented by the Director Special Needs of the Ministry, Mrs. Onwukwe Florence Nkechi, noted the importance of Assistive Devices as it has been clearly stressed in Article 20 (a-d) of the United Nations Convention on the rights of PWDs.

She urged the State governments to support the entities that produce Mobility Aids, Devices and Assistive technologies.

Farouq disclosed that the Ministry was working in collaboration with partners to nurture and harness the potentials of PWDs as well as promoting the activities that could enhance their interaction, mainstreaming empowerment for a more sustainable economic, Social and political growth of the nation.

The Workshop was organized to enlighten and encourage local producers to develop and improve on production, enable interaction with successful and quality control of production.

She urged the participants to look inward as the cost of importing the devices were becoming so high for Federal Government, and challenged the participants to deliver and match up with foreign counterpart.

“A nationwide assessment was carried out in the 36 States and FCT to identify how and where Government can support, the report has been finalized and the finding will be incorporated into National Strategic Framework of Action” she said.

She informed the participants that Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, has demonstrated strong leadership in policy making through the revised 2019 National Policy on Disability and Disability Act, notably a strategy for improving AT production, procurement and provision is being developed in collaboration with partners. Also an Agency Technology Working Group on AT Technology was constituted to give guidance to the development of comprehensive road map to aid AT implementation in Nigeria.

She urged the participants to maximize the opportunity and utilize efficiently the little support that would be provided at the end of the training adding that the Federal Government remained committed to doing her best to carter for PWDs.

Earlier the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry who was represented by Magaji Garba, the Chief Community Development Officer, commended the organizers of the workshop. The Permanent Secretary disclosed that the administration of President Buhari was passionate about the wellbeing of persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

According to him, the assessment carried out nationwide in the 36 State and FCT between August 2019 and December, 2020 showed that the equipment's and facilities of the Local Producers were outdated and dilapidated, while some had folded up due to lack of capital to strengthen producers because they could not access credit facilities from banks. "The 3 Days capacity building training was first in series planned for implementation across the six geopolitical zones".

He urged the participants to take the training seriously so that Nigeria can become exporters rather than importers of these devices as the Federal Government is committed to be more inclusive in the production of more quality devices locally while Federal Government provide employment for self-reliance.

The Representative of the Honourable Commissioner of Gender Affairs and Social Development, Benue State, Terumbur Eunice Tachia has expressed her profound gratitude for being part of the Workshop designed to nurture and harness the potentials of PWDs in the 36 States and FCT, and also to President Muhammadu Buhari for creating Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, saddled with the responsibility of caring for Persons with Special Needs in the country.

She said the Administration of the Executive Governor of Benue State, Dr. Sam Ortom has not relented in with the responsibility of PWDs, he has established programmes on education, vocational training skills livelihood empowerment programmes which has sustained and equipped them professionally.

The wife of the Governor, Dr. Eunice Ortom has a foundation (Eunice Spring of Life) which has helped to train empower and sustain Persons with Disabilities and make them self-reliance.

**Adeyemo Felicia**

**For: DD (Information)**

**April 21, 2021**



*(2nd Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Director Special Needs, Mrs Florence Nkechi Onwukwe, (1st Left) the Representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Chief Community Development Officer, Garba Magaji, (Middle) the Representative of the Honourable Commissioner Women Affairs, Benue State, Eunice Tachia Terumbur, (1st Right) the Representative Resource Person, Kolawole Taiwo, (2nd Left) the Representative Consultant Factorial Engineer Limited Workshop, Charles Ofonimeh, during the Opening ceremony of the 3-Day Capacity Building to Identify Local Producers of Assistive Technologies. On the 21st April, 2021, in Markurdi, Benue State. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

# MAY

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***FG Provides Relief Materials to IDPs In Minna***

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has expressed Federal government commitment in supporting the internally displaced persons in Niger State through the provision of relief materials to the vulnerable. She disclosed this during a courtesy visit to the Deputy Governor of Niger State, His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Moh'd Kelso.

Speaking through her representative the Acting Director, Humanitarian Affairs Department of the Ministry, Dr. Abubakar Suleiman, " we are here to interact and access your conditions and to deliver relief materials, food and non- food items, so as to alleviate the sufferings that you have been unnecessarily subjected to" the Minister said.

The items to be distributed to the vulnerable include 600 bags of rice (25 kg), 200 kegs of palm oil, 50 bales of clothes, 10 sacks of rubber slippers and 20 cartons of body cream.

In a similar development, the Minister during the assessment visit to the camp in Gwada, called on well – meaning Nigerians to join hands with the Federal and State Governments to provide relief materials to displaced communities in the society. She urged everyone to use the month of Ramadan to intensity prayers to Almighty Allah to protect all Nigerians and free our communities of all calamities especially during this last ten days Of Ramadan.

The Deputy Governor of Niger State, His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Moh'd Kelso, expressed gratitude for the intervention of the Federal government through the Ministry. He said the intervention cannot replace the desire to be settled in their homes as they have experienced.

He urge the Ministry's delegation to visit the camps to assess the situation and see other interventions it could provide.

He further directed the Secretary to the Niger State Government, Ibrahim Ahmed Mateni to lead the delegation to the camp, mentioning other IDP camps in Shiroro, Munyar, Rafi and Mariga.

The Secretary to the State Government Ibrahim Ahmed who received the items expressed gratitude to Ministry for the donation of the items on behalf of the Executive Governor.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**6th May, 2021**





*(Front-Roll) (5th Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Acting Director Humanitarian Affairs, Abubakar Suleiman, (5th Left), (4th Left) Secretary to the Government of Niger State, Ibrahim Ahmed Mateni, (3rd Right) Hajia Zainab Saidu of (NEMA), Director General Niger State Emergency Management Agency Ahmed Ibrahim Inga and other dignitaries during a courtesy visit to the Governor of Niger State during the handover of relief materials to the IDP Camp in Gwada, Niger State.*

## **Press Release**

### **Farouq Solicits Media Support in Combating Humanitarian Challenges**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has solicited the support of the media in achieving the mandates of the Ministry.

Farouq disclosed this today in Abuja at a two-day sensitization workshop organized by the Ministry for media practitioners at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Mambilla Barracks, Asokoro, Abuja.

She said that “the media educates people about consequences, hazards and warnings on disasters and alerts government for rescue and interventions, hence the need for increased collaboration between the Ministry, humanitarian actors and the media”.

“Let me begin by acknowledging the important role of the media in educating, informing, creating awareness, sensitizing and acting as the watch dog of the society. The media is one of the critical partners of the Ministry. Its role in the dissemination of the mandate, policies, activities, programmes and achievements of the Ministry to the public cannot be over emphasized,” she said.

“In the humanitarian sector, the media plays a major role during emergencies and disasters by providing vital information to both the public and the government before, during and after the incidents. The media educates people about consequences, hazards and warnings on disasters and alerts government for rescue and interventions, hence the need for increased collaboration between the Ministry, humanitarian actors and the media.

“Since the creation of the Ministry, we were mandated to tackle disasters, develop and empower Nigerians, among others. These mandates cannot be achieved without the partnership of key stakeholders, the media inclusive. The Ministry, since inception, has recorded a number of achievements in the area of coordination, partnership, interventions, cooperation, sensitization and prompt emergency response.

“These and many more, the Ministry has been able to achieve in the last 20 months, with the collaboration of all stakeholders. I must sincerely commend you members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm for partnering with the Ministry since it was established. It is gratifying to note that there are over 60 journalists accredited with the Ministry which indicates the interest media organizations have in the humanitarian sector”.

“We are partners in progress and I solicit your continuous cooperation in the dissemination of information on the activities and programmes of the Ministry to adequately sensitize, educate and inform the stakeholders and the public on humanitarian issues.”

“I must state that this workshop was organized to expose you to the operations of the Ministry, the functions of the various departments and the modus operandi of National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), for effective reportage of the humanitarian sector.”

“It is expected that at the end of the workshop you will all be acquainted and well informed about the Ministry and the key humanitarian terms as well as how to effectively report humanitarian issues. It is obvious that the sector deals mostly with the vulnerable, poorest of the poor and persons with concerns in the society. Reporting such issues require special skills which you will become familiar with in the course of this workshop.”

“I wish to assure you that the facilitators with their wealth of experience in their different fields will do justice to the topics assigned to them. I enjoin all participants to learn as much as they can about the Ministry and the sector. Be free to ask questions and make contributions.”

“In conclusion, I urge all journalists covering the humanitarian beat to exhibit professionalism in their reportage and adhere to the ethics of the profession. Always verify information with the Ministry and balance your stories before going to the press. The Ministry is ready to partner with the media to achieve its mandate.”

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Bashir Nura Alkali, in his remarks noted that the media is one of the critical stakeholders of the Ministry and an agent of change in the society adding that the journalists covering the Ministry should have adequate information and knowledge about the Ministry and the sector to effectively disseminate correct messages and information to the public.

Alkali however, commended the good works the journalists are doing in the dissemination of information on the Ministry’s activities and achievements.

He assured the Ministry’s commitment and readiness to collaborate with the correspondents adding that it will provide all the necessary information needed for effective and timely reportage of the Ministry and its Agencies.

**Rhoda Iliyu Ishaku**  
**Deputy Director (Information)**  
**May 27th, 2021**



## **Press Release**

### **Farouq Urges Stakeholders To Make Inputs Into Draft National Multi-Sectoral Flood Emergency Preparedness And Response Plan**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has urged stakeholders of the Draft National Multi-Sectoral Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to make inputs that will serve as a guideline for flooding in Nigeria.

She disclosed this at the technical stakeholders meeting for the review of Draft National Multi-Sectoral Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan in Abuja.

According to the Minister, “President Muhammadu Buhari directed the Ministry to work with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, other relevant MDAs and stakeholders to develop a National Plan that will coordinate various flood management responses and interventions across the country, to reduce the impact of floods.

“In carrying out the presidential directive, the Ministry hosted an Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting with the Ministers and Heads of Agencies of over 17 ministries, departments, and agencies in September 2020. The major outcome of that meeting was the inauguration of an Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group that was tasked with the responsibility of drafting a National Multi-Sectoral Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, that is being presented today.

“The Technical Group that drafted this plan included Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Therefore, we are advocating for an Integrated Flood Management approach where flooding is effectively managed using multi-sectoral expertise, and flood waters are harnessed for beneficial purposes such as agriculture, electricity etc”.

She further stated that the Plan identifies that flooding risks are cross-cutting and multi-sectorial and was, therefore, developed as an inter-ministerial, inter-agency, inter-governmental and multi-sectorial collaboration, and coordination framework necessary for the successful implementation and execution of the Plan.

Dr. Abubakar Suleiman, Deputy Director, Humanitarian Affairs, in his presentation said that “the need for an integrated flood Risk Management System that would leverage on technology and new innovation such as flood mapping, flood early warning systems etc, can never be overemphasized.

“Hence the purpose of this National Flooding Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (NFEPRP) for Nigeria is to provide strategic guidance in a systematic and sequential manner for managing floods anywhere in Nigeria in a coordinated manner”.

He said the objective of this plan is to increase political and stakeholder’s commitment and participation in the governance of flood risk reduction at all levels else.

“This will therefore improve local capacities for the identification, mitigation, prevention, response assessment and monitoring of flood risks”.

The Draft National Multi-Sectoral Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is an 8 Chapter document with 75 pages.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**31th May, 2021**



*(Front Row) (3rd Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (4th Right) DG National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) , AVM Muhammed Muhammad, (1st Right) Senior Adviser to the President on Disaster Management, Group Captain Sadeeq Garba Shehu, (1st Left) Coordinator Disaster Management, Nigerian Red Cross Society, Benson D. Agbro, (2nd Left) Technical Assistant to the DG/CEO Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), during the Technical Stakeholders Meeting For the Review of Draft National Multi-Sectoral Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, held at The Nigerian Air Force Conference Centre Jabi, Abuja, on the 31st May, 2021.*

# **JUNE**

## **Press Release**

### **FG Inaugurate Board of National Senior Citizens Centre, Approves National Policy on Ageing**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has inaugurated the Board of the National Senior Citizens Centre in Abuja.

According to the Minister, “President Muhammadu Buhari’s signing of the National Senior Citizens Centre Act into law, paved the way for catering for the needs of the elderly through the establishment of community-based Prototype systems, community safety spaces for the elderly, and leisure and day care centers, all of which have created opportunities for the private sector to participate.

“While taking steps to reduce poverty and ensure inclusiveness of most Nigerians to be productive, this administration has recognized the special needs of older persons as agents of societal development”.

Continuing, “It is in this connection that the Government made conscious effort to develop and implement productive activities, social protection and work schemes for senior citizens in order to improve the quality of life of the Elderly and ensure a sense of security and that a general feeling of Health and worthiness is extended to them”.

The Minister also announced the approval of the National Policy on Ageing to drive the process of mainstreaming emerging issues on older persons and facilitate additional laws to protect the rights and privileges of the ageing population in Nigeria.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali said that with the takeoff of the Centre, there will be greater improvement on the activities of the Older Persons in Nigeria and the Ministry will do everything within its powers to assist in the take-off of the Centre successfully.

The Chairman of the Board of the National Centre for Senior Citizens, AVM M.A Muhammad, in his vote of thanks expressed his gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari, for assigning them such dignified position and they have accepted the nominations to work for the progress of the centre.

The board consists of the following members;

1. AVM A.M Muhammmad -Chairman
2. Dr.EmemOmokaro – Director General
3. Mr. Sani Ibrahim Mustapha PTAD
4. Mrs. BulusFriyaKimde – FMWA
5. Arc.VictoriaOnu- COSTOPIN
6. Prof.Usman Ahmed- GAD
7. Dr. John O. Magbadelo- FMLE
8. Mr.Umar Abdullahi – FMWH
9. Dr. Chris Osalsokpunwu-FMOH
10. Mr. Mansur Kuliya-FMHADMSD
11. Dr.Dorothy Nwodo -member
12. Prof.Mohammed Monday, Namadi – member

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**DD (Information)**  
**7th June 2021**



*(6th Left) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq (4th Left) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (5th Left) Chairman Board of National Senior Citizens Centre, A.V.M Muhammad Muhammed, (7th Left) Director General, National Senior Citizens Centre, Dr. EmemOmokaro, and other Board members of the National Senior Citizens Centre, during the Inauguration of the National Senior Citizens Centre, on the 7th June, 2021. In Abuja*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Shortlists 550,000 Applicants for Final selection into N-Power Batch C: Recommended National Home-Grown School Feeding**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has said that 550,000 applicants have been shortlisted for the final selection out of which 500,000 will be engaged nationwide to serve as the first stream of the N- Power batch “C” programme.

The Minister disclosed this at a Press Briefing on Tuesday in Abuja.

According to the her, “550,000 short-listed applicants are being individually contacted via their e-mail addresses provided and are first advised to check and then immediately log on to the NASIMS self-service portal and enroll their biometric data to qualify for final selection.

“Applicants are invited to call the dedicated NASIMS, N-Power helplines on 0188883410 or 08176551162 or send an email to support.npower@nasims.gov.ng, for further enquiries on their application status and any other questions they may have. They must ensure that they keep their application details handy to ensure hitch free communication with the call Centre desk”.

She further explained that, “On the 11th of March 2021, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development launched the National Social Investment Management System (NASIMS), for the Batch C applicants who were requested to urgently update their personal information and subsequently, take an online test via the NASIMS Portal.

Continuing, “Further screening was undertaken and a short-list of 550,000 applicants qualified for the final selection to engage 500,000 nationwide to serve as the first stream of the N-Power Batch C programme”. In a similar development, the Minister disclosed that the Ministry has recommenced the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme. A total of 9,196,823 pupils in classes 1-3 in public schools will receive one nutritious meal daily in all 54,619 schools nationwide.

She added that the programme is being expanded to accommodate additional 5 million children in line with the directives of President Muhammad Buhari.

The National Coordinator of the National Social Investment Programme, Dr. Umar Bindir, said the briefing was essential to keep the country abreast with the activities of the NSIP and to ensure the programme is effectively delivered.

**Rhoda Ishaku Iliya**  
**DD (Information)**  
**8th June, 2021**





*(7th Left) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (8th Left) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (6th Left) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (2nd Left) National Coordinator NSIP, Engr Umar B. Bindir, (4th Left) Director HRM, Abdulrahman Babatunde Jaji, (5th Left) Director Special Needs, Nkechi Onwukwe, (6th Right) Director Finance and Account, Matthew Dada (5th Right) Director Legal, Garba Haqanawega, (7th Right) Director PRS, Repheal Obi, during the press briefing on the Shortlisting of N-Power Batch C Stream 1 and updates on other Social Investment Programmes, on the 8th June, 2021. In Abuja.*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Flags- Of Distribution of Engagement Letters and Tablets to Trained Independent Monitors In FCT**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has flagged off the distribution of engagement letters and tablets to trained Independent Monitors in Abuja, FCT.

According to the Minister, “These Devices are equipped with an application that will be used to report on monitoring activities of the trained Independent Monitors.

“The Application, which we called the Social Investment Management Information System (SIMIS), is a mobile and web-based Application designed for Monitoring the National Social Investment Programme. Using this Application, the Ministry sees real time report of activities of the Independent Monitors on the Field. “We can view reports submitted and see the NSIP performance indicators by state and detect areas of challenges. For example, under the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, we can see where feeding has taken place and where there is no feeding happening. This will provide greater visibility to the Ministry and equip us with information to follow up with implementation happening at the state level. Continuing, “The Application allows the Ministry to have visibility up to the local government level. It will guide us at the Federal Level to ensure that, the programmes are working in line with their objectives, and also task the states to ensure they meet up with their deliverables towards effective implementation of the Programme. Essentially, it will help us deliver on our mandate and contribute to Mr. President’s vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of Poverty”.

“The Independent Monitors are expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme. They will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80% of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend.

She said that letters of the Independent Monitors clearly articulate the scope of work which includes, routine Monitoring of all programmes under the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) in their assigned LGA, provision of evidence-based report on findings in the field and others.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary in his remarks, expressed gratitude to the Honourable Minister for the efforts to achieving the target of President Muhammadu Buhari of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030, the staff of the Ministry and other stakeholders from the inception of the training of the Independent Monitors.

He said,” in a bid to achieve the set goals of the National Social Investment Programmes adequate monitoring is important. The engagement of

independent Monitors for NSIP therefore is one of the strategies to ensure these programmes achieve desired results”.

Dr. Umar Bindir described the NSIP as the engine of growth in the country, he said the independent monitors have been selected carefully and with independent minds to analyses data properly.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**10th June, 2021**



*(3rd Left) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (2nd Left) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Left) National Coordinator for NSIP, Engr. Umar B. Bindir, (1st Right) an Independent Monitor, Aisha H. Ihiabe, during the Flag - Off, of the distribution of engagement letters and monitoring devices to Independent Monitors, on 10th June, 2021, in Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: Farouq Flags-Off of The Distribution of Engagement Letters and Tablets To 300 Independent Monitors in Bauchi State**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has flagged -off the distribution of engagement letters and tablets to 300 trained Independent Monitors in Bauchi States.

