

**REPORT OF DRPC'S STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FORD FOUNDATION BUILD PROJECT**

**ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SAFE SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA**



**Interactive meeting with traditional leaders by the Africa Union Commission (AUC) team during the country monitoring visit to Nigeria- 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**REPORT**

**JULY 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022**

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**81st Plenary Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) held in Yola, Adamawa state - 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.**



**Panel session on the Implementation of Safe Schools in Nigeria: Policies and Programmes- 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**



**Kano State CSOs working with Ministry of Education to develop a safe schools implementation plan- 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



**Kaduna SSTWG during an advocacy visit to the Permanent Secretary of Kaduna State Ministry of Education- 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022**



**Advocacy visit to the Commissioner of Police in Borno State to Commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child- 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022**



**AUC's Second Interactive meeting with Traditional and Religious leaders on Ending Child Marriage – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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## Introduction

The [development Research and Projects Centre](#) is currently in the second half of the first year of the BUILD grant. This report captures activities in the period of performance from July to November 2022. During this period the dRPC implemented all activities in its workplan. These activities revolved around - implementation of CSO leadership in safe school advocacy; strengthening the capacity of CSOs to implement pilot safe schools' activities; research monitoring and

learning. Activities in the report are organized in chronological order, beginning from July 2022. In addition, during this period the dRPC held several conversations with the Ford Foundation OMT consultant and agreed on an assessment date early in the new year. The OMT consultant selected is: Tracey Konstant, South Africa. Tracey has experience conducting the OMT for The Kebetkache.

### ***The 81<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) held in Yola, Adamawa state - 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.***

The 81<sup>st</sup> Plenary JCCE meeting with the theme: Strengthening of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2023 Agenda was held from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 in Yola, Adamawa State. Chairpersons, JCCE Desk Officers, and other Education Stakeholders. The dRPC, being one of the key education stakeholders in Nigeria was invited to attend this strategic meeting. A total of 41 memos were deliberated upon at the meeting. The meeting also featured presentations of status report by the states and Federal Government Education Agencies and parastatals such as NERDC, NUT, MAN, NUC, and others. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education. In attendance were all Permanent Secretaries of Education of



***Group photograph of dRPC's representative and other participants at 81<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) held in Yola, Adamawa state - 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.***

the 36 States and the FCT, Heads of Education Parastatals, Directors of Education, SUBEB

### ***dRPC workshop in collaboration with NIPSS, Federal Ministry of Education and the Malala Fund to incorporate school safety into State Education Sector Plans, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022***

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, the dRPC in collaboration with the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) and with funding from Ford Foundation convened the third workshop for directors of states implementing SESP on flexible implementation of issues impacting on girls' education at basic education level at the Conference Hall, Alpha-Plus Apartments in Abuja. Forty (40) participants (16 female and 24 male) were in attendance including government officials from the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) led by the Permanent Secretary represented by Hajia Binta Abdulkadir, the Exec-

