

THE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

6.16.2017



Top Stories

Pilot Early Grade Reading Course Begins in Colleges

The first Early Grade Reading course for student teachers in Nigeria developed by the National Commission for Colleges of Education and the Northern Education Initiative Plus is being piloted in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

Colleges of Education benefitting from this program are College of Education Kangare, Aminu Saleh College of Education, Abubakar Tatarsi Polytechnic in Bauchi State and Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto State.

The pilot Early Grade Reading Course introduces 200 student teachers from Primary Education and Languages Departments to practical strategies required to teach reading methods and principles in lower primary schools.

Students will take a thirteen-week course integrating the Let's Read! Mu Karanta! curricula implemented in schools in Bauchi and Sokoto states. The program also provides opportunities for teaching practice activities in schools.

The Initiative, National Commission for Colleges of Education, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council and the four Colleges of Education designed and developed the course for teachers. College administrators have been orientated and trained to deliver the course content.

Aminu Saleh College of Education started the pilot course on June 5, 2017 to finish instruction by September 1, 2017 and hold examinations by September 8, 2017. Abubakar Tatarsi Polytechnic and Shehu Shagari College of Education will start on June 26, 2017 finishing instruction by September 22, 2017 to have examinations by September 29, 2017.

20,000 Out-Of-School Children Pass Exams

More than 90 percent of over 22,000 learners enrolled in 800 Non-Formal Learning Centers in Bauchi and Sokoto states have passed examinations rounding off a six-month non-formal education program introduced by the Initiative and State Agency for Mass Education.

These learners will be provided certificates by the State Agencies for Mass Education and have the opportunity to mainstream into Primary

four in formal schools with support from the State Universal Basic Education Board in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

The Initiative opened these centers in different communities bringing quality education to thousands of children who otherwise would not have access to schooling.

Children between ages 5 to 17 attended classes for a minimum of six hours every week, received textbooks and were taught literacy, numeracy and life skills to prepare them to be self-reliant in the future.

A breakdown of the results indicates that in Bauchi State 11,914 (6041- Male, 5873- Female) students passed out of 12,259 that enrolled for the examinations and in Sokoto State 8,196 (2,810- Male, 5386- Female) students passed out of 10,680 who took the tests.

Significant progress has been made to identify ways for these students to continue their education in formal school or post literacy level in non-formal education. All relevant actors in the states have been orientated on their roles and responsibilities to support the mainstreaming process.

Other Highlights

- Conducted Early Grade Reading Assessment data analysis training in Sokoto for Education Management and Information System staff in 10 Local Government Education Authorities to build their capacity to analyse and interpret results of the assessment.
- Supported tracking and distribution of Teaching and Learning Materials for the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* Program in schools in Sokoto State.
- Trained Civil Society Organizations managing grants to establish 700 Non-Formal Learning Centers in Bauchi State to map out communities where out-of-school children and youth are currently located.
- Conducted stepdown trainings for staff of Civil Society Organizations at both state and local government levels on community mobilization to establish or reactivate community structures promoting education in Sokoto State.

Upcoming Activities

- School Performance Scorecard Distribution, Bauchi & Sokoto states from June 12-23, 2017
- Observing Coaching & Mentoring of *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* school program, Sokoto State from June 26-30, 2017
- Data Quality Assessment, Bauchi State from July 17-21, 2017

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Regards from,

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Fun Fact

Pteronophobia is the fear of being tickled by feathers!