

COMPASS Update

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Akwanga College of Education waives tuition shortfall for students of Primary Education Studies

Students in the Primary Education Studies (PES) program at the College of Education Akwanga are mostly from poor backgrounds and grew up with little hope of getting a college education. But in March 2006, COMPASS awarded full tuition scholarships to 350 students for three years of study. However, at the beginning of the second study year, the College issued a demand that all students pay N2000 extra in fees.

Learning of the situation, COMPASS held a series of meetings with the school management and negotiated a waiver of the tuition balance for the 350 scholarship students. Speaking of the motivation, Deputy Provost Mrs. Victoria Monde said, "Our decision and contribution were informed by COMPASS initiatives in the school and in appreciation of those efforts."

Expectedly, the students were delighted. "This means that I can be in school and still support my family," said John Abigi. Another student, Ladi Edoh said, "This is a great relief to my aged parents that I can still continue my studies!"

The COMPASS preservice scholarship incentive program presents an opportunity for student-teachers from three Colleges of Education in Kano, Lagos and Nasarawa states to fulfill their dream of teaching in Nigerian primary schools. Candidates are selected through an intense screening process for a scholarship.

The waiver in Akwanga, succeeds 120 additional scholarships awarded to students by Kumbotso and Adeniran Ogunsanya Colleges of Education in Kano and Lagos states. After almost three years of participation in the Project, the three colleges are now taking ownership of the program and supporting the vision for more qualified teachers in the Nigerian education system.

Three communities join forces to spur major local improvements

In addition to their local contributions to improve health and education services, three communities in Gaya Local Government Area (LGA) in Kano State recently formed a Community Coalition Forum to jointly deliberate on issues of common interests and improve their results. Following this union, the Forum prioritized high level



Students take turns to practice in the only computer laboratory in Gaya LGA in Kano State
Photo: Kemi Ayanda, COMPASS ACO

needs and conducted advocacy visits to their two representatives at the National and State Houses of Assembly. Their efforts resulted in the construction of seven blocks of classrooms in the three communities and the establishment of a fully air-conditioned computer laboratory at a school in the LGA. According to Gaya Kudu Quality Improvement Team (QIT) Chairman, Abass Ibrahim, "With the culture and tradition of our people, if the representatives don't respond appropriately, they would have wronged all." He concludes, "Uniting behind one voice brings about more results."

Symposium commemorates world breastfeeding week in Nasarawa state



Facilitator Dr. Chikwali demonstrating correct positioning for breastfeeding during the one-day symposium
Photo: Akpoga Envuladu, COMPASS Nasarawa

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is celebrated annually between August 1 7 to promote breastfeeding worldwide. COMPASS celebrated the week through a symposium organized for nurses, midwives and medical practitioners in Nasarawa state. The symposium was coordinated with the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and focused on the 2007 theme - "Breastfeeding: The 1st Hour- Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for six months can save more than one million babies!" The event provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of breastfeeding and featured a practical session on correct positioning and attachment of the baby. The 40 participants at the symposium are now set to orient mothers during regular routine immunization, antenatal care, delivery, and postnatal visits. Similar symposiums will be organized in Lagos and Kano states.

FOMWAN announces communique to support polio eradication



Missed children tracked during May 2006 Immunization Plus Days in Warawa LGA in Kano State
Photo: Auwalu Kawu, COMPASS Central Office

The focus of a one-day interactive forum held in June 2007, with members of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN) was to assess gains in polio eradication and explore ways of improving performance and coverage to reach every child in supported Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Highlighting achievements through its house-to-house campaigns, the organization

resolved 67,812 (of 77,515) cases of non-compliance in 2006 and 424,268 cases (of 524,966) in 2007. Following discussions at the forum, a seventeen point communiqué was developed and signed by ten State Amirahs present. The communiqué highlights ways to improve coverage in subsequent rounds of immunization activities, and includes the use of Tafsir during the upcoming Ramadan to provide information to parents on polio and the importance of immunization.

Nigerian youths get special logo to signal friendly health services

Twenty-seven youth-friendly centres established in the five COMPASS-supported states will soon display special logos reflective of the kinds of services available for young people. The logo brand represents an expressive young person who looks enthusiastic in a friendly environment. Wherever this logo is seen, young people should feel



more comfortable to access health services in a setting that supports confidentiality. As part of the strategy to promote youth-friendly services, COMPASS has also printed and distributed leaflets to let young people know where they can get advice and answers to health-related questions.

Nigerian NGOs adopt innovative ways to reach young people

Seven youth-serving organizations supported by COMPASS have adopted innovative ways of meeting the reproductive health needs of young people in the five Project states. Through discussion forums for mothers-in-law and husbands of married adolescents, and training for married adolescents as peer educators, Education as a Vaccine against AIDS (EVA) (a COMPASS subgrantee in Abuja), is improving knowledge of adolescent reproductive health. Another subgrantee, Community Health Agency (CHA), conducted intensive campaigns and introduced mobile clinic services to hard-to-reach areas in Bauchi State.

Activities in Kano helped to reduce the number of adolescent hawkers. School debates and assemblies and health club meetings in Lagos and Nasarawa states created platforms for open



Rally by Peer Health Educators at Comprehensive College Kofar Ran following training
Photo: Rabi Ekele, COMPASS Bauchi

discussions on various reproductive health needs of young people. Interventions by all seven organizations provided information to over 60,000 young people between April and June alone. In addition, the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria, a COMPASS Partner, has been leading orientation to married adolescents on reproductive health issues.