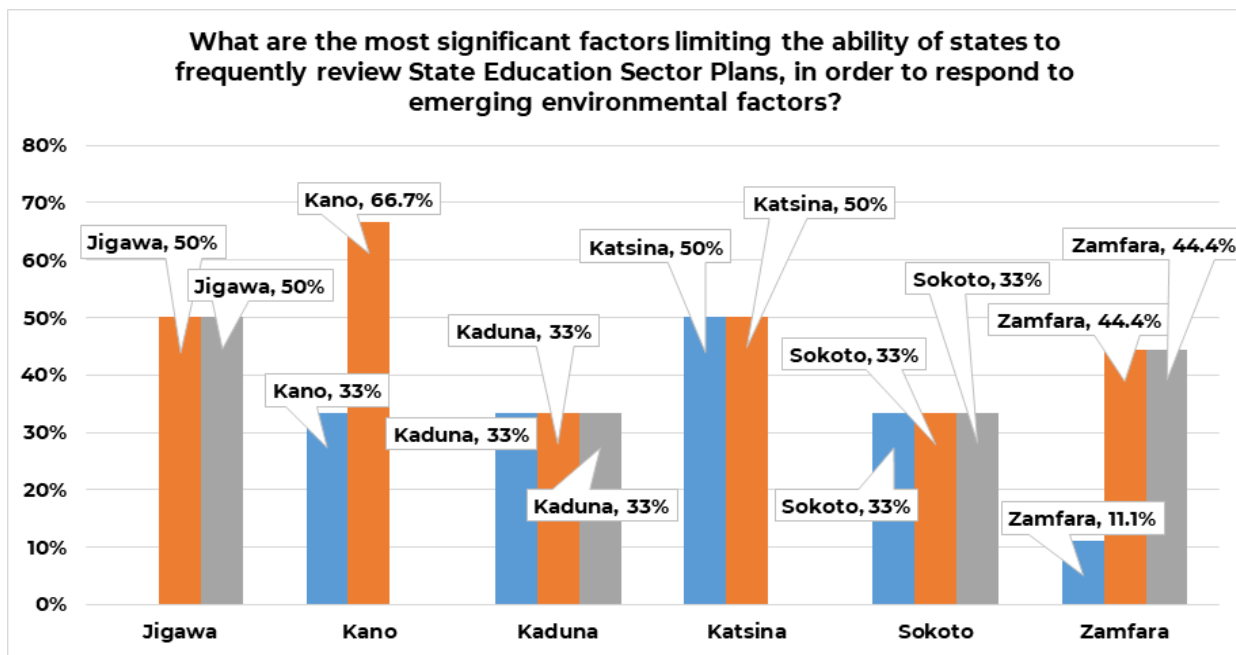
utive Secretary of National Education Resource Development Council (NERDC) represented by Dr. Chima Egbujuo, representatives of UNICEF and Malala Fund, representatives of the CSOs Safe Schools Community and eleven (11) directors from state Ministries of Education and State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara. The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of the directors of states implementing SESP on flexible implementation of issues impacting on girls' education at basic education level in the 6 states. It also gave a platform for

education experts, gender experts, government education strategists and the education partners to discuss responding to Safe Schools in the Education Sector Plans. The workshop’s learning evaluation showed that the most significant factors limiting states’ ability to frequently review State Education Sector Plans in order to respond to emerging environmental factors are lack of finance, state sector plans are not easy to revise and update and poor technical capacity to conduct reviews. The bar chart depicts the level of impact of these factors across the six states based on the participant’s response to the evaluation questionnaires.

At the end of the workshop participants identi-

fied key constraints, learned new planning techniques and approaches to introducing flexibility into the education sector planning process at state level and explored methodologies of strategically incorporating gender planning into the Education Sector Plans. One of the key recommendations from this workshop was to advocate for synergy between the government and partners in the review of ESPs, implementation and performance review of Education Sector Plans. [The dRPC assured its commitment to supporting states in reviewing their ESPs plans to incorporate components responding to safe schools and girls’ education needs at basic level.](#)

[Link to news report](#)



## **dRPC’s Participation in Key National Education Activities**

***dRPC supports six CSOs representing geopolitical zones in Nigeria to provide stakeholders input at the Financing Safe Schools Forum convened by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning in Abuja, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022***

Following the ratification of the International Safe Schools Declaration President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019, the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning convened a one-day national stakeholders’ engagement forum on financing safe schools themed; [Financing Safe Schools in Nigeria, Issues and Strategic Options for the way forward](#), on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 in Abuja. The dRPC being the key

education stakeholder identified for CSOs capacity building on safe schools in Nigeria was invited to support CSOs from the 6 geopolitical zones working at the grass root level in Nigeria to provide input in the activity’s panels. Six education and safe school focused CSOs trained by the dRPC on School Safety and Resilience System were supported to participate in the Financing Safe Schools Forum The CSOs supported in-

clude; TalentPlus Resources International from Lagos State (South-West), Afro Centre for Development, Peace and Justice from Delta State (South-South), Inspiring Generation and Humanity Support Foundation Africa, Ebonyi State (South-East), Hope for Community and Children Initiatives, Kaduna State (North-West), Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative, Benue state (North Central), Hope and Rural Aid Foundation, Adamawa State (North-East). The National Stakeholders' Engagement Forum on Financing Safe Schools is a national response consultative forum with the aim to develop a robust, collaborative and prioritized plan which will adopt the whole society approach to safe schools in Nigeria. [Link to news report](#)



