



STORY OF CHANGE



Jigawa State's Department of Private Schools during a visit to Lagos to understudy its PPP Model

Jigawa State's Public-Private Partnership Forum Enhances Standards and Regulations for Basic Education

SYNOPSIS

The Jigawa State Ministry of Education and its allied departments and agencies launched a public-private partnership forum (PPP) in February 2023. with the support of the PLANE programme. The PPP seeks to improve the collaboration between government and non-state education stakeholders in relation to improving the standard of education, strengthening accountability and attracting more financing, particularly through private investors. PLANE provided capacity-building support for the PPP forum members focused on enhancing effective advocacy skills. The programme also supported the development of a strategic plan from 2023 to 2028 for the forum. A readiness survey for the PPP model is also at an advanced stage in Kaduna and Kano states.



"Before now Private School owners were not carried along in the development of education policy and other critical activities that will improve standards in schools. But with the intervention of PLANE the government have started involving us in discussions and listening to our challenges. There is a sense of inclusiveness in the private sector in the state now, which we are enjoying."

-Otunba Ojo Olaolu Felix, State Chairman, Association of Private School Owners.

INTRODUCTION

Public-private partnerships (PPP) play a crucial role in education in countries like Nigeria where the government alone is unable to cater to the education needs of all its citizens. PPPs enable stakeholders in the non-state sector as well as those in the state education sector to collaborate and advance education for all, especially the marginalised. They are extremely valuable in addressing concerns around enrolment of out-of-school children, and other challenges faced in low-resource communities where quality education is typically underserved.

The Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE) programme has an objective to improve the collaboration between government and non-state education systems as it relates to service delivery, accountability and financing. One of the ways it is supporting this is through the establishment of a PPP forum nationally and in states, a platform that enables the public and private sectors to combine their expertise and resources to achieve shared goals in education. A PPP forum was successfully set up in Jigawa State in 2023, with PPP readiness surveys currently being finalised in Kano and Kaduna states.

PPPs in education facilitate collaborations between businesses and government to finance or provide education services. These partnerships may be composed of multiple stakeholders, including private corporations, nonprofit organisations, civil society, donor organisations or philanthropic groups. They also help to promote the use of evidence, and support new approaches to enable the non-state sector to achieve minimum standards in addressing the needs of marginalised children. PPPs can help to lift the quality of education delivered by incorporating the knowledge, skills and

innovations available in the non-state sector, whether pedagogical or technical. PPPs, by increasing choice in education and linking educational subsidies to demand, can also lead to increased accountability. PPPs also help to increase the efficiency of education delivery. This can occur in a variety of ways, for example, use of non-state education providers may lead to the introduction of innovations in areas such as school and teacher management.

In addition, partnerships allow governments to transfer responsibility for certain functions such as delivery to the private sector, while the government focuses on areas of comparative advantage such as policy, planning and quality assurance. By establishing a PPP forum, PLANE is modelling promising practices for the delivery of core schooling services at all levels.

INTERVENTION CONTEXT: COORDINATION AND REGULATORY BARRIERS

Jigawa State, like most northern states in Nigeria, contends with a high number of children deprived of schooling and opportunity to learn. While private entities have long been involved in the provision of education, moving the state closer to achieving Sustainable Development Goal on equitable education for all by 2030 would require a more deliberate, well-structured and concerted effort by both public and private stakeholders.

Many difficulties have hampered the effective provision of high-quality education in Jigawa State, and these difficulties define the current setting for the new PPP Forum's work. They include financial constraints, limited resources, shoddy infrastructure, poor learning outcomes, as well as issues with teacher recruitment, deployment, welfare and development. In addition to the difficulties already highlighted, Jigawa State is characterised by a rapidly growing population of school-aged children, putting strain on the education system and leading to overcrowded classrooms and resource shortages.

Another major area of concern that the PPP seeks to address in Jigawa State is quality assurance, that is, being able to improve the standard of education obtainable. Many schools require support to equip students with the knowledge and abilities they need to prosper in the twenty-first century, by incorporating new technologies and creative pedagogical strategies in addition to conventional teaching techniques. Given the minimal resources often available from the government, this can only be achieved speedily through the attraction of private investors.

Challenges with regulatory frameworks discourage the private sector's involvement in education. While the government is primarily in charge of the provision of free, compulsory, and universal basic education in Nigeria, private contributors have to navigate complex regulations and bureaucratic procedures which deter investment. They are also often sidelined in broader educational initiatives and policies. This lack of representation and engagement in policy development results in an education system that inadequately considers private sector interests

Without supportive policies, enabling environments and incentives, private sector players will be wary of growing their contribution towards education. However, when provided with a platform where a stronger collaboration can be fostered with the government, the strengths of each sector can enhance resource mobilisation, promote innovation and improve educational outcomes.

