MARCH 2020 ISSUE 3

EDUCATION MATTERS

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group





Message from the Education Development Partners Group

Thank you for taking time to read *Education Matters*, a quarterly publication dedicated to providing updates on development partner activities in the education sector in Nigeria. We are proud to partner with Nigerian federal, state, and local governments and other stakeholders to advance learning outcomes. We are pleased to introduce the development partners who are represented by their logos.

THE WORLD BANK | UKaid from the British people – Department for International Development | USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | Canada | unicef for every child | UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT | KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency | NORWEGIAN EMBASSY | Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU NIGERIA | Banque Africaine de Développement

Good News & Moves

- **Nigeria's Fiscal Commitment on Reading Research Center**: Building upon momentum from a $1 million USAID grant supporting the partnership between Florida State University and Bayero University of Kano, the Nigerian government has approved the University's budgeting of $700,000 to fund the construction and furnishing of the Nigeria Center for Reading Research Development at the University. The Center will be the first institutional resource in Nigeria for high quality research on primary grade reading in a national context. The new construction will provide the Center a permanent home for future generations of teacher educators access to state-of-the-art knowledge on effective reading strategies for the primary grades, and serve as a hub of training and local expertise that supports teachers to more effectively teach Nigerian children to read.

- **2nd National Conference on Children's Books and the Teaching of Early Grade Reading in Nigeria:** In partnership with USAID and the Learning Systems Institute at Florida State University, the Nigeria Center for Reading Research and Development at Bayero University in Kano will host Nigeria's second national conference on children's books and the teaching of early grade reading on March 17-18 at the BUK campus in Kano. The book *Issues in the Teaching of Early Grade Reading in Nigeria* will be presented for the first time, and the event will feature an exhibition and sale of children's books in English and Nigerian languages.

- **Rehabilitation of Vocational Training Centre in Maiduguri**
On February 4, the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr. Gerd Mueller, European Union Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS Mr. Ketil Karlsen, and the Governor of Borno State, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, commissioned three blocks of rehabilitated vocational training

"Change is the end result of all true learning."
-Leo Buscaglia

Upcoming Events

Policy Linking Workshop

March 10-13, 2020

NCRRD Conference

March 17-18, 2020

EDPG Meetings

April 1, 2020

May 7, 2020

June 3, 2020

National Education Group

First Tuesday of every month

Good News & Moves (Continued)

workshops and a newly constructed borehole waterpoint in Mafoni, Maiduguri. The event was facilitated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) program *Support to Strengthening Resilience in North-East Nigeria*, funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



To improve the living conditions of people in northeastern Nigeria and empower youth to develop economic sustainability, GIZ is implementing a Vocational Training Strengthening Strategy (VTSS) for the vocational systems in Borno and Adamawa states. VTSS is strengthening the operational capacities of state partners (the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Borno and the Poverty Alleviation and Wealth Creation Office in Adamawa) through training of trainers' sessions for the technical and managerial staff of Vocational Training Centers (VTC) and Ministries. The program also collaborates with the National Board of Technical Education to conduct trainings for several trades, including Tailoring and Fashion Design, VTC Management, and Welding and Fabrication.



"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope."

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General

Do you have questions? Desire additional information?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please send inquiries or comments to

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- **Nigerian Teacher Trainees Required to Pass USAID-Developed Course Before Certification:** The Nigeria Commission on Colleges of Education has determined that all pre-service teachers studying at one of the country's 180 Colleges of Education will be required to pass a USAID-developed course on the teaching of reading in order to become certified teachers. This groundbreaking policy builds upon the work of the USAID NEI Plus activity, which has piloted this curriculum at one college of education in Sokoto and three in Bauchi over the past four years. This expansion marks a redoubled commitment by Nigeria to quality teaching and learning of early grade reading across the country.

- **NERDC partners with USAID AENN to strengthen the national accelerated education program:** As Nigeria continues to expand inclusive education opportunities to out-of-school children, the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) has requested to adopt USAID-developed accelerated learning materials on literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning into their national Accelerated Education Program. To date, the USAID-funded Addressing Education in North East Nigeria (AENN) activity has trained over 30,000 out-of-school children and 150 education managers in Borno and Yobe states.

New Developments

- **Policy Linking:** The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics – along with agencies such as the World Bank and the UK Department for International Development – are supporting the development and piloting of a method for global reporting aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals on student learning outcomes in Nigeria.

Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board Permanent Secretary Alh. Usman Aliyu Kawu reviews tablets worth 32 million naira provided by the USAID NEI Plus activity. These tablets aid and promote the use of a technologically-driven approach to classroom data collection and monitoring in Bauchi State

