

GIRLS EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION REPORT

2013-2024



TDT Project- Teacher practical mentoring session utilizing language transition skills for Grade 3 lessons at Racecourse Primary School, Kano.

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Future Workers Project: Tailoring Practical lessons for TVET Students supported by the dRPC at Mairo Tijjani Science and Technical College, Kano- Nigeria

Introduction

With over 30 years of experience in education programming in Nigeria, dRPC has a proven track record of impactful interventions in the sector with specific focus on Girls Education and Child Protection. The dRPC Girls Education piece of work focus on improving access to quality education for girls, expanding opportunities for girls' empowerment through skills acquisition and career development programs and addressing the issues of Gender Based Violence in and from School for Girls through various projects implemented. This pillar of work cuts across Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD), Basic Education and Secondary education through collaborations with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies at the state and National levels. Our long-term goal is to be a key influencer and leader in knowledge generation and project implementation of transformative poverty and exclusion reduction interventions targeting women and girls, through research, pilot projects and strategic dissemination of best practices to inspire replication. Outlined below are some of the dRPC girl education projects achievements:

Education Projects 2013 -2019

1. Partnership To Strengthen Innovation and Practice In Secondary Education (PSIPSE) 2013-2019, #Skills4Girls4Life:

Through two phases of the MacArthur Foundation funded PSIPSE project implemented in Kano and Jigawa state in collaboration with the state Ministries of Education and the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) at the National level, the dRPC enhanced the implementation of the new secondary school curriculum, particularly for girls' schools to expand empowerment opportunities for girls to enter the labour force. In total over **10,000 girls in 33 public Senior Secondary Schools** who were educationally disadvantaged were impacted by this project. Approximately **200 teachers** and principals were trained; school libraries were established in **8 schools**; After School Clubs were supported in **15 schools**; **over 100 staff** of MDAs in education were trained and most importantly pass rates in WAEC doubled in the project focal schools compared to the control schools. The first phase successfully bolstered the capacity of education administrators and principals to implement the New National Curriculum for senior secondary schools, with a particular emphasis on core subjects such as English, Mathematics, Civic Education, and Trade Subjects. As a result, in 2015, PSIPSE schools (target schools) out-performed Control schools with a vast difference of **18.7%**. A total of **23.4%** of girls representing **517 of 2214** female students in PSIPSE Schools scored 5 credits and above compared to just **85 out of 1794** girls or **4.7%** of female students in the Control Schools. In the second phase, the focus shifted towards expanding empowerment opportunities for girls, particularly in entering the labour force. Key achievements of this phase included:

- a) Supporting the review of the Civic Education Curriculum by NERDC, resulting in significant improvements to reflect current trends and realities (<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/308745-nigerian-govt-begins-review-of-civic-education-curriculum.html>; <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/fg-centre->

[review-civic-education-curriculum.html](#)).

- b) Commissioning a review of the 34 Craft Subjects Curriculum to incorporate entrepreneurship content, which was approved during the 62nd National Council on Education (<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/trade-subjects-get-boost-with-curriculum-upgrade.html>).
- c) Adoption of After School Clubs by the Jigawa State Ministry of Education Science and Technology, providing girls with vocational skills training opportunities.
- d) Provision of support to selected schools with resources such as chicks, tailoring machines, fabrics, and other items to expand the After School Clubs initiative.
- e) Over 100 girls who benefited from vocational skills training ventured into various trades/businesses after graduation.
- f) Supporting Planning and Management Systems Committees in five GPE states to align implementation strategies between PSIPSE and other education projects.
- g) Capacity building workshops for officials in leadership and management for girls' education, as well as strengthening data management capacities at the lower level <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/218392-nipss-workshop-girls-education-holds-abuja-live-updates.html>.

