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## FACT SHEET—THE UBE ACT

For Community Coalitions, COMPASS Staff and Policy Champions

**BE NO. 1**

### WHY A CHANGE IN EDUCATION POLICY IS NEEDED?

Nigeria spent 14% of total public expenditure (in all three tiers of government) on education in 1998, which comprises 2.3% of GDP, compared with the averages of 20% and 4.7%, respectively, for 19 countries across Sub Saharan Africa (Hinchliffe, 2002, World Bank report)

There are:

- Under funding of basic education;
- Misallocation of resources (primary vs. tertiary levels of schooling);
- Weak public-private partnerships;
- Shortages of infrastructure;
- Low teacher motivation;
- Fewer than 1/3 of entering students complete schooling;
- Low learning achievement;
- Geographic inequity;
- Low literacy levels
- Lack of meaningful participation in schools by parents.

#### Implications of chronic shortages of key classroom inputs:

- Many children can never attend school;
- Some children will only be able to attend school at older ages;
- There is low motivation for children to learn and perform as they sit on bare floors and share textbooks;
- Low achievement rates will persist;
- There is weak justification for parents to promote child education;
- Class size.

#### Other Implications:

- Gaps in access, equity, quality and participation in educational opportunities between the poor and the rich will increase;
- Education can not be free in private schools;
- Enrolment gap will still remain as private schools are not affordable by poor parents;
- MDGs and EFA goals will remain elusive.