In addition to information and education, young people also need access to services and commodities to adopt safer behaviors. To this end, COMPASS supports health facilities that provide youth-friendly services. Twenty-seven youth-friendly centers established in the five supported states have registered more than 70,000 visits for reproductive health services.

COMPASS bags merit award from Lagos State Government



Director Family Health & Nutrition Dr. Adetoun Agbe-Davies, COMPASS State Team Leader Bisi Tugbobo and State RH Program Coordinator Morial Jagun during the award presentation
Photo: Efe Enakhena, COMPASS Lagos

The COMPASS Project recently received a merit award in recognition of "its relentless efforts in ensuring that health programs of the Lagos State Government are implemented". The award, which was presented by the State's Director of Family Health and Nutrition, Dr. Adetoun Agbe-Davies to COMPASS State Team Leader Bisi Tugbobo and Reproductive

Health Program Coordinator Moriam Jagun, applauds COMPASS as "The Best Corporate Body/NGO" in the State. Responding to the recognition, Tugbobo said "This award is a result of a productive collaboration between COMPASS and the Lagos State Ministry of Health, and we look forward to consolidating these efforts in the coming year."

COMPASS and CSACEFA are members of ministerial task team on education resource management

Twenty Ministerial Task Team members converged in Keffi for a three-day workshop from July 23 to 27, to develop instruments for information gathering on the unit cost of basic education in Nigeria. Representing COMPASS on the Team are Nasarawa State Team Leader Habila Alaku and George Monyei of the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education For All

(CSACEFA), a COMPASS Partner. According to Alaku, "the Task Team is helping to rearticulate the pattern and modes of fund utilization to ensure basic quality education delivery, following increased demand for acceptable data that could enhance effective policy formulation, planning, and assessment of performance."

COMPASS Visitors

Dr. Jono Quick, Chief Executive Officer of Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a COMPASS Partner, paid a courtesy call on COMPASS in June 2007, while on a visit to Nigeria to discuss and observe MSH's field activities. While at COMPASS, Dr. Quick met with Deputy Chief of Party Bola Kusemiju, Director of Operations Rita Badiani, and Senior Advisor for Child Survival Mizan Siddiqi.

Dr Benjamin Lozare, Associate Director and Chief of Training Division with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs made a presentation on "the new paradigms of communication" to COMPASS staff during a recent visit to Nigeria on invitation by WHO for a National TB program in July 2007.

COMPASS ALBUM



Community Coalition members acting a drama on the importance of family planning during the 2007 Safe Motherhood day celebration in Bauchi State

Photo: Rabi Ekele, COMPASS Bauchi



Teachers participating in a group activity during training sponsored by Sandaji school management, on Interactive Radio Instruction and other Student Centered Teaching methods.

Photo: Akpoga Envuladu, COMPASS Nasarawa



Left: FOMWAN representative Alhaja N. Lawal and a health official deworming a pupil at COMPASS-supported Ansarudeen primary school in Badagry

Photo: Lawal Nurudeen COMPASS Lagos

Polio victim gets special advisory position with State Government



Special Adviser Alhaji Safiyanu Ado and COMPASS Program Officer for KPvTA Project Mohammed Doko during an interview
Photo: Kemi Ayanda, COMPASS Central Office

Affairs. Speaking of his recent appointment in July 2007, Ado said, "The advisory position was created following a popular rally organized by KPvTA in November 2005, and supported by COMPASS under the Leahy War Victims fund." Ado attributes his appointment to active participation in KPvTA activities, ranging from social mobilization to campaigns on TV and radio on the importance of immunization. Apart from Ado, twenty-nine others have been employed by the State government following the 2005 campaign.

One person who has reaped the results of activism despite physical and societal limitations is Alhaji Safiyanu Ado, a Kano Polio Victims Trust Association (KPvTA) member and newly appointed Special Advisor to the State Government on Disabled People's

Thankful for the collaboration with COMPASS, Ado says "we are especially grateful for bringing us into limelight and for equipping us with the skills we need to improve our lives and contribute to the society."

USAID Update



The COMPASS Project is delighted to welcome the new Mission Director at USAID/Nigeria, Ms Sharon L. Cromer, who arrived in Abuja on August 9, 2007. Ms Cromer was sworn in as Mission Director in Washington on June 6, 2007. She has more than 20 years of experience in international economic and humanitarian development. She replaces Pat Fleuret, who has been assigned to Khartoum, Sudan as USAID Mission Director.



We express a hearty welcome to the new COMPASS Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) Karla Fossand. Karla is a Population Health Nutrition Officer with USAID. She joined the Agency in 2005. Prior to USAID, Karla was the Executive Director of Kinship Partners, a youth mentoring non-profit in Brainerd, MN. She holds an MA in International Relations with a focus in Development.

COMPASS will miss Ms. Ann Oden, former USAID CTO for the COMPASS Project. Ann is now the Chairperson, of the Cross River State Planning Commission and Adviser to the Governor on International Development. We congratulate her on this new appointment and wish her all the best.

COMPASS UPDATE is published quarterly by the Community Participation for Action in the Social Sector (COMPASS) to communicate the work of our Project .

COMPASS represents a partnership between the Government of Nigeria and the United States Agency for International Development. The Project engages local Nigerian communities in building high quality, integrated health and education

COMPASS is implemented by nine partner organizations under the leadership of Pathfinder International - Adolescent Health Information Project Civil Society Action Coalition on Education For All Creative Associates International, Inc CONSTELLA Futures Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs Management Sciences for Health Nigerian Medical Association

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