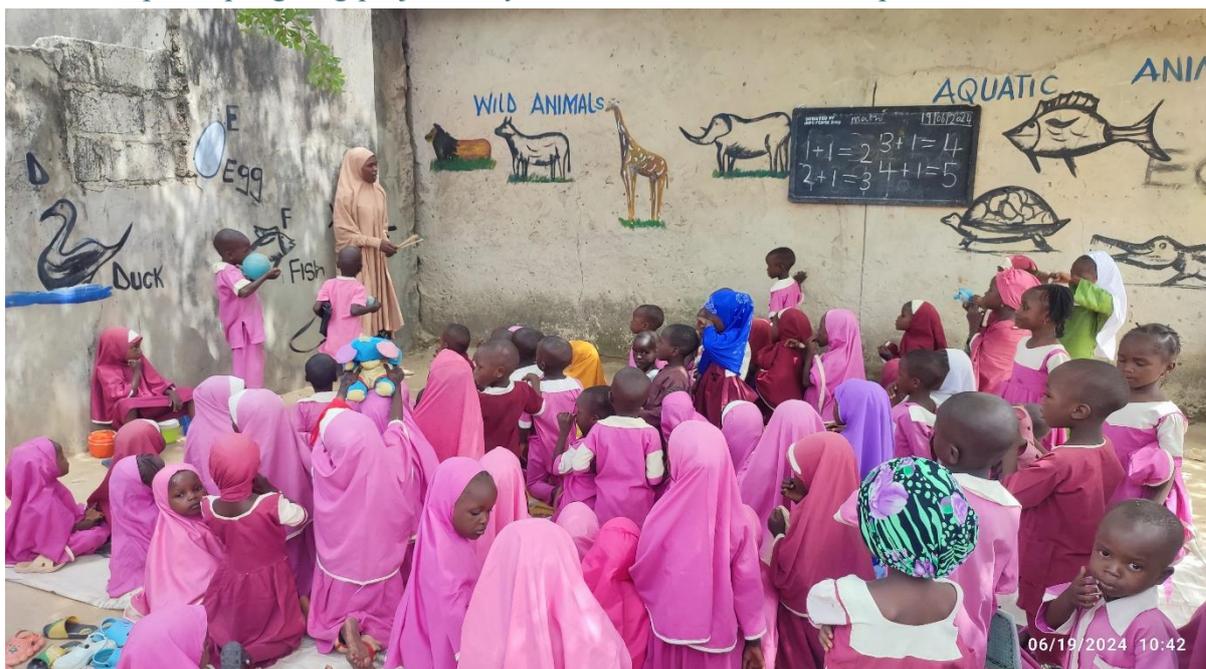


The #Skills4Girls4life program supported After School Club activities- Production of room air fresheners by girls' beneficiaries

2. Girls Empowerment Education Project- ECCD (Ongoing):

As the dRPC recorded the successes of the MacArthur Foundation funded PSIPSE project, it became pertinent that the girls who attained at least 1 or 2 subjects; failing to attain the required 5 subjects or could not be supported financially by their families to transition to tertiary education had their life chances reduced as they anticipated a life of early marriage; domestic servitude; seclusion coupled with a strong sense of failure. This identified problem from the project beneficiary birthed an innovation of the dRPC Girls

Empowerment Education Project in 2019. The dRPC's innovative concept empowered 40 girls to establish and manage community based ECCD schools within the safety of their homes. The objective was to reach out to the millions of out-of-school children in their communities, particularly in Kano and Jigawa states in Northern Nigeria - <https://thenationonlineng.net/how-school-leavers-boost-eccd-in-kano-jigawa/>. As a result, **9,820 pupils** have been enrolled for ECD education across **10** communities with an average of **103** pupils per school and **89.74% of the schools** breaking even and making profit to employ **82** young people in these communities. Through this project, the dRPC hosted a national dialogue in February 2022 which was featured at the [Global Campaign for Education – US \(GCE- US\) -ECCD Community of Practice Webinar](#) on the 14th of March 2023. <https://drpcngr.org/project/early-childhood-care-and-development/>



