



NUTRITION POLICY DIALOGUE 2023

**STRENGTHENING NUTRITION OUTCOMES
IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**



Event Anchor- Beti Baiye Editor, Nigeria Health Watch

Time	Item	Facilitator
8:30 am	Arrival and Registration	Nigeria Health Watch
9:00 am	Tea/Coffee break	All
9:30-9:40 am	Welcome Remarks	Vivianne Ihekweazu- Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch
9:40-9:50 am	Keynote Address	Chief Uruakpa John Director and head Prevention and Control of Micronutrient Deficiency, Federal Ministry of Health.
10:30-11: 00am	Panel discussion: Exploring enabling environment for integration of climate change, food security and nutrition policies for improved nutrition outcomes	Moderator- Kemisola Agbaoye, Director of Programmes Nigeria Health Watch. Panellists- a. Dr Jane Bevan - Chief WASH Section, UNICEF Nigeria b. Dr Michael Ojo- Country Director GAIN Nigeria c. Chukwuma Anene- Senior Programme Officer, USAID Advancing Nutrition
11:00-11: 20am	Questions and Answers	All
11:20- 12:00pm	Panel discussion: Showcasing innovations in climate-resilient food systems for better nutrition outcomes.	Moderator- Onyedikachi Ewe, Senior Programme and Advocacy Manager Nigeria Health Watch a. Michael Daniel Eveshoyan- Helen Keller International HKI b. Hope Ikani- Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria CS-SUNN c. Dr James Oloyede – Senior Technical Nutrition Advisor Alive & Thrive, FHI360 d. Michael Adegboye – Dep. Dir Department of Agricultural Land and Climate Change Management Services
12:00-12:20	Questions and Answers	All
12:20-12:40	White Paper	Oluoma Omeje Programme Manager Nigeria Health Watch & Drafting Committee
12:40 – 12:45	Closing Remarks	Safiya Shuaibu Isa
12:45	Lunch	All

NUTRITION POLICY DIALOGUE 2023

THEME - STRENGTHENING NUTRITION OUTCOMES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.



10,000

children die daily from chronic poor nutrition.

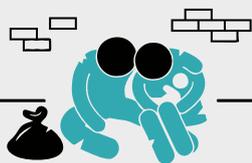


99%

of malnourished people live in countries that are underdeveloped.



Today, approximately **10%** of the global population suffer from hunger, compared to **24%** in 1990.



Global hunger is on the rise - and is caused by war, weather, and poverty.



Asia has the most **hungry people**, but sub-Saharan Africa has **25%** of their population who suffer from hunger, making it the highest prevalence.



60%

Females make up **60%** of malnourished people worldwide.



45%

of all deaths of **children under 5** are due to the lack of food - that's almost 3 million lives a year.



\$1.90 US/day

780 million people - or **11%** of the global population - live on less than **\$1.90 US/day**.



\$265bn

\$7bn

Experts disagree on how much money it would take to end hunger worldwide, their best guess range anywhere from **\$7 billion to \$265 billion** a year.

Globally, the early 1990s witnessed an improvement in hunger rates; however, these figures have declined since 2015. In Nigeria, one in ten children succumbs to hunger before age five. This poses significant obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 3, which aim for zero hunger and good health and well-being by 2030.

Some of the significant factors that cause food shortages include global insecurity, poverty, and climate-related factors such as extreme weather events and drought. To effectively address the challenges of climate change on food security and nutrition, it is crucial for nutrition policies and programs to incorporate these key areas.

Given the severe impact of climate change on global nutrition indicators. It has become imperative to assess the intersection between food security and nutrition. Nigeria Health Watch, therefore, organised a Nutrition policy dialogue on June 22nd, 2023, themed "Strengthening Nutrition Outcomes in the Face of Climate Change". The dialogue brought together stakeholders from the public sector, civil society organisations, the private sector and development partners to discuss the impact of climate change on food security and nutrition outcomes to strengthen the coordination of a multisectoral response between the key sectors.



OPENING REMARK

"Climate change has devastating consequences for nutrition, particularly for children, hindering the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3 (zero hunger and good health and well-being) by 2030. Crop failures, farmer livelihood losses, and food inflation further compound the challenge of food insecurity".

-Vivianne Ihekweazu, Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch.