According to the Minister, “These Devices are equipped with an application that will be used to report on monitoring activities of the trained Independent Monitors”.

“The Application, which we called the Social Investment Management Information System (SIMIS), is a mobile and web-based Application designed for Monitoring the National Social Investment Programme. Using this Application, the Ministry sees real time report of activities of the Independent Monitors on the Field.

“We can view reports submitted and see the NSIP performance indicators by state. This will enable the Ministry to detect areas where there are challenges and provide greater visibility of activities happening in the field. Essentially, it will help us deliver on our mandate and contribute to Mr. President’s vision of lifting 100 million out of poverty”.

She explained that,” Each Independent Monitor is expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme, they will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80% of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend.

Continuing, she stated that the scope of work by the Independent Monitors, emphasizing that the IM’S are not allowed to assign their responsibilities to third parties and will be held accountable by the Ministry for the task given to them.

Earlier, the Senior Special Adviser to Bauchi States Governor on Social Investment Programme, Hajia Amina Katagum, commended the Minister for the initiative and assured that the State government will continue to provide a conducive environment for the success of the interventions.

She added that, the state government under the leadership of Bala Muhammed has a keen interest in youth development and poverty alleviation.

**Grace Osuji**

**For:DD (Information)**

**15th June, 2021**



*(Left) Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (Middle) Bauchi State Focal Person, Amina Katagum, presenting letter of engagement and monitoring device to a trained Independent Monitor, during the flag off ceremony in Bauchi State, 14th June, 2021.*

## **Press Release**

### **Kano: FG Distributes 320 Engagement Devices and Letters to Trained Independent Monitors**

The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Bashir Nura Alkali, flagged off the distribution of Engagement letters and working devices to trained Independent Monitors in Kano State at Coronation Hall Government House, Kano State.

Alkali disclosed that the National Social Investment Programme (NISIP), created by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 is mandated to lift citizens out of poverty through NSIP, N-Power, National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme (GEEP), were moved to Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs when it was created in 2019. The Programme is implemented in the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory.

Continuing, Alkali said, Kano State was among 5000 IM trained in February – April 2021 when the nationwide training was flagged off.

“The devices to be used for monitoring the Programme are locally made in Nigeria with an application called Social Investment Management Information System (SIMIS), which monitors and reports the activities of the IM on the field, sees the NSIP performance indicator by state, detect areas where there are challenges and essentially helps the Ministry to deliver on the mandate, to lift 1000 million Nigerians out of poverty” he said.

The IM are expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the NSIP and will be paid a stipend of N30,000 monthly, and must meet up to 80% of deliverables. The letter articulates the scope of work; routine monitor of NSIP in their assigned L. G. A, provision of evidence-based report on findings, amongst others.

The Representative of the Honourable Minister warned IMs not to assign responsibility to third parties, each monitor is to be held accountable by the Ministry by disengaging them in case of any misconduct with set guidelines. He urges them to carry out the assignment with a sense of patriotism, diligence and sincerity.

Earlier the Focal Person of NSIP, Baba Aminu Zubair, said indeed the Programme is the vision of President Muhammadu Buhari to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty, and that Kano State has the highest number of N-Power beneficiaries across the country.

Aminu affirmed that 119,000 households registered under CCT Programme received N5,000 each. He appreciated the Federal Government through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs for this kind gesture.

The Secretary to the State Government, Usman Alhaji waziriu Gaya, who represented the Governor of Kano State, lauded the Ministry for its continued support for taking Nigerians out of the poverty line and improving the living standard of the citizenry.

He told the IMs to make good use of the opportunity given to them to attain greater heights. Others present were: - the Chairman LGA of Rimi Gado, Barrister Munir Dahiru, the VC University of Kano, Yusuf Maitama Sule who received an award and LGA NSIP Coordinators.

**Halima Oyelade**

**SA Communication**

**June 15, 2021**



*(Left) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (middle) The Representative of the Government of Kano State, SSG Usman Waziru Gaya, (Right) an Independent Monitor, during the distribution of engagement letters and monitoring devices to Independent Monitors in Kano State, on the 15th June, 2021. In Kano.*

## **Press Release**

### **FG Seeks Collaboration with Stakeholders on Food Security**

The Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has advised small scale women farmers to seek collaboration with key stakeholders in the financial and Agricultural sector for food security.

She disclosed this in an advocacy visit by the Small-Scale Women Farmers Organization of Nigeria in Abuja.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary Basheer Nura Alkali, he said, "Government alone cannot provide all the resources needed by citizens therefore the need for collaboration with well-meaning individuals and organizations that will provide the needed direction for a progressive development for our country".

He advised the women to start dialoguing with key stakeholders like the apex financial houses and Federal Ministry of Agriculture to make special provision for the members for a period of five years that will guarantee off takers who would buy the farm produce and store in the Federal food reserve.

He added that the Ministry is looking forward to areas of collaboration from the content of the advocacy, for a purposeful progress in ensuring that the much-desired food security is achieved within the shortest possible time.

The National President of Small-Scale Farmers Organization of Nigeria Mrs. Mary Ishaya enumerated the challenges faced by women farmers ranging from the lock down period that made farmers abandon their farmlands, to lack of access to land, loans, inputs to farm, flood and drought.

She presented the demands of their organization which include, support in form of palliative or facilities that will allow them go back to the farm, training on climate change and how to increase food production in the country with the assistance of the Ministry.

She presented a document which articulated the charter of their demand which includes increase in budgetary allocation for the Agricultural sector and a conducive environment for feeding the nation.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**17th June, 2021**





## **Press Release**

### **Humanitarian Affairs Ministry Commences Assessment of National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has commenced the assessment of the progress of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes in Abuja.

Speaking at the orientation exercise for the staff of the Ministry, on behalf of the Minister, the National Coordinator of the National Social Investment Programme Dr. Umar B. Bindir said that, "if we are to assess the progress of this programme we need numbers, real data, that will identify the cooks, every child, number of schools and capture data and analyses".

According to him, the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme has increased school enrolment, healthy well-being and better performance of the pupils in school.

He said that the Ministry must assure Nigerians that it has capacity to uproot the problem of poverty in Nigeria and other attendant problem associated with poverty.

He urged the staff to support one of the clusters of the National Social Investment Programme to achieve the goal of the enumeration exercise.

The representative of the Permanent Secretary Alhaji Ali Grema, Director Humanitarian Affairs said, "the programme will create an avenue for better programme planning, create room for to enlistment of more beneficiaries, foster accountability in line with established practices and judicious use of resources".

He charged the staff present to conduct themselves as the eyes and mouth piece of the Ministry and convey its objectives. He added that, they are to conduct themselves with utmost dignity as civil servants as they carry out the assignment successfully.

**Grace Osuji**

**For : DD (Information)**

**22nd June, 2021**



*(5th Right) The Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, BashirNura Alkali, Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (6th Right) National Coordinator for NSIP, Engr Umar B. Bindir, (4th Right) Director PRS, Repheal Obi, (2nd Left) TA NGO, Lasering NEMA, Musa Bungudu, (1st Left) DFA NSIP, Adaramoye Joseph Oluwole, (3rd Left) TA to the Minister on Home-Grown, Aisha Digil, during the Agenda for the Orientation for the FMHADMSD Staff Monitoring the Enumeration Exercise for the Beneficiary of the NHGSFP, on 22nd June, 2021. In Abuja.*

## **Press Release**

### **FG To Validate Local Production of Assistive Devices for PWDs- Farouq**

The Federal Government in its effort to ensure that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria lived effectively has Commenced validation meeting on the draft National Roadmap for local producers of Assistive Devices for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, disaster management and social development, Sadiya Umar Farouq who was ably represented by the permanent secretary, Bashir Nura Alkali said the importance of Assistive Technologies in the life of Persons with Disabilities cannot be overemphasized as it enables them to live healthy, productive, independent and dignified lives.

Farouq However said, “it is sad to say that most people who really need these technologies find it very difficult to access them, largely because assistive devices and technology are not readily available and even if available, are unaffordable not because Nigeria lacks the expertise, but because our local manufacturers are limited to scaling up the production of quality assistive devices due to the persistent use of obsolete equipment and lack of basic capital to strengthen production which makes most product often inappropriate for the intended users”.

She states that the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development through her Special Needs Department (formerly Rehabilitation Department) in collaboration with partners is working assiduously to improving the lives of Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria. These efforts have at different times been aimed at specific objectives to greatly fetch better living outcomes for PWDs in Nigeria.

“It is therefore important to note that when PWDs cannot easily access Assistive Technologies at most affordable rates they are often excluded, isolated, and locked into poverty, thereby increasing the impact of disease and disability itself on a person, their family, and Society in general. The government and all and sundry must therefore be committed to making these devices available and affordable to those that need them so that through the use of Assistive Technology, barriers are removed and thereby enhancing their physical and mental capabilities which will in turn lead to greatly improved quality of life.

“The Federal Government through my Ministry wish to change this narrative and therefore felt the need to come up with a working document that will guide AT implementation in Nigeria. It is on this basis that this stakeholder’s validation meeting is convened as a critical step to the development of a National Roadmap on Local Production of Assistive Technologies for Persons with Disabilities.

The roadmap is designed to Provide guidance for production, procurement and distribution of Assistive Technologies in Nigeria, ensure quality control in Local production of Assistive Technologies for PWDs in Nigeria; Mainstream local production of Assistive Technologies in innovative and industrial development of the

Country, help in providing enabling environment for employment creation and Ensure availability and affordability of Assistive Technologies for PWDs in Nigeria.

Adding that the Ministry is Currently working with partners to develop an Assistive Technology investment case so that individuals, governments at all levels, and corporate entities can see reason why they should invest in Assistive Technologies in Nigeria. And therefore, reassured all stakeholders, of Government commitment to providing enabling environment for Assistive technologies related businesses to thrive as well as doing her bit to cater for the needs of her citizens including Persons with Disabilities.

**Blessing Ejeagha**  
**For: DD (Information)**  
**22nd June, 2021**



*(5th Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (4th Right) Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Director Special Needs, Nkechi Onwukwe, (4th Left) Vintsolve Global Consults, Rilwan Hussein Abarshi, (2nd Left) Director Special Need Education Branch, Federal Ministry of Education, during the Stakeholder Validation Meeting on the Draft National Roadmap on Local Production of Standardized Assistive Technologies for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria, on 22nd June, 2021. In Abuja*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Engages 206 Independent Monitors in Lagos State**

The Federal Government through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Investment today, engaged 206 independent monitors in Lagos State to track the various packages from the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) for the vulnerable members of the society in line with President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty.

Speaking at the event for the distribution of engagement letters and Tablets to the trained independent monitors held in Lagos, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq said the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) was created by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 with the mandate of lifting citizens out of poverty through a number of social interventions.

She said the programmes include the job creation programme — N-POWER, National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCT) and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP).

Farouq who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Bashir Nura Alkali said, “We flagged off the training of 5000 Independent Monitors for the National Social Investment Programme in Abuja on Thursday 4th February 2021. The training was carried out across the Country from February 2021 to April 2021”.

“Today I am here to flag off the distribution of Engagement Letters and Devices for the Trained Independent Monitors in Lagos State. These Devices are equipped with an application that will be used to report on monitoring activities of the trained Independent Monitors. Let me also say that all devices to be used for monitoring the programme are locally made in Nigeria and the Monitoring Application was designed by an indigenous Company.”

Each Independent monitor is expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme, she said.

“They will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80 per cent of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend,” she said.

The minister who warned the independent monitors not to assign their responsibilities to third parties added that every independent monitor will be held accountable by the ministry for the task given to them.

“The Ministry reserves the right to disengage an Independent Monitor for misconduct or noncompliance with set guidelines and directives. I hereby urge you to carry out this assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence, and sincerity. We at the Ministry will not accept anything short of the set standards.

“The duration of your assignment is for one year, from June 2021 to May 2022,” she said.

In his remark, the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu represented by his Special Adviser on Housing Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka applauded the Federal Government for the commitment it has demonstrated forwards achieving the desired objective of the Programme which is geared to lift the vulnerable people out of poverty.

“I am happy to note that since the commencement of this programme in Lagos State over 6800 of our people have continued to benefit from regular cash transfer in four bi-monthly cycles under the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme,” he said.

While applauding the Federal Government, Minister and her team, Sanwo-Olu assured that the state government will continue to play its role and support the apex government to ensure that Lagos State has its fair share of beneficiaries of the programme.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke charged the independent Monitors to ensure judicious use of the resources allocated to them.

### **Blessing Ejeagha**

**For: DD (Information)**

**25th June, 2021**



*(2nd Left) The Representative of the Lagos State Governor, S.A to the Governor on Housing, Toke-Benson Awoyinka, (3rd Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (4th Left) Lagos State Focal Person on NSIP, Commissioner Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Honourable Mrs Yetunde Arobieke, during the Distribution of Engagement Letter and Monitoring Devices to Independent Monitors in Lagos State, on the 25th June, 2021. In Lagos*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Hands Over 172 Engagement Letters and Tablets to Independent Monitors in Sokoto State**

The Honourable Minister of Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has handed over 172 engagement letters and tablets to trained independent monitors in Sokoto State.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary Bashir Nura Alkali, she said that the Ministry” flagged off the training of 5000 independent monitors for the National Social Investment Programme in Abuja on Thursday 4th February, 2021. The training was carried out across the country, including Sokoto state from February 2021 to April 2021”.

“Today I am here to flag off the distribution of engagement letters and electronic devices for the trained Independent Monitors in Sokoto State. These devices are equipped with an application that will be used to report on monitoring activities of the trained independent monitors. All devices distributed for the monitoring of this programme are locally made in Nigeria and the monitoring Application designed by an indigenous company “.

The Minister charged the independent monitors not to reassign their responsibilities to a third party and to carry out the assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence and sincerity.

Each independent monitor is expected to a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme for a tenure one year starting from June 2021 to May 2022.

The Executive Governor of Sokoto State Rt. Honourable Aminu Tambuwal represented by Hajia Kulu Abdullahi Sifawa in her welcome address, solicited for more interventions for the state, especially in the remote areas that are not motorable due to the land mass of the state. She said the state has benefitted immensely from the Conditional Cash Transfer and the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.

The State Director of the National Orientation Agency, Abubakar D. Mode called on the citizens of Nigeria to support the Federal Government to achieve the objectives of the programme. He added that the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development have Programmes aimed at bettering the lives of Nigerians.

He expressed his gratitude and applauded the Sokoto State Social Investment Program Operation and Coordinating unit, for the good working relationship and success of the implementation in the state.

The Focal Person on the Social Investment Programme in Sokoto state Hayatu Tafida implored the independent Monitors to listen attentively to the instructors and follow the guidelines to the benefit of the state.



He described the National Social Investment Programme as the most impactful on the masses of the country. A beneficiary Yussuf Ibrahim Bassa from Sokoto north expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for providing the training and devices to monitor the programmes of the NSIP in the state.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD(Information)**

**28th June, 2021**



*(4th Left) The Representative of the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (3rd Left) The Representative of Sokoto State Governor, Hajiya Kulu Abdullahi Sifawa, (2nd Left) Focal Person NSIP for Sokoto State, Hayatu Tafida, during the distribution of engagement letters and monitoring devices to Independent Monitors in Sokoto State, on 28th June 2021. In Sokoto.*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Hands Over Engagement Letters and Tablets to Independent Monitors in Taraba State and Kogi State**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq, has handed over engagement letters and tablets to trained independent monitors of the National Social Investment Programme in Taraba and Kogi States.

Represented by Special Adviser on Disaster Management, Group Captain Shehu Sadiq, in Taraba State and the Deputy Director, Planning Research and Statistics, Safiya Sani, in Kogi State, the Minister said that the Ministry “flagged off the training of 5000 independent monitors for the National Social Investment Programme in Abuja on Thursday 4th February, 2021. The training was carried out across the country, from February 2021 to April 2021”.

She said the trained Independent Monitors are now given engagement letters and electronic devices to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme in their localities.

They will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80% of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend.

The Independent Monitors Engagement letters clearly articulate the scope of work.

Farouq stated that the devices are equipped with an application that will be used to report on monitoring activities of the trained independent monitors. All devices distributed for the monitoring of this programme are locally made in Nigeria and the monitoring application designed by an indigenous company.

The Minister charged the independent monitors not to reassign their responsibilities to a third party and to carry out the assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, adding that every independent monitor will be held accountable by the Ministry for the task given them.

The Representative of the Taraba State Governor, the Taraba State Focal Person of NSIP, Beatrice Kichena, commended the Honourable Minister’s effort in ensuring the success of the NSIP Programmes.

“It is a commendable and laudable effort put by the Honourable Minister despite all challenges faced by the country. I believe that the Programme will be successful and beneficial to Nigerians even at the grass root.

She thanked the Federal Government on behalf of the State Government and urge the Independent Monitors to conduct their assignments successfully.

Also, the Kogi State Focal Person of NSIP, Abdulkareem Suleiman Onyekehi, on behalf of the State Government, commended President Muhammadu Buhari for initiating the NSIP Programmes to address poverty in the country.

He said the State has been fully involved in the programmes and is committed to the full implementation of the NSIP Programmes in Kogi State.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: Deputy Director Information**

**30th June, 2021**



*(middle) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Deputy Director, Planning, Research and Statistics of the Ministry, Safiya Sani, (Right) Kogi State Focal Person on NSIP, Abdulkareem Suleiman, presenting engagement letter and tablet to (left) trained Independent Monitor, Mummy Rekiya Mohammed, during the flag off ceremony of the distribution of engagement letters and tablets to trained Independent Monitors in Kogi State, Wednesday June 30th, 2021*

# **JULY**

## **Press Release**

### **NHGSFP: FG To Scale Up Pupils Benefiting from School Feeding -Farouq**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has said that the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme will be up scaled to accommodate additional 5 million pupils to the 9 million it is currently feeding.

She disclosed this during a courtesy call to Alhaji Ahmed Matane, Secretary to the Niger State Government in Minna.

Represented by Mr. Hezekiah Sunday, Assistant Director in the Ministry, she said, they were in the state to enumerate the pupils of the school feeding programme.

Farouq said, “we are here in Niger State on the strength of our partnership and mutual recognition of the need to do more on the NHGSFP, to bring more Nigerians under the umbrella of the Government’s social protection mechanism, to look at scaling up the numbers of the pupils benefiting from the Program as directed by His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari”.

She noted that the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme had employed over 100,000 small holder farmers participating in the value chain.

The Governor of Niger State Alhaji Abubakar Bello represented by Alhaji Ahmed Matane, assured that the state will continue to give the necessary support to NSIP.

He lauded the Ministry for its continuous partnership and support to the states through the provision of relief materials to internally displaced persons and flood victims.

He called on the Ministry to include primary four to six in order to give the children a sense of belonging and to motivate them to attend school.

According to him, “Feeding some and leaving others will create demotivation and conflicts in the school “.

The Focal Person for Niger State Hajia Amina Gu’ar said that about 2,087 schools in the state were currently participating in the school feeding programme out of 3,038 schools.

