Nigeria
Education in Emergencies
Working Group

ADVOCACY

NEWSLETTER

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Photo: Evacuation drills to implement the School Emergency Preparedness Response Plan across 25 Schools in Adamawa State conducted by HARAF under the dRPC Safe School West Africa Programme, funded by the Ford Foundation © dRPC

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Situational Analysis

For more than a decade, Nigeria has witnessed a series of attacks on education, leading to the closure of many schools and the disruption of learning activities. Insecurity continues to reduce children's probability of starting school or returning to the classroom. Available records in 2020-2021 show that in the north-west, 25 educational institutions were attacked and 1,470 learners abducted along with 24 education personnel (SBM Intelligence, 2021). In the north-east also 51 schools experienced armed attacks, and 64 schools were targeted by suicide bombing (JENA, 2021). In 2021, 11,500 schools in the country were closed due to fear of attacks. The frequency of these attacks in 2020 disrupted the education of more than five million children. In 2021, about 618 secondary (boarding) schools, mostly in Sokoto, Zamfara, Adamawa, Kano, Katsina, Niger and Yobe States were also closed. An estimated one million children did not start the 2021-2022 academic year due to insecurity (UNICEF, 2021).

In March 2020, schools at all levels in Nigeria were closed for six months to curtail the spread of COVID-19. The school closure affected approximately 37 million learners from pre- primary to tertiary. As part of the COVID-19 education response, the Federal Ministry of Education, Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) released the Guidelines for Schools and Learning Facilities after COVID-19 Pandemic Closures to address safe reopening. The COVID-19 lockdown measures reduced children 's school attendance across the country. In addition, the measures exacerbated children's vulnerability to harmful cultural practices such as child marriage, gender inequality and child labour (World Bank, 2021). For example, girls had additional caretaking duties in comparison to boys therefore making it more difficult to continue distance learning (UN Women, 2020).

One of the actions by the Nigerian government in the effort to safeguard education is the endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration in 2015. President Muhammadu Buhari, in December 2019, signed the SSD Ratification Document signalling Nigeria's commitment to uphold the principles of the SSD. The National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools was approved in August 2021. In addition, Minimum Standards for Safe Schools and the SSD Manual for Security Agencies and Human Rights Institutions have also been developed to support the implementation of the SSD.

SAFE SCHOOLS DECLARATION IN NIGERIA

Nigeria Hosts Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration



Photo : Cross section of delegates at the welcome reception.

Between 25 and 27 October 2021, the government of Nigeria, together with the governments of Argentina, Norway and Spain, as well as the African Union Commission and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack hosted the Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration in Abuja, Nigeria, and virtually. Over the course of the three-day conference, 400 delegates from 27 states attended in-person, and 1,936 delegates from 124 states attended virtually. They comprised UN member states, affected persons, international organisations, international nongovernmental organisations, and civil society practitioners. The theme of the conference was 'Ensuring Safe Education for All: From Commitment to Practice.' The Abuja Conference was a forum for states and multilateral and civil society organisations to foster global cooperation and strengthen coordination in protecting education and to discuss prevention and response measures.

There was a CSO event led by the EiEWGN and Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) on the firsthand accounts of individuals directly affected by attacks, and activists working in communities experiencing conflict. There was also child participation by the Borno State Children's Parliament; delegates heard directly from children on how attacks on education have affected them and implementation of the commitments protects them and ensures education continuity. An additional two sessions enriched the programme by providing military and regional perspectives on safeguarding education.



Photo : School children with Mr. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, Minister of State for Education and H.E. Mr Marcellino Cabanas Ansorena, Ambassador of Spain in Abuja

The conference outcome report is available at
https://ssdconference.education.gov.ng



Photo : Mr. Passy Amani, Education Sector Coordinator, Education in Emergencies Working Group Nigeria (EiEWGN) delivers the opening remarks at the CSO event.

Policy Framework, Coordination for Nation-Wide Implementation

In August 2021, the Sixty-Fifth National Council on Education approved the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools with its Implementation Guidelines. The policy is intended to provide policy guidance; set a standard for implementing comprehensive school safety plans; and provide prevention and response mechanisms at all levels.

