



USAID | **NIGERIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

UNITED STATES DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE INTERACTS WITH SCHOOL PUPILS IN KANO

Kano, Wednesday, May 26, 2010 – The United States Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Jack Lew interacted with the pupils of Unguwa-Uku Special Primary School in Kano as they enjoyed a session of the newly produced *Sesame Street Nigeria* educational television program. Sesame Workshop, the non profit educational organization that produces the landmark children’s show *Sesame Street* has developed a new children’s series to bring messages about staying in school, girl’s empowerment and HIV/AIDS to the children of Nigeria. *Sesame Street Nigeria* is made possible by a 5-year grant from the American people through the United States Agency for International Development to create 78 episodes of 30 minutes each for the series and supporting outreach materials, as well as conduct research to evaluate the program’s impact. Kano is chosen as one of the pilot states in Nigeria. The program shall evolve into a children’s educational television program on a national television network in Nigeria.

It is intended for the series to make a strong impact among Nigerian children to understand key HIV/AIDS, health and social issues, while also developing young children’s pre-school skills in letter and number recognition. This will lay an educational foundation for all preschoolers, preparing them for school and life. As the single largest informal educator of young children, local *Sesame Street* programs produced in countries as diverse as South Africa, Bangladesh and India are making a difference in over 140 nations.