



# NEWS TODAY

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The implementation of the social welfare programme revealed that one million extremely poor Nigerians would be direct beneficiaries of N5, 000 monthly stipends.

Meanwhile, a Cross Learning Conference to harvest ideas on implementing the scheme has told State Governments to cooperate with the Federal Government in implementing the social protection agenda.

The conference was organized by the National Social Safety Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO) under the Office of the Vice-President on March 24.

NASSCO provided guidance for the World Bank-supported Youth Employment and Social Support Operations in collaboration with the Child Development Grant Programme. The conference was organized as a cross-learning forum which brought social protection practitioners across the country to share experiences on the implementation of other Social Safety Net programmes.

In a communiqué at the end of the conference, participants supported the ongoing effort to conclude the National Social Protection Policy, formulated by the ministry of budget and national planning.

The communiqué stated that the social protection policy was anchored on protective, promotion and transformative measures that would promote and ensure sustainability of the programmes.

Participants advocated the need to encourage and engage stakeholders in developing

comprehensive and adaptive strategies to accommodate various socio-cultural diversities of the country.

There is need for close collaboration, harmonization and coordination of policies and programme implementation among all tiers of government, Ministries Departments and Agencies and development partners.

The meeting emphasized the use of social capital and national research base to generate and sustain job opportunities in order to improve livelihoods.

The conference appreciated the need to balance social safety nets interventions in both rural and urban areas, especially, due to the growing poverty in the later. The participants noted the need to guard against dependency on cash transfers while emphasizing on transformative and supportive graduation into sustainable livelihoods. In addition, they recommended that all partners involved in social net intervention should align and draw their beneficiaries from the single register which had been established by the Federal Government.

They noted that the single register of beneficiaries should enhance efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation and guarantee cash transfer to the poorest of the poor. (NAN)

*<http://naija247news.com/2016/03/world-bank-supports-fgs-social-protection-scheme-with-500-mln/>*