INTERVENTION: THE JIGAWA PPP FORUM

The Jigawa State Ministry of Education and its allied departments and agencies launched the PPP Forum in February 2023. The forum functions within the state's legal framework, and diverse industries are represented among its membership. Its establishment was prompted by a study conducted by PLANE in Jigawa State, which revealed that most owners of unregistered non-state schools do not benefit from state or non-state support.

Jigawa's PPP Forum is housed by the Jigawa State Ministry of Education, where it seeks to champion a collaborative effort that supports the effective delivery of quality education in the state. The PPP will secure essential funding and backing for the education sector and will work to ensure that every child in the state gains access to quality education, thereby enhancing their prospects for success and fostering socio-economic advancement within the area. Additionally, the Jigawa PPP forum seeks to advance the creation and application of enduring, evidence-based policies that support the provision of high-quality education in the state.

PLANE provided the following:

Building the evidence-base: State -level situational analyses are critical first steps to understanding the scale and nature of private sector providers as well as the legal, political and regulatory frameworks that impact their ability to reach the disadvantaged. Piloting of successful PPP models, particularly those based on lessons available from Lagos State and the Socio-Demographic Survey on KJ States, provided evidence of effective, sustainable measures to design and implement PPPs.

Policy advocacy: The evidence base from the assessments done in KJ States provided a great resource for policy advocacy. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDG commitments provide a legal and political basis to hold governments accountable for their actions.

Capacity building of governments and private sector providers: PLANE has engaged in capacity development of governments as well as private and community actors; on PPP modelling, resource mobilisation and advocacy, PLANE has helped to fill gaps in capability as governments have relatively limited experience working with the private sector, and the human resource capacity to develop and manage PPPs is often weak.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: COLLABORATING FOR EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT

The Jigawa PPP forum established by PLANE is collaborating closely with the state government, private investors and other stakeholders to build a comprehensive education plan that places a high priority on collaboration, innovation and sustainability. To ensure its effectiveness post-establishment, PLANE provided capacity-building support for the PPP forum members focused on enhancing effective advocacy skills. The programme also supported the development of a strategic plan from 2023 to 2028 for the forum. The plan outlines the strategic direction of the forum and aims to guide decision-making on program direction, fundraising priorities, resource allocation, and long-term action plans. It also focuses on creating awareness, improving educational service delivery, generating resources, enhancing service delivery and strengthening stakeholders' understanding of PPP in Jigawa State.

The PPP Forum is focusing on six areas: promoting quality education, addressing equity issues, advocating for strong public systems and governance, securing financing for public education, and emphasizing transparency and accountability. Sub-committees have been established to handle advocacy, capacity building, resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation, and technical support. A SWOT analysis conducted by the PPP Forum revealed that it has a high level of commitment from both public and private sector stakeholders to work together to improve the quality of education in the state. This commitment is beginning to yield positive results in the state.

The PPP Forum has participated in and supported the development of the Jigawa State Non-State Schools Policy, and played an important role in the formulation of the Jigawa State Safe and Violence-Free School Policy. This policy underscores the commitment to creating a secure and conducive learning environment for all students in both public and private schools. The forum and education partners also diligently oversaw and supervised the training of teachers in literacy and numeracy foundational skills.

In the area of resource mobilisation, the forum has conducted a thorough analysis and mapping of companies, individuals and philanthropists supporting education within the state. This process has helped to identify potential partners and opportunities for collaboration to enhance the progress of educational initiatives. In addition, the forum is also involved in research and baselines. The members have supported the conduct of Early Grade Reading and Early Grade Mathematics Assessments in the state, and participated in the validation of Non-State Schools Graded Assessment exercises.

Following the progress being recorded in Jigawa, PLANE is currently working with Kano and Kaduna state to establish a PPP forum, aligning with the broader goal of diversifying school provision, improving accountability and autonomy, and injecting additional finance into the education sector. In Kaduna State, PLANE has supported a PPP Readiness Assessment Survey, designed to inform the development of a PPP model specific to the state.

TESTIMONIALS

Otunba Ojo Olaolu Felix is the Proprietor of the Salem Group of Schools, Dutse, Jigawa State. He also serves as the State Chairman of the Association of Private Schools Owners of Nigeria.

"There was a sponsored visit of some of the key stakeholders to Lagos in respect of the PPP to see the model of the PPP that is being used in Lagos, so that they can bring it to fore in Jigawa State and implement it to enhance the standard of education in Jigawa State. What I understand with PLANE is that they are majorly out to enhance the educational standard, both in the public and the private sector.

"The PPP model is public-private partnership which is to enhance both the public and the private school coming together. The government will be able to at least have a certain percentage in assisting even the private school. For example, like in Lagos, based on what we were told, there are some schools that even the state government will build.