**A cross session of the Panel on Implementation of Safe Schools in Nigeria: Policies and Programmes with two representatives of the CSOs Safe Schools Community supported by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation- 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**

### **Workshop to commemorate Annual International Day to Protect Education from Attack, which held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022**



**Kano State CSOs working in group to develop a safe schools implementation plan with the support of an Assistant Director from the Federal Ministry of Education- 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

In commemoration of the 2022 Annual International Day to Protect Education from Attack, which held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, the dRPC conducted a 3-day Safe Schools System Strengthening Workshop to Improve the Coordination of Safe school activities as state level. Representatives of the workshop included CSOs and government officials from states with high school insecurity - Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara and Sokoto. The workshop revolved around building capacity for implementing the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools in Nigeria. The workshop, which was

held from 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at Babale Suites in Kano State. In attendance of the workshop was Mr. Achede Joseph Owoicho who is the Deputy Director for Senior Secondary Education (SSE) from the Federal Ministry of Education, 25 NGOs, 10 high level Ministry of Education officials and SUBEB officials from Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara. Other education partners who delivered special remarks at the training included the Kano State Government represented by Hajia Yardada Maikano, the Special Adviser to the Governor on NGO; representatives of the Education Strategic Investment and Development Initiative (ESIDI); representative of the World Bank funded Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE); and the Coordinator of Girls Education from the Kano State Ministry of Education. A total of 57 participants (42 male and 15 female) participated in the workshop including the media reporters. Participants at the training from the workshop evaluation indicated that the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free schools has not been adopted by all 4 states.

The main takeaway at the end of the workshop was the issuance of a communique urging the State Governments to adopt and implement the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools (NPSSVFS). Safe Schools

Technical Working Groups were formed in the 4 states with the state ministries of education taking lead and supported by education focused CSOs in the state. [Link to news report](#)

In commemoration of the International Day to protect Education from attack held annually on the 9th of September 2022, the dRPC BUILD project supported the Federal Ministry of Education to conduct the Ministerial Press Briefing on the theme of the celebration "Implementation of the National Safe Schools Policy to Protect Education from attack: Our Collective Responsibility". A webinar was also convened by the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with the dRPC on implementing national safe schools for protective learning environment.



**A cross session at the Ministerial Press Briefing of the FME in commemoration of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack supported by dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation- 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

## Activities Conducted by the Safe Schools Technical Working Groups (SSTWGs) July to October 2022

### **Activities Conducted by the Safe Schools Technical Working Groups (SSTWGs)**

In Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara, twenty six (26) CSOs working with the state Ministries of Education to form an Education in Emergencies coordination point in the States with support from dRPC conducted advocacy visits to the States' Commissioners for Education/ Permanent Secretaries between the 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Each State team conducted an advocacy to the State Ministry of Education asking the Ministry to take the lead in establishing a working group to coordinate interventions of Safe Schools in the states to implement the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-free Schools in the state. All four state teams were trained by the dRPC in collaboration with the Nigerian Education in Emergency Working Group (EiEWGN) and the participation of the Federal Ministry of Education in a 3 day workshop on Safe Schools System Strengthening to Improve Education Stakeholders Coordination held from the 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Kano state. In response to the advocacy, the Permanent Sec-



**Kaduna Safe Schools Technical Working Group (SSTWG) during an advocacy visit to the Permanent Secretary of Kaduna State Ministry of Education- 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

retaries of the Ministry of Education in Kano, Kaduna, Zamfara and Katsina welcomed the group and committed their support to the Safe Schools Technical Working Groups in the states.

Links to news report in [Kaduna](#), [Kano](#), [Katsina](#) and [Zamfara](#)

### **Support to CSOs from the 4 other Geopolitical Zones Safe Schools Community to conduct Advocacies**

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Borno, Ebonyi, Enugu and Oyo states were supported by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation to conduct safe schools activities in commemoration of the 2022 International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC).



