



Children's Voices on ESSPIN Support to Basic Education in Nigeria

November 2016

esspin
Education Sector
Support Programme
in Nigeria



The 100 Voices for Enugu



Akpan Deborah

Akpan Deborah, Enugu State.

“In the past, our school environment was very bad. Our parents did not agree to come to the school; but now, during the open day they all come. In the past, I never ask my teachers any question; but now I do. Now I am not afraid of saying anything in class anymore.”

Ani Dennis, WTC Primary School 1, Enugu State.

“We never had an open day or a school band in our school, but now we do, and it makes us come early to school so that we can play the band.”

Eze Chiemeje, Enugu State

“In the SBMCs meeting we discussed about building more classes and bringing more teachers. I like SBMCs because they make our schools better.”

Udeafor MaryJane, Enugu State

“Sometimes during lessons, our teacher makes us laugh so that we understand what she is teaching. The SBMCs help us to build our schools and repair some things that are spoilt - things like chairs, tables, and they are helping recruit more teachers into the school.”

Kate, Enugu State

Our teacher drew a bucket of water on a cardboard sheet and used that to teach us. When she is teaching us about the sun, she brings an empty bucket and pours water into it, and then shows us the reflection of the sun inside the water.”



Gloria Daniel

.....
Irechukwu Phillip, IHE Community School,
Enugu State.

“When our teacher is teaching us creative arts, he gives us homework and supports us as well. My parents come to visit me in school to know how I am doing.”

.....
Okorie Christian, IHE Community School,
Enugu State.

“Our teacher uses teaching aids to teach us. They teach us letters and the sounds. My parents come to school to know how I am learning in school.”

.....
Glory Daniel, IHE Community School Agwachi,
Enugu State.

“Our teacher uses teaching aids to teach us. My parents came to school to visit me to see if I am learning well. Every child should be in school to learn.”

.....
Onwuha Chinyere, Enugu State.

“Our teacher puts us in groups to read passages so that we can learn from each other. The SBMC help us when we are in need.”

.....
Ohejide Chimaobi, Enugu State.

“Our teacher explains things easily to us now. He uses examples to explain things to us. People can read and answer questions in my class now.”

.....
Zeigbo Chidera, Enugu State.

“Our teacher comes to school early and teaches. Boreholes were dug for us and toilets were provided as well. We use the water to wash our hands and wash our class against the next day. This makes us very happy.”



Ayagolu Faith

Ayagolu Faith, Enugu State.

“Our teacher uses counting sticks to teach us. We use the water to wash our toilets and our classes.”

Ejimmaofor Ogonna, Civitas Nursery and Primary School, Enugu State. (Beneficiaries of Challenge Funds)

“ESSPIN is a group that helps children with their education by giving them scholarships, buying them school bags, and even giving them writing materials.”

Tochukwu Johnson, Civitas Nursery and Primary School, Enugu State. (Beneficiaries of Challenge Funds)

“In my school, when the teachers teach us and we do not understand, they make sure they do not leave a subject until we understand it; unlike they do in other schools.”

Opuru Mmesoma, Enugu State.

“What I Know about ESSPIN is that they provided school books for us, and I am happy.”

Asado Emmanuel, Civitas Dei, Enugu State. (Beneficiaries of Challenge Funds)

“My school is a good school. A man came to our house and said he was from ESSPIN. He came to our house and asked me some questions and after a week, I started coming to this school. They also bought school bags, school uniforms, a pair of socks for me. SBMCs help to see about the welfare of the school. They give the school certain details that will help schools grow.”



Chijioke Munachi

Chijioke Munachi: “My parents come to visit my school when we have our open da y.”

Ogbum Ifebuchi, Enugu State.

“I like my school because we have good teachers.”

Ogejide Chimaobi, Enugu State.

“Our teachers explain things very well, making it easy for us. I like my school because we have potable water. Most of the things we have in the school were bought by ESSPIN.”

Zeigbo Chidera, Enugu State.

“The particular thing I like in my school is the borehole and toilet that was provided in the school. We use the water to wash our hands and the class ”

Chinonso Anyadofo, WTC Primary School, Enugu State.

“Now, our teacher starts teaching any lesson with a song. We have open day in our school where while we are learning, our parents come to our school to see our work.”

Voices for Jigawa



Nasiba Alhassan

Nasiba Alhassan, Primary 5, Miga Central PS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“What I like the most about our school SBMC is the fact that the senior members of the committee always encouraged us to feel free and make our voice heard. I never feel intimidated by any of the members including our teacher who are serving in the committee because they are the ones even asking us to say something whenever we are having meetings.”

We are encouraged to feel free and make our voice heard. Nasiba feels valued in the SBMC.

Salihu Ado, Primary 4, Tsakuwawa CPS/ IQTE School, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“I was thinking that, there is no way I can fit into the conventional secular school system; then one day, as Allah will have it, I heard some of my friends breaking the news of a new system of learning both Islamic and Western education with little difficulty. Some of them whose parents enrolled them in these new schools claimed to have fallen in love with the system immediately they enrolled and I became seriously interested in taking the advantage of this new system from that moment on.” Salihu is happy to enrol in Islamic and Western education.

