

THE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

7.07.2017



Alhaji Sani Umar Jabbi is the District Head of Gagi in Sokoto state and is a high-level advocate of the Northern Education Initiative Plus working to mobilize communities to support education.

What can you say about the Initiative work especially at community level?

I worked with the initial intervention under the Northern Education Initiative and now this second phase. We are very pleased with the positive transformation the project is bringing to our state including strengthening the capacity of influencers and key actors in the community. They have involved the community and engaged various stakeholders to successfully create opportunities for out-of-school-children. There is remarkable improvement in the ownership of education policies and programs.

I have been thinking about the best ways of engaging women and youth to support education but the Initiative has trained us on best approaches and strategies to engage different segments of the community as leaders. I have been oriented and enlightened to become a big advocate for voiceless children and ensure quality access to education for all in Sokoto state.

Also we have learnt how we can encourage and support parents to help their children read. Usually the challenge is at primary school level but with the coming of the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* program it is easier to motivate parents because the books are there and they are excited about their children reading.

We are also engaging Center Based Management Committees of Non-Formal Learning Centers and we have used these groups to enlighten households on the value of education.

The Initiative is doing very well and we appreciate the value placed on education and human dignity. The USAID has impacted positively on the lives of people. The project is strengthening the capacity of government, civil society organizations and community leaders to provide access to quality education to children.

We are grateful to the Initiative for identifying people like us, building our capacity, changing our thinking so we are now very powerful in influencing decisions at various levels. We are also custodians at the grassroots and we are able to mobilize communities to support government policies and programs on education.

Highlights of the Week

- 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 Bauchi State.
- Trained Civil Society Organizations in Sokoto State to use social media to promote and raise awareness for the Initiative activities on Early Grade Reading and access to education.
- Met with the Learning Project to discuss modalities for the Data Quality Assessment to start August 7, 2017 in Bauchi and Sokoto States.
- Trained 25 enumerators to collect data for the rolling Community Education and Conflict Assessment in Sokoto State.
- Trained Civil Society Organizations in Sokoto State to use evidence-based messages motivating parents to support education and Reading for community outreach activities.
- Met with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council in Abuja to discuss modalities for the Reading policy framework and standards and benchmarks to clearly define and measure classroom instruction and pupils' performance at each primary grade level.
- Met with State Team Leads to prepare for the Project Year Three Work Plan workshops in August.
- Updated the National Commission for Colleges of Education on the pilot pre-service Early Grade Reading course being implemented in Colleges of Education of Bauchi and Sokoto states and discussed review of the Nigeria Certificate in Education minimum standards.

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

38 Mike Akhigbe Street

Jabi, Abuja, Nigeria

Fun Fact

Your pupils can expand by as much as 45% when looking at someone you love.