**Group photography during an advocacy visit to the Commissioner of Police in Borno State to Commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child- 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

In Borno state, the Concern on Climate Change for the Community Initiative (FOURCI) organized an advocacy visit on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 to the Borno state commissioner of Police, CP Abdul Umar at the Police Head Quarter to advocate for improved security of schools and the release of the schools used by the military and police for shelter to enable schools return to the community for the benefit of students especially the girl child. The advocacy team also urged the Police to protect schools as they vacate them in order to make it safe for the girl child which has been the major target of school attacks in the state. In participation were representatives of the dRPC, UNICEF, Novel Alliance for Development Aid (NADA), Integrated Women and Youth Empowerment Center (IWAYEC) and 9 school girls from Government Junior Secondary School GRA (GJSS- GRA) and Al-Ansar Academy. A total of 32 participants were in attendance (13males and 19 females).

In response to the advocacy, the Police Commis-

sioner said that the force is committed to prevent and respond to GBV as well as keeping schools safe. He assured the stakeholders present that his doors are always open to partners for collaboration and improvement in the security situation in the state while informing the participants that Borno state has been commended nationally for achieving over 90% conviction rate in cases of GBV. Finally he pleaded with the community especially parents to collaborate with the police to tackle the challenge of destroying evidence in cases of GBV.

[The team also visited the Theatre Commander Operation Hadin Kai, Major Zhakom.](#)

In Enugu, Society for the Improvement of Rural People (SIRP) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 conducted an advocacy and sensitization program held at Solid Foundation International School to educate the public and the Ministry of Education officials of the state on the importance of the day of the girl child and the obligations of the of the public to ensure a safe school environment for pupils effective learning. A total of 65 participants (55 females and 10 males) were sensitized on the National Policy for Safety, Security and Violence free schools including 50 Secondary school girls from Solid Foundation International Academy, teachers, the Enugu State Coordinator of Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), Civil Society Health Watch (CSHW) and representatives of the press. In rounding up the sensitization program, the 50 school girls were supported by the school teachers and SIRP to advocate for an End to all forms of gender based Violence, harmful traditional practices and rape which are the issues of school safety in the state through a press engagement. [They also advocated for Enugu State to build a state in which learners at all levels, teachers, school user and the school community, are protected from all forms of man-made and natural hazards.](#)

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 in Oyo State, Cedars for Human Welfare Initiative (CEHUWEI) hosted

a round table session on the perspective / scenario of the Girl Child Rights and Future in the community held at the Training Hall, CRUDAN Office Samonda Ibadan. Thirty-three (33) participants were in attendance including the Director for Child Welfare of the Oyo State from the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, the Commissioner of the Oyo State Teaching Service Commission, Representative of the House Committee Chairman on Education for the Oyo State House of Assembly, Religious & Traditional Ruler, Education and Child Rights CSOs & NGOs, Community Development Council, Academic, ANCOPPS, Students and Media Organizations. The advocacy activity sensitized stakeholders on the need for support, protect and empower the Girl Child and the importance of strengthening the efforts and increased funding to encourage safe and protective school environments. Stakeholders were also urged to lend their voices and resources to the institutionalization of safe and protective environment for education in Oyo State. On the other hand, the CSOs called on the government of the state to improve the budgetary allocation to safe school activities and reduction in the number of out of school children in Oyo State.

At the end of the round table session, participants were better informed about the realities of the issues of the girl child, the level of the menace, the perpetrators and actions to be taken to stop the scourge of Gender Based Violence targeting the girl child. A commitment to support the Girl Child in ending GBV was made by the stakeholders in participation. [Link to news report.](#)

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, Inspiring Generation and Humanity Support Foundation (IGHU-SUF) Africa took a different approach in inaugurating the Ebonyi State CSOs Safe Schools Task Force (EBCSOSST) at the Testrogen Hub,



***A cross session of CSOs representatives taking the inaugural Oath at the Inauguration of the Ebonyi Safe Schools Task Force – 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022***

