



Good Practices on Gender and GBV Risk Mitigation Integration across the Humanitarian Programme Cycle phases by Education Clusters

Nigeria



This Case Study highlights the leadership of the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) in Nigeria in monitoring and advocating for increased government-earmarked funding for education, particularly for girls' safe access to education, including gender-targeted and GBV risk mitigation interventions. It is an excellent example of Education Cluster/EiE WG-led evidence-based advocacy for gender-responsive public expenditure for girls' education in a context where humanitarian funding requested and received for women and girls still falls short of the needs.

What is the background?

The Government of Adamawa State has created a conducive environment for girls' education. The Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) has found in the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs a strong ally and champion for advocacy on laws, policies and procedures reducing risks and barriers to girls' access to education.

To understand how much was spent by the government on education, particularly girls' education¹, the *Centre for Advocacy Transparency and Accountability Initiative (CATAI)*, a member of the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) – with Cluster's guidance and financial support from the Malala Fund – conducted a review of the Adamawa State Education Sector budget between 2021 and 2023. The budget analysis found that:

- ▶ The 2021 and 2022 earmarked budgets for Education are within the [Incheon Declaration](#) standard of 15–20%.
- ▶ In 2023, the earmarked funding for education increased in absolute terms. However, the proportion of the overall state budget for education has actually decreased (only 11.4% compared to 17% and 16% in the previous years).
- ▶ The actual budget performance – i.e. expenditure against planning – was respectively 54 and 61% for 2021 and 2022.
- ▶ Over 60% of the expenditures are allocated for administrative costs and less than 30% for actual Education programmes.
- ▶ Although gender-targeted and GBV risk mitigation interventions were implemented in schools – including school feeding programmes to curb girls' dropout and enhancing gender-responsiveness of WASH facilities in schools – the budget for these interventions was not explicitly tagged with a 'Gender/GBV marker'.

A budget monitoring and advocacy tool for a more gender-responsive education financing

The budget review was an eye-opener to the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG); not only did it **reveal that the education budget has decreased** over the past two years, but it is **not substantially spent on actual education programmes**, and the percentage allocated to gender-targeted and GBV risk mitigation interventions was unknown.

The Cluster decided to build on the review findings and advocate with the government not only for the **increase of the overall budget for Education** but also for **equity-based and gender-responsive allocation and expenditure of funding**.

In May 2023, the [Education Budget Monitoring and Advocacy Working Group](#) was established with 20 members comprised of the State Ministry of Education, the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) coordinator, local and international organisations members of the Cluster, in addition to a young Nigerian woman activist and champion for girls' education with the primary purpose of leading sustained advocacy for increased government allocation for gender-responsive education responses.

The Working Group reviews allocations and expenditures of the state-earmarked education budget. It uses state data on girls' enrolment in basic, primary, and secondary schools to advocate for and obtain more tagged funding for girls' safe access to education.

¹ In 2020, Nigeria was featured in the UN Women UNFPA research on [Funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian programming](#)



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What are the opportunities?

- 1 The Education in Emergencies Working Group (EIE WG) sees this Working Group as an opportunity to create an evidence-based tool to mobilise further funding for girls' education. The Working Group's work will complement that of the Cluster and work along the Nexus to build a bridge between emergency and sustainable girls' education funding.
- 2 The Ministry of Education, being a leading member of the Working Group, ensures the government's ownership of this initiative. It gives more voice and weight to the Working Group advocacy work.
- 3 Conducting quarterly analysis of the State Education budget and providing tools to monitor expenditures on gender-targeted and GBV risk mitigation interventions will support the government to allocate and monitor the gender-responsiveness of the State education budget while increasing its accountability to girls.
- 4 The support provided by the Monitoring and Advocacy group to the Adamawa State and the Ministry of Education will help move from project-based funding to a more planned and coherent fund expenditure.

"This is a pilot that we hope can be replicated in the other two states, but also by other clusters in other contexts. It is an initiative, not just assuring equitable resources towards education but also as a tool to monitor the actual implementation of those allocations."

Nigeria EIE WG Coordinator

What are the foreseen challenges?

- ▶ Continued political will and government commitment to implement budget monitoring findings and recommendations.
- ▶ Access to financial and human resources for field monitoring visits.
- ▶ Technical capacity of Government stakeholders to use the Budget Monitoring tool with the Gender/GBV marker.

Even with the strongest buy-in from the Ministry of Education, the success of this initiative will rely on a sustained advocacy with Adamawa State authorities and strong financial support from donors.

Looking forward

One

A consultant will support the development of a tool to monitor the State Education budget, with a focus on school-related GBV risk mitigation and gender-targeted interventions, drawing from the IASC Gender and Age Marker (GAM) tool

Two

The Working Group will strengthen the capacity of state authorities on the use of the Budget Monitoring tool and support its rollout

Three

The Working Group will participate in the next High-Level State Finance Conference to present the findings of the budget review and the newly developed monitoring tools, including the 'Gender/GBV marker'. The main objective is to advocate for an increase in the overall budget for education and ensure that interventions aimed at increasing girls' safe access to education, including GBV risk mitigation interventions, are systematically planned, budgeted, and monitored in Adamawa State investments.

Four

As the Education Cannot Wait (ECW)-funded Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) renewal will take place in 2024, the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) will highlight and build on this initiative for gender-responsive system strengthening in EiE.

Five

Learning from the Adamawa State initiative, the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiE WG) will replicate this practice in Borno and Yobe States



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How can you get more information on this initiative?

For additional information, including on how to financially support the Nigeria EiE WG on this initiative, contact:

Muhammad Riaz
mriaz@unicef.org

and

Bernard Orimbo
Bernard.orimbo@savethechildren.org

Further resources on resource mobilisation for Education:

[IASC GBV Guidelines TAG for Education](#)

[ECW Guidance for Grantees on gender-responsive budgeting](#)

[Nigeria Humanitarian Fund project vetting scorecard](#)

Reference group

