

EDUCATION MATTERS

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group

Message from the Education Development Partners Group

As we conclude a year marked by recovery, resilience, and partnership to advance the education sector, the EDPG commits renewed focus on strengthening its engagement with the Government of Nigeria and exploring new and effective ways to leverage available resources, scale interventions proven to improve learning, and maximize livelihood opportunities for young Nigerians. Although the challenges are many, we persevere and find motivation in the many successes of this year, and those past, which move us closer to the goal of providing quality education for all. We hope you enjoy a few recent highlights!

Good News & Moves



GPE in Partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education is reimagining continuous access to learning and improving learning outcomes through digital learning, engaging youths and developing communities. A virtual learning platform called the Nigeria Learning Passport ([Nigeria Learning Passport \(education.gov.ng\)](https://education.gov.ng)) will enhance engagement with schools, teachers, communities and parents on curriculum mapped digital content and practical resources to support continued learning and acquisition of skills (cognitive, transferable, and digital skills) for children in school and out of school.

This digital learning management system hosts instructional supplementary and remote learning materials from primary grades 1 to 6. Additionally, with GPE partnership, capacity development of 30,500 teachers and school leaders is being developed using classroom technology to benefit over 12 million children. ICT hubs were established and equipped in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory to produce radio, television, and online content that optimizes digital learning opportunities for children and adolescents of Nigeria. UNICEF is serving as the Grant Agent for this partnership.

“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.”

-- Kofi Annan

Upcoming Events

EDPG Meetings

February 2, 2022

March 2, 2022

April 6, 2022

National Education Group

First Tuesday of every month

USAID improves literacy skills for more than 1 million Nigerian children in Bauchi and Sokoto states. The Northern Education Initiative Plus Activity improved teacher reading skills, the availability of quality local language early grade reading materials, and the literacy outcomes for more than 1 million primary learners in grades 1 to 3 between before concluding implementation in May after 6 years. USAID partnered with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council and other partners to develop early grade reading materials in Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. To maximize impact, the two state governments collectively invested \$3 million of their own resources to distribute the materials to local government areas beyond the activity's scope. Success of the intervention led to interest from other states to adopt and distribute USAID-funded materials, including Abia and Ekiti states. Furthermore, more states and private companies are reaching out to adopt these materials to achieve higher learning outcomes for more Nigerian children.

Good News & Moves (Continued)



A Safe Schools Declaration Plan of Action for 2021-2023 is currently available to serve as a roadmap for state, community and school level implementation. The action plan is the culmination of a workshop supported by UNICEF. As the incidence of attacks on education continue to increase daily, the action plan is a critical step to ensuring policy leads to better practices in creating safer educational spaces. The Federal Ministry of Education led the process of finalizing the document in consultation with multiple Ministries including Defense, Justice, Women Affairs and Foreign Affairs; the Nigerian Educational

Research and Development Council, the National Human Rights Commission, the Education in Emergencies Working Group and various civil society organizations. The framework is focused on 4 key result areas and includes outcomes and performance indicators. The consultation was held at Kini Guest Hotel, Akwanga Nasarawa State, from 22nd-26th August, 2021.

Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA). The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) conducted independent field verification of the intensive literacy and non-formal education programs in all 17 BESDA states to document performance. States then received performance-based rewards following independent data verification from NBS. Between July and August 2021, the National Population Commission also assessed performance and achievement was recorded in the Nigeria Education Data Survey 2020. The rewards incentivize states' efforts to reduce the number of out-of-school children and improve literacy levels.

BESDA-AF Project (GPE2 TESS): An appraisal mission with the government was concluded in May 2021 to finalize the project design for the GPE2 Transforming Education Sector at State level intervention and project negotiations are planned for the week of 20th September 2021.



National Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training. The Federal Ministry of Education, with support from the Skills Development for Youth Employment Program and the Skills Initiative for Africa, organized a two-day National Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The event themed **Repositioning TVET through Policy and Legislative Options** was held on the 11th and 12th of November 2021 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

The conference is a follow-up to the jointly developed document *Declaration of Cooperation in TVET for Quality Skills Outcome*. The declaration aims to start a process in addressing some of the challenges within the TVET sector through the promotion of cooperation as well as the coordination of policies and legislation for successful and sustainable implementation of reforms in the TVET subsector. It has been signed by the Federal Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour and Employment; Ministry of Trade and Investment; Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

-- Nelson Mandela

The European Union support to the Response, Resilience and Early Recovery Education project has enrolled at least 28,000 out-of-school children in Borno State who are learning in 273 schools, including in Accelerated Education Program centres, Tsangaya and Islamiya schools. Interventions are tailored to increase the availability of secure, child friendly and gender sensitive education facilities in target schools across **11 LGAs**. The activity is carried out by EU implementing partners UNICEF and Plan International.

Thirty schools were constructed/rehabilitated and equipped in collaboration with the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement. Through this activity, 62 temporary learning spaces were upgraded, 380 gender segregated latrines built and 185 disability inclusive classrooms constructed in select schools. At least 5,129 out-of-school children are receiving community based psychosocial services aimed at improving their mental Health. Additionally, the activity distributed 77,000 stationery, school bags and sanitary kits to students in formal schools, including those in accelerated education program centres, Tsangaya and Islamiya schools. Capacity was also strengthened through a robust teacher professional development, which included the recruitment and training of 950 volunteer teachers, 1,500 formal school teachers and 150 Master Trainers.



UK funded Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE) is a multi-window education programme by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) designed to support Nigeria to enhance access and quality of basic education for marginalised children, especially girls. As part of the inception phase of the eight-year programme, FCDO visited federal and state level education agencies to introduce PLANE and DAI as the implementing partner for Window One of the portfolio. The organisations visited include the Federal Ministry of Education, Universal Basic Education Commission and the Teacher Registration Council of Nigeria. The visits focused on aligning PLANE with the mandates of these agencies and developing a strategy for sustainability from inception.

PLANE is a successor to previous/ongoing FCDO education interventions in Nigeria including the Girls Education Project (GEP 3), Teacher Development Programme (TDP), ESSPIN and EDOREN. The programme aims to improve foundational learning (literacy and numeracy) with an emphasis on girls. It will support states (Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa), regional hubs of the southeast and southwest, and federal level agencies. The PLANE portfolio has the potential to invest up to £170m over eight years beginning from September 2021 targeting 1.5 million children.

The EDPG is comprised of the following:

