



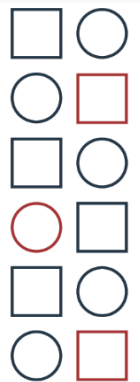
Expression of Interest No: 15-07-2024

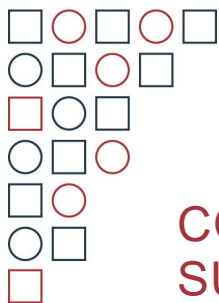
## Consultant, Operationalization and strengthening of National Legislative Network on Nutrition (NLN)

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July 15, 2024

**Deadline for receipt of submissions:  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 11.59pm Ottawa (EST) time**





# CONSULTANT FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE NETWORK ON NUTRITION

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Nutrition International is recruiting an individual Consultant to perform the duties specified in this ToR. Nutrition International is committed to the fundamental principles of equal employment opportunity. Women are encouraged to apply.

## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Nigeria has the second highest burden of stunted children among under-five population, with a national prevalence rate of 32 percent. An estimated 2 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, with treatment reaching only about 20% of the affected children. Furthermore, only 18 percent of children aged 6-23 months are fed the minimum acceptable diet and seven percent of children under-five-years' experience wasting<sup>1</sup>, surpassing the global average of 4.6 percent. The high rates of malnutrition pose significant public health and development challenges for the country. Stunting, in addition to an increased risk of death, is also linked to poor cognitive development, a lowered performance in education and low productivity in adulthood - all contributing to economic losses estimated to account for as much as 11 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).<sup>2</sup>

Nigeria is actively addressing nutrition challenges through policy frameworks, stakeholder collaborations, and resource mobilization efforts. In 2022, the National Council on Nutrition approved a five-year nutrition action plan entitled the “National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (NMPFAN) 2021-2025” to guide the implementation of interventions and programmes against hunger and malnutrition across all sectors in Nigeria. This action plan aims to reduce the proportion of people (including children under 5) affected by malnutrition by 50 percent, increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding to 60 percent, and reduce the stunting rate among children under-five-year of age to 18 percent by 2025, through the scaling up of priority high impact nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Despite these efforts, the burden of malnutrition remains persistently high, with 35 million Under-5 children malnourished, 12 million stunted, 9 million wasted, and 23.5 million anaemic.

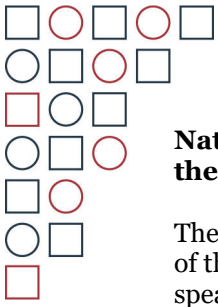
In February 2024, the House Committee on Nutrition and Food Security (NFS) was formed. This committee, made up of representatives from the National Assembly (NASS), is expected to focus on budget appropriation, legislation, oversight of federal entities, and monitoring of partners' programs to ensure improved nutrition outcomes and value for money.

In its recent legislative retreat, the Committee identified gaps in budgetary allocation for nutrition interventions and guiding policies on government spending which will require concerted efforts of its members, as well as collaboration and coordination with state level legislatures to ensure better nutrition advocacy, oversight and resource allocation.

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<sup>1</sup> National Multi-Sectoral Plan Action for Food and Nutrition 2021-2025

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/nutrition>



## **National Legislative Network on Nutrition, comprising of the NASS members and the Speakers of the State Assemblies**

The creation of the National Legislative Network (NLN) was an outcome of the three-day retreat of the Committee on Nutrition and Food Security, House of Representatives, attended by speakers of 36 state houses of assembly and other stakeholders and held in Owerri, April 02-04, 2024. The NLN comprises the House of Representative Committee on Nutrition and Food Security, the relevant Senate Committee on Nutrition and Food Security, and corresponding committees at the 36 State Houses of Assembly, the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Health and Social Welfare, Budget and Economic Planning, the Development Partners and NGOs and CSOs. The NLN is expected to provide an avenue for these key stakeholders to collaborate to provide legislative perspectives to address malnutrition and food insecurity in Nigeria. The Secretariat of the NLN is housed within the Secretariat of the Conference of State Assembly Speakers in Abuja. It is headed by a Director General, working with other administrative staff members. The NLN thus provides a platform for engagement of all State Assemblies, and the National Assembly, to ensure strategic contributions to national and subnational policies on nutrition and food security in Nigeria.

