

**Learning about Living** (LaL) started as a two year project which uses Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to teach adolescent reproductive health education to young people in Nigeria. It has been developed as an educational tool that can be used in and out of school to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of young people by engaging them in the relevant issues and empowering them to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

It involves the development and implementation of an e-learning system based on the national Family Life HIV/AIDS Education (FLHE) curriculum.

In addition to the e-learning tool, LaL uses mobile phones to engage young people through a Question and Answer service.

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### Partners

This is a multi-stakeholder project led by OneWorld UK and implemented with over ten Nigerian and International partners

- ActionAid Nigeria (AAN)
- Action Health Incorporated (AHI), Lagos
- Butterfly Works Netherlands
- Education as a Vaccine Against Aids (EVA)
- Girls' Power Initiative (GPI)
- The Federal Ministry of Education (HIV/Aids Unit)
- The Federal Ministry of Health (ARH Unit)
- MTN Foundation through their SchoolConnect Program implemented by SchoolNet
- The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC)

### Funding provided by

Oxfam Novib Netherlands; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation USA; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; The Dutch Ministry through Butterfly Works.

### PROJECT NEWS

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The first independent external evaluation of LaL was conducted in October, courtesy of Abdulkareem Lawal and his team. The 54 page report found that, whilst challenges remain (especially regarding infrastructure), major achievements have been made in all of the core project components. Feedback from students using the eLearning platform included "I feel free now to discuss issues of sexuality" whilst a teacher in one of the pilot schools added that it "helps the students get closer to me". The report concluded by firmly recommending that LaL be scaled up in the coming years. Thanks to all of the partner organisations for your hard work, cooperation and support in organising the local evaluations.

**Bauchi State:** With the support of the Packard Foundation, LaL is extending into Bauchi state. To kick off, a 3 day Concept Development Workshop took place from the 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October. Staff from FOMWAN Bauchi, AHI and the State Ministry of Education joined representatives from youth-based NGOs, SUBEB and UNICEF, as well as teachers and students, to discuss how LaL could be made culturally acceptable for Bauchi state and the North in general. The texts and characters were amended and Butterfly Works are now redesigning the new environment.



*Participants at the Workshop in Bauchi*

**Mexico:** Interest in the concept of LaL Nigeria has led to the possibility of extending and replicating the program in other countries. Following several meetings at the AIDS 2008 Conference in Mexico this August, the MacArthur Foundation has agreed to support a feasibility and planning project to adapt LaL for Mexico City. The hope is that OneWorld UK and Butterfly Works will be able to transfer the necessary skills and knowledge for local organisations to initiate and implement LaL in Mexico.

**PICNIC:** In September 2008 LaL was presented at 'Surprising Africa', part of PICNIC – a leading annual event

highlighting creativity and innovation in entertainment, media and technology. Butterfly Works organised the event and launched the Butterfly Paper N°1, a manual for global citizens who intent to start their own "positive chain of events". Gisel Hiscock, director of Google Africa, was presented with the first copy.

**Conference in Senegal:** In December 2008, representatives from OWUK, ActionAid Nigeria, AHIP and GPI attended Oxfam Novib's *West Africa Regional Workshop on Quality Education* in Dakar, Senegal. More than twenty CSOs from across the region discussed innovative and holistic approaches to quality education. A number of those in attendance had come across the eLearning work of Butterfly Works and there was a great deal of interest in the LaL mobile technologies. We'll keep you updated on any developments from the workshop.



*Elizabeth Okoojion (GPI), Uju Ofomata (OWUK), Hajiya Mairo Bello (AHIP) and Azuka Menkiti (AAN) at the conference.*

**Implementation Tools for eFLHE:** In recognition of the difficulties caused by power shortages in Nigeria, projectors and laptops were provided for the pilot schools in October. These were distributed by GPI, AHI and EVA and should enable teachers to work through power cuts by projecting eFLHE onto the wall for the benefit of the entire class. This gives young people the chance to participate even when mains-powered computers are not working – we hope this will ease difficulties whilst the power problems persist.

**More Classmate PCs:** The recent announcement that a further 52,000 Intel Classmates have been ordered is very welcome – taking the total number in Nigeria to more than 90,000. A recent MoU signed with the Technology Support Centre (TSC) Abuja means that eFLHE will be preinstalled on all of these machines as part of Intel's Skool Nigeria curriculum. We continue to look for opportunities to work with the private sector in order to improve the IT infrastructure in Nigeria's schools.

### **Update on MyQ and MyA**

The mobile platform continues to be very successful with the MyQ service having received over 53,000 SMS messages as of mid December – more than doubling its target for the pilot phase. Thanks to a publicity drive by EVA and support by other LaL partners, competition entries to MyA have also been increasing – 10 winners were awarded airtime donated by NACA. The Question of the month can be obtained by sending a text to '38120' and flyers to advertise the service can be obtained from EVA.

An M&E survey of the MyQ service is currently being carried out by EVA and OWUK and we'll update you on the results. We are also pleased to announce that the MyQ and MyA services are now available on an additional network following an agreement with ZAIN. We remain in discussions with other telcos to open the service to subscribers of yet more networks. This will give more young people the chance to get unbiased and accurate information to their questions.

### **Next Step**

**Final Strategic Workshop:** On January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> a strategic workshop will take place in Abuja to review and round up the pilot phase of LaL. It will bring together all of the LaL partners as well as wider stakeholders. A three year plan will be established for the next phase of the project.

**Training Workshop:** From the 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January the first teacher-training workshop will take place in Bauchi state. This will be to prepare teachers from the pilot schools in Bauchi to be trained effectively to deliver eFLHE in schools. It is being coordinated with staff of Bauchi state MoE (FLHE Desk).