



INTERNAL MEMO

INTERNAL MEMO

To: Nigeria Governors' Forum
From: Director General
Date: 14th November, 2018
Subject: **Fact Check**

To: Nigeria Governors' Forum
From: Director General
Date: 14th November, 2018
Subject: **Fact Check**

1. The Claim:

UNESCO: Nigeria has the most out of school children in the world.

Verification of Claim:

In comparison to other countries within and outside Africa, Nigeria rates the **HIGHEST**, with 8.7 million out of school children of primary age. Therefore, the claim is **True**.

2. The Claim:

UNESCO: Recommended 26% budgetary allocation to education.

Verification of Claim:

The claim is **False** as UNESCO never suggested that 26% of the budget be set aside, instead they suggested that between 15 – 20 percent be allocated to education.

3. The Claim:

Nigeria's debt only increased by 10\$ billion from 2015 to date.

Verification of Claim:

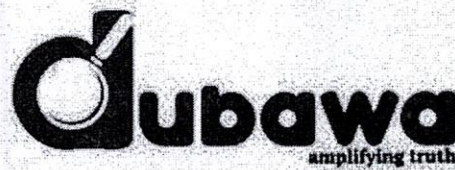
The claim that this government has only increased debt stock by \$10 billion from \$63 billion is **True**.

Please find attached report for your information

Please find attached report for your information

Director General

Search...

<https://twitter.com/dubawaNG><http://dubawa.org/>

Does Nigeria Have The Highest Number Of Out-Of-School Children In The World?

Debbie Palmer, Head of the Department for International Development (DFID) Nigeria on Thursday, 22 March, 2018 at the Expanded National Economic Summit stated that Nigeria has the highest number of “primary aged children out-of-school in the world”.

The acclaimed girl child rights activist, Malala Yousafai has previously asserted a variation of the claim. In a visit to Nigeria in 2017 (<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/general/does-nigeria-have-the-world-s-most-girls-out-of-school-as-activist-malala-claimed/209741.html>), she said: “Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school girls in the world”. Several news agencies (<https://www.thecable.ng/nigeria-highest-number-school-children-world>) and public figures have also reported the claim, with differing figures (<https://www.icirnigeria.org/adamu-worried-by-nigerias-world-highest-population-of-out-of-school-children/>) given to show the extent of the problem.

So, does Nigeria actually have the highest number of **out-of-school children** in the world? And if it does, by how much?

THE CLAIM

1. Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children in the world.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM

To verify the claim, our team contacted Debbie Palmer, the speaker of the claim who led us to obtainable data from notable statistics-based organizations and the official data institution of Nigeria.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN DEFINED

According to the United Nations (<http://uis.unesco.org/glossary?SPSLanguage=EN>), out-of-school children are defined as those kids who are yet to be enrolled in any formal education excluding pre-primary education. The age range for out-of-school children is 6-11 years.

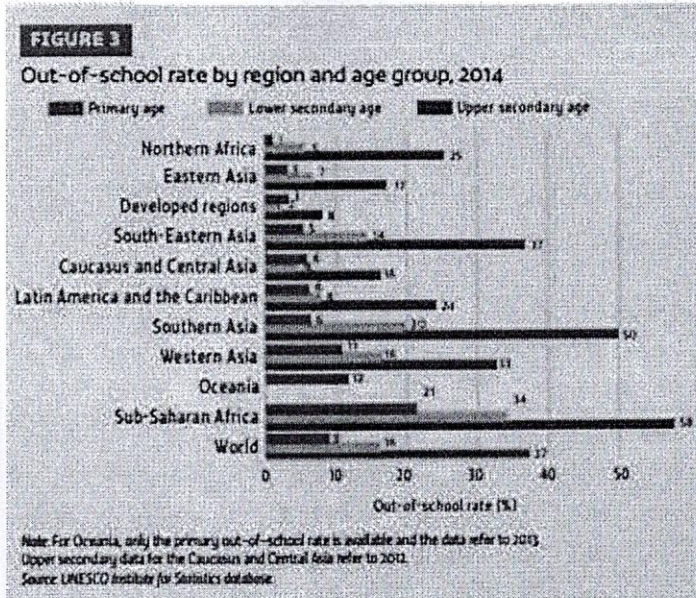
It is important to note that each of the children may have had varying degrees of education. Some of them may have attended school in the past (pre-primary education) but dropped out, some will attend school in the future and some will never go to school.

