

As of November 2025, JigawaUNITE has reached:



250 Schools



101,000 Pupils



1,335 Teachers



250 Head Teachers

Background

The Jigawa State Government has made commendable efforts to improve education access and quality, but the system still faced formidable challenges as of 2024. Even after substantial investments in school infrastructure, teacher salaries and staffing, instructional materials, and more – Jigawa State suffered from large numbers of out-of-school children, high pupil absenteeism, a severe shortage of trained teachers, a lack of high-quality pedagogical materials to aid effective instruction, and most importantly, poor learning outcomes.

In April 2025, the Jigawa State Government rolled out the **Jigawa Unified New Improvement of Teaching and Education (JigawaUNITE) programme**. By focusing on building foundational skills, providing ongoing support for teachers, and utilising technology for transparent system-level management, JigawaUNITE is laying the groundwork for large learning gains to come.

The 5 Pillars of the JigawaUNITE Programme



Scientifically-based teaching and learning materials building foundational skills



Training, coaching, and ongoing support for teachers, head teachers, and government staff



Integrated technology in classrooms and management systems



A strategy for engaging the larger community in education



Rigorous methodologies for measuring progress

Key Findings

For this study, data were collected at the start of the programme (June 2025) and after two school terms of implementation (November 2025). The sample included 58 schools: 28 JigawaUNITE schools and 30 comparison schools (Jigawa State public Primary schools receiving no intervention). In each round, roughly 2,000 pupils across Primary 1-6 were assessed in foundational literacy and numeracy.

Transforming the School Landscape

In its first five months of operations, JigawaUNITE is addressing systemic issues to pave the way for effective teaching and learning. Using a **data-driven teacher reassignment system**, the programme enabled a strategic shift towards bilingual instruction, ensuring that English-medium subjects are taught by an English-proficient teacher. Reassignments led to **near-complete staffing**: 96% of schools now have one teacher for every multi-grade (at least 3) or single-grade (at least 6) classroom. They also resulted in smaller class sizes, with an average pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 70:1 – greatly reduced from 114:1 as previously seen¹.

Before

Only 68% of schools had 3 staff or more to teach all 6 grades

With JigawaUNITE

96% of schools fully staffed:
One teacher for every multi-grade (at least 3) or single-grade (at least 6) classroom

Pupil-teacher ratio reduced from 114:1 to 70:1

Rebuilding Public Trust

Increased public confidence inspired by JigawaUNITE is evidenced by a **16% increase in enrolment**, and pupil attendance now averages 74% (up from 39% previously seen).

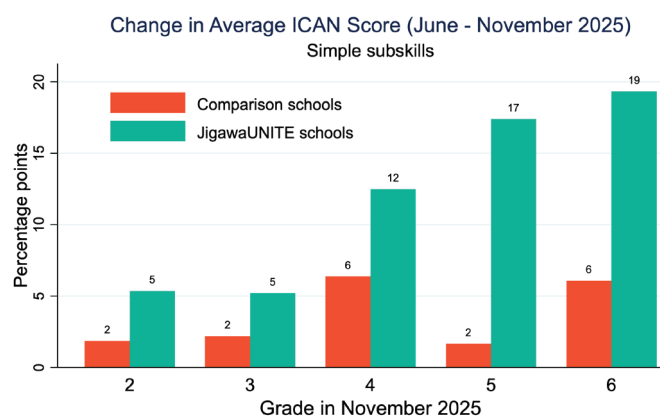
16% increase in enrolment

35 percentage point increase in pupil attendance

¹ Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE), 2024 Learning Outcomes Assessment – Jigawa State. https://planenigeria.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Plane_Learning-Outcomes_Jigawa_2025_vFinal.pdf 32% of schools had 2 staff or fewer to teach all 6 grades. Pupil-teacher ratios were 114:1. Average pupil attendance was 49%.

Large Improvements in Foundational Maths Skills

After just 17 weeks of instruction, JigawaUNITE saw large **gains across maths skills**, which were primarily driven by improvements in more basic subskills – such as one-digit multiplication, as opposed to two-digit with rearranging. In some grades, such as P5, JigawaUNITE pupils made 8.5 times the progress that their peers in comparison schools did. The fact that pupils are seeing the largest gains in these skills – especially in upper grades, where instruction is often focused on advanced skills for which pupils have not yet gained the foundation — is a promising sign of the programme’s effectiveness in targeting teaching to the level that children currently need.

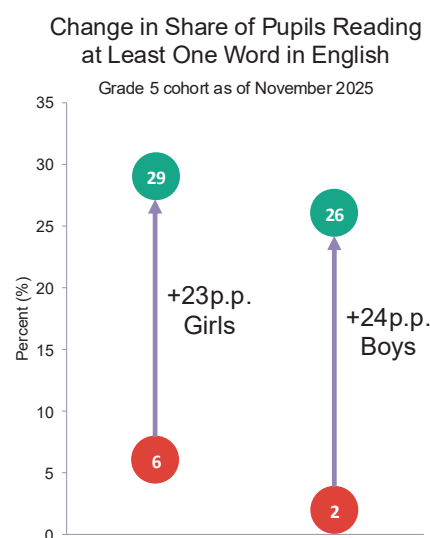


Examples of Foundational Maths Skills Assessed	
Addition without carrying	$32 + 15$
Subtraction without borrowing	$46 - 21$
One-digit multiplication	2×4
Exact short division	$9 \div 3$

19 percentage point increase in pupils who can now read at least one word

Placing Pupils on the Path to Reading

Where previously, the vast majority of children could not read at all, there are now many more JigawaUNITE pupils who can read at least 1 word, particularly in Primary 4-6. In these grades, the share of readers increased by an average of **19 percentage points** — from 5% to 24% — which is **four times** the rate of improvement observed in comparison schools. Importantly, this transition is a critical step that requires the acquisition of many pre-skills – such as learning letter sounds, blending sounds, and recognising sight words – and once children can recognise 1 word, they can rapidly progress to recognising 2 or more. JigawaUNITE’s scientifically-based materials, which intentionally target these pre-skills, combined with the programme’s data-driven tailoring of instructional levels to pupils’ current abilities, have enabled this progress.



Maintaining Gender Parity

JigawaUNITE is **benefitting girls and boys equally**. For example, in Primary 5, the share of boys who could read at least one word increased from 2% to 26%, and the share of girls who could do so increased from 6% to 29%.



Looking Ahead

After its first two terms of implementation, JigawaUNITE has successfully laid the groundwork for large-scale educational improvements, ensuring that schools are staffed for effective instruction, more children are enrolled and present, and instruction is appropriately tailored to pupils’ current levels. Now that pupils have made demonstrable progress in the earliest preskills in literacy – arguably the most difficult hurdle to overcome on the road to reading, accelerated improvements in reading fluency and comprehension are sure to follow. Similarly, now that pupils are demonstrating growth in more foundational numeracy subskills, JigawaUNITE can continue to build on these foundations toward mastery of more advanced skills.