



# The Initiative Weekly

## Our Big Story

**When :** October 27-28, 2016  
**Where :** Abuja

The Initiative organized a two-day meeting of the federal level Reading Technical Working Group (RTWG) in Abuja. The meeting updated the group on progress made so far implementing the Early Grade Reading (EGR) program in Bauchi and Sokoto states. Federal partners- Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) National Commission for Colleges of Education and Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and state partners- SMOE and SUBEB gave feedback on the development, printing and distribution of the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* materials and teacher professional development. It was also an opportunity to discuss preliminary findings of the contextual analysis site visits to four Colleges of Education and the draft of a reading policy framework.



Some female teachers who benefited from the first round of training on early grade reading for schools in Bauchi state.

## Security Tip

Ensure you always carry a valid ID with you at all times.

## Quote

**"We appreciate the Initiative for the systemic implementation of this project. We have been fully involved in all activities."**  
**Faruk Shehu, Secretary, SUBEB, Sokoto state**

## Highlights of the Week

- Met with key officials in the State Ministry of Education (SMoE), State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), State Agency for Mass Education (SAME) and LEAD to discuss how best Bauchi state can cover 20 percent of costs of in-service training and materials in 2017.
- Organized workshop with stakeholders to adapt the School Safety Access Index (SSI) according to validated standards and benchmarks developed to promote safe learning in schools and Non-Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs).
- Completed analysis of evidence-based Education Management Information System (EMIS) capacity assessment for LGEAs, SMoE, SUBEB and SAME to strengthen their EMIS units in Bauchi and Sokoto state.
- Supported the Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment and Research (MEAR) Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop, review and finalize data collection tools and recruit data collectors and assessors to conduct Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) in NFLCs in Sokoto state.
- Digitized data collection tools to conduct second Community Education and Conflict Assessment/Gender Analysis (CECA/GA).
- Participated in quarterly review meeting for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) managing 400 NFLCs where 18,000 school-aged children are enrolled in Sokoto state to evaluate their progress, address challenges and share best practices.
- Concluded internal procurement process to select research firm to conduct, report and analyze focus groups research assessing the public opinion and attitudes of citizens towards education and reading in selected local government areas in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

## Upcoming Activities

18 11 16

### Institutional Performance Scorecard Workshop

To develop/ adapt scorecard indicators for schools and NFLCs.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

19 11 16

### Rolling CECA Planning

To recruit and train enumerators to conduct CECA.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

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### EGRA for NFLCs

To conduct baseline assessment for EGR in NFLCs.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

18 11 16

### Training manuals on school safety benchmarks and EGR

To develop manuals to train ToTs, S/CBMCs and CSOs on school safety and EGR.

Bauchi/ Sokoto



**Adrienne Barnes is a Reading and Literacy Specialist at the Florida State University. She was in Nigeria to support the pre-service component of the project.**

**You have been in Nigeria doing a contextual analysis of four Colleges of Education in Bauchi and Sokoto states as we support them to pilot Early Grade Reading (EGR) courses. Can you shed more light on your site visits?**

The National Commission for Colleges of Education has collaborated with us, they have dedicated staff to the project and four of them were with us through the entire contextualization activity in the states. The Executive Secretary joined us for three of the sites but his Directors were at all

## My Take-Home

four sites. We had an overwhelming support from NCCE. The colleges were very excited to get the attention they were receiving both from the Initiative and NCCE. We visited the four colleges where we observed classes taking place, had focus groups with the students after class, did one-on-one interviews with the lecturers and ended the day with focus groups with the lecturers. This was just to get an idea of the culture of the school, how learning takes place, what lecturing looks like there and to really understand fully what resources are available to both the students and lecturers.

This is so as we move forward and we involve the Colleges and the NCCE to revise the 2017 minimum standards and as the Initiative starts supporting development of new course materials in EGR we want to have an understanding of their ability to teach the courses with the resources that they have. Also what types of additional support we can provide even in the sense of training and knowledge in EGR. We were able to debrief at the end of every activity in each college about overall strengths we saw and areas they could use more support.

**What did you see in the colleges during the assessments that could be leveraged on to pilot these EGR courses?**

We know every institution has its own strengths and weaknesses but in every institution at least some of the staff were familiar with some of the EGR concepts and this is a strength we can draw on. Not all of the colleges teach at the primary level but they are open to receiving the training and starting that. Also many of the staff at the colleges are computer literate and they are ready to jump on board and receive the training.

**Will this EGR course in the colleges be the first of such an initiative in Nigeria?**

Directly yes as far as I know. The NCCE tries to include reading in the minimum standards for the Nigerian Certificate of Education but those reading concepts are spread across a couple of courses and they are not specific. We need courses that directly address how children learn how to read.

## #Trending

Read how Yemeni Ministry of Education brings phonics-based reading to all first graders:  
<http://tinyurl.com/h5he26u>

## Happy Birthdays

## Celebrations

## Fun facts

## Contact us

November 6 is the International Day for preventing the exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflict.

Your nose can remember 50,000 different scents.

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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