



The Initiative Weekly

Our Big Story

When : March 13- 31, 2017

Where : Bauchi & Sokoto

The Initiative trained 11,000 members of the School Based Management Committees (SBMC) from 2,209 schools in Bauchi and Sokoto states. Five members of each SBMC comprising of a head teacher, female community member, parent, head boy or head girl and community leader were selected from each school.

Members were trained on their functions as SBMC members to create community demand for quality educational services in schools, monitoring of the Mu Karanta! Let's Read! program in schools, parental support for early grade reading, sensitizing parents on retention and transition of pupils and mobilizing resources for education.

They were trained by 135 trainers drawn from civil society organizations, State Agency for Mass Education, State Universal Basic Education Board, Colleges of Education and the Local Government Education Authorities.



A data collector testing a child during the endline Non-Formal Literacy Assessment in a non-formal learning center in Katagum town, Bauchi local government area of Bauchi state. **Pix: Innocent Chukwu**

Quote

“The United States commends Bauchi State for its extraordinary efforts to provide greater learning opportunities for its children. This Memorandum of Understanding will expand the partnership between USAID and Bauchi State to improve primary education in Bauchi,” said USAID Mission Director Michael Harvey.

Highlights of the Week

- Conducted an internal Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in Bauchi state to evaluate the validity, reliability, precision, integrity and timeliness of data used to monitor and evaluate performance on the project.
- Key officials from the Federal Ministry of Education, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council, Universal Basic Education Commission and National Commission for Colleges of Education embarked on a monitoring exercise of schools implementing the Mu Karanta! Let's Read! program in Bauchi and Sokoto states. Teams visited different schools in rural, semi-rural and urban areas and gained first-hand information on implementation of the Initiative's teacher professional development program, distribution of teaching and learning materials and coaching and mentoring activities.
- Initiated procedures for mainstreaming graduates of Non-Formal Learning Centers into Primary Four in formal schools with the State Universal Basic Education Board and State Agency for Mass Education in Bauchi and Sokoto states. Final student assessments in the centers will hold in April, 2017.
- Conducted data validation for Annual School Census exercise visiting 45 schools in three Local Government Areas (Sokoto South, Wammako and Wurno) of Sokoto state.
- Finalized training manual on school performance score card. The school performance score card is a cloud based solution designed for use by education managers to assess performance of schools on quality of teaching and learning.
- Launched coaching and mentoring support short message services to 500 School Support Officers in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

Upcoming Activities

20 03 17

Non-formal Literacy Assessment Analysis

To analyze base and end-line literacy assessments in 800 non-formal learning centers.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

20 03 17

SBMC Training continues

To train school based management committees to support parents and schools.

Bauchi/ Sokoto

29 03 17

Study tour and peer exchange visit

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

Kano

20 03 17

Media tour to schools/ NFLCs

To visit schools with state media representatives to capture success in schools and NFLCs.

Bauchi



Abubakar Mansur Abdu is the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Bauchi state. He is a key official in the development of the Medium Term Sector Strategy.

One of our objectives as a project is to strengthen government systems to ensure sustainability of all our initiatives. How do you see that playing out with the Medium Term Sector Strategy framework?

We demanded for the review and development of the Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) with your support. Our budgets are derived from the MTSS and we do not want gaps. At the basic level there is high demand for education and resources available are not commensurable with these demands. There is going to be a

Voices

problem if you do not have a strategic plan. The MTSS allows us control, allocate and prioritize our resources. So having the Initiative support us through this process is a very welcome development.

You have been able to bring all the stakeholders in this process and we have worked together, brainstormed and covered the entire the basic education sub-sector comprising of SUBEB, SAME and State Agency for Nomadic Education in the strategy. Now with this document we are able to define our roles with different departmental responsibilities and sources of funding. We have a document that speaks for basic education.

The document specifically focused on the 2017 budget, what we are expected to receive from the government and other donor partners who are into basic education.

What will it take to make it operational?

We are fortunate that it is going to be operational because Directors in charge of Strategic Planning from all education Ministries, Departments and Agencies met a

while back and we were directed to make sure we develop strategic plans. All Initiative activities with SUBEB are captured in the action plan for SUBEB and the annual budget so this answers your question on sustainability.

We are now making it operational and that is why we have the Honorable Chairman House Committee on Appropriation from the Bauchi State House of Assembly and the Special Assistant on Due Process in the know. We are also going to sensitize all heads of these agencies to understand this document as something we can refer to in terms of planning and budgeting.

This current template is made in a way that with little support we can review it alongside the annual budget. It is easier because of the Budget Planning Tool introduced by the Initiative. The tool is flexible and accommodates emerging issues. Once we have presented our annual budget we can use the tool to ensure that it is integrated fully into the MTSS. We no longer have to wait two or three years before reviewing the strategy.

Celebrations

March 20 is the International Day of Happiness? It's a day to be happy, of course! Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the day as a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.

Tips

While working stretch out your arms, legs, wrists and back when you have time. Stretching will help to keep your muscles loose and prevent cramps and other problems.

Contact Us

Send your comments and contributions to us via

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