In a similar development the Minister represented by Mrs. DinatuWuyah paid a courtesy call to the Governor of Plateau State Simon lalong represented by Secretary to the Government (SSG) Dr. Danladi Atu on the enumeration exercise of the National Home-grown School Feeding Programme.

**Grace Osuji**

**For DD (Information)**

**2nd July, 2021**



*(1st Left) Fatima Bisalla Team Lead Niger, (2nd Left), Hezekiah Sunday zonal monitor Niger, (2nd Right) Niger State SSG, Alh Ahmed Matane, (1st Right), Bar Aminu Jummai Guar Focal Person (NSIP) Niger during a courtesy visit to the SSG's office Niger State*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Distributes Engagement Letters and Devices to Independent Monitors in Niger State**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has distributed 67 engagement letters and devices to trained independent monitors of the National Social Investment Programme in Niger State.

Represented by Safiya Sani Deputy Director Planning Research and Statistics, she said the mobile web-based application is called the Social Investment Management Information Systems (SIMIS).

“These devices are equipped with an application that will be used to report on monitoring activities of the trained independent monitors”.

“We can view reports submitted and see the NSIP performance indicators by state. This will enable the ministry to detect areas where there are challenges and provide greater visibility of activities happening in the field,” she said.

The Minister noted that each independent monitor was expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the NSIP.

Farouq said the monitors would be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000 for the duration of one year and they must meet up to 80 per cent of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend.

She said the ministry would disengage any monitor for misconduct or non-compliance with set guidelines and directive, urging them to discharge their duties with sense of patriotism, diligence and security.

In her remarks, Hajiya Amina Gu’ar, Focal Person for NSIP in Niger state, advised the monitors to see their task as important, urging them to be hard-working, sincere and focus and give in their best to justify their engagement.

She gave the assurance that the staff of NSIP would give the monitors maximum support for them to succeed and make their job easier.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**3rd July, 2021**



*(2nd Right) Rep. of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development Safiyya Sani, (3rd Right) Director NOA Hamzat Audu, (Middle) Focal Person for Niger State Hajiya Amina Gu'ar during the flag off of distribution of engagement letters and monitoring device to Independent Monitors in Niger State 3rd July, 2021.*

## **Press Release**

### **Calabar: FG Distributes 46 Engagement Letters and Monitoring Devices to Trained Independent Monitors.**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has flagged off the distribution of engagement letters and monitoring devices to trained Independent Monitors in Calabar, Cross River State at Ministry of Finance, Hope Waddel Conference Hall Government House, Calabar, on the 3rd of July, 2021.

The Honorable Minister who was represented at the flag off by the Director, Human Resources Management (HRM) of the Ministry, Babatunde Jaji, disclosed that the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), created by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 is mandated to lift citizens out of poverty through its various programmes such as N-Power, National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme (GEEP). The Programme is implemented in the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory.

Continuing, Babatunde said, the 46 Independent Monitors in Calabar are among the 5000 that were to be trained across the 36 States including FCT. However only 4,452 were successful trained nationwide.

“The devices to be used in monitoring the Programme are locally made in Nigeria with an Application called the Social Investment Management Information System (SIMIS) designed by an indigenous company. Using this Application the Ministry sees real time activities of the Independent Monitors on the field, see reports submitted and the NSIP performance indicator state by state. This will help the Ministry detect areas where there are challenges and essentially help the Ministry to deliver on the mandate, to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty” he said.

The Independent Monitors are expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the NSIP to ensure they achieve the desired result. However, the Ministry has methodically reviewed the modalities and design previous engagements to build a robust and proactive strategies to monitor the programmes. The engagement letters articulated the scope of work for the monitors which include; routine monitoring of NSIP in their assigned L.G.A and provision of evidence-based reports on findings amongst other things.

The Director HRM urged the monitors not to assign their responsibility to third parties, each monitor will be held accountable by the Ministry in the event of any misconduct.

He congratulated them and urged them to carry out the assignment with a sense of patriotism, diligence and sincerity, ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources to the vulnerable populace inclusive children, vulnerable youths and women.

Earlier, the Representative of the Focal Person of the NSIP in Calabar, Barrister Silvanus Iyang said the gathering is to put finishing touches to the effort of the Federal Government in respect to training IMs, to equip, strengthen them for better performance to achieve the desired objective of the NSIP Programme, in line with the vision of President Muhammadu Buhari in lifting citizens out of poverty.



The Programme Manager of NHGSFP, Gabriel Okulaja told the IMs to take the assignment seriously because the sustainability of it depends on the Team's ability to deliver on the mandate. He lauded the Ministry for its continued support in lifting Nigerians above the poverty line and improving on the living standards of the citizenry. He told the IMs to make good use of the opportunity given to them to attain greater height.

## **Nneka Anebeze**

### **SA Media to Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs.**

**July 3, 2021**



*Fourth left: Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Babatunde Jaji, Second left, Representative of the State Focal Person, Barrister Sylvanus Iyang, First right, Conditional Cash Transfer Chairperson, Godwin Achoda, Third right NHGSFP Chairperson Gabriel Okulaja, Third left NOA Assime Usetu Ogban and others during the IMs Flag Off and Distribution of Engagement Letters and Tablets in Ministry of Finance Government, Hall Calabar, Cross River State July 3, 2021.*

## **Press Release**

### **Federal Government Flags Off the Engagement of Stakeholders Enumeration of Beneficiaries in Borno State**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has flagged off the Stakeholders Engagement and enumeration of beneficiaries of the NHGSFP in Borno State.

Farouq who was represent by the Director of Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, in the Ministry, flagged off the event at Government House Multipurpose Hall, Borno State.

The National Social Investment Programme was launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 to recognize the social challenges in the country, decided to innovatively take proactive and decisive measures to fighting the effect of poverty and its attending consequences, following the consultations and research, he launched the implementation of the NSIP is in four unique clusters that are integrated to provide impact. They are: the Conditional Cash Transfer CCT), the N-Power, the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) and Government Entrepreneur Eurogame.

The Minister added that the NSIP is strategically designed to fully involved all stakeholders especially the State Government, were designed specifically to target the sections of the vulnerable Nigerians that include the Youths, elderly persons, widows, poorest of the poor, children and micro business persons.

Nine (9) Million's pupils are currently benefiting from one free nutritious meal a day during the school term over 5, nationwide. She noted that the Ministry now has the mandate of reaching an additional 5 million pupils by 2023.

According to her with 100,000 cooks employed and more than 100,000 small holder farmers participating in this value chain, the NHGSFP is a serious potential for the Social- economic development and its needs to be strengthened scaled up and sustained nationwide.

She commended the State Government for its commitment in implementing the NHGSFP, while expressing delight over the Team as well as the key Stakeholders to do more to ensure more children benefit from the program. They include the National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Education, National Orientation Agency, National Population Commission, National Youth service Corps, UBEC and state Education Boards are working jointly and closely to verify the existing numbers of beneficiaries on the programme and update the records for better effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

Earlier the representative of the Governor of Borno State Chief of Staff, Professor Isa Marte Hussainni said that education is and will always be one of the top most priority of his administration and as such in the budget for 2021 allocation, education sector is topmost because it has rejuvenated the performance and enhancement of primary, secondary and tertiary levels, adding that National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme has greatly increased the pupil's enrolment population in schools.

Adding that that the interventions have gone down to the targeted groups and has yielded great results, hence the need for upgrading and sustained the upliftment of education in Borno State and the country as whole. ' Borno State is very lucky to have special consideration from the Federal

Government' s NSIP and a caring President, and all the interventions are geared towards reducing abject poverty and bringing hope to the common man.

According to him, he said the state has immensely benefitted from the interventions and many people have started their livelihood afresh, he therefore called on the critical stakeholders in the education sector to put their hands together to chant a new course to change the narrative.

The Focal Person of the NHGSFP in the state, Hajia Aisha Waziri, there are five ways to increase the number of persons that have been fed and also how to engage the women and the vendors so that Borno State can get more benefit from the Programme.

Continuing, she said the feeding Programme has boosted enrolment figures, teaching, learning experiences of children and boosted the livelihood of the women who are engaged in cooking make bigger and better. She appreciated the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, and President Muhammadu Buhari for creating the awareness, and that no child will be left behind.

Other present at the event were: - Mohammed Alfa the Consultant, Ahaji Kabiru Wanori Commissioner for ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs among other dignitaries.

**Adeyemo Felicia**  
**Chief Information Officer**  
**For: DD(Information)**  
**July 7, 2021**



*Fourth right, the Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Ahaji, third right, Focal Person of the NHGSFP in Borno State, Hajjia Aisha Waziri, fift right, Representative of the Governor of Borno State, Chief of Staff, Professor Isa Marte among other dignitaries.*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Engages Independent Monitors in Plateau State**

The Federal Government through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has, engaged 67 independent monitors in Plateau State to track the various packages from the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) for the vulnerable members of the society in line with President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty.

Speaking at the event for the distribution of engagement letters and Tablets to the trained independent monitors in Jos, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq said the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) was created by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 with the mandate of lifting citizens out of poverty through a number of social interventions. She said the programmes include the job creation programme N-POWER, National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCT) and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP).

Represented by the Deputy Director Planning Research and Statistics Safiya Sani, she said, "We flagged off the training of 5000 Independent Monitors for the National Social Investment Programme in Abuja on Thursday 4th February 2021. The training was carried out across the Country from February 2021 to April 2021".

Each Independent monitor is expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme, she said.

"They will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80 per cent of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend," she said.

The minister warned the independent monitors not to assign their responsibilities to third parties and urged them to carry out the assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence and sincerity.

She added that, "The Ministry reserves the right to disengage an Independent Monitor for misconduct or noncompliance with set guidelines and directives. I hereby urge you to carry out this assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence, and sincerity.

Earlier in her address, the Executive Assistant to the Governor/Focal Person, National Social Investment program, Dr. Sumaye Hamza noted that taking into cognizance the quantum of intervention programs by Government and the number of beneficiaries, the need for monitoring became imperative. "We are all aware that monitoring helps to improve performance by tracking result. At this level, the purpose of monitoring is to track implementation and outputs to understand the effectiveness of NSIP generally.

"The outcome of monitoring will shape future plan through using lessons learnt, successes and even gaps".

**Grace Osuji**

**For:DD (Information)**

**7th July, 2021**



*The Representative of the Honorable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Deputy Director Humanitarian Affairs Department, Dr. Abubakar Suleiman and an independent Monitor receiving a tablet and engagement letter during the flag off of the Programme in Plateau State 6th July, 2021.*

## **Press Release**

### **NHGSFP: FG Engages Stakeholders for Enumeration of Beneficiaries in Federal Capital Territory**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has engaged stakeholders for the enumeration exercise of the beneficiaries of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in Abuja.

Represented by the Deputy Director Social Development, Mr. Emmanuel Udoh, the Minister, at a courtesy visit to the Honourable Minister of State FCT Dr. Ramatu Tijani, said that, "In 2016, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari recognizing the social challenges in our country decided to innovatively take proactive and decisive measures in fighting the effects of absolute poverty and its attending consequences. As a result of due consultations and research, he launched the implementation of the National Social Investment Program (NSIP) which is made up of four unique clusters that are integrated to provide the maximum impact. In its implementation, the NSIP is strategically designed to fully involve all stakeholders most especially the State Governments.

She mentioned that National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Education, National Orientation Agency, National Population Commission, National Youth Service Corp, UBEC and State Education boards are working jointly and closely to verify the existing numbers of beneficiaries on the program and update the records for better effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

She pointed out that over nine million pupils currently benefit from one meal a day during the school term in over 53,000 schools nationwide. With over 100,000 cooks employed, and more than 100,000 small holder farmers participating in this value chain, the NHGSFP is a serious potential for socio-economic development and it needs to be strengthened, scaled up and sustained nationwide.

The representative of the Honourable Minister of State FCT Dr. Ramatu Tijani, Focal Person Federal Capital Territory Chinwendu Eteyen Amba assured that FCT will cooperate with the Ministry and other stakeholders to ensure that the exercise is a success.

**Grace Osuji**

**DD (Information)**

**7th July, 2021**



*(Front Row) (3rd Right) Zonal Monitor, NHGSFP FCT, Udo Emmanuel, (Middle) Fct Focal Person on NSIP, ChiwenduEteyen Amba, (1st Right) Ag. Director, NOA, FCT, Comfort Ogundamola, (2nd Right) Pm Statistics NBS, Ali Ogulu Joseph, (Back Row) (1st Left) Training and Communication Officer, FCT SIP, Lanre Ajayi, (1st Right) FCT Consultant Representing NETRIX Solutions, Benedict Ezeoku, and others, during the Stakeholders Engagement on Enumeration of Beneficiaries and Scaling up of the Program in FCT, on 7th, July, 2021. In Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **Press Release**

### **14 Million Pupils To Benefit From The National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme- Farouq**

Hajiya Sadiya Farouq, the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development says 14 million primary school pupils will benefit from the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) by 2023.

Farouq disclosed this on Thursday at a stakeholders' engagement on enumeration of beneficiaries and scaling up of the programme in Damaturu, Yobe.

She said presently, over 9 million primary school pupils were enrolled in the programme across the country, adding that the ministry had an approval to enroll additional 5 million pupils by 2023.

The Minister, represented by the North-East Monitor, Alhaji Ali Grema, said there were over 100, 000 cooks engaged under the scheme in the country, and over 100,000 small holder farmers participating in the value chain.

“The NHGSFP was designed as a multifaceted intervention to drive school enrollment, boost nutrition of the pupils, support local production of food and encourage employment and income generation.

“It is aimed at the provision of nutritious meal to all pupils in public primary schools in class one to three to achieve this objective,” Farouq said.

She said the engagement was aimed at capturing new pupils under the second batch of the programme as pupils on the first batch would be laid off by September when they would be in class four.

The Minister commended the state government for its support and cooperation for the successful implementation of the programme.

Earlier, the state's Programme Manager, Hajiya Fatsuma Accama, said there were 106, 797 pupils enrolled in the scheme across the 17 local government areas of the state.

She said 215 cooks were engaged under the programme and they were provided with kitchen utensils by the state government.

Accama said the state government had also funded monitoring and validation of the cooks, provided pupils with bowls and spoons and ensured that its nutrition committee designed meals with approval of the national office.

Participants of the engagement included the Programme Consultant, officials of state Universal Basic Education Board, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, among others.

**Blessing Ejeagha**

**For: DD(Information)**

**9th July, 2021**



## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Distributes Letters Devices to Independent Monitor schools in Nassarawa State**

The Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has distributed engagement letters and tablets to 56 trained Independent Monitors to track the various packages the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) in Nassarawa States.

The Minister was represented at the occasion by her Technical Advisor Mal Abdullahi Usman and the team leader, Deputy Director Planning and Research of the ministry, Hajiya Safiya Sani.

Speaking at the event for the distribution of engagement letters and Tablets to the trained independent monitors in Lafia, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development , Sadiya Umar Farouq said the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) was created by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 with the mandate of lifting citizens out of poverty through a number of social interventions. She said the programmes include the job creation programme N-POWER, National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCT) and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP).

“We flagged off the training of 5000 Independent Monitors for the National Social Investment Programme in Abuja on Thursday 4th February 2021. The training was carried out across the Country from February 2021 to April 2021”.

Each Independent monitor is expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme, she said.

“They will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80 per cent of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend,” she said.

The minister warned the independent monitors not to assign their responsibilities to third parties and urged them to carry out the assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence and sincerity.

She added that, “The Ministry reserves the right to disengage an Independent Monitor for misconduct or noncompliance with set guidelines and directives. I hereby urge you to carry out this assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence, and sincerity”.

The Nasarawa State Governor, Engr Abdullahi A Sule represented by his SSA on Humanitarian Services and Focal Person, National Social Investment Programmes, Hon. Imran Usman Jibril expressed gratitude towards the effort of the of Federal Government.

Mrs. Priscila Gondo Alao, Director National Orientation Agency urged the independent Monitors not to cut corners and to give factual reports.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**9th July, 2021**



*The representative of the Honourable Minister Abdullahi Usman and a beneficiary during the distribution of engagement letters and devices to independent monitors in Nassarawa State, 8th July, 2021.*

## **Press Release**

### **NSIP: FG Distributes Engagement Letters and Devices to Independent Monitors in Benue State**

The Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has distributed engagement letters and tablets to trained Independent Monitors to track the various packages of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) in Benue States.

The representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Mr. Iorwa Apera, who is the National Coordinator of NASSCO, said the Ministry is repositioning the NSIP in line with the Federal Government's commitment to lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty.

She charged them to consider themselves the eyes and ears for the effective implementation of the programme while admonishing them not to assume the role of the Implementation Team in the discharge of their duties.

She said the programmes include the job creation programme N-POWER, National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCT) and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP).

"We flagged off the training of 5000 Independent Monitors for the National Social Investment Programme in Abuja on Thursday 4th February 2021. The training was carried out across the Country from February 2021 to April 2021".

Each Independent monitor is expected to monitor a designated number of beneficiaries of the National Social Investment Programme, she said.

"They will be paid a monthly stipend of N30,000, and they must meet up to 80 per cent of their deliverables monthly to be eligible for their stipend," she said.

The minister warned the independent monitors not to assign their responsibilities to third parties and urged them to carry out the assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence and sincerity.

She added that, "The Ministry reserves the right to disengage an Independent Monitor for misconduct or noncompliance with set guidelines and directives. I hereby urge you to carry out this assignment with utmost sense of patriotism, diligence, and sincerity".

The Benue State Governor Samuel Ortom, represented by the Focal Person on the National Social Investment Programme, Terris Damsa charged them to make judicious use of the opportunity.

He noted that their job is a strategic one as they will be helping, through the feedback that they provide, towards the evaluation of Programme performance, compliance, appraising the policy environment and gauging the level of delivery for the bouquet of programmes under the National Social Investments Programme. He challenged them to ensure that their aggregate performance would approximate the intended purposes, outputs and desired outcomes of the NSIP.

**Grace Osuji**  
**For: DD (Information)**  
**11th July, 2021**



*(2nd Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, National Coordinator NASSCO, IorwaApera, (2nd Left) Benue State Focal Person, Terri Damsa, (1st Left) DD PRS, Safiya Sani, during the Distribution of Engagement letters and Monitoring devices to Independent Monitors in Benue State, on 10th July, 2021. In Markurdi.*

## **Press Release**

### **NHGSFP: FG Commences Enumeration Of 196,873 Pupils in Nasarawa State**

The Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has commenced the enumeration of 196,873 Pupils in Nasarawa States.

The representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Abdullahi Usman Technical Adviser to the Honourable Minister, said, "the exercise is aimed at putting faces to names and identities to the children by taking their details pictures and biometrics".

She explained that, "over nine million pupils benefit from one free nutritious meal a day during school term nationwide, and now we have the mandate to reach an additional five million pupils by 2023".

"We are here on a verification exercise. We have been feeding pupils since 2016 but the data we have been dealing with is actually names of pupils sent by all the states.

