



## *The Initiative Weekly*

### Our Big Story

**When :** October 12-13, 2016

**Where :** Sokoto

The Initiative in collaboration with the State Agency for Mass Education (SAME), State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and other education projects participated in a two-day workshop to validate draft safety standards and benchmarks proposed for formal schools and non-formal learning centers (NFLCs). There are four safety domains addressing physical health, child protection, conflict and disaster risk reduction. The standards and benchmarks are flexible to allow for schools and centers in very low-income contexts to be resourceful to achieve the intended outcome of school safety.



Government partners in Bauchi state developing messages to be tested during Focus Group Discussions.

### Security Tip

**Be discreet about personal information.**

### Quote

**“I saw children who initially did not know how to read a single word begin to read by the second day. It was amazing!” Aishat Hamza, Primary school teacher, Sokoto South local government area.**

### Highlights of the Week

- Conducted message development trainings in Bauchi and Sokoto states for state government and local civil society partners to develop messages on four core themes: reading, enrollment, retention and transition to be tested during focus group discussions informing evidence-based community outreach.
- Validated school and center based management guides in Bauchi state to inform development of training manuals for SBMCs, CBMCs, Community Coalitions and women groups on school safety, support for early grade reading and monitoring of teaching and learning in schools and non-formal learning centers.
- Continued the second round of cluster training of teachers on early grade reading program in schools using the Mu Karanta! (Let's Read!) pupil books and teacher guides in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Paid monitoring visits to some NFLCs managed by CSOs in Bauchi state to monitor teaching and learning on literacy, numeracy and life skills curriculum. There are 400 NFLCs in the state with 18,000 enrolled learners.
- Finalized the review of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) guide, data collection tools, procedures and inventory and mapped indicators to the project database.
- Attended a one-day 2015/16 Annual School Census (ASC) data dissemination meeting by Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) in Sokoto state.
- Conducted security assessment of the Initiative-supported local government areas in Bauchi state to identify secure locations for activities.

## Upcoming Activities

18 10 16

### Validation of Safety standards and benchmarks

To validate standards and benchmarks on safety developed for schools and NFLCs.

Bauchi

31 10 16

### Y1 Annual Report

To report to USAID progress against targets and goals in the first year.

17 10 16

### Visit to CoEs

Conduct contextual analysis of Colleges of Education to develop EGR instruction courses

Bauchi

18 10 16

### Validation of S/CBMC Management Guides

To train community structures to support and monitor learning in schools and NFLCs.

Sokoto

## Highlights of Year One

The Initiative wrapped up its first year of implementation and staff in Abuja took some time to reflect on what has motivated them to support state partners to achieve milestones so far recorded on the project.

- Developed, validated, printed and distributed materials for primary grades 1-3 (Hausa) primary 2-3 (English) to teachers and pupils in 20 local governments supported by the Initiative in Bauchi and Sokoto states

- Secured more time for children to learn Hausa with time tables changed from 5 x 35 mins per week to 10 x 35 minutes per week in Bauchi and Sokoto states

- Trained 32 Master Trainers, 420 Trainers of Teachers and 12, 500 teachers on new methods to teacher reading in schools

- Developed, validated, printed and distributed materials for NFLCs. Nine books- five pupil books and four teacher guides on literacy, numeracy, life skills, vocational trade and facilitation were developed in line with NMEC curriculum

- Developed draft safety standards and benchmarks to guide teaching, learning and monitoring for NFLCs

- Trained 20 Master Trainers (MTs), 160 Mentor Facilitators (MFs) and 800 Learning Facilitators (LFs) to implement core curriculum in NFLCs

- Developed the Institutional Capacity Assessment (ICA) tool to identify key areas where SMOEs, SUBEB and SAME need technical support to deliver on the

Initiative's goals.

- Enrolled more than 30,000 learners mostly children who were out of school into 800 Non-Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs).

- Implemented the State Education Account (SEA) framework to collate all expenditure information from all public sectors for formal and non-formal education to determine the flow of funds, identified gaps and misallocations to inform evidence-based decision making for basic education

- Developed and validated Communications and Advocacy and Community Mobilization strategies to inform best approaches to promote the culture of reading and enlist support for education in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

- Developed the Initiative website, one-pagers for all project components and a weekly newsletter distributed to all partners.

- Identified 43 local CSOs and conducted a one-week training to build their capacity to enroll 36,000 learners and manage 800 NFLCs

- Set up all operations and security protocols. Regular security assessments are conducted to ensure safety of staff



Innocent Chukwu, Acting M&E specialist tells an interesting story of how an "abandoned" community in Bauchi state felt very happy to be visited during data collection for EGRA.

## Jargon

### Mentoring

Support provided to trained teachers or learning facilitators to maximize their effectiveness while implementing new methods in schools or NFLCs.

## #Trending

Read more on key mandates for 21st century learning:  
<http://tinyurl.com/jeh4dtr>

## Happy Birthdays

## Celebrations

## Fun facts

## Contact us

Yesterday was International Day for Disaster Reduction and this theme raises awareness on reducing mortality.

Ogun state in the western part of Nigeria has the highest number of universities- nine in total.

Send your comments and contributions to us via

[Bocoa@crea-neiplus.com](mailto:Bocoa@crea-neiplus.com)