



## The Initiative Weekly

### Our Big Story

**When :** January 30- February 4, 2017

**Where :** Bauchi & Sokoto

The Initiative disseminated results of the focus group research on ways to motivate parents to support education in Bauchi and Sokoto states. Key findings of the research were shared in small meetings with representatives of state partners from the Ministry of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and State Agency for Mass Education, civil society and implementing partners, community structures, religious and traditional leaders, educators from the Colleges of Education and staff.

It was also an opportunity for these various stakeholders to suggest recommendations on what roles they could play to support communication and community mobilization efforts geared towards motivating parents to support education.

Participants also understood the specific messages to be used to motivate different target groups of parents to support enrollment, retention and transition of children in schools.

### Quote

**“This research has done a good job of reflecting the opinions of parents on education in Bauchi state and if used well by all stakeholders it will change the way we engage with them and how they see the benefits of education.”**

**Lydia Shehu, Ministry of Women Affairs, Bauchi state**



Pupils during a **Mu Karanta!** lesson in a primary school in Dange-Shuni local government area of Sokoto state.

### Highlights of the Week

- Trained contracted Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on use of social media for effective communication and community mobilization to support education efforts in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Organized planning meeting with State Ministry of Education (SMoE) and Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to develop the 2017 Medium Term Sector Strategy for Bauchi state.
- Reviewed project performance on implementation of safety standards and benchmarks in schools and Non-Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs) in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Gave feedback on results of performance assessment to CSOs implementing sub-grants managing 800 NFLCs in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Conducted two-day retreat for Reading component with all team members from Bauchi and Sokoto states in Abuja to discuss implementation of early grade reading in schools and plan for the upcoming quarter.
- Conducted quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation meeting with all team members in Sokoto state to review implementation of the performance monitoring plan on the project.
- Organized planning meetings with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and implementing partners in the education sector on providing technical support for the 2017 Annual School Census (ASC) in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Trained state and local government partners on effective distribution of teaching and learning materials to schools in Sokoto state.

## 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

### Reading Policy Dialogue

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

Sokoto

## Voices



**Mohammed Hussein Gyade was the Chairman of the Bauchi State Working Group for State Education Accounts (SEA) when it was implemented under the initial Northern Education Initiative. Presently he serves as Secretary.**

***Having witnessed three SEAs what similarities or differences do you see in terms of approach?***

The SEA is a very good tool for collecting information on expenditure in the education sector. The SEA is very interesting. Bauchi state government has always been interested in it. I recall when we presented the first report to the State Executive Council in 2009, it aroused a lot of attention. Total expenditure on education that year was N35 billion and they

not believe that so much had been expended with minimal impact on the quality of education.

We formed a state working group, developed an instrument for collecting all expenditure on education and then we were trained. We then went to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to collect information and imputed it in the instruments to develop matrices. We had all our source documents to back every information and the state government really appreciated it.

When we came to the second round of the SEA since it was under the same Governor and he was already familiar with the process. We followed the same modalities and upon conclusion expenditure in education shot up to N51 billion. The reason for that was after conducting the first round, the state government improved investment in education because we were able to prove then that we had not met the UNESCO benchmark of 26 percent budgetary allocation to education. The percentage then was 15 percent. There was purchase of textbooks of over N2 billion and that was captured in the second SEA. There was a lot of expansion and renovation of schools to the extent that the state governor opened an account called Schools Special Project for that purpose. Public sector took the lead on expenditure

with state government contributing the highest amount.

The second SEA resulted in an education dialogue where it was disseminated. This document resulted in further improvements. When it came to the State Education Sector Plan, Medium Term Sector Strategy and formulation of the state budget, the SEA document was used for guidance.

***So what impact do you hope this third SEA will make?***

We have a basic education steering committee and I happen to be a member representing the SEA. This committee is the policy body as far as education is concerned and it meets two or three times a year. Now we are in the process of the third SEA and we will continue to make comparisons to inform better decisions in the education sector.

***So what is the correlation between expenditure and quality of education?***

The SEA also does cost benefit analysis and in our recommendation in the third SEA we will recommend the sustainability of the Initiative.

## Celebrations

February 4 is World Cancer Day. Each year on 4 February, WHO and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) supports Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to promote ways to ease the global burden of cancer.

## Tips

Memorize something everyday. Not only will this leave your brain sharp and your memory functioning, you will also have a huge library of quotes to bust out at any moment.

## Contact Us

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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