

**Activities, Accomplishments and Challenges
(2015 – Date)**

By

**Nigerian Educational Research and Development
Council (NERDC)**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) was established in 1988 by an enabling Decree No 53 (now Act No 53) which merged four educational research and development bodies into one organization. The bodies that were merged are the:

- a. Nigerian Educational Research Council (NERC);
- b. Comparative Education Study and Adaptations Centre (CESAC);
- c. Nigerian Book Development Council; and
- d. Nigerian Language Centre.

2.0 VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

In the context of our nation's socio-economic recovery plans, the Council hopes to improve the quality of education at all levels. Therefore our **Vision** is that of:

Building and sustaining a culture of strategic educational research and development that will inform the formulation and effective implementation of policies in education as well as in other sectors of the economy

with the **Mission** of:

Creating an enabling environment in which educational research and development activities will thrive and in the process not only encourage collaboration with international development partners but also foster public-

private partnerships in our bid to render educational research and development efforts sustainable and NEEDS-driven.

All these are sustained through our **Core Values** of:

Excellence and Integrity

3.0 Core Mandates of the Council

Act No 53 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, establishing mandates the Council to:

- encourage, promote and coordinate educational research programmes carried out in Nigeria,
- identify educational problems in Nigeria in which research is needed, and establish the order of priority thereof,
- encourage research into educational problems and for that purpose, undertake, commission, incorporate and finance such research projects as the Council deems fit;
- periodically compile and publish a list of research projects;
- compile, publish and sponsor the publication of the results of educational research particularly in relation to Nigerian educational problems and the popularization of such results where their recognition is in the council's opinion of national importance,

- assess, survey or investigate educational matter considered necessary, either independently or in co-operation with individuals, organisations and agencies
- identify language problems for the purpose of carrying out research into such problems and finding solution thereto,
- establish and maintain a research library to which new educational books and other related publications may be deposited.

With particular reference to **Curriculum Development**, It is NERDC's mandate to:

- Promote the development of curricula at all levels of the educational system,
- Develop new techniques and approaches to curriculum development,
- Produce syllabuses and instructional materials,
- Carryout studies in Comparative Curriculum
- develop and encourage the development of curricular materials for the various languages taught in schools.

In the area of **Book Development**, the Council is mandated to:

- Formulate and implement a national policy on book development,

- Undertake and promote book development and local authorship, ensuring the provision of adequate infrastructural facilities for book manufacture,
- Encourage the expansion of local printing and publishing industry in order to facilitate book production,
- Encourage and promote a reading culture through continuous research into the needs of Nigeria readers,
- Develop an effective book distribution sector so as to ensure a nation-wide circulation,
- Encourage the establishment of and strengthen professional association of the book industry in Nigeria; as well as
- Serve as a centre for the exchange of information on books and all related issues.

For **Language Development**, Act 53 mandates the Council to:

- advise and implement all policies relating to languages;
- promote and develop Nigerian languages;
- carry out language extension services (including teacher training and linguistic courses);
- develop and encourage the development of core books in Nigerian languages in co-operation with any other institution or organization concerned with book development;

- provide adequate translation facilities necessary for book development in Nigeria;
- coordinate language development projects throughout Nigeria and prepare an overall design for language research needs both internally and through grants and subsidies to institutions, qualified agencies and organizations; and

The Act also stipulates the following as **General Duties** of the Council:

- sponsor national and international educational conferences as may be relevant to the functions of the Council under the Act establishing it;
- maintain relationships with corresponding educational research and development bodies in Nigeria and in other countries;
- Set up pilot curriculum projects in educational institutions;
- Organise teacher educational programmes for new techniques in curriculum delivery; and
- carry out such other activities likely to assist in the performance of the functions imposed on the Council under Act No. 53.

4.0 Operational Structure of NERDC

NERDC operates through six separate but interrelated academic centers. The Academic Centres are:

- ❖ Book Development Centre (BDC)
- ❖ Curriculum Development Centre (CDC)

- ❖ Educational Research Centre (ERC)
- ❖ Language Development Centre (LDC)
- ❖ Library and Informatics Centre (LIC)
- ❖ Special Programmes Centre (SPC)

In addition to these academic Centres, the Council has four support/back-up departments, namely:

- ❖ Finance and Accounts
- ❖ General Services
- ❖ Human Resource Management
- ❖ Procurement and Corporate Services

The Executive Secretary's Office (ESO) is at the apex of the Council's administration. The following are the departments and units located in the Executive Secretary's Office:

- Internal Audit Unit,
- Public Affairs Unit,
- Legal Unit,
- Directorate of Special Duties in charge of:
 - Policy and Programmes Unit,
 - Ancillary Client Services

The Council has also six zonal offices and two state offices. While the State offices are in Katsina, Katsina State and Awka, Anambra State, the zonal offices are in:

- ❖ Abakaliki – for South East geo-political zone;
- ❖ Calabar – South-South geo-political zone;

- ❖ Damaturu – North East geo-political zone;
- ❖ Lagos – South West geo-political zone;
- ❖ Minna – North Central geo-political zone; and
- ❖ Kano – North West geo-political zone.

