



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDUCATIONLINKS

Global Education Learning Series

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED... (MIS)ADVENTURES IN MANAGING BOOK SUPPLY CHAINS | NOVEMBER 5, 2020

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[LINK TO WEBINAR RECORDING](#)

Book Distribution

1) Is 'celebration' of successful book distribution be celebrated? Locally? Nationally? Can you cite some examples?

Karen Tietjen, Creative Associates: What a good idea. I polled Creative's early grade reading projects to find out whether successful book distributions had been celebrated. I can share two examples:

Example #1: In Sokoto State in northern Nigeria, the State Universal Basic Education Board organized a state-level launch of the book distribution process, supported by the USAID-funded NEI Plus Program. Officiated by the State Governor, the high-level, high-visibility event invited Local Government Education Authority secretaries who symbolically presented the reading program book packages to representative groups of head teachers, teachers and students. The importance of reading was featured in cultural group performances and primary school student displayed their reading skills. The media coverage of the high-profile event both demonstrated the State Government's commitment to education only demonstrated and communicated to communities and schools that books would soon be arriving at schools. For more information, please visit the NEI Plus website:

<http://neiplus.com/sokoto-flags-off-state-funded-distribution-of-usaid-reading-materials-to-pupils/>

A few photos are provided below.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDUCATIONLINKS

Global Education Learning Series



Example #2: In Afghanistan, school-level events and community gatherings were held to celebrate the arrival of reading books at the school for the early grade reading program, supported by the USAID-funded All Children Reading Project. The new books were featured in locally-organized Reading Festivals to raise awareness about the importance of education and the need for household and community support for reading. A few photos from the events are provided below.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDUCATIONLINKS
Global Education Learning Series



Clearance, Packing and Distribution Preparation

2) We are trying to provide books for children in the Self-Administration of Northeast Syria and the cost to produce in country is incredibly cost-prohibitive. Any suggestions for reducing printing cost?

Many times, printing costs can be brought under control by careful planning for paper use, as this is one of the larger expense items. While this sounds trite, there are many optimizations that can be done by considering printing in a different size format, lowering the paper waste on a per-page basis and so forth. Additionally, the cost of ink can be looked at as another area for optimization, even if the ink has to be brought in from another country. Moving from a four-color process to two-color printing, and so forth, are other strategies. Additionally, I would explore printing at certain hours or days, and this means a face-to-face meeting with the local printer, as this unlooked-for strategy can also uncover benefits.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDUCATIONLINKS
Global Education Learning Series