

FCDO-PLANE Quarterly Newsletter

MARCH 2026



Dear Partner,

We are excited to share the March 2026 edition of the PLANE Newsletter with you. This edition showcases the significant progress and continued commitment the PLANE programme is making to strengthen education systems and improve learning outcomes across Nigeria.

The past quarter has been particularly impactful, major highlights include the launch and distribution of our new English Language learning materials for primary schools. In alignment with our mission to improve foundational literacy, we are also providing capacity building for teachers, helping learners to transition from Hausa Language to English.

At the national level, PLANE supported the Maiden National Teachers' Summit in Abuja, bringing together government and development partners to recognise the teaching profession and advance teacher professionalisation. Beyond Nigeria, the programme facilitated a cross-country learning exchange between Nigeria and Ghana on tackling the challenge of out-of-school children, strengthening collaboration on scalable approaches to expand access to education. These milestones reflect the programme's continued commitment to evidence-based reform, partnership, and improving learning opportunities for every child.

In this edition, we are proud to highlight our participation in several key activities, including:

- ➔ **The National Teachers' Summit 2026**
- ➔ **Ghana-UK Collaboration on Out-of-School Children**
- ➔ **Stakeholder Roundtable on the Future of Education in Nigeria**
- ➔ **Celebration of the 2025 Disability Day and**
- ➔ **Celebration of the International Day of Education Across Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa**
- ➔ **The Launch of the Safeguarding Short Messages and Cue Cards in Kano State.**

Enjoy reading, and please feel free to share our stories with others. For more information about our programme, visit www.planenigeria.com

Help Shape the Future of Our Communications



How useful is the content you receive from PLANE? What has resonated most? And where can we do better?

We are inviting you to take a short survey to help us understand how our digital content and our partnership programming are informing conversations, influencing practice, and supporting education reform efforts.

Your feedback will directly shape how we share evidence, amplify voices, and engage stakeholders across the education ecosystem. The survey takes just a few minutes to complete, and your insights will make a meaningful difference.

Add your voice. Share your experience. Help us shape the future of education reform in Nigeria by sharing your thoughts.

[Take the Survey - Click Here](#)

New Knowledge Product: Scaling What Works!

What if school holidays could become powerful moments of academic recovery and confidence-building?

Our latest knowledge product, *Scaling What Works: Accelerated Learning Holiday Camps As A Strategy For Strengthening Foundational Learning in Nigeria*, explores a practical, scalable model that is already delivering results in Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa.

Developed under the UK-funded Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria programme, the Accelerated Learning Holiday Camps reimagine the school break as a short, focused cycle of level-based instruction for learners who need extra support. In just fifteen to twenty days, children strengthened their literacy and numeracy skills while building confidence through activity-rich lessons and strong community engagement. The knowledge product unpacks the design, delivery model, evidence of impact and key considerations for adoption or adaptation.

If you are thinking about scalable solutions that work in real classrooms and communities, this is essential reading.



This knowledge product is designed to inform policymakers, education planners, and development partners of scalable, cost-effective models to improve foundational learning.

It presents the Accelerated Learning Holiday Camps as a practical innovation that has strengthened foundational literacy and numeracy in Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa states. The model introduced by the UK-funded Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria programme (PLANE) uses school

holidays as short, focused learning cycles for learners who struggle during the term. In a context where roughly 70% of children in Nigeria cannot read with meaning or solve simple mathematics problems, the camps provided level-based instruction, activity-rich lessons and strong community participation. Learners improved both skills and confidence within fifteen to twenty days. This note outlines the intervention architecture, implementation process, evidence of change and key considerations for governments and partners who may wish to adopt or adapt the model.

Context

Nigeria faces a serious foundational learning crisis. National and partner data show that about 70% of children in the country cannot read with meaning or solve simple mathematics problems, and less than 60% of children in school reach basic proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

UNICEF reports that around 75% of children between seven and fourteen years cannot read a simple sentence or solve a basic math problem. In early grades, only a small share of pupils can recognise letters, read words or comprehend simple sentences, and a significant proportion reach the end of primary school without basic comprehension skills. These patterns mirror broader trends in Sub-Saharan Africa, where learning poverty is high, and many children

complete several years of schooling without acquiring foundational skills.