### **Technical Assistance overview**

Nutrition International provides quality, timely and coordinated expert Technical Assistance (TA) in the areas of nutrition governance, financing and data to governments, multilateral organizations, development banks and other partners. Our TA aims to advance the effective scale-up of evidence-based nutrition interventions and programs, with a focus on elevating the health of populations in areas with the highest potential for impact.

Nutrition International will provide TA through the Secretariat of the NLN, to the House Committee on NFS and further support the strengthening of the NLN. The TA will support the Committee to strengthen its coordination with relevant ministries and key stakeholders, for improving implementation of nutrition interventions. Furthermore, it will support the development of legislative frameworks, and build capacity for legislative coordination, implementation oversight, and effective resource mobilization for nutrition interventions at national and sub-national levels.

NI is now seeking to recruit a consultant to lead the development of a framework guiding appropriation and spendings on projects and programmes relating to nutrition across different Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and develop an implementation package for the nutrition structures at the sub-national level.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THIS CONSULTANCY**

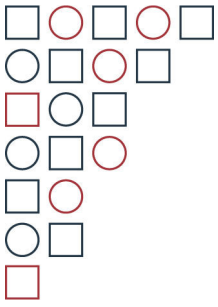
### **Overall Objective**

To build legislative capacity for coordination, policy and resource mobilization for improved nutrition outcomes by developing a framework guiding appropriation and spendings on projects and programmes relating to nutrition across different Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and develop an implementation package for the legislative nutrition structures at sub-national level.

### **Specific Activities**

The specific activities of this Consultancy include:

1. Lead the development of a legislative framework on Nutrition and Food Security to guide budget/resource allocation, government spending and policy intervention across sectors.



2. Develop a process map/framework for the engagement of the State Houses of Assemblies to form Committees on Nutrition and Food Security to lead State-level parliamentary nutrition response.
3. Develop recommendations and a roadmap for longer term capacity building and technical assistance to the NLN for effective implementation of the national and state assemblies' legislative mandate for improved nutrition

### SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will be expected to undertake the following activities and produce the listed deliverables.

**Activity 1:** Development of a legislative framework on Nutrition and Food Security to guide budget/resource allocation, government spending, and policy intervention across sectors, promoting long-term food security and improved nutrition outcomes.

#### Deliverables:

- Desk review and impact assessment of existing national policies, laws, regulations and budget allocation on nutrition and food security in the context of Nigeria. This should also cover all nutrition and food security related policies across the different MDAs.
- A legislative framework on nutrition through participatory approaches with the Secretariat of the Legislative Network on Nutrition and Food Security, NCN, NCWC, and House Committees on Nutrition and Food Security.
- Mapping of high priority nutrition related interventions based on consultation with NCN/Office of the Vice President and other key ministries. Develop appropriate recommendations to strengthen nutrition coordination and convergence of activities among the nutrition structures.

**Activity 2:** Develop a process map/framework for the engagement of the State Houses of Assemblies to form House Committees on Nutrition and Food Security:

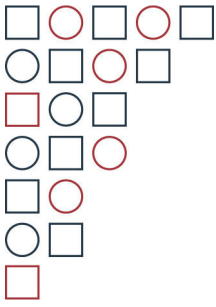
#### Deliverables:

- Assessment of the functionality of the existing sub-national committees on nutrition.
- A Nutrition and Food Security orientation/implementation plan for the State House of Assemblies Committee on Nutrition and Food Security to understand the national nutrition vision, and implementation strategies, and what is expected of them, including reporting requirements.
- Review, strengthen and/or develop a framework to guide the operations and reporting of State House of Assemblies Committee on Nutrition and Food Security ensuring standardization of approaches.

