



## *The Initiative Weekly*

### Our Big Story

**When :** November 22, 2016

**Where :** Abuja

The Northern Initiative Plus is committed to working closely with all stakeholders to transform education in Northern Nigeria. In this regard, the project is strengthening its relationship with the World-Bank led Global Partnership for Education (GPE)/ Nigeria Partnership for Education Project (NIPEP). GPE is supporting Nigeria with a \$100million grant implemented by the NIPEP to improve quality of education in five states including Sokoto state. The Initiative participated fully in an implementation support mission and stakeholders workshop organized by GPE/ NIPEP. It was an opportunity to share with federal/ state education ministries and agencies and other international development partners, innovations of the Initiative on Early Grade Reading and Non-formal education. The workshop also highlighted areas of collaboration between the Initiative and NIPEP in Sokoto state to improve reading skills of school-aged children and provide safer education options for out-of-school-children. The Initiative will provide expertise and share best practices with NIPEP across similar technical components so it can be replicated in all 23 local governments of Sokoto state and possibly adopted by other states covered by NIPEP.

### Quote

**"All hands are on deck to see that this project is sustained and supported in our primary schools because the government is very interested in its success."**

**- Abdullahi Ibrahim Hamza,  
Director Quality Assurance,  
State Universal Basic  
Education Board, Bauchi state**



Primary two pupils in Gyamzo Central Primary School in Toro local government area of Bauchi state using their **Let's Read!** Pupil's Book in English.

### Highlights of the Week

- Trained school managers- senior officials of State Ministry of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and State Agency for Mass Education on school and learning center safety and conflict sensitivity standards and benchmarks in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Reviewed draft Reading Policy framework meant to identify current gaps in relation to global best practices in early grade reading (EGR), including instructional time, timetabling , teacher training, deployment and performance standards, text book ratios and parental involvement.
- Analyzed data from the Early Grade Reading Assessment in sample Non-Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs) in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Validated four training manuals for School and Center Based Management Committees (S/CBMCs) , Community Coalitions (CCs) 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.
- Commenced analysis of data collected from focus group discussions to inform evidence-based community outreach in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Trained Master Trainers to step-down training to S/CBMCs, CCs 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.
- Continued monitoring of EGR implementation in formal schools in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

## Upcoming Activities

18 12 16

### SEA Data Analysis & Report Writing Retreat

To analyze data collected on basic education expenditure to inform prioritized funding for school improvement.

Abuja

28 11 16

### Rolling CECA/ GA

To recruit and train enumerators to conduct CECA.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

28 11 16

### EGRA for NFLCs

To analyze data collected for EGR baseline assessment in NFLCs.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

28 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



**Binta Ibrahim is the proprietress of the Women Center in Ningi local government area, Bauchi state. It is one of the Adolescent Girls Learning Centers established by the Initiative.**

**What challenges do girls in this community face accessing education?**

Girls in this community face a lot of challenges when it comes to accessing education. Most people here especially husbands do not allow their wives to go to school or even attend a non-formal learning center. But with constant engagement and enlightenment, some husbands are now giving their wives consent to come and learn. They are now also allowing their female children attend school. The attraction to the learning center is that in addition to learning to read

and write, they also learn a skill that could make them support their families.

**How did you mobilize girls to start learning at the center?**

We met with religious and community leaders to explain to them about objectives of the Initiative, how it will benefit the girls to attend the center and agreed on the best time to hold the classes. So the community leaders spoke to the people on our behalf especially on the issue of timing. You see most girls in this community go and hawk in the morning and afternoon so our center holds thrice a week from 9-11 AM in the morning.

**Since coming to the center, in what ways have the girls improved and what feedback are you getting from their families?**

Honestly, every day I see a lot of changes in these girls. They are now paying attention to their personal hygiene and even their social interactions have improved. We do not only teach them to read and write we also teach them to take care of themselves and they appreciate it.

**How about academically?**

You see many of these girls are school dropouts. They see this center as

another opportunity and come with such enthusiasm for education. They are learning letter sounds and numbers very fast and in no time they will be reading and writing.

**Personally why do you like what you do?**

I like it because I am giving girls an opportunity to have a form of education even as married women. I am impacting lives meaningfully. When I attend events or visit a hospital many women walk up to me and thank me. Usually either their girls have attended the center or the beneficiaries themselves. It means a lot and is very fulfilling.



Educating girls will make them better wives and mothers and also equip them with skills to support their homes financially. The way they interact with their family members will also improve tremendously.

*Celebrations*

*Fun facts*

*Contact us*

Happy Thanksgiving holidays! To our friends in America, save some roasted turkey for us in Nigeria.

Your body has enough iron in it to make a metal nail 3 inches long.

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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