Vivianne Ihekweazu, Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch, in her opening comments, recognised the intricate linkages between climate change and food security; she stated that the dialogue aims to shape a future where no child suffers from hunger and undernutrition, emphasising the need for collaboration among stakeholders to achieve sustainable progress.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Currently, the world is 1.2 degrees higher, warmer than during the last decade. This phenomenon comes with great consequences on environments and destabilises the ecosystem, hence adversely affecting various food system pathways that are integral for good nutrition such as food production, dietary intake, health, Social Security, and water hygiene."

- Chief Uruakpa John, Director and Head Prevention and Control of Micro-nutrient Deficiency, Federal Ministry of Health



Chief Uruakpa John, in his keynote address on the relationship between climate change and nutrition outcomes. He highlighted the consequences of climate change, such as extreme weather events, crop failure, and increased food prices, as contributors to global food insecurity, conflict and malnutrition. He discussed initiatives of the Nigerian Government, such as the Climate Change Act and National Policy on Climate Change, to mitigate the effects of climate change. His address listed integrating climate change solutions into government programs, promoting sustainable diets, mobilising climate funds for nutrition-focused adaptation, and raising awareness among decision-makers as some of the measures to improve nutrition outcomes.



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THEME- STRENGTHENING NUTRITION OUTCOMES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chief Uruakpa stressed the need to strengthen institutional frameworks, to support vulnerable populations, and enhance capacity in managing undernutrition and emphasised the importance of gender equity and education for both men and women in addressing climate change and nutrition.



Image source: <https://unsplash.com/s/photos/nutrition>



FIRST PANEL SESSION

EXPLORING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY, AND NUTRITION POLICIES FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION OUTCOMES

Panellists

- **Dr Jane Bevan** - Chief WASH Section, UNICEF Nigeria
- **Dr Michael Ojo** - Country Director GAIN Nigeria
- **Chukwuma Anene** - Senior Program Officer, USAID Advancing Nutrition

Moderator

- **Kemisola Agbaoye** - Director of Programmes Nigeria Health Watch

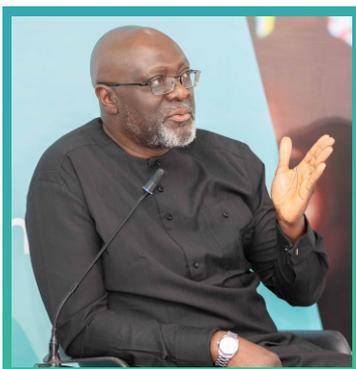


Panel one (1) provided a platform for participants to discuss some of the environmental drivers for integrating climate change and food security with nutrition programs and how they all work together to improve the nutrition outcomes of children primarily and the general nutritional outcomes of Nigerians.



Dr Michael Ojo - Country Director GAIN Nigeria

“As Nigeria’s population is projected to grow, sustainable practices become crucial to meet the increasing demand for food while mitigating climate change.”
- Dr Michael Ojo



Dr Michael Ojo highlighted various food systems and how they significantly influence land, water, biodiversity, and deforestation. He shared GAIN’s efforts towards making healthier food choices available, accessible, and affordable. His submission called for innovation and environmentally friendly approaches to establish safety regulations, ensure sustainability and supervise biofortification for nutrition and climate financing projects. The challenges of legislation, regulation and financing in Nigeria are a significant bottleneck to the

operations of sustainable nutrition programs and interventions. Dr Michael referred to the lack of implementation of Nigeria’s various policies and strategies as hindering progress to meaningful development. Dr Ojo further reiterated the intrinsic relationship between deforestation and climate change. He emphasised the need for clarity of approach to tackle the country’s agriculture and food production issues.

Dr Jane Bevan- Chief WASH Section, UNICEF Nigeria.

“Water Resources aren’t infinite they are most definitely finite, and this is really going to be a problem for the country unless we address these issues.”
- Dr Jane Bevan



Dr Jane Highlighted the intersection of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions and nutrition outcomes; she went on to share insights on the sanitation coverage in Nigeria and was equivocal about the poor sanitation indices in Nigeria, with over 50 million population size in Nigeria, it is disheartening that about a quarter of the population still do not have access to toilets, thus translating to a considerable amount of open defecation which impacts our environment and health especially that of women and children. She commended

the water coverage rate in Nigeria and highlighted UNICEF Nigeria’s efforts in developing integrated WASH and climate resilient programs as strategies to improve nutrition and food security outcomes. Water coverage rate refers to the percentage of a population with access to clean and safe drinking water sources. It is an essential



indicator of a region's ability to provide sufficient and sustainable access to safe drinking water for its residents. She concluded with a call to action on the Children's Climate Risk Index, which ranked Nigeria as one of the highest-risk countries for children regarding climate impact across multiple sectors.