UNITED NATIONS REPORT

All the officials and activists who have asserted that Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children have been linked to have gotten the information from the country brief on the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) website (<https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/education.html>). When the statement was first made in 2017, the Malala Fund directed AfricaCheck (<https://africacheck.org/reports/nigeria-girls-school-worldwide-activist-malala-claimed/>) to UNICEF which in turn obtained its figures from the Institute of Statistics (<http://uis.unesco.org/>) of UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation); which is the official data agency of the Organisation.

The UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) works closely with countries and partners in order to develop its standards, methodologies and to produce its reports. According to the UIS policy paper (<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/fs37-leaving-no-one-behind-how-far-on-the-way-to-universal-primary-and-secondary-education-2016-en.pdf>) which was published in July 2016, 8.7 million Nigerian children were considered out-of-school. This figure which is based on country information obtained in 2014 is periodically revised as new information surfaces on child literacy and access to education.

More explicitly, the report states that there are 61 million out-of-school children in the world. Of the 61 million out-of-school children, 34 million or more than half live in sub-Saharan Africa, due in part to high population growth rates in the region. Southern Asia has the second highest number of out-of-school children with 11 million.



Out-of-school rate by region and age group, 2014

In comparison to other countries within and outside Africa, Nigeria rates the HIGHEST. Nigeria has 8.7 million out-of-school children of primary age, followed by Pakistan (5.6 million), India (2.9 million), Sudan (2.7 million), Ethiopia (2.1 million) and Indonesia (2.0 million). These six countries (including Nigeria) are home to more than one-third of all out-of-school children in the world, according to UIS data.

Countries with large numbers of children out of school for which precise data are unavailable, such as Afghanistan or the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were not presented in the report. However, estimates for these countries are incorporated into the global figures.

Out-of-school children of primary school age in selected countries, 2014 or latest year

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

The National Bureau of Statistics (<http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/>) (NBS) is Nigeria's official agency for the production and dissemination of statistical data about Nigeria and the coordination of statistical operations across all Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), State Statistical Agencies (SSAs) and Local Government Councils (LGCs) in the country.

The most recent household survey done in Nigeria in 2016 and published in 2017, the fifth round Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS5) which was conducted by NBS with the support of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), the National Agency for the Control of Aids (NACA) and UNICEF inadvertently confirms the claim.

The survey report (<http://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary?page=9&offset=80>) shows that a total of 9.1 million children are out-of-school in Nigeria, a figure which is even higher than the figure quoted in the UIS 2016 report. In the NBS survey report, the out-of-school children is defined as the number of out-of-school children of primary school age who are not attending school AND those attending preschool.



How Accurate is Osinbajo's claim that Nigeria debt only increased by \$10 billion since Buhari assumed office?



The Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo has said that the nation's debt (<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/292875-nigerias-debt-only-increased-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office-osinbajo.html>) was \$73 billion, a \$10 billion increment from \$63 billion the present administration inherited in 2015.

He made the disclosure in Ibadan on Saturday during the 9th Public Lecture of Sigma Club at the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan.

THE CLAIM:

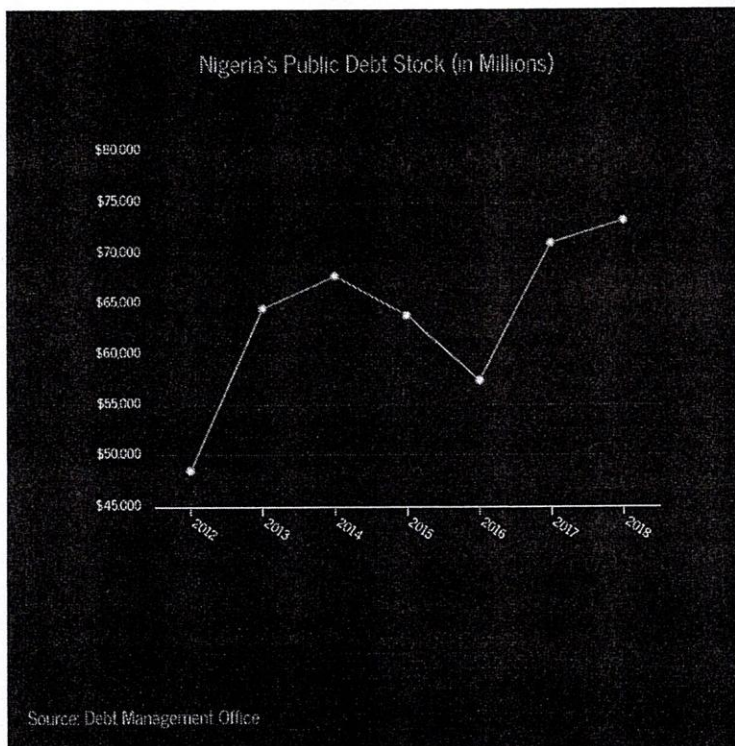
"In 2010 our debt was \$35 billion, \$41 billion in 2011, \$48 billion in 2012, \$64 billion in 2013, \$67.7 billion in 2014, \$63.8 billion in 2015, \$57.8 billion in 2016, \$70 billion in 2017 and \$73 billion in 2018.

