

# Transforming Basic Education in Lagos

**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 to schools. ESSPIN is helping Nigeria's children to grow.**

## Background

Lagos is the economic and financial capital of Nigeria. With a population of over 14 million people, Lagos is currently the second most populous city in Africa. It is estimated to be the fastest growing city in Africa. There are 4.5 million school age children in Lagos.

The Lagos State Government operates 1607 state schools. Government policy is directed at offering free basic education, with special focus now on the first nine years. But institutions managing education are weak and reliable data for planning are not available. The government does not have updated data on the huge number of children attending private schools and struggles to regulate the massively growing private education system.

The number of children enrolled in public schools relatively low (approximately 1 million), the quality of learning is poor and there is little evidence of appropriate implementation of the curriculum.

## ESSPIN's contribution

The reforms that ESSPIN supports in Lagos are vitally important. ESSPIN sustains an integrated approach which focuses on key elements that work together to deliver quality education rather than tackle problems in isolation.

Support for the schools is combined with support for state government to improve the availability of data that promotes planning, sector performance reporting, Teacher training and headteacher training goes hand in hand with provision of water and sanitation facilities and the provision of grants to resource primary schools to create an effective learning environment, Civil Society / Government Partnerships promote community voice and accountability, encouraging communities to get involved in basic education provision and voice their demands for better services and greater accountability.

ESSPIN supports the strengthening of state and local government educational institutions as they work to improve the management and governance of education. Systems to capture, manage and share information about schools, teachers and students' performance are an important part of this.

**esspin**  
Education Sector  
Support Programme  
in Nigeria



**UKaid**  
from the Department for  
International Development

## ESSPIN Impact in Schools

In 2010, ESSPIN provided potable water and toilets for 13 primary schools in Phase One of its Water and Sanitation Project. The facilities serve a pupil and staff population of about 12,000. The second phase comprising 17 schools commenced in early 2011 and will serve about 15,000 pupils and staff.

ESSPIN is supporting Lagos state to measure the performance of its education sector through the Annual Education Sector Review (AESR) from 2009 - 2014. Each performance report identifies policy areas not realized in the past year and emerging policy issues which will be included in the subsequent Medium Term Sector Strategy. ESSPIN is building the capacity of the newly established M&E unit under the PRS Department in the MoE and SUBEB to sustain this process.

In African Primary School at Mosan in Alimosho LGEA, continuous assessment test scores in Math and English increased on average from below 50% to above 60%.

Support to the LASG by ESSPIN's EMIS team brought about the actualization of the 2010/11 Private School Census which is expected to provide data and information on approximately 12,000 private schools in Lagos state

State School Improvement Team members' monthly reports in 2010 show an overall increased enrolment in ESSPIN supported schools from 55,921 (in early 2010) to 60,393 (in 2011), an increase of 8%.

As a result of ESSPIN supported SSIT intervention at Ilogbo-Elegba Community Primary School, enrolment increased from 1,181 to 1,391 pupils. This led to the school community constructing a temporary shed for the school to accommodate the increased pupil population

In Awodi-Ora Primary School, Ajeromi Ifelodun LGEA, enrolment increased from 138 to 240. Head Teachers are more alert to their responsibilities and go round regularly to oversee the affairs of their schools.

Enrolment increased by 218 in Community Primary School, Ilapo, Alimosho LGEA from 434 to 652 pupils

LA Primary School, Apa, Badagry LGEA saw increased enrolment of 250 pupils from 287 to 537

Teachers are now using child-centered methods to teach over 60,000 pupils in the ESSPIN pilot schools.



### Caption

Increased enrolment – due to SSIT involvement required this temporary shed to be built to accommodate in LA Community Primary School, Ilogbo-Elegba, Ojo LGEA.

## ESSPIN Impact at community level

As a result of advocacy efforts by the SBMC in Kosofe LGEA, renovation works have resumed in 5 primary schools. This will provide improved learning conditions for over 4,000 pupils in the schools.