Within this context, PLANE introduced the Accelerated Learning Holiday Camps to provide learners with an opportunity for targeted learning of basic literacy and numeracy skills. The programme converted school holidays into a period of intentional learning recovery. The purpose was to offer a short-cycle intervention for incoming Primary Four learners who were performing below expected levels in literacy and numeracy, and to test a scalable model that state governments and partners could adopt within their foundational learning strategies while generating evidence and lessons for replication.

70% of children cannot read with meaning or solve simple math

<60% of children in school reach basic proficiency

[Download the full brief here](#)

Top Stories



PLANE Commences English Language and Literacy Lessons in Primary Schools

A Primary 2 learner from LGEA Primary School, Maiduguri Road, with the new textbook.



Learners in LGEA Primary School, Maiduguri Road, Kaduna State, showcasing their new English Language and Literacy Pupil Books.

improve classroom delivery in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. With PLANE's support, Kaduna SUBEB trained 828 teachers from 138 schools across six LGAs, Kano reached 484 teachers from 115 schools in four LGAs, while Jigawa supported 337 teachers from 132 schools across seven LGAs.



more than **1,600 teachers** from **380 schools** trained

The PLANE programme has launched and commenced the distribution of new English Language learning materials for Primary 1 to 3 learners and teachers across Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa States.

PLANE launched the pilot test of English programming in 300 schools across the three states, with the programme designed to complement instruction in the local language and prepare children for English instruction in higher primary classes. The draft materials were validated in September 2025 by stakeholders in Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa, with additional revisions expected after the completion of the pilot in July 2026

To improve foundational literacy outcomes in early grade classrooms, PLANE partnered with State Universal Basic Education Boards in Kano State, Kaduna State, and Jigawa State to strengthen English Language teaching in public primary schools.



Training of teachers in Kaduna



Participants at the training in Jigawa State.

The training is expected to benefit thousands of learners in Primary 1–3 by supporting their transition from Hausa to English and improving foundational literacy outcomes. Following the success of the pilot, plans are underway to scale the programme statewide and extend it to upper primary classes, helping to strengthen the foundation for long-term learning success.



Some of the participants during an exercise at the Kano State's English training for teachers.



Over six days, more than **1,600 teachers** from **380 schools** received practical training to

NATIONAL TEACHERS' SUMMIT 2026



PLANE Supports Maiden National Teachers' Summit

Group photograph of development partners and government officials present at the National Teachers' Summit.

The PLANE Programme joined the Federal Government of Nigeria and development partners in Abuja for the maiden National Teachers' Summit, held from 27 to 28 January 2026. The event celebrated outstanding teachers drawn from Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, recognising their commitment to improving learning across the country.

Speaking at the event, Mr Ian Attfield, Senior Education Adviser at the British High Commission, reaffirmed the UK's commitment to supporting Nigerian teachers and strengthening the education system. He emphasised the dedication of teachers working in challenging contexts and the importance of sustained investment in teacher development, improved deployment, and reliable education financing.

Day 1 was attended by the First Lady of Nigeria, the Minister of Education, the Minister of State for Education and other top government officials. It also featured inspiring speeches from a Jigawa-based, visually impaired PLANE-trained teacher and young Beta Nigeria podcaster, Suwaiba Aliyu.



Education Adviser, British High Commission, Ian Attfield, Delivering a Goodwill Message at the National Teachers Summit.

Dr Gboyega Ilusanya, National Team Lead, PLANE, during a Panel Session on Transforming the Teaching Profession in Nigeria

The Summit served as a high-level platform to reaffirm the Federal Government's commitment to teacher professionalisation and sustained quality improvement across the education system. By bringing together exemplary teachers from all states and the FCT, the engagement fostered meaningful peer exchange, strengthened understanding of national professional standards, and reinforced shared expectations around instructional quality. NTS has been institutionalised as an annual event with the best National and Regional Teachers awarded generously.

➤ This year, the Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, announced substantial cash rewards for outstanding teachers and formally unveiled the EduRevamp portal.



➤ Representatives from PLANE and FCDO, alongside speech presenters.



Nigeria and Ghana Strengthen Partnership to Tackle Out-of-School Children Through Cross-Country Learning

Nigerian delegation and representatives of the host organisations and partner agencies during a field visit.

