



BENCHMARK TESTING WITH EARLY GRADE READING ASSESSMENTS

The August holiday period was once again used for maintenance on existing libraries. This year we repainted United Primary School Ogbo's library and did minor repairs to furniture.

Ahead of launching the Reading Made Easy Workshops in all 10 schools our workshop facilitators received further training via video on phonics instruction. They were trained on the building block approach of the materials and ran through core elements of the full curriculum.

September brought a new academic year and once again we maintained and increased our Book Box Library Club collection.

As with any new programme measuring the outcomes of our initiatives is key to understanding which programmes are worth further investment in the future. With our official Reading Made Easy pilot due to launch in October we embarked on benchmark testing so we could track outcomes achieved by the pilot project. With the help of volunteers from the UK, an academically sound research trial was developed. Benchmarking involved the testing of early English literacy skills of 55 pupils prior to the first workshop and the taking of a survey about their access to reading materials, their reading behaviours and other household data. The literacy assessment were conducted using an adapted version of the USAID Early Grade Reading Assessment that was developed for a joint project with the Sokoto Education Board and USAID in 2013. The same assessment will be conducted in July 2022 after we have completed the first year of the pilot.

Qualitatively measuring:

- ◆ **Letter name recognition**
- ◆ **Letter sound recognition**
- ◆ **Word reading speed**
- ◆ **Decoding**
- ◆ **Listening comprehension**
- ◆ **Reading comprehension**

2000 notebooks
given to pupils

300 Reading Made Easy
printed and distributed

500 phonic readers
added to the libraries

500 bookbags
given to pupils

600 storybooks
added to the libraries