In the Ojo LGEA, water transport is a challenge for the 15 school teachers and 1,000 pupils in a cluster of 8 Primary Schools including LA Pry School Irewe supported by ESSPIN. SBMC advocacy facilitated the provision of two speed boats by the Ojo LGC Chairman.

The Baale of Imuden, the chairman of SBMC Cluster 2, and the Parents' Forum were instrumental in the construction of a temporary shed to address overcrowding in LA Primary School 2 Ilogbo Elegba. The SBMC and the community have voiced their demands to the LGEA and SUBEB for the provision of a permanent building. SUBEB has included the schools in the list of schools benefitting from the UBEC intervention infrastructure fund.

The SBMC advocacy in a community in Lagos Island LGEA led to the intervention of telecommunications giant "Etisalat" in the renovation of Edward Blyden memorial primary school.

Through the CSO monitoring and mentoring of the SBMC, environmental consciousness has increased in Kosofe Comprehensive High School leading to the introduction of health and sanitation activities which will promote a clean learning environment.

Sports equipment, computer sets, trophies and sixty pairs of school sandals were donated to pupils by the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria in Mushin as a result of SBMC advocacy

In response to the call for community participation by the SBMC of Ereko Methodist primary school, Mr. Enahoro, an old student of the school, donated 10 computers to the school IT department.

In Cluster 7, Ikorodu LGEA, Otunba Awobajo's voice succeeded in prompting the decision of SUBEB to include Odonguyan Junior High School, Ikorodu in the next phase of provision of classrooms by SUBEB from UBEC funds

United Christian Primary School Apapa LGEA is undergoing a massive renovation sponsored by Flour Mills Nigeria, due to the SBMC efforts after receiving ESSPIN supported training on resource mobilization



### Caption

SBMC LGEA Visioning. A traditional ruler and SBMC member, HRH Ogolonto of Badagry (standing) stressing a point to Badagry community members during an SBMC visioning exercise.

## Case Study – Improvements at Ilapo Primary School

*“My daddy is happy because I am doing better in school”* – says Dare Oluwunmi, Primary 6 student at Ilapo community school, Ilapo in Alimosho LGEA.

Dare’s parents recently relocated to their family house in Alimosho LGEA. He was withdrawn from a private school in Dopemu to attend Ilapo Primary school because it is nearer and cheaper.

Ilapo community primary school was established in January 2009 by the state government to address the difficulties experienced by school children and parents in accessing education in the area. The nearest public school is 20km away and is located across the ever busy Lagos-Abeokuta expressway. The school was selected by SUBEB as one of the five ESSPIN pilot schools under Alimosho LGEA and is supervised by State School Improvement Team member Mrs. E. Folashade Alajiki.

ESSPIN’s support to the reform of the Lagos education sector involves improving the planning and management of basic education by government authorities, making schools accessible to all, and addressing education quality issues including the development of better teacher training.

Mrs. Beatrice Ayoade has 33 years teaching experience and Ilapo Primary School is her latest posting. The school currently has 5 teachers supported by 3 non teaching staff who have also worked with the SSIT to improve their teaching skills.

Since 2010, Mrs. Ayoade has benefitted from the trainings and workshops organized by the ESSPIN supported SSIT. The trainings equipped her with better school management skills which she uses daily in the school.

She recalls some of the difficulties she faced when she first started; before ESSPIN support came in. *“The school had no existing infrastructure, no classrooms, no chairs, and no table. I had to use personal funds to clear the land for temporary structures”*. She got some assistance from the community through the influence of the traditional ruler. He helped mobilize the community through the SBMC and donations started coming in. The temporary structures were put up within a month.

The pupils appreciate the new approaches in the classroom. *“I like the way the teachers teach us, they are kind”* says Joel Okpanachi in Primary 4

Mrs. Ayoade knows the school has a long way to go but she finds joy in the pupils’ perseverance and determination to be the best they can be. She hopes to leave her mark in the school before the next round of teacher deployment takes place.



### Caption

Effective Teacher Training. Dare (right in green), with his teacher Mrs Olugbode, responds to questions to questions from visitors.