



Update on the National Social Investment Programs

January 2018

Overview of Social Investment Programs (SIP)

In order to guarantee high level political authority and co-ordination for all the social protection programs in Nigeria, the Federal Government of Nigeria has set up a National Social Investment Office within the Office of the Vice President, that will ensure:

- A credible method of targeting the poor and vulnerable for the reduction of poverty as well as the poor human capital indices, with a view to reducing them
- Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Standard delivery structures
- Clarity in roles and responsibilities; ensuring they are not duplicated
- Efficiency, transparency and accountability
- Proper coordination and synergy amongst key ministries, departments and agencies, as well as between the Federal, State and Local Governments

The office is headed by the Special Adviser to the President on Social Investment, Office of the Vice President.

The social investment programs are designed to draw from the social protection policy framework in a manner that ensures a life of dignity for those who have been constrained in one way or another from achieving their full potential. Below is a brief description matrix of the five-pronged social investment programs housed under the National Social Investment Office (NSIO).

Social Investment Programs

Program	Objective	Target	Implementation Design
N-Power	N-Power is designed to help young Nigerians acquire and develop life-long skills to become solution providers in their communities and players in the domestic and global markets	N-Power Corps: 500, 000 N-Power Knowledge: 25, 000 N-Power Build: 75, 000	- Intending beneficiaries applied via a portal: www.npower.gov.ng . - Essentially a volunteer program as beneficiaries need to indicate their BVN as well as their areas of interest, to enable authentication and transparency (and ensure that funds go to identified and verified individuals, thereby avoiding corruption and waste), as well as their being deployed into meaningful spheres that they are willing to serve.
Home Grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP)	Program is aimed at increasing the enrolment and completion rate at the	5.5 million primary school pupils	- A State shows interest to engage by signing the programs MoU. A capacity building workshop is then organized in order for the State to agree to the most

	<p>primary school level. It will also serve to create jobs (via recruitment of cooks) and raise agricultural demand since the program is key on building a community value chain. The manufacturers of utensils for cooks and feeding is also another added value.</p>		<p>appropriate model of HGSF that suits the context of the State. A multi-sectoral implementation team is pulled together from all the relevant MDAs to coordinate and manage the program in the State. The team sets up structures to recruit cooks from the LGA. An advert is disseminated at the community level where the cooks are recruited based on the number of pupils to be fed per school. The cooks must live within the community in which he/she is required to provide a service, the cook must be 24-59 years. Some States have included a condition that the cook must have a ward in the school, must have a certificate and must be endorsed by someone in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The women are required to open individual accounts, biometric register, carry out medical screening, and also be trained on food hygiene and safety. - Biometric registration of pupils (to be linked to the NHIS) will also be done to aid verification and ensure efficiency. - Program feeds classes 1-3 while States are encouraged to feed up 4-6. - Cost of feeding per child is at an agreed cost of N 70 per day for 200 days in the year.
<p>Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)</p>	<p>Program is aimed at providing targeted transfers to poor and vulnerable households, with the final aim of graduating them out of poverty</p>	<p>1 million households to receive N 5,000 monthly as conditional cash transfers. Additional 200,000 households and livelihood support will be provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A National Social Register is currently being built using geographic and community based targeting identification of poor and vulnerable poor households (PVHHs) by the National Social Safety Net Coordination Office (NASSCO). Payment to beneficiaries of the program has commenced in the 8 YESSO States since they have Social Registers, hitherto developed with World Bank assistance,