"The nation's debt as at today was \$73 billion, an increment of \$10 billion from the \$63 billion inherited in 2015,"

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM

According to the Debt Management Office (<https://www.dmo.gov.ng/debt-profile/domestic-debts/debt-stock>), as at June 2015, The External Debt Stock of Federal Government and the 36 States stood at \$10.316 Billion; Domestic Debt Stock (FGN Only) was \$42.633 Billion and Domestic Debt of States was \$10.856 Billion which gives a grand total public debt stock of \$63.806 Billion

Also, according to the same document from Debt Management Office, the total public debt stock as at June 2018 stood at \$73.207 Billion with breakdown as follows: federal Government and the 36 states owe \$22.083 Billion, Domestic Debt (FGN Only) is \$39.749 Billion and total Domestic Debt of States and the FCT stood at \$11.374 Billion.



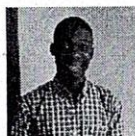
Further analysis (<https://www.dmo.gov.ng/debt-profile/domestic-debts/debt-stock>) of Nigeria Debt Stock also revealed that in 2012, Nigeria's debt stock was \$48.496 Billion, in 2013, it was \$64.509 Billion, in 2014, it was \$67.726 Billion, In 2016, it stood at \$57.391 Billion and as at December 31st 2017, the total debt stock was \$70.999 Billion

These figures, according to the Debt Management Office substantiate same figures quoted by the Vice President where he said "In 2010 our debt was \$35 billion, \$41 billion in 2011, \$48 billion in 2012, \$64 billion in 2013, \$67.7 billion in 2014, \$63.8 billion in 2015, \$57.8 billion in 2016, \$70 billion in 2017 and \$73 billion in 2018"

There was no available record on the Website of the Debt Management Office for 2010 and 2011, so it is difficult to verify the VP's debt figure of \$35 and \$41 billion for 2010 and 2011 respectively.

However, going by available data on public debt stock from 2012 till date, the total debt of the country in 2015 was \$63.806 Billion and the current debt figure as at June 2018 stood at \$73.207 Billion which is the same as the figure quoted by the vice president on Saturday.

Therefore, the claim by the vice president that this government has only increased the nation's debt stock by only \$10 billion from \$63 billion this present administration inherited in 2015 is TRUE.



Akintunde Babatunde (<http://dubawa.org/author/akintundebabatunde/>)

Akintunde Babatunde is a program officer with the Premium Times Center for Investigative Journalism. A dedicated researcher, channeling his skills towards the unveiling of political propoganda and demystifying the secrecy associated with government projects. A diligent and hardworking intellectual, he holds a bachelor's degree in educational management and mathematics.

(<https://twitter.com/search?q=olorunwababs&src=typd>)

Share:

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=twitter&nb=1>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=facebook&nb=1>

<https://api.whatsapp.com/send?text=How%20Accurate%20is%20Osinbajo%20claim%20that%20Nigeria%20debt%20only%20increased%20by%20%24%20billion%20since%20Buhari%20assumed%20office%3F%20accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office%2F>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=email&nb=1>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=google-plus-1&nb=1>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=google-plus-1&nb=1>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=linkedin&nb=1>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/?share=telegram&nb=1>

<http://dubawa.org/how-accurate-is-osinbajos-claim-that-nigeria-debt-only-increased-by-10-billion-since-buhari-assumed-office/#print>

Like this:

Like

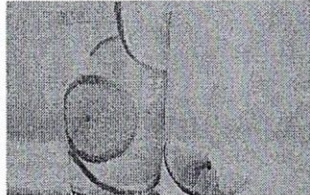
Be the first to like this.