Mr Chukuma Anene- Senior Program Officer, USAID Advancing Nutrition.

"In terms of advancing nutrition, what we have sought to do is enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers by exposing them to new technology, exposing them to good agricultural practices, such as diversification, introducing them to climate-resistant seeds, and livestock and also helping them learn sustainable farm practices that will not only help them increase the efficiency of their production"
- Mr Chukwuma Anene



Mr Chukwuma Identified gaps such as the insufficient mainstreaming and integration of climate change considerations into food security and nutrition policies in Nigeria's policy environment. He noted that there is a lack of capacity among policymakers and institutions to interpret and implement policies effectively. He highlighted insufficient data for evidence-based decision-making as another issue as well as inadequate funding for climate change initiatives. Speaking to these issues, Mr Chukwuma made the following

recommendations as tangible steps for this nexus, enhancing policy coordination, mainstreaming climate change considerations, strengthening capacity building, improving data collection, adopting a multi-sectoral approach, involving research institutions, and ensuring sustainable financing for climate change programs through allocated budgets and fund release.

The session ended with a call for leadership, governance, and legislation to support renewable energy sources like solar power, empower women and youth in agriculture, and integrate climate change into nutrition and food systems. Sensitisation and awareness campaigns are crucial to creating a greater understanding of the impacts of climate change and the need for action.



SECOND PANEL SESSION

SHOWCASING INNOVATIONS IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS FOR BETTER NUTRITION OUTCOMES

Panellists

- **Michael Daniel Eveshoyan** – Technical Advisor for the Advancing Nutrition projects Helen Keller International HKI
- **Hope Ikani** - Program Officer, Civil Society Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria CS-SUNN
- **Dr James Oloyede** - Project Director, Alive & Thrive, FHI360
- **Dr Michael Adegboye** - Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Moderator

- **Onyedikachi Ewe** - Senior Programme and Advocacy Manager Nigeria Health Watch

*"If we want to achieve the zero-hunger sustainable development goal, then we have to look critically at how to tackle and integrate climate change and nutrition."
-Onyedikachi Ewe.*



Michael Daniel Eveshoyan – Technical Advisor for the Advancing Nutrition projects Helen Keller International HKI



"Malnutrition is not just in food. We should also talk about hidden hunger, which is sometimes a lack of certain micronutrients in what we eat, and that is where vitamin A supplementation comes in."
- Michael Daniel Eveshoyan



During his presentation, **Mr Michael Daniel** elaborated on Helen Keller's comprehensive and innovative nutrition model, which encompasses nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches. The model primarily revolves around a strategic implementation strategy that involves collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in nutrition and malnutrition prevention. This holistic approach ensures a more effective and sustainable impact.

Additionally, Mr Daniel highlighted some specific initiatives undertaken by their organisation. These include providing essential vitamin A supplementation, training health workers and nutrition focal persons to bolster nutrition-specific efforts and implementing nutrition-sensitive interventions. These efforts aim to enhance agricultural practices and offer bio-fortified food crops to communities, ultimately promoting better nutrition outcomes in Nigeria.

• **Hope Ikani**- Program Officer, Civil Society Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria CS-SUNN

"We recognised that to address climate change-aggravated malnutrition, one of the things we must consider is individual needs and community perspective and lived experiences"
- Hope Ikani.



Hope Ikani shared the innovations of CS-SUNN in improving climate-resilient food systems for better nutrition outcomes, where she stated that Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria focuses on mobilising state and non-state actors to address climate change-aggravated malnutrition to generate evidence and build community capacity. This is accomplished through an inclusive and people-centred approach, where the focus lies on integrating the unique needs and viewpoints of individuals and communities into every intervention.

Such an approach enhances the capacity of nutrition programming while fostering collaboration and sustainable development within the targeted communities.