		through World Bank credit (upon approval of borrowing plan)	<p>as well as in Borno, using their IDP Register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Social Register will ensure strategic and transparent targeting of the core poor to poverty interventions. 80 beneficiaries would be selected from each ward, around the country. 30% of poorest LGAs in each State would be targeted for the first year, after which it would be 50% then 20% on the third year to complete the targeting process. Community based targeting methods will be used to identify the PVHHs while proxy means testing will be applied to rank the poor in the Social Register. Cash transfer Beneficiaries will ONLY be mined from the Social Register. - Biometric registration of caregivers and alternates and accounts opening will be done for all beneficiaries in order to verify beneficiary status before payment and to encourage savings as well as promote financial inclusion. - Coaching, life skills training, mentorship and other capacity building services will be provided to all beneficiaries - Enrolment and local agency banking networks are being developed to support beneficiaries in remote communities to enable them readily access cash benefits. - A grievance redress team has been established at community, LGA, State and National level to address complaints.
Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP) a.k.a.	Program is aimed at providing financial services access to traders, market women and women cooperatives; artisans and MSMEs;	1 million traders, women cooperatives and market women; 200,000 MSMEs; 260,000 enterprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BOI is managing the GEEP funds, whereby it's selected agents and aggregators would engage with the applicants of associations and cooperatives in States to authenticate and ascertain their credibility. The Ministries of Women Affairs, Commerce and the

ni”	“MarketMo enterprising clusters/youth, farmers and agric workers	youth; 200,000 farmers and agric workers	<p>Focal Persons in each State also provide information and support the applicants in the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any credible association and cooperative can register under the GEEP registration portal: www.boi.ng/marketreg. OR through paper submissions through their National Assembly members, State Focal Persons, or relevant Ministries. - Unique identification via BVN and Biometrics of each member is required – and an existing business to be verified by a GEEP agent. - Loans go directly to individuals in validated associations, with provision of some guarantees (and MOU to repay). - Loans within N10,000 and N100,000 are available directly to individuals in cleared associations, based on an administrative fee of 5% for a period of 6months and with a 2 weeks’ moratorium. No interest element or collateral required, as the leadership in the associations endorse members and act as ‘surety’ for timely repayment - default of which could lead to the association being blacklisted.
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Details of the four SIPs rolled out:

- i. *Summary of current level of implementation, immediate roll-out plans and guidelines for performance of the SIPs*

Programs	Current level of Implementation and Immediate Next Steps	Key Projects/Activities Performed
N-Power	<p>The current scope of the program is 200,000 graduate beneficiaries from all 36 States plus FCT. The non-graduate component to kick-off once procurement process is completed. Next batch of 300,000 beneficiaries to be selected very soon, as the application window closed in August 2017.</p> <p>95% (172, 000) of beneficiaries have been successfully paid out of the total number deployed (181, 019) in all 36 States.</p> <p>8 Technology Hubs are planned around the country, with 1 in each Zone and a Humanitarian Hub (to encourage technology-related ideas on humanitarian challenges) in Adamawa State and the Climate Change Innovation Hub (to address renewable energy challenges, especially) in Lagos State already at an advanced stage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portal development and content management - Selection of beneficiaries - BVN authentication - Deployment of duly selected (verified) beneficiaries across the 36 States of the country and FCT - Payment of stipends to verified beneficiaries. - Monitoring and evaluation across the 6 geo-political zones of the Federation by setting up a centralized Project Management Unit - Signing of MoU with the National Orientation Agency (NOA), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and National Security Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) to support the verification process and security across all the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT. - Signing of MoU with the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, NITDA, CORBON as well as the NPHDA, to align their needs with the service to be rendered by the Npower beneficiaries. - For the proposed Technology Hubs; we are partnering with NITDA, International Committee of the Red Cross, American University of Nigeria and Modibbo Adamawa University of Technology on the Humanitarian Hub in Yola, Adamawa State. We are collaborating with NITDA, the World Bank and the