3. Future Workers Project (FWP) Support for Secondary Schools in Nigeria:

As an education sector response to the Covid – 19 pandemic which led to knowledge loss resulting from school closure and consequently limited employment, the dRPC implemented the FWP as the only NGO focused on strengthening career guidance and counselling in Business, Vocational, Science and Technical Colleges as an approach to support Youth entering the Informal Sector. This approach was an innovation to stem the learning loss of the most vulnerable in-school youth, who are unlikely to transit to universities and unlikely to secure formal employment in the world of work saddled with limited business opportunities in an economy in recession due to Covid-19 in Nigeria. Through this project, **5,588 business, technical, and vocational students** from **34** Government Science and Technical Schools across **20** Nigerian states were supported through extra lessons and tutored for the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) examinations. This project focused on providing career guidance and counselling for **3, 714** students by indigenous experts across various fields to improve their knowledge base on career prospects for graduates of technical and vocational education and the importance of technical skills acquisition

and entrepreneurship transition to the world of work. An evaluation report revealed that **30** out of 37 engaged principals committed to introducing/ re-introducing career counselling as part of the extra curricular activities in the schools. Another pillar of this project implemented in collaboration with the Nigeria Youth SDG Network created awareness to over **300 youths** through webinars about the challenges faced by youth, especially school-leavers of technical secondary schools and University entering the labour market in covid-19 affected economy to be able to access lines of credit, mentoring and programs to develop their micro and small businesses. The project also strengthened the leadership and organizational capacity of youth led CSOs working share challenges of increasing unemployment due to covid-19 pandemic. <https://dailytrust.com/covid-19-centre-supports-schools-to-up-learning-exam->

4. Safe Girls in Safe Schools Project (2021- 2024):

The dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation implemented the Safe Girls in Safe Schools Project (Ending GBV in and from schools) with the aim to support school safety for the girl child at basic and secondary school level as the emerging strategy for protecting girls and keeping them in schools with a broader objective of protecting the girl child from Gender Based Violence. Through this project, over **615 students** were trained as master trainers on disaster response and emergency evacuation drills



Students of Mairo Tijjani Science and Technical College during the Fashion and Tailoring Practicals.



Career Guidance Week conducted in 30 Science and technical schools

consistent with the National Minimum Standards for Safe Schools across **145 Secondary** schools in **14 states** through 14 CSOs and sensitized over **2,620,000** people on the National policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools. The dRPC also built the capacity of **85** government officials National and State level and **75** Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representatives as catalytic agents to the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration in Nigeria. Through the conduct of these activities in collaboration with the Education in Emergency Partners, the dRPC was invited to join the Nigeria Education in Emergency Working Group (EiEWGN) in April 2022. The Safe Girls in Safe Schools Project supported the establishment of the CSOs Safe Schools Technical Working group with the support of the state Ministry of Education and indigenous CSOs in Lagos, Kaduna, Katsina, Ebonyi, and Zamfara. This TWG works closely with the state ministry of Education to implement the National Policy on Safety, Security and violence Free Schools in Nigeria. <https://dailytrust.com/how-state-govts-are-woood-working-to-implement-safe-school-policy/>

Through the ending Gender based violence pillar of this project, the dRPC built the capacity of over **298** Hisbah commanders in Kano state through series of Master training and stepdown trainings on the Islamic perspective of role of Hisbah in Ending GBV and Girl Child Protection. This training was conducted for Hisbah Commandants in 5 states, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Kebbi and Zamfara from November 2022-December 2023. <https://drpcngr.org/project/cso-safe-school-project/#safe-school-number>



Safe Schools Project: Evacuation Drills and Emergency Response training Conducted at Hong LGA, Adamawa state

5. Case Study on the Education Sector Support Programme:

In 2015, dRPC was commissioned by the Brookings Institution to conduct a case study on the Education Sector Support Programme (under the Millions Learning Case Study) with the objective of understanding where and how large-scale learning has been achieved and what were some of the underlying factors behind it. The study was part of a multi-country study conducted by the Brookings Institution for the publication of

Millions Learning Scaling up Quality Education in Developing Countries (<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/FINAL-Millions-Learning-Report.pdf>).

