

RE-IMAGINING EDUCATION

Adamawa State Level
Civil Society Manifesto

FEBRUARY 2023



Education is the most powerful investment in our future.

But the Nigerian education system is in a state of emergency and Adamawa State is lagging behind.

This moment is one of opportunity: for the new government to re-imagine education for the state and find better ways to provide 12 years of safe, free, quality education for all. This manifesto, therefore, calls for the next government of Adamawa state to:

- Fund More. Fund Better.
- Provide Quality Education for All
- Make Schools Safe

FUND MORE. FUND BETTER.

1. Increase state level financing for education by spending at least 22.5% of the state's budget in line with the commitment made by the federal government.
2. Provide counterpart funding to access UBE funds, to allow for increased financing of the education sector.
3. Strengthen the education monitoring and evaluation systems by implementing the UNESCO National Education Account to guide proper budget preparation and implementation, and make budgets gender-responsive, transparent and utilised on education.
4. Ensure schools are truly free for 12 years by eliminating hidden fees such as education levies, PTA fees and exam fees in all schools.

PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

5. Ensure all schools meet standards that ensure quality learning for all children - proper school infrastructure, availability of learning and instructional materials, adequate number of teachers for all core subjects, and recreational facilities.
6. Ensure improved welfare and capacity building for all teachers to provide quality learning through the implementation of professional development programs, teacher promotion, new minimum wage, and proper accommodation when necessary.
7. Provide the educational resources, teacher training and ICT infrastructure needed to implement STEAM education and vocational skills training in all secondary schools.

MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE

8. Effectively and immediately roll out the implementation of the Safe Schools Plan of Action and the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools.
 9. Provide functional, safe, inclusive and gender responsive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools to keep girls in school during their periods, protect students from the risks of open defecation and prevent them from contracting WASH related infections due to lack of water and hand-washing facilities in schools.
 10. Ensure that students deprived of access to quality education as a result of the conflict, violence or crises are promptly given access to quality alternative education in a safe environment, in line with the National Guidelines for Accelerated Basic Education.
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Unlocking the power of education in Adamawa State

Education is a powerful tool that has the potential to unlock the door to a world of endless possibilities and opportunities, with the ability to transform minds, shape futures, and empower individuals to reach their full potential. Education is a basic human right that serves as a solid foundation for national development, economic growth, social progress, and a well-informed citizenry.

Poverty Reduction

Education can help to break the cycle of poverty by providing children and individuals with skills and knowledge needed to secure higher income jobs or to set up their own successful businesses. This can have an inter-generational impact by lifting children from low-income families out of poverty.

Economic Growth

A result of an educated and skilled citizenry is an increase in productivity and overall economic activity. Education can drive innovation, development and adoption of homegrown solutions to peculiar challenges in society.

Peace and Security

Education can break cycles of conflicts and violence through empowering students with skills for peaceful resolution of conflicts, teaching tolerance and understanding among different cultural, ethnic, and religious groups and by increasing civil engagements in communities.

Health Improvement

Education improves health literacy, promotes awareness and understanding of preventive measures and encourages the adoption of positive lifestyle changes for better health outcomes.

Child Marriage

Education empowers children, especially the girls and parents with knowledge about the possible health implications of early marriage, of laws and the right to choose when and whom to marry and provide economic opportunities which reduce the dependence on marriage as a source of economic survival.

Child Labour

The number of child labourers reduces significantly with increased school enrolment. In Nigeria about 14 million children aged 5 – 14 are engaged in child labour.¹ In Adamawa State 49.1% of children between ages 5 – 17 are involved in child labour with 33.4% working under unsafe conditions.²

¹ Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning and United Nations Children's Fund, 'Situation Analysis of Children in Nigeria: Ensuring Equitable and Sustainable Realization of Child Rights in Nigeria'.

² Adamawa State Planning Commission, 'Adamawa State Situation Analysis of Children'.