"I may decide to charge maybe 20,000, others may decide to charge 50,000. But where there is the public-private partnership and the government is able to assist in one area or the other, either in infrastructure or maybe furniture, at least it will be down on me not to charge the way I was charging before, because the charges are as a result of some things I want to provide for the school. Public-private partnership enhances the standard of education, at the same time, it will make things a bit easy for the community.

"Every hand would be on the deck. Government would bring their own regulation and say, this is the standard we want and since we have assisted you in this area, you will be able to meet up with this. But if all those things are not there, it would not help.

"Before now private school owners were not carried along in the development of education policy and other critical activities that will improve standards in schools. But with the intervention of PLANE the government have started involving us in discussions and listening to our challenges. There is a sense of inclusiveness in the private sector in the state now, which we are enjoying."



Otunba Ojo Olaolu Felix. Jigawa State Chairman, the Association of Private Schools Owners of Nigeria.



Tasiu Abubakar, Co-Chair of the Jigawa Education Accountability Forum (JEAF).

Tasiu Abubakar is the co-chair of the Jigawa Education Accountability Forum (JEAF). JEAF is a State-Led Accountability Mechanism (SLAM), a co-creation of government, professional bodies, media bodies, CSOs, academia, and traditional institutions in the state to strengthen open governance and improve accountability in the education sector. The Forum supported PLANE in the establishment of the PPP Forum for Education in the state.

“JEAF participated in the development of policy for non-state actors and took some lead role in the private partnership forum that was created to ensure that all stakeholders are contributing to the development of education in the state. Not only that, we also participated in the quality assurance policy that is supported by PLANE and other partners in education within the state. So, we are working together with state, PLANE, and other partners to ensure that as quality service delivery, especially the foundational skills, which is the basic for the children to meet their aspirations.



“PLANE's unwavering support, alongside the concerted efforts of diverse stakeholders, has been a catalyst for monumental shifts in Jigawa's educational paradigm. Our collaboration ensures that education reforms not only meet but exceed the needs and aspirations of the state, ushering in a new era of educational excellence with the involvement of various stakeholders.

-Tasiu Abubakar, JEAF.”



“JEAF participated in the development of policy for non-state actors and took some lead role in the private partnership forum that was created to ensure that all stakeholders are contributing to the development of education in the state. Not only that, we also participated in the quality assurance policy that is supported by PLANE and other partners in education within the state. So, we are working together with state, PLANE, and other partners to ensure that as quality service delivery, especially the foundational skills, which is the basic for the children to meet their aspirations.

“With the support of PLANE, the Jigawa Education Accountability Forum has brought about transformative changes, effectively closing the teacher gap. This partnership, involving various stakeholders, actively contributing to the formulation of policies that resonate with the unique educational landscape of the state.

“PLANE's unwavering support, alongside the concerted efforts of diverse stakeholders, has been a catalyst for monumental shifts in Jigawa's educational paradigm. Our collaboration ensures that education reforms not only meet but exceed the needs and aspirations of the state, ushering in a new era of educational excellence with the involvement of various stakeholders.

“The success stories arising from our advocacy efforts, from the recruitment of additional teachers to comprehensive policy reviews, are emblematic of the synergy between the Jigawa Education Accountability Forum and other stakeholders. Together, we are forging a path towards sustainable advancements in education within the state.

“PLANE's innovative approach to evidence-based advocacy, supported by the collaboration of various stakeholders, has not just changed the game—it has redefined it. By leveraging government data and the input of diverse stakeholders, we've been able to hold authorities accountable, propelling us towards positive changes in the education sector.

“Beyond immediate challenges, PLANE's support, coupled with the engagement of diverse stakeholders, has laid the groundwork for enduring sustainability. The Jigawa Education Accountability Forum is now poised to continue its advocacy and monitoring efforts, fortified by the solid foundations laid down by PLANE and other stakeholders, ensuring a lasting legacy of educational improvement in the state.”

ABOUT PLANE

The Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE) is a seven-year programme funded by the UK Government to enable a more inclusive, safe and effective education system in Nigeria. It realises the Government of Nigeria and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)'s shared commitment to deliver sustainable improvements in learning outcomes for Nigeria's children. The PLANE programme works with federal and state leaders, legislators, education providers, civil society, children and parents federally and in Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Borno, Yobe, the south-east and the south-west.

PLANE works on basic education across state and non-state education systems with a focus on marginalised groups, especially girls. It contributes towards real, transformational change, driving progress in the learning environment and supporting improvements in how education is managed and delivered. It will lead to more children going to school, staying in school and learning more. This will be done through improvements in teaching and learning with a focus on foundational skills; unlocking governance bottlenecks for better education service delivery; improvements in the regulation of the non-state sector; embedding the use of data and evidence within the education system; helping children affected by conflict; and improving the inclusion and learning of marginalised children as a whole.





Consortium Partners:



 [PLANE_Nigeria](#)

 [FCDO-PLANE Nigeria](#)

 www.planenigeria.com

 10 Bobo street, Maitama, Abuja.