

The Initiative Weekly



11.17.2017



Cecilia Esemé is the Executive Coordinator of Center for Peoples Health, Peace and Progress (3Ps), one of the local Non-Governmental Organizations managing Non-Formal Learning Centers teaching out-of-school-children literacy and numeracy skills in Sokoto state.

Why did your organization decide to partner with the Initiative?

As an organization we are involved with women, youth and children. In the course of our work we realized that education was a very great need in many communities so when we saw what the Initiative wanted to do in Sokoto state we decided to partner with them because it has always been a yearning of ours to see how we can educate these children.

Please describe your organization's partnership with the Initiative?

The Initiative provides the grants and oversight management while we do the ground work in the communities searching for where there are out-of-school-children, train manpower and set up Non-Formal Learning Centers teaching literacy and numeracy to children who otherwise may not have an opportunity to be educated.

What are your overall thoughts about the Initiative and how the partnership is going so far?

It is a wonderful project; the objectives are well thought out. The first year was a learning curve but this second year has taken on board all the lessons learnt previously to make the intervention better.

Describe the families and communities you work with?

I work in six wards of Tangaza local government area in six wards. Each one is different from the next with its own peculiarities. For example, if I took Salewa and compared it with Gidan Maji the former is a nomadic community and in the latter they are more interested in petty trading. We have to design the intervention to suit these differences. Most of our Adolescent Girls Learning Centers and Youth Learning Centers are in these communities because you find a high number of teenage girls and boys who do not go to school. We are also able to deal with issues as they rise with the cooperation of the community

leaders and they are very excited about these centers.

What are some of the biggest challenges in the communities you work in?

Obviously the low level of education because yes they may be poor but that is tied around their lack of exposure to the opportunities that exist. That is why we are doing this so they can have skills that they can use to increase their chances of a self-reliant future. If children learn to read and write their families are better off.

What do the families think of the centers and the Initiative?

We had a lot of success stories last time where many people continued operating the centers after we closed out the first cohort and this is likely to continue in future.

What inspires you to do the work that you do?

People! It is the idea that if I can make a change in one life the effect is multiplied when that individual touches other lives.

The Initiative Weekly



11.3.2017

Best Practices from Our Non-Governmental Organizations

- Taimako-CDI mobilized villages in Burku and Bridge II from Ganjuwa local government area in Bauchi State to open extra centers for more than 150 out-of-school children who could not be accommodated in the centers opened by the project. Liaising with the Bauchi State Agency for Mass Education, volunteer learning facilitators were recruited for the centers and learning materials donated to the children.
- Women Groups are also actively involved in project implementation, supporting to sensitize communities on the importance of education. In some instances, they are voluntarily donating their resources to create friendlier learning environments in Non Formal Learning Centers. According to RAHAMA Non-Governmental Organization, the Women Group in Shira local government area of Bauchi state purchased water pots, kettles and mats for some centers in their communities with their monthly contributions of N100 each.
- In communities where there is limited access to education due to lack of schools, Non Formal Learning Centers provide an opportunity for out of school children to learn literacy and numeracy skills. To appreciate the project's efforts, some communities donated facilities for teaching and learning. Through the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN), communities in Miri Geji, Gudum Sayawa and Tamungas from Bauchi local government donated four classrooms and other materials for adolescent girls and boys to learn vocational skills.
- As part of their corporate social responsibility functions, 3Ps donated durable school bags and drinking bottles to 1,800 learners enrolled in the 40 Non Formal Learning Centers allocated to the organization in Sokoto state. Each center was also provided with mats for children to sit on while learning.
- The Integrated Life Support for Women and Children Initiative in Sokoto state introduced an empowerment scheme to improve the financial status of mothers of adolescent girls in Non Formal Learning Centers. Mothers contribute a token monthly and can take out loans to start petty businesses to support their families.



The community leader of Kukundo Gabas, Dange Shuni Local Government Area of Sokoto state presenting instructional materials to a learning facilitator.

Highlights of the Week

- Creative's Chief Operating Officer Pablo Maldonado visited the Initiative's office in Abuja and met with staff commending their inspirational work of improving the lives of thousands of children through formal and non-formal education.
- Commenced payment of stipends via PocketMoni Mobile Money Solution to 560 learning facilitators in eight local government areas of Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Conducted joint planning meeting to revisit integration of Early Grade Reading into the literacy curriculum for Non-Formal Learning Centers.
- Conducted Technical Evaluation Committee meeting to review capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations to manage additional 1,500 Non-Formal Learning Centers for cohort 3.
- Conducted Early Grade Reading Assessment pre-test data collection for Non-Formal Learning Centers in Bauchi State.

Remember to click, read and share!

Regards from,

Northern Education Initiative Plus

38 Mike Akhigbe Street

Jabi, Abuja, Nigeria