

# The Initiative Weekly



9.27.2017



**Aliyu Hassan is the head teacher of a model primary school in Darazo local government area of Bauchi State.**

**What do you think of the *Let's Read! Mu Karanta!* program in your school?**

It is a very important program because it has brought a lot of changes in our school. Before this program started we had many challenges with children learning to read and write. Many children in Primary 1-3 could hardly read the alphabets but now most of them can read words and write.

In my school I introduced a Reading Club and it has made the children more competitive they want to outdo each other displaying their reading skills. I give them a new passage from their books to go home to read and when they come to the club I ask them to read and they have been very responsive especially Primary 3 pupils.

We really appreciate the program.

**So what inspired you to start the Reading club?**

Well I was a Teacher Trainer for the ***Let's Read! Mu Karanta!*** program and

I wanted my school to come out as the best not in the local government but in the whole state so I thought of extracurricular activities we could do to inspire more children to read and the club seemed to be a good idea.

**How are your teachers performing?**

Our teachers follow their instructional materials step by step and they encourage participation in class. The children are happy with the books. They have learnt many songs and enrollment has increased. The program has made teaching and learning fun.

**What feedback are you getting from the parents?**

Well getting the parents to do homework with the children is difficult because they do not tick behind the pupil textbook as instructed. But I call as

many as I can and invite them over to the school to show them how to tick the home activity section of the book. The School Based Management Committee has also supported in this regard. In addition, they introduced *Saida bags* and distributed to more than 400 pupils to protect their books.

**Some children from Non-Formal Learning Centers have been mainstreamed into your school. What do you make of this situation?**

There is no problem at all. We will give them full support. We have a guidance and counsel-



ling unit to properly guide them while they try to adjust and we will bring them up to speed where necessary.

## Fun Fact

A librocubicularist is someone who reads in bed.

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11.3.2017

## Highlights of the Week

- Conducted pilot research to investigate how much instructional time is actually spent in schools teaching children to read in Bauchi and Sokoto states. This will further inform policy shifts, institutional and attitudinal changes within the school system to reduce lost opportunities for learning.
- Developed an action plan with government stakeholders from the State Ministry of Education, State Ministry of Finance, State Universal Basic Education Board, Budget and Economic Planning and State House of Assembly of Bauchi and Sokoto states to ensure continuous implementation of the project's activities prior and after elections in 2019. The plan included actions to ensure allocation and release of funds for key project activities in the 2018 fiscal budgets of both states and closer collaboration with other development partners in the interest of the basic education subsector.
- Drew institutional capacity plan with key education Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Local Government Education Authorities so the project can systematically provide technical support to these institutions for better education delivery in Bauchi and Sokoto states.
- Met with the Education Crisis Response in Bauchi state to understand their approach to implementing vocational skills and learn best practices for replication in Adolescent Girls Learning Centers and Youth Learning Centers managed by the project.
- Held two-day meeting with the Access Technical Working Group in Bauchi state to discuss establishment of 1,500 new Non Formal Learning Centers for the third cohort of the basic literacy program. It was also an opportunity to share findings of the end line Non Formal Literacy Assessment, Community Education and Conflict Assessment and Community Mapping with partners and plan on how best to ensure mass enrollment in both formal and non-formal schools.
- Produced and pretested **Let's Read! Mu Karanta!** Hausa and English songs and rhymes for Primary 1-3 Term 1 to aid pupils and teachers during lessons.



Group seating facilitates discussions amongst pupils during lessons.

## Upcoming Activities

- Reading Policy action planning meetings in Bauchi and Sokoto states
- Non-Formal Literacy Assessment in 40 sample Non Formal Learning Centers in Bauchi state beginning with training of data collectors.
- Quarterly review meeting with Civil Society Organizations managing 700 Non Formal Learning Centers in Bauchi state to celebrate best practices of individual organizations and their contributions to the overall project objective of increasing access to basic education.
- Engagement with key state actors in Bauchi State to increase political will and commitment for the project activities using evidence-based information such as the State Education Accounts, Early Grade Reading Assessments and Institutional Capacity Assessment.

Remember to click, read and share!

Regards from,

**Northern Education Initiative Plus**

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