

## Our Big Story

**When :** November 14-24, 2016

**Where :** Abuja

The Initiative conducted an Institutional Capacity Assessment (ICA) of the State Ministries of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and 20 Local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs) in Bauchi and Sokoto states. The assessment was conducted through a series of activities including a stakeholders' meeting, review of the ICA-tool, assessment and a debriefing meeting. Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and LGEAs were assessed on strategic planning, policy, coordination, social mobilization, quality assurance, data management, teacher management, school support amongst others. Preliminary findings from the assessment indicate all MDAs need support, engagement and capacity building across all domains. The Initiative will disseminate the report of the assessment to relevant stakeholders and develop action plans to address gaps identified.

## Quote

**"I am always excited going to the learning center. The way my teacher explains the lessons, makes it so easy to understand. When I am alone, I try to form words and pronounce them."**

**- Amina Musa, learner at an Adolescent Girls Learning Center in Misau local government area, Bauchi state**



Master Trainers during a team building exercise at a three-day refresher training for let's Read! Mu Karanta! reading program in Abuja

## Highlights of the Week

- Conducted refresher training for 42 Master Trainers as part of the Teacher Professional Development program for *Mu Karanta! Let's Read!* in Abuja. Master trainers 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.
- Key government officials across MDAs from Bauchi 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 head teachers and learning facilitators 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.
- Organized two-day review and coordination meeting for Initiative Abuja, Bauchi and Sokoto states senior managers to reflect on successes and challenges, assess level of coordination, support and procedures and brainstorm opportunities for improving performance and project delivery.
- Concluded data collection for bi-annual conflict analysis and school/community mapping.

## 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

13 11 16

### SAME/ NEI Plus Dialogue Meeting

To standardize data collection tools and procedures for NFLCs with SAME.

Bauchi

13-15 11 16

### EGR ToT Training

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

Bauchi/ Sokoto

## Voices



**Umaru Mohammed Yabo is the Director Planning, Research and Statistics Sokoto State Universal Basic Education Board.**

**How will you describe the working relationship between the Sokoto State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) particularly the Department of Planning, Research and Statistics (DPRS) and the Initiative?**

The relationship is very cordial and there is synergy between us as far as improving the quality of basic education is concerned in the state. In what particular areas has your department worked together with the Initiative?

As Director Planning I am also the desk officer in charge of all the activities related to the Initiative. So

we have worked on teacher education, access and fragility, systems strengthening, mobilization as well as reading.

**So far how have we been able to support SUBEB to improve quality of basic education in Sokoto state?**

The Initiative is not here to implement but to support and strengthen our capacity so we can equally implement interventions on reading and access.

**How has SUBEB shown that it is committed to the objectives of the Initiative?**

When the Initiative trained our school support officers, as part of the board's contribution we were able to take care of transport and feeding for mentor teachers and 160 school support officers. We are very aware of the design of the project and how responsibility for trainings and materials increases on the part of government.

So how is SUBEB planning to meet next year's financial commitment?

It has already been budgeted for. It is part of the Medium Term Sector Strategy plan.

How about release of these funds?

Actually we do not think we will face serious challenges as far as release is concerned considering the determination and political will on the

part of the state government. The Governor of the state, His Excellency Aminu Waziri Tambuwal is really passionate about this project knowing the benefits it could bring for children within the education system.

**What is your department doing to ensure we get quality data to inform planning and decision making within the basic education subsector?**

We have statutory LGEAs and in each one we have planning officers so although the data comes through them we also go out for monitoring to verify and validate these data before we transfer it to our data bank. Education planning is very crucial and when you fail to plan there is every tendency to make misinformed decisions.

**Are there any plans as part of your monitoring activities to monitor implementation of the Early Grade Reading program in schools?**

Immediately after the training of teachers the SUBEB management visited different LGEAs to monitor what was happening and to understand how we can meet immediate needs that can add value to what the Initiative is doing.

## Celebrations

December 12 is a public holiday in Nigeria to celebrate Id el Maulud. It is to mark the birth of Prophet Muhammad.

## Fun facts

We all have tiny mites living in our eyelashes.

## Contact us

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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