**Activity 3:** Develop recommendations and a road-map for longer term capacity building and technical assistance to the NLN for effective implementation of the national and state assemblies' legislative mandate for improved nutrition.

#### Deliverables:

- Assessment of capacity development needs of the House Committee on NFS



- Capacity development plan for Committee members to improve nutrition knowledge and ability to effectively advocate for policies and greater resources for nutrition
- Plan for long-term technical assistance and ongoing capacity development support for the NLN members.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The results of the Consultancy will be:

- A drafted legislative framework on resource allocation, utilization and policy interventions for Nutrition and Food Security is developed.
- A framework to guide the operations of the State House of Assemblies' Committee on Nutrition and Food Security is developed, alongside orientation plan/packages.

## GENDER

Nutrition International is committed to gender equality. Consultants are required to indicate how they will ensure that gender equality considerations are included in the provision of TA, including how they are incorporated into deliverables. Examples of gender equality integration could include but are not limited to; ensuring government departments responsible for women are included wherever possible, gender sensitive indicators are included, emerging data is sex disaggregated, and relevant documentation related to gender is reviewed. Nutrition International's gender equality strategy as well as tools to support gender mainstreaming can be accessed here: [Program Gender Equality Strategy](#).

## TIMELINE

The consultancy will be between August 2024 and March 2025. Extension of contract may be subject to the successful delivery of this TA and budget availability.

## STATION / LOCATION

- The consultant will be working from NI Nigeria Office in Abuja.
- There may be some travel to states within Nigeria as and when required. Local travel under this consultancy will be supported by Nutrition International based on prior approval by NI team. Travel allowance will be based on the standard rates of the organization.

## MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING/COORDINATION MECHANISM

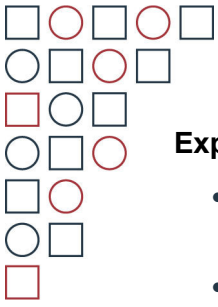
- The consultant will work closely with the Secretariat of the National Legislative Network and the House Committee on NFS.
- The Consultant will report to the Nutrition International Country Director, and work in close collaboration with the Deputy Country Director, and the NI global Nutrition Governance unit.

## PROFILE/ QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT

The Consultant should have the following profile:

### Education:

1. Masters degree level qualification in any relevant discipline of Public Health, Food and Nutrition, and/or Health Policy.



### Experience:

- At least 15 years of international development experience with significant cross-country experience in at least 2 countries, including in the Africa Region.
- Relevant experience working with the legislature with technical expertise in policy development within the Nigerian legislative context.
- Substantive work on multi-sectoral planning and programming, covering nutrition related sectors and including food security policy.
- Experience in Nigeria working at a policy or program level is a strong advantage.
- Familiarity with the Nigerian legislative system, processes and procedures will be considered an asset.
- Experience in program management, capacity building and high-level advocacy
- Proven knowledge of the Nigerian health sector reform agenda.
- Demonstrable consultancy experience and excellent report writing skills
- Demonstrated capacity for applying a gender equality framework of analysis to development issues.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity and demonstrated aptitude for working in national structures and with a range of development partners.
- Experience working with the legislative arm of the government.
- Ability to understand and execute gender mainstreaming activities.

### Language Skills:

- Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested Consultants are invited to submit the following by email to [TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org](mailto:TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org), copying [rmorgan@NutritionIntl.org](mailto:rmorgan@NutritionIntl.org) and [ookonkwo@nutritionintl.org](mailto:ookonkwo@nutritionintl.org) before August 2, 2024, 11:59pm, Eastern Standard Time (Ottawa time)

1. Include in your email subject the title of the consultancy
2. Up-to-date curriculum vitae or resume.
3. Cover Letter/ Suitability statement for the consultancy.
4. Additionally, applicants are expected to complete the [Technical Assistance Consultant Recruitment Form](#)

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