"The idea of the exercise is to prove that those we are feeding are actually human beings," she said. She added that the NHGSFP as directed by President Muhammadu Buhari, is to scale up the number of the pupils benefiting from the programme so as to bring more pupils under the umbrella of the government's social protection mechanism.

"Talking specifically about Nasarawa sir, as we speak today, we have 196,873 pupils that are being fed in a total of 1,203 schools," she said.

Continuing, she admitted that with over 100, 000 cooks employed and more than 100, 000 small holder farmers participating in the value chain, the NHGSFP had become a serious potential for scion-economic development and needs to be strengthened, scaled up and sustained nationwide.

Responding, Gov. Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule expressed gratitude to President Buhari for introducing the NHGSFP intervention aimed at assisting the poor through the provision of one nutritious meal to pupils in public primary schools across the country.

"And I know that Mr President will be the happiest if the target people who are expected to benefit from it are benefiting from it without anyone hijacking it along the way.

"As long as it goes all the way to the targeted people who are really in need of this assistance, I think all of us will be happier," he said.

He then assured of his administration's support and commitment to ensure that the programme succeeds in the state.

**Grace Osuji**

**For: DD (Information)**

**16th July, 2021**



*(Middle right) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Abdullahi Usman, (Middle left) His Excellency the Executive Governor of Nassarawa State Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule and the State Coordinator National Orientation Agency Mrs. Priscilla GondoAluor and others during the Nassarawa State enumeration exercise 15th July, 2021.*

# **AUGUST**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Katsina State: FG to audit School Feeding Programme**

FIC Report (Katsina State) – The Federal Government has embarked an audit of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) in Katsina State.

Alhaji Mustapha Bara’u, NHGSFP Programme Manager in Katsina State made this known during the launch of the exercise that the enumeration targeted 833,957 pupils across 2,777 public primary schools in the state.

Bara’u said Corps members will assist in validating the data of pupils and cooks engaged in the school feeding programme in the state, adding that “It is a mandate of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to validate this data to make sure they see the children and the cooks to capture all their data,” he said.

Earlier in his welcome address, Malam Samaila Suleiman, NYSC Schedule Officer for NHGSFP in Katsina State, said the school feeding programme was reintroduced to encourage children roaming the streets to go back to school that such would help in tackling insecurity in the country.

According to him, “President Muhammadu Buhari reintroduced this programme to also increase employment opportunities in various localities, because many people will be engaged in the exercise which is aimed at encouraging our local farmers to produce more as the government also patronise their goods for the school feeding programme,” he said.

He urged the headmasters of benefitting primary schools to study the forms provided for the enumeration so as to avoid any form of mistake on the forms while filling.

NYSC in Katsina State had recently trained 192 Corps members for the enumeration exercise.

**Blessing Ejeagha**  
**For: DD (Information)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021.**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Umar Farouq Enjoins Senior Citizens to participate in maiden dialogue**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has urged older persons in the country to make inputs and participate in the maiden dialogue with National Senior Citizens.

In her address during the maiden dialogue with the Senior Citizens Forum held on Monday in Abuja, the minister said that the federal government under the President Muhammadu Buhari administration has developed the National Policy on Ageing and also established the National Senior Citizens Centre to meet the challenges of older persons in the country.

Umar Farouq stated that hunger, poverty as well as the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated government's decision to tailor efforts at including the vulnerable population.

"In developing the National Policy on Ageing and establishing the National Senior Citizens Center, the government of His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, has ensured, that the very essential institutions, systems and mechanisms to facilitate the quality of life, economic and social participation of older persons are guaranteed and that the challenges of older persons and the opportunities that accrue from meeting these challenges are integrated into Nigeria's development plans.

"I am delighted to say that with the establishment of the National Senior Citizens Center, the concerns of older persons are no longer handled in a discretionary and arbitrary manner but are now addressed comprehensively, as detailed in the National Senior Citizens Act and the National Policy on Ageing, which is soon to be operationalized by NSCC. The now instituted Older Persons Safety-net Program which targets very poor and vulnerable older persons, attest to the commitment of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration to age-inclusive development."

Earlier, the Director General of the National Senior Citizens Centre Dr. Emem Omokaro applauded the Senior Citizens for their resilience in the face of hardship, suffering, neglect and abuse over the years. She also thanked the Minister for her passionate efforts.

"Today we have the National Policy on Ageing and the Senior Citizens Centre. The next thing is that we need to talk. This dialogue is important so that senior citizens will know their rights and what is being handed to them by the law. There is no way we can identify the needs of senior citizens and cater to those needs as directed by the act without forging an engagement mechanism".

Senior Citizens representing various categories including the urban and rural, the military and paramilitary as well as the public and private sectors attended the dialogue which seeks to find out the major problems facing the elderly as enumerated by them.

There were goodwill messages from the Chairman Governing Board National Senior Citizens Centre AVM Mohammed A. Mohammed (rtd.) President, Nigerian Union of Pensioners Comrade Godwin Abumusi, AVM Konye Robert Ekezie, Chairman Abuja branch for Senior Citizens from the Armed Forces, Amb. Usman Saki representing seniors from the Diplomatic community, the WHO Country Representative Dr Walter Kazadi and Olori Esther Oni Ashafa for the Older Women and Traditional Institutions.

The Senior Citizens Centre and the National Policy on Ageing were established to take care of the social welfare of older persons including leisure, health care, pension, rehabilitation, income security, supplementary income, skills development among others social protection safety nets.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

SA MEDIA

3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021.





## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **School Feeding: FG Commences Biometrics Capturing In Borno State**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has commenced the capturing of biometrics of primary school's pupils to facilitate effectively the enumeration of beneficiaries of the NHGSFP in Borno State.

Farouq who was represented by Afiyatu Bello Gaya, Higher Senior Assistant Social Welfare Officer in Social Development of the Humanitarian Ministry said the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), was launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 to recognize the social challenges in the country, decided to innovatively take proactive and decisive measures to fighting the effect of poverty and its attending consequences, following the consultations and research, he launched the implementation of the NSIP in four unique clusters that are integrated to provide impact. They are: the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), the N-Power, the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) and Government Euteneuer Programme (GEEP).

The Minister added that the NSIP is strategically designed to fully involved all stakeholders especially the State Government, were designed specifically to target the section of the vulnerable Nigerians that include the Youths, elderly persons, widows, poorest of the poor, children and micro business persons.

Nine (9) Million's pupils are currently benefiting from one free nutritious meal a day during the school term nationwide. She noted that the Ministry now has the mandate of reaching an additional 5 million pupils by 2023.

According to her with 100,000 cooks employed and more than 100,000 small holder farmers participating in this value chain, the NHGSFP is a serious potential for the Social- economic development and it needs to be strengthened, scaled up and sustained nationwide.

She commended the State Government for its commitment in implementing the NHGSFP, while expressing delight over the Team as well as the key Stakeholders to do more to ensure more children benefit from the program. They include the National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Education, National Orientation Agency, National Population Commission, National Youth service Corps, UBEC and State Education Boards, are working jointly and closely to verify the existing numbers of beneficiaries on the programme and update the records for better effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

Earlier the representative of the Governor of Borno State Hajiya Amina Katagum who also doubled as the Focal Person for the State, said that the capturing of the pupils in public primary schools primary 1 to 3 across the state provide nutritious meals for them, adding that the state is targeting about 642,500 pupils at the 1,000 Housing Estate Primary school in Konduga LGA of the state.

The headmaster of the school, Hauwa Yusuf Balami, said the feeding scheme has made pupils to be punctual in school. "Most of the pupils here are from vulnerable families that lack feeding which has made a lot of them to stay back at school, but with the introduction of the feeding Programme, we have a greater turn out. We have already have about 827 pupils who are currently benefiting from the enrollment list

of 1600, and is still counting and we hope the Federal Government and State Government would extend it to primary 4 to 6” she said.

A primary 1A Teacher, Aisha Abubakar, said the pupils are being fed every day in the school by the authorities with variety of food; this was also confirmed by Ba’shu a pupil in the school.

**Adeyemo Felicia**  
**Chief Information Officer**  
**For: DD (Information)**  
**August 5, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG commences training of Masters Trainers on Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has commenced the training of Master Trainers for Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme GEEP, in Abuja.

According to the Minister, “The two-day training course intends to train the master trainers and to provide an understanding and insight to the processes, drivers, threats and opportunities associated with the core GEEP activities”.

“The training is expected to educate the Master trainers about the newly introduced structure of top-bottom representation from the Federal through State and Local Government levels respectively, as well as inform them on the roles and responsibilities of the COMO’s on how to register and enlighten the target beneficiaries on how to access the GEEP loans in furtherance to help eradicate poverty, generate employment throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria”.

The Minister said that, “FMHADMSD entered partnership with this agency to appoint the Community Orientation and Mobilization officers (COMO’s) as the – “GEEP Local Government Desk Officers” at all the 774 local government levels areas across the 36 states and the FCT. The role of the desk officers will be to:

- a) Sensitize communities on the GEEP programme
- b) Register interested beneficiaries of TraderMoni, MarketMoni and FarmerMoni
- c) Collect and collate necessary data for the programme
- d) Provide necessary feedback to the programme coordinators at State and Federal Levels
- e) Encourage active participation of the programme
- f) Uphold the mandate of the programme and lead with honesty, fairness under conditions of oath”.

She explained that, “The National Social Investment Programme is an initiative that is designed to give collateral and interest free credits to poor and vulnerable people identified at the bottom of the economic pyramid including persons with disability.

She said, “it is the ministry’s great pleasure to formally announce a collaborative partnership with the National Orientation Agency as one of the partners in implementation of the NSIP programmes since inception. In its bid to consistently raise awareness to positively change attitudes, values, and behaviors”.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary Bashir Nura Alkali represented by Director Human Resources Department, Babatunde Jaji, in his overview said the objective of the Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme is to develop skills that will strengthen the newly existing structure for successful implementation.

“FMHADMSD will represent the federal level, the office of the focal person will represent the State Government and Community Orientation and Mobilization Officers will represent the GEEP Local Government desk Officer in order to create a value chain of supervision, institutionalization, coordination and facilitate the successful implementation of the programme.

He added that the Honourable Minister will open the first part of the training of the Master trainers represented from the 36 states of the Federation. While the second

part of the training will be a step-down training where the master trainers NOA Staff are in turn expected to train the COMO'S in their respective states on the roles as GEEP Desk Officers.

The Director General of the National Orientation Agency Garuba Abari urged the Master trainers to listen carefully and ask questions on the grey areas in order to avoid any hitch in implementing the program in the grassroots.

**Grace Osuji**

Principal Information Officer

For: DD (Information)

7<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



*(Middle Row) (9th Left) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (5th Right) The Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Director HRM, Abdulrahman BabatundeJaji, (11th Left) National Coordinator for NSIP, Engr Umar B Bindir, (8th Right) Director General, National Orientation Agency, Dr Garba Abari, and others, during the GEEP 2.0 Training of The Master Trainers, on the 6th August, 2021. In Abuja. Photo Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Monarch lauds FG over National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme**

The Emir of Maru in Zamfara, Alhaji Abubakar Maigari has lauded the Federal Government for initiating the National Home-Grown Feeding Programme for primary schools.

The Emir said the programme had increased pupils' enrollment in schools significantly.

Maigari made the commendation on Tuesday while receiving officials from the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, who paid a courtesy visit on him.

"Based on the information and record available to us, the programme has increased pupils' enrollment.

"In fact, some children are taking themselves to schools without even informing their parents.

"I want to use this medium on behalf of the entire people of Maru emirate to commend President Muhammadu Buhari for initiating the programme.

"I want to appreciate our daughter, Sadiya Farouk, Minister of humanitarian affairs, disaster management and social development, for her efforts at ensuring the programme reached all targeted beneficiaries across the country," the royal father said.

The traditional ruler urged all stakeholders to support the programme to ensure its sustainability and success.

"Education for the future of our children requires every body's support and cooperation," he said.

He also urged parents and guardians to ensure taking the education responsibility of their children.

"The teachers and food vendors as well as other officials in charge of feeding the children should ensure justice and fairness," he added.

Earlier, the Assistant Legal Adviser of the ministry, Mr Ibrahim Modibbo, who led the officials to the palace, said the visit was part of the validation of the ongoing enumeration exercise of the programme taking place across Zamfara.

Modibbo noted that the reason for the enumeration exercise was to address challenges of the programme, adding; "we are satisfied with what we saw in the centers so far visited.

"We noticed inadequate number of pupils in some schools and we observed that the feeding has stopped since return of schools after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ejeagha Blessing. U.**

Assistant Chief information officer

7<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **School Feeding: FG targets 1,113 million out of School Pupils, 200 Corps Members engaged in Bauchi**

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD) Sadiya Umar Farouq has engaged 200 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members to conduct an enumeration exercise to capture One Million, One Hundred and Thirteen (1,133,000) pupils across primary schools in Bauchi State under the Home-Grown School feeding Programme (NHGSFP). Engaging the stakeholders and the corps members as enumerators is the most innovative way to manage the National Social Investment Program (NSIP), especially the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program (NHGSFP). “We have resolved that having the biometric data of all the beneficiaries of this program would create an avenue for better program planning. “Implementation would create more room for enlisting more beneficiaries. This would also foster transparency and accountability in line with government regulations.

The stakeholders include; the National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Education, National Orientation Agency, National Population Commission. Others are National Youth Service Corps, UBEC, state Education Board are all jointly working closely to verify the existing numbers of beneficiaries on the Programme and update the record for better effectiveness.

The representative of the Honourable Minister, who also doubled as the Team Lead of the Programme in Bauchi State, Gidado Garba Abubakar of the the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD) said that the enumeration programme is aimed at ascertaining the actual number of the beneficiaries of the programme in the State.

He assured that the programme will continue to be funded by the Ministry as long as the administration remains in power, calling on the Officials designated to for the running of the programme to synergize for its success. Continuing he said the beneficiaries will be known statistically to improve the quality of food that will be served the pupils.

Earlier the Special Adviser to the Bauchi State Governor on NSIP, Hajjiya Amina Katungm at the Stakeholders engagement on enumeration of beneficiaries and scaling up of the school feeding programme in Bauchi, said that the enumeration is expedient in order to ascertain the number of the beneficiaries of the programme, to ensure adequate supply of food items in the state. She said the that the programme has suffered some setbacks in the past due to inadequate statistics that made it difficult to ascertain the numbers of beneficiaries in all the schools, that the enumeration exercise will remove the bottlenecks militating against the success of the programme, urging the stakeholders to cooperate with the official to make the programme a huge success.

#### **Adeyemo Felicia**

Chief Information Officer

For: DD (Information)

7<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



*Enumeration and capturing of pupils in Anguwar Pry Sch, Bauchi State (NHGSFP)*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG Commences National Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey**

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development have announced the official kickoff of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Survey.

The MPI Survey was virtually launched on Tuesday by the Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq.

The Minister said on the occasion, that Nigeria has joined many countries that have moved towards improving the efficiency of their decision-making processes through the evidence generated by MPI.

“The consensus around the use of the MPI emerges from different approaches and global agreements, including the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs), which has been replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to cover the multiple aspects of deprivation at the core of poverty and their inter-linkages.

“It is therefore an honour to join other strong voices to highlight the importance of multi-stakeholder engagements on poverty eradication, zero hunger, quality education, climate action and inclusion, all of which are central to the evidence generated by the MPI”.

Umar Farouq noted that the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration has successfully empowered more than 10 million people out of extreme poverty through the many initiatives of Government, including the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), GEEP, N-power, NHGSFP and many more.

“This aspiration takes into cognizance the country’s current estimated population of about 200 million people, as well as the need for better evidence for programming.

“The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development therefore, stand ready to collaborate with different government agencies, donor organizations and private investors to shape policies and drive real impact in the use of MPI data to foster government accountability to citizens through improved multi-sectoral interventions targeted at the root of deprivations.

“In addition, the ministry will collaborate closely with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to conduct regular multidimensional poverty measurements alongside monetary measures at both national and sub-national levels to ascertain the true poverty status of Nigeria and use the findings to shape policy and programming”.

The Ministry will partner with private sector actors using the special purpose vehicle of Social Investments to create a National and State poverty map/tracker which will help provide progress towards poverty reduction goals.

It will also collaborate with the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning using MPI data to improve budget allocations by sector and State in order to target individuals, communities and areas needing dire attention.

The minister thanked the World Bank Group, UNDP, OPHI, UNICEF, the High Commission of Canada, and other bilateral and multi-lateral bodies for their support towards eradicating extreme poverty by 2030.

Distinguished guests who gave goodwill messages at the virtual formal kick-off of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey include the Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila who was represented by Hon. Sanusi Garba Rikiji, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Hajiya Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed, Minister of State, Finance, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba, the High Commissioner of Canada to Nigeria, Country Representative of UNDP Mr. Mohaammed Yahaya, UNICEF, Director OPHI, Statistician General National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Dr. Yemi Kale, Special Adviser to the President on Economic Matters Ambassador Yemi Dipeolu and Sabine Alkire from the University of Oxford and the National Coordinator, National Social Safety Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO) Mr IorwaApera.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

SA MEDIA

10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Home Grown Feeding program: FG deploys task force to Ebonyi State**

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has deployed a task force to Ebonyi state to unravel and tackle some of the fallouts from the school feeding program.

This is geared towards strengthening and institutionalizing the program introduced under the President Muhammadu Buhari led administration.

Speaking in Abuja on Monday, the Honorable Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq said that the verification and enrolment drive across the country is targeted at not just the schools or benefiting pupils but also the vendors to ensure an efficient operation.

As schools prepare for the new academic session, the Minister said, “We have embarked on an enumeration exercise with a view to verifying the existing data of the benefitting pupils on the program as provided by each benefiting state, update our database with accurate data and ultimately scale up the program to reach more beneficiaries across the Nation.”

To ensure an all-round efficiency, the Ministry has continued to partner with all relevant agencies and parastatals to ensure adequate sensitization, data capturing and execution.

“We have therefore devised this as a multi sectoral intervention with partners such as the the State National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP) officers, National Orientation Agency, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), National Population Commission of Nigeria, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and Universal Basic Education across the states’, Farouk said.

The FG through the Ebonyi State Coordinator, Sunday Mbam revealed that 95m Naira was spent in the year under review with 64,301 pupils as beneficiaries.

Mbam expressed optimism that the exercise will totally tackle and address the challenges confronting the programme in the state as well as open a vista to accommodate more schools.

Plans are in top gear to enrol additional 5 million pupils into its National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme by 2023.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

SA MEDIA

16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG PLEDGES COMMITMENT FOR THE VULNERABLE MIGRANTS AND RETURNEES IN NORTHERN NIGERIA – FAROUQ**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has pledged the Federal Government's commitment for the vulnerable migrants and the returnees in Northern Nigeria, impacted by the covid-19 pandemic. Farouq disclosed this during the Launching of the Swiss Project titled 'providing immediate socio-economic relief to vulnerable returnees impacted by the covid-19 in Northern Nigeria'.

