

# EDUCATION MATTERS

*A Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group*

## Message from the Education Development Partners Group



As the new year approaches, I look back in amazement, not of the numerous challenges 2020 presented, but by the resilience shown by individuals and institutions alike. No one imagined on January 1 that we would be meeting, collaborating, designing, and celebrating virtually, but now we are experts in the various platforms that enable us to do so. The resilience and flexibility are testament to the collective passion for education across the sector. Take time to rest and recharge for the remaining work. The EDPG thanks you for your partnership, and wishes you a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2021.



## Good News & Moves

### USAID NEI Plus Launches Big Books for Primary 1 English

Nigerian pupils in Primary one can now learn the basics of English through 15 Big Books developed as part of the Northern Education Initiative (NEI) Plus activity. The Hon. Minister of Education was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Arc. Sonny Echono, who virtually presented the Big Books to nearly 300 participants. He and the National Educational Research and Development Council Executive Secretary, Prof. Ismaila Junaidu, provided keynote remarks welcoming these curricular materials to Nigeria. The Commissioners of Education from Sokoto and Bauchi reiterated the states' political will and resource allocation to the educational sector. Big Books are a novel approach to introducing English language skills to Primary 1 pupils, with engaging stories, oversized formats and fonts, colorful pictures, and a gentle initiation to new vocabulary and sentence structures.

### Nigeria Annual Education Conference 2020

The EDPG would like to congratulate the Ministry of Education and the many supporters involved in the planning and implementation of the 2020 Nigeria Annual Education Conference. While COVID-19 kept many of us apart physically, the information shared on best practices in teaching and learning during the pandemic aided hundreds of stakeholders able to tune in virtually.

*It is important to nurture any new ideas and initiatives which can make a difference for Africa.*

--Wangari Maathai

#### Upcoming Events

##### **EDPG Meetings**

December 2, 2020

January 6, 2021

February 3, 2021

##### **National Education Group**

First Tuesday of every month

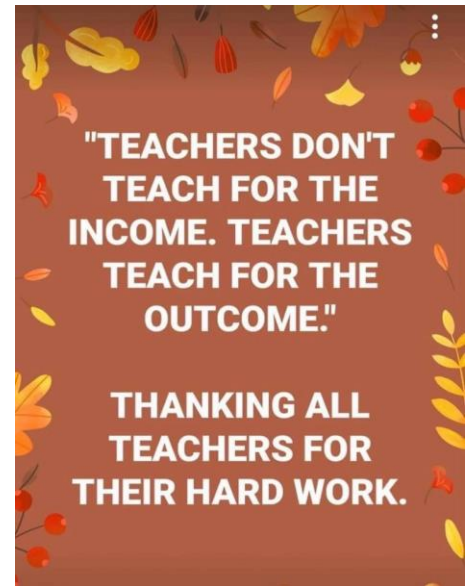
##### **Northeast Partners Meeting**

Second Tuesday of the month

## Good News & Moves (Continued)

### KaLMA Supports Kano Upper Primary Pupils During COVID-19

Kano Literacy and Maths Accelerator (KaLMA) is a United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)-funded project, jointly implemented by the British Council and Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) Africa. The project aims to pilot the TaRL approach in Kano and develop a scalable model to build foundational Hausa, English and Maths skills for Primary 4 to Primary 6 pupils in two local government areas of Kano State. KaLMA quickly responded to pandemic-related school closures by repurposing KaLMA materials, as well as existing British Council, TaRL Africa and other open education resource materials, to adapt the delivery of remote learning to the home environment. KaLMA also supported the state government in its education-in-emergency response.



### AFDB Launches the Digital Nigeria e-Learning Platform

On 28 September 2020, the African Development Bank and the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy launched the Digital Nigeria e-Learning Platform, an online tool to provide highly in-demand and competitive digital skills to Nigerian youth. It aims to empower innovators and entrepreneurs with the requisite skills to thrive in the emerging digital economy.

The Digital Nigeria program aligns with the African Development Bank’s strategic agenda to create 25 million jobs in agriculture, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and other key sectors by 2025, and to equip 50 million African youth with competitive skills. The content on the platform are accessible via [www.digitalnigeria.gov.ng](http://www.digitalnigeria.gov.ng) as well as a mobile app available on the Play store.



*“I see this experience as a big surprise! It is unbelievable. I and my daughter have seen real transformation from the KaLMA radio programmes. If not for the programme, I wouldn't have bought a black board.”*

*--Umar Ibrahim Danguguwa, father to Hassana, a Primary Five pupil at Danguguwa Central Primary School in Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area, Kano State*

### The EDPG is comprised of the following:



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