Agon Place in Ebonyi State. The task force is an organized Civil Society Organizations based and fieldwork-based technical committee with the mandate of mainstreaming, influencing and providing supports that will ensure safety in schools and learning centers across Ebonyi State and its environs. This inauguration was followed by a series of advocacy visits to government MDAs at state and LGA levels in the state to create awareness on the rising issues of school safety and child protection on the state. The programme participants comprise fifteen (15) CSOs and a total of twenty-two (22) participants, twelve males (12) and ten (10) females, who participated with rapt attention, interest and commitment to take action. Most of the participants are aware of the issues of insecurity in schools and some have had first-hand experience of child abuse within the school environment. Knowledge about the Safe School Declaration Document, need for safety preparedness, need for action plan and procedures of Ebonyi State CSO Safe School Taskforce School were all shared during different sections of the meeting; this was followed by transmission of advocacy letters to ministries of Education, Finance, Information and state orientation, others are Secondary Education Board and the Nigerian Police Headquarters, Abakaliki Ebonyi State. [Link to news report](#)

## **International Day of the Girl Child – October 11th 2022**

In commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child which is held on the 11th of October 2022, the dRPC supported a series of safe schools advocacy activities in 8 different

states in Nigeria. A total of thirty (30) education focused indigenous Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from the Safe Schools Technical Working Groups (SSTWG) in the north-west and one

CSO each from across 4 other geopolitical zones who applied for funding support to conduct safe schools activities were supported by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation. Safe Schools Advocacy activities were conducted in Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Borno, Ebonyi, Enu-

gu, and Oyo State to commemorate the 2020 International Day of the Girl Child – October 11th. Click the following link to read more about the activities conducted in the 8 states. [Link to news report](#)

## National Council of Women (NWC) 2022- Panel on School Safety and how it is Exacerbating Early Child Marriage, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The dRPC organized a panel discussion to discuss the issues of school safety and how it is exacerbating early child marriage in Nigeria at the 2022

from Sokoto, Alhaji Sani Umar Jabi, HRH Magagi Zandam, Ambassador Gidado Farfaru from Katsina, Honorable Commissioner, Human Services, Kaduna State- Hajiya Hafsat Baba, the Executive Director of Girls Child Concerns- Dr. Mairo Mandara from Borno and the Executive Director of Nana Girls and Women Empowerment Initiative, Kebbi State. The discussion was anchored by Mrs. Amina Hanga who is the Executive Secretary of Isa Wali Initiative in Kano State.



**Mrs Amina Hanger introducing dRPC's Safe Schools Panel at the National Council on Women Affairs on school safety and how it is exacerbating early child marriage in Nigeria- 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**

National Council of Women (NWC) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 in Abuja. In attendance at the Council were female commissioners from the 36 states of the federation and key stakeholders in the areas of girls and women empowerment. On the panel were government officials, CSOs working the area of safe schools, girls education and child marriage as well as traditional and religious leaders from Zamfara and Sokoto were the issue of school attacks are prevalent. The participants of the panel were HRH Sarkin Yakin Gaji

The discussion was based on the facts that across Nigeria there is learning loss as a result of school safety issues which has gradually increased the vulnerability of young girls to early/child marriage in the country. [It is estimated that that nearly 1,000 students had been abducted at schools across Northern Nigeria, most of them from the north-west region, which has recently been the epicenter of school attacks in Nigeria.](#) The panelists spoke about the improving situation of insecurity in Borno State, the rising communal attacks in Katsina leading to closure of schools for up to 4 years in cert local governments areas, the efforts of the government to keep schools safe in Kaduna State, efforts of the community leaders to ensure learning continues for the girl child in Sokoto state and the reliability of digital alternatives to learning in times of school closure due to insecurity. [Link to news report](#)

## Approval of dRPC's Memo at the 66<sup>th</sup> National Council of Education (NCE) 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

The Ministerial Session of the 66<sup>th</sup> National Council of Education themed **"Strengthening of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda"** was held from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of

November 2022 in Abuja. Based on the theme of the meeting, dRPC submitted a supporting memo at the 81<sup>st</sup> Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) plenary meeting held at Yola, Adamawa State, July 2022 in support of the

memo on Monitoring and Evaluation of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools.



