

Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN)

Quality Assurance Work at Federal and State Level

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This report has been discussed with the originator and checked in the light of the requirements of the terms of reference. In addition the report has been checked to ensure editorial consistencies.

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- ESSPIN 0-- Programme Reports and Documents
- ESSPIN 1-- Support for Federal Level Governance (Reports and Documents for Output 1)
- ESSPIN 2-- Support for State Level Governance (Reports and Documents for Output 2)
- ESSPIN 3-- Support for Schools and Education Quality Improvement (Reports and Documents for Output 3)
- ESSPIN 4-- Support for Communities (Reports and Documents for Output 4)
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Reports and Documents produced for individual ESSPIN focal states follow the same number sequence but are prefixed:

- JG Jigawa
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- KN Kano
- KW Kwara
- LG Lagos
- EN Enugu

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ESSPIN	Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria
FIS	Federal Inspectorate Service
FMOE	Federal Ministry of Education
ODM	Organisation Development and Management Specialists
QA	Quality Assurance
QAE	Quality Assurance Evaluators
QAR	Quality Assurance Readers
SMoE	State Ministry of Education
SUBEB	State Universal Basic Education Board
UBEC	Universal Basic Education Commission

Abstract

1. This report shows the activities carried out to build the capacity of ESSPIN Organisation Development and Management (ODM) Specialists from the 6 ESSPIN States on Quality Assurance. Support was also given to reinforce the Federal Inspectorate QA skills and development of plans for the roll-out of QA nationwide.

Introduction

2. This was the first visit for over a year of the Lead Specialist Inspectorate. Much work has been carried out by different players in Quality Assurance at Federal and at State level. The political makeup has changed and therefore policy priorities and direction have altered.

Methodology and main activities

3. One activity of the consultancy was to build the Quality Assurance capacity of the ESSPIN Organisation Development and Management (ODM) Specialists from the 6 ESSPIN States, who have responsibility to support the expansion of effective whole school QA in states.
4. Support was given to reinforce the Federal Inspectorate QA skills, in addition, to assist in the development of their plans for the roll-out of QA Nationwide.
5. The ESSPIN National QA Consultant received supervision and guidance to solve technical queries and to strategically plan for the next 6 months.
6. Day 1: An initial strategy meeting was held between ESSPIN Lead specialist Inspectorate, Lead - Specialist Inst. Development & Education Management, and National Consultant for QA. This led to an invitation for Federal Inspection Service senior personnel to join the ODM specialists' workshop to help reinforce the relationship between two groups of future key players in QA.
7. Day 2 and 3: A two day workshop, using the material from the Standard Nigerian Quality Assurance training course was held in the Abuja office. It was attended by the ESSPIN ODM Specialists from, Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa and Enugu State and approximately 14 Federal Inspection Service Deputy Directors. Additional relevant ESSPIN staff joined for the sessions. The participation and questioning was of a high order and evaluations completed by participants were 100% positive, indicating a strong platform on which to move forward. During the workshop the Lagos annual 'Quality Assurance State of Education Report' was shared with all participants as the first example produced in Nigeria. It was warmly welcomed as a new achievement in the practice of Quality Assurance as laid out in the Educational Quality Assurance Handbook for Nigeria. It provides clear, unambiguous evidence about Quality Assurance findings in Lagos over the 2010 period, providing clear information for stakeholders and policy makers in Education.

8. Day 4: Took forward the work produced in the final session of the workshop where participants had put forward possible challenges to the implementation of Quality Assurance nationally. The questions, concerns and suggested solutions were pulled together for further definition and clarification. In the main the areas these covered included functions and roles for Federal Inspection Service, States, UBEC, SUBEB and other players in Quality assurance across Nigeria. A possible function chart, using mainly information from the established Educational Quality Assurance Handbook for Nigeria (Handbook) and Instrument, was finalised to provide ESSPIN with a starting point for future discussions. This is attached below as Annex 1. At the request of Federal Inspection Service their proposed user guide was reviewed and suggestions made, including the advice to include it as part of the Instrument or Handbook when they are revised in the future, rather than produce more reference documents. Clarification of the Quality Assurance term, “achievement” that was used in the workshop has been also attached as Annex 2 below, for wider use in Quality Assurance, such as in the User Guide. The two appendices should also be provided to the soon to be inaugurated Ministerial Committee on Quality Assurance which will set out recommendations to tackle policy, institutional and other issues that have beset the expansion of whole school QA nationally.
9. Day 5: Supervision meeting and work planning between ESSPIN Lead specialist Inspectorate, and National Consultant for QA. Aspects of QA accreditation were clarified and decisions of important technical detail were made; including pass rates for the assessment and accreditation process.
10. Day 6: Consolidation of forward plans for ESSPIN QA support, producing final versions of materials needed for the Accreditation training in the States and Federal.

Findings

11. Quality Assurance process in the ESSPIN States and Federal Inspectorate Service varies in activity level but there is a clear commitment with all to continue the development and embedding of Quality Assurance practices. Significant steps forward include the Lagos Quality Assurance Annual Report on Education. Good Quality Assurance skills reside with many deputy directors in the Federal Inspection Service to enable them to take Quality Assurance Nationwide.

