

# EDUCATION MATTERS

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group



A parent at home in Bauchi State supporting her child's learning through USAID's NEI Plus radio programs

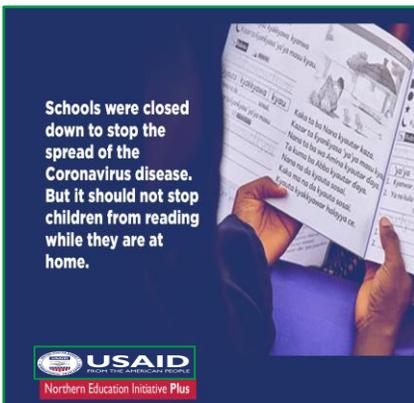
## Message from the Education Development Partners Group

It has been one year since the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group began sharing our work via *Education Matters*. We hope that the format and information have been and will remain useful to you. Communication is ever more important in the era of COVID-19, when so many of us are working remotely and face-to-face conversations are rare. The EDPG appreciates the partnership of Nigerian government officials at all levels as together we strive to provide quality instruction while ensuring the safety of children and their educators. Your feedback is welcome

## Good News & Moves

### The World Bank boosts support for keeping adolescent Nigerian girls in school:

The World Bank Board of Directors has approved a \$500 million credit from the International Development Association for the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) to improve secondary education opportunities among girls in targeted states. AGILE empowers girls through education, life skills, health education, gender-based violence awareness and prevention, and digital literacy skills. It supports access to secondary education and empowerment for 6.7 million adolescent girls, their families and communities in seven states: Borno, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, and Plateau. The project has been adapted to respond to COVID-19 and will support a blended learning approach using technology and media (TV and radio) to implement remote and distance learning programs. AGILE will expand existing primary and Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) to make schools functional, safe, and inclusive for teaching and learning. This entails building more than 5,500 JSS and 3,300 senior secondary school classrooms, improving 2,786 other classrooms, and providing infrastructure for 1,914 schools. About 340,000 girls will receive life skills training in safe spaces incorporating information on health, climate change, safety and gender-based violence awareness. 300,000 girls will receive digital literacy training and half a million girls from the poorest households will receive scholarships to further support their retention in and completion of secondary school. AGILE will raise awareness to address social norms and promote positive behaviors for a supportive and enabling environment for girls' education using communication and high-level advocacy.



Schools were closed down to stop the spread of the Coronavirus disease. But it should not stop children from reading while they are at home.



*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."*

Malcolm X

### Upcoming Events

#### EDPG Meetings

- September 2, 2020
- October 7, 2020
- November 4, 2020

#### National Education Group

First Tuesday of every month

#### Northeast Partners Meeting

Monthly on Tuesdays

**Canada's New Education Initiatives:** Canada's support to vulnerable groups in Nigeria, especially hard-to-reach women and girls, is being strengthened by two newly implemented projects in Borno and Yobe states (2020-2022). Working with out-of-school girls and boys, teachers, community members, parents and government, the projects aim to improve access to education and the quality of girl-friendly education for over 55,000 girls and adolescent girls from 6 to 19 years old. Through these initiatives, Canada will also continue supporting the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by working with state governments to support distance learning through radio programming and the development of education and communication materials. The projects are being implemented by Plan International and Save the Children

**USAID Collaboration with Nigeria's Bayero University in Kano Strengthens Early Grade Reading in Nigeria:** Over the past three years, a unique collaboration between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Nigeria's Bayero University in Kano (BUK), and Florida State University (FSU) in the United States has helped Nigeria strengthen its ability to teach early grade reading, the foundation of lifelong learning. This activity supported the training and mentorship of six BUK Faculty Fellows on cutting-edge research, teacher training, and the process of publishing academic articles during a six-

## Good News & Moves (Continued)

month residency at the FSU Learning Systems Institute. The partnership established a new Nigerian Center for Reading Research and Development on the BUK campus. The fledgling Center has hosted two national conferences attended by more than 800 education stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels to share and publicize reading research findings in the Nigerian context. The Center has developed a new cadre of leaders and trainers in reading research who will champion the advancement of high-quality reading instruction, learning and research for future generations of teachers in primary grade reading strategies to effectively teach children to enjoy a lifetime of reading.



A participant speaks at the first National Conference organized by the NCCRD at BUK in August 2019

**USAID Reaches 500,000 Pupils with Radio Learning in Nigeria's Northeast:** USAID has partnered with the American University of Nigeria (AUN) to reach some 500,000 pupils in Gombe and Adamawa states through a new transactional radio instruction program broadcast across the two states. The 13-episode distance learning program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Hausa language to help pupils fill gaps created by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is part of the USAID Strengthening Education in Northeast Nigeria (SENSE) activity implemented by AUN in conjunction with the Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) activity and the State Universal Basic Education Boards. AUN adapted radio lessons covering the initial stages of the *Mu Karanta!* and RANA curriculums in Gombe and Adamawa following global best practices for early grade reading instruction. The lessons offer a series of radio dramas accompanied by easy-to-memorize songs synchronized to workbook activities that help engage children in learning in an exciting and entertaining fashion. The core components combine sound pedagogy, stories, and songs with the workbook activities. Through the partnership with BESDA, SENSE will be able to expand beyond the original goal of 120,000 learners to reach more than 500,000 learners across the two states. Each radio episode lesson begins with a 40-second COVID-19 awareness message that provides examples of precautionary and prevention measures such as hand washing, social distancing, and the wearing of face masks.



Official launch of USAID's Transactional Radio Instruction program in Gombe and Adamawa states under SENSE

*"Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true Education"*

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

### RESOURCES

For more resources, especially on COVID-19 response, please click [here](#), or copy the link below and paste on your browser: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n0fr9sotR4wffxvuOEsJnLTzSim37\\_3-](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n0fr9sotR4wffxvuOEsJnLTzSim37_3-)

**DFID Partners Continue to Support Nigerian Children Learning During the COVID-19 pandemic:** DFID partner IRC has been supporting non-formal learning for nearly 12,000 children through the establishment of 1,699 COVID-19-safe community-level learning circles that function as small reading groups in the Northeastern states of Borno and Yobe. The *My Better World* TV program is broadcast in Hausa on TV (Arewa24) to support girls' empowerment and continued learning. *My Better World* is an animated series that follows the exciting complex adventures of six African teens as they navigate the challenges of school, family and friendship. The TV series is based on the *My Better World* curriculum developed by Camfed and used very successfully in several African countries. It has also been used by DFID's partner ImpactEd to support girls and boys in partner schools in Kano learn life skills through the Fitila project.



**GIZ Programme Support to Strengthening Resilience in Northeast Nigeria** launched two new projects aimed at improving education in the Northeast in May. One support 10 School-Based Management Committees (SBMC) in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, Borno State, with capacity development measures for improved school management and governance, together with the Jesuit Refugee Service. The second project benefits children, particularly girls, with Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) and remedial classes in six schools in Adamawa State, implemented together with Street Child and the local NGO Restoration of Hope Initiative. The aim is to improve retention and the transition of girls from primary to secondary school. A third ongoing project with the International Rescue Committee in Adamawa State adapted its trainings for teachers and SBMCs to focus on awareness-raising measures regarding COVID-19 in recent months. Through regular text and WhatsApp messages as well as face-to-face-training (compliant with COVID-19 restrictions), stakeholders at 30 schools have been reached in Mubi North, Mubi South, and Maiha). Now in its second year, 20 additional schools in Gombi and Hong will join the project.

**Do you have questions? Desire additional information?**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, please send inquiries or comments to [monyeche@usaid.gov](mailto:monyeche@usaid.gov)**