		Lagos Business School for the Climate Change Hub in Lagos.
<p>NHGSFP</p>	<p>The current target of the program is 5,500,000 pupils for 18 States. So far, 6,044,625 pupils are being fed by 61,352 cooks in 33,981 primary schools around 20 States (Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Kaduna, Taraba, Benue, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Plateau, Abia, Delta, Zamfara, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Imo, Jigawa and Bauchi, Kano, Niger).</p> <p>Capacity building workshops to continue for as many States that have shown readiness. Implementation to commence next amongst the following States: Borno, Katsina, and Sokoto.</p> <p>Outstanding States for Capacity Building: FCT Abuja & Bayelsa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoU dissemination, follow up and collection to the 36 States + FCT - Capacity building workshops in States - State Multi-sectoral team set up - Cooks Recruitment and Pupil enrolment - Payment to verified cooks for the feeding of 6,044,625 million pupils in communities for 20 States engaged. - Set up of monitoring and evaluation systems at various levels – LGA (UBEC Officer/Agricultural Extension Officer); Schools and Community level implementation and monitoring committees; verification officers (recruited youths) and the NOA. - Menu Planning and Nutritional standardization meetings have commenced - The deworming of the Pupils in collaboration with the FMOH is a key activity for the New session - Enumeration of pupils commenced in kaduna and Cross River

CCT

Social Register:

The current scope of the program is based on the spread of the Social Register established across the following 9 States: **Bauchi; Cross River; Ekiti; Kogi; Kwara; Niger; Osun; Oyo (YESSO States) and Borno (IDP Camps)**. The Social Register is currently being expanded to reach 14 more States. More States are being included with the aim of growing the number of States that would have established their Registers by the end of 2017. **Plateau, Jigawa, Adamawa, Anambra, Benue, Nasarawa, Gombe, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna and Taraba** have begun the Community Based Targeting (CBT) process. The States ready to follow immediately are **Delta, Edo Imo, FCT, Ogun States and others** as they meet up with startup requirements of setting up functional State Operations Coordinating Unit (SOCU) and complete the process of community based targeting.

So far, **CBT** teams have been constituted in **23 States (9 YESSO States + the 14 new States)**. **622,649** poor and vulnerable households have been identified with **439,859** of them captured and uploaded into the National Social Register in 5,538 communities from 233 LGAs in 23 States.

Community characteristics, such as data relating to connectivity, nature of roads for access, nearest payment service provider, nearest primary and secondary schools and nearest primary health care centres are also being captured as all of these factors impact on efforts to graduate households out of poverty, for the State and the FGN.

- MoU dissemination, follow up and collection to the 36 States + FCT
- Establishment of poverty ranking for the States that have signed MoU
- Establishment and Staff validation of State Operating Coordinating Units (SOCU)
- 1042 tablets have been supplied for enumerators
- M&E implementation manual is being developed
- NSR data hosting at NIBBS being finalized
- An interim measure being finalised in-house to develop an MIS that will link with the data being generated at the field and be securely archived within NASSCO
- Number of households will be increased from 80 per ward
- Establishment of Community Based Targeting Teams (CBTT) in 30% LGAs across States
- Community Based Targeting (CBT) training in new States (most ready States asides the YESSO States that already have a register)
- Implementing the CBT activities in the new States
- Data capturing of beneficiaries in new States o Enrollment process (BVN generation and account opening) for beneficiaries' households in the 8 YESSO States + Borno IDP camps.
- Establishment of State Cash Transfer Units and Staff training.
- Establishment of LG Cash Transfer offices, with the staff trained.

	<p>Cash Transfers:</p> <p>21 States have established State Cash Transfer Unit (SCTU) and staff trained. 84 LGAs have established LG cash offices and the staff trained.</p> <p>248,170 beneficiaries in 18 States (Adamawa, Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Cross river, Ekiti, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Osun, Oyo, Plateau and Taraba) are receiving cash transfer.</p> <p>248,235 beneficiaries have been enrolled in the CCT program. enrolment is on going in Kaduna and Nasarawa States.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement of MMOs (Fortis MFB and Fets Wallet) to implement the backlog of payment made by the three initial banks engaged (Access Bank; GTB and Stanbic IBTC) - Rapid Results Initiative for developing a manual for the Conditional Cash Transfer Program as well as for pilot testing. -
<p>GEEP</p>	<p>The current scope of the program is 500,000 beneficiaries for phase 1 (owners of small businesses registered with associations) from the 36 States. Disbursements have commenced in 36 States + FCT.</p> <p>GEEP has so far disbursed 259,451 loans to 4,784 cooperatives (another 148,611 in approved queue, awaiting FGN funds in past 2-3 months) to beneficiaries across 36 States + FCT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Onboarding of MSMEs that have applied for loans into the GEEP portal - Procurement of GEEP aggregators - Pre-selection of potential loan beneficiaries - Physical verification and BVN validation - Loan disbursement to verified beneficiaries - Loan collection - Collaboration with N-Power; N-Power Volunteers serving as GEEP agents in their states, and earning extra income - Continuation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant, specifically for GEEP ops.