Conclusions

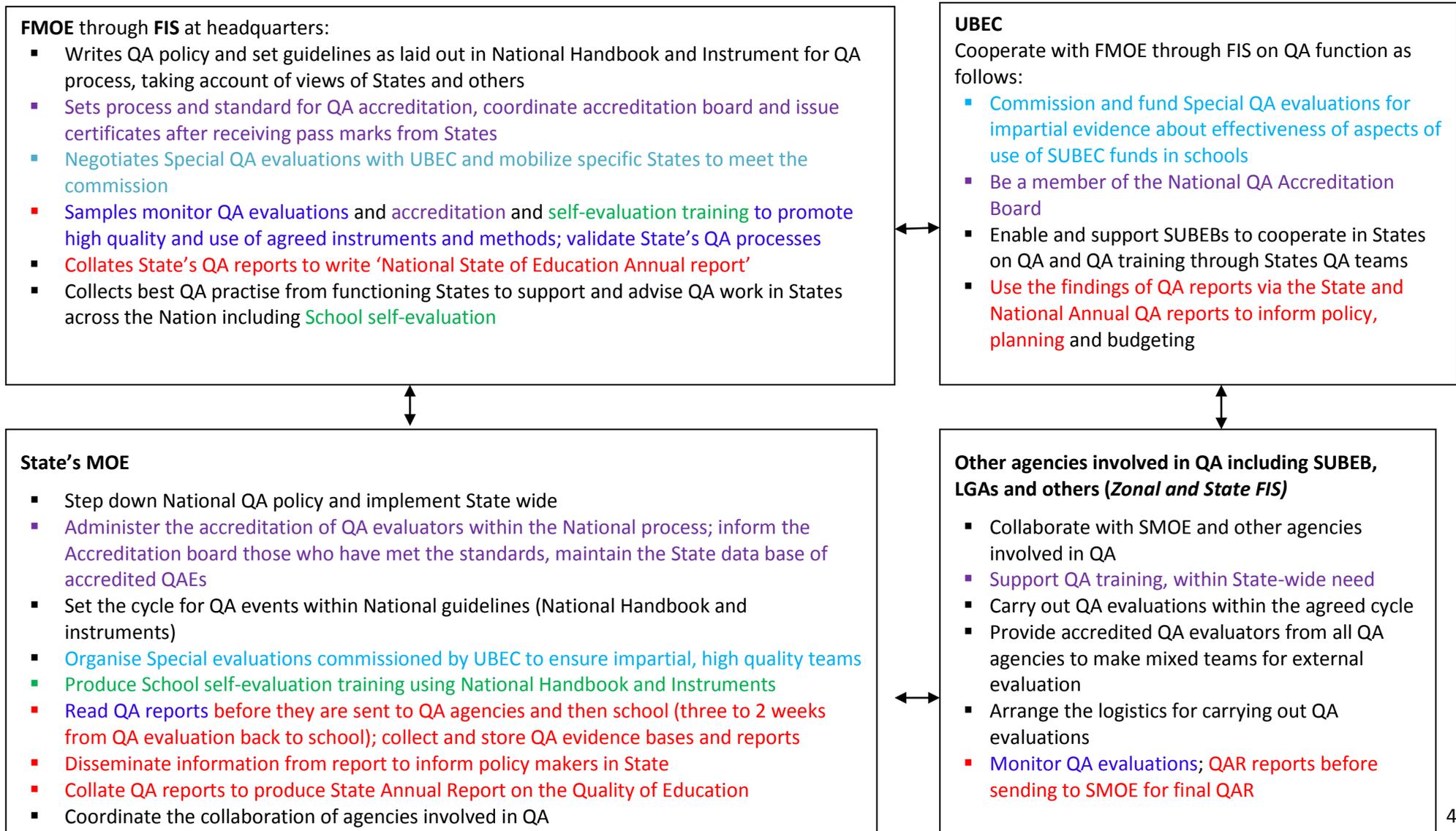
12. Quality Assurance in Nigeria must be strongly fixed in the institutional policy, planning and budgetary process if activities are to be truly embedded and have widespread impact.

Options and next steps

13. The ESSPIN Lead Specialist Inst. Development & Education Management, and National Consultant for Quality Assurance will continue to drive development and offer assistance

following a clear work plan for the next 6 months, calling on the Lead specialist Inspectorate after that for additional technical support if needed.

Annex 1 - Function Chart of Quality Assurance



References and explanations

Self evaluation

Schools should use the Education Quality Assurance Handbook for Nigeria (the QA Handbook) and the instrument

See specific guidance, QA Handbook Chapter 4 on self-evaluation and Instrument Section 9 for suggested School self-evaluation form

Supervision/monitoring of quality of QA process, (QAing)

See specific guidance, QA Handbook Chapter 12 arrangements for the Quality Assurance of External Evaluations and Instrument Section 9 for appropriate forms

Special evaluations

See Handbook Chapter 3

Report production process

See Function Chart and guidance in QA Handbook Chapter 10 and 12

Training and accreditation

See specific guidance; QA Function chart, QA Handbook Chapters 9, 10 and 11

School Development plans

Specific guidance Handbook Chapter 5

N/B: States may name their school improvement plans as they wish i.e. School Development plans, institutional plans, improvement plans

Annex 2 – Definition of Achievement

An explanation of achievement