• **Dr James Oloyede**- Project Director, Alive & Thrive, FHC360

"In addressing the issue of nutrition outcomes in the face of climate change, we need to use a systematic approach. If we do not use a systemic approach, we will not be able to deliver improved nutrition outcomes."- Dr James Oloyede



Highlighting the organisation's focus on addressing climate change and its impact on nutrition outcomes, **Dr James** emphasised the need for policy environments, guidelines, and strategies that incorporate climate change components to drive nutrition interventions. He added that FHI360's current interventions in Nigeria include accelerating the scale of maternal, infant, and young child nutrition interventions and promoting exclusive breastfeeding to reduce environmental waste caused by breast milk substitutes. FHI360 is also involved

in various partnerships and initiatives at both the national and state levels, such as fortification programs, data-driven approaches, and promoting front labelling on processed foods to help consumers make healthier choices. To strengthen health systems, Dr James stated that the organisation also conducts training and capacity-building activities for frontline health workers to improve nutrition outcomes. These include monitoring pregnant women's weight gain and providing tailored nutrition counselling and, at the community level, support for homestead gardening and rearing small livestock to reduce food waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

• **Dr Michael Adegboye**, Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

"In addressing the issue of nutrition outcomes in the face of climate change, we need to use a systematic approach. If we do not use a systemic approach, we will not be able to deliver improved nutrition outcomes." - Dr James Oloyede



Dr Michael expressed optimism that Nigeria's efforts at improving food security and climate change resilience are yielding positive results. He further affirmed that climate change significantly impacts Nigeria's food security mandate. Efforts towards addressing the climate change-related issues in Nigeria were initially slow but gradually gaining momentum as it has become imperative. There are ongoing engagements with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment to address the challenges posed by climate change, including providing

earth dams for irrigation, training in agroforestry to combat deforestation, and



promoting the use of alternative fuels for cooking to reduce tree cutting. The ministry is also promoting using organic sources of nutrients for soil fertilisation to minimise soil damage caused by inorganic fertilisers as research institutes are developing crops and animals resistant to climate change and policies. Such efforts include The National Special Program for Food Security and the ongoing review of the Fertilizer Policy, which aims to improve extension services, input supply, and soil quality by establishing the National Soil and Water Laboratories to help farmers understand the specific nutrient needs of their soils.

INSIGHTS:



The policy dialogue highlighted the urgent need for a holistic and inclusive approach to address the impact of climate change on nutrition outcomes in Nigeria. It emphasised the importance of awareness, capacity building, leadership, evidence, empowerment, legislative action, and stakeholder collaboration. These insights shed light on the key areas that require attention and effort to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on nutrition.



“I perceive this as the beginning of a series of interactions. It is essential to establish a coordinated, multisectoral response to reshape the discourse around nutrition, food security, and climate change, as it lies at the core of our challenges.”

Safiya Shuaibu Isa, Senior Advocacy and Communications Manager Nigeria Health Watch.



RECOMMENDATIONS:



Multi-level Sensitization Campaigns: Develop and implement comprehensive awareness campaigns targeting all segments of society, with a particular focus on young people and rural communities. These campaigns should raise awareness about the linkages between climate change, food production, and nutrition, emphasising sustainable practices and healthy dietary choices.



Farmer Capacity Building: Strengthen the capacity of farmers through training programs and extension services that promote climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices. Provide farmers with knowledge and resources to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on their crops and livestock, including the appropriate use of organic fertilisers and sustainable irrigation techniques.



Leadership Development: Invest in leadership development programs that empower government officials, community leaders, and civil society representatives to prioritise and advocate for climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive policies—Foster partnerships and collaborations to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these policies at all levels.



Evidence Generation and Dissemination: Support research initiatives that enhance the understanding of the specific impacts of climate change on nutrition outcomes in Nigeria. Disseminate evidence-based findings to policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to inform decision-making and guide the development of targeted interventions.



Youth and Women Empowerment: Create opportunities for youth and women to participate in climate change adaptation and nutrition initiatives actively. Provide training, resources, and financial support for their engagement in sustainable agriculture, climate-smart entrepreneurship, and community resilience-building activities.



6



Legislative Measures: Advocate for legislation and policies that promote using renewable energy sources and discourage reliance on fossil fuels. Support initiatives that incentivise adopting clean cooking technologies, such as solar power and cleaner fuels, to reduce deforestation and improve air quality.

7



Stakeholder Collaboration: Foster collaboration and coordination among government agencies, private sector entities, civil society organisations, research institutions, and communities. Establish platforms for knowledge sharing, joint planning, and resource mobilisation to leverage expertise and resources for effective climate change and nutrition interventions.



Image source: www.istockphoto.com/search/2/image?phrase=climate+change

Photo Gallery





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