

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 activities have continued to run smoothly, in spite of some security concerns in the last few months, with proper caution taken through security alerts communicated as and when due. Collaboration with stakeholders requires furtherance with more Political Engagements that deliver increased reform adaptation in the State. A good number of the recently promoted staff of the State Universal Basic Education Board include beneficiaries of ESSPIN intervention and having them play strategic roles may be relevant to ensuring programme consolidation and sustainability in their areas of work. The state has shown visible commitment to Quality Assurance; however the board still needs to train more enumerators to be able to cover all the schools in Kaduna. IQTE students are due for another Assessment exercise.

ESSPIN's contribution

An 11-member Task Team (4 females, 7 males) has been inaugurated and trained to support the 2014/2016 Medium Term Sector Strategy development in Kaduna. ESSPIN also supported the 23 LGEAs to aggregate and analyse their School Development Plans to be incorporated for possible implementation in the MTSS. The LGEA officers have been trained on the use of costing tools for the development of 2014-2016 plans.

Concerning the expansion of the State School Improvement Team, 15 lecturers from the Institute of Education, ABU Zaria have been selected and added to the initial 21. They are being mentored by their colleagues from the College of Education Gidan Waya, Kafanchan. The State Quality Assurance Board with Technical Assistance from ESSPIN has trained 45 master trainers to help re-train other evaluators at zonal levels under the state QA Consultant's supervision.

ESSPIN Impact in Schools

ESSPIN support on lesson delivery for better learning achievement has continued to expand; the State School Improvement Team (SSIT) has increased by an addition of 15 members from Institute of Education Zaria. These 15 new SSIT members are being mentored by the 21 members who initially formed the team. *'The increase in membership of SSIT will allow for training to be carried out in more schools and on time'*, said Mrs. Hussaina A. Hassan one of the new SSIT members. Additional 2,880 teachers have been trained on Literacy across 482 schools in eight new LGEAs.

Education Secretaries of the seven ESSPIN pilot LGEAs and their SBMC Chairmen have been sensitised on how to make proper use of the water and toilet facilities delivered to their schools. Water usage in schools has risen to about 90% while 60% of students and teachers are using the toilet facilities.

Over 50 children have been identified in Kaduna to be living with Albinism. ESSPIN collaboration with SUBEB has benefitted Happy Joseph among other pupils in school that have been awarded a scholarship by The Albino Foundation from primary up to tertiary level.

SBMCs are mobilising Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and philanthropists to support school improvement in several LGEAs. Between the month of January and June 2013, a total of 11 classrooms have been constructed in Kachia, Kaduna South and Zangon Kataf, and 44 renovated at Kaduna South, Jema'a, Sabon Gari and Zangon Kataf.

The enrolment rate keeps rising as schools and SBMCs work together. More out-of-school children have been identified and enrolled into school by headteachers and SBMC members. About 20 children were identified and enrolled into Angwar Kanawa Primary School in Kaduna North. *'We used to come to the school and peep through the window to watch when the teachers instruct the pupils, hoping to learn from what they are doing, but the headteacher noticed us and asked us to come on a certain day to see her. That was the day we were enrolled and given bags and books to join the other children'*, said 15 year old Saidu Tanim.



Caption

Hajiya Murjanatu, one of the new SSIT members happily displays her flip chart at a mentoring session in Kafanchan.

ESSPIN Impact in Communities

In raising community voices and informing decision makers about the common challenges impeding the delivery of basic education in Kaduna and ways to strengthen the system, ESSPIN in February 2013, worked with the Ministry of Education MoE and SUBEB to organise a three-day Education Summit across the three senatorial zones of Kaduna. The Executive Governor, Dr. Mukhtar Yero said, *'...this special occasion gives us the opportunity to hear from the communities - children and parents about the real challenges that our schools are facing'*.

State master trainers who were trained by ESSPIN have delivered training to about 3,840 SBMC members in 480 schools across 10 communities in December 2012. These SBMC members are to conduct step down training to other SBMC members in their respective communities. Advocacy on women's participation in communities and schools is being intensified through ESSPIN's Gender Champion initiative. About 79 gender champions from Makarfi, Kafanchan and Kaduna North were trained in March 2013 to inspire and persuade SBMC members on the benefit of women's participation; and to increase girl enrolment as well as other inclusive behaviors at schools. Mothers Associations have also been formed across communities. *'We have collated lists of members from seven LGEAs, and we are expecting more'*, said Lydia Kajang, Desk Officer, Girl Child/Social Inclusion, Kaduna SUBEB.

ESSPIN collaborated with SUBEB to provide all LGEAs in Kaduna with a desktop computer, UPS and Laserjet printer each. The items were presented in order to help them organise their reports and also be able to submit their monthly reports on time. On efforts towards demonstrating inclusive behaviours at communities, four children (2 boys and 2 girls) were identified and presented with tricycles in March and April 2013. Three out of these were identified as out-of-school children from Kachia LGEA while the fourth child- a girl was already attending LEGA Primary Kurmumashi Kaduna north. Sa'adatu Haruna, one of the beneficiaries said 'now that I have this tricycle, I will like to enroll into school to learn'.



Caption

17 year old John Joji and Sa'adatu Haruna 12, just received their tricycles at the LGEA office in Kachia, Kaduna.

Case Study –SBMCs advocate for better learning environments for their wards

'Kawo Development Area has helped us to renovate two classrooms, they also painted a block of 5 classrooms in the same location' said Mrs. Amina Abubakar, Head Teacher, Demonstration Primary School.

The School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) at Demonstration Primary School is one of the SMBCs trained in December 2012 under the Roll-out initiative, but they are already practicing what they learnt during the capacity building exercises. *'This is the first among the new SBMCs that have impressed me'* said Mallam Haruna Ibrahim, Head of Department Social Mobilisation Kaduna North.

In the past, this school functioned like every other public primary school without an SBMC- thinking that management of schools was the business of the Government alone. The UKaid - Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria has re-orientated school managers and communities by training individuals in the communities and developing SBMCs across schools. *'We were taught during our workshop at Kawo Primary School to mobilise support for our schools because the school belongs to the communities and should not to be allowed to dilapidate'* said Mrs. Amina Abubakar, Head Teacher, Demonstration Primary School.

The SBMC in Demonstration Primary School and the Parents Teachers Association developed a memo requesting support from Kawo Development Area. Mrs. Amina said, *'the Sole Administrator visited our school and promised to renovate two classrooms. However, he ended up painting the whole block after renovating the interior of the classrooms we showed him. Now we have good space to accommodate about 70 students'*.

The school seems to be enjoying the full benefits of a functional SMBC. *'We have 17 members in our team and they are doing very well; we also make sure women participate and contribute in their own special way and we are more concerned about the children now than we used to be'* said Mrs. Amina.

ESSPIN is supporting community participation by building capacities of parents, traditional and religious leaders, civil societies and local dwellers that will ensure better management of schools for the good of Kaduna children.



Caption

A block of five classrooms painted and three classrooms renovated by Kawo Development Area at Demonstration Primary School Kaduna north.