The project stipulates that the Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to tackling the emerging issues and challenges that may confront the protection and livelihood of returnees and potential migrants. The Minister stated that measures were put in place to contain the spread of covid-19 pandemic across borders and domestic restriction on movement which led to the disruption in the food supply chain, adding that the vulnerable group included: the elderly, chronically ill, people with disabilities, women and child-headed households, unemployed youths, refugees and migrants who have lost access to livelihood opportunities, to mitigate the immediate impact of the pandemic, the federal government of Nigeria, through the Ministry launched and extended various financial assistance initiatives for business families and individual, e.g. rural women cash grant programme modified the NHGSFP to ensure children were able to have nutritious meal, while restricted to their homes during the lockdown. Continuing she said the Ministry in line with the Ministry's mandate to develop humanitarian policies and provide effective coordination of National International Humanitarian interventions, the Ministry embarked on resource mobilization to adequately address the growing humanitarian needs. The government of Swaziland responded to support in providing immediate socio-economic relief to vulnerable migrants impacted by covid-19 in Northern Nigeria. The project is also designed to complement the actions funded under the UN covid-19 Basket Fund by focusing on the returned and potential migrants residing in Northern Nigeria with beneficiaries drawn from Yobe, Kano, Kastina, Zamfara and Jigawa. The focus on "Leave No One Behind" principle of SDG's in carrying out humanitarian interventions is equally geared towards strengthening sustainable reintegration of returnees while discouraging irregular migrants. The Representative of the Ambassador, Embassy of Swaziland, Ojoma Ali, has pledged its commitment in some of its funding to support Nigeria government agencies in the fight against the pandemic and its consequences. It also mobilized financial resources to support the UN covid-19 basket fund, supported an initiative by the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development in delivering the palliatives to the vulnerable groups in covid-19 urban hotspots via World Food Programme. He said the International Solidarity and Cooperation are key in tackling the challenges in covid-19.

The International Organization for Migrants (IOM), Franzt Celestine, said the outbreak and spread of virus have not only created a global health crisis, but has also disrupted economic activities and everyday life, affecting mostly those already in vulnerable situations including migrants. Complementing existing programme, including EU-IOM Joint Initiative for migrants Protection and Reintegration and the DFID funded reintegration programme, this project seeks to address the psychosocial and socio-economic needs of vulnerable returned migrants and potential migrants in the Northern states of Nigeria by

providing immediate relief. He added that the project has been designed to align with the Federal Government of Nigeria's priorities and will ensure the needs for women, men, girls, and boys are considered throughout the project.

**Adeyemo Felicia**  
**Chief Information Officer**  
**For: DD (Information)**

**17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.**



*(3rd Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (2nd Left) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Left) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (2nd Right) Chief of Mission, IOM, Mr Frantz Celestin, Representative of the Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland, Ojoma Ali, during the Official Launch of The Project `Providing Immediate Socio-Economic Relief To Vulnerable Migrant Impacted by Covid-19 in Northern States of Nigeria`, on the 12th August, 2021. in Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NHGSFP: FG enumerates 560,000 pupils in Niger**

The Federal Government has begun biometric data capturing of 560,000 pupils from 2,632 primary schools benefitting from the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) in Niger state.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Sadiya Umar Farouq represented by Hajiya Fatima Bisallah, Team Leader of the enumeration exercise from the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, disclosed this during the monitoring exercise in Minna.

According to the Minister, the essence of the capturing and enumeration of pupils was to ensure transparency, accountability and sustainability of the programme “.

“This is part of the FMHADMSD mandate of striving that every Nigerian in need receives the support they need through our social protection mechanisms. So as you can see the NSIP are designed for people who need that additional support and boost to ensure they can participate fully in our collective nation building efforts”.

She said the exercise was a physical verification to capture and get accurate biometric data of pupils and cooks in the state in order to scale up the programme to include more pupils.

“The exercise is to know the exact figure of the pupils benefitting from the programme as well as have their data base to enable us scale up the number of pupils,.” she said.

She said the ministry was collaborating with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to engage their staff and corp members.

She added that the security challenges in part of the state would not hinder the exercise as appropriate measures had been put in place to cover the no-go-areas.

Also, Mallam Hamza Audu, the state Director of NOA in Niger, said the agency has fully sensitised stakeholders and communities to ensure the success of the exercise in the state.

Mrs. Amina Gu’ar, Focal Person of Social Investment Programme in Niger (SIP), expressed satisfaction with the quality of food being served to pupils by the vendors.

She said that about 560,000 pupils from 3,032 schools were benefitting from the programme in the state with over 5000 persons engaged as food vendors.

**Grace Osuji**

**Principal Information Officer**

**For: DD (Information)**

**17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG intensifies school feeding program in Ondo, Osun States**

The Federal Government has intensified efforts to ensure an accurate and comprehensive coverage of primary schools in Ondo State in its Home-Grown Feeding program in public schools.

With 108,842 primary school pupils already in its data base, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development stressed the need for a continued capturing exercise.

In Osun State, the enumeration of 95,983 pupils across the primary schools under the school feeding program has also commenced.

Speaking through the Ondo State Team lead, Kemisola Olasetemi, the FG explained that the biometric capturing of the pupils would help in data management and efficient implementation.

Olasetemi confirmed that the exercise will be an ongoing process as she revealed that N1.8b has been spent in the last three years to cater to pupils in Ondo state under the NHGSF program.

“The process is ongoing. We will be coming back in September and October to capture new pupils that will come on board as well as exit some that are graduating. So, the program is going to be a continuous one.”

Osun State coordinator, Taiwo Bashorun, speaking during the verification process in Ifon/Ilobu (Orolu Local Government Area) disclosed that 1,460 schools are currently enjoying the feeding programme by the FG.

With the new collaboration recently signed with the National Orientation Agency (NOA), the ministry also partnered with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members to distribute forms and capture the data.

The coordinators expressed satisfactions over the exercise which they said will motivate parents and guardians to register their children in schools for quality education.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**

**17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.**





## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NHGSFP: FG Begins Enumeration of 105,693 Pupils in Yobe**

The Federal Government has begun the enumeration of 105,693 pupils in Yobe State, under the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq represented by the team lead Maidugu Hassan disclosed this during the enumeration exercise at Bundigari and Dikumari primary schools in Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State. According to the Minister, “we are here today to conduct enumeration exercise in order to create a data base to expand the programme in the state, we are targeting 248 Schools for the enrollment while the number of School Pupils we are targeting is 105,693 and the Cooks we intend to enumerate are 772 in number with 992 Vendors”.

She said that, “the essence of the capturing and enumeration of pupils is to ensure transparency, accountability sustainability of the programme “. “This is part of the FHMADMSD mandate of striving that every Nigeria in need receives the support they need through our social protection mechanisms”. On his part, the Director National Orientation Agency (NOA) in the state represented by Garba Ali Chief Administration Officer of the Agency stated that they were in charge of the programme’s sensitization, distribution of forms to the benefiting pupils and guiding them on how to fill it. “We have been visiting the schools and enlightening them, it is a morale booster indeed”. Also speaking, Abba Mohammed, a class three pupil in Bindigari Primary School commended the Minister of Humanitarian affairs Sadiya Umar Farouq for the support to the programme, he said “now we are no longer hungry during school hours, every day we eat delicious food, snacks and pap”.

**Grace Osuji**  
**Principal Information Officer**  
**For: DD (Information)**  
**23rd August 2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **TWG presents Draft Tripartite Agreement for Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian Refugees in Niger and Chad**

The Technical Working Group on the repatriation of Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon has presented a Draft Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees in Niger Republic and Chad to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq.

The draft, after its ratification will kick-start preparations for the repatriation of refugees from the Republic of Niger and Chad.

Receiving the draft on Thursday at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre Abuja, Minister Umar Farouq noted that a total of Three Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand (322,000) Nigerian refugees were currently living in neighboring countries.

Out of the figures, Niger currently hosts One Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Seven (186,957) refugees, the Republic of Cameroon has One Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Nine Thousand (118,409) refugees while Sixteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand (16,634) refugees are in the Republic of Chad.

“With the large number of refugees in Niger, Chad and Cameroon, the Federal Government of Nigeria has officially initiated talks with the Governments of Chad and Niger to sign tripartite agreements similar to the one we have with the Republic of Cameroon. I am happy to inform you that we already have a draft copy of the Tripartite Agreement for Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian Refugees in Niger and Chad Republics”.

The Minister who was hitherto the Chairperson of the TWG officially handed over the position to the new Honourable Federal Commissioner Iman Suleiman-Ibrahim.

In her address, Mrs Ibrahim thanked the minister for the confidence reposed in her and sought the cooperation of all partners in efforts to bring back the refugees in safety and dignity.

“Part of the governance infrastructure for carrying out this exercise includes the Borno State Government and some selected Federal Government MDAs as well as the UNHCR, our invaluable Technical Partner, all of who have crucial roles to play. It goes without saying that we need to work in synergy to ensure a successful voluntary repatriation in line with the Presidential directive”.

The HFC also urged members of the TWG to contribute meaningfully to discussions on updates to carry out their assignment.

The TWG is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring the safe return of Nigerian Refugees and comprises of representatives of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, (NCFRMI) the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, North East Development Commission, (UNHCR) Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Department of Security Services, National Security Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Nigerian Police Force, Ministry of Health and the BAY states (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe).

**Nneka IkemAnibeze**  
SA Media

27<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **Sadiya Umar Farouq Commiserates with the Zamfara State Government on the Killing and Abduction of the Students of Agricultural College Bakura in North West Zamfara State.**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has commiserated with the Governor of Zamfara State, Bello Muhammad Matwelle on the abduction of the school children and four others and killing three persons.

The Minister who made this known in a statement on Tuesday (August 24, 2021) condemned the attack, while she prayed for the release of the abductees.

According to the report, school officials say those taken include fifteen male students and four other people, however two staff members and one of the kidnapped students escaped and returned to the school.

The report further said that the students were kidnapped on Sunday night from the College after armed men opened fire and killed the school security guards.

As at the time of the incident, the Zamfara State Police Command is yet to make an official statement.

While condemning the attack in very strong terms, Farouq sympathized with the families of the students and the others on the attack.

The Minister assures the families of the victims that the Federal Government is working hard to secure the release of the students and the four others, and prayed that they would be released unhurt.

**Bashir Nura Alkali**  
**Permanent Secretary**

**25<sup>TH</sup> August, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CIVIL SERVICE WEEK 2021: PERMANENT SECRETARY ADMONISH STAFF TO EMBRACE SELF DEVELOPMENT**

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Bashir Nura Alkali has admonished the staff of the Ministry to embrace self-development.

He said this during the commemoration of the Civil Service Week 2021 with the theme, "Deploying Technology to Sustain and Enhance Service Delivery in the Face of the Challenging COVID-19 Pandemic Climate" in Abuja.

Speaking at the event the Permanent Secretary Bashir Nura Alkali represented by Alhaji Ali Grema said that year 2021 edition is, therefore, unique as each Ministry was mandated to mark it in their respective Ministries.

According to him, "its worthy of note that the topic for this year's celebration captures the mood of the moment". It is a clarion-call to deploy technology and other online media platforms to provide efficient and effective service delivery to the citizenry for the sustenance of Government policies and programmes that will ensure the welfare and security of Nigerians as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

"This year's edition is designed specifically to celebrate workers who continuously render selfless service despite ravaging COVID-19 Pandemic".

He said that the Civil Service Week celebration has been marked annually in Nigeria since 1999, with the aim of enhancing professionalism in the Public Service; Raising the image of the Public Service; Discovering innovations; motivating Public Servants to further promote innovations; rendering excellence in the Public Sector; Enhancing trust in Government; and sharing best practices within and across the African continent.

He outlined some of the achievement made in the Ministry and proffered solutions to those challenges encountered in the course of undertaking duties.

Alkali made commitment towards the welfare of staff within the limited resources available.

The representative of the Head of Civil Service Dr. Folashade Esan represented by the Director of Civil Service Transformation Mr. B.J Sule lauded the staff of the Ministry for the good work done in carrying out Humanitarian services throughout the country and prayed for protection for the staff as they go about their assignments.

In his lecture, "Federal Civil Service Strategy Implementation Programme" How far, so far? he reiterated the need to always monitor information on the website of the Ministry in order to be abreast with innovations in the Civil Service and embrace digital technology.

Director of Human Resources, Babatunde Jaji in his closing remarks thanked all present and expressed commitment to better celebration of the event next year.

**Grace Osuji**

**PIO**

**For:DD (Information)**

25th August, 2021



*(2nd Left) The Representative of the Permanent Secretary of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, The Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (1st Right) Representative of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mr B.J Sule, (2nd Right) Director Special Needs, Mrs Nkechi Onwukwe, (1st Right) Director Human Resources Management, Abdulrahman Babatunde Jaji, during the Programme of Event to Commemorate the Public Service Day Celebration, on the 25th August, 2021, In Abuja. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

# **SEPTEMBER**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG APPROVES NATIONAL POLICY ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT**

The Federal Executive Council has approved the National Policy on Internal Displacement.

This followed a policy presentation made by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq on Wednesday at the Federal Executive Council Meeting in Abuja.

In her presentation, the minister noted that the policy will provide a platform for all relevant actors in the Humanitarian and Development space to key in and contribute towards a common goal.

This, she said includes the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy, whose role on managing digital identities of IDPs in collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs is also clearly captured in the draft document.

“The overall goal of the policy is to strengthen the institutional mechanism and frameworks for the realization of the rights, dignity and well-being of vulnerable populations through mitigation of the impact and achievement of durable solutions to Internal Displacement in Nigeria”.

Umar Farouq stated that the Ministry will coordinate the implementation of the National IDP policy through the Civil-Security Cooperation (CISEC) framework which is already providing a platform for the coordination of responses between the Government, civilians and security apparatus in humanitarian settings.

“The coordination of the IDP policy will be one more chip that falls into place in Government’s strategic methods of improving and ultimately resolving internal displacement.

“The State Government is responsible for the welfare of its indigenes while the Federal Government is concerned with the welfare of all Nigerian citizens. In times of humanitarian challenges, the State Government has the primary responsibility while the Federal Government intervenes as required. However, the Federal Government will be responsible for ensuring that the framework for protection and assistance through this Policy is being adhered to by all actors, across all tiers of Government and across all sectors”.

Having obtained approval for the policy, a multi sectoral structure will fully emerge to ensure that all individual actions by all actors are aligned to an overall plan, with set objectives and targets which include resolving various challenges faced by displaced persons, mitigating disasters, providing relief, conflict resolution, supporting rehabilitation efforts, social protection, preventing encampment and facilitating durable solutions. Since its inception in 2019, the Ministry has been coordinating responses to humanitarian issues affecting the country.

It has also been responding to disasters while building capacity of responders and actors within the disaster management sector, to adequately mitigate and prevent disasters from occurring.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
SA MEDIA

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021.





*Sadiya Umar Farouq*

*Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management Social Development.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG RESTATES RESOLVE TO RETURN REFUGEES TO NIGERIA**

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq says the federal government is determined to ensure that Nigerian Refugees are returned to the country in safety and in dignity.

The Minister made the remark when a delegation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva paid her a courtesy visit.

The Minister who was represented by the Permanent Secretary Mr Bashir Nura Alkali said that one of the Ministry's priorities is to sustain the process of bringing back the refugees which includes development of sustainable home-grown models for rehabilitation, reintegration, and reconstruction.

"Being the coordination agency, the Ministry has facilitated the adoption of National Policies including the IDP policy which incorporated the provisions of the Kampala Convention. The policy is an overarching framework that guides operations while ensuring coordinated and coherence approach.

"To ensure the provision of a sustainable durable solution, the Ministry in collaboration with relevant organizations has launched a homegrown strategy, the Humanitarian Peace Development Framework, in line with global best practices and in tandem with the President Buhari administration plan.

"The Nigeria government is poised towards ensuring the voluntary return of Nigeria Refugees in neighboring countries as a result of the activities of Boko Haram and we are committed to implement this in line with international best practices. The Nigeria government is presently hosting a large number of Refugees from neighboring countries and we are working hard in collaboration with UNHCR to provide adequate protection to the refugees and the asylum seekers".

Earlier, the leader of the UNHCR delegation and Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Raouf Mazou thanked the government of Nigeria for guiding them through their tour of IDP camps in Maiduguri, stating that their visit is to interact with the federal government and share ideas and views on some of the humanitarian challenges.

"This visit is first, to express our solidarity. This is a difficult situation. In Borno particularly, there are close to three million Internally Displaced Persons. From the Humanitarian point of view, this is a very serious problem that the country is facing, which requires the support of the International Communities.

"We also came to discuss with the state government of Borno on the return of some refugees. In Niger Republic, there are 170,000 Nigerian Refugees and 16,000 in Chad. Some of them may want to come back to Nigeria, so how do we ensure that they can come back and what form of support systems and security needs to be in place for them to come back.

"We also want to ensure that those already in the country receive assistance and if possible, included and integrated in the support that is available for the host population".

Earlier, the Honourable Federal Commissioner for Refugees MrsImaan Suleiman-Ibrahim

Congratulated the UNHCR on the 70th commemoration of the 1951 Convention and applauded the cordial collaboration between the Commission and UNHCR in Nigeria.

Mrs Suleiman-Ibrahim acknowledged the ongoing registration of over 70,000 Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

“I am happy to report that Nigeria has one of the best working processes for Refugees and Asylum seekers by ensuring that cases are looked into holistically and timely to ensure that there are no backlogs in the system.

“The Federal Government of Nigeria through the Armed Forces and the Multi – Joint Task Forces have been relentless in the fight against the insurgents – Boko Haram and ISWAP to ensure that areas of return are secured and now IDPs and returnees are being resettled in safety and dignity”.

The Delegation included the Country Representative at UNHCR Chansa Kapaya, Nigeria Deputy Representative (Protection) at UNHCR John McKissick and the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Unit (NCFRMI) Mr Murdakai Titus.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
SA MEDIA

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.



*Sadiya Umar Farouq*

*Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management Social Development.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ARGENTINA SEEKS FG SUPPORT FOR WHITE HELMETS RESOLUTION ADOPTION AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The government of Argentina has sought the support of the federal government in endorsing the White Helmets Resolution at the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to Nigeria H.E. Mr. Alenjandro Herrero made this known on Tuesday September 21 while leading a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Hon Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq in Abuja.

The Ambassador stated in his remarks that the Government of Argentina is seeking the support of countries to help expand and localize the White Helmet initiative in Nigeria.

“The reason why we are here is to ask for the support of the federal government of Nigeria to support a resolution that will be adopted at the UN General Assembly at the end of this year regarding the White Helmets’ Operation around the world.

“The White Helmets are part of our ministry of foreign Affairs. They participate in Relief and Humanitarian activities around the world and every three years, the continuity of the mechanism is being voted at the General Assembly. We request the support of the Nigerian government as the next adoption comes up between November and December this year.

Responding, the minister said that the core objectives of the White Helmets aligned with the mandate of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

She commended the Argentine government for their humanitarian activities and pledged support to the White Helmets initiative.

