



NIGERIA GRANTEE BRIEF

POPULATION & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INITIATIVE CENTRE FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION

Executive Director: Habiba Mohammad
C4C Fellows: Habiba Mohammad and Folashade Olumeyan (Program Officer)
Location: Kaduna State, Nigeria
Organization's annual budget: \$460,000
Champions for Change Grantee since 2014
Total C4C Funding Received: \$40,000
Website: Not available

ABOUT POPULATION & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INITIATIVE CENTRE FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION

Population & Reproductive Health Initiative (PRHI) began in 2006 as a 5-year collaboration between the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley (UCB) & Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)—funded by the National Institutes of Health. The PRHI is now an independent research & implementation organization affiliated with Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital. The outcome of their collaborative research led to the establishment of the Centre for Girls' Education (CGE) in 2008, supporting girls in rural communities in Northwestern Nigeria by reducing social and economic barriers to girls' schooling. The goal of the PRHI is to enhance the capacity of key institutions in Northern Nigeria, including government and civil society, to develop innovative strategies to improve maternal, adolescent, reproductive, and child health in the region through improving educational opportunities for girls. PRHI-CGE's organizational focus areas include: RMNCAH, gender equality, girls' health, and education.

RMNCAH ADVOCACY

Project Title: "Improving Girls' Health through Access to Education in Kaduna State: Improving RMNCAH for young women ages 10-14 in Kaduna State"

Project Dates: August 15, 2015 – August 16, 2016

Geographic Focus: Kaduna State

Northern Nigeria has the one of the world's highest rates of early marriage and childbearing. The median age of marriage for girls in rural northwestern Nigeria is 15.2 and 45% of adolescents aged 15-19 have begun childbearing. Early childbearing has dire implications for girls' health. Underdeveloped physiology, combined with a lack of knowledge and access to health services, significantly contributes to risks of maternal mortality and morbidity. Infants of adolescent mothers are 60% more likely to die compared to infants born to adult women. Girls' education has proven to be one of the most effective means of delaying marriage and childbearing, thereby improving use of prenatal care and delivery services and increasing contraceptive use. The Governor of Kaduna state in November 2015 eliminated all school fees and levies for primary and junior secondary school. This provides an important opportunity for adolescent girls to achieve basic education. This project seeks to ensure that adolescent girls remain in school, learn about their health, delay childbearing and are able to make informed choices about their reproductive health.

PRHI-CGE's project goal is to build the capacity of adolescent girl leaders in Kaduna State to advocate effectively for reduced school fees and improved education, to reduce poor RMNCAH outcomes for in-school girls.

KEY IMPACT

Since project implementation, there has not been one report of non-compliance with the new no fees policy.

Rise Up's Champions for Change (C4C) initiative improves the lives and health of women, children, and youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. C4C achieves large-scale impacts by investing in visionary local leaders and organizations through advocacy, leadership development, organizational strengthening, and grantmaking. In Nigeria, C4C's national network is advocating for improved reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. In Kenya, C4C's national network is advocating to improve young people's health by preventing and combating non-communicable diseases. For more information please visit <http://www.championingchange.org/>

The project's objectives include:

1. To monitor the implementation of the new free education policy in Zaria, Giwa, and Sabon Gari Local Government Areas in Kaduna State.
2. To assess and document the reasons underlying the poor literacy learning outcomes in rural Kaduna schools.
3. Communicate findings and the tremendous need for improved literacy and numeracy training in the first three years of primary school to key governmental, civil society, and other stakeholders.
4. Increase the public demand for more effective literacy training and increase understanding among key government stakeholders of the critical need to respond to this demand.

IMPACTS TO DATE

- Commitments made by School-based Management Committees (SBMCs) and 15 community volunteers from 25 schools to monitor the implementation of the no fees policy in order to reduce the school dropout rate for girls in these schools. Since project implementation, there has not been an incident of non-compliance with the new no fees policy.
- Built the capacity of 22 girls (called CGE cascading mentors) in qualitative research methodology and advocacy.
- Desk review and 200 interviews were conducted with students, teachers, parents, administrators and NGO staff, highlighting the underlying causes of poor literacy outcomes in rural Kaduna state schools. This document is being used for evidence-based advocacy with local and state government to improve the quality of literacy teaching in primary school.