**Group Photo dRPC's representative with the Permanent Secretary FME and other delegates at the 66th NCE meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022, an official letter was submitted by the dRPC to the Federal Ministry of Education for Collaboration in the following areas:

1. Support the production of videos on Secondary School Subjects and get them uploaded on a platform that can be accessed by students from across Nigeria.
2. Provide strategic support to the government

to help implement adopted Memos by providing technical assistance in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), the Establishment of a Dashboard to track activities of government and incorporation of Safety of Schools into Education Sector Plans for consideration by the National Council on Education. This Letter was approved by the Director for Senior Secondary Education in the Federal Ministry of Education on behalf of the Honorable Minister of Education on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. One of the key successes recorded by the dRPC was the approval of the basis of the submitted memorandum from Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) on ***'The Need For all Schools to Ensure Adequate Monitoring of Teachers and Learners During School Hours for Safety and Security in order to Achieve Education 2030 Agenda'***. At the meeting the title of the 2023 JCCE and NCE meeting; ***'Addressing the Challenges of Policy Implementation: A panacea for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda'*** was proposed.

[Link to news report](#)

## Collaboration with TEP Center on World Teachers Day Celebration, 24<sup>th</sup> November

The dRPC working in collaboration with The Education Partnership (TEP) Centre designed and convened In commemoration of World Teachers Day held annually on October 5<sup>th</sup>, and the development Research and Projects Center (dRPC), two leading non-state organizations supporting girls' education across West Africa, called for nominations for the maiden West Africa Teacher Innovation Prize (WATIP). The advert was first launched at the AROCSA conference in Senegal and announced on Devex. The WATIP recognized teachers who have introduced a specific innovation which improved the ability of girls to learn in safe and secure school settings since 2020. Nomination of teachers were made by students (both male and female students); teacher/colleagues; principals; community leaders; Ministries or Departments of Education or Women's

SPONSORED ANNOUNCEMENT



WORLD TEACHERS DAY 2022

In commemoration of World Teachers Day, October 5th, the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) a leading civil society organization in girls education space working across West Africa, calling for nominations of teachers who introduced an innovation which resulted in improved safety and security for girls in school settings since 2020. Nomination of a teacher can be made by students (both male and female students); teacher/colleagues; principals; community leaders; Ministries or Departments of Education or Women's Affairs.

**Call for Expression of Interest:** The dRPC convened the safe schools session at the 3rd African Girls' Summit hosted by the Government of the Republic of Niger and the African Union, 16th-19th November 2021. With support from the Ford Foundation West Africa Office, the dRPC is supporting NGOs in West Africa to implement the safe schools recommendations in the communiqué of the Summit. The dRPC is calling for expressions of interest (EOI) from NGOs and researchers from 16 West African states, working to advance girls' education and functional literacy in the context of emergencies to apply for small grants for activities and researches to be carried out between November 2022 to June 2023.

For more information visit: <https://drcpncg.org/safe-school-advert/>

dRPC is calling for nominations

West African Teachers Prize for innovations on safety and security for girls in schools is out. Students, teachers, principals, community leaders, and ministries can nominate. The dRPC, with support from the Ford Foundation, also helps NGOs in West Africa implement the safe schools' recommendations of the AU. Expressions of interest from NGOs in 16 West African states for grants that run from November 2022 to June 2023 are welcome.

***A display of the WATIP call for teacher nomination as advertised on Devex- September 2022***

Affairs. Self-nominations were also received. Twenty five (25) applications from across Nigeria were received in total after disregarding multiple applications and application not in line with the focus of the awards which is School Safety, Girls Education and Ending Child Marriage. A team of

ten (10) high level education experts from the CSOs safe schools community will evaluate and select the applications to be awarded at the 7th NEDIS Conference coming upon the 24<sup>th</sup> of November in Lagos.

