**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE THREE (3) DAY TRAINING ON SOCIAL PROTECTION WITH MEMBERS OF THE YOBE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ORGANISED BY ACTION AGAINST HUNGER AT TAHIR GUEST PALACE, KANO. 18TH TO 20TH AUGUST 2020**

**Background**

Action Against Hunger International (AAH) is a non-governmental, non profit international  humanitarian organisation that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger. AAH International has saved the lives of malnourished children through nutrition and health programs, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and food security and livelihood intervention.

AAH has been implementing an Integrated Scaling Up Nutrition in Yobe State (SUNNY) project since 2019 funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). The project is implemented in Nangere, Tarmuwa and Gujba LGA and the goal is to contribute towards the reduction of morbidity and mortality related to under nutrition amongst boys and girls under five years and pregnant and lactating women in Yobe states.

The SUNNY Project is piloting a social protection program in Nangere LGA, Yobe state. The Social Protection component of the SUNNY project has a strong learning agenda. The project is focused at increasing capacity, ability and willingness to improve Head of Household’s livelihoods through improvement in usage of cash, savings, choice of food groups & nutrition, small-scale investments, and health & hygiene by seeking behaviour change for vulnerable households.

The SUNNY project seeks to engage in advocacy at different levels of stakeholders to sensitise and evoke conversations on social protection.

**Introduction**

The workshop on Social Protection with members of the Yobe State House of Assembly (ShoA) was organized by Action Against Hunger’s Scaling Up Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (SUNNY) project with the 24 Honorable Members of the House, Clerk of the House, Director Planning Research and Statistics and Director Protocol and Special Duties. The training successfully built the capacities of the members on prominent definitions, approaches, concepts, and frameworks for social protection.

At the end of the 3 days training of the members of the ShoA, the Legislators agreed on key Actions and engagement to be fulfilled that would promote and advance social protection in both policy and programmes in Yobe state.

**Objectives and Targets**

* To instill a thorough understanding of the key concepts and instruments related to social protection amongst participants
* To introduce participants to the most relevant social protection and social transfer discussions and debates facing developing countries today, international best practices, and practical design and implementation issues within the Nigerian context.
* To communicate to participants the vital role of social protection policies and programming in addressing poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion.
* To enable participants to engage more effectively in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of country-specific social protection programmes and policy processes.
* To create a forum where participants  can engage in a meaningful dialogue regarding social protection systems nationally
* In the long run, to build a network of experienced and knowledgeable policymakers, practitioners, and trainers in social protection who are able to design, implement, monitor, scale up, and/or advocate for social protection programmes and policies that best represent their own needs and priorities.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. Formation and Inauguration of Legislative Forum on Social Protection by 8th September, 2020.
2. The Yobe State House of Assembly will support the inclusion of Social Protection Policy into the YOSERA 5 document.
3. To continue to approve increased budgetary allocation for key social protection in their Sectors.
4. To embark on sensitization of constituents on importance of social protection programs
5. To continue legislation and resolutions on key social protection programs.
6. To conduct a study tour to states that have started implementing social protection programs.
7. To strengthen the oversight functions.
8. To actively support the enrolment of more vulnerable people into the National Social Register (NSR).
9. To support the sustainability plans and intervention programs.

**Conclusion and Thanks**

On behalf of the Honorable Members of the Yobe State House of Assembly we would like to extend our profound gratitude to the Executive Governor of Yobe State, His Excellency His Excellency Yobe the Governor HonorableMai Mala Buni for supporting the good work of Action Against Hunger in Yobe State. We also like to thank the entire Action Against Hunger team for their support and dedication to the people of Yobe State.

As you are aware, we have agreed on a 9 point commitment which the Honorable House will assist to actualize social protection in Yobe State. We would like to assure the people of Yobe State and Action Against Hunger that Yobe State House of Assembly will ensure that the 7 points are achieved.

**Signed, on Behalf of Honorable Members of Yobe State House of Assembly.**

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**Rt. Hon. Ahmed Lawan Mirwa**

Speaker, Yobe State House of Assembly.

**Signed, on Behalf of the Country Director Action Against Hunger.**

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**Muhammad Aamir**

Deputy Country Director- Technical