5.0 Key Activities and Accomplishments from 2015 to Date

The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) in the discharge of its functions and responsibilities and in line with the present national drive to reposition education, has undertaken projects and activities from 2015 to date. The projects are focused towards the achievement of the **2016 – 2019** Ministerial strategic plan for Education (**tagged 'Education for Change'**). The projects and activities which are part of the NERDC Strategic Action Plan, are also corollary to four (**4**) out of the nine (**9**) Pillars of the strategic goals for the attainment of Nigeria's education agenda 2030. The accomplishments within this period are provided below:

S/N	Key Activities and Accomplishments	Objectives
1	Printing and distribution to States and FCT copies of the newly developed 1-Year Pre-Primary Education Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide curriculum for the effective implementation and delivery of the 1-Year Compulsory Pre-Primary education which is a key stage/level of Basic Education. ▪ To provide a smooth transition for the Nigerian Child from home to School, acquisition of positive values and rudimentary knowledge.
2	Disarticulation, enrichment and printing of History stand-alone curriculum for Basic Education (i.e. Primary and Junior Secondary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide adequate themes, contents and concepts on Nigerian History at Basic Education level. ▪ Enable the teaching of history at the foundational stage so as to inculcate in the learners, Nigeria's historical past, pride in our civilizations, cultures, norms, values, nationality and patriotism.
3.	Development and Printing of Teacher's Guide for the Implementation of the newly disarticulated History Curriculum for Basic Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance teacher capacity and provide resource for effective curriculum delivery and positive learning outcomes.
4.	Revision and enrichment of the 34 Trades and Entrepreneurship Curriculum for Senior Secondary Schools (SSS) in Nigeria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enrich the existing 34 trades subjects with core entrepreneurship contents to inculcate in senior secondary students, positive attitudes towards the world of work and give them requisite skills for job creation, wealth generation and poverty eradication. ▪ Develop concepts, contents and strategies that are globally competitive on technical, vocational educational training and entrepreneurship in Nigerian School.
5.	Development of Teacher's Guide for each of the 34 Trades and Entrepreneurship Curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance teacher capacity and provide resource/material for effective curriculum and positive learning outcomes on trades and entrepreneurship education.
6.	Piloting of 8 of the revised 34 trades and entrepreneurship subjects in Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To assess the functionality, relevance and usability of the enriched 34 Trades and Entrepreneurship curricula. ▪ To promote social stabilization through entrepreneurship education for the youths in the 3 states.
7.	Training of 51 Trade and Entrepreneurship teachers from 6 schools in Adamawa, Gombe and Bauchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enhance the capacity of the teachers for effectiveness in the teaching of the revised trade and entrepreneurship subjects ▪ To reorient trade subject teachers on modalities and approaches for teaching entrepreneurship education

S/N	Key Activities and Accomplishments	Objectives
8	Strengthened the teaching and learning of trade and entrepreneurship education in 6 schools in Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe through the institutionalization of teacher mentoring programme, students' entrepreneurship club and annual school entrepreneurship fair,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the teaching and learning of trade and entrepreneurship subjects in the schools. • To promote and sustain students' interest in trade and entrepreneurship education.
9	<p>Separation of the former Religion and National Values (RNV) Curriculum into three standalone curricula as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christian Religious Knowledge Curriculum; ➤ Islamic Studies Curriculum; and ➤ National Values Curriculum with contents drawn from Social Studies, Civic Education and Security Education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To allow for distinctiveness and clarity in the teaching of the religions at the Basic education level; ▪ To ensure better understanding and effective implementation of the contents of Islamic Studies and Christian Religion Knowledge curricula. ▪ To reinforce moral and ethical education and enable learners acquire social skills and values.
10	Development of Online Safety Curriculum for Nigerian schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide pupils and students with adequate knowledge and skills for safe and responsible use of the internet.
11	Development of Capital market studies curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To mainstream capital market studies into the national curriculum for Basic and Secondary Education levels. ▪ To equip learners with basic knowledge of capital market operations, which would enable them to explore the wide range of investment and job opportunities available in the financial sector.
12	Printing and Distribution of ECCDE Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To make the curriculum available in schools across the nation in order to support effective implementation of early childhood education across the nation.
13.	Development of Education in Emergency Curriculum for the Basic Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide key learning contents for emergency affected school children in Nigeria but particularly for the insurgency affected children in the northeast. ▪ To strengthen existing curriculum contents with emergency preparedness and response strategies.

