

Policy Brief

CHRICED POLICY BRIEF

CHRICED POLICY BRIEF

VOLUME 1, ISSUE #2

MARCH, 2019

AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY DEMANDS AND ELICITING SUPPLY SIDE RESPONSE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE UBE SECTOR IN KADUNA



Introduction

Access to quality basic education is one of the many rights enshrined in Nigeria's 1999 Constitution as amended. As a platform of active citizens working for human rights, democracy and good governance, the Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED) has been campaigning for the protection and promotion of the right of every Nigerian child of school age to quality and free Universal Basic Education (UBE). This campaign intensified in 2017, when CHRICED

with support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation flagged off the implementation of its innovative data driven project titled; Social Mobilization for Accountability and Transparency in the Implementation of Universal Basic Education Funds.

The overarching goal of the project is to reduce corruption, and by extension its destructive effects on the quality of UBE projects and

services in the three focal Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kauru, Kubau and Zaria. To realize this goal, CHRICED has consistently engaged community actors by showing pathways and approaches with which they can amplify their voices in making accountability demands, thereby creating an atmosphere, which is intolerant of corruption.

The project has therefore provided a platform for collective reflection and action on community accountability demands with respect to the service delivery in the UBE sector. This project has also focused on mobilizing communities to make accountability demands, and track projects, which are being implemented.

A number of accountability problems, and their

effects on the delivery of quality basic education services in the project areas came to the fore in the course of the project.

The most fundamental of these is that several projects budgeted for by the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Commission (KADSUBEB) are either uncompleted or completely abandoned by contractors. Between 2017 and 2019, CHRICED monitors tracked projects worth about N800 million located in Kauru, Kubau and Zaria. According to the data obtained, many key projects including the construction of blocks of classrooms, procurement of seats, and other teaching aids were either executed halfway or not done at all by contractors.

Beyond Community Accountability Demands: Action Needed on Supply Side

On the demand side, there have been vibrant Community Accountability Report Back sessions, which provided an opportunity for citizens to come face-to-face with officials of the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) with the aim of sharing concerns, asking questions, and even providing insights with respect to UBE projects in the respective local government areas. It is pertinent to note therefore that the challenges, which affect the delivery of quality service in the basic education sector, have to be amplified outside the communities in order to elicit action from government actors. The facts of the challenges facing the UBE system in Kaduna State manifest in a multiplicity of ways. Many schools, especially in the rural areas are still confronted by the reality of poor infrastructure and lack of the required inputs to make learning

possible. At a time of chronic insecurity, most schools are not fenced, exposing pupils, especially girl children to security threats, and even vandalism of the already inadequate structures available.

Only recently, an aspect of these challenges took a tragic dimension when school building pillar collapsed resulting in the death of a school boy Master Musa Umaru, an 11-year-old pupil of Umar Isa LGEA Primary School, Dembo in Zaria Local Government Area. The pupil who was in primary four, according to reports from our community monitors lost his life in this unfortunate incident because the school building in question, which caved in was poorly constructed in 2013.

CHRICED also found serious gaps in the need's assessment framework, which in its current state

has no place for community voices and inputs. Projects are arrived at on the basis of the choices of SUBEB officials sitting in their offices far away from communities, which are in the best position to state what their needs are. The collective efforts to improve accountability and quality service delivery in the basic education sector has also leveraged on existing structures like the School Based Management Committees (SBMCs). CHRICED is happy with the role and involvement of the SBMCs so far in getting the SUBEB to do the needful since the inception of

this project. The challenge however is the fact that in many areas there are capacity issues, which limit the effectiveness of the SBMCs. To support this important structure in the basic education accountability chain, CHRICED is exploring opportunities for capacity training for the SBMCs as a way of sustaining the outcomes of this project, and to shape the SBMCs into effective units, which would support the cause of accountability in the UBE sector.

A Call to Action

On the basis of evidence from its engagement with communities and from its extensive research, CHRICED calls on stakeholders in the UBE sector in Kaduna State to work towards:

1. A comprehensive review of the need assessment process for the determination of which projects are designed and executed to deliver UBE. This review process has to be done in line with the principles of transparent, openness and participatory implementation of outcomes.
2. The setting up of a Project Complaints Hotline/Help Desk to be over-sighted by SUBEB and CSOs to respond promptly to information from communities and early warnings on performance of awarded contracts.
3. An audit of UBE projects in the last five years to determine level of completion or abandonment of such projects, and amounts involved in order to hold accountable actors failing Nigeria's teeming school age children through abandonment or non-completion of critical projects.
4. Strengthen the capacity of community actors including the School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) as important structures in the community accountability demand process.
5. Putting in place a practical Action Plan to address the disparity between urban and rural areas with respect to the provision infrastructure, learning aids etc.

CHRICED *Thematic and Approach*

CHRICED is a Nigerian not-for-profit, and a knowledge-driven platform of active citizens working for the promotion of human rights, rule of law, democracy and accountability. CHRICED uses democratic principles to safeguard rights and ensure the benefits of democracy accrue to citizens.

With offices in Lagos, Abuja and Kano, CHRICED is currently pioneering rights-based approach to tackle the debilitating problem of maternal mortality in northern Nigeria. We are also intervening in the region to improve accountability in universal basic education spending, as well as management of local government resources. Access to education for the girl-child through robust community action has been another core focus of our intervention, as well as preventing the labor exploitation of the vulnerabilities of almajiri street children in Northern Nigeria. CHRICED program targeting marginalized youths, especially in the poor rural areas, has focused on promoting

equitable access to economic and livelihood opportunities for youths in northern Nigeria. CHRICED also has over a decade-old experience in monitoring and advocating transparent and credible elections within and outside Nigeria.

The rights approach allows us to call out government and agencies based on national and international legislations and commitments endorsed by the Nigerian government.

CHRICED work in partnership with community-based associations and organizations, religious bodies, traditional rulers, women groups, government and its agencies, youths and the media. This broad spectrum of engagement has over the years increased our ability to reach diverse constituencies, amplifying their voices and legitimizing our convening power both as friends of the people and critical allies of government.

Issued by:

Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED)



46, Lawan Dambazzau Street, Behind
Shoprite, Gandu Albasa, New Layout,
Kano State, Nigeria
chricedng@gmail.com
www.chriced.org.ng
facebook.com/chricedng
@chricedng

With support from:

The John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation



Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED) is a Nigerian non-profit, non-partisan, and a knowledge-driven platform of active citizens working for the promotion of human rights, rule of law, democracy and accountability. We use democratic principles to safeguard rights and ensure the benefits of democracy accrue to citizens.