

ESSPIN is supporting schools to become effective centres of learning at the heart of the community. We are working to improve the way education is managed at all levels of government and to get more and better resources in schools. ESSPIN is helping Nigeria's children to grow.

Background

ESSPIN's support to Lagos is increasingly yielding positive results as more teachers are now delivering competent lessons and the School Based Management Committees participating more in the school improvement process. Schools are also planning better for their daily administrations as they embark on self evaluations to strengthen their School Development Plans (SDP). 574 schools have undergone self evaluation with 522 SDPs written since the beginning of the current school year. Plans to roll out the formation of SBMCs in all of Lagos 404 schools continue to gather momentum in Lagos state as Civil Society Organisations continually meet and train community representatives.

ESSPIN's contribution

ESSPIN continues political engagement with the state is yielding positive results as challenges discussed with senior level officers are being resolved.

ESSPIN continues to provide technical support to the state in ensuring trainings and other forms of technical support are consistently provided. This has resulted in 1,972 teachers receiving School Improvement Officer trainings while 2,531 have delivered competent lessons all within the same term. All of these results have been achieved within a competent framework of professional teacher observation mechanism which is also embedded into the state, where close to 379 cluster schools have had more than half of their teachers observed.

With a view to widening the scope of influence of the programme, especially with regards to ensuring that roll out has all the support that is needed, ESSPIN engaged SUBEB Directors and Tutors-General/Permanent Secretaries (TG/PSs) of the six Education Districts to intimate them of new developments in the programme. The Annual School Census, Annual Education Sector Performance Report and other institutional recurrent support being provided are all still ongoing making for a stronger and more accountable education sector.

ESSPIN Impact in Schools

ESSPIN's impact is continually being felt all over Lagos:

Head teachers in Phases 1 and 2 Schools (600) in Lagos State have now developed a policy on learning time with their teachers after receiving training on leadership 5. Teachers now make more effective use of learning time. The SIOs working in Phase 3 schools have been trained on how to observe lessons and give feedback to teachers. They now train their Head teachers and follow them up in the 407 schools in Lagos State.

The distribution of Lesson Plans to schools have made the teaching and learning of Literacy and Numeracy more effective. Presently, all schools have a full term 2 Literacy and Numeracy Lesson Plans to work with. Teachers are happy that they no longer write lesson plans in two major subjects. At the community engagement activity recently carried out on ESSPINs Water and Sanitation project at Ibeju Lekki, Mrs. Bukola Olufowobi, the Head teacher of Baptist Day School Agbowa, said that, he has never witnessed any intervention programme that is as effective as that of ESSPIN because of the school support carried out by both SSITs and SIOs.

Pupils also lent their voices, expressing appreciation for the provision of water and toilet facilities in their schools. Favour Chidara, from Jinadu Primary School Surulere says: *"pupils are not in school to learn alone but also learn to behave normally and be useful to ourselves and the nation at large. Therefore, we should be in-charge and involved in cleaning the toilet"*.

As a result of the teacher professional development trainings the standard of teachers delivering competent lessons has improved significantly. The Learning Outcome Benchmark (LOB) Radio Programme Broadcast has also helped in enlightening parents and community members on their role in ensuring that their wards achieve the minimum standard. They now request for copies of the LOB from schools.

SSIT members have been able to support SIOs to monitor the progress of pupils in class through *"Pupils Tracking."* Pupils being tracked have shown improvement over time. The *"Team Day"* introduced by ESSPIN has enhanced peer mentoring among Head teachers in Lagos State as they share experiences and learn from one another. In Epe LGEA, after going through the First term report, a meeting was held to discuss the challenges of teachers not delivering competent lesson and both the SSIT and SIOs appealed for more support from the Education Secretary.



More Child-Centered Teaching- improved teaching and learning at Christ the Apostolic Primary school in Ajiromi Ifelodun LGA

ESSPIN Impact in Communities

SBMC's continue to make huge impacts across communities in the State. For instance:

St. Michael Primary School's SBMC in Epe, employed three teachers; bought school drums and also have committed to fuelling the school's generator.

At Oshodi-Isolo, Mrs. Okereke, an SBMC Women's Committee member brought in five pupils that dropped out of school due to lack of uniforms. She bought uniforms for them and is now monitoring their attendance and progress in school.

At Ifoshi and Imakuyo Primary Schools in Ejigbo, the SBMCs employed four cleaners and also renovated the windows and doors of classrooms worth N300, 000. They also plastered three classroom floors with N27, 000.

At Ajiran Community Primary School at Eti-Osa, the SBMC mobilised N500, 000 to sand fill the flooded school compound; while at Ikeja, Bola Memorial Primary School, the SBMC carried out an advocacy visit to the Rotary Club who in turn renovated a block of six classrooms at the cost of N6, 567,000.

The SBMC of St Peter's Primary School at Lagos Mainland had the women committee donate 500 pairs of sandals to the pupils while another member furnished the Head Teacher's office; procured about 10 computer sets; a generator to run the computers; and is also paying an instructor to teach the pupils the use of the computers.

The SBMC Chairman of St Paul's Primary School in Ebutte Metta, liaised with the Old Boys of the school which includes Stephen Keshi and Mikel Obi, who gave the school 5 computer sets with promises to do more. The SBMC rebuilt broken school stair rails, replaced the broken gate and donated trophies for inter-house sport activities.

In Otto Primary School, the SBMC built toilets; bought a set of drums for the school; and furnished the ECCDE rooms and repaired the school's broken sewage.

Dr. Adeolu Olusodo the SBMC Chairman of UMCA Primary School Eleja withdrew his children from a private school to St Peter's Primary School, a public primary school, where he is now contributing to school development. The LGEA gave him a certificate of recognition of his contributions to the community. He is now a role model for other SBMC members around Lagos Mainland.



SBMC members at Ibeju watching the ESSPIN Community Theatre movie

Case Study

Bola Memorial Primary School and their relentless SBMC

“Our SBMC approached quite a number of well-to-do individuals and organisations for help and as you can see they responded. The Lions Club of Ikeja renovated our classrooms”. says Mojid Idowu, Chairman Bola Memorial Primary School, Ikeja School-Based Management Committee. The SBMC had successfully engaged the community around its school to ensure they fulfill their social obligations.

Mojid and other members of the SBMC have also approached a hotel around the community which has promised to come to their aid in whatever form they are able to. There was a time when the school had leaking classrooms and held some lessons under trees and in the open air. But now their story has changed and the success story continues.

This is also an opportunity for Bola Memorial's SBMC to further develop their School Development Plans just as they have been trained to do by ESSPIN.

ESSPIN understands that working directly with schools is only a fraction of the approach and that communities, civil society organisations, politicians and the media equally have a vital role to play in improving the quality of education.

ESSPIN supports the effective training and development of SBMCs in ensuring that communities fully participate in the governance of education and that they make educational administrators and schools administrators accountable.

“We recently had the fence of our school fixed because it was destroyed after a heavy storm. The problem was that hoodlums started to use the schools as a hide out to carry out all sorts of nefarious activities. They came in and smoked Indian hemp and often broke into the classrooms to steal chalk and furniture”

Now a wall has been constructed to prevent access into the school by unauthorized persons. Also a block of classrooms has been renovated to accommodate pupils in Early Child Care Education and Inclusive Education where children with impairments are taught.

“We are now going to fix other things in the school and we won't stop until all the other classrooms that are leaking are fixed, our furniture repaired and our whole school



Mojid Idowu, the SBMC Chair of Bola Memorial standing beside the newly renovated *ring environment should be”,*