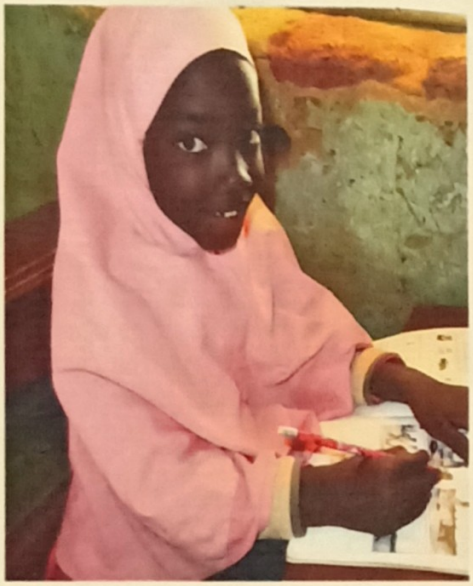
SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE 1

# EDUCATION MATTERS

*A quarterly newsletter of the Nigeria Education Development Partners Group*



## Message from the Education Development Donor Partners Group

The EDPG newsletter aims to provide valuable information about the development community's education investments in Nigeria to government counterparts and key education stakeholders. With one voice, the community celebrates its partnership with Nigeria and its commitment to realizing the goals of educational success for all Nigerians, through harmonized, coordinated, and complementary support. As demands on the sector increase and resources remain scarce, no one actor can tackle the needs of the country alone. Together as partners we can help the Nigerian education system and all of its beneficiaries thrive!

This year, the EDPG is chaired by USAID, working in collaboration with bilateral and multilateral organizations working in the education sector.

*"Reading, like writing, is a creative act. If readers only bring a narrow range of themselves to the book, then they'll only see their narrow range reflected in it."*

*Ben Okri, Nigerian Poet and Novelist*

Upcoming Events

**EDPG Courtesy Calls**

Early September 2019

**National Education Group**

First Tuesday of the month

**Nigeria Annual Education Conference**

November 2019

## Good News & Moves

- After six years of implementation, the DFID-funded Teacher Development Programme (TDP) concluded in August 2019 having reached more than **102,000 primary and junior secondary teachers** of English, Maths and Science, and **40,000 student teachers** in **Katsina, Zamfara, Jigawa, Kano** and **Kaduna**. TDP successfully supported National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) reforms to restructure Colleges of Education, improve quality assurance, start a continuing professional development programme for teacher educators, and accredit **12 colleges** at the federal and state levels. The activity also supported improvements in the colleges' Information Systems, enabled better linkages between the colleges and SUBEBs, and supported revisions to the national curriculum in collaboration with NCCE. **Kaduna, Kano** and **Jigawa** states also now benefit from improved teacher selection and recruitment practices.
- All primary 1-3 pupils and their teachers in **Bauchi** state will receive new materials to strengthen early grade reading in partnership with the USAID-funded **Northern Education Initiative Plus (NEI Plus)** activity. The Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Honorable Bala Abdulkadir Mohammad, approved 70 percent cost share for the procurement of reading materials in **10** additional **NEI Plus-supported LGAs** and appropriated **$1.3 million** for teaching and learning materials distribution across the new LGAs.

## Good News & Moves (Continued)

- With support from DfID, the **Teacher Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN)** is developing a Teacher Career Path Policy to map and strengthen teacher professionalization processes. A group of stakeholders convened in **Enugu** to develop a framework of required teacher competencies across levels (i.e., Beginner, Proficient, Mentor and Lead) and the demonstrable actions associated to advance. Efforts will continue with the goal of strengthening systems of meritocracy and improving pathways for teachers' career advancement based on standards.
- From August 20-22, the **National Center for Reading Research and Development (NCRRD)** at Bayero University in **Kano** (BUK) hosted a National Conference and Exhibition of Children's Books and the Teaching of Early Grade Reading in Nigeria. The conference explored best practices of early grade reading with hundreds of stakeholders from **XX** states and the federal government. NCRRD unveiled plans to offer teacher professional development programs and other valuable resources to strengthen reading practices. While USAID and Florida State University partner to support the development of NCRRD, the conference was sponsored by BUK. Congratulations!



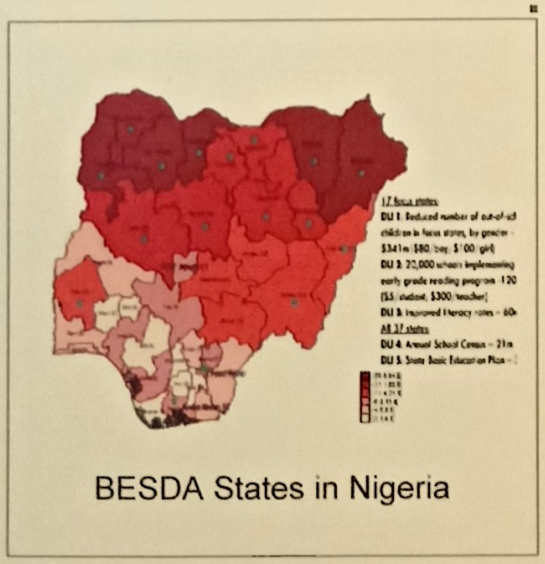

*"Universal education is not only a moral imperative but an economic necessity, to pave the way toward making many more nations self-sufficient and self-sustaining."*

*Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Winner*

## Scaling Up

- USAID is supporting **five Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) states** including **Borno, Ebonyi, Gombe, Kebbi,** and **Yobe** with technical assistance to expand use of the Mu Karanta/Let's Read methods and materials originally developed as part of NEI Plus in **Bauchi** and **Sokoto**. The availability of evidence-based Let's Read materials in English at the P1-3 levels will allow teachers in Ebonyi to reinforce key language acquisition concepts and more effectively develop the reading skills of early grade learners.
- Building upon a successful pilot in **Borno** state reaching **10,000 pupils**, DFID will commence support in **Kano** using Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) methodology to enable **50,000** children in P4-6 to gain missing foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. The TaRL approach teaches children based on their individual needs rather than on traditional models of age or grade. TaRL focuses on dedicated time for basic skills development and regular assessments of performance. This will be the first project under DFID's new **Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE)** operating from 2019-2027.

Under the leadership of USAID's **Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria (AENN)** activity in **Borno and Yobe** states, members of the Education in Emergencies Working Group have agreed to harmonize materials used for the Social and Emotional Learning of displaced children and youth. In addition to Hausa, the materials are being developed in Kanuri to enable more young people to gain foundational skills and are expected to be ready by October 2019.



BESDA States in Nigeria

*Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) is a collaboration of the World Bank, the Universal Basic Education Commission and 17 states.*