Education Crisis in Adamawa State

The Northeast of Nigeria has witnessed a surge in violence in the last two decades due to the activities of insurgent groups, conflict between farmers and cattle herders and clashes between neighboring communities. More parents have consequently become unwilling to send their children to school especially in rural communities where the children may have to leave their villages to attend classes. The Northeast region including Adamawa State recorded the lowest school enrolment in Nigeria, with more than half of all girls not enrolled in school.³

In Adamawa State, 30.2% of primary school age children are not enrolled in any school. 32.7% of girls of primary school age are out-of-school compared to 27.7% for boys. The number of out-of-school children for junior and secondary school age children are even higher across both genders but more so for girls. The percentage of out-of-school children of secondary school age in Adamawa State was 40.8% total, 45.7% for girls and 36.1% for boys.⁴

³ Adamawa State Planning Commission

⁴ National Bureau of Statistics and United Nations Children's Fund, 'Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2021, Survey Findings Report'.



Challenges and Opportunities

A FINANCING 12 YEARS OF SAFE, FREE, QUALITY EDUCATION

Widespread poverty remains a barrier to child education in Adamawa State. In a state with the fifth highest poverty rate in Nigeria 75.41%,⁵ many families simply cannot afford to send their children to school beyond junior secondary level. Many more engage children in economic activities to augment the household income thereby depriving them from getting education, and the drop-out rates in Adamawa State steadily increase from primary school through junior to senior secondary school.⁶ Despite the free education policy implemented by the state government, hidden fees imposed by schools and government also contribute to students' drop-out rates as students unable to pay PTA/developmental levies, admission fees etc. are prevented from resuming classes or from writing examinations.⁷

The government has set some bold targets to improve key child education indices, including commitments to double girls' enrolment in school, increase secondary school completion to 80% and reduce the number of out-of-school children by 70% by the year 2030.⁸ Attaining these set targets will require increased funding and proper allocation of resources. Despite the country's commitment to spend 22.5% of its national budget on education by 2025, the Adamawa State government proposed a N20 billion budgetary allocation for education, representing 11.4% of the State's 2023 budget,⁹ a long way from this commitment and lower than the UNESCO recommendation of 15 – 20% of the total budget. Additionally, the state government declared a 12-year free education policy and domesticated the Child Protection Bill which legislates free and quality education for every child. The current budgetary allocations are inadequate to provide free basic education to all children in the state and meet the education

commitments in the Child Protection Bill. More financing will be required to cater to the educational needs of all children in the state, and will eliminate hidden fees that prevent children from accessing education.

It is also essential that education budgets are gender-responsive, and work for both girls and boys. This ensures gender-equitable distributions of resources and contributes to equal opportunities for all. An analysis of the previous Adamawa state education budget revealed generic and gender-blind budget lines, making it challenging to ascertain the amount allocated to addressing gender inequalities in education outcomes. Collecting and reporting gender disaggregated data prior to budget design can ensure that budgets are gender-responsive and appropriate for the educational needs of the state.

Recommendation:

FUND MORE. FUND BETTER

- Increase state level financing for education by spending at least 22.5% of the state's budget in line with the commitment made by the federal government.
- Provide counterpart funding to access UBE funds, to allow for increased financing of the education sector.
- Strengthen the education monitoring and evaluation systems by implementing the UNESCO National Education Account to guide proper budget preparation and implementation, and make budgets gender-responsive, transparent and utilized on education.
- Ensure schools are truly free for 12 years by eliminating hidden fees such as education levies, PTA fees and exam fees in all schools.

⁵ National Bureau of Statistics, 'Nigeria Living Standards Survey 2018-2019'.

⁶ Adamawa State Planning Commission, 'Adamawa State Situation Analysis of Children'.

⁷ 'An Education Activist Describes the Fight to End Hidden Fees in Northeast Nigeria | Malala Fund'.

⁸ Mojeed, 'Nigeria Aims for 70% Reduction in Number of Out-of-School Children by 2030'.

⁹ 'Adamawa Budget Breakdown'

B QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing quality education in Adamawa State are numerous, including:

- High poverty rate leading to low enrolment and high drop-out rates,
- Inadequate infrastructure, unqualified and unmotivated teachers and lack of learning materials
- Cultural and religious beliefs that lead to the prioritization of boys' education over that of the girls, conflicts and insecurity.

