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**PRESIDENT GOODLUCK JONATHAN LAUNCHES USAID SUPPORTED
NIGERIA EDUCATION DATA SURVEY**

On May 16, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Terence P. McCulley joined President Goodluck Jonathan to formally launch the final report of the 2010 Nigeria Education Data Survey and Digest of Education Statistics (NEDS) in Abuja. Conducted and designed by Nigeria's National Population Commission and the Federal Ministry of Education, with support from USAID and UK's Department for International Development, the 2010 NEDS is a sample-based household survey on school demand, confirmation of census-based enrollment data, and a comparison of education data between States (e.g. access to, and quality of education). It is expected that the Survey will play a pivotal role in closing the gaps between policies and the delivery of quality education by providing verifiable, qualitative and quantitative data necessary to inform education strategy and implementation. This will assist the Government of Nigeria in achieving the Education For All and Millennium Development Goals.

In his goodwill message during the launching, Ambassador McCulley commended Nigeria on its efforts in improving its education system, stating that, "the United States Government is committed to continue working with the Government of Nigeria to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Nigeria's education system and will continue its support of Nigeria's efforts to build a sustainable, well-governed democracy, a diversified growing economy, and a healthy, educated population."

In 2004, the National Population Commission, with support from USAID, conducted Nigeria's first Education Data Survey to provide the Federal Ministry of Education with transparent and reliable data that described the education context in Nigeria, particularly in primary education. NEDS is scheduled to be conducted every five years, with the 2010 Survey being its second iteration.