

BENUE STATE GOVERNMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF



2-DAY MID-YEAR REVIEW MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BENUE STATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2025-2034) AND BUDGET PERFORMANCE WITH RELEVANT MDAs UNDER SOCIAL PROTECTION

Technical Report



BENUE STATE

BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING COMMISSION



— PLANNING TODAY FOR A PROSPEROUS TOMORROW —

The Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission (BSBEPC) in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund and other development partners convened a 2 days Mid-year Budget Review meeting, held on the 13th and 14th August, 2026. The forum brought together representatives under the Social Protection Sector from all the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Directors of Planning, Research & Statistics and M&E officers, representative of the Benue State House of Assembly, and other stakeholders.

The gathering provided a retrospective performance review of the Benue State Budget for Mid-year 2026, to measure the performance across the priority sectors with particular focus on the social protection sector, examine the status of social protection programmes in the state (including SUSI, NG-CARES, Cash Transfer, and SOCU), and align expenditures with the Benue State Development Plan (2025–2034) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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The Director General and Chief executive Officer of the Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission (BSBEPC), Prof. Jerome Andohol in his welcome address thanked UNICEF for the interventions in the state and the support to the commission which has been tremendous.

The DG/CEO who was represented by the Director of Budget at the commission, Mr Terlumun Asaa, thanked the Governor of Benue State, His Excellency, Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormen Alia for the giant strides in the state and appreciated UNICEF and all the other development partners for helping the state developed the Benue State Development Plan (2025–2034) . He urged all the participants to put in their best to come up with a workable document that will be in tune with the BSDP their various sectors which will become the work plan for the sector.



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The UNICEF Desk officer at the BSBEP, Mr Jacob Asemakaha delivered the goodwill message on behalf of the UN body appreciating them and all other donor partners for the support to the state, He also participants all the for coming to make the review successful. He went on to present the **Objectives** of the meeting to include:

- To review and assess the implementation status and budget performance of the Benue State Development Plan (BSDP) across all relevant sectors for the first half of 2026.
- To examine the quality, timeliness, and effectiveness of service delivery by key MDAs, including health, education, water and sanitation, social protection, disaster response, and rural development.
- To evaluate the performance of the SUSI Project milestones and social protection programmes, including NG-CARES, Cash Transfer, SOCU, and related interventions.
- To identify key implementation bottlenecks, challenges, and risks affecting budget utilization and programme delivery
- To strengthen inter-agency coordination, data sharing, and joint accountability mechanisms for improved development results.
- To assess the degree of SDG integration and progress within sectoral plans and annual budgets in Benue State.
- To develop a concrete, time-bound roadmap of corrective actions, recommendations, and agreed priorities for H2 2026 implementation.
- To produce a joint communiqué and action plan that reflects consensus positions and commitments of participating MDAs.



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Mr Asemakaha, also added that the 2 days meeting will produce a harmonized populated templates to be forwarded to the UNICEF office and the **Expected Outcomes** includes:

- A comprehensive Mid-Year Budget Performance Report for H1 2026, validated by MDAs and endorsed by BSBEPC and UNICEF.
- A sector-by-sector matrix identifying implementation gaps, root causes, and corrective actions for each participating MDA.
- Improved understanding among MDA focal persons of SUSI Project deliverables and how they connect to strategic budget priorities.
- Enhanced coordination frameworks among MDAs, reducing overlap and improving synergy in social protection and basic service delivery.
- A strengthened evidence base for the 2027 Annual Budget Preparation and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- A media engagement strategy for communicating review outcomes to the public, promoting transparency and citizen engagement.
- A joint communiqué capturing key findings, agreed recommendations, and specific action points with assigned responsibilities and timelines for H2 2026.



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Highlights of the Day One Activities

- The Director Budget explained the aim and some of the process that was adopted which includes:
 - The Methodology
 - The Indicators
 - The Reporting requirements
 - The Expected outcome
- Mr Dominic Agbo Ola, Budget officer presented the review of the 2026 Budget performance as at Mid-Year, pointing out the findings in the:
 - Revenue
 - Recurrent and Capital Expenditures
 - Releases
 - Variances
 - Priority Sectors
 - Corrective Measure
- Mr. Matthew Ge, The State Coordinator, State Operation and Coordinating Unit (SOCU) spoke on the Benue State Development Plan (BSDP), stressing that the task before the participants will be strictly hands-on to realign the Budget provisions with the BSDP and mentioning as a point of note:
 - The Progress against objectives
 - The Sectoral achievements
 - The Development indicators
 - The Alignment with Budget
 - The Implementation gaps
- Mrs. Ikye-Dodo Victoria, The Director Statistics at the BSBEP, presented:
 - The Facts Sheets Indicators Presentations



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Highlights of the Day Two Activities

- The Recap of Day One Activities.
- Drafting of Key Resolutions and Communique.
- Group Work to :
 - Identify programmes requiring acceleration
 - Urgent projects
 - Funding gaps
 - Technical assistance needs
- Adoption of Resolutions.
- Closing Remarks: The closing remarks was given by the Director of Budget. He thanked all the participants for a job well down and everyone safe journey to their respective homes.
- Group presentation:
 - Presentation of group findings
 - Priority activities
 - Responsible institutions
 - Timeline
 - Support requirements
- Group Photograph.
- Development of second half year, Acceleration Plan:
 - Priority action for July – December, 2026
 - Programme/Projects requiring acceleration
 - Improved Coordination



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Conclusion:

After the detailed presentations of the Priority action for July – December, 2026, Programme/Projects requiring acceleration, the drafted Key Resolutions and Communique. Participants reviewed and discussed them and agreed on a fourteen-point observations and recommendations to guide corrective action for the Second Half of 2026 and beyond.

