

Out-of-School Children in Enugu State

Background

ESSPIN is currently working with stakeholders in Enugu state to support the government's aim of achieving universal access to education for all children. Of particular concern is the large number of out-of-school children in Enugu state. An Out-of-School Survey was carried out in the state in 2014 with ESSPIN's support.

Aims

The survey aims to reduce the number of out-of-school children in Enugu state through four key objectives:

To gather information on out-of-school children and the responsible factors

To support the Enugu State with adequate information that will inform decision-making for education of marginalised children

To guide the planned enrolment campaign and targeted advocacies for attendance and transition at basic education and senior secondary school levels

To inform Government on policies and programmes to reduce the number of out-of-school children.

Research methodology

The survey is based on a sample of 471 communities across the 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Enugu State, using a stratified two-stage sample design. All the 4,567 households in the selected communities were listed and enumerated for the out-of-school children. A pilot survey was conducted in three LGAs to test-run the instruments and the field process.

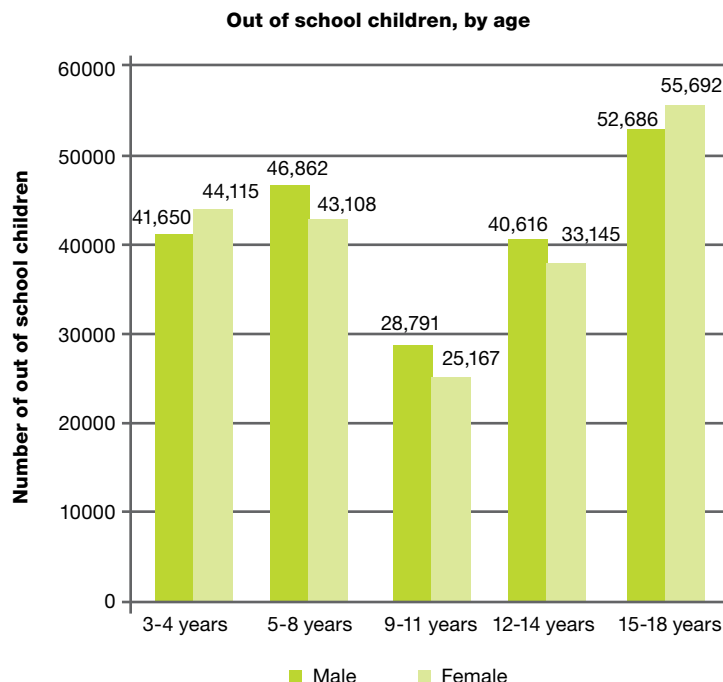
Major findings

1. Just over 1 in 4 (28.6%) children were out of school in 2014 - a total of 416,832 children, including 210,605 boys and 206,227 girls aged 3-18 years. The out-of-school children include:

110,572 children who have never attended school, including 54,513 boys and 56,059 girls

306,260 children who have dropped out of school, including 156,092 boys and 150,168 girls

Status	Number			Percentage		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Dropped out	156,092	150,168	306,260	21.2%	20.9%	21.0%
Never attended	54,513	50,059	110,572	7.4%	7.8%	7.6%
Overall out of school	210,605	206,227	416,832	28.6%	28.7%	28.6%
Total estimated population	737,326	718,819	1,456,145	50.6%	49.4%	100%



2. Gender differences between out-of-school boys and girls are relatively small, with a higher number and proportion of boys out of school from the ages of 5-15 years. At age 15-18 years, the gap narrows with 37% of boys and 37.1% of girls out of school.

3. The highest concentration of children out of school are in Igboeze North and Enugu East LGAs (in terms of both number and percentage), while Oji River and Igboeze South have the least concentration of out-of-school children.

4. Children were out-of-school for a variety of reasons, but most commonly due to financial problems (21.4%) and a range of medical issues – physical disability (14.2%), mental health (9.6%), hearing impairment (6.4%), HIV/AIDS stigma (4.8%), as well as general medical reasons (11.5%).

5. Out-of-school children were most likely to live in households with the following socio-economic features:

Household head has no education (30.4%) or only primary education (48.5%)

Monthly income of household head of N10,000 and below (76.2%)

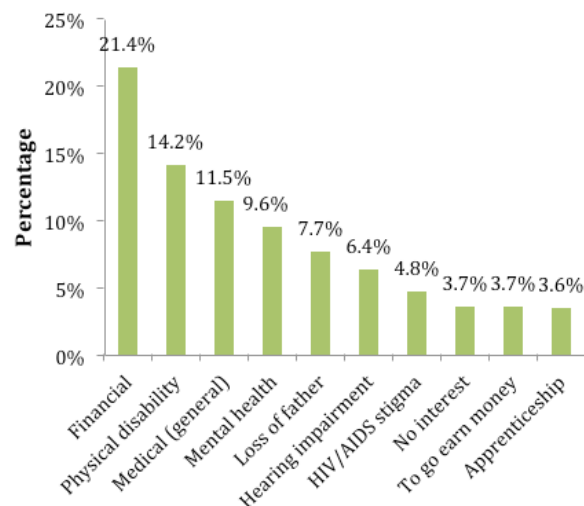
Household head is a farmer (55.9%)

Education level of household head	Percentage
No education	34.0%
Primary education	48.5%
Secondary education	14.9%
Vocational training	0.7%
Tertiary education	1.9%
Total	100%

Monthly income (N) of household head	Percentage
N 10,000 and below	76.2%
N 10,001 - N 20,000	20.2%
N 20,001 - N 30,000	2.5%
N 30,001 - N 40,000	0.7%
N 40,001 - N 50,000	0.3%
Above N 50,000	0.2%
Total	100%

Major occupation of household head	Percentage
Farming	55.9%
Self-employed	30.4%
Civil servant / government employee	6.4%
Employee of private company	1.6%
Professional person	0.9%
Other	4.7%
Total	100%

Most common reasons for children being out of school



Recommendations for reducing the number of out-of-school children in Enugu state include:

1. Provide pre-primary schools to cater for the large number of children aged 3-5 who have never attended school. This could be achieved by expanding the facilities of public primary schools to include compulsory ECCDE.

2. Support the most vulnerable households experiencing financial constraints to sending their children to school, for example through conditional cash transfers.

3. Work with parents of drop-out children to find ways of sending them back to school, for example through awareness campaigns.

4. Design and implement special programmes to assist out-of-school children who have lost one or both parents, for example through provision of free books and uniforms.

5. 'Targeted additional support to children with disabilities and health issues to address the high numbers of children who are out of school in Enugu state for health reasons'

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