**REPORT OF A ONE-DAY WORLD BANK MISSION ON BETTER EDUCATION SERVICE DELIVERY FOR ALL (BESDA) PROGRAMME FOR RESULT (PforR) OPERATIONS HELD IN SOKOTO STATE ON MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018**

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) Programme for Result (PforR) Operations is a 611 million dollar World Bank supported programme. The BESDA Programme Development Objective (PDO) is to (1) increase equitable access for out –of- school children,(2) improve literacy in focus States and (3) strengthen accountability for results in basic education in Nigeria. The PDO is also align with the priorities of UBE program, reaffirmed in the Ministerial Strategic Plan (MSP) which focus on increasing access, improving quality and equity in basic education.

The Bank is supporting the implementation of BESDA in the six geo-political zones in the 17 out of 37 States and FCT, Abuja. The Zones/States are: North East (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States), North West (Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States), North Central (Niger State), South East (Ebonyi State), South South (Rivers State) and South West (Oyo State).

It was against this background that World Bank planned BESDA and Analystical Work on Education Spending Implementation Support Mission visit from Washington DC to Nigeria from July 23 to August 3, 2018. The Mission visit was led by Dina Abu-Ghaida (Lead Economist, BESDA co-task leader).

The objectives of the mission among other things were to:

1. undertake visits to selected States to hold discussions on BESDA implementation with the Governors, State Ministries of Education and State Universal Basic Education Boards;
2. follow-up on setting up of accounts at the federal and state levels;
3. follow-up on disbursement for prior results;
4. follow-up on contracting of Independent Verification Agents by the Federal Ministry of Finance; and
5. follow-up on state requests for advances.

The Bank’s team, in collaboration with the Federal Government Agencies (Federal Ministries of Education and Finance; and Universal Basic Education Commission) scheduled a working visit to Sokoto State on Monday, July 30, 2018. The visiting team was of the following persons:

1. Dina Abu-Ghaida (Lead Economist, BESDA Co-task team leader) World Bank;
2. Aisha Garba (Education Specialist) - World Bank;
3. Haruna Amina Buba (Deputy Director) - Federal Ministry of Education
4. IRO Umar (Deputy Director (Special Projects)) – Universal Basic Education Commission;
5. Kigbu Audu Johnson – Chief Education Officer, Federal Ministry of Education;
6. Moses Oyishe (Senior Project officer) - Universal Basic Education Commission

The team was received by His Excellency, the Executive Governors of Sokoto, Commissioners of Education, Permanent Secretaries (SMoE), Executive Chairman SUBEB and other dignitaries in the State.

**2.0 ATTENDANCE**

The meeting was attended by top government functionaries, stakeholders from education and members of the press as follows:

1. State Ministry of Education;
2. State Universal Basic Education Board;
3. Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education;
4. Global Partnership for Education/Nigeria Partnership on Education Project (GPE/NIPEP); and
5. Press

**3.0 INTERACTIVE SESSION**

The meeting in Sokoto State was divided into two (2) Sessions, technical/interactive session and courtesy visit to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State.

**3.1 Technical Meeting with State Ministry of Education and State Universal Basic Education Board**

**3.1.2 Remark by Amina Buba Haruna, BESDA Coordinator, Federal Ministry of Education**

In her remark, the BESDA Coordinator, Federal Ministry of Education, Amina Buba Haruna said BESDA is a World Bank supported program. The programme will be implemented in 17 States across the six geo-political zones of the country. The Programme Development Objective (PDO) which include increase equitable access for out –of- school children, improve literacy in focus States and strengthen accountability for results in basic education in Nigeria.

She said BESDA is a $611 million dollars programme of the Bank that is focusing on achieving results. There are processes for states to qualify in accessing the fund. She mentioned that advance will be given to state base on the qualification and request by the states. She re-iterated that for state to be aware that the advance will be returned to Bank if not judiciously utilized. She wishes everyone a happy deliberation.

**3.1.2 Remark by IRO Umar, Deputy Director (Special Projects) Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC)**

In his remark, IRO Umar, Deputy Director (Special Projects), UBEC expressed his happiness to be in the State for the meeting. He said the meeting would provide opportunity for technical team work between UBE Commission and State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB).

He said the Executive Secretary, UBEC wants cooperation and commitment to achieve the goal and objective BESDA. He said the $611 million dollars will be paid by our grand or great grandchildren. At this juncture, he appealed to all that hands must be on deck for maximum utilization of the fund to achieve the desire goals.

**3.1.3 Welcome remark by the Permanent Secretary, SMoE**

The Permanent Secretary, SMoE formally welcome all to the meeting, especially the visiting team to Sokoto State. He described the BESDA as a welcome development and would complement the efforts of the State Government in the area of Education. He said the State will explore every avenue for BESDA to succeed. He wishes a happy deliberation.

