

THE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

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**Commissioner
for Basic and
Secondary Edu-
cation, Sokoto
state, Dr. Jabbi
Kilgori**

What is the synergy between the Nigeria Partnership for Education Project and Northern Education Initiative Plus and how is the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in Sokoto state coordinating these efforts?

The Northern Education Initiative Plus continues to synergize with the Nigeria Partnership for Education Project to ensure we maximize efforts and minimize duplication. For the Reading materials, the Nigeria Partnership for Education Project is going to invest in collaboration with the State Universal Basic Education Board to make them available in all schools in other local government areas not covered by the Initiative.

Nigeria Partnership for Education Project is also going to cover the whole state in terms of their cash transfer, school improvement grants and provisions of scholarships for female students and this is a way of empowering children to want to learn. We want children to be able to regularly attend schools and giving them a stipend means getting their commitment to regularly attend school to learn Reading as a foundational skill.

The Partnership Forum exists in the states that brings all development partners working together in state for better synergy and we will discuss these issues further there.

What is the impact of the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* program in the state?

As far as Reading is concerned the pioneering effort has been a very huge success because there is a lot of buy-in. From the children themselves you see it visibly, the parents appreciate it, the communities when they see the child singing in Hausa and English they appreciate it. This is why more parents enrolled their children in school because they want them to have a similar experience. It has boosted enrollment and made more children attend school because of the Reading skills they are acquiring. Government is very keen and has already taken it up as we do not want to create 10 local government areas that have these skills and the others do not. That is why the State Universal Basic Education Board has trained teachers and the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* materials are going to be provided and made available for Primary 1-3 in partnership with the Nigeria Partnership for Education Project.

We need to really promote our achievements and successes and we want to give the people feedback so they know what we have achieved. Right now I am compiling a performance report for the whole basic and secondary education and all the necessary stakeholders are making contributions to it. We hope this will be continuously done every year and it will be made available to the whole world. We want the people to know what we are doing, how far we have gone, what our successes and challenges are, the way forward, how much we are strengthening the system and how much we are making progress with evidence and data.

Highlights of the Week

- Conducted a one-day public forum to sample schools for mini Early Grade Reading Assessment in Bauchi State. The purpose of this assessment is to provide a baseline to set standards and benchmarks for the practice of Early Grade Reading in schools in Nigeria. Standards and benchmarks will help to clearly define and measure classroom instruction and pupils' performance at each primary grade level.
The public forum used a stratified sampling approach to select schools that met the criteria of having an enrollment of not less than 24 pupils per class from Primary 1-3. The schools were also validated to ensure that they have fully benefitted from the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* program.
- The Initiative embarked on a monitoring exercise of the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* program in selected schools in Sokoto state. The activity helped identify areas for strengthening to provide effective school support for teacher professional development in early grade reading.
- Trained Civil Society Organizations in Bauchi State to use social media to promote and raise awareness for the Initiative activities on Early Grade Reading and access to education.
- Trained 25 enumerators to collect data for the rolling Community Education and Conflict Assessment in Sokoto State.
- Trained Civil Society Organizations in Bauchi State to use evidence-based messages motivating parents to support education and Reading for community outreach activities.

Upcoming Activities

- Mini Early Grade Reading Assessment for standards, benchmarks and language transition setting in Bauchi and Sokoto states from July 10-29, 2017.
- Year Three Work Plan workshops from July-August, 2017
- Data Quality Assessment, Bauchi State from August 7-11, 2017

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Regards from,

Northern Education Initiative Plus

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Fun Fact

**Recycling one glass jar
saves enough energy to
watch TV for 3 hours.**