



The Initiative Weekly

Our Big Story

When : November 8, 2016

Where : Abuja

The U.S. government, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), announced its continuing support to the education sector in Sokoto state with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) by the USAID Mission Director Michael T. Harvey and the Governor of Sokoto Aminu Waziri Tambuwal. This five-year MoU sets out the shared and individual commitments for collaboration in the education sector made by both USAID and the Government of Sokoto and provides a framework for mutual accountability for education activities in Sokoto State. Governor Tambuwal is committed to the sustainability of USAID's initiatives in Sokoto state. Under the Northern Education Initiative Plus, the Sokoto state government has included the teacher professional development for Early Grade Reading in its state action plan which allows it access funds from the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to train teachers. Sokoto state government also proposed replicating and scaling-up the Early Grade Reading program implemented in schools to 13 other local government areas (LGAs) not covered by the Initiative.

Quote

“USAID and indeed the American government have been helpful in so many ways but this particular one which is supporting us in the area of promoting access to quality education in the state is really very key and dear to our hearts,” said Governor Tambuwal of Sokoto state



Girls at an Adolescent Girls Learning Center (AGLC) in Ningi local government in Bauchi state learn to write numbers.

Highlights of the Week

- Commenced data collection for Early Grade Reading Assessment in sample Non-Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs) in Bauchi and Sokoto states. The assessment provides baseline information for Early Grade Reading intervention in NFLCs.
- Conducted awareness training on anti-trafficking for all staff to help increase awareness and educate on the indicators of human trafficking.
- Conducted focus group discussions in three selected LGAs each in Bauchi and Sokoto states. The focus groups consist of women, men, children and religious/ community leaders and is meant to provide evidence to inform media campaigns motivating parents to support education.
- Planned to conduct rolling Community Education and Conflict Assessment/Gender Analysis (CECA/GA).
- Deployed the Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool in the State Ministry of Education, State Agency for Mass Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and Local Government Education Authorities in Bauchi and Sokoto states. This tool identifies areas for strengthening within these ministries and line agencies to improve quality education service delivery.
- Concluded internal compliance review of project operations, human resources, finance, procurement and technical activities.
- Developed and translated into Hausa four training manuals for School and Center Based Management Committees, Community Coalitions and Women Groups in Bauchi and Sokoto states to effectively monitor learning in centers and schools, promote safety and encourage parents to support their children to read early.

Upcoming Activities

23 11 16

Institutional Performance Scorecard Workshop

To validate scorecard indicators for schools and NFLCs.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

21 11 16

Rolling CECA/ GA

To recruit and train enumerators to conduct CECA.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

21 11 16

EGRA for NFLCs

To analyze data collected for EGR baseline assessment in NFLCs.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

23 11 16

Data analysis for FGDs

To analyze data from 66 focus group discussions conducted to ascertain perception of parents towards education.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

Voices



Ganjuwa local government in Bauchi state volunteered to use its community radio station (Ganjuwa Radio 89.9 FM) to raise awareness on the importance of education and boost enrollment into the non-formal learning centers located in communities. Mako Isa Kundak is the Director, Admin & General Services, Ganjuwa local government area.

What motivated you to make a donation to the community radio station in Ganjuwa to raise awareness for our Non-Formal Learning Centers?

We are appreciative of the Non-Formal Learning Centers and books distributed for children to learn to read and write because before now some communities in Ganjuwa were not interested in education. But

since the establishment of the learning centers, communities have responded by enrolling their children in school.

On our part as the local government we decided to complement the efforts of the Initiative by giving a token to the community radio station to raise awareness on the benefits of education and promote our Non-Formal Learning Centers.

The communities have written a letter to the local government appreciating the efforts of the Initiative. People really appreciate the intervention of the project because they like how the learning facilitators teach the children. They say the children are learning faster and understanding better. They have wondered why such intervention delayed and wish it be sustained.

We pride ourselves in strengthening and supporting government systems so what plans do you have to continue educating out-of-school-children in your local government?

Some of these centers are under trees and we are working towards building structures so no matter the condition of the weather, children can learn. The local government is quite underfunded but we are working towards overcoming this challenge to implement these plans.

CoE Kangere opens EGR resource room



The College of Education Kangere in Bauchi state is completing a resource center to house the *Mu Karanta! Let's Read!* curriculum, teacher guides and other materials for use in pre-service early grade reading courses. This room will also be the work site for the college-level technical working group as they partner with the National Commission for Colleges of Education and the Initiative to complete the NCE curriculum analysis and develop course materials not only to supplement existing courses, but for new courses specifically targeting early literacy skills.

Happy Birthdays

Celebrations

Fun facts

Contact us

November 19 is World Toilet Day. It is about taking action to reach the 2.4 billion people living without a toilet.

An average person produces about 25,000 quarts of saliva in a lifetime, enough to fill two swimming pools.

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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