RELATED POSTS



<http://dubawa.org/forbes-did-not-rate-nigeria-as-the-best-economy-in-africa-false-claim-by-keyamo/>

FORBES DID NOT RATE NIGERIA... (HTTP://DUBAWA.ORG/FORBES-DID-NOT-RATE-NIGERIA-AS-THE-BEST-ECONOMY-IN-AFRICA-FALSE-CLAIM-BY-KEYAMO/)



<http://dubawa.org/healthcheck-the-not-so-magical-lemon-water/>

#HEALTHCHECK: THE NOT-SO-MAGICAL LEMON WATER (HTTP://DUBAWA.ORG/HEALTHCHECKHAS THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT THE-NOT-SO-MAGICAL-LEMON-WATER/)



<http://dubawa.org/has-the-nigerian-government-truly-spent-1-7-trillion-on-capital-investment-as-claimed-by-osinbajo-yes/>

HAS THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TRULY... (HTTP://DUBAWA.ORG/HAS-THE-NIGERIAN-GOVERNMENT-TRULY-SPENT-1-7-TRILLION-ON-CAPITAL-INVESTMENT-AS-CLAIMED-BY-OSINBAJO-YES/)



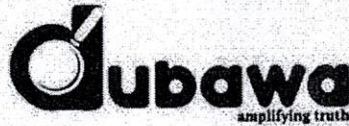
<http://dubawa.org/document-shows-kachikwu-lied-about-graduating-with-first-class-in-law/>

DOCUMENT SHOWS KACHIKWU LIED ABOUT... (HTTP://DUBAWA.ORG/DOCUMENT-SHOWS-KACHIKWU-LIED-ABOUT-GRADUATING-WITH-FIRST-CLASS-IN-LAW/)



<http://dubawa.org/has-jos-again-been-peeled-off-the-map/>

HAS JOS AGAIN BEEN PEELLED OFF THE MAP... (HTTP://DUBAWA.ORG/HAS-JOS-AGAIN-BEEN-PEELED-OFF-THE-MAP/)

[\(http://dubawa.org/\)](http://dubawa.org/)

Did UNESCO ever recommend 26 per cent budgetary allocation to education?

Following President Muhammadu Buhari's presentation of the N8.6 trillion 'Budget of Consolidation' in November to the National Assembly for approval and appropriation, Nigerians have criticised the government for again proposing an allocation to the education sector lower than 26 per cent of national budget 'recommended' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO.

By Azeezat Adedigba

Many Nigerians argue that the N605.8 billion budgeted for education which stands at 7.04 per cent of the total budget is far below expectation for a country with about 10.5 million out-of-school children, the world's highest number.

Prominent in these voices is that of Barau Jibrin, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND, who faulted the abysmal allocation of funds to education contrary to the UNESCO standard.

Mr. Jibrin added that only N4 billion was spent (on education) in 2017.

MINISTER FAULTS 'UNESCO' CLAIM

Giving a breakdown of the budget for the sector, Minister of Education, Adamu, on November 14, while addressing journalists described as a lie, the common reference in reports that the UNESCO, set a benchmark percentage funding for the education sector in national budgets at 26 per cent.

Mr. Adamu said the UN agency "told him recently that it never established the controversial benchmark."

"Three weeks ago, I led the Nigerian delegation to UNESCO, and the issue came up, and UNESCO said they never, at any fora and UNDER any circumstances, ever suggested 26 per cent as the optimal level of funding for education for any nation. They said they just don't know where this lie originated from and why. Therefore, there is not stipulation of 26 per cent for funding of education in the budget by UNESCO," he said.

Meanwhile the Minister urged the President Muhammadu Buhari to invest about N1 trillion yearly in education for the nation's interest.

Mr Adamu noted that since 1999 when democratic governance returned, the annual budgetary allocation to education in Nigeria has been between four per cent and 10 per cent.

"None of the E9 (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan) or D8 countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Turkey) other than Nigeria, allocates less than 20 per cent of its annual budget to education. Indeed even among sub-Saharan Africa countries, we are trailing far behind smaller and less endowed nations in terms of our investment in education," Mr. Adamu said.

Mr. Adamu also noted that the recent government retreat on education, which was attended by Nigerian ministers, ended by asking the president to increase revenue allocation to the education sector to about 15 per cent of the 2018 budget.

But how accurate is the statement that UNESCO set a (26 per cent) benchmark for education budgets for developing countries?

Aside the minister of education who said the 26 per cent allocation to education is a lie, the former executive secretary of the National Universities Commission, NUC, Peter Okebukola in an interview with the Guardian on January 14, 2015 also referred to the 26 per cent allocation to education as 'mythical'.

Mr. Okebukola, who is also the president of Global University Network for Innovation, GUNI, Africa in the report said the recommendation arose out of a recommendation of a 'localised' UNESCO meeting which held in Nigeria sometime in the past.

"I have had to ask two Directors-General of UNESCO about this figure and they claim not to be aware of it For Nigeria, I believe we should strive for a minimum of 30 per cent for the next 20 years to clear the mess in the sector," Mr. Okebukola said.

