

# EDUCATION MATTERS

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

## Message from the Education Development Partners Group

Transitions are inevitable...and opportunities for reflection and celebration. This volume of *Education Matters* is my last as Chair of the EDPG, giving me the opportunity to announce the end of one USAID activity and the start of a new one benefiting Deaf Nigerians. Tremendous strides have been taken in advancing early grade reading in Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, and English, all in line with the new National Reading Framework coming before the National Commission on Education for final approval in June. Much work remains to be done and the development partners remain committed to supporting the Federal Ministry of Education, parastatals and state counterparts in advancing education across Nigeria. Keep up the great work...you have my best wishes.



***“It is the storyteller who makes us what we are, who creates history.”***

-- Chinua Achebe

### Upcoming Events

#### **EDPG Meetings**

June 2, 2021

July 7, 2021

August 4, 2021

#### **National Education Group**

First Tuesday of every month

#### **Northeast Partners Meeting**

Second Tuesday of the month

## Good News & Moves

**USAID Awards \$2.05 Million Award to Support Deaf and Deaf-Blind Community in Nigeria:** On May 7, USAID awarded a Cooperative Agreement with Washington, DC-based Gallaudet University to support the Nigerian deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community. Strengthening Deaf Education, Empowerment and Employment (Deaf-E3) is a three-year, \$2.05 million award to Gallaudet, the premier higher education institution for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States. The activity will address the educational disparities and marginalization faced by the Nigerian deaf community by building the professional capacity of interpreters, community and family members, and educational professionals to improve the quality of life for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind children and youth in Nigeria.

The program will train educators and develop manuals on a multi-modal and multi-lingual approach to educating the deaf community in partnership with the Nigerian National Association of the Deaf, Wesley University, and Discovering Deaf Worlds. It will establish a working group of Nigerian Sign Language interpreters and deaf consumers who will analyze current and best practices related to interpreting as a whole. Deaf Nigerian-American professors at Gallaudet are among the team that developed the concept paper that led to the university's first partnership with USAID in Africa.

## Good News & Moves (Continued)

**USAID Closes NEI Plus, Activity Pioneered Local Language Reading Instruction in Nigeria:** On May 18, USAID concluded its five-year education flagship activity, the Northern Education Initiative (NEI) Plus. It introduced a new, local language early grade reading approach that was adopted by six Nigerian states. At a ceremony in Abuja, Minister of State for Education Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba reiterated Nigeria’s readiness to consolidate the activity’s gains. Implemented in partnership with Bauchi and Sokoto states, NEI Plus increased access to basic education to 269,000 out-of-school children -- half of whom are girls. NEI Plus also developed and distributed more than nine million teaching and learning materials for early grade reading to 2,300 schools and 5,600 non-formal learning centers. Piloted in the northern states in Hausa, the materials designed for Primary levels 1 to 3 were developed into Igbo and Yoruba versions for schools in the South, as well as English. Over five years, Bauchi and Sokoto states invested more than \$3.8 million to expand the approach to all local government areas in the two states. USAID has also helped train over 9,600 teachers in early grade reading and created a pool of Nigerian reading experts with capacity to train more teachers. Under the activity, 200 new community reading centers and 800 reading corners were opened.



*"Education is so much more than what happens in the classroom, it's also instilling ethics, leadership, peace skills in the next generation."*

-- Leymah Gbowee  
Nobel Peace Prize winner

**Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA):** All 17 BESDA states have received project kick-off funds in the form of Advance and Prior Results funding. In coming months, BESDA focus states will receive funds based on the reduction in number of out-of-school children improved literacy rates according to the Nigeria Education Data Survey NEDS 2020, conducted by National Population Commission. The government has requested to restructure the BESDA project following the midterm review. This proposed restructuring, coming up between June and September 2021, will enable BESDA respond to COVID-19 related inputs and accelerate implementation across all result areas. Thanks to the government team and all stakeholders for support to the states.

The EDPG is comprised of the following:



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