The Minimum Standards for Safe Schools outlines the comprehensive tools, qualities and practices that schools must have and adhere to in order to keep learners, school users and schools safe, secure and violence-free. The Safe Schools Common Approach (SSCA) was adopted in the development of the minimum standards. These include standards for addressing violence against children (VAC), conflict, school infrastructure, natural and everyday hazards.

Following the successful implementation of the SSD Plan of Action (PoA) 2018-2021, which focused on the policy framework and training manuals, the Federal Ministry of Education, with support from EiEWGN, developed the SSD PoA 2021-2023 which focuses on making schools safe for learners and making learning centres safe for universal access and quality learning outcomes.

The SSD Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) led by the Federal Ministry of Education is responsible for ensuring coordinated actions and implementation of SSD activities across the country. The IMC consists of Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development; Ministry of Defence; Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Human Rights Commission; Nigeria Police Force; Federal Ministry of Justice; Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning; Plan International; UNICEF and Save the Children International.

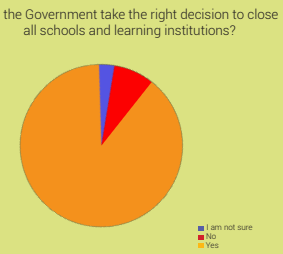


Photo : SSD Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting at the Federal Ministry of Education (March 2022)

COVID-19 Safe School Reopening



Photo : Supporting an inclusive return to school for children with disabilities



COVID-19 school closures national perception survey

The Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and EiEWGN, with funding from UNICEF, conducted two national surveys on School Closure: COVID-19 Pandemic and School Resumption during COVID-19 Pandemic. The perception surveys helped to shed light on the initial school closures, willingness to reopen and readiness to meet precautionary measures. In September 2020, a series of workshops were held with NCDC and UNICEF across the six geo-political zones to ensure integrated safe school re-opening in line with the Guidelines released by FME.

NERDC Commences Development of Teachers' Guide for EiE Curriculum



Photo : Group photograph of participants at the Abuja EiE curriculum scoping and sequencing workshop (March 2022)

In March 2022, the Education in Emergencies Working Group Nigeria (EiEWGN) and the Nigerian Educational Research Development Council (NERDC) held a one-week scoping and sequencing workshop for the Education in Emergency (EiE) curriculum teachers' guide. The workshop held in Abuja and was a follow up on the concept planning workshop held in Yola, Adamawa State in 2021. The activity, which was supported by Plan International Nigeria, is a milestone leading to the development of a teachers' guide in the implementation of the EiE curriculum in Nigeria. In attendance were representatives from key government agencies and development partners, including federal and state ministries of education, Plan International and Restoration of Hope Initiative. Present also were school teachers and teacher educators. NERDC, which has the mandate for curriculum and material development, provided technical leadership in the process. The purpose of the workshop was to finalise the EiE curriculum scope and sequence.

In 2018, the NERDC, in collaboration with the EiEWGN and supported by Street Child International, had developed the educationin-emergency curriculum for the basic education level, which was approved by the National Council on Education in 2019. The curriculum is conceptualised as a specialised school curriculum that responds to situations of conflict or crisis. The curriculum aimed to increase the robustness of the Nigerian education system in times of emergencies and its resilience to emergencies. The contents focus on offering immediate life-saving and life-sustaining support for children who continue to attend schools.

ROHI Trains Teachers, SBMCs on Minimum Standards for Safe Schools

In December 2021, 10 master trainers (6 female) drawn from universities, polytechnics, State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), and the Ministry of Education (MoE) were trained by ROHI in Yola, Adamawa State, on safe schools. The training-of-trainers (ToT) event took place over five days using the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools and the Minimum Standards for Safe Schools.



Photo: Master trainer Dr. Bulus Myfriend demonstrates the metaphor of the umbrella as protection and the role of a teacher as the umbrella in emergencies (December 2021)

Through the ToT event, 128 community teachers, government teachers, school-based management committees and education administrators from Michika and Madagali LGAs of Adamawa State were equipped with the knowledge and tools to reduce their exposure to conflict and disaster risks by learning to

1. Effectively identify early warning signs;
2. Implement effective disaster-response strategies; and
3. Develop effective school emergency preparedness response plans that reflect the actual potential hazards in their schools.

The training was funded by the Malala Fund.



