



Investigating the Impact of Leadership Training Programs on Cultivating Effective Nutrition Leaders



Photo credit: OGRA Foundation

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About USAID Advancing Nutrition

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, led by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), and a diverse group of experienced partners. Launched in September 2018, USAID Advancing Nutrition implements nutrition interventions across sectors and disciplines for USAID and its partners.

Our mission is to improve the nutritional status and health of populations vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies around the globe.

We do this through **technical assistance** to governments, USAID, and implementing partners.



Project Objectives - Nigeria

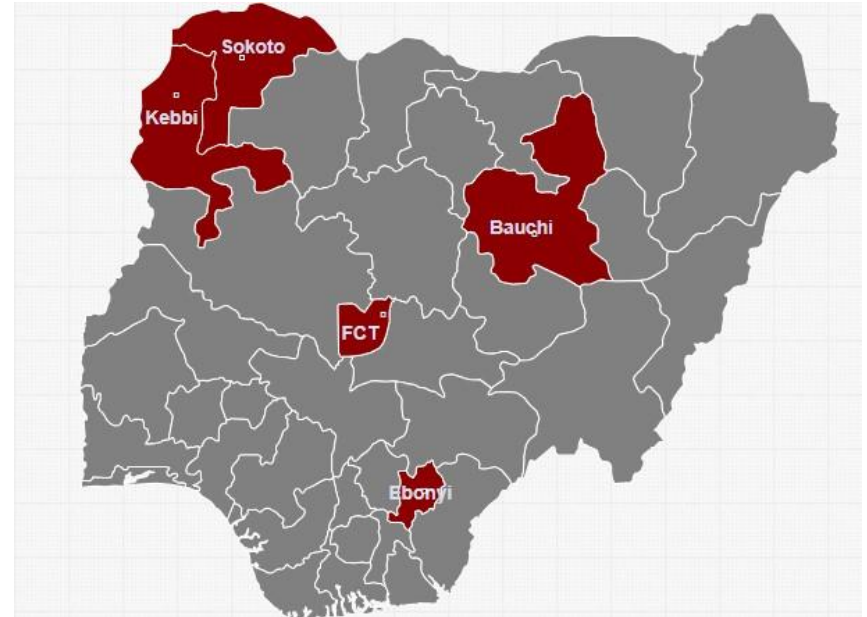
- **Objective 1:** Strengthen multi-sectoral linkages and coordination through technical assistance to the Government of Nigeria, the Mission, and implementing partners.
- **Objective 2:** Support the Government of Nigeria to strengthen wasting prevention and treatment services.
- **Objective 3:** Generate evidence and test innovative approaches to improve nutrition programming and inform future designs.

USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION NIGERIA

To improve nutrition for a healthy, productive, and resilient Nigeria.

Implementation led by Helen Keller International.

September 2021–October 2023



USAID Advancing Nutrition in Nigeria

- Commenced in October 2021
- Active in Sokoto, Kebbi, Bauchi, Ebonyi, and Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
- Work primarily at the governance level through the State Committees for Food and Nutrition (SCFN)
- The SCFN is a committee organization set up by the coordinate and monitor interventions to address nutrition issues in the states



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WHAT WE DID

Understanding and Meeting the Capacity Needs of SCFNs

Assessing SCFNs

Conducted Organizational capacity assessments in all states



Key Capacity Gaps Identified

- Poor Capacity on advocacy skills
- Poor leadership skills
- No M&E systems to monitor nutrition interventions
- Non-functional Local Government Committee for Food and Nutrition

Co-created action plans with each SCFN



Implementing Activities to Address Capacity Gaps

- Embedded consultants in SCFNs to provide technical assistance
- Provide coordination and logistic support to develop policies, action the establishment of nutrition departments, and form Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition (LGCFNs)
- Co-developed the State Committee on Food and Nutrition Orientation Package to orient SCFNs on their role and best practices

Our Capacity Strengthening Approaches

- **Direct Training Capacity Building to the Food, Nutrition and Health actors.**
 - Trained health workers and NPFs on IMAM
 - Trained food systems actors on Aflatoxin mitigation techniques, GAP, and Food Safety
 - Trained LGAs M&E on data quality and management
- **Embedded consultants in SCFNs to provide technical assistance**
- **Selected SCFN decision makers in five states with two phased (five days) tailored experiential learning workshops**

African Nutrition Leadership Programme

Integrity
Inclusivity
Enjoyment



The **purpose** of the African Nutrition Leadership Programme (ANLP) is to develop individual and institutional leadership capabilities in nutrition across the African continent.

- Self-awareness
- Ability to balance conflicting demands
- Ability to learn
- Leadership values

- Ability to build and maintain relationships
- Ability to build effective work groups
- Communication skills
- Ability to develop others

- Management skills
- Ability to think and act strategically
- Ability to think creatively
- Ability to initiate and implement change

Success Metrics

Fiscal	Administrative	Operational	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget allocation• Allocated funds• Leveraged resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy adoption• Policy implementation• Multi-sectoral coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Functional LGCFNs• Capacity Strengthening (SCFN providing hand holding to LGCFNs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutrition program reach• Improved nutrition indicators



How Do We Evaluate?

We considered both individual feedbacks
and tangible achievement at
organizational level



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The Results

Participants reported enhanced leadership skills, such as communication, decision-making, and teamwork, as a result of the training.

Improved Governance and Coordination for multi-sectorial nutrition

Co-developed the SCFN Orientation Package to orient SCFNs on their role and best practices

Facilitated the activation of 19 local government committees for food and nutrition across supported states

Regularly supported the review meetings of the SCFN to evaluate their progress on key food and nutrition issues.

Supported the establishment of nutrition departments with budget lines in Ebonyi

Supported the development of state level policies on food and nutrition and the development of state-level plans of action for food and nutrition

Improved Prevention and Treatment of Wasting

2,140 (823 males and 1317 females) health care and community workers provided efficient and effective service during maternal and new child health week

58 (26 males and 32 females) Doctors and Nurses were equipped with relevant skills in-patient care management for Acute Malnutrition.

109 (53 males and 56 females) health care workers are able to Integrated manage of Acute Malnutrition using the Integrated Approaches

211 (161 males, 50 females) LGAs M&E , Nutrition Focal Persons and health record officers are able to manage data ensure quality and use appropriately.

Improved the Capacity of Food Systems Actors to Produce and Supply Nutritious and Safe Foods

470 (351 males and 119 females) agric extension workers and lead farmers on Aflatoxin mitigation techniques in staple crops. 24,663 (19,285 males and 5,376 females) small holder farmers are equipped with the knowledge across Bauchi, Kebbi and Sokoto

258 (169 males, 89 females) Food Systems actors good agricultural practices for the production of nutritious foods in the target states.

In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health conducted mass sensitization at markets places during the on Food Safety during the World Food Safety Day Celebration





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USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, addressing the root causes of malnutrition to save lives and enhance long-term health and development.

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