14	Development of financial education curriculum and infusion of same into relevant carrier subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote financial literacy education with intent of inculcating in students, prudence in financial management
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S/N	Key Activities and Accomplishments	Objectives
15.	Development of Teacher's Guide on Financial Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide curriculum support materials that will enhance teachers' capacity in teaching the contents of financial education in schools.
16	Development of trafficking and counter trafficking in persons curriculum and its infusion into relevant school subject curricula.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide learning contents on trafficking and counter trafficking in Persons.
17	Development of Teacher's Guide on concepts and contents of Trafficking in Persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide curriculum support materials that will enhance teachers' capacity in teaching the contents of trafficking in persons
18	Review and standardization of Annang Language Orthography and Annang Language Curriculum for Basic education (Akwa Ibom State).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable codification and standardization of National Languages for use in education. Enable the study and preservation of Nigerian Languages as national heritage and means of preserving our cultures.
19.	Assessment of 4290 titles/books for Basic and Senior Secondary Education in Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure quality and standards of textbooks and other instructional materials and resources in the education system
20.	Development of Teachers Guides for the Teaching of Chilela language at the basic education level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the teaching in the mother tongue in primaries 1 – 3 at the basic education level.
21.	Revision and enrichment of Civic Education Curricula for Basic and Senior Secondary Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and enrich civic education curricula for Basic and Senior Secondary Education with contents such as Legislative studies, good governance and other emerging national issues.
22	Production and circulation of the latest edition of the National Policy on Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the revised National Policy on Education available to a critical mass of Nigerians.

6.0 On-going Projects, Programmes and Activities

S/N	On-going Projects, Programmes and Activities	Objectives
1	Development of Benchmarks and Standards for Book and instructional materials Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide book assessment benchmarks and standards based on global best practices ▪ To provide web-based platform for the assessment of educational resource materials including e-resources
2.	Development of National Reading Framework (NRF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide stakeholders with a clear blueprint for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reading and literacy in general; ○ developing autonomous, self-directed learners and informed, engaged citizens; ○ improving reading results as a way of improving educational quality and by extension, economic growth.
3	Development of Teachers' Guide and other support materials for the implementation of Education in Emergency Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide teachers and instructors with materials to support them in the implementation of the curriculum contents.
4.	Development of Teachers' Guide and other support materials for the teaching of online safety education curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To support teachers with materials for the teaching and learning of the contents of online safety education
5.	Development of Teachers' Guide for capital market studies curriculum	1. To support teachers with materials for the teaching and learning of the contents of capital market studies curriculum
6.	Impact Analysis of the Senior Secondary Education Curriculum (SSEC) and 9-Year Basic Education Curriculum (BEC)	2. To determine the impact of the SSEC and BEC on learners and the society
7.	Piloting of the remaining 26 Revised Trade and Entrepreneurship Curricula	3. To establish the functionality, relevance and usability of the remaining 26 revised trade and entrepreneurship curricula.
8.	Piloting of the financial education curriculum	4. To establish the relevance and usability of the financial education curriculum

7.0 Challenges and recommendation for the Next tenure of the Administration

Challenges

The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) has mapped out **Action Plan** for executing identified projects and programmes geared towards addressing core educational issues in Nigeria. The following constitute serious impediments to the Council's drive for improved and quality service provision:

1. Compared to previous years, budgetary allocations to the Council have dropped significantly since 2015. Hence the major challenges in the execution of these projects are budgetary constraints and leveraging sufficient funds from domestic and international development partners and donor agencies.
2. Comparative to similar bodies in other countries, NERDC is yet to fully integrate and deploy ICT in the execution of her curriculum and instructional materials development activities. This requires the building of a national media centre to serve as a hub for reaching out to the States and our other clients.
3. There is also the issue of availability of sustainable and cost-effective source of energy for the routine operations of NERDC.

8.0 Recommendation for the Next tenure of the Administration

The following recommendations are made for massive achievements and attainment of many milestones:

1. Increase in budgetary allocation to agencies with projects of critical importance to the education sector.
2. Intensification of well-planned efforts on inter-governmental agency technical and financial collaboration and partnership.

3. Intensification of efforts on technical and financial collaboration with domestic and international development partners, associations and donor agencies.
4. Streamlining of activities of agencies to avoid duplications and replications of projects and programmes.

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