



LAGOS FOOD BANK INITIATIVE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

According to the Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019), 39.1 percent of Nigerians live below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per person, per day. At the same time, we are faced with critical hunger level, as we are ranked 98 out of 107 countries in the 2020 Global Hunger Index (GHI, 2020). With these numbers, it has become very important to advocate for policies that seek to improve food security and the overall wellbeing of Nigerians.

Our Legislative Agenda is a key element of our strategy to advocate for equitable and effective policies targeted at fighting hunger, malnutrition and poverty at the Local, State and Federal levels. Therefore, we would be advocating for the following priorities.

ANTI-HUNGER PRIORITIES

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: Advice stakeholders at Local, state and Federal levels to introduce wide spread food assistance program that supports food banks, food pantries and other emergency feeding organizations serving low-income earners. Assistantships for such programs could take the form of donation of State/ Federal Grants, Partnerships, State and Federal endorsements of food banks, federally purchased commodities to support food banks and funding for administrative costs.

FARM TO FOOD BANK GRANTS: Create grants for projects that involve harvesting, processing, packaging, or transporting commodities donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by food banks and other emergency feeding organizations.

STRENGTHEN SCHOOL FOOD FEEDING PROGRAM: Creating fund platforms for schools, Non-governmental and governmental organization that provide school meals to pupils. Also, equipping them with necessary facilities needed to procure and provide locally produced nutritious meals is a means to increase school feeding coverage and improve nutritional status of school age children.

Core Values: *Commitment *Compassion *Community *Contribution *Connection

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ANTI-FOOD WASTE POLICIES: Develop and support social policies and targeted innovative solutions to facilitate food redistribution where needed. For instance, policies that restrict supermarkets, big food processing companies from disposing or intentionally damaging food items approaching their best-buy date but encourages donation of these items to charity organizations and food banks should be enacted.

NATIONAL DATABASE SYSTEM: Strengthen national database to allow maximum coverage of the database of vulnerable Nigerians, to easily identify those at risk and efficiently put in effort to fight hunger and poverty in the country. To implement this, sufficient budget should be allocated to improving the functionality of the national database for vulnerable population. In addition, the current national database should be routinely updated to effect changes in the economic status of citizens, so as to ensure that the most vulnerable households are the priority of programs targeted towards fighting hunger and poverty.

ANTI-POVERTY PRIORITIES

INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE: Lennart Båge, 2007(President of International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD) said, the power of agricultural development to transform societies is clearly seen in China, where a concerted push to combat rural poverty has helped the country become an economic powerhouse

INVESTMENT IN NUTRITION AND ECONOMIC STABILITY: Strengthen and invest in programs relating to early childhood development, women empowerment, child protection, classroom education, water and sanitation, health and family planning service and treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

HOUSING NEEDS: The most visible evidence of poverty arises when poor families and individuals cluster in an undeveloped area. This presents the need to channel more funds to low income households, promote savings and investment in housing.

IMPROVED HEALTH CARE: Investment in health is recognized as an important tool for economic development. The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH) of the World

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Health Organization (WHO) has shown that substantially improved health outcomes are prerequisites for developing countries to break out of the cycle of poverty.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Provide support to the rural community through creation of both skilled and unskilled employment opportunities. Also, set up training programs that help develop their skill sets so as to improve their living conditions.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the Lagos Food Bank Initiative Management.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael A. Sunbola'.

Michael A. Sunbola
Founder/President

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