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EDUCATION MATTERS

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group



A parent at home in Bauchi State supporting her children reading USAID/NEI Plus Mu Karanta! books



Bauchi children engaged in distance learning lessons supported by state government, UNICEF and USAID

COVID-19 Brings Unprecedented Changes

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused unprecedented changes to lives and educational systems worldwide. Above all, the Education Development Partners Group (EDPG) in Nigeria wish everyone good health and encourage children, parents, and educators to follow public health guidelines including wearing face masks, frequent handwashing, and physical distancing as much as possible.

The EDPG is committed to both short-term pandemic response as well as long-term development of the education sector in Nigeria. The updates below offer a snapshot of the good work continuing under trying circumstances. At the same time, design work also continues for activities that will support Nigeria's teachers and pupils in the years to come.

Keep well, stay safe, until we can meet in person again.

Good News & Moves

- **Education Development Partners in Northeast Converge on COVID-19 Response:** The development and implementing partners working in Borno and Yobe states have been virtually meeting biweekly to discuss COVID-19 responses in education. Members describe their efforts to promote public health messaging in multiple languages, provide handwashing stations, and support widows in the production of face masks to address the immediate health threats.

  Other highlights include:

  - UNICEF supporting the reconstruction/rehabilitation of 30 schools in Borno State in collaboration with the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement
  - UNICEF providing skills training for 1,100 adolescent youth
  - UNICEF and SUBEB-supported radio programming in Borno State
  - USAID's Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria (AENN) activity mobilizing communities via SMS, WhatsApp, Interactive Voice Response, and radio program messaging

  Professor Musa Alabe of the Yobe SUBEB joined the May 28 meeting and we look forward to continued collaboration with state education officials.

- **Virtual Roundtables Advance Igbo and Yoruba Reading Materials Development:** USAID's Northern Education Initiative (NEI) Plus activity is employing groundbreaking virtual roundtables with stakeholders across Nigeria to advance the development of evidence-based early grade reading materials in Igbo and Yoruba to reach millions more children. The roundtable discussions brought together experts in language, curriculum, and teacher education from government and higher education. In addition to materials development, the roundtables also demonstrated that a variety of project activities, from research to training workshops, are possible with existing technologies.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
Benjamin Franklin

Upcoming Events

EDPG Meetings

June 3, 2020

July 1, 2020

August 5, 2020

National Education Group

First Tuesday of every month

Northeast Partners Meeting

Bi-weekly on Tuesdays

Good News & Moves (Continued)

- **GIZ Supports Learning for 14,000 Children in Adamawa:** The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) program, "Support to Strengthening Resilience in Northeast Nigeria" is funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The program assists the Nigerian government in improving the living conditions of people in Adamawa and Borno states, including 14,000 children and youth benefiting from education-related interventions. The Cash for Education activity in Adamawa state aimed at increasing the school enrolment and retention rates of conflict-affected boys and girls through access to education and provision of scholastic materials, dignity kits, and life skills training.



Isiaka Musa is a beneficiary of GIZ's Cash for Education project in Bahuli Central Primary School, Adamawa, October 2019

- **National Center for Women Development Graduates 100 Young Women in Non-traditional Skills:** To mark this year's International Women's Day, the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE) program worked with the National Centre for Women Development to graduate over 100 young women and girls under the Female Economic Empowerment Training (FEET) project. FEET was implemented with co-funding from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to empower young women as skilled workers in the construction sector. This not only provides them with a competitive edge over their male counterparts, it also breaks stereotypes around women and young girls' ability to work in non-traditional trades.



Graduates of the Female Economic Empowerment Training (FEET) Project, co-funded by the German government



Bauchi children listening to reading lessons via radio with UNICEF and USAID support

- **NEI Plus Learning Support Continues:** NEI Plus has aired 80 lessons on state radio, 118 on community radio, and 40 TV lessons for children in Bauchi following the *Mu Karanta!* (Let's Read) approaches in Hausa and English. For more information, http://neiplus.com/usaid-helps-keep-bauchi-students-learning-under-lockdown-through-e-learning-collaboration/

Sokoto's children will soon be able to join in distance learning thanks to supplemental World Bank funding through NIPEP. Post-pandemic, NEI Plus is also prepared to welcome a new cohort of students to non-formal learning centers in Bauchi and Sokoto states once it is safe for learners and facilitators to resume. The previous cohort whose learning was interrupted will benefit from return to learning preparation before taking exams.

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow"

Anthony J. D'Angelo

- **DFID Adapts Activities to Support COVID-19 Response**: Two DFID-funded programs, KaLMA and FITILA, are supporting the Kano State government to bring learning to over 30,000 children via radio and television. The programs are also helping build the capacity of 800 teachers while schools are closed through WhatsApp and other phone-based methods to track learning progress. These activities are a core part of the Kano State Education Sector COVID-19 response plan. Meanwhile, DFID's ENGINE II project is working to keep girls safe during the period of school lockdowns, providing health and safety tips for COVID-19 through SMS and social media while providing distance education for teachers and adolescent girls. Gender champions practice social distancing when visiting girls without phones and provide hand washing facilities. The program also provides virtual training on gender-based violence and safeguarding against it, ensuring girls understand referral pathways available to them.

Do you have questions? Desire additional information?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please send inquiries or comments to:

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