

THE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

28.07.2017



Ahmad Abubakar,
Community leader
and former Chair-
man Center Based
Management
Committee, Islami-
ya Garuje, Dinawa,
Wurno local gov-
ernment area,
Sokoto state.

What is your community like?

This is a community that likes education and with the intervention of the Initiative opening a Non-Formal Learning Center here we felt the community should do something to complement efforts of the project.

Please tell us about the Initiative project in your community?

The project opened a learning center for us and they hired someone from the community as a learning facilitator, trained him to teach children and gave the children textbooks. We are very happy that our community in Dinawa got this opportunity.

Please tell us about the learning center you opened after the exit of the project?

The project opened a center and enrolled 45 learners and they wrote examinations waiting to be mainstreamed in September. As a community we felt if other people could come from somewhere to support our children we reasoned we had to continue. The community continued at the center and opened another one getting a volunteer learning facilitator to teach the children.

Why do you think the program is successful?

Our children have learnt how to read and write. They can identify words and write sentences. They do not play all day and have become very disciplined. After their Islamic education they come to the center to learn. They are even helping their parents to read their text messages and are able to count money very well.

How do you anticipate the progress will be sustainable as the years go on?

We are hoping that in the near future this center will become a community school where every child from the community will come and learn.

Highlights of the Week

- The USAID Mission Director, Steven Haykins, was in Sokoto state on a four-day official visit from July 17-20, 2017. While in Sokoto Haykins paid a courtesy visit on Governor Aminu Tambuwal, interacted with implementing partners working on education and health. To understand the level of progress implementing the Initiative project in Sokoto state, the Mission Director visited the Shehu Shagari College of Education where the pilot Pre-Service Early Grade Reading program is running and the 49-year old Yakubu Mu'azu Science Model Primary School, one of the schools implementing the Let's Read! Mu Karanta! program.
- Conducted state level work plan workshops with partners from the State Universal Basic Education Board, State Agency for Mass Education, Local Government Education Secretaries and Civil Society Organizations in Bauchi and Sokoto states to identify activities to be implemented in Project Year 3. This year the project will be expanding access to 63,000 out-of-school-children in 1,400 Non-Formal Learning Centers and continuing to improve reading skills for thousands of children in formal schools.
- Conducted three-day community mobilization pre-work plan meeting to identify activities for Project Year 3 that will support Civil Society Organizations and other community structures to mobilize support for Early Grade Reading and Access.
- Commenced distribution of first to third grade third term Let's Read! Mu Karanta! books to schools in Bauchi state. So far schools from Darazo, Shira, Misau, Gamawa and Itas have received their pupil books. States have dashboards used to monitor and track progress of teaching and learning materials distribution up to school level.
- Conducted refresher training for assessors to conduct Mini-Early Grade Reading Assessment in Sokoto state. This EGRA will be used as a baseline to set reading and teaching standards against which performance of teachers and learners outcomes can be measured over time. It will also be used to determine how much time teachers spend on instructing reading in classrooms and determine the appropriate grade level when to transit from Hausa to English as an appropriate language of instruction.

Upcoming Activities

- Training of Master Trainers to coach and mentor 1,400 Learning Facilitators to deliver non-formal education curriculum in Bauchi and Sokoto states from Monday, 30 July- Monday, August 7, 2017.
- 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

Your brain is the fattest organ in your body and may consist of at least 60 percent fat.