



The Initiative Weekly

Our Big Story

When : February 22-28, 2017

Where : Abuja

The Initiative conducted a two-day training for 38 Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations managing 800 non-formal learning centers in Bauchi and Sokoto states. These organizations were trained on report writing, early grade reading and messages for community outreach while discussions held around assessment of learning in centers, training needs of civil society organizations based on results of performance assessment and review of 2016 milestones.

Internally, the project is reviewing applications for new grants to manage 700 non-formal learning centers enrolling 31, 500 learners in the second year. Based on a performance assessment conducted on organizations issued grants to manage NFLCs in the first year, the Initiative also re-assessed their capacities to continue on the project as sub-grantees.



Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Creative Associates Charito Kruvant with female staff in Nigeria after lunch on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

Quote

"The Initiative project is timely because it addresses the problem of children not been able to read. As a board we are supporting the training of teachers as far as budgeting is concerned by including it in our action plan."

Abubakar Mansur Abdu, Director Planning, Research & Statistics, SUBEB, Sokoto state

Highlights of the Week

- Welcomed Creative Associates Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Charito Kruvant to Nigeria to meet Nigerian staff and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the organization providing development services in more than 50 countries.
- Conducted reading policy dialogues with state partners and stakeholders in Bauchi and Sokoto states to propose and brainstorm on policy areas around time, teaching, text, testing, tongue and curriculum that can be implemented to improve and strengthen the Early Grade Reading program in schools.
- Provided state partners in Sokoto state technical support on data entry and utilization to conduct the Annual School Census.
- Participated in a three-day meeting of development partners working in Bauchi state chaired by the Commissioner of Education. The meeting held in Kano state was an opportunity to brief government and international partners on the Initiative successes, challenges and plans for sustainability.
- Commenced end-line Non-Formal Literacy Assessment for 400 learning centers in Sokoto state. Enumerators were trained for one day and deployed to collect data from 40 sample centers.
- Updated project database system with Annual School Census data for 2016 from Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Finalized a facilitator guide for parent training material to train parents on ways to support children to read at home and prepare them to read better in schools.

Upcoming Activities

06 03 17

Non-formal Literacy Assessment

To conduct end-line literacy assessment in 400 non-formal learning centers.

Bauchi

06 03 17

Training of Trainers for parental training on EGR

To train trainers to train parents to support children to read at home.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

14 03 17

Study tour and peer exchange visit

To understudy MAFITA project's implementation of non-formal education in Kano state

Kano

05 03 17

CIES Conference

Creative's education experts from NEI Plus join others around the world to share insight on our work in education.

Atlanta

Voices



Umar S.B Aminu is the Vice-Chairman of the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations in Sokoto state. He is a Master Trainer for Community Mobilization on the project.

What are your thoughts on how the Initiative is mobilizing communities to support education?

I commend the Initiative for implementing a number of activities that touches the grassroots directly. For example, training Master Trainers to train Community Coalitions, Women Groups and Center Based Management Committees on mobilizing parents to enroll their children in non-formal learning centers, advocacy, resource

mobilization and so on is very commendable.

Community Coalitions were in existence before the Initiative and the project reactivated some of them to make them useful as advocates for education in their respective local governments. The project has trained and equipped them with skills to serve as voices for their communities and they are a good resource for the project.

So what impact have you seen the trainings of all these community structures had?

The training has made an impact because they all now have a knowledge of the project and what it will take to make it successful at the community level. They meet often as groups and want to learn and borrow best practices from one another. Before now we learnt they were not organized but these trainings have helped them define clearly their goals and visions particularly as it relates to education. They are also taking ownership and building the consciousness in communities to see the non-formal learning centers as theirs.

Have the training manuals

been helpful?

Yes. Formerly, we used to have reading corners and libraries we even had handwriting as a subject but now you do not see that. But the Initiative is bringing this back to the fore because we are taught how to encourage parents to help children read at home even if they are not educated. We have also learnt how to use role models within the communities to show that education is important.

Any last words?

The project will come and go and what we are after is sustainability and this is why training and re-training of major drivers is important. The project sees capacity building as important and it is empowering the right people to mobilize the communities. It is also good that the project is working closely with civil society organizations. We know the right people to go to when we want to get things done.

Celebrations

March 8 is International Women's Day to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

Tips

Do not leave purses or pocketbooks on the back of a chair when dining out; keep them on your lap and in sight.

Contact Us

Send your comments and contributions to us via

Bocoa@crea-neiplus.com