“I strongly believe that the work of the White Helmets can be implemented through the National Humanitarian Development Peace Framework NHDP to support Nigeria’s strategy and response to humanitarian crises and socio-natural disasters, with a specific focus on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development interventions; and promoting disaster risk prevention and management.

“Your Excellency, the Ministry supports the use of skills and expertise of volunteers for humanitarian and development activities in a coordinated and coherent manner through existing national structures. Hence, we will work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in line with the vision and priorities of Federal Government of Nigeria, to extend our support for the adoption of the Resolution on “White Helmets” at the United Nations. The Ministry will also work with you to localize the White Helmet initiative in Nigeria.

Minister Umar Farouq also reiterated the ministry’s commitment to work and collaborate with international partners in providing humanitarian action and socio-economic interventions to significantly improve the livelihood of the vulnerable in Nigeria.

The Government of Argentina established an international civilian body to coordinate its participation in international response to humanitarian emergencies in 1994, which is now known as the White Helmet Commission. The Commission is responsible for designing and implementing of humanitarian assistance, relying on the expertise of volunteers from various disciplines and specialties.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**21-09-2021**



*(RIGHT) Sadiya Umar Farouq Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management Social Development (LEFT) The Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to Nigeria H.E. Mr. Alenjandro Herrero.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG HANDS OVER FEEDING UTENSILS TO JIGAWA SCHOOLS**

The federal government, through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, has handed over 150,000 feeding utensils to the Jigawa State Government for the use of the benefitting pupils of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program (NHGSFP).

Speaking while handing over the items on Monday, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Alhaji Nura Alkali, said that, in Jigawa State alone, feeding is taking place in 2,180 primary schools, involving 490,874 pupils, 5,267 cooks in 27 LGA across the state.

He said: “We are here today to hand over about 150,000 feeding utensils to the Jigawa State Government for the use of the benefitting pupils Of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program. This is in addition to the over 500,000 feeding utensils the FG provided to the Jigawa State School Feeding Program in 2018.

“As we may all know, the NHGSFP is one of the 4 key interventions of the Federal Government, under the National Social Investment Program which seeks to boost school enrollment, child nutrition and local economic activities across thousands of communities in the country.

“This program at its core is designed to address poverty in all its forms and is a collaboration between the FG and States where the FG is responsible for the release of funds, guidelines, policies, and monitoring, while the states carry out the day-to-day implementation including procurement of food items, selection of cooks and vendors who prepare, cook and serve the meals for the pupils.

“The benefits of this program and its impact on the lives and livelihood of individuals, groups and communities is clear, evident and undeniable. While addressing cross cutting issues of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, we have thus far recorded over 9 million pupils on the program being fed by over 100,000 cooks across the nation. In Jigawa State alone, feeding is taking place in 2,180 primary schools, involving 490,874 pupils, 5,267 cooks in 27 LGA across the state.

“In 2019, when the Ministry was created, we set out to strengthen the Program with a view to make it sustainable and institutionalized into the structure of Government’s social protection mechanism. We identified the strategic areas in the program that needed to be reviewed to accommodate current realities. Some key areas identified include improving meal quality, capacity development of all actors in the value chain, building strategic partnerships to achieve sustainability and many other areas.”

He added: “We are pleased to note that we have also commenced deployment of interventions within the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program that will address the identified gaps including a nationwide enumeration exercise across the Nation with the objective of verifying the existing data, upgrading the quality of data, and updating our records to accommodate the scaling up of the program with an additional 5 million beneficiaries as directed by President Muhammadu Buhari.

“Additionally an operational review is underway, fully supported by experts and

technical partners to ensure sure that this program succeeds in its objectives and capitalizes on gains and benefits such as women empowerment, supporting the education of the girl child, creating employment, and improving intergovernmental collaboration.

“Furthermore, we have deployed an extensive, layered and technology-supported monitoring system that will give us real time information of how the program is being implemented and the areas that need urgent intervention and correction.

“Thus, this intervention today is only one out of the several strategic plans of our Ministry that seeks to ensure that the target pupils have the best experience of hygiene and safety during their consumption of these free meals. It is our fervent hope and appeal that these items are put the use they were provided for so that these children benefit more from these interventions that we collectively provide.

“On our own part, I wish to assure that the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Dis: DD (Iaster Management and Social Development will continue to improve service delivery on all its social interventions and our leadership role on the National Home-Grown school feeding program.”

**Ejeagha Blessing Uzoamaka**

**ACIO**

**For: DD (Information)**

**21/9/21**



*The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq during a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **KANO: FG FLAG - OFF NORTH - EAST ZONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) CENTRES IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL RANO, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has flagged off the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics project Centers in two secondary schools in Kano state, Government Secondary School Rano and Federal Government College Kano. The Minister who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, also presented 159 Android Tablets to Students on training at Bayero University Kano. The Permanent Secretary explained that STEM is one of the components of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), which is strategically aimed at providing technical platform that would aid modern teaching and learning on STEM to students in some carefully selected school at both Federal and State-owned Science/Technical Secondary Schools Nationwide. Technically, the project is aimed at providing e-learning facilities through the establishment of a State - of- the -Art Information and Communication Technology ( ICT) infrastructure and modern teaching content, to serve as a one-stop-shop environment for students in Public Secondary Schools to have access to digital and updated learning materials in sciences, while also developing their ICT skills including the use of the Internet for various purposes. Continuing, Alkali said STEM has two components, the set-up of the centres in selected government-owned secondary schools and training the Teachers in the schools selected, while STEM centres are established to help students of the secondary schools to have practical experience in digital learning platforms, the training component focuses on building capacity of Teachers to significantly enhance learning of STEM which is the foundation of digital economy. The programme is designed to equip and transform STEM's Teachers to deliver digital literacy through training, mentoring and provision of devices to aid teaching. The Representative of the Minister, Alkali added that, each STEM centre is equipped with modern digital equipment and a total of 218 of such schools all over the the 36 States and FCT are equipped with these digital gadgets. Each of the centres are equipped with the followings:

- \*25 All in One Desktop PC 2
- 4 inch Screen Intel 2.8 GHz qua-core.
- \* 25 Desktoptable and chairs
- \*1 Projector of 5000 lumen
- \*1 Magnetic White Board for learning
- \*1 WiFi Routers multi-SIM
- \* 18 Elegoo Robotics set

He lauded President Muhammadu Buhari's administration's determination and focus towards the development of the young people in digital economy which is the objective of the STEM project. While commending the Government of Kano State, he urged the students to make good use of the equipment's that would aid modern teaching and learning on STEM in the digital world.

The Governor of Kano State, Abdulahi Umar Ganduje represented by the SSG, Alhaji Usman Alhaji commended the Federal Government for its foresight in providing the needed equipment and conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning of STEM nationwide, adding that Kano State is working hard to uplift the standard of Education, that free and compulsory education is yielding result in the state.

**Adeyemo Felicia**  
**For: DD (Information)**  
**September 21, 2021.**





*(7th Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (9th Right) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (1st Left) Sokoto State Focal Person, HayatuTafida, (2nd Left) Kano State Focal person, (4th Left) Jigawa State Focal Person, Bala Usman Chamo, Beneficiaries and others, during the Capacity Building Workshop on STEM Digital Teaching Strategy (North-West Zone) , 21st September, 2021, in Bayero University Kano (BUK).*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG FLAGS OFF HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN 16 STATES**

The Federal Government of Nigeria has flagged off the distribution of food and non-food items to the victims of 2020 flood disaster in 16 states. Speaking at the flagging off of the items which held at Miga local government area of Jigawa State, the Minister of Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Sadiya Umar Farouk who was represented by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Alhaji Bashir Nura said, the support will serve as relief not compensation to the victims. She explained that, the socio-economic impact of 2020 flood was devastating and it resulted in loss of lives and livelihoods in communities across six geopolitical zone with additional impact of covid-19 pandemic and its containment measures exacerbate the situation in the country. According to her, this made federal government to take various actions through various programmes and projects including National Social Investment Program to ameliorate the situation.

Hajiya Sadiya maintained that, "it is on that strength that this intervention funded by ECOWAS was designed to complement the efforts of federal government towards the provision of sustainable livelihoods to the victims which focuses on cash and in kind (food and non-food) assistance. "the in-kind assistance will be carried out in 12 states, while cash assistance will be in four states targeting 1,600 households of 9,600 persons, provisions of shelter kits to 183 households comprising 1,098 persons mostly widows and women-headed households.

"the provision of 62 motorized boreholes and 62 hand washing points across the flood prone states of the country as expected assist in stabilization of beneficiaries and their communities" she said. The Minister then commended the leadership of ECOWAS commission for their due diligence in implementing the resolution of the member's state with regards to this funding support and providing expert guidance through the development of the projects proposal. In his remarks, the Jigawa state governor who was also represented by his deputy Alhaji Umar Namadi appreciated the efforts of the Federal government and promise to initiate similar projects for the benefits of Jigawa citizens at large.

**Ejeagha Blessing Uzoamaka**

**ACIO**

**For: DD (Information)**

**21/9/2021**



*(2nd Left) The Representative of the Governor Jigawa State, the Deputy Governor of the State, Umar Namadi, (3rd Left) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Right) Jigawa State Focal Person, Bala Usman Chamo, a Beneficiary and others, during the Flag-off Ceremony of the Relief Response to Beneficiary in Jigawa State. On the 20th September, 2021. In Miga LGA, Jigawa. Photo: Khalid Ahmed.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NIGERIA AND TURKEY TO COLLABORATE IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MITIGATION**

The government of Turkey has indicated interest in cooperating with the Nigeria in areas of Humanitarian response and mitigation.

The Ambassador of Turkey in Nigeria H. E. Mr Hidayet Bayraktar made this known on Tuesday when he paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq in Abuja.

Ambassador Bayraktar said that Turkey has sent various humanitarian assistance around the world including Somalia, Afghanistan and some other African countries, in a bid to cushion the aftermath of the crises in the areas.

He sought the collaboration of the Ministry to achieve more in areas of humanitarian mitigation and responses in Nigeria.

“We have so many humanitarians’ assistance programs within the world from Afghanistan to Somali and to other African countries as well. Turkey is one of the humanitarian key players and up till now, we are expecting to assist about several countries which need humanitarian assistance.

“We hope we can find a way to cooperate or help render any assistance in terms of disaster and humanitarian crisis going on around the world. We will send humanitarian assistance over there.

“We are ready to work with your ministry in all these fields to see what we can achieve together to enrich this cooperation and relation between our two countries”.

Responding, the Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq thanked the government of Turkey for their various humanitarian assistance around the world.

Umar Farouq stated that the Ministry will collaborate with Turkey and also learn from their wealth of knowledge in areas of coordination, mitigation and response to disaster prone areas in the country.

“I will like to commend the government of Turkey for actively ensuring that humanitarian assistance is given to countries facing different types of disasters irrespective of their religion or race. I’m also aware that the government of Turkey has an endearing tradition of providing humanitarian action to those in need. This practice emanates from your history and culture.

“Our main focus is on the coordination aspect of ongoing responses and providing policy direction and solutions to these agencies under the ministry while ensuring that we have effective cooperation between the relevant MDAs with a view to mitigating all the responses.

“We hope to work together to have a very effective collaboration and partnership and learn from your expertise. The ministry also links humanitarian and sustainable development solutions which provide inclusivity in traditionally marginalized poor and vulnerable people in this country and we also have programmes geared towards alleviating poverty in the country, so I look forward to a very fruitful collaboration with the government of Turkey in these areas”.

The Turkey government extends its humanitarian assistance not only at the bilateral level but also through international organizations such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA and the World Food Programme WFP.

According to Global Humanitarian Assistance report, Turkey has continued to be the biggest donor country of the world with an official humanitarian aid of \$8.3 billion US dollars.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**  
**28-09-2021**



*(LEFT) Sadiya Umar Farouq Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management Social Development (RIGHT)The Ambassador of Turkey in Nigeria H. E. Mr Hidayet Bayraktar.*

# OCTOBER

## PRESS RELEASE

### **STATEMENT BY THE HM OF FMHADMSD, SADIYA UMAR FAROUQ, ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2021 IDDR)**

It is my pleasure and delight to join the global disaster management family in marking the 2021 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. As many of us here might be aware, 13th October of every year has been set aside by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) since 1989 to acknowledge the progress being made toward Reducing Disaster Risks and loss of lives, livelihoods and assets. This is in view of promoting a global culture of risk awareness and to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

For the past five years, the theme of the celebration has been chosen to reflect appropriately, the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 – 2030). The year 2021 reflects the 6th target of the Framework which calls for “International Cooperation for Developing Countries to Reduce Their Disaster Risk and Disaster Losses”.

As disaster management is everybody’s business, the theme is apt and germane to inspire and elicit cooperation from developed countries, international organizations, development partners and donor agencies around the world. This is to demonstrate and create widespread support for disaster risk reduction. Achieving this also requires mobilization of a greater and more active global citizenship to support developing countries to meet all the seven (7) targets and the four (4) priority areas of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which will come to an end by 2030.

In Nigeria, the scope, dynamics and complexity of disaster risks is on the increase, considering the recurrence of extreme hydro-meteorological events, land use conflict trends, insurgency and banditry amongst others. This is occurring within the global context of a climate change and economic downturn of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, through its disaster risk reduction operations agency, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is working on reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience of the country’s most vulnerable, using disaster risk reduction tools and strategies to strengthen governance and social protection systems. Thus far, we have implemented and adopted the following best practices:

- The development of a decentralized institutional frameworks at the local, state (sub national) and federal (national) level.
- The creation of multi-hazard contingency and operational plans and policies, such as the 2019 National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.
- The application of a humanitarian, peace, development approach with emphasis on disaster risk reduction, reducing vulnerabilities and addressing exposure and
- Mainstreaming climate change adaptation in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Since the establishment of Disaster Risk Reduction department in NEMA about 10 years ago, the Agency has created synergy and enjoyed cordial relationship with organizations like UN in Nigeria (the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office), the African Union, ECOWAS, UNESCO , the Islamic Development Bank and countries providing support though their respective Missions for their unwavering support, amongst others. One of our recent collaborations with UNICEF and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has enabled us to develop a comprehensive risk mapping of the country which focuses on flood, epidemic and conflict risks at the communal level. The findings from this exercise will soon be unveiled and shall assist in strategic planning, program development and implementation. We will therefore be calling on our partners soon to key into this. I will also like to use this opportunity to call for increased international partnerships and cooperation to reduce disaster risks and losses in Nigeria as well as accelerate efforts to build-back-better in the most affected areas of the country. As such, there is need for partnership towards disaster risk reduction analyses, program planning, design and implementation, investments in early warning mechanisms and building sustainable infrastructure to enhance operational service delivery. We also need support towards attaining the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in line with the African Union Regional Strategy and our national agenda and policy direction of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030.

Thank you all and God Bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**

**14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**



*The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UMAR FAROUQ FLAGS OFF MOBILE MONEY AGENTS TRAINING IN FCT, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE**

A four-day training programme to establish beneficiaries in Mobile Money transactions has been launched in the Federal Capital Territory and the North Central states.

The training was flagged off on Thursday by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq at the International Centre for Women's Development, Abuja.

The Minister said in her keynote address, that the Federal Government has paid more attention to promoting the plight of the poor and vulnerable in the country which she said informed the decision to initiate the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) as a strategy for enhancing social inclusion.

Minister Umar Farouq also stated that the Mobile Money Agents' Training Programme is designed to empower unemployed youths and develop their competences to operate as registered mobile money agents.

"The training we are starting today will enable target beneficiaries to meet the minimum technical and business requirements for becoming mobile money agents and enhance their entrepreneurial competences to successfully start and manage mobile money businesses.

"Upon completion of the training, the target beneficiaries will be registered with the Shared Agency Network Expansion Facility (SANEF) as Mobile Money Agents and will be provided with Start-up Kits that include a Point-of-Sale (POS) Machine, Fingerprint Scanner and Furniture (chairs, tables and umbrellas) as well as a modest capital of N20,000.00".

The Minister also thanked Shared Agent Network Expansion Facilities SANEF for their partnership and contributions to the programme.

"This will enable the registration and onboarding of target beneficiaries upon completion of the training. We also deeply appreciate the support of other stakeholders and their contributions to the realization of Mr. President's vision to lift Nigerians out of poverty.

"We hope that It will also enhance the integration of NSIP by enabling target beneficiaries to join the network of agents providing financial-related services under other components of NSIP, especially the conditional cash transfer and the grant for vulnerable groups, as well as in the enumeration and enrollment of target beneficiaries".

The minister later made a symbolic presentation of POS machines, Umbrellas, Fingerprint scanners, furniture and a twenty thousand Naira starting capital to some of the beneficiaries.

In her goodwill message, the Chief Executive Officer of SANEF Limited Mrs Ronke Kuye thanked the Minister for the partnership, adding that the key objectives of SANEF include Agent Expansion, Stakeholder engagement, Financial Literacy and Awareness.



MrsKuye stated that the purpose is to empower citizens as an intervention programme and provide jobs and livelihood for citizens.

“This partnership with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development will act as a strong elixir to further deepen and expand Financial Inclusion through Agent Banking to the underserved and unserved, as well as a last mile distribution to hinterlands hitherto reached.

“Our role in providing Financial Literacy Training and Awareness for participants during this programme before they are on-boarded as Agents is vital as this will allow the participants to learn the rudiments and dynamics of what they are about to become a critical part of.

“It is such unique partnerships that resonate as major positives in the drive to bring greater development to our communities and we are proud to be part of this”.

The programme is expected to provide job opportunities for 1,850 youths selected from the 36 States and the FCT as well as promote financial inclusion, by providing financial services to under-served Nigerians.

The Mobile Money Agents Programme was introduced in 2020 to sustain the social inclusion agenda of President Buhari’s Administration, consistent with the President’s vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

In attendance was the National Coordinator, National Social Investment Programmes Dr Umar Bindir, the National Coordinator Conditional Cash Transfer, the NSIP Focal Person for FCT MrsChinwendu Amba and other dignitaries.

## **NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

SA MEDIA

21<sup>st</sup> October, 2021.



*(2nd Right) The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, (1st Right) National Coordinator NSIP, Engr Umar B Bindir, (1st Left) Fct Focal Person, Chinwendu Eteyen Amba, and a Beneficiary, during the Flag-off of the Mobile Money Agent Training Programme for Beneficiaries in FCT and North-Central Zone, on 21st October, 2021. In Abuja.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NSIP: FG TRAINS 350 AS MOBILE MONEY AGENTS IN NORTH WEST**

The Federal government has begun training of 350 agents for Mobile Money Transactions in the North West zone of the country.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq who flagged off the training programme on Monday at the Coronation Hall, Government House, Kano State said that the youth empowerment event is specially designed to address youth restiveness, generate gainful employment and create wealth nationwide.

Umar Farouq added that President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration has paid more attention towards alleviating poverty amongst the vulnerable in the country.