6. Teacher Training Program for Grade 3 Transition from Hausa to English in Kano State – Teacher Development for Transition (TDT):

The dRPC with funding from the US Embassy in Abuja-Nigeria strengthened the capacity of 100 Grade 3 teachers for transitioning from Hausa to English Language in terms of teaching methodologies, resource materials and monitoring and mentorship skills for teachers in collaboration with the Kano State Universal Basic Education Board, Sa'adatu Rimimi College of Education and the American Spaces Kano. A learning assessment following the mentorship pillar of the project revealed that 90% of the teachers were able to apply the new methodologies and skills learnt at the training to classroom practice. Other notable successes recorded from this project includes a cascade of the training to 155 SUBEB Grade 3 Teachers trained by the beneficiaries of the TDT- Teachers' Training through the Mandatory Professional Development Meetings sustained by the Kano State Ministry of Education through SUBEB. The project also produced a Manual for training of teachers on transition from using Vernacular as a medium of instruction to English Language consistent with the Education Language Policy in Nigeria. [US embassy, DRPC support 100 English teachers on language translation in Kano \(thenationonlineng.net\): <https://thenationonlineng.net/us-embassy-drpc-support-100-english-teachers-on-language-translation-in-kano/>](https://thenationonlineng.net/us-embassy-drpc-support-100-english-teachers-on-language-translation-in-kano/)

Another achievement of this project was the total of 600 educational English and Hausa books in batches to the Children Section of the Murtala Muhammed Library through the Kano State Library Board to support resources utilized by students and teachers for the ASC Grade 3 Teacher Program at the library. [Centre donates primary, pre-primary books to state library – Daily Trust](#)



7. 3rd Party Monitors of National Social Investment Programme (N-SIP) In Kano State:

Between 2018 and 2019, the Development, Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) took charge of coordinating third-party monitors for the National Social Investment Programme (N-SIP) in Kano state. The project aimed to augment the pool of accurate data regarding beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), N-Power, and Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) across the 18 Local Government Areas. It also sought to document beneficiaries' feedback, both positive and negative, to facilitate recommendations for enhancing the programme in Kano state. Specifically, under the HGSFP, monitoring activities focused on assessing whether the feeding programme led to increased access to and retention of pupils in primary schools within the targeted LGAs in Kano.



dRPC supported CSOs representatives conducting an FGD session with women service providers for the N-SIP Home Grown School Feeding Program

dRPC's Global Resonance on Education

1. dRPC Participates at the 1st AU Pan African Conference on Women and Girls Education 2024:

1. In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education, the dRPC disseminated Research and Project at the AU Pan African Conference held in Addis Ababa from the 2nd – 5th July 2024. The dissemination at the stand made copies of the researches and reports available to over 600 physical participants at the conference including the Gender Review of Education Sector Plans (2011-2023) in collaboration with Malala Fund, the Future Workers Project; Education Sector Response to Covid-19 for Youth entering the Informal Sector funded by Open Society, dRPC Girls Empowerment Education Project on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) sustained by the dRPC from the MacArthur Funded PSIPSE Project and the Align supported Research on Gender Norms, Media Narratives and Women in Appointive Positions in Nigeria.



2. Multi Dimensional Approach to Ending Child Marriage:

The development Research and Projects Center (dRPC) - Nigeria and Girls First Fund (GFF)- Uganda held a panel on Ending Child Marriage at the GPE/ Echidna Giving organized Education Zone during the 2023 Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda held from 17th -20th July 2023. The panel centered the voices and showcase the work of organizations from the Global South who are using different approaches through education to influence reductions in child marriage rates especially from Nigeria and Uganda. The dRPC shared the findings from a 12-year longitudinal competitive study which examines how gender responsive structures and programs of six state governments in Nigeria can predict and explain rates of reduction in child marriage. The study explores the intersectionality between gender responsiveness in education sector planning and the transformation of the crisis of child marriage in Nigeria. GFF and their grantee partner Girls To Lead Africa from Uganda shared experiences on leading positive transformation in communities using SRHR education to influence reductions in child marriage rates Uganda. As contribution to knowledge and global best practices, the dRPC recommends that global thought leaders adopt and

replicate the mixed method research approach which gives a strong predicting power and provides a framework for testing and explain girls' education outcomes in terms of process factors inherent to education sector.
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wuM5LawFqK3mROlIr7UEsPrk5okMxUu/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107313715279261774796&rtpof=true&sd=true>



