Introduction

The project "Accountability for Good Governance in Education (AGGE)" is an initiative aimed at enhancing good governance in the education sector through transparency and accountability. It is led by YouthHubAfrica (Anchor) in collaboration with four cluster member organisations: Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) in Kano State, Development & Integrity Intervention Goal (DIG) in Ebonyi State, Kayode Alabi Leadership & Career Initiative (KLC) in Kwara State, and Women's Rights Advancement & Protection Alternative (WRAPA) in Kebbi State. The project is supported by the USAID-backed Palladium's SCALE intervention, which seeks to strengthen civic advocacy and local engagement.

The primary focus of AGGE is to address the pressing issue of the high rate of out-of-school children in Nigeria, which stands at over 18.5 million according to a UNICEF report, making it the highest in the world. The project also aims to tackle challenges such as inadequate funding and a lack of transparency and accountability in the education sector. By the end of 2023, AGGE endeavours to bring about positive change by influencing government policies, facilitating citizens' participation in the Universal Basic Education (UBE) processes, and advocating for increased budgetary allocation to primary and secondary education. The ultimate goal is to create a more conducive environment for quality education and empower the young population to become active contributors to society. Through collaborative efforts and collective impact, AGGE seeks to make education a powerful tool for societal transformation, aligning with the belief that education is a fundamental human right and the key to shaping a brighter future for the nation.

Identified Gaps

The Palladium SCALE-supported Accountability & Good Governance in Education (AGGE) project, jointly implemented by YouthHubAfrica, DIG Foundation, Kayode Alabi Leadership and Career Initiative, Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI), and Women's Rights Advancement and Protection (WRAPA), conducted a needs assessment in four states (Kwara, Kebbi, Kano, Ebonyi) and the FCT in April 2022. The objective was to identify gaps in the Universal Basic Education (UBE) system and advocate for increased funding and inclusive budgeting through citizen participation in education budgeting. The findings revealed specific challenges unique to each state, such as inadequate teachers in Kano State, lack of knowledge on fund custodianship, and minimal government interest in public schools. Additionally, the assessment identified cross-cutting gaps across all states, including a lack of information, unreliable information sources, limited understanding of counterpart funding processes, and insufficient stakeholder involvement in decision-making regarding UBE projects.

The needs assessment highlighted critical issues affecting the UBE system in the surveyed states. One major concern was the lack of adequate information and knowledge about UBE/SEB among stakeholders, with only 30 percent having some awareness but unable to provide comprehensive descriptions. Financing mechanisms for UBE/SEB were also unclear to a significant number of stakeholders, resulting in doubts about the reliability of available information. The cumbersome processes for accessing counterpart funding were cited as an additional challenge, hindering effective participation. Furthermore, stakeholders felt excluded from decision-making on the siting of UBE/SEB projects, and teachers expressed dissatisfaction with their limited involvement in the UBE/SEB processes within their states. Addressing these gaps is crucial to achieving improved educational outcomes and promoting transparent and accountable governance in the education sector. (Report Ref:Needs assessment Report)

The Goal

To enhance good governance in education in the education sector through transparency and accountability in the workplan of the states' UBEC, the disbursement, and implementation of the funds received in the 5 states by the end of 2023.

Objectives

- To influence the government at the national level to increase budgetary allocation to primary and secondary education by the end of 2023
- To facilitate the institutionalisation of citizens' participation and engagement in the UBE processes in 5 states by 2023
- To advocate for targeted states to increase budgetary allocation to education at primary and secondary levels including the timely release of UBE counterpart funding.

Milestones Achieved

1. Needs assessment on basic education in the five (5) targeted states.
2. Demand-side and supply-side stakeholder forums were conducted.
3. Successful advocacy visits to Kano State education authorities/stakeholders in the past government administration.
4. Routine UBE work plan monitoring has been established.
5. Quarterly stakeholders' engagement meetings held.
6. Desk review of UBE fund at SUBEB in the five (5) targeted states.
7. Public enlightenment programs on UBE funds via social media and radio.
8. Policy brief on UBE developed and disseminated.
9. Capacity building for cluster members.
10. International Education Day marked (Jan 24, 2023).
11. Review of the community engagement framework developed by SUBEB

Achieved Outputs

1. Increased citizens' participation in UBE work plan development and monitoring.
2. Increased awareness about UBE fund and project status.

3. Improved capacity of cluster members for sustained advocacy.
4. Enhanced willingness of the targeted states to access UBE funds.
5. Progress towards UBE Act amendment and increased budgetary allocation by 2023.