



1.12. 2018



**Lami Aliyu Ibrahim is the Head Teacher of a primary school in Ningi local government area of Bauchi state.**

**Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

I always wanted to be a teacher. I believe teachers are the people that can change a society and train children to be of good morale so they can help build the nation.

**Tell me about your school.**

Our primary school was established in 2000 and then we had only three teachers and 36 pupils but presently the school boasts of 45 teaching staff with more than 700 pupils.

**As a teacher and a head teacher what challenges do you face doing your job?**

The challenge I faced before was the punctuality of the children because they come from poor homes they have to engage in some form of trade before coming to school and that was not helping learning. However, we

addressed that by working closely with the Parent Teacher Association, Women Group and School Based Management Committee with a lot of sensitization about the importance of coming to school early and why education is beneficial.

**What do you know about the *Mu Karanta! Let's Read!* program?**

It is an intervention of the United States through the Northern Education Initiative Plus training teachers and providing teaching and learning materials to help pupils learn to read in Hausa and English. The pupils' books and teacher guides go hand in hand and this helps a lot because these materials provide guidance for learning.

**How many of your teachers were trained under the program?**

We have eight teachers.

**Since the training what is different about their approach to teaching and general classroom management?**

Before the program some of the teachers were very relaxed because they felt they could go to the class and just teach with little or no preparation. However, with the training and provision of the guides there are stories, there are songs, there are words you have to read and translate to the children so this makes them research, learn on their own and engage in a lot

of activities.

**How have they influenced other teachers that were not trained by the project?**

All the teachers wish they were trained on the *Mu Karanta! Let's Read!* because they are seeing a lot of changes in their colleagues. For instance, they go to the class with teaching aids, do group work, read stories, sing songs and this is really interesting. Then there is also the Teachers Learning Circle that allows them to meet to discuss their success, failures and ways they can improve.

**How has all this impacted on the children themselves?**

The children can identify words, they can read sentences, they can identify the meaning of many things in both languages. Generally, their reading and writing skills have improved.

**What do the parents say?**

They really appreciate the program and often come to the school to thank the management. They are impressed with the improvements seen in their children.

# The Initiative Weekly



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## Governor Tambuwal lauds NEI Plus, commits to sustainability

Governor of Sokoto State Aminu Waziri Tambuwal has commended the Northern Education Initiative Plus project for providing more learning opportunities for out-of-school-children and improving the reading skills of pupils.

Tambuwal made this remark when he received the Chief of Party of the project James Statman accompanied by the Deputy Chief of Party and Sokoto State Team Leader in his office at the Sokoto state government house.

He said he was very aware of all the activities of the project in the state and its efforts to strengthen government systems for better education service delivery.

The Governor said the state was committed to meeting all agreements contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with USAID and will especially sustain the *Mu Karanta! Let's Read!* program implemented in schools.



Governor Aminu Tambuwal receives reports from the Chief of Party.

"I am very committed to living up to the expectations and agreement contained in the MoU to ensure this administration owns and sustains the laudable Early Grade Reading program in the state," he said.

Tambuwal received reports of key assessments conducted by the project including the Institutional Capacity Assessment, Early Grade Reading Assessment and State Education Account from the Chief of Party. He directed the Commissioner of Basic and Secondary Education to set up a committee to look into the findings of the report and come up with recommendations to reform the education system in the state.

Earlier the Chief of Party James Statman commended the Governor's administration for prioritizing education in its budgetary allocations and declaring a state of emergency on the sector.

Statman reassured the Governor of the project's continuous support to improve teaching and learning in schools and reduce the number of out-of-school children by providing other education options.

The Sokoto State Team Leader for the project Attahiru Ahmad briefed the meeting on the project's performance over the past two years highlighting accomplishments and challenges. It was agreed that moving forward such updates will be made available to the Governor by the project at the end of every year to better inform effective decision making for the education sector.

### Fun Fact

**Cherophobia** is the fear of fun!