The recommended Qualified Teacher to Pupil Ratio (QTPR) for primary school in the National Policy on Education is 1:35.¹⁰ Attaining and exceeding this ratio enables efficient teaching and combined with an adequate number of classrooms ensures there is no overcrowding during learning. However, a 2019 census showed a QTPR of 1:45 in public primary schools in Adamawa State. In secondary schools, the state QTPR at 1:25 is better than both the national (1:43) and the recommended (1:35) QTPR.¹¹ This could be because of the lower enrolment and higher drop-out rates in secondary schools in the state.

The training and welfare of teachers directly affects the quality of education of the students. Teachers and staffers that are not adequately trained and properly compensated are unable to perform their duty and are not motivated to put in their best. Simply put, teachers receiving better compensation produce students that perform better.¹² The Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria claims only 50% of Nigerian teachers are qualified.¹³ Although Adamawa State has taken steps to close the gap by recruiting 2000 qualified teachers and plans to establish a Teachers Service Commission to oversee teacher training and welfare, a lot needs to be done. For example, Adamawa State teachers earn some of the lowest salaries, around half the national minimum wage of N32,000. In

addition, due to years of neglect many of these teachers had not been promoted for 14 years.¹⁴

Boys' enrolment in school from primary, junior to senior secondary school have been consistently higher than girls' enrolment in both public and private schools. Enrolment rates dropped across both genders at higher educational levels in Adamawa State.¹⁵ Religious and cultural norms in some communities lead to the prioritisation of boys' education.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education is critical in preparing students for a successful future. STEAM education delivery in schools is enhanced by the availability of modern ICT infrastructure and a well-trained workforce. In Adamawa state, the government has not fully integrated ICT and computer education into public secondary school.¹⁶ Schools also do not provide technical and vocational training needed to empower students with self-sustaining skills that could help reduce the high unemployment rate in the state. Gaining these skills in formal schools could also be an added incentive for more girls to attend school, as they may view this as an important opportunity to gain income-generating skills.

Recommendation:

PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

- Ensure all schools meet standards that ensure quality learning for all children - proper school infrastructure, availability of learning and instructional materials, adequate number of teachers for all core subjects, and recreational facilities.
- Ensure improved welfare and capacity building for all teachers to provide quality learning through the implementation of professional development programs, teacher promotion, new minimum wage, and proper accommodation when necessary.
- Provide the educational resources, teacher training and ICT infrastructure needed to implement STEAM education and vocational skills training in all secondary schools.

¹⁰ Federal Republic of Nigeria, 'National Policy on Education'.

¹¹ Adamawa State Planning Commission, 'Adamawa State Situation Analysis of Children'.

¹² 'When Public School Teachers Are Paid More, Students Perform Better | RealClearScience'.

¹³ '50% of Nigerian Teachers Not Qualified, Says TRCN'.

¹⁴ 'Adamawa Teachers Not Promoted for 14 Years, Receive N18,000 Minimum Wage-SUBEB Boss -

¹⁵ Adamawa State Planning Commission, 'Adamawa State Situation Analysis of Children'.

¹⁶ Wadzani et al. 2016. The Challenges of Facing Successful Integration of ICT in Secondary Schools

C SAFETY AND SECURITY IN SCHOOLS

Schools are supposed to be safe spaces designated for safe and conducive learning. For many children, schools provide the first opportunity to meet other children outside of their families, ethnicity or religion. Children can learn to be tolerant and understanding and to resolve conflicts without violence.¹⁷ However, in North-eastern Nigeria, activities of insurgents, kidnappers and other criminal elements have rendered schools unsafe for both teachers and children. In 2021, 30 out of the 34 junior boarding schools in Adamawa State had their boarding facilities closed due to security concerns.¹⁸ Such disruptions not only affect the progress of the pupils but also the confidence of parents about the safety of their wards away from home. This also means that students who do not reside close to any of the public schools will effectively drop out.

Despite Nigeria's ratification of the Safe Schools Declaration in 2019,¹⁹ the government has failed to implement a cohesive national policy to protect schools and students, particularly in conflict areas. Schools in the North-east in general and Adamawa State remain vulnerable to attack due to the security situation in the region. The Adamawa State government engaged local vigilantes and hunters in its effort to protect students and schools against attacks.²⁰ However, this is a stopgap measure, and a comprehensive policy and robust security response is required to ensure the safety and security of schools, students and staff.

