



The Initiative Weekly

Our Big Story

When : January 24, 2017

Where : Sokoto

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 Commissioner of Education Dr. Muhammad Kilgori 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 Harvey.

Kilgori reiterated Sokoto state government's commitment to improving the quality of basic education in schools so more children acquire basic literacy skills.

"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



Adolescent girls learning at a center in Ningi local government area of Bauchi state.

Highlights of the Week

- Conducted performance assessment of 41 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) managing 800 Non-Formal Learning Centers (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 led by the Contracting Officer's Representative Olawale Samuel and Dr. Chidi Anywanwu visited sample schools and centers.
- The Reading Technical Working Group in Bauchi state organized a quarterly meeting to develop a systemic monitoring plan for coaching and mentoring activities in schools.
- 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

20 2 17

Reading Policy Dialogue

To implement and strengthen education policies for an effective Early Grade Reading program in schools.

Bauchi

22 2 17

Training of Sokoto CSOs

To train CSOs on Early Grade Reading, Report Writing etc.

Abuja

23 2 17

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Sokoto



Murtala Idris is the Learning Facilitator for a Youth Learning Center in Bauchi state.

What made you volunteer as a learning facilitator?

I volunteered as a learning facilitator because I wanted to assist younger boys in the community who are not going to school.

How has the Northern Education Initiative Plus equipped you to teach in the center?

We were trained for five days to use classroom methods that will allow students understand what they are being taught easily. We were trained using Hausa and we

Voices

training the children using the same language which makes it easy. We were also taught how to facilitate life skills and how to relate with other people around the community so we do not discourage them from enrolling their wards in the center.

What particular subjects were you trained on?

We were trained on literacy, numeracy and life skills.

How do you use your facilitator's guide to prepare for lessons?

It is easy because the guide provides all the necessary guidance for each particular lesson instead of looking for information from different sources. The guide streamlines lessons and it is easy to use.

How did you adjust from receiving training to actually teaching in the center?

Coming into classroom I found all the trainings very useful because I realized you do not have to scold or beat a child to listen to you or make him understand what you are saying. My classroom management skills are better.

Are you supported by the community?

Parents always come to check on their children to be sure they are attending classes and the community leader always comes to ask if I am facing any challenge. The children always come on time too. There is so much demand now for education in this community that even the elder ones of the boys in this Youth Learning Center who are not educated wished they also had their own center to learn.

Success Stories from Sokoto

• Ruggar Ruwa Non-Formal Learning Center (NFLC) in Tangaza local government center managed by Save the Children Initiative has inspired its community members to open three additional centers. Community members were very impressed by how children were learning at the center and this prompted their collaboration to open new centers to give more children the opportunity to learn.

• Community efforts are ongoing to ensure children learn in safe environments. A toilet is being constructed in a NFLC called **Makaranta Mal. Umar M. Umar Dandin Mahe** in Shagari local government area of Sokoto state.

Celebrations

January 27 is International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Fun facts

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Contact us

Send your comments and contributions to us via

Bocoa@crea-neiplus.com