



Reaching More Marginalised Children

KANO STATE EXPANDS PLANE'S FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING INTERVENTIONS TO MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS.

*Story of
Change*

LEARNERS AT A PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KANO STATE

Since its inception, the UK-funded Partnership for Learning for All (PLANE) programme has supported Kano State in improving learning outcomes for children, with efforts focused on four LGAs: Gabasawa, Karaye, Minjibir, and Takai. Following positive results, the state government is expanding the programme to five more LGAs: Danbatta, Gaya, Gwarzo, Madobi, and Makoda, partnering with PLANE to train teachers and producing 5,000 copies of Mathematics and Literacy Teacher Guides.

Kano's Challenge – Educating the Nation's Largest School-Age Population

Kano State is the most populous state in Nigeria, with about 16.3 million people, according to 2020 projected figures by the National Population Commission. Historically, the state has the highest number of children in the country spread across 44 Local Government Areas (LGAs), and the highest number of LGAs than any state in Nigeria.

The state's large size presents some advantages, such as a large labour force, a strong commercial base, and a growing population that could translate into a large workforce in the future. But the big size comes with challenges too, like the strain of providing quality education to the large child population.

Besides the strain of educating over **4.1 million learners** currently in **6,895 primary schools** in the state, Kano State also has a large share of Nigeria's **10.2 million out-of-school children** to serve the needs for, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The state is aware of the magnitude of these challenges and its limitations in addressing them alone. Hence, it has been

partnering with development partners, like the Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE) programme, to come up with workable solutions to improve the quality of education offered to its young and growing population.



"Yes, we always welcome partners. They come, they train our teachers, which is very essential. And some engage in infrastructural support, where they come and renovate schools, build classes, and other things," said Nura Ibrahim (49), the Director of Special Duties in the Kano State Universal Education Board (SUBEB), the agency responsible for delivering quality basic education in the state.

"If I take PLANE as an example," Nura continued, "they have given our schools teaching aids, exercise books, textbooks, and other teaching and learning materials. Also, they have trained our teachers, building their capacity to teach effectively."

Targeted Support in Four LGAs Shows Results

Since 2021, PLANE, funded by the UK Government, has been supporting Kano, as well as the neighbouring Jigawa and Kaduna states, to improve learning outcomes for children in the states. PLANE's support prioritises teacher training, provision of teaching and learning materials, strengthening of school monitoring and mentoring mechanisms, and community mobilisation. PLANE is supporting the Nigerian government at all levels to realise the country's commitment to achieving universal access to education for all Nigerian children.

In Kano State, PLANE's foundational learning package support has been concentrated in four LGAs – Gabasawa, Karaye, Minjibir, and Takai – where the programme has demonstrated proven interventions for helping marginalised children, including girls, children with disabilities, those living in rural, and underserved communities – to gain foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

Foundational learning is important as it serves as the basis for all subsequent learning and development. It ensures that children master essential skills early on, which then enables them to build upon those foundations to achieve their full potential in the future.



ABDULLAHI YUSUFU TUKUR, 54, EDUCATION SECRETARY, TAKAI LGEA

“

“With the coming of PLANE to Takai LGA, we have seen a marked change in the behaviour of teachers, because of the training conducted by PLANE. The training has increased the confidence of our teachers. . . [and] the students too have developed confidence in their ability to read and write,” said Abdullahi Yusufu Tukur, 54, the Education Secretary of Takai Local Government Education Authority (LGEA).

Like in Takai, learners in the other three local government areas where PLANE is directly intervening have started showing improved abilities to read and write too, according to Amina Umar, 58, the Board Secretary of Kano SUBEB, which oversees all LGEAs in the state.

In Kano State, PLANE's foundational learning package support has been concentrated in four LGAs -

Gabasawa, Karaye, Minjibir, and Takai



AMINA UMAR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF KANO STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB),

“

“We went out for school support visits in three local government areas. After the briefing, we realised from the reports that Karaye LGA stands out, better than the other two local governments. And the reason is not farfetched – PLANE is intervening in Karaye local government,” Amina said.