## African Union Commission (AUC) Country Monitoring Visit to Nigeria on Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGMC), 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022



**Cross section of the AUC team meeting with CSO members of the Coalition to End Child Marriage in Nigeria– 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



**A cross section of the AUC's Second Interactive meeting with Traditional and Religious leaders on Ending Child Marriage – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The Africa Union Commission (AUC) was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs with support from the dRPC and Funding from Ford Foundation on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 to meet with 18 CSOs working on Ending Child Marriage in Nigeria and 8 traditional /religious leaders from Kano, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina and Jigawa to discuss the status of Child Marriage (CM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at the Conference Hall of Alpha Plus Apartments in Abuja. The AUC team of 4 people led by Kembo Takam Gagsing Hermine from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). In attendance were 54 participants (28 female and 26 male) including representatives of the Federal Ministry of Education, Federal Ministry of Health, UNICEF, CSO members of the Coalition to End Child Marriage in Nigeria, the press, traditional/religious leaders such as District Head of Gagi from Sokoto, Magaji Zandam of Katsina, Chairman of the Council of Ulama from Jigawa, Jakadan Gusai from Zam-

fara, District head of Durbawa, District head of Bodinga of Sokoto and a representative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Katsina.

Two meetings for the traditional leaders and the CSOs with the AU Commission were supported respectively by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation to share information on implemented projects and Policies on Ending Child Marriage and FGMC, share best practices and highlight the challenges faced by the CSOs in the campaign to end child marriage in the country. Some of the most effective strategies identified by the CSOs include the conditional cash transfer to parents for keeping girls in school, the TO-STAN model and advocacy for free and compulsory education for the girl child. The engagement with the traditional leaders featured the citation of religious and cultural misconception which are now widely tackled by sensitization of the community members in their various communities. The traditional leaders noted that the issues of child marriage is mostly linked with poverty, gen-

der disparity and insecurity in the communities. Hence, they recommended to the AUC that further support should be given in terms of skill acquisition and funding support to educate the girl child in the rural communities. They also noted that the term “child marriage or early marriage’

should be re-coined to enhance better acceptability and prevent clashes with some religious perspective while ultimately protecting the girl child from the harms of child marriage. [Link to news report](#)

## Partnerships /Memberships under the BUILD Project

### International Partnerships

- The dRPC is one of the core members of the Leading through Learning Global Platform of the Education Development Center, USAID-Washington, DC. The platform has agreed for dRPC’s publications on the safe school to be [published on the platform](#).
- West Africa Researchers - Call for researchers to be issued by Devex on 12th September. Through partnership with AROCSA, a call will be launched during the 7-8 AROCSA conference in Senegal. [See link to the Devex advert](#)

## Researches on Education

- The dRPC conducted a research on school safety, as a missing component in State Education Sector Plans (SESPs), we convened validation workshop on 26th of July 2022 with UNICEF, NERDC and Malala Nigeria Champions to determine how school safety can be included in SESP (see link to National TV coverage of the workshop). The dRPC is proposing to work with Malala Champions to take advocacy to GPE. [Link to news report](#)
- The dRPC tracked and disseminated a report on allocations, releases and spend of Safe School Initiative program in Nigeria. dRPC worked in collaboration with the National Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies (NILDS) in producing the Nigeria study in November 2021. [Link to report](#)

## Global Resonance

- **Compilation of Good Practices on ECD:** The dRPC- MacArthur Foundation funded Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE) project that supported girls’ education champions to run sustainable home-based ECCD centers has been submitted as a good practice to feed into the global compilation of Good Practices collected in September for the Transforming Education Summit 2022.
- **2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF):** In July 2022, dRPC was invited to speak in a session on Education Financing during “The 2022 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development organized by the Global Partnership for Education. The side event focused on key issues of inclusive education in a COVID context and how countries are transforming their education systems and addressing those barriers. The recommendations/actions emerging from the session will feed into ongoing conversations on country work on systems transformation and lessons learned and will incorporate youth perspectives on outcomes of national consultations and actions in the lead up to the [Transforming Education Summit](#).

