



The Initiative Weekly

Our Big Story

When : December 8, 2016

Where : Abuja

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the distribution of 300,000 textbooks to support teachers and pupils benefiting from the **Mu Karanta!** reading program of the Northern Education Initiative Plus in Sokoto state. USAID Mission Director Michael Harvey with the Governor of Sokoto state Aminu Tambuwal presented the books formally in a ceremony at Buhari Model Primary school in Tambuwal local government area of Sokoto state.

"Every child deserves quality basic education. The United States is proud to partner with the Government of Sokoto state to provide more opportunities for children to not just go to school but learn to read and write," said USAID Mission Director Michael Harvey. Governor Aminu Tambuwal was represented by the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Muhammad Kilgori.

"It is important that every child in school learns to read and this is why we are scaling up the Reading program of the Northern Education Initiative Plus to all schools in Sokoto state," Kilgori said.

Quote

"I am a better trader because I can now read the names of some of the items I sell in my shop. Before I joined the learning center, people will come to my shop and ask to buy certain things and I will tell them I did not have them because I could not read the names on labels."

18-year old Atiku Mohammed, student at a Youth Learning Center in Shagari local government area, Sokoto state

P M M P M P M

Highlights of the Week

- Conducted performance assessment of 41 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) managing 800 NFLCs in Bauchi and Sokoto states. CSOs were assessed on how they have managed the centers, conducted community mobilization activities, monitored learning and other general administrative issues.
- Disseminated findings of focus group results on ways to motivate parents to support education to USAID, federal partners implementing education, international partners and Non-Governmental Organizations from January 30-31, 2016 in Abuja.
- The Initiative conducted a two-day pre-validation exercise selecting sample schools and centers for the Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in Sokoto state.
- USAID conducted a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) for the Initiative from January 25-26, 2016 in Sokoto state. The assessment evaluated the validity, reliability, precision, integrity and timeliness of data used to manage the project. The USAID team was led by the Contracting Officer's Representative Olawale Samuel and in company of Monitoring and Evaluation, project management at state and national level visited sample schools and centers.
- Collated and reviewed implementation reports from 41 CSOs managing 800 NFLCs in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Monitored implementation of the **Mu Karanta** program in Sokoto state after schools resumed for second term. Teachers are meant to complete lessons for P1-3 Term 1 in the **Let's Read! Mu Karanta!** Teacher guides and pupil books before proceeding to the Term 2 curriculum.

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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