"In the last 5 years, over 12 million households have benefitted from NSIP interventions. In view of the life-changing experience of beneficiaries of NSIP, President Buhari has graciously approved the expansion of the programme in all the clusters mainly to ensure that more lives are lifted out of poverty.

"The Mobile Money Agents' Programme was introduced in 2020 to sustain the social inclusion agenda of President Buhari's Administration. It is consistent with the President's vision of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030.

"The programme is designed to empower unemployed youths and develop their competence to operate as registered mobile money agents. This training will enable these beneficiaries to meet the minimum technical and business requirements for becoming mobile money agents and enhance their entrepreneurial competence to successfully start and manage mobile money businesses".

Earlier, the state Focal Person Baba Aminu Zubair stated in his goodwill message, that Kano state has mostly benefited from federal government's Social Investment Programmes.

Aminu Zubair said that 11 schools currently have STEM Centres with 214 students as beneficiaries while 154,000 poor and vulnerable from 15 Local government councils received Conditional Cash Transfer.

The State Focal Person thanked the Federal government and the minister for the training of 60 Mobile Money Agents in the state while enumerating Kano state's gains from government's Social Investment Programmes.

"Kano state has 10 National Home-Grown School Feeding Program aggregators, 12,258 cooks and vendors and 1,225,804 pupils receiving one nutritious meal each, under the school feeding program.

"We had 18,000 beneficiaries under N-Power Batches A& B and 13,000 under Batch C as well as 296 Independent Monitors.

"Under GEEP 1.0, 250,000 beneficiaries in Kano state received interest-free loans while registration for GEEP 2.0 is ongoing. 88,400 rural women also benefited from government's N20,000 one-off grant".

After the five- day training, the beneficiaries will be formally registered with the Shared Agency Network Expansion Facility (SANEF) as Mobile Money Agents and will

be provided with start-up Kits including a Point-of-Sale (POS) Machine, Fingerprint Scanner, chairs, tables and umbrellas and a token of N20,000.00.

A total of 1,850 youths selected from the 36 States and the FCT will be trained in payments through the network of agents providing financial-related services under other components of NSIP with 350 of them from the North West states namely Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, Jigawa, Zamfara.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

SA MEDIA

25<sup>th</sup>October, 2021.



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ADOPTS WORK PLAN ON ALTERNATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

A strategic work plan to ensure a hitch free take off and efficient administration of the Alternate School Programme has been adopted by the National Steering Committee on ASP.

The presentation, consideration and adoption of the report took place on Tuesday during the 4th meeting of the committee held at the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation in Abuja.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq thanked the Technical Working Group for a detailed report which is expected to help reduce illiteracy as well as the number of Out-Of-School Children in the country.

Umar Farouq stated that the provision of operationalization modalities will go a long way in starting off the ASP.

“I want to appreciate the TWG team for a job well-done up to this point and we look forward to considering their output as a team for implementation.

“I feel it is appropriate to remind us all of what this programme seeks to achieve and why it is of such importance to Mr. President. The partnership between the core MDAs at targeting the problem of Out-Of-School Children (OOSC) is brought about by the recognition that while Education is a pathway out of poverty, it remains elusive and inaccessible for some segments of vulnerable populations.

“Leveraging on the Ministry’s Social Investment Programmes, a platform is provided for those groups of the vulnerable poor to be able to take advantage of educational opportunities through the ASP and take a first step out of poverty in the long-term.

“While the programme in itself is well-intentioned, it is also ambitious. The very nature of OOSC populations, their size and rising numbers in Nigeria and the objectives of the ASP have determined that traditional approaches to educational programmes are challenged.

“I also thank members of the NSC for their continued patience and spirit of collaborative partnership that has encouraged dialogue and sharing of ideas. All members were invited for their unique value-add, and in considering the TWG presentation, I ask that we provide constructive comments to ensure the optimum implementation of the programme across the nation”.

Earlier while presenting the report, the Chairman of the Technical Working Group Dr Umar Bindir commended members of the group for their contributions in ensuring that the TWG presents a strategic document for the Alternate School Programme.

“We have made our research and consultations and this report we have come up with will ensure that the crisis of Out-of-school-Children in the country will be become a thing of the past”.

Part of the report reveals that after the Alternate School Programme elapses, the children will be onboarded to traditional schools for further vocational skills

acquisition, onboarded to relevant National Social Investment Programmes, relevant vocational skills and continued social studies sensitization among others.

Also in attendance was the Minister of State, Education, Mr. Emeka Nwajiuba who co-chaired the meeting on behalf of the Minister of Education Mallam Adamu Adamu.

The ASP is designed to bridge the gap of access to quality education for Out-Of-School-Children in the country.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

SA MEDIA

26th October, 2021.



*(Left-Right) The Honourable Minister of Education for State, Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, National Coordinator National Social Investment Programme, Engr Umar B. Bindir, During the Alternate School Programme, National Steering Committee Meeting. On 26th October, 2021. In Abuja.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UN JOINT MISSION VISITS NIGERIA TO EVALUATE HUMANITARIAN CRISES**

A United Nations joint mission is in Nigeria to assess efforts being made to address the peace and security issues in the affected North East areas as well as humanitarian cushions being put in place.

Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and Sahel and leader of the delegation made this known on Thursday, during a courtesy visit to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq.

Mr Annadif said that the purpose of the mission is to evaluate the crisis situation facing the Lake Chad Basin area.

“We are a joint mission mandated by the UN Security Council to conduct a joint mission in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Last week we were in Cameroon and Chad and now we are in Nigeria. We are here to underscore the United Nations support and solidarity with these four countries.

“We are interested in looking at the situation of displaced persons and the refugees in these four countries. On Friday we will travel to Maiduguri to assess the situation there.

The delegation praised the ministry for its role in issues of displacement and refugees.

Responding, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali who represented the Minister, promised to grant the delegation access to make their findings on the humanitarian issues in the country.

Mr Alkali stated that the the Ministry has developed and institutionalized Civil-Security Cooperation strategic framework and roadmap for humanitarian intervention in the North East in particular as well as the whole country in general.

“CiSEC structure is a platform that brings key stakeholders together to deliberate on ways and means to foster understanding amongst humanitarian and security actors, to ensure more effective and seamless delivery of humanitarian aid to the affected communities.

“It is believed that a well-coordinated humanitarian response and durable solution in the country will create an enabling environment for sub-regional cooperation especially in the Lake Chad region in addressing humanitarian challenges. We are glad that you have re-affirmed your strong commitment to support Nigeria and other countries in the Lake Chad region on this journey”.

The Permanent Secretary pledged to partner with the UN Mission to achieve durable solutions to the protracted challenges in the Lake Chad region.

In the same vein, the Special Adviser to the President on Humanitarian Affairs, Group Captain Shehu Sadiq explained the ongoing mission by United Nations, other Humanitarian agencies as well as the National Humanitarian Coordination Committee created to ensure access to humanitarian actors.

“Efforts are ongoing to ensure that as much as we are following the International principles of voluntary return, that we work out solutions for the IDPs to return to their normal lives”.

The Delegation include Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and Sahel, Mr. Francis Louncery Fall, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General for Central Africa, Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Ms. Claudia Emmanuella Del Ke, Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel.

## **NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

### **SA MEDIA**

**28-10-2021**



*(Right) The Representative of the Honorable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, during the UN visit to the Ministry. On the 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. In Abuja.*

# NOVEMBER

## PRESS RELEASE

### HUMANITARIAN MINISTRY MOBILIZES RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF COLLAPSED 21-STOREY BUILDING

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development has directed the mobilization of immediate emergency response towards rescue operations at the site of the 21-storey building which collapsed on Monday in Lagos while still under construction.

Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq also expressed shock at the incident which occurred in Ikoyi.

She sympathized with the people and government of Lagos state over the tragic incident and immediately mobilized the

NEMA Team from the Lagos Territorial Office to assist with the rescue operations at the site.

“This is tragic. I sympathize with the Lagos state government and families of people still trapped inside the rubble.

“We have mobilized immediate rescue operations through the NEMA Team from the Lagos Territorial Office to team up with the state SEMA.

“NEMA has also facilitated mobilization of response involving heavy duty equipment for rescue operations and security for crowd control.

“We pray that through the rescue operatives still on ground at the site, many of those trapped will be rescued”.

Many are still feared trapped in the rubble of the collapsed 21 storey building.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**01-11-2021**





## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HUMANITARIAN MINISTRY TRAINS STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPMENT OF CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE POLICY**

A three-day training for the Development of Cash and Voucher Assistance Policy in Nigeria was flagged off in Abuja on Wednesday by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq.

At the opening, the Minister who was represented by the Director Humanitarian Affairs Department,

Alhaji Ali Grema welcomed the participants to the training, aimed at educating stakeholders in the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance towards the development of a national policy.

“This workshop is aimed at sharpening the shared understanding of the relevant stakeholders on the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance and to strategically position them to identify, design and develop an inclusive national policy that will strengthen the institutional capacity and operational environment of Cash and Voucher Assistance in Nigeria.

“It is a known fact that today Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) is rapidly expanding modalities for the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Nigeria. In 2019 alone, 39 partners implemented CVA across 38 out of 61 Local Government Areas in the BAY states and this has continued to multiply in various parts of Nigeria.

“In the next three days, the stakeholders gathered here who were carefully selected in line with their mandates and relevance in the operation of CVA in Nigeria will be sharing ideas and information geared towards having a common understanding of the operating terminologies and practices associated with CVA. This will strategically prepare us to carry out the assignment of elaborating the National Cash and Voucher Assistance in Nigeria”.

Earlier, the OCHA Head of Office Trond Jenson said that one of the 7-point agenda of the Hon Minister to strengthen the humanitarian environment in the Northeast and by extension all parts of Nigeria was the development of a National policy to strengthen the operating environment for Cash and Voucher Assistance in Nigeria.

“The National CVA policy (NCVA) is expected to complement the Humanitarian Response Plan HRP, provide clarity on the use of CVA to meet needs among the poor and vulnerable and improve the operational environment for CVA uptake by overcoming bureaucratic bottlenecks. The policy is also expected to support commitments, already enshrined in other national policies i.e. the recently approved National IDP policy, facilitate financial inclusion and access to social protection among target groups”.

In her remarks, the Regional Programme Officer of the World Food Programme Natasha Frosina explained that training of stakeholders will in turn ensure accountability and transparency in the disbursement and movement of donor funds especially to the North East.

“We see Cash and Voucher Assistance as a way to empower these beneficiaries to meet their needs in the best way they deem fit.

“When we invest money through cash transfer, the beneficiaries are able to spend that money directly in the local markets, putting the money back into the hands of the people and the local producers themselves. It empowers them to decide what their needs are and not what we think their needs are”.

The workshop brought together most of the key actors and donors including UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP, UNCHR, INGO and also provides a coordinated framework on how to deliver support to the beneficiaries.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**  
**SA MEDIA**  
**03-11-2021**



*The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq.*

## **PERMANENT SECRETARY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS RECEIVES TROPHY AND GOLD MEDALS FROM THE MINISTRY'S FEMALE HANDBALL TEAM**

The Permanent Secretary of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Bashir Nura Alkali, FCA, FCIT has received the Trophy and Gold Medals from the Ministry's Female handball team for winning Gold Medals during an inter-ministerial Female handball competition by Michak in Abuja.

The Director Human Resources Mr. Babatunde Jaji accompanied by the Team sport Manager Mr. Kazeem Adenekan and other members of the team presented the medals and trophy to him in his office.

According to Alkali, " I have no doubt that the team will come out, successful, please keep this up". He pledged to continue to support the team and praised the team for their excellent results in recent outings.

He appreciated the Sports Club for their enthusiasm and achievements within the short period of inauguration.

The Director of Finance and Account department Dr. Matthew Dada commended the team and encourage them to push for Gold Medals in Federal Public Service Games (FEPSGA).

The Sports Manager Mr. Kazeem Adenekan expressed his appreciation to the Honourable Minister Sadiya Umar Farouq for her unflinching support and to the Management of the Ministry in all the sport engagements.

He said that the support given by the Ministry motivates the Sports Club for better performance. He said that the Ministry's Female Handball team is the first to win an inter-ministerial Female Handball competition in the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja

He also announced the of this year's 40th FEPSGA is coming up in Kwara and encouraged other members of staff to come out for sports events in order to improve on their mental health and output at work.

The Team Humanitarian has twice won the best kitted Ministry in the monthly walking/jogging exercise of all civil servants in Abuja.

**Grace Osuji**

Principal Information Officer

For: DD (Information)



*(4th Right) The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Bashir Nura Alkali, (3rd Right) Director HRM Abdulrahman Babatunde Jaji, (2nd Right) SM Team Humanitarian Affairs, Kazim Adenekan, and Team members of the Ministry's Women Handball, during the Team's visit to the office of the Permanent Secretary to hand over the 1st Inter Ministerial Handball Competition, 1st position Trophy. On the 10th November, 2021. In Abuja.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS STAKE-HOLDERS TO DEVELOP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS FRAMEWORK**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has declared open the implementation plan for the National Humanitarian Development-Peace nexus with stakeholders in Lagos.

Representing the Honourable Minister, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, presented the National Humanitarian Development-Peace nexus Framework (NHDPF) to the Stakeholders which was developed through a participatory and consultative process by the National Humanitarian Coordination Technical Working Group (NHCTWG).

According to the Permanent Secretary, “the NHDPF Nexus is derived from UN triple nexus principles that believes there is no development without peace and that sustainable Humanitarian response should be linked to Development. Therefore, the three should be explicitly linked to ensure a sustainable humanitarian response”.

“The National Humanitarian Development-Peace framework answers the coherence questions and envisions stronger collaboration and coordination among actors from the field of development co-operation among humanitarian action and peace building, and that considering the gaps we face due to different programming goals and mandates, the framework will provide a new integrated, effective and efficient methodology for the aid sector to support Development and peace objectives in Nigeria”.

Alkali added that at the end of the technical session it was unanimously agreed that the operationalization of the framework will rapidly improve the operational capacity of Humanitarian Development and Peace building actors to match the scale, complexity and urgency in Humanitarian situation in Nigeria.

The stakeholders strengthened the call to kick-start the process of operationalizing the framework by developing a comprehensive implementation plan.

The Permanent Secretary categorically stated that the gathering is to tease out the strategies geared towards adopting new ways of delivering humanitarian response, adding that the expectation from the event is to ensure that a five year costed implementation plan with well-structured monitoring and evaluation mechanism including institutional arrangement is developed, stressing that the implementation plan should be tailored to the specific needs of persons concerned across the country to reflect local content to address peculiar national needs.

He appreciated the unquantifiable support of all the partners who contributed immensely to making the event a reality.

Earlier, the country Director of Action Aid in Nigeria, Ms Eme Obi said the National Humanitarian Development-Peace building framework is apt and is a vehicle for the Federal Government to better coordinate all the Stakeholders.

Other stakeholders include the NGOs, UNOCHA, the MCN British Council, all emphasized the importance of the of the Workshop which they say would enable all the Stakeholders in the sector speak the same language, eradicate competition and use the HDP nexus to leverage on long terms solution to help persons in need.

**Adeyemo Felicia**

For: DD(Information)



*(Front-Row) (4th Right) Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Bashir Nura Alkali, (1st Right) Tom Johnson, of UNOCHA, (3rd Left) UNHCR Deputy Representative Protection, John Mckissick, (4th Left) Country Director Action Aid Nigeria, Ene Obi, (Middle-Row) (4th Right) Director Humanitarian Affairs, Grema Ali Alhaji, (4th Left) Director PRS, Repheal Obi, and others, during the NHDP Plan integrating costed action plan with implementation framework and M&E mechanism, on the 16th November, 2021. In Lagos.*

# DECEMBER

## PRESS RELEASE

### **NSIP: MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEEKS COOPERATION OF STAKEHOLDERS TO ACHIEVE MANDATE**

The Honorable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, has requested the maximum understanding and cooperation of all stakeholders to achieve its mandate on the National Social Investment Programme.

She disclosed this during a 2-day stakeholders' forum on Define Social Protection Floors in Suleja.

Represented by the Acting Director of Social Development Department, Mansur Kulliyah, the Minister said, "the Ministry is therefore appealing for maximum understanding and cooperation of all stakeholders and appeals to all members of the public to desist from actions that may distract the Ministry from discharging this important national mandate or even delay the implementation of these life-changing programmes".

According to the Honorable Minister, "the Social protection can be viewed broadly as all public and private initiatives that provides income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against destitution, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized with the overall objective of reducing the economic and social vulnerability of the poor and the marginalized groups".

"The Ministry and its agencies will continue to render services to Nigerians in humanitarian situations effectively, and implement policies that will drive Social Development and facilitate economic inclusion for the benefit of the most vulnerable in the country especially through the N-power, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), Conditional Cash Transfer as well as the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme and other programmes rolled out by the present administration".

She further requested stakeholders present to continue in their support of the institutional coordination mechanisms by facilitating inter-sectorial working relationship and assured participants at the forum that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that the strategic objectives of all the social intervention programs are achieved.

Engr. Umar Bindir Phd, National Coordinator NSIP in his presentation said that the number one challenge in the country is poverty which can be tackled through education and transfer of knowledge. He proposed that our universities must change to become production and entrepreneurship centers. He said that, "Social protection is about moving knowledge to the people as a tool to solving their problems".

He further stated that all programmes of the NSIP will be centrally coordinated and monitored with a view to making the overall impacts transparently felt by all Nigerians.

Mr. Obadaru E. Gbenga, Deputy Director Population and Development Department, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning disclosed that, the Ministry of Budget and National Planning is in the process of finalizing the review of the draft National Social Protection Policy.

He said that the Technical Working Group meeting (TWG) and other critical stakeholders on the draft review of National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) will meet on the 2nd of December, 2021.

He also said that a High-Level Policy Dialogue on the Draft Revised National Social Protection Policy, is being organized to discuss the draft NSPP and any likely issues that need the attention of the Honorable Ministers of the Key Sector MDAs in the Social Protection Space. The meeting will be coming up on 14th December, 2021.

**Grace Osuji**

**Principal Information Officer**

**For: DD Information**

**1st December, 2021**



*(3rd Right) The Representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Deputy Director Social Development, Suleiman Chugudo Aliyu, (6th Left) National Coordinator NSIP, Engr Umar B Bindir, (5th Left) Acting Director Social Development, Mansur Kuliya, (1st Right) Representative of Niger State Focal Person, Alhaji Musa Abubakar Sadik, (4th Right) Deputy Director Population and Development, Federal Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning, Obadaru E. Gbenga and others, during the Stakeholders Forum on Define Social Protection Floors, on 30th November, 2021. In Niger.*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Umar Farouq Commissions National Disability Electronic Certificate Production Centre, 4 Others, at Disability Commission**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq on Wednesday commissioned the National Disability Electronic Certificate Production Centre located at the Persons with Disabilities Complex in Abuja.

Two Operational Vehicles to improve mobility and productivity of the Commission as well as a Mini Braille printing centre, a National Disability Data Processing centre and an accessible office complex were also launched by the Minister.

