

# EDUCATION MATTERS

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

## Message from the Education Development Partners Group

The first quarter of the year ushers in a wave of new activities that reaffirm the development partner commitment to support quality education delivery throughout Nigeria. Whether early grade reading, technical vocational education and training, foundational numeracy skills, or education in emergencies, donor-supported activities prioritize the needs of marginalized populations, including women and girls, and ensure local ownership. Implementing partners work hand-in-hand with federal, state and community actors to ensure alignment with local needs and buy-in for sustainability. To accelerate successes, the development partners group seeks increased engagement with federal and state education leaders to explore new strategies to sustain and scale achievement. The demands for the education sector are increasing daily. Nonetheless, united in our efforts, we can grow closer to helping all Nigerian children attain the quality educational foundation they deserve.

## Good News & Moves



***“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.”***

-- Zig Ziglar

**USAID Invests \$48.8 Million to Support the Scale and Sustainability of Best Practices in Early Grade Reading:** On February 4<sup>th</sup>, USAID launched the Leveraging Education Assistance Resources in Nigeria (LEARN) activity, a five-year partnership to support sustainable improvements in early grade reading (EGR) delivery, in grades one and two, for 3.5 million pupils in Nigeria. LEARN provides the Nigerian federal government and selected states with technical assistance to strengthen the ecosystem of early grade reading (EGR). States will receive tailored support to improve reading performance outcomes, aligned with the maturity of the local system and scale of need based upon classification as a legacy, launching or on-demand state. LEARN will support the advancement of existing national assessments, quality local language curriculum, evidence-based decision making, and performance management. Capacity building will benefit over 230,000 school-community members, including mothers and other key stakeholders. Creative Associates International will lead implementation alongside government.



### Upcoming Events

#### EDPG Meetings

April 6, 2022

May 4, 2022

June 1, 2022

#### National Education Group

First Tuesday of every month

**Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE) Implementation Underway:** PLANE is a multi-window education program, funded by the United Kingdom’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), designed to support Nigeria to enhance access and the quality of basic education for marginalized children, especially girls. Major updates from PLANE Windows One and Two include:

## Good News & Moves (Continued)

**PLANE Window One (Getting the Foundation Right):** The first joint work planning for PLANE Window One, led by DAI and consortium partners, took place in Abuja February 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. Participants included the Permanent Secretary for the Federal Ministry of Education and representatives of other federal government agencies; civil society actors, Commissioners of Education and Chairpersons of the State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) from PLANE partner states including Jigawa, Kano and Kaduna.



The meeting succeeded in the validation of work plans at the federal and state levels as well as strategic discussions on the political economy and enabling environment for implementation. Stakeholders unanimously agreed that achievements on foundational learning (literacy and numeracy) were low and considered PLANE as an opportunity to address the challenge. The event was a major milestone on PLANE Window One transition from inception to full implementation.

**PLANE Window 2 (Education in Emergency):** UNICEF Nigeria has commenced the implementation of PLANE Window 2. This window will support recovery of the education system in Northeast Nigeria and improve access to safe, quality, and inclusive learning opportunities for children, particularly girls, affected by conflict. From December 2021 to 2025, the program will reach 270,000 children ages 6-17 years (of whom 55% will be girls); 7,200 teachers and facilitators; and 2,235 School and Centre-based Management Committee members in Borno and Yobe. The activity will strengthen relevant education in emergency systems at national levels.

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*"Learning is not attained  
by chance, it must be  
sought for with ardor and  
attended to with  
diligence."*

-- Abigail Adams

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**Opportunities to Learn (OtL) Activity Reduces Out-Of-School Youth Numbers in Borno and Yobe States** OtL builds upon the successes of the Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria activity, and continues USAID's investment toward developing foundational literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional learning (SEL) skills among youth impacted by conflict. The \$25 million activity, advancing the Nigeria Accelerated Basic Education Program (ABEP), is implemented by a consortium including the International Rescue Committee, Plan International, American University in Nigeria, Inclusive Development Partners, and Restoration of Hope Initiative. Over five years, OtL will reach 194,000 disadvantaged, overage, out-of-school youth ages 10 to 15. OtL will also reach 35,000 additional youth through two Innovation Hubs in the urban areas of Maiduguri in Borno State and Damaturu in Yobe State.

**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)**