ii. Key Challenges encountered

- Poor cash backing; so far only 12% of cash has been released from the budget appropriated for the NSIO.
- Slow start with building technological systems due to procurement and funding challenges.
- Constraints to planning as a result of uncertainties with the delays in processing payment requests and authorizing payments.
- Issues with designing a sustainable payment system as a result of the rural terrain, which lacks banking infrastructure, compounded by the high levels of illiteracy and low self-esteem of our beneficiaries, many of whom have never held the volumes of cash we are paying them directly. The TSA policy acts as a disincentive for commercial banks to engage, while the agent numbers need to be ramped up strategically to engage the huge gaps in gender and youth, especially.
- Communication gap and overlap of responsibilities by State actors (especially between the State Focal Persons and the key MDAs).
- Slow take-off of the monitoring framework, but process is in place to ensure the processes are finalized for the feedback for evaluation and improvement.
- Political interplay and interference at State level and Federal level, especially with regards to identification and selection of beneficiaries.
- Lack of interest/support from the private sector and some donor agencies.
- Increase in possibilities of fraud at State and Government level, which have been detected and are currently being dealt with.
- Issue of slow uploading of enumeration data into the system on the field due to poor connectivity, or none at all.

iii. Efforts taken to overcome challenges

- Exploring means of technical assistance and support from donor agencies in the area of building systems for monitoring and reporting, as well as for funding of aspects that go beyond the cash backing released from the budget.
- Engaging key partners (NIBSS; CBN; NSIO Technology Management Office (TMO); Donor Partners, MMOs, etc.) in order to come up with a sustainable framework for driving the enrolment, off-line and on-time payments to beneficiaries at the last mile.
- To smoothen the relationship between the Federal team and the States, we have engaged the Focal Persons more closely in a manner that enables us receive first hand reports on the implementation progress and challenges encountered at State level.
- Concerted efforts are also being made to ensure that all reported cases of fraud, exploitation

and diversion of funds are investigated and adequately dealt with, by engaging the relevant security and anti-corruption authorities such as DSS and EFCC, where the need arises.

- On the slow/manual process for funds disbursement, a Manual for guiding the operational and accounting procedures of the NSIO is currently being designed by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning (as the accounting Office for the programs).
- A framework for driving the communication strategy for the Social Investment Office is currently being designed, with proposals for dissemination of information to the grass-roots. A PR Consultant has been engaged by the NSIO to coordinate publicity. An MoU is has been signed with the Nigerian Film Corporation, to support training and publicity of the NSIO activities. The NOA has also been engaged to assist with the sensitization of community residents and critical stakeholders at the State and LGA levels. The public is being sensitized to engage in giving feedback to the NSIO through dedicated telephone lines, on malpractices they come across anywhere in the country.
- Various MDAs at State and Federal level are continuously being engaged to leverage on their capacity at all levels, as a cost-saving and efficient measure, given the dearth of funds.
- A business case has been prepared and is being finalized for engaging the private sector, having been shared already with donor agencies, comprising factual and empirical evidence to convince them of the value in investing in social protection.
- Preparations are being made to engage volunteers and mentees, after avenues are created for extra funding for their stipends and a careful due diligence process to assess their capacity, credibility and competence.
- Technical expertise has been sourced from the FMARD to ensure that meaningful agricultural linkages are developed and facilitated between the programmes, for overall sustainability.
- Options are being explored for expanding the opportunities for larger amounts of data and connectivity at a cheaper rate for the various enumeration and collation devices and limit data use to only the program purposes, thereby blocking access to other extraneous data-consuming sites