On the occasion, Minister Umar Farouq stated that the inauguration of the projects was the beginning of inclusivity which Persons with Disability have always yearned for.

She also expressed delight in the rapid development of the Commission in just one year.

“I am indeed delighted to be here to witness the drastic developments that have taken place in the last one year in the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities. This effort is in recognition of the promise made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR to take 100 million extremely poor Nigerians out of poverty which includes Persons with Disabilities.

“More than Thirty-One million Persons With Disabilities are beginning to have the visibility and inclusivity that the community has long yearned for.

“As these projects commence operation from today, we hope for better data collection, more dignified access to services and accessibility to government print information, policies and other equipment for the Blind. By these, hope is being rekindled in the disability community about their identity and the protection of the rights of Persons with Disability against any form of discrimination or abuse”.

The Minister also congratulated the staff of the Commission for their doggedness despite the limited resources and staff strength and assured that the Ministry is working assiduously with the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to facilitate timely access to the waiver for employment into the Commission.

Earlier, the Executive Secretary National Commission for Persons with Disabilities Mr James David Lalu lauded the efforts of President Muhammadu and that of the Minister in providing a befitting office for persons with disabilities.

“Thank you for wiping the tears of over thirty -one million Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria and for using your office to provide a place for persons with disabilities. We promise to make you proud and we will surpass your expectations of these projects you started. We will always be grateful to you”.

The Minister later toured the Electronic Certificate Production Centre, the Mini Braille printing centre, the National Disability Data Processing centre and other facilities in the office complex.

Also at the inauguration was the former governor of Nasarawa state and Chairman Senate Committee on Solid Minerals, Senator Umaru Tanko Al- Makura, Chairman of the Governing Council Dr Hussaini Suleiman Kangiwa, Senator Osita Izunaso, Representatives of the Ministry of Health and Education and other members of the Governing Council NCPWD.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

**08-12-2021**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UMAR FAROUQ LAUDS NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY REVIEW**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has commended the review of the National Social Protection Policy. (2017-2020)

The Minister gave the commendation at a High-Level Discussion on the Draft Revised National Social Protection Policy held at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja.

Umar Farouq stated that social protection is at the forefront of the development agenda of the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, given its positive social and economic impact and its ramification and life cycle effect on human capital development.

She added that the policy review will further make the process more transparent in line with the President's vision of lifting 100m Nigerians out of poverty.

"The review of the National Social Protection Policy would not have come at a better time than now. The policy will define a clear line of engagement, track progress and spending on social protection in a transparent manner in line with Mr. President's vision.

"I have a few thoughts for our consideration during this dialogue, central to which is the need to achieve a more useful coordination of the sector's programmes. As you are aware, by design, the different pillars of the Social Protection system operate through various institutional arrangements (at the federal and State levels) and across several Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government. This has created fragmentation in roles and responsibility for implementation and could be remedied through a joint coordination platform for the sector.

"I am therefore pleased above all, to note that the agenda of the Social Protection Policy Dialogue helps us build the groundworks for the achievement of this vision in a more systematic and collective way".

In his opening remarks, the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning Prince Clem Agba thanked

all the Ministers of stakeholder Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as Donors and Heads of other Government Agencies for their support towards the realization of the objective of the review of the elapsed National Social Protection Policy (2017-2020).

"It is important to note that the objective of the review is to address emerging issues, identify gaps and give the policy a national ownership that will carry the sub-national governments along. I wish to assure you all that the diagnostic report that produced the draft policy was presented to all the states of the federation including the FCT through the State Ministries of Economic Planning, to elicit inputs for the revised national Social Protection Policy. With this, I can safely say that the process was consultative because the sub-national governments were carried along.

“I wish to assure you all that the draft policy will be presented to the Federal Executive Council for approval when all necessary observations by the stakeholder Ministers are agreed upon. I also wish to inform us that the implementation manual and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework for the policy is being prepared with the support of World Food Programme (WFP) within the joint fund for Social Protection”.

Prince Agba also noted that the Ministry of Budget and National Planning in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Justice and the four UN-Agencies supporting Social Protection led by the ILO have also developed a draft harmonized bill for Social Protection, aimed at institutionalizing Social Protection

Programmes in Nigeria in addition to the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation framework. The draft according to him will be passed through the National Assembly for legislative processes after it has been subjected to critical scrutiny by all stakeholder MDAs whose legal Advisers are already working with the Technical Working Group.

The Ministers of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social, Labour and Employment, Health, Women Affairs, Education and some other key Agencies reviewed the process that eventually produced the draft on the revised National Social Protection Policy.

## **NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

### **SA MEDIA**

14-12-2021



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG DECLARES OCT 5 NATIONAL DAY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

As Umar Farouq seeks take-off grant for National Senior Citizens' Centre.

The Federal Government has declared October 5 as the National Day for Senior Citizens in Nigeria.

President Muhammadu Buhari made the declaration at the First Presidential Summit on Ageing and Awards ceremony held at the Yar'adua Centre Abuja on Friday.

In his keynote address, the President who was represented by the Minister of Interior Affairs Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola stated that 4.7% of Nigeria's population which comes to over 9m Senior Citizens, have contributed their best to the development of the country.

He however observed that the elderly has not been treated fairly and with dignity.

"Senior Citizens are the most neglected and abused in the society and have been left to die in silence.

"In bringing about a paradigm shift, I, President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law, the National Senior Citizen's Centre Act 2017 to cater for the needs of senior citizens. The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to effectively mobilizing capital resources needed to develop the appropriate mechanism that will be geared towards promoting and providing unhindered access to social services.

"As a further demonstration of our support for senior citizens, the 5th of October every year will be celebrated as National Day for Senior Citizens in Nigeria".

Earlier, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq recalled that this is the first ever Summit on Ageing in recognition of the Senior Citizens in Nigeria.

She thanked the President for signing the Disability Acts 2018 and the National Senior Citizens Centre Acts 2017 and appealed for take off funds for the Centre.

"We have a load of requests to enhance the work on ageing including the release of the take-off grant to the National Senior Citizens' Centre.

"As we have this summit today, we want to place it on record that President Muhammed Buhari has demonstrated political goodwill and commitment to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of senior citizens beyond any other administration in Nigeria's history.

"We will therefore not let you down Mr. President, in ensuring an inclusive society where strategic investments to enhance the dignity, capacities, security and wellbeing of older persons benefit the young and old, fostering economic growth opportunities and cohesive communities".

In a presentation titled "The Stakes for Policy and Legal Framework and Implications for Social Inclusion of Older Persons, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Mr Bashir Nura Alkali noted that the 2013 and 2015 Global Agewatch Index published

respectively, in which 96 countries were consecutively assessed, showed that Nigeria's ranking among the 96 selected countries was abysmal; 85th in 2013 and 86th in 2015.

“Variables measured included health and wellbeing, income security, engagement of capacities of older persons and age friendly environment with indicators showing Nigeria in the bottom 10 globally.

“Nigeria at some point was classified as one of the most unfriendly countries in the world to live in old age. This is in spite of our traditional values of concerted family care of older persons and customary community networks and practices that provide succour and respite to older persons”.

The Permanent Secretary however added that the National Policy on Ageing and the National Senior citizens Centre Act 2017 which was also unveiled at the Summit will go a long way in improving the standard of living of ageing persons in the country.

Health checks were carried out on many Senior Citizens during the summit while awards of excellence were given to 8 deserving senior citizens including Elder Nathaniel Okoro, the first indigenous Managing Director of the Nigeria Railway Corporation, Chief Richard Olajide Idowu, the first blind Television Producer and radio presenter as well as Hajiya Saudatu Usman Bungudu, a one-time Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development amongst others.

## **NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

### **SA MEDIA**

17-12-2021



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Minister seeks effective collaborations to curb rising drug abuse/trafficking**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has called for effective collaboration among relevant stakeholders to curb drug abuse and its devastating consequences in the country.

Farouq, represented by Mr. Mansur Kuliya, Acting Director, Department of Social Development in the Ministry, made the call at the Awareness Campaign against Drug and Substances Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Tuesday in Abuja.

According to the Minister “The Ministry initiated the campaign in 2020 in response to the rising number of drug abusers, especially among our young generation in order to curb this menace and its effect on future leaders”.

“The abuse of alcohol and other drugs by youth results in family crisis, untimely deaths, different vices in the society and has jeopardised many aspects of family life sometimes resulting in family dysfunction and increase in drug induced crime”.

She said that the Ministry has the mandate to develop humanitarian policies and provide effective coordination of National and International interventions.

Continuing,” the fight against drug abuse cannot work if it is not done collectively and universally, as we all have roles to play”.

“Parents, guardians, village heads, Government, Non-Governmental Organisation and Civil Society Organisations have a role in preventing our children from addiction and drug abuse. And how do we do it if we don’t listen and care,” she said.

The minister said it started from the family unit, to the schools, Churches, Mosques and work places.

”It is not just about sending messages, but how do we listen, care advice, counsel and monitor the children, who they hang around with and their peers.

“Drug taking among our youths is becoming a social norm, as you can easily find them smoking cigarette, Shisha, Methamphetamine or crystal meth, codeine and others, and even go as far as posting on social media.

Dr. Dorothy Nwodo, a former director of Social Development in the Ministry, in her presentation proposed that guardianship and counselling be introduced into the curriculum of all schools in the country for proper education on the effect of drug abuse.

Dr. Fatima Waziri-Azi, the Director-General, National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), represented by Mrs. Helen Emuze staff of NAPTIP said that Human and Drug Trafficking are organised crimes.

“A victim of human trafficking can also be used for drug trafficking. Human trafficking is rated as the third most lucrative job after drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

” As we are here for this awareness programme, I want to believe that we will go back with positive messages,” she said.

The event was attended by officials from National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, National Agency for Food, and Drug Administration and Control, Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports Development and other relevant stakeholders.

### **Grace Osuji**

Principal Information Officer  
For: DD (Information)  
21st December, 2021



*(3rd Right) The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, Acting Director Social Development, Mansur Kuliya, (4th Right) Dorothy Nwodu, (1st Right) Jumoke Odetola, and others, during The Awareness Campaign Against Drug and Substance Abuse / Illicit Trafficking. On 21st December, 2021. In Abuja.*



## PRESS RELEASE

### **FG Empowered 15000 unemployed Youths to benefits from N-Knowledge Programme in the North East**

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has said that the Federal Government has empowered 15000 unemployed Youths to benefit from the N-knowledge program in the North East.

She disclosed this at the farewell ceremony marking the end of the different component of the N-Power, N-knowledge Batch C1 programme, adding that N-Power is part of NSIP Programme domiciled in the Ministry designed to achieve the National objectives of poverty reduction and job creation for the unemployed Youths across the six geopolitical zones of the country.

Farouq said N-Power, N-knowledge beneficiaries were drawn from the six states of Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe Taraba and Borno and Yobe for the training for three months in three clusters of N-Creative art (animation) Computer hardware (repairs and installation, fixing of Android phones and script writing.

Farouq said after undergoing 90 days training conducted by professionals at the Abubakar Tatari Polytechnic, Bauchi, the beneficiaries were given Starter Packs based on their field of specializations as well as token amount for take off.

The Minister charged them to put to use the good knowledge they have acquired during the training period.

Representing the Hon. Minister Gidado Abubakar, an Assistant Director of the Ministry, assured the trainees that the Federal Government is committed to empowering the youths and other vulnerable Nigerians in other to bring them out of poverty as well as make them employers of labour.

She added that all participants in the training who successfully completed the course are expected to set themselves up with the starter packs and the amount given to them for take off, considering the economic situation of the country, adding that 771 turned Certificated.

The N-Knowledge programme which is a component of the N-Power is focused on equipping young Nigerian youths with relevant skills and certification to become competent workers, innovators and entrepreneurs prepared for both the domestic and global digital job market.

Continuing she said, the N-Power (N-Knowledge) will upskill 20,000 young Nigerian on the global radar as exporters of world-class services and content in creative art and information Technology sectors. The training component was targeted at developing competencies of the youths in software development and hardware groundwork to make training which will be catalysed as well as groundwork to make Nigeria competent in the outsourcing market for the software development.

It will also develop the skills and capacities along the skill set in value chain of mobile apps and website development and start the talent development effort for the growth of information technology industry in Nigeria.

The programme is a centralised in-camp training for 3 months and a 6-month apprenticeship in the 6 geopolitical zones within 24 training venues cuts across the

6 zones for the 20,000 beneficiaries who participated in the programme. At the end of the training qualified trainees would be awarded their certificates and attestations just as the trainees are introduced to different schedules that will make them more informed and ready for global competitions in the global markets, orientation, work ethics and rules of engagement are also exposed.

**Adeyemo Felicia**

For: DD Information

23<sup>RD</sup> December, 2021.



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG trains over 3000 Youths in Mobile Apps, others – Farouq**

The Federal Government has trained over 3000 youths on mobile Apps and other skills to make them self reliant in Osun State.

The beneficiaries of the Federal Government N-Knowledge, N-Tech scheme from the South West have received their tools of the trade. The tools, which included Laptop Computers and Workstations were handed down to them after the closing of the three months intensive coaching at the Osun State College of Education, Ila Orangun.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development represented by an Assistant Director in the Ministry Mr. Olufemi Popoola, stated “that the (N-Knowledge) programme would upskill twenty thousand young Nigerians on the global radar as exporters of world-class services and content in the creative and information technology sectors”.

Presenting the tools to the beneficiaries, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajia Sadiya Umar Farouk explained that the N-Knowledge, N-Tech were components of the N-Power programme focused on equipping young Nigerians with relevant skills and certification to become competent workers, innovators and entrepreneurs prepared for both the domestic and global digital job market.

She said the training component was targeted at developing competencies of the youth in software development and Hardware training which would be catalyzed as well as the groundwork to make Nigeria compete in the outsourcing market for software development.

Hajia Farouk added that the programme would develop the skills and capacities along the skills set in the value chain of mobile apps and website development and start the talent development effort for the growth of the information technology industry in Nigeria.

The Minister stressed that the participants who had been in centralized in-camp training for 3 months would also undergo a 6-month apprenticeship during which they would be exposed to more practical details.

Also speaking, one of the facilitators of the programme, Mr. Bolarin Oyetunji explained that during the three months intensive training, the participants were exposed to Software development, Animation and Script-writing.

Mr. Oyetunji said the six months period of apprenticeship would enable them to have more field work exposure and mentorship, while he added that they would be connected to film production organizations that may require their new skills.

Persons with Disabilities were not left out of the programme. One of them, Mr. Adewuyi Omotoso who was full of appreciation to the Federal Government, affirmed that such a programme had rekindled the hope of a better tomorrow for people in his category.

Similarly, Miss Ayinde Temitope also received the tools and appealed to the government not to rest on its oars in ensuring that Nigerian youths were skillfully empowered.

Participants in the programme who were majorly graduates of intermediary education programmes were drawn from all states in the South West.

**Grace Osuji**

For DD (Information)  
25th December, 2021



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NEXT CASH AND CARRY: HUMANITARIAN MINISTER VISITS FIRE INCIDENT SITE**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Sadiya Umar Farouq has visited the site of the inferno which raised a popular shopping complex in Abuja known as Next Cash and Carry.

The Minister who visited the building to ascertain the extent of damage at the facility, described the losses as catastrophic and colossal.

“This is a very unfortunate incident. It is catastrophic and a loss not just to the management of this company but to the government and the country at large.

“Immediately the fire started, we deployed the National Emergency Management Agency NEMA together with other sister agencies to come and assist in rescue operations. As you can see, the extent of damage cannot be quantified. The government offers its deepest sympathy to the management and team of Cash and Carry and we will also come in as a government to see how we can support this organization”.

While empathizing with the shop management, Umar Farouq thanked Nigerians for their support in trying to salvage some items. She also called for caution as more outbreaks will be expected in the harmattan season.

“It is also critically important that an establishment like this or any other commercial or public building should put in place necessary arrangements to prevent disasters like this and also update their fire prevention drills”, the minister said.

In his response, the General Manager of Cash and Carry Mr Neil Pape rued the disaster and sought government’s support as they begin rebuilding the business premise.

“The losses of the building are still under investigation and it is huge. As soon as we have the total amount lost and we get the records of all the stock in our business, we will give you feedback in a press release. This is devastating because it happened on Sunday. We have had all manner of high-profile persons coming in to assist and see what happened. We will need the support of the government as we streamline plans to open a new store”.

Next Cash and Carry went up in flames on the eve of Boxing Day.

**NNEKA IKEM ANIBEZE**

**SA MEDIA**

29-12-2021



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FG will enlist additional 400,000 Youth under N-POWER- Farouq**

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar-Farouq has disclosed that the Federal Government will soon enlist additional 400,000 youth under the N-power programme.

The Minister represented by her Deputy Director, Finance and Account, Muhammad Sambo stated this during the closing ceremony for over 3,000 youth from North-West Zone, trained in software and hardware skills under the Batch C1 of the N-Knowledge component of the N-Power programme.

According to her, "It is no longer news that Mr. President has approved that N-Power be expanded to accommodate one million beneficiaries. We have carefully implemented this where the Batch C1 accommodates a total of 510,000 beneficiaries and the batch C2 will commence soon. This is to enlist more Nigerian youth into the programme.

"It is a well-known fact that N-Power programme is a critical part of the National Social Investment Programmes domiciled in the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD) and designed to achieve the National objectives of poverty reduction and job creation.

"The N-Power programme is key to helping young Nigerians acquire and develop life-long skills that ensure they become solution providers and entrepreneurs in their communities.

"N-Power has 3 core segments: N-Power Volunteer Corps – the Graduate programme, N-Power Build – Non graduate programme and N-Power Knowledge – Which is a non-graduate programme and embodies the N-Tech Hardware, N-Tech Software and the N-Creative training programmes (Animation and Scriptwriting).

"N-Knowledge programme is focused on equipping young Nigerians with relevant skills and certification to become competent workers, innovators and entrepreneurs prepared for both the domestic and global digital job market. N-Knowledge programme targets to upskill 20,000 young Nigerians on the global radar as exporters of world- class services and content in the creative and information technology sectors. The shortfall of about 7,000 will be mopped up as soon as possible to meet up with the target of 20,000 as earmarked for this tranche.

"This training component is targeted at developing competencies of the youth in software development, Hardware training and creative industry which is catalytic as well as the groundwork to make Nigeria compete in the outsourcing market for software development. It will develop the skills and capacities along the skills set in the value chain of website development, mobile apps maintenance and start the talent development effort for the growth of information technology industry in Nigeria."

She added that, "The Ministry is committed to ensuring that the strategic objectives of all the social intervention programmes are achieved and sustained.

"Permit me at this juncture to thank His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari for his administration's unwavering efforts in eradicating poverty in our country and for supporting and sustaining the National Social Investment Programmes," Umar-Farouq stated.

The Programme is a centralised in camp training for 3 months and a 6months apprenticeship in the 6 geopolitical zones within 24 training venues in 6 zones across the country.

**Grace Osuji**

Principal Information Officer  
For: DD (Information)

27<sup>TH</sup> December, 2021

