



Nigeria Education Crisis Response

Quick Facts

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Students who have completed the nine-month program have scored higher than anticipated on their tests--an indicator of success

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731 non-formal learning centers have been established in five states: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe

3

USAID's three-year initiative expands educational opportunities to 87,959 internally displaced students ages 6 to 17 (of which 47,922 are girls)

As millions flee violence in Northern Nigeria, children's educational needs are often left behind

Violent attacks by extremists in Northern Nigeria have forced more than 2.2 million people to flee their homes—including more than 1 million school-aged children. The Education Crisis Response program is engaging communities and officials in locally driven efforts to get out-of-school students ages 6 to 17 into formal and non-formal learning centers, as well as providing the psychosocial support required to start the emotional healing process.

As the violence erupts, families move to safer zones that may be a hundred miles from their homes. Unfortunately, they arrive to relatively peaceful neighborhoods with limited resources, particularly space in already overcrowded schools.

As host communities became burdened with internally displaced persons, the U.S. Agency for International Development stepped in with the Education Crisis Response program.

Launched in October 2014, the three-year initiative expands access to quality non-formal education to nearly 87,959 internally displaced students ages 6 to 17 (of which 47,922 are girls). Focusing on the states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe, the program complements innovative local and state initiatives that are responding to the educational needs of these children.

Education Crisis Response addresses the main learning needs of internally displaced, out-of-school children affected by the crisis by establishing 731 non-formal learning centers in these five states. It also collaborates with implementing partners to promote effective interventions in child protection and safe learning environments.

In Borno, for example, the program has established more than 300 centers that will meet the needs of at least 15,000 displaced children, youth and adolescent girls in 5 local government authorities.

In each of the non-formal learning centers, the Education Crisis Response program improves the quality of teaching and learning materials. Students attend classes three days a week for up to nine months.

Class sizes are limited to ensure greater attention for the students, particularly since some may have been absent from formal

schooling for up to three years.

The project improves instructional practices, develops teaching-learning materials for literacy, math, life skills and social emotional learning competencies to provide psychosocial support.

Classroom teachers are selected from the communities where the internally displaced children currently reside. In preparation for the unique challenges facing the students and educators, teachers are put through a five-day training course to create a friendly and welcoming learning environment for the displaced children, incorporate group activities and recreation (a break from the usually more formal lecture-type settings of most Nigerian classrooms).

The project also engages communities to heighten their awareness so they may provide support to the learning centers. Through collaboration, coordination and funding assistance, communities and implementing partners provide the primary support—including a location for the center and food—that are essential to sustaining and eventually expanding these education options.

One of the goals of the program is to prepare students in the non-formal learning centers for mainstreaming to traditional schools or their eventual return to their communities of origin.

The Education Crisis Response Program is implemented by Creative Associates International, the International Rescue Committee, Florida State University, the Nigerian government and more than 40 local non-governmental organizations.



60%

Percentage of out-of-school children living in Northern Nigeria who are girls.



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