It is important that schools provide functional and gender segregated toilets that prevent open defecation, and water and soap for handwashing after toilet use. However, about 7 in 10 schools in Adamawa state lack functional Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, with a pupil-toilet ratio of 259 to a toilet.²¹ A lack of WASH facilities not only exposes them to WASH-related illnesses, but discourages school enrolment, especially for girls, and places them at risk of sexual related violence when in search of an appropriate and private environment to

relieve themselves. It also makes it difficult for menstruating girls to manage their periods while in school, forcing them to miss school while on their periods.

Climate change poses a new threat to education that Nigeria found itself unprepared for. The October 2022 floods, as a result of the unprecedented rain falls, killed 600 people and displaced 1.3 million people. Thousands of infrastructure, including schools, were submerged under water, destroyed and damaged. Adamawa State was reported to be among the most severely affected states with an estimated 260,000 people potentially exposed to floods and around 1,000 km of land submerged across the state. As a result, 17% of settlements had no educational facility within 30 minutes of walking distance.²² In such cases of insecurity and crises, alternative forms of education not only ensure that children can keep learning, they provide a sense of normalcy for affected children.

Recommendation:

MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE

- Effectively and immediately roll out the implementation of the Safe Schools Plan of Action and the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools.
- Provide functional, safe, inclusive and gender responsive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools to keep girls in school during their periods, protect students from the risks of open defecation and prevent them from contracting WASH related infections due to lack of water and handwashing facilities in schools.
- Ensure that students deprived of access to quality education as a result of the conflict, violence or crises are promptly given access to quality alternative education in a safe environment, in line with the National Guidelines for Accelerated Basic Education.

¹⁷ Langmann, 'Tolerance and Education'.

¹⁸ Nwafor, 'Adamawa Closes 30 Boarding Schools over Insecurity'.

¹⁹ 'Nigeria Ratifies the Safe Schools Declaration - Nigeria | ReliefWeb'.

²⁰ 'Adamawa Engages Vigilantes to Protect Schools against Abduction - THISDAYLIVE'.

²¹ Adamawa State Situation Analysis on Children, 2020. <https://adspc.ad.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Adamawa-State-Child-Situation-Analysis-SitAn.pdf>

²² USAID and REACH, Rapid Needs Assessment, Adamawa Floods, 2022 https://reliefweb.int/attachments/889bd90b-820d-42e9-a406-a2f61bf5027e/REACH-NGA-2203_Adamawa-Floods-RNA_Bulletin_Oct_2022.pdf

Endorsed By

1. ACE Charity
2. African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development (Centre LSD)
3. Ambassadors of Dialogue, Climate and Reintegration
4. Bela Socialite development
5. Care for Vulnerable
6. Center for Girls Education (CGE)
7. Centre for Advocacy, Transparency and Accountability Initiative (CATAI)
8. Child protection Network
9. Children and Women Protection Initiative Adamawa
10. Civil Society Action Coalition on Education For All
11. Connected Development [CODE] / FollowTheMoney
12. Dadah Foundation for Educational Empowerment
13. Danuwa Empowerment Foundation
14. Destitute Child in Education
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17. International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
18. Karatu Library Foundation
19. Legal Defence and Assistance Project - LEDAP
20. Malala Fund
21. Matasa 360 Initiative
22. Mujib Hope Foundation
23. Nancie Ahmadu Education Foundation
24. Onelife Initiative for Human Development
25. Restoration of Hope Initiative (ROHI)
26. Rural Acceleration Empowerment Program
27. Street Watch Initiative for Humanitarian Services and Development (SWIHSD).
28. Street watch initiative
29. Sustainable Collective Advocacy for African Development Initiative (SCAAD Initiative)
30. The Inclusion Project - TIP
31. Yohans Adult Education
32. Youth Hub Africa (YHA)
33. Alhajji Ahamadu Sa'idu, King Song LGA
34. Amira, Numan LGA
35. CAN Chairman, Numan LGA
36. Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Adamawa State
37. District Head of Jimeta
38. Ganye Traditional Council
39. Guyuk Traditional Council
40. Muslim Council of Nigeria (MCN) Adamawa State
41. Muslim Council of Nigeria, Adamawa State Chapter
42. Wakili, Numan LGA
43. Women leader, Bachama Traditional council, Numan LGA
44. Women Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) Numan LGA

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