“Our greatest takeaway from this visit is the remarkable level of collaboration and synergy across all tiers of government—from the national level to the regional and municipal authorities, reflecting a shared vision and coordinated and consistent approach.

These lessons will strengthen our efforts in Nigeria, giving us renewed encouragement to do more in addressing the Almajiri and out-of-school children challenge for more positive outcomes.”

-Dr Sani Idris, Executive Director of the NCAOOSCE; Nigeria’s National Commission for Almajiri and Out-of-School Children Education



Engagement at the Complementary Basic Education (CBE) Exchange Programme in Ghana.

PLANE is pleased to support a growing partnership between Ghana’s Complementary Education Agency (CEA) and Nigeria’s National Commission for Almajiri and Out-of-School Children Education (NCAOOSCE), who have committed to signing a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen knowledge exchange on transitioning out-of-school children back into education.

This commitment followed an official Nigerian government visit to Ghana from 2–6 February. During the visit, the delegation observed Ghana’s Complementary Basic Education programme, a nine-month accelerated learning initiative supporting children aged 8–16 to gain foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

Approximately 90% of learners who complete the programme transition successfully into formal schooling, demonstrating a practical and cost-effective model for addressing learning gaps.

With UNICEF estimating that 18.3 million children remain out of school in Nigeria, tackling this challenge remains central to the country’s Education Sector Reform Initiative, led by the Federal Minister of Education.

Through this collaboration, both countries will continue to adapt and strengthen approaches that expand access to quality education for out-of-school children.



Executive Secretary, National Commission for Almajiri and Out of School Children Education, Dr. Muhammad Sani Idris & National Team Lead, PLANE, Dr Gboyega Ilusanya at the event.



Attendees of the British Council Roundtable in Accra on Thursday, February 5th including the Nigerian delegation and representatives of the host organisations and partner agencies.



Stakeholders' Roundtable on the Future of Education in Nigeria

Organisers, guests and development partners at the roundtable



Senior Education Adviser, British High Commission, Ian Attfield & Chief of Staff to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Femi Gbajabiamila, exchanging pleasantries.



Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Ahmad, delivering a keynote address.

In commemoration of this year's International Day of Education, PLANE provided support at the Stakeholder Roundtable on the Future of Education in Nigeria, convened by the National Assembly of Nigeria (NASS). The event, themed Reimagining the Future of Education in Nigeria: Collaborative Solutions for a Brighter Future, brought together key education stakeholders to explore how legislative action can strengthen both basic and higher education systems through evidence-based policymaking, effective oversight, and enhanced collaboration.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Education, the Minister of State for Education, Suwaiba Ahmad, reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to building an inclusive, equitable, and future-ready education system that responds to the evolving needs of Nigerian learners.

Speaking on behalf of FCDO-PLANE Nigeria, Ian Attfield, Senior Education Adviser at the British High Commission, encouraged the House Committees on Education to play a more active role in driving accountability across the education sector. He further emphasised the importance of advancing the review of the Universal Basic Education

Commission (UBEC) Act to expand access to quality basic education for all Nigerian children.

The roundtable featured two panel sessions, including a session on reforming basic education through effective legislation, which was moderated by Dr. Mikailu Ibrahim, Education Adviser at the British High Commission. Discussions highlighted the need for sustained legislative engagement, improved coordination among stakeholders, and policy reforms that prioritise learning outcomes across all levels of education.



Participants at the Stakeholders Roundtable during a panel session moderated by Dr. Mikailu Ibrahim, Education Adviser, British High Commission.



Cross-section of participants at the Stakeholder Roundtable

PLANE, Kano SUBEB Launch Safeguarding Cue Cards for Schools



With the support of PLANE, Kano State successfully transitioned from safeguarding preparation to full government-led classroom implementation by launching Safeguarding Short Messages for primary schools in Kano State. The integration of monitoring into existing SUBEB and school oversight structures established safeguarding as a system-owned, scalable, and sustainable accountability mechanism rather than a donor-driven initiative.

Developed with technical assistance from PLANE, the short messages and cue cards introduce simple five-minute daily safeguarding messages that teachers can share with learners. These messages are designed to help children understand their rights, feel safe in school, and build the confidence to speak up about abuse or other concerns.