Photo : Adamawa participants practice the 'evacuation drill' at the step- down safe schools training (December 2021).

dRPC Supports CSOs to Implement SSD in Communities

The development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC), a leading Nigerian non-profit, collaborated with the Nigeria Education in Emergencies Working group (EiEWGN) and UNICEF to convene a three-day step-down training workshop for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The workshop aimed to strengthen CSO capacity to implement recommendations of the Fourth International Conference on Safe Schools Declaration (SSD), which took place in Abuja in October 2021. With a grant from the Ford Foundation to the dRPC, this step-down training was held between 6 and 8 December 2021 and focused on School Safety, Security and Resilience Systems Building. At the step-down workshop, 31 CSOs representing 24 states, government officials, community and traditional leaders were taken through 12 participatory sessions. On day three of the workshop, participants developed state implementation plans, 11 of which are to be supported by the dRPC under the Ford Foundation's BUILD grant.

In February 2022, 11 CSOs from Delta, FCT, Katsina, Adamawa, Ebonyi, Benue, Sokoto, Oyo, Kaduna, Lagos and Kebbi States conducted safe school activities in their communities



Photo: Stepdown training workshop for CSOs to implement recommendations from the International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration (December, 2021).

UNICEF Trains SBMCs on Safe Schools and Resilience Building



Photo: Dr. Judith Giwa-Amu PhD, Education Officer, UNICEF facilitating a session on Education-in-Emergencies (EiE).

A safe school manual informed by the Minimum Standards for Safe Schools has been developed and used in several comprehensive capacity-building exercises. Between September and December 2021,UNICEF applied key components of this manual in targeted training of 30,000 teachers and 156 education functionaries to enhance their ability to operate safe schools and to build the trainees' resilience. Sixty-nine master trainers and 793 schoolbased and centre-based management committees representing 793 schools in six north-western and north-eastern states in Nigeria have acquired new capacities, in their very strategic roles as first-line responders, to better protect education from attack. The SSD, with state action plans that reflect indigenous preparedness and responsive actions to ensure safe schools, has been advanced in Katsina, Kano, Sokoto, Zamfara, Kebbi and Bauchi States. Through guidelines for the establishment of Safe Schools Task Teams with terms of reference that inform membership, communities in these six states are playing their school ownership roles with respect to learners in their constituencies. They are also using the psychosocial support (PSS) training received to support learners with trauma-related needs. Learners are able to participate in evacuation drills and simulations to increase their resilience and improve their risk-reduction capacity. The step-down is being rolled out in schools across more states in 2022.

Plan International Partners with NERDC on Accelerated Education Curriculum

As the conflict in the north-east stretches to its twelfth year, many children, some of them adolescents, have never been to school or have dropped out. To reintegrate them back into the school system given their age differences with children in basic classes, a specialised curriculum has been designed to accelerate their learning process. In the past three years, Plan International has partnered with the NERDC to develop the Accelerated Basic Education Curriculum (ABEC). This is in response to the growing number of out-of-school children in Nigeria made worse by the Boko Haram crisis in the north-east and, more recently, the kidnapping and banditry in the north-west and other parts of the country.

Plan International, with funding from the European Union through the EU Support to Early Recovery and Resilience project in Borno State, also conducted weeks-long training of master trainers in Abuja who in turn stepped down the training in their various locations. The Borno pilot project is to be replicated across the country in order to cater for the educational needs of children who have been out of school due to conflict, displacement or other social challenges.
The curriculum was presented to the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, at a media launch in Abuja in May 2021.The national roll-out is to be launched in partnership with the federal government later in 2022.



Photo: Presentation of the accelerated education curriculum to the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu represented by Arch. Sonny Echono, Permanent Secretary of Education in Abuja

Abuja Conference Briefing

In July 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the first preconference activities about the Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration. The briefing shared information about the Abuja conference, modalities for participation and opportunities for engagement. The audience included embassies in Nigeria, UN agencies and civil society organisations.



Photo : H.E Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria and H.E Mr Lein Knut Elliv, Ambassador of Norway in Abuja

Improving Accountability and Supporting Survivors of Attacks on Education



Photo: Mr. Tony Ojukwu Esq. (executive secretary, NHRC) delivers the opening statement

On September 2021, as part of the Abuja Conference preconference activities, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), with the support of Plan International, held a stakeholders' forum to foster dialogue, build alliances and raise awareness of how the SSD commitments can support justice and accountability for attacks on education and provide assistance to survivors.

