

Welcome Address from the MD/CEO Lady Helen Child Health Foundation and Convener of the Market Place Event for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Thank you all for coming and joining us here today. We are pleased to welcome everyone here, those of you that have been with us for some time now as well as those of you attending our event for the first time.

Today, the Lady Helen Child Health Foundation in Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federal Ministry of Health, Social Development Secretariat of the FCT, Coalition of Orphans and Children Homes in Nigeria COCHIN and the Association of Orphanage Homes Operators in Nigeria ASOHON is hosting the Market Place Event for Orphans and Vulnerable Children to mark the World Orphans Day Celebration 2021.

The World Orphans Day 2021 was marked on Monday 8th November 2021, and this is an important period for us to come together and show that we care about the Orphans and Vulnerable Children in our communities. Millions of Orphans and Vulnerable Children face problems that cut across Security, Poverty, Education, Health, Shelter Food and Social Wellbeing. The World Orphans Day is the perfect opportunity for well-meaning and socially responsible communities to show that they stand with orphans in their time of need.

Before we get started, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Market Place Event Planning Committee which constitute of representatives from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Health, Social Development Secretariat of the FCT, COCHIN and ASOHON as well as our volunteers who have generously helped in making this event come together to become a success.

We also appreciate our media partners NTA and AIT for championing this cause and promoting the event to share the plight of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria to a global audience.

In the next few hours, we will be looking at Challenges for Orphans and Caregivers in Disaster, Pandemic and Social Driven Situations as well as the Need for Urgent and Continuous Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria. In addition to this, there will be a break out session in form of a market place where we can share information and interact with various orphanage homes and their caregivers and also get relevant and valuable information from Government Institutions and Regulatory Agencies in their Stands at the Market Place Arena.

I encourage everyone to participate and ask burning questions for clarification during the panel discussion.

So a very warm welcome to each and every one of you and thank you for taking out time to be here with us.