**3.1.4 An Overview of BESDA by Dina Abu Ghaida, Task Team Leader, World Bank**

During the technical session, Dina Abu-Ghaida, BESDA Task Team Leader, World Bank presented an overview of BESDA’s key features, focusing on states achieving and being rewarded for results. Again, she enumerated and expalined the immediate next steps for State to be qualified for BESDA implementation as follow:

1. Completion of prior results (Action Plan);
2. Opening of account with commercial bank; and
3. Formation of BESDA implementation team.

**3.1.5 Presentation of BESDA Prior Results by …. Director Planning, Research and Statistics (DPRS), Sokoto SUBEB**

The Director (PRS) presented a prior results developed and presented to the Bank through UBEC. The prior result has verified to be implementable; however a presentation was made for further inputs.

In his presentation, the prior result under Result Area 1 shows the distribution of 925,621 (NEDS 2015/ASC 2015) number of out of school children across the 23 LGA of the State. The distribution was based on gender and categories (Almajiri/Tsangaya, Nomad and others). The prior result elicits 10% reduction of out of school children per year.

Areas identified for intervention for bringing back to school the OOSC includes (1) Construction of additional classroom and wash facilities, (2) Provision of school furniture, (3)Textbooks, school Uniform, bags Sandal and Sacks, (School Improvement Grant), (4) Advocacy visit, Radio jingle, Sensitazation & Mobilization/House-to-House Campaign visit, (5) Consultative Committee on Education headed by the Sultan of sokoto, (6) Feeding in 52 Schools, (7) Recruitment of more teachers to take care and anticipated increase in enrolment, and (8) Cash transfer programme.

Similarly, in realising the Result Area 2 as presented, the State adopts USAID/NEI Plus (EGR) Literacy Programme to 13 Non NEI Plus LGEAs in its’ prior results.

**3.1.6 Observations/Recommendations**

Members were happy with the presentation. However, they offered observations/ recommendations as follows:

* Encourage incentives/enforcement or community mobilization;
* Formulate policy for bringing back to school the OOSC;
* Inaugurate Sensitization Committee, Monday, August 6, 2018 to work and come up with Sensitization Work Plan within a week similar to 2013 Polio Eradication sensitization in Health Sector;
* Review the prior result under Result Area 2 to be realistic and achievable;
* Urgent need to have BESDA Team in SMoE and SUBEB; and
* Regular meeting among the Teams should be encouraged.

**3.2 Courtesy Visit to His Excellency, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, C*FR,* the Executive Governor, Sokoto State**

The visiting Team was led by Dina Abu-Ghaida, Task Team Leader (TTL), BESDA to pay a courtesy visit to His Excellency (H.E.) in Government House. The TTL informed H.E. of other World Bank project being implemented in the State such as NIPEP etc, in which the State is very cooperative. Again she commended the administration for the declaration of Education Emergency in the State.

She said BESDA is a World Bank supported $611 million Dollars programme. It will be implemented in 17 selected States with greater number of out of school children of which the State will benefit. The programme became effective after 9 months of interactions between the World Bank and Government of Nigeria.

The TTL explained the BESDA Programme Development Objectives (PDO) which are to (1) increase equitable access for out –of- school children,(2) improve literacy in focus States and (3) strengthen accountability for results in basic education in Nigeria. State must open accounts, present a credible prior result and constitute implementation teams be qualified for the disbursement. It is against this backdrop that Bank initiated the visits.

She therefore requested H.E. to appoint the leadership of BESDA to hit the ground running in the State.

**3.2.1 Remark by His Excellency, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, C*FR,* the Executive Governor, Sokoto State**

In his remarks, His Excellency, Aminu Wazari Tambuwal, *CFR,* Executive Governor, Sokoto State welcomed the team to Sokoto State. He thanked the World Bank, FME, FMF and UBEC for the partnership.

Indeed, millions of out of school children particularly in the north is a challenge. His Administration collaborated with other Development Partners such as UNICEF, USAID, etc to reduce the number of out of school children by 50% in Sokoto State; it is one of the major achievements for the State.

He reaffirmed his readiness to partner with World Bank to achieve the aims and objectives of BESDA because this is the only way to prepare future leaders. BESDA if well implemented would curb the incidence of Boko Haram. He expressed his determination for quality assurance and accountability for success of BESDA implementation.

He also promised to appoint State Coordinator for BESDA.

4.0 **CONCLUSION**

The mission to Sokoto can be described as very successful both in terms of the high level meeting with the Governor and the technical session at SUBEB and SMOE. It is highly recommended that the NPC and NCT/CST should follow closely with the States implementation progress to ensure timely achievement of targets. In this regards, both the NPC and the NCT should as a matter of urgency prepare a coordination plan for tracking the State progress.

**Moses Oyishe**