↘ **It is expected that this initiative will reach over 10,000 students across Kano State, with the aim of reducing cases of school-related violence.**



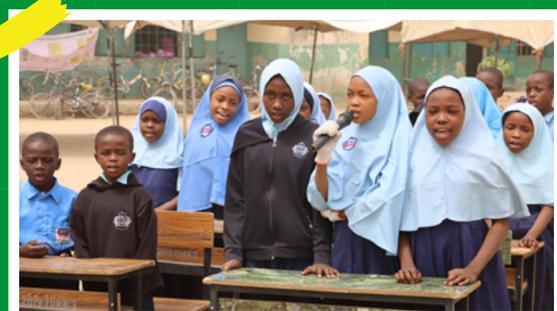
▶ A sample of the safeguarding posters

The launch event brought together learners from public, Tsangaya, and private schools, alongside development partners and senior government officials, demonstrating a shared commitment to protecting children across all types of learning environments.

Through this initiative, PLANE will continue to work with the Kano State Government and development partners to strengthen safeguarding systems and improve learning outcomes, recognising that safe and supportive classrooms are the foundation of quality education.



Participants at the launch of the safeguarding short messages in Kano State.



Learners from a private school during a presentation.

Commemoration of 2026 International Day of Education Across Jigawa, Kano and Kaduna

PLANE and education stakeholders across Jigawa State, Kano State, and Kaduna State commemorated the 2026 International Day of Education, reinforcing a shared commitment to inclusive, equitable and accountable learning systems.

In Jigawa, the State Ministry of Basic Education, in collaboration with the Jigawa Education Accountability Forum (JEAF), marked the day under the theme “The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education.” Held at Dr. Nuhu Sunusi Primary School, the event brought together government officials, civil society organisations, youth groups, persons with disabilities, media and development partners. Discussions focused on improving transition and completion rates, especially for girls, and strengthening community and civil society engagement to achieve Education for All targets.



Group photograph of stakeholders at the International Day of Education event.

In Kano, PLANE commemorated the day alongside the Kano State Universal Basic Education Board and the National Union of Teachers across four intervention LGAs.

➤ **The celebration recognised the dedication of teachers, with 20 outstanding teachers honoured, while 80 pupils participated in academic competitions and received school bags and uniforms to encourage school attendance and participation.**



Plenary session at the International Day of Education celebration in Kaduna.

Meanwhile in Kaduna, stakeholders convened under the theme “Education is a Human Right, a Public Good and a Public Responsibility, the Power of Youth in Co-creating Education.” The event was organised by the Kaduna Basic Education Accountability Mechanism (KADBEAM) and the Kaduna Local Governments Accountability Mechanism with support from PLANE through the Bêta Nigeria Campaign. Government officials, civil society organisations, persons with disabilities, parents and the media engaged in dialogue on strengthening inclusive and equitable education systems. Stakeholders highlighted progress in reducing out-of-school children, expanding access through new schools and accelerated learning centres, and improving teacher development and quality assurance systems.



Award presentation to one of the outstanding teachers in Kano State.



➤ Sample of uniforms given to learners in Kano State



Beta Nigeria: New Documentary Spotlights the Education Gap for Children with Disabilities



“My son does not attend school because there is no special education school nearby for children with disabilities. The closest thing to schooling he can receive is the Quranic lessons I teach him at home”, says Baban Ladi Malan Gajere from Kabo LGA, whose son developed visual impairment at a tender age.

it explores what access to learning looks like for children with disabilities and what happens when that access is out of reach.

In this powerful video, parents share their struggles to find accessible learning opportunities for their children with disabilities. We hope it inspires stronger advocacy, policy support, and community involvement toward making inclusive education a reality for all.

In honour of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, **Betà Nigeria** produced a documentary last December. Through real stories from Tudun Maliki School for Special Education and communities in Kabo, Kano State,

Follow **Betà Nigeria** and join the conversation on shaping the future of education. For more information, check out **Beta Nigeria's YouTube page** on: Documentary: Inclusive Education in Kano – Tudun Maliki & Kabo Stories. Feel free to share and subscribe.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support in helping us achieve a brighter future for education in Nigeria. Thank you for reading and see you next quarter!



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www.planenigeria.com

10 Bobo Street, Maitama, Abuja

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