



## The Initiative Weekly

### Our Big Story

**When :** December 8, 2016

**Where :** Abuja

Shehu Shagari College of Education (SSCoE) Sokoto state has constituted a Reading Technical Working Group to provide guidance for piloting and implementing an Early Grade Reading (EGR) pre-service program in the college. The Initiative is collaborating with the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) to lead this activity in four Colleges of Education in Bauchi and Sokoto states. The SSCoE has also set up an Early Grade Reading Resource room fully equipped with security, bookshelves, computer, power generator and internet services. The college also plans to procure textbooks and materials on reading skills and methodology to facilitate Early Grade Reading activities. A multi-purpose hall 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 develop course materials for new courses specifically targeting early literacy skills.

### Quote

**"I love these books because there are many stories in it. My teacher composed songs with the words and it makes it easy to remember."**

**- Hauwa Ibrahim, Primary 3 pupil using the *Let's Read!* Pupil Books.**



A teacher from a primary school in Toro local government area of Bauchi state teaching P2 English.

### Highlights of the Week

- Organized two-day dialogue meeting with State Agency of Mass Education in Bauchi and Sokoto states to generate codes for 800 Non-formal Learning Centers supported by the Initiative.
- Key government officials across MDAs from Sokoto converged on Abuja to analyze and report data collected for the State Education Account which will be used to make informed decisions on spending particularly for basic education.
- Trained school managers, Center Based Management Committees (CBMCs), Community Coalitions (CCs) and Women Groups on school and non-formal learning center safety and conflict sensitivity standards and benchmarks in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Trained Center Based Management Committees (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.
- Concluded analysis of data collected from focus group discussions to inform evidence-based community outreach in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Conducted training for Trainers of Teachers (ToTs) as part of the Teacher Professional Development program for ***Mu Karanta! Let's Read!*** in Bauchi and Sokoto states. ToTs reviewed key reading skills and were introduced to P1-3 Term 2 materials, coaching and professional learning communities and using teaching aids for improved teaching of reading.

## Upcoming Activities

8-20 12 16

### Training of CBMCs, CCs and Women Groups

To effectively monitor learning in Non-Formal Learning Centers.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

20-23 12 16

### Develop Coaching and Mentoring Guide for NFLCs

Mentor Facilitators coach and mentor Learning Facilitators.

Abuja

19-24 11 16

### EGR Teacher Training

To train teachers on Let's Read! Mu Karanta! PI-3 Term 2 materials and refresher on basic skills, and coaching

Bauchi/ Sokoto

## Voices



**Mohammed Yakubu is the Education Secretary for Toro Local Government Education Authority (LGEA), Bauchi state.**

### ***How will you describe your relationship with the Northern Education Initiative Plus?***

We enjoy a very cordial relationship with the Northern Education Initiative Plus. The local government is benefiting a lot from the Northern Education Initiative Plus from capacity building and provision of instructional materials to teachers and also provision of learning materials to pupils. This has resulted in an increase in enrollment. If you go round now you will see that enrollment has greatly increased. Before you could hardly find a class of 40 pupils in

some villages but now the story is different. These textbooks have helped to draw the attention of parents and pupils to schools.

### ***To what extent has the Initiative strengthened the LGEAs through the teacher training and distribution of materials?***

The LGEA and even the local government is fully involved in whatever the Initiative is doing. I remember during the capacity building for teachers the local government council chairman, myself and the Heads of Departments were actively involved in supervising the program. We see the Initiative as a partner. When we received our allocation for textbooks, the local government chairman gave us funds to transport the books from Bauchi to Toro. At the LGEA level, we paid the transportation fare of head teachers to come and pick their consignments. I know of areas where parents contributed money for the head teacher to come and collect the textbooks because they see the materials as theirs.

### ***Since distributing materials and commencing the early grade reading program what has changed in Toro local government area?***

A lot has changed. When you walk on the streets, you listen to pupils coming

from primary schools singing. A village head was in my office recently to express his gratitude. He said a letter was sent from the District Office and he had to wait for the head teacher who was in school then to come and read the letter. But his son who is in Primary three can now read the letter. We are really proud of the Initiative.

### ***So at the LGEA level what role are you playing to sustain the momentum?***

Right now, there are new schools established that were not part of the initial list used to distribute materials. At the LGEA level we are trying to see how pupils in these schools can also be covered by the project. Previously, textbooks were produced for schools but because of the poor attitude of our teachers, they are no longer found in schools and we are putting in place measures to ensure this does not happen.

The provision of these textbooks played a great role in enrollment because parents now think government is serious. As of last year our enrollment at the beginning of the term was 16,000 this year we have almost 28,000.

## Celebrations

December 18 is International Migrants Day. This year's remembers the refugees and migrants who have lost their lives trying to reach safe harbour after arduous journeys across seas and deserts.

## Fun facts

Fathers tend to determine the height of their child, mothers their weight.

## Contact us

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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