



CHARTER OF DEMAND FOR BASIC EDUCATION IN ADAMAWA STATE



DEVELOPMENT | GOVERNANCE | INNOVATION



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INTRODUCTION


In the aftermath of the conflicts in the North East which has affected Adamawa, the restoration and revitalization of education systems become crucial for the rehabilitation, stability, and progress of the state. Education serves as the cornerstone upon which societies can rebuild, empower their youth, and forge a path towards sustainable development.

Tent2School Initiative with support from Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative, Leap Africa and the Nigeria Youths Futures Fund has recognized the profound significance of education in post-conflict settings, and, together with advocates and stakeholders, have united to formulate a comprehensive Charter of Demand. This Charter reflects our collective commitment to ensuring a brighter future for the youth in these critical contexts, focusing on five pivotal thematic areas: enrolment and attendance, infrastructural development, quality of education, safety and security of children in schools, and youth participation in educational advocacy.

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Our Charter of Demand articulates a roadmap that empowers governments, civil society organisations, international bodies, and local communities to collaboratively address the challenges faced by education systems. By addressing these interconnected themes, we seek to create an inclusive, secure, and vibrant learning environment that fosters the growth and well-being of every child and young person.

In this Charter, we put forth a series of actionable demands that, if realised, will pave the way for transformative change. We firmly believe that when these demands are met, the dividends of education will be manifold;



From increased enrolment and attendance rates to the establishment of conducive infrastructure, from the delivery of high-quality education to the assurance of safety and security within educational institutions, and from the active participation of youth in advocacy to the cultivation of a culture of peace and resilience.

As we present this Charter of Demand, we extend an open invitation to all stakeholders, across sectors and borders, to join hands and harness their collective efforts in driving forward this imperative agenda. By championing these demands, we are not only advocating for the right to education, but also shaping a future in which the potential of every child and young person in post-conflict settings is fully realised. Let this Charter stand as a testament to our unwavering dedication to building a brighter, more inclusive, and harmonious world through the power of education.

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ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

The Nigeria National Development and Health Survey (NDHS, 2018) reports that 54.7 per cent of the school-age population in Adamawa cannot be accounted for by the educational system. They are either dropped out of school or invisible to any form of formal institution. Hence, we call on stakeholders to:

■ Ensure collaboration with local communities, leaders, and parents to raise awareness about the importance of education. Highlighting how education leads to better opportunities and improved livelihoods for children.

■ Provide financial and non-financial incentives, such as scholarships, stipends, or school feeding programs, to economically disadvantaged families and communities. This can help offset the costs of education and encourage enrolment figures.


■ Adapt school schedules to accommodate the needs of families that rely on their children for household chores or agricultural work. Offering evening classes or flexible attendance options can help more children attend school regularly. Effective implementation of the nomadic educational system is crucial to achieving this.

■ Develop a curriculum that reflects local cultures and needs, making education more relevant and engaging for students. This will increase student interest and encourage school attendance.

■ Focus on promoting gender equality by encouraging girls' enrollment and addressing cultural and religious barriers such as gender-based violence and early marriage. Educating girls has a positive impact on communities and economies.

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- Involve parents and guardians in school activities and decision-making processes. When parents feel connected to the school, they are more likely to support and encourage their children's attendance.
 - Establish a system for tracking attendance and dropout rates to spot trends and challenges. This data can help design targeted interventions to improve enrolment and attendance.
 - Develop EduTech solutions to provide education through the use of mobile phones, radio programs and other digital devices especially in areas with limited access to conventional schooling.
 - Offer basic healthcare services within schools, including training of students and teachers on basic first aid skills as well as capturing school children on the National Health Insurance Scheme. Healthy students are more likely to attend school consistently.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Most Infrastructure in basic schools are in deplorable condition across the state, ranging from classroom buildings to chairs, desks and WAS facilities. The UBEC board has bemoaned the inability of states over the years to provide matching grants to access the commission's annual counterpart funding grant. The timely release of funding from both state and Federal Government is critical to augment the deficit in infrastructural development. Although the Ahmadu Fintiri led administration allocated 12% of its 2023 budget to the Ministry of Education and Human Capital Development, previous budgets show that implementation is far less and there is need to push for sector percentages. Against this background, we demand relevant Stakeholders:

■ Establish legislative reforms advocating for a benchmark percentage allocation for infrastructural development for primary and junior secondary schools in the state education budget. UNESCO recommends that member states benchmark 15%-20% for education.

■ Adopt and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the utilization of funds earmarked for infrastructural development in schools. This is to ensure that the funds are used appropriately, and the project is delivered in a timely and efficient manner.