CHECKING FACTS

To authenticate the education minister's claim and also ascertain if UNESCO made such a recommendation, PREMIUM TIMES contacted the UNESCO regional office in Abuja.

In its response, the spokespersons of UNESCO, Shola Macaulay and Alice Ateh-Abang, provided some documents titled 'Education for All, EFA, 2000-2015: achievement and challenges' and 'World Education Forum 2015 final report' for PREMIUM TIMES' study.

Mrs. Ateh-Abang said the document established that there was a recommendation close to that effect, noting that, "15 per cent to 20 per cent is the international benchmark."

In the forward page of the EFA global monitoring report signed by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, it says, "many governments have increased spending but few have prioritised education in national budget."

The report, released for 2000-2015 tagged, a Dakar framework for action, called for significant increase in financial commitment by national governments and donors to the education sector to accelerate progress toward the EFA goals.

According to the document, the Dakar framework recommended governments to take lead in increasing financial commitments to EFA, with the EFA high level steering committee proposing that 15 per cent to 20 per cent of annual budgets be earmarked for education.

"In 2006, the High level Group on EFA proposed that governments should spend between 4 per cent and 6 per cent of GNP on education and that, within government budgets, between 15 per cent and 20 per cent should be earmarked for education", Chapter 8, page 241 of the EFA report said.

The EFA document also indicates that at least 20 per cent of a nation's national income must be raised in tax revenue for such countries to finance the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, now Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.

"Some countries including Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Pakistan collect 10 per cent or less of their national income in tax," the report stated.

Similarly, the World Education Forum 2015 final report which is also referred to as 'The Incheon Declaration' in Chapter 4, page 26 titled, 'Beyond the Incheon: rising up to the challenges of implementation' said most governments fall short of allocating the recommended international benchmark of 20 per cent of public expenditure needed to bridge education funding gaps.

UNESCO initiated the EFA global monitoring reports to monitor progress, highlight remaining gaps and provide recommendation for the global sustainable development agenda to follow in 2015.

Meanwhile, Stephen Onyekwelu, a programme officer in UNESCO's education sector told PREMIUM TIMES in an interview that UNESCO recommended that government should, "at least allocate 15 to 20 per cent of their budgets to education.

"This should not generate controversies at all. It needs to be propagated so that people will not be in doubt. For someone to say that the minister went to the UN house and at the UN house, the UN representative told him there was nothing like that, it is an embarrassment to us. The former DG herself, Irina Bokova endorsed the recommendation," Mr. Onyekwelu said.

According to him, UNESCO has had many references to this (recommendation) from "eminent scholars in the universities and they (UNESCO) never rejected these references."

"Timothy Odiaka, (used this) in his article in 2013, when he was talking about university budget and in his reference to the World bank, where 20 countries were used for study and how much they budgeted for education. If those references were not right, UNESCO would have rejected it. An organisation called Budget information Technology Limited in Abuja also wrote a letter asking for clarification on the 26 per cent recommendation by UNESCO," Mr Onyekwelu said.

"I am now telling you this. In 2006, a high level group under EFA met and recommended that 4 per cent to 6 per cent of the GDP or 15 per cent to 20 per cent of their (government) budget should be allocated to education. The authoritative source to confirm this recommendation for education is the EFA global report," he said.

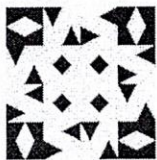
CONCLUSION

Based on the UNESCO's official records from the EFA global report and World Education Forum 2015, Mr. Adamu's claim that UNESCO "NEVER made any recommendations let alone recommend 26 per cent" allocation of a country's budget to education is not entirely true.

While the minister is right, going by the documents given to PREMIUM TIMES by the global body, that 26 per cent allocation was never recommended by UNESCO, he failed to give the accurate figure (15-20 per cent) in his submission.

However, the EFA document has confirmed as inaccurate the pervasive 'claim' that UNESCO set a 26 per cent benchmark. The recommendation it actually gave is 15-20 per cent; far higher than the 7 per cent proposed in Nigeria's 2018 budget.

Notwithstanding the revelation, the appeals by the participants during the last education retreat to the president to allocate up to 15 per cent of the 2018 budgetary allocation to education is apt and similar to the UNESCO recommendation.




Dubawa (<http://dubawa.org/author/dubawa/>)

Strengthen Investigative Journalism for the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

Share:

 (<http://dubawa.org/unesco-ever-recommend-26-per-cent-budgetary-allocation-education/?share=twitter&nb=1>)

 (<http://dubawa.org/unesco-ever-recommend-26-per-cent-budgetary-allocation-education/?share=facebook&nb=1>)