The welcome address was given by Mr. Tony Ojukwu Esq. (executive secretary, NHRC). There were two panels: 'Access to Justice and Prosecuting Perpetrators of Attacks on Education' and 'Supporting Systems and Assistance for Survivors of Attacks on Education.' The multi-stakeholder forum heard from survivors, government officials from the Federal Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Human Rights Commission (Niger), commissioners of education, state ministries of education, civil society organisations and the media.



Photo : Group photograph of delegates representing government agencies and civil society.

Security Agencies and Protection of Education



Photo : Major General Salihi Magashi (Rtd.), Minister of Defence and Mr. Musa Istifanus, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence launch the SSD Trainers' Guide and Participants' Manual.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Save the Children International collaborated on the SSD Trainers' Guide and Participants' Manual for the training of Nigerian security agencies and human rights organisations. Topics included 'Attacks on Education in Modern Armed Conflicts'; 'SSD Guidelines for Protecting Schools from Security Agencies' Use during Armed Conflict'; 'Mainstreaming Gender and Vulnerable Groups in the Implementation of the SSD Guidelines' and 'Operational Planning Factors and Guidelines for Nigerian Security Agencies.' In 2021, with funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, trainings took place in Maiduguri, Abuja and Nasarawa with the following security and human rights commission personnel:

- **Armed Forces** - Borno, Adamawa and Yobe
- **Civil Defence** - Kaduna, Edo, Lagos, Ebonyi, Taraba, Katsinao
- **Police** – Ogun, Kano, Ekiti, Rivers, Enugu, Benue (training colleges)
- **Human Rights Commission** – Borno, Nasarawa and FCT

The Trainers' Guide and Participants' Manual were launched by Major General Salihi Magashi (Rtd.), Minister of Defence at the MoD Abuja Conference pre-conference event in October 2021.



Photo : Mrs. Afolake Taiwo, Director, Education Services Department, MoD leads advocacy visit to Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya, Chief of Army Staff on SSD and the Guidelines implementation (April 2022).

Strengthening National Data Collection, Reporting, Response and Accountability for Attacks on Education

An inception workshop took place in early February 2022 on how Nigeria can improve data collection to monitor progress, prevent/mitigate attacks and support response and accountability mechanisms. The meeting had in attendance the Federal Ministry of Education; Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps; the Federal Ministry of Finance; National Bureau of Statistics; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development; Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; civil society organisations; the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council. The sessions highlighted the SSD commitment to reliable monitoring and reporting of attacks on education and of military use of educational facilities; how to conduct disaggregated data collection and reporting; and how to identify and classify the types of attacks on education occurring in the country. The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) also provided technical support by presenting components of the 'Toolkit for Collecting and Analysing Data on Attacks on Education' relevant for the Nigerian context.



Photo : Mr. Sunday Sanusi-Agbabiaka, Data Manager, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development shares the ministry's experience in setting up the National Gender-Based Violence Situation Room and Data Dashboard.

Abuja Conference Photo Gallery



Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari and Sultan of Sokoto, President General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar at the opening ceremony



Mr. Graham Lang, Chief of Education, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and Ms. Arit Okpo, Host, CNN Voices Changemakers (Master of Ceremonies)



Mr. Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative, Nigeria in discussion with H.E. Mr. Knut Eiliv Lein, Ambassador of Norway in Abuja.



Aerial view of Malam Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education represented by Mr. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, Minister of State for Education delivering the welcome speech at the opening ceremony.



Dr. Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, gives the goodwill message at the welcome reception and highlighted the ministry's commitment to facilitating funding for the SSD PoA 2021-2023



School children, H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Knut Eiliv Lein, H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Ambassador of Norway in Abuja, H.E Mr Alejandro Herrero, Ambassador of Argentina in Abuja, Dr L.I Giginna, Director, Education Support Services, Federal Ministry of Education, Ms. Zama Neff, Co-chair Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack and Mrs. Afolake Taiwo, Director, Education Services Department, MoD close the Abuja Conference.

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