

Evaluation Management Response Document

Region: WCAR

Office: Nigeria

Evaluation Year: 2017

Evaluation Title: Impact Evaluation of UNICEF Nigeria Girls' Education Project Phase 3 (GEP3) Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) in Niger and Sokoto States

Person In Charge For Follow Up to Management Response: Denis Jobin

Overall response to 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 the 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.

Recommendations and Actions

No.	Recommendations/Actions	Responsible Section (Action)	Responsible Person Name (Action)	Expected Completion (Action)	Mgt Response / Implementation Stage	Reason/Action Taken
1	Organize a national stakeholder dissemination workshop.				Agree	
1.1	National level dissemination meeting will be organized early 2018.	Education	Euphrates Efosi Wose	12/30/2018	Completed	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. 3. On 16 April 2018, the national dissemination event of the CT evaluation report findings is planned with the participation of key stakeholders from Niger and Sokoto states as well as those from the national level. The event is being conducted in collaboration with Social Policy. The CT report will be printed for dissemination during the event
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.				Partially Agree	

2.1	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.	Education	Terry Durnnian	10/31/2017	Completed	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.
3	Execute high level advocacy for funding support for the improvement of the school physical infrastructure in CTP schools.				Partially Agree	
3.1	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 discussions and advocacy on demand side barriers to education.	Education	Terry Durnnian	10/31/2017	Completed	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. 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.
4	Execute high level advocacy for timely release of funds for CTP implementation.				Agree	
4.1	1. Engagement and meetings with high level government officials, including the Executive Governors of Niger and Sokoto states.	Education	Terry Durnnian	10/31/2017	Completed	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.