



9.15.2017



Zahrau Abdullahi Yabo is a Let's Read! Mu Karanta! teacher in Nizzamiyya Islamiyya Model Primary School Yabo local government of Sokoto state. She speaks about the impact of the Early Grade Reading curriculum implemented in her school.

What is your community like?

Yabo is a highly populated local government that loves education. They are mostly farmers and traders. Parents in this place like to send their children to school.

What is your school like?

We have many male and female teachers and it is one of the biggest schools in town. The school has both the Islamic education and formal school system. Boys and girls sit separately in different classes.

For how long have you taught?

I have been teaching for nine years.

What was the school like before the Early Grade Reading program was introduced?

The school had a lot of challenges. As a teacher I had never attended any in-service teacher training to build my capacity until the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* program. We did not have teaching and learning materials and received limited guidance and support for planning lessons.

Have you noticed any change in the behavior of your students since the intervention?

On the part of the teachers we have gained a lot. We teach putting the child at the center of learning.

Having received training from the Initiative, we now have teacher guides with properly structured lessons. I engage my pupils through-out the lesson. I hear their voices as much as they hear mine. It is team work.

Before, there were children who could hardly identify a letter but now they can read several words and even a complete passage. It is a welcome improvement.

What do children like about the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* textbooks?

Children have listened to and read the stories that teach good hygiene so children now take their bath and wear neat uniforms to school.

Fun Fact

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

Highlights of the Week

- Commenced the first Postgraduate Certificate course in Early Grade Reading in Nigeria. The course will build a resource of Reading experts in Nigeria to promote improved reading performance in primary schools. Twenty course participants drawn from federal and state education Ministries, Departments and Agencies and the World Bank attended the first week of instruction ending September 14, 2017 in Abuja.
- More than 100 key government and non-government representatives marked the International Literacy Day in Sokoto state on September 8, 2017. The event had in attendance the Sultan of Sokoto state and the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education representing the State Governor. The Sultan of Sokoto State Sa'adu Abubakar used the opportunity of the occasion to call on all District Heads to intensify their involvement in campaigns that promote literacy and increase enrollment of children in schools.

The Initiative Weekly



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Highlights of the Week

- Validated establishment of 700 Non-Formal Learning Centers in 10 local government areas of Bauchi state to ensure compliance with standards and criteria on location of centers, enrollment of learners and recruitment of learning facilitators amongst others.
- Conducted 2017 budget review meeting with State Ministry of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board, Bauchi State Agency for Mass Education, Bauchi State Agency for Nomadic Education and the Ministry of Budget and Planning in Bauchi State.
- Teacher Development Programme conducted a learning tour to Bauchi State to learn more about the Initiative's first pre-service course in Early Grade Reading in Nigeria. The team visited all three teacher education institutions of the state- College of Education Azare, College of Education Kangere and Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic.
- Identified and verified assessors for upcoming Early Grade Reading Assessment to continue to ensure high quality of the assessments
- Organized a two-day training for Civil Society Organizations on data management and records management. The training included use of tablets for improved data collection and reporting on programmatic activities.



The **Let's Read! Mu Karanta!** program encourages students to have their eye on print as they read along to identify words.

Quotes

"The attention to early grade reading is a global movement and NERDC is proud to be a part of it."

Deputy Director,
Nigerian Educational Research Development Council,
Dr. Garba Gandu

"This is a project that is well designed and is dealing with the most critical components of education-early grade reading, building capacity of teachers and creating more opportunities for children to access education."

Sokoto State Commissioner of Basic and Secondary Education
Dr. Jabbi Kilgori

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Regards from,

Northern Education Initiative Plus

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