Scaling Up Success – Expansion to Five More LGAs

Satisfied with the outcomes of PLANE's support in the four LGAs, the Kano State government is now extending the foundational learning interventions to five other LGAs in the state, namely, Danbatta, Gaya, Gwarzo, Madobi and Makoda. To support this expansion, the Kano State Government worked with PLANE to train teachers across these new locations. In addition, Kano SUBEB produced 5,000 copies of Primary 1 & 2 Mathematics and Literacy Teacher Guides, while PLANE provided pupil textbooks.



The Board Secretary of Kano SUBEB, Amina Umar, further explained that they have “provided teaching and learning materials. By engaging the Kano Education Resource Department in the Ministry of Education to print the materials for the five LGAs that have been included in the scale up,” she was referring to the Hausa language teaching and learning materials on literacy and numeracy for P1-P2 teachers and learners, developed by PLANE and adopted by the state. She extols the collaboration between PLANE and Kano SUBEB in these efforts, and acknowledged the support of the Nigeria Union of Teachers as well as some funding from BESDA project (Better Education Service Delivery for All) to support the training.



LEARNERS IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN KANO, DISPLAYING THE MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE PLANE PROGRAMME

5000 Copies

of Primary 1 & 2 Mathematics and Literacy Teacher Guides produced by Kano SUBEB



HEADTEACHER, PLANE-SUPPORTED SCHOOL, TAKAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KANO STATE

Embracing Innovative Digital Technologies – Improving Monitoring and School Support Visits

In addition to the training of teachers and provision of teaching and learning materials in the five LGAs, the state is also expanding and innovating the school monitoring and support system using digital devices across the state, covering all 44 LGAs in Kano State.



“To this end, we made a commitment at the last quarterly review meeting in Abuja to provide part of the School Support Officers (SSOs) with Android tablets so that they could be reporting digitally on the school support visits. This has since been done,” Amina reported.

“She further explained that based on requests from some LGAs that there were not enough SSOs. The Executive Chairman of SUBEB approved the posting of additional SSOs who have been given the tablets to the LGEA. The management has also taken a decision for a weekly school support visit,” she confirmed.

The impact of this intervention by the state government was quick.



“When the SSOs go on visits to schools, they send me weekly reports on my tablet, and I also forward to SUBEB. Before receiving the tablets, we used to write on paper and send in our reports to SUBEB. Now we use the tablets to send our reports through WhatsApp messages and also to get reports from the SSOs. It has made work a lot easier for all of us,” Education Secretary Abdullahi said.

A Model for Other States

The scale-up of foundational learning interventions in Kano State represents a significant and promising development in the pursuit of improved education outcomes. Notably, this progress is serving as a catalyst for broader regional adoption. The PLANE programme is particularly encouraged by the fact that governments in neighbouring Jigawa and Kaduna states are also taking proactive steps to replicate and expand similar interventions within their own education systems.



“All the remaining local government areas where PLANE is not working have been included in our budget and a lot of funds have been provided to do exactly the same programme in these areas,”

Dr Lawan Yunusa Danzomo, 64, Jigawa State’s Commissioner for Basic Education.

Overall, although the scale-up of interventions to the new five LGAs in Kano State has only been on for a few months, and the interventions in the first nine LGAs cover only a fifth of LGAs in the state, expectations are high that the desired impact of foundational learning would soon be felt in the five additional LGAs, and indeed across the state.

Although the scale-up of foundational learning interventions to five additional LGAs in Kano State is still in its early stages, and current efforts across the initial nine LGAs represent only a fifth of the state’s 44 LGAs, there is growing optimism about the potential impact. Early outcomes suggest that, as implementation deepens, the benefits of improved foundational literacy and numeracy will begin to take root in the newly targeted areas and, over time, contribute to systemic improvements in basic education across the entire state.



“We hope that subsequently, we will be expanding to reach all 44 local government areas. It has to be gradual because Kano is very large,” said Amina, noting that for a big state like Kano, more marginalised children would be reached – little by little or LGA cluster at a time.” remarked the Kano SUBEB Executive Secretary, Amina Umar.



* The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

PLANE_Nigeria

FCDO-PLANE Nigeria

FCDO PLANE Nigeria

www.planenigeria.com

10 Bobo Street, Maitama, Abuja