

NIGERIA'S GIRL'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE (NGEI)

● WHAT DOES UNGEI MEAN?

- The United Nations Girls Education Initiative spearheaded by UNICEF, as per United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG's) mandate.

● WHAT IS UNGEI'S VISION?

- UNGEI's vision is a world where all girls and boys will have equal access to free, quality education.

● WHAT IS NGEI ALL ABOUT?

- Nigeria's Girl's Education Initiative (NGEI) is a partnership between Non Governmental Organizations (NGOS), Federal Ministry of Education (FME), UNICEF and like minded organizations evolved to be a platform for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals of Education For All (EFA) and Universal Basic Education (UBE) as thus relate to girls education in Nigeria. It is the domesticated version of the UNGEI set to achieve the set goals and objectives.

● WHAT IS THE GOAL OF NGEI?

- NGEI's goal is to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education and to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education. Thereby, making significant progress in Nigeria efforts towards achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3: *"to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015"*.
- To achieve this goal, the partnership aims to reach: "improved quality of life for girls in Nigeria through a collaborative, inter-sectoral approach to girls' education". The partnership has a key role to play in assisting progress towards Universal Basic Education (UBE) in Nigeria and broader developmental processes through NEEDS and SEEDS at the state level.
- One of the key strategies stressed by the Government of Nigeria in the pursuit of National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), EFA and the MDGs is partnership in support of education in general now emphasized in NGEI. As stated in NEEDS, achievement of the targets of the social sectors depends critically on collaboration by all stakeholders-federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector, non governmental organizations (NGOs) and the International community.

● WHAT ARE NGEI'S TERMS OF REFERENCE?

- To coordinate all activities related to Girls' Education in Nigeria on behalf of the forum



- To ensure massive awareness and advocacy especially for girl child education nationwide on the day of the African Child (June 16)
- To canvass and lobby for legislation at all levels (Chiefdom, LGA, State, national) in favor of the girl child
- Produce a periodic report on what Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector, IDPs, government and individuals are doing on girls' education
- To coordinate all activities related to Girls' Education in Nigeria on behalf of the forum
- Work as a technical advisory committee on factors affecting and promoting girls' education
- Synthesize the activities of organizations in girls' education and write annual reports
- Identify gaps in intervention activities
- Follow up on girl-child education policy and strategic framework
- Represent UNGEI in the Nigerian context

● **WHY ESTABLISH STATE CHAPTERS OF NGEI?**

- Since inception, members agreed that there is need to domesticate NGEI at State level for more participation and reach. The inability of Nigeria to meet the gender parity goal set for EFA in 2005 required more pragmatic efforts from all stakeholders towards promoting access, enrolment, retention and completion for girls. To achieve this, it was agreed that setting up NGEI at State level will be a good strategy.

● **WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STATE CHAPTERS?**

- To develop strategies for high level State advocacy for the promotion of Girls' Education at State Level.
- To create space for local level participation in the Girls' Education discourse.
- To promote the recording of good practice in both UNICEF assisted LGAs and beyond.
- To develop the capacity of NGOs, CBOs and key stakeholders in the identification of good practice at State, Local and Community levels.
- To set up a forum for information sharing and resource development with a view of promoting Girls' Education.
- To keep a database of role models that will be encouraged to visit schools within the State.

● **WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF NGEI?**

- Lack of adequate resources to run the partnership.
- Low level of participation by key players at state levels.
- Weak capacities of members particularly the CSOs and the state partners.
- The centralized nature of the NGEI which did not allow for adequate local participation. This has informed the call for domestication of NGEI at State level.
- Low representation by other Development Partners.