



## EDUCATION

*Since 2014, the U.S. government has invested nearly \$75 million to help Nigerian children and youth improve their lives through higher-quality education.*



### OVERVIEW

With Nigeria’s rapidly growing school-age population, its education system seeks to keep pace. According to the federal Ministry of Education, as of July 2017, more than 10 million children do not attend formal schools, with an additional one million out of school because of conflict and the resulting displacement. USAID increases access to safe and quality education services by collaborating with the Government of Nigeria to strengthen education systems at the state and local government levels in select northern states.

While education indicators are low nationwide, they are weakest in the northern states. Therefore, USAID focuses interventions in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Sokoto, and Yobe states. USAID provides education stakeholders and decision-makers with accurate and timely data and analysis needed to improve education policies and program planning, while building in-country capacity for education data collection, analysis, and use.

### ACTIVITIES

#### EDUCATION CRISIS RESPONSE



Conflict has left hundreds of internally displaced children and youth in Nigeria without learning opportunities. The Education Crisis Response activity provides these children with access to quality education, psycho-social counseling, child-friendly spaces, and opportunities for peer reading, mentoring, counseling and vocational skills training. The activity also trains and mobilizes instructors to provide conflict-sensitive lessons, while engaging communities and local leaders to increase education options, such as informal learning centers. Finally, USAID supports policies, standards, and planning in conflict-sensitive education. -The overall goal of the activity is to support

the efforts of northeastern states and local governments to take full ownership for the continued education of internally displaced children. Since 2014, this activity has provided assistance to over 80,000 internally displaced children and youth, ages 6 to 17 and their host communities affected by violence in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe non-formal learning centers.

#### NORTHERN EDUCATION INITIATIVE PLUS

To help improve the quality of education, especially early grade reading, the Northern Education Initiative Plus (Initiative) focuses on state and local government education planning and management.

Building on past education activities, USAID works in the northern states of Bauchi and Sokoto to strengthen governance structures to better provide education services. Research shows that improved reading skills enable students to learn other subjects across the curriculum, and a dual focus on formal and informal education provides access to the widest number of students. Since 2015, The Initiative provided over two million textbooks to children while 45,000 teachers and learning facilitators are being trained on the delivery of reading methodology.



Presently, 27,000 children have qualified to be mainstreamed into formal schools through the Initiative's basic literacy program conducted in 800 non-formal learning centers, and another 500,000 pupils are learning to improve their reading skills. To help improve the use of evidence-based reading materials, the first early grade reading course for student-teachers in Nigeria, developed with the National Commission for Colleges of Education, was piloted in four Colleges of Education in the two states. Through 2020, this activity aims to improve the reading skills of approximately 1.6 million children in first to third grades and more than 500,000 children and youth attending some 11,000 non-formal learning centers, adolescent girls learning centers and youth learning centers.

### **NIGERIAN CENTER FOR READING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

USAID expanded its support to the education sector through a partnership with Florida State University (FSU) and Nigeria's Bayero University in Kano state (BUK) to promote early grade reading in primary education. This three-year higher education partnership is focused on training BUK faculty in the teaching of reading and best-practices for conducting reading research in the Nigerian context. Each year, two BUK faculty-fellows will be in residence at FSU to receive mentoring from renowned faculty at FSU's Center for Reading Research. The activity will ultimately establish a new Nigeria Center for Reading Research and Development at Bayero University.

### **USAID SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION**

The Global Partnership for Education's Nigeria Partnership for Education Project is a multi-donor effort focused on increasing both girls' enrollment in primary schools and the number of female teachers in public primary schools through the provision of scholarships in five northern states. The Project works to strengthen planning and management systems including learning assessments, capacity development, and outcome measurement at state and federal levels by working with school-based management committees and state-level education officials. USAID is the coordinating agency in Nigeria and serves a liaison role between the Federal Ministry of Education, partner donors and the Washington-based Secretariat.

*About USAID: USAID partners to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. In its partnership with Nigeria, the United States strengthens social stability through social services, supports transparent and accountable governance, promotes a more market-led economy, and enhances Nigeria's capacity as a responsible regional and trade partner.*

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