3. dRPC supports the Africa Union Commission (AUC) Country Monitoring Visit to Nigeria on Girls' Education, Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation & Cutting – 10th November 2022:

The Africa Union Commission (AUC) was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs with support from the dRPC. As part of the support, the dRPC brought together 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) in Abuja. The AU monitoring team led by the AU Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and other Harmful Practices; Hon. Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing, visited Nigeria and engaged Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies; Coalition of Civil Society Organizations; Traditional and Religious Leaders, United Nations Agencies Offices and other International/Development Partners working to eliminate Child Marriage and other Harmful Practices in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Some of the Challenges highlighted at the meeting by the CSOs include weak coordination, lack of funding support, lack of updated and disaggregated data on the incidence of child marriage and services rendered to victims of child marriage across the country, poor policy framework exists with gaps in our laws that continue to foster impunity, etc. The AU monitoring team advised the CSOs to redouble their efforts in tracking and monitoring the implementation of the AU campaign in Nigeria and think of more creative ways to raise funding to support interventions aimed at reducing the high rate of child marriage in Nigeria. On the other hand, the brainstorming session with the traditional and

religious leaders raised concern about the campaign branding and the approach used to address the issue of child marriage. The group resolved that the Federal Government should take steps to rebrand the Campaign Name to suit all-inclusive and respond to the needs on the ground especially the traditional/religious leaders. <https://guardian.ng/news/au-parleys-csos-religious-leaders-in-nigeria-to-end-child-marriage/>



4. dRPC features on Safe Schools at the 3rd African Girls Summit - Niamey, Niger 2021:

With the support of Ford Foundation, the dRPC organized Pre-Summit Session during the 3rd African Girls Summit -Niamey, Niger on Safe Girls, Safe Schools - Implications of School Attacks for Girls' Education in West Africa. The session discussed the frequency of attacks against schools in West Africa, short- and long-term impact of attacks against schools and learning centers across the region and beyond and the Safe School Declaration initiative. Speakers at the panel were the Senior Policy Strategy Adviser at the Global Coalition to Protect Education from attacks, GCPEA, The North-east Nigeria Regional Civil Society Network, also the Regional Coordinator of the Lake Chad Basin CSO Network, The District Head of Gagi in Sokoto state Nigeria and the Coordinator Monitoring and Evaluation, , Lumière des Filles et des Femme (LFF) Maradi Niger. As an outcome of this pre- Summit Session, recommendations from the panel were presented at the main Summit and captured at the Summit's communique as a call to stakeholders and Governments in Africa towards ending child marriage. The panel recommendations include; (1) School safety for Girls should be a criteria for national governments approval for establishment of schools, (2) School safety plan should be a component of Education Sector Plan across Africa, (3) School safety must be included as criteria for school assessment, Involvement of traditional, religious and political leaders to champion the cause of Girls and Boys and (4) Language barrier has continued to be a stumbling block to effective communication between countries in the Sahel hence the need for deliberate effort towards mitigating this challenge.



5. Links to Education Project Documentaries and Media Reports:

- dRPC's Girls Empowerment Education Project Documentary- ECCD - <https://youtu.be/eTawJywoatQ>
- dRPC Commemorates the 1st International Day of Play 2024: <https://youtu.be/TlaxScXsTp0>
- Feature of dRPC's Work on ECCD at the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) -US Inclusive Education and ECCD Community of Practice Platform: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoGS45YgBPc>
- dRPC/ Malal Fund Gender Review of Education Sector Plans in Nigeria 2011-2023 Dissemination Workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDjRMelMw4U>
- dRPC features Panels on Safe Schools – Teachers roles in preventing Gender Based Violence in Schools at the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria Annual Conference: <https://youtu.be/b0AUEMRX5FM?feature=shared>
- National Dialogue on Play- Based Learning in ECCD- IECD Policy Implementation: https://youtu.be/L4aBCv_yG6w?feature=shared
- dRPC leads discussions on Security & Safe Learning environment through Safe Schools Policy implementation: <https://youtu.be/n1eb885RK0E?feature=shared>