

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

Jigawa is taking bold steps in addressing challenges within its education sector. After recent elections the team of the Commissioner and Executive Chair of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) were retained to continue addressing inadequate funding, poor learning outcomes, weak systems for monitoring learning achievements, and the limited capacity of the state tertiary institutions to produce enough capable teachers.

ESSPIN is committed to ensuring that Jigawa achieves its education targets in line with strategic priorities as state resources are utilized to replicate teacher training using ESSPIN's School Improvement model. With ESSPIN's help, Jigawa's SUBEB has led in accessing and utilising federal government UBEC funds. Three of its Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are targeted for the Federal Government MDG conditional grants of about N200 million each.

ESSPIN's contribution

ESSPIN has continued to support Jigawa's Ministry of Education and SUBEB in a quest to improve the planning, management and delivery of quality education offered to children. This also involves generating greater community participation in the management of local schools through the development of effective School Based Management Committees (SBMCs).

In selected LGAs, Gender Officers have been trained to support girls in schools, thereby helping raise girl child enrolment. The infrastructure work has progressed considerably with phase 2 of the work targeted to benefit 14,000 pupils in various primary schools across the state. Significant improvements are recorded in the literacy and numeracy levels in tsangaya schools across the state and pupils are excitedly taking part in literacy and numeracy lessons.

ESSPIN Impact in schools

State School Improvement Team Support - The SSIT has delivered 2,972 and 432 person days of training to head teachers and teachers. This has enhanced the capacity of schools to lead and manage teaching and learning.

Teacher Training. ESSPIN has trained 900 class teachers. Significantly, SUBEB has utilized UBEC-Intervention Funds to adapt the ESSPIN child-centred, participatory and professional development models to train 4,260 teachers at Ringim, Dutse, Gumel, and Hadejia in Jigawa. UBEC developed and provided eight training manuals which the SSIT reviewed and changed into participatory session notes to train over 100 lecturers of the college of education as co-facilitators. This approach encouraged teachers to use the skills acquired during the workshop at their schools while implementing school tasks assigned to them by the facilitators. Teachers were also monitored in class to observe and support their improvement.

Improved Teaching and Learning - Following a teacher training module, tsangaya school pupils are enjoying learning to read in both English and Hausa. Students from Tsangaya Mallam Aminu in Roni LGEA are enjoying English stories about Eleena the Elephant, sent by pupils from St Aldhelm's CE Combined School in Poole, England. This was coordinated by Lucy Kennedy, an ESSPIN-VSO volunteer supporting teacher training. *"The community is interested in the lessons and is happy watching the pupils complete learning activities and games that are included with the stories"*, support teacher, Alkassim Umar reports.

Tsangaya Model – Mohammed Abdulhamid is a support teacher for tsangaya education in Miga local government. He observes teachers while they teach and advises them. As he observes teaching at Tsangaya Mallam Audu, he says *"You will not believe that two other schools have sprung out of this one school: one for girls and another for boys. Simply because ESSPIN is supporting tsangaya education"*

900 pupils have been enrolled in 30 tsangaya pilot schools and two communities have established schools with a total enrollment of 126 pupils. A Girls Education Initiative has been launched in 3 LGAs with 3,000 girls being supported with uniforms and learning materials.



The SBMC presenting writing materials and other resources to 1,745 pupils at Nasoro Science Special Primary Gumel in support of the implementation of the School Development Plan.

ESSPIN Impact in Communities

School Leadership 198 Head Teachers have been trained to develop and implement School Development Plans.

The Head Teacher from Sabon Garin Danmasara Primary School in Dutse, Attahir Musa say he has *“a lot of new ideas and methods on how to manage the school”* as a result of completing the final module of the head teachers training led by the SSIT.

Due to his effective leadership, he has been able to work closely with the SBMC to provide links with the community and has been able to double the enrolment of female students from 140 in the previous year to 320. Total enrolment is now 626 students.

Girls Enrolment – Hassana is a beneficiary of the school operational grants distributed to 198 pilot schools. She is one of 76,225 pupils who benefited from additional teaching and learning materials. She and her sister Hussaina both attend Sarkin Aska Primary School in Dutse local government area.

Community participation - the Chairman of Miga Local Government Authority recently donated a piece of land to Miga Central Primary school as his contribution to the enhancement of education and building of more classrooms. This was in addition to paying the salaries of night guards in 10 schools.

The children of Sabon Gari Dan Masara enjoy coming to school to learn as the school funds have been used to provide more teaching aids in the schools and also provided a borehole. Suleman Bala (10 years old) from Class 2 says *“I want to be educated because I want to be a Governor.”* Zaliha Umar (aged 8) also in Class 2 says *“I want to learn to speak in English so that I can get a good job.”*

The SBMC members of Madobi Primary School in Dutse LGEA have raised an appeal fund and constructed twelve classrooms, a borehole attached with hand pump, and a six seat toilet. These were handed over to the government in July, 2010 as part of the community's contribution towards participation in the delivery of quality basic education. In addition, they have provided a volunteer Arabic teacher and N50,000 to purchase school furniture.



Pupils having a literacy lesson in Tsangayar Malam Auwalu at Sabongarin Takanebu in Miga Local Government of Jigawa.

Case Study –

Aisha Alhassan and Girls Education in Jigawa

“When I got the items from ESSPIN, I was overjoyed and I want to say a very big thank you to them. I will show them to my parents and will tell them that I want to be a doctor when I grow up and finish school”.

This was the response of an overjoyed Aisha Alhassan, aged 13, one of the 3,000 girls within Jigawa state who have benefited from the ESSPIN Girl Education Initiative (GEI).

Aisha is from Miga LGA in Jigawa state, one of the target local government areas for the GEI. A total of 6000 girls are assisted by the project and ESSPIN is ensuring these girls not only enrol in school but also complete their basic education.

A committee has been established to ensure that the funds for the GEI project are used judiciously and that the girls stay in school. The committee came up with a five point agenda including the provision of training for gender coordinators and officers from the three project LGAs, and the supply of school uniforms to girls whose parents cannot afford them and hence keep their daughters at home.

ESSPIN is helping resource pilot schools with educational materials, water and sanitation and better buildings. This will demonstrate what can be done using the state's resources.

The agenda also includes the supply of teaching aids to selected schools, health support and then a media engagement strategy. All of these efforts are being put in place to ensure gender equality in accessing basic education, especially in the most disadvantaged areas of the state.

Aisha and other girls were given school uniforms, sandals and books at the launch of the project in Miga. Their progress through school will be monitored over the coming months.

“I and my friends will stay in school and make sure we finish our studies” says an excited Aisha.



One of the beneficiaries of the Girls Education Initiative Project presented with school uniforms and books at Miga Local government.