The participants also, thanked His Excellency, Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormen Alia, the Executive Governor of Benue State for the support and appreciated the DG/CEO BSBEPCC for granting them the enabling environment to conduct the two-day Mid-Year budget review meeting. The EU, ILO and other stakeholders for making the two-day meeting a success.

REPORT BY:

Achichi I. J.



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— PLANNING TODAY FOR A PROSPEROUS TOMORROW —

Photo speaks:





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— PLANNING TODAY FOR A PROSPEROUS TOMORROW —

Photo speaks:





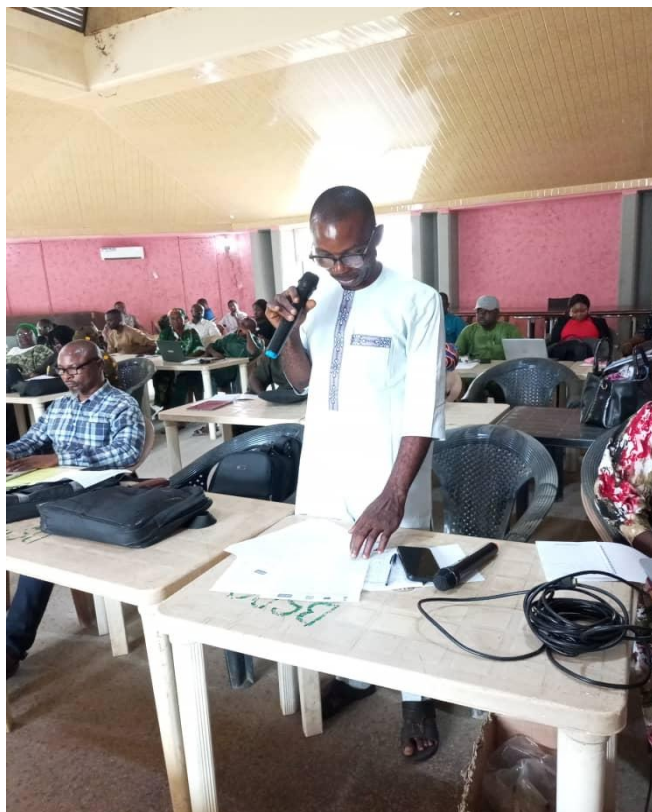
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— PLANNING TODAY FOR A PROSPEROUS TOMORROW —

Photo speaks:





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Appendix I, List of Participants and their MDAs:

S/N	Designation	Agency
1	SG	Benue State Bureau of Statistics
2	DPRS	SEMA
3	DPRS	Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)
4	Deputy Clerk	Benue State House of Assembly
5	DPRS (M&E)	Benue State Pension Commission
6	DPRS	Benue State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (BERWASSA)
7	Prog Manager, GEEP	Benue State Social Investment Programme
8	DPRS	Benue State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)
9	DPRS	Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security
10	DPRS	Ministry of Education and Knowledge Management
11	DPRS	Ministry of Finance
12	DPRS	Ministry of Health and Human Services
13	DPRS	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management
14	DPRS	Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
15	DPRS	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
16	DPRS	Ministry of Justice
17	DPRS	Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation
18	DPRS	Ministry of Water Resources, Environment and Climate Change
19	DPRS	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare
20	DPRS	Ministry of Youth, Sports and Creativity
21	Head of Program	Bureau of International Cooperation and Development
22	DPRS	Community and Social Development Agency
23	DPRS	Bureau of Lands, Government and Chieftaincy Affairs (BOLGCA)
24	Director, Main Accts	Office of the Accountant-General
25	DPRS	Benue State Rehabilitation Board, Makurdi
26	State Project Coord.	NG-CARES
27	State Coord. & HOP	SOCU
28	DPRS	Benue State Primary Healthcare Board
29	Head of Cash Transfer Unit	Cash Transfer
30	Director General/CEO	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
31	Covering Perm Sec	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
32	Director, Technical Cooperation	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
33	Director, Statistics	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
34	Director, Budget	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
35	Director, Plans, M&E	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
36	Director, Macro Economics	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
37	DAF	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
38	Accountant	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
39	Desk Officer (UNICEF)	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
40	Statistician	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
41	Information Officer	Benue State Budget and Economic Planning Commission
42	Economic Sector Desk Officer	Budget Office
43	Social Sector Desk Officer	Budget Office
44	DPRS	Benue State AIDS Control Agency (BENSACA)
45	Deputy Director, Budget	Budget Office
46	Budget Desk Officer	Budget Office
47	Media Liaison	Radio

— 2-DAY MID-YEAR REVIEW MEETING



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BENUE STATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
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