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■ Develop and enforce quality assurance guidelines that developers must follow in building standard, conducive, safe and durable learning environments for children.

■ Ensure equitable distribution of infrastructure projects across the 21 local government areas to ensure that underserved areas receive their fair share of development.

■ Promote reforms that advocate for accessibility and inclusivity of children with needs in designing school facilities such as classrooms and sanitation facilities. This will motivate attendance.

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- Prioritize the adoption and integration of technology with traditional classroom methods. Increased access to computers, internet, and digital learning resources will enable pupils to compete favorably with their counterparts across the globe.
 - Cultivate a regular supervision and maintenance culture. Bureaucracies around maintenance and repairs should be relaxed so as to allow school administrators and communities to implement minor repairs.
 - Create awareness and reorientation campaigns to highlight the importance of education infrastructure. This will help reduce vandalization and promote community ownership.
 - Collaborate with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to leverage expertise and resources for infrastructure development in schools.
 - Promote the creation of a thorough, long-term infrastructure plan for education that takes future requirements and trends into account.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Teachers in Adamawa State are paid very meagre amounts of money as salaries, with many not qualified to teach (do not possess a minimum of National Certificate in Education), and inadequate instructional materials.

- Establish regular training and support programs for teachers to improve their knowledge and teaching techniques.

- Increase the welfare of teachers by offering them competitive pay, rewards, and chances for career advancement.

- Strategic engagement to update curriculum at the national level, making it more relevant, practical, and aligned with modern educational standards by integrating subjects that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.


- Ensure that teachers and students have access to current textbooks, workbooks, and other learning materials. These materials should be sensitive to cultural differences and appropriate for the surroundings.

- Develop strategies to cater to the needs of students with disabilities, providing them with appropriate learning materials, support staff, and accessible infrastructure.

- Engage parents, guardians, and host communities to actively participate in their children's education through workshops, meetings, and other events that promote collaboration between schools and communities.

- Strengthen and revive a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the quality of education through regular assessments to identify areas for improvement and ensure accountability.

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■ Introduce vocational and life skills training in primary schools to equip students with practical skills that can lead to future employment opportunities.

■ Foster collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, international partners, and other stakeholders to collectively address challenges and implement sustainable solutions.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety and security of children in schools is very important. Terrorists have been able to break into schools and abduct large numbers of school children in other parts of the country. It is important to develop a concrete security strategy for schools in Adamawa as a proactive measure to prevent such occurrences. Hence, we demand the government should;

- Deploy trained security personnel, such as security guards to ensure a safe environment within schools and prevent unauthorized access.

- Foster strong collaborations with the local community to establish a neighborhood security watch, and raising awareness about safeguarding school infrastructure will be instrumental to achieving this.

“The Safety and Security of Children in Schools is very Important.”

- Construct perimeter fencing of basic schools to secure school infrastructure and control access points into the schools.

- Conduct thorough background checks for school staff, including teachers, administrators, and supervisors, to prevent the hiring of individuals with questionable backgrounds.

- Ensure the enforcement and implementation of strict child protection policies that prohibit any form of abuse, violence, or harassment within school premises. The Adamawa State Violence Against Persons and Prohibitions Act 2021 can be useful for this. Implement reporting mechanisms and disciplinary actions for violations.

- Establish access to counselling services in schools to address emotional and psychological needs, especially in the aftermath of security incidents or traumatic events. Psychosocial support training for teachers and parents can be effective in addressing this demand.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Youth involvement in educational advocacy is a significant and dynamic force that promotes improvement in educational institutions. It includes young people's active participation, contributions, and leadership in influencing educational policies, practices, and outcomes. Young people are given the opportunity to express their opinions, concerns, and aspirations through this type of advocacy, which fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for both their own education and those of the younger generation.

- Advocate for policies and programs that remove barriers to education and provide equal opportunities for all.

- Commit to establish platforms to drive youth participation in education policy making and implementation. The inclusion of youth voices in decision-making helps shape the zeal of young people to see to its implementation.

- Create and support educational policies that are focused on meeting the needs and aspirations of young people, while taking into account their distinctive perspectives and experiences.

- Engaging youths in peace building processes through curriculum development that promotes peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and reconciliation, while addressing the root causes of conflicts.

- Establish the formation of youth-led advocacy groups and platforms focused on education in post-conflict states, allowing young people to voice their concerns and propose solutions.

- Promote awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of education, particularly in post-conflict settings, and showcase success stories of youth who have overcome challenges to pursue education.

- Develop and implement transparent and accountable monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the progress of education initiatives and ensure that they effectively address the needs of youth.

“ It includes young people's active participation, contributions and leadership in influencing educational policies, practices and outcomes. ”

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