## Successes and Achievements

3. **National Council of Education (NCE) Approves dRPC's Memo on Safe Schools:** One of the key successes recorded by the dRPC was the approval of the basis of the dRPC's submitted memorandum from Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) on *'The Need For all Schools to Ensure Adequate Monitoring of Teachers and Learners During School Hours for Safety and Security in order to Achieve Education 2030 Agenda'*.
4. **Creation of State level Safe Schools Technical Working Groups:** The project has recorded the establishment of 6 State level Safe Schools Technical Working groups in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Lagos and Ebonyi state.
5. **CSOs Capacity building:** Through the Ford Foundation supported Safe Schools project, the dRPC has built the capacities of **55 education focused indigenous CSOs** as master Trainers on Safe Schools and Resilience Building and also system strengthening to improve coordination between stakeholders and government on school safety.
6. **Awareness on School Safety across the 6 geo-political Zones:** The support from dRPC funded by Ford Foundation to the [CSOs Safe Schools Community](#) in conducting 23 state level safe schools sensitization activities including school level capacity, press conferences and advocacy visits has greatly created awareness on the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools and the School Safety in the education setting.
7. **Platforms for CSOs to Contribute to National Output on Schools Safety and Ending Child Marriage:** On the 25th August 2022, 6 CSOs representing the 6 geopolitical zones were supported by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation to provide the CSOs stakeholders input on [financing safe schools in Nigeria Forum organized by the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning](#). Similarly [the dRPC supported CSOs and traditional leaders to meet with the African Union Commission Team on a Country visit to Nigeria to assess the situation of ending Child Marriage \(CM\) and Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting \(FGM&C\)](#).

## Challenges and Lessons Learned

1. The Federal Ministry of Education, despite finalizing the national policy document on Safety, Security and Violence free schools since October 2021, is yet to launch the policy for formal dissemination at state level. This delayed launch has caused poor synergy between state level and the federal level Ministries of Education in working to collaborate with CSOs to implement the safe schools policy. This pending launch has also made the implementation of activities of the Safe Schools Technical Working Group (SSTWG) at state level challenging as there are no assigned desk officers as custodians of the policy implementation.
2. The dRPC in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education are working towards the establishment of Education in Emergency coordination points in the states. In the course of supporting the state level EiE teams for inauguration at state level, the Education in Emergencies National Coordinators noted that for each of the proposed states, there must be a declaration of emergency on education by the state government. This brought us to the learning of states such as Katsina and Zamfara are yet to declare a state of emergency on education despite the rising numbers of banditry attacks on schools and communities leading to school closures. This has hindered the establishment of the state level EiEWG and the support from

the CSOs and partners in directly intervening in the situation of the schools. As a result, we constituted a Safe Schools Technical Working Group (SSTWG) in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara with the support of the federal and state levels Ministries of Education.

## Upcoming Activities.

- dRPC to support 5 CSOs from the CSOs Safe Schools Community to participate in the Technical Review, Validation Workshop on Monitoring and Data Collection Tool for Attacks on Education in Nigeria- 20<sup>th</sup> -35<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Nassarawa State
- #16daysofactivism:
  - ~ 3-day Sensitization of Hisba Officials from Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Zamfara States on Gender based Violence. 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> December 2022
  - ~ Support to National Council of Women Society (NCWS) to conduct press conference - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022
  - ~ Experience Sharing Workshop for Commissioners of North Western States on Child Marriage 28<sup>th</sup> -1st December 2022
- Training of officials of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMoWA) on establishing Situation Room and data disaggregation- December 2022
- The GCE-US Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Community of Practice meeting: At the next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, dRPC plans to make presentation on its supported intervention designed to enhance health outcomes for marginalized and vulnerable children in health facilities through increased access to Early Childhood Development (ECD), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) case management services in Borno State.
- Regional Launch of the Kinshasa Declaration from Survivors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence on Principles on Survivors' and Victims' Rights to Reparation, Participation and Co-creation.: The dRPC will be collaborating with Global Survivors Fund, Conjugal Slavery in War, York University, Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Global Fund for Women to launch the Kinshasa Declaration at the Regional level in December 2022.




### **development Research & Projects**

**Centre (dRPC)** is registered intermediary non-profit organization established with a mission of strengthening the capacity (organizational and technical capacity) of civil society organizations to design and implement transformative and sustainable development interventions which engage government and address felt needs of the vulnerable and excluded such as women and girls. Our vision is for an ethical, inclusive and sustainable model of development engaging beneficiaries, civil society organizations as catalytic agents of change and government agencies for scale up, sustainability and ensuring public interest and public good.


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