

UNICEF Evaluation Management Response Template

Evaluation title: Cash Transfer Impact Evaluation

Year: 2017

Office and person in charge for management response: UNICEF Nigeria, Terry Durnnian, Chief Education

Overall response to the evaluation: Majority of the initial concerns raised about the evaluation report and its recommendations by UNICEF Nigeria Education section and the donor, DFID have been taken care of. Nevertheless, we are still concerned that self-reported enrolment is being used as evidence to draw conclusion on the impact of CT on enrolment, etc. UNICEF's overall response is already progressing well in terms of action towards the three recommendations addressed directly to UNICEF, plus a fourth one addressed to state Ministries of Education but which UNICEF has supported through advocacy and technical assistance. Three of these four responses are completed, with only one pending but also in progress to be completed by February 2018.

Planned use of evaluation:

- Advocacy with the state governments, state Ministries of Education and other education partners to ensure learning for the scale-up of these CT programmes in Sokoto and Niger, in other states and for other CT initiatives. This is for example, to ensure loopholes around targeting of cash transfer beneficiaries, use of female caregivers as primary cash recipients, alignment of the frequency of payments with school terms to reduce operational costs, etc. These key areas will be promoted in discussions with state governments on scale-up and sustainability in Sokoto and Niger. We have already learned lessons and adopted some of these aspects mentioned in the design of the new EAC-funded CT programme in Kebbi and Zamfara which started in September 2018.
- Dissemination of findings to key stakeholders at the national and state levels, including partners that are implementing CT programme, such as GPE/NIPEP, to share lessons learned and good practices.

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: Organize a national stakeholder dissemination workshop.

Management Response: Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office/Person	Expected completion date:	Implementation stage:	Actions taken:	Supporting documents
National level dissemination meeting will be organized early 2018.	1. Education Specialist (Output 1 -Access) and Education Specialist M&E with support of GEP3 Manager, Chief Evaluation Unicef NCO	First week in February 2018	Underway	1. Discussions on the design of the report for printing have started, for the printed reports to be ready for the dissemination event. 2. Contacting the research consultants for presentation of key findings at the dissemination meeting.	Printed version of CT impact evaluation report, reports of the dissemination workshops

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: Ministry of Education to organize a stakeholders' meeting for more proper planning of the sustainability and scale-up of the CTP in Niger and Sokoto States respectively.

Management Response: Agree; however, this recommendation is actually directed to State Ministry of Education to take lead but UNICEF has played a key role in supporting and providing technical assistance.

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned:	Responsible Office/Person:	Expected completion date.	Implementation stage:	Actions taken:	Supporting documents
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level advocacy meetings with Niger and Sokoto state government officials. 2. Technical support provided to review of CT design and operational guidelines for Niger and Sokoto states. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNICEF Kaduna and Sokoto CFOs 2. Education Officer, Kaduna FO and Education Specialist, Sokoto FO 	October 2017	Completed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High level advocacy meetings held in both states, and Niger state government commitment enlisted, also through a commitment letter. 2. Revised manual for Niger and Sokoto state CTP developed. 3. Technical support provided to both Sokoto and Niger on CTP. programme designs and operational guidelines by EPRI/UNICEF. 	Revised CTP designs and operational guidelines for Sokoto and Niger States.

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3: Execute high level advocacy for funding support for the improvement of the school physical infrastructure in CTP schools.

Management Response: Partially Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons: Provision of physical infrastructure in schools and funding towards it is the sole responsibility of the state government and not UNICEF. Nevertheless, UNICEF has in its plans series of advocacy meetings that bring government's attention to CTP in general, the need to match supply needs with demand, and the role school infrastructure plays as a barrier or facilitator of demand for education.

Actions planned:	Responsible Office/Person:	Expected completion date	Implementation stage:	Actions taken:	Supporting documents
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include this topic in other advocacy and high level meetings with the state MoEs: along with advocacy towards timely release of state funds for CTP implementation (recommendation 4 below) and towards planning and sustainability of CTP programme in Sokoto and Niger (recommendation 2 above), the weak school infrastructure is an issue affecting sustainability of CTP and is part of overall 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sokoto CFO and Education Specialist 2. Kaduna CFO and Education Specialist and Officer 	October 2017	Completed. This advocacy does not have a definite end but is ongoing as responsibility for school infrastructure lies with state governments who need to be reminded of their responsibility from time to time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CTP related advocacy meetings held in Niger and Sokoto on CTP funds release and sustainability and technical meetings held on CTP design and operational guidelines. 2. High-level advocacy and signing of the workplan meeting held with Niger Governor and high-level government officials on 26 October 2017 where this issue was specifically highlighted as barrier to CTP by GEP3 Manager. 	None

discussions and advocacy on demand side barriers to education.					
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 9: Execute high level advocacy for timely release of funds for CTP implementation.					
Management Response: Agree					
If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:					
Actions planned: 1. Engagement and meetings with high level government officials, including the Executive Governors of Niger and Sokoto states.	Responsible Office/Person: 1. CFOs Sokoto and Niger FOs with support of GEP3 Manager and Kaduna FO Education Officer and Sokoto FO Education Specialist	Expected completion date: October 2017	Implementation stage: Completed	Actions taken: 1. High level meetings with Executive Governors of Niger and Sokoto states by both NCO and FOs. 2. The two state governments have budgeted funds for CT programme. 3. Support the review of the operational manual for CTP scale up in the two states. 4. Advocacy meeting held with Niger state Governor on GEP3 funds release, CTP funds release and other barriers to CTP on 26 October 2017.	Supporting documents. Letters of commitment to CTP scale-up plan from the two states.