Maryam Maizuma, Primary 5, Sabon Gari Central Primary School, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“I have friends that still refuse to go to school and I pity them for that knowing what I know now after enrolling in school. There is a lot of difference between myself and them; because you see, as it is, they cannot read or write anything, even things written on the wall, but whatever you give me now to read, I will do my best to read it out- that is the difference.”

Whatever you give me now I will do my best to read: Learning to read has transformed life for Maryam



Ibrahim Adamu

Ibrahim Adamu, Primary 4, Miga Central PS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“I always wanted to be accorded the opportunity to take lessons and learn like any other child regardless of my condition; thankfully enough because of the actions of government, our school SBMC and some humanitarian organizations I am in primary 4 now and on track to realizing my dream.”

I am on track to realizing my dreams: Ibrahim has been supported to participate in mainstream school.

Ramatu Usman, Primary 6, Takalafiya CPS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“I have a lot of friends from my neighbourhood that are not going to school. I must tell you that for the fact that I am going to school and they are not, I am ahead of them in many aspects. They used to say they envy me; one example I can give is that, whenever I came back from school they will plead with me to write something for them on paper and they will make effort to copy what I wrote. I wish I am an adult and have the means to enrol them in school; I could have enrolled all of them in school so that they too can enjoy what I am enjoying now.”

I am ahead in many aspects: Ramatu describes what she has gained by enrolling in school

Adamu Usman, Primary 6, Takalafiya CPS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“SBMC is also sensitizing us to go to school and to encourage others to go to school too and as a result many children are enrolled in my school. They are also creating awareness on the dangers of absconding from school and on the ills of coming late to school. Many of us have stopped coming to school late”

Many of us have stopped coming to school late: Adamu describes how SBMCs have improved attendance and enrolment in school.



Ainau Umar

Ainau Umar, Primary 6, Hantsu PS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“Recently, we have an English teacher, who to be honest, is teaching us English in ways that made it hard for us to understand his lessons, and when he asked questions and we are unable to answer, he will reprimand and beat us. We are not happy with him at all, so we reported him to our SBMC who took up the matter with the right authorities and he was removed from our school in no time and replaced with a good teacher. We are very happy now.”

We reported an ineffective teacher to our SBMC: Ainau describes how children’s voices ensure they receive quality teaching.

Sadiy’a Rabi’u, Primary 6, Takalafiya CPS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“I convinced my parents to enrol me in school and also convinced them to agree for me to drastically cut the hours I usually spent hawking so as to allow me to meet the time required of me to stay and take lesson in school which they agreed to. I was so surprised and motivated to see that even without my parents lobbying and without me knowing anybody in the school, I also benefitted from free school uniforms, free sandals, free school bag and then on the rest is history- I am today in primary six and have written my transition exam, praise be to God”.

I convinced my parents to enrol me in school. Through ESSPIN support in school Sadiy’a will now transition from Primary 6

Aisha Muhammad, Primary 6, Tsakuwawa CPS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“Although I like most of the subjects, I like Hausa lessons the most, because for one thing- I am a Hausa speaker and besides speaking it with others I hardly know what other way to make good use of it, but immediately I joined this IQTE school and learnt how to read and write letters, I begin to

see more ways to take advantage of this beautiful language. I also found memorizing things in Hausa very easy and likeable!”

I begin to see more ways to take advantage of this beautiful language: Aisha describes how integrated curriculum improved her love for learning Hausa.

Najib Shuaibu, Primary 6, Tsakuwawa CPS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa

“My father enrolled me in school at the age of 6. I started with Islamiyya and today we have this school (Tsakuwawa IQTE School) that taught us Qur’an, Hadith side-by-side with math. I like math alot and I learn a lot of math in this school. I can easily do multiplications, additions and subtractions something I cannot do before I joined this school.”

I like math a lot. Najib enjoys learning an integrated curriculum

Ismail Safiyanu, Primary 6, Tsakuwawa CPS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“As an itinerant kid that knows only travelling around towns in search of Islamic knowledge and food for the most part of my life, I really cannot imagine myself enrolling in secular school or even speaking in any other language other than Hausa, some Fulfulde and some Arabic, yet to my amazement soon after ESSPIN brought us this opportunity of studying for our Islamic knowledge side-by-side with secular subjects in our domain/hometown without us travelling around facing all the uncertainties I am beginning to see possibilities and developing hope for my life as a kid.”

I am beginning to see possibilities. Ismail describes how ESSPIN has brought new opportunities to his life



Ibrahim Salihi Musa

Ibrahim Salihi Musa, Primary 6, Miga Central PS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“Two Fulani girls (Bulatarai) that we observed are not attending class as expected. When we ask some of our friends in their classes to investigate why they are truant we were told that it is because they are ashamed in class whenever they are having lessons because unlike some of their classmates they don’t have enough writing materials to take notes in, and seeing others writing and they are not embarrassed them a lot. We requested for writing materials from our SBMC which they graciously provided, and we took those materials to the girls and like magic they started coming to school earlier than they used to and hardly misses class ever since!”

Like magic they started coming to school earlier. Through the SBMC Ibrahim can directly support his peers to attend school regularly.



Adamu Ibrahim

Adamu Ibrahim (Head Student), Primary 6, Miga Central PS, Miga Local Government, Jigawa state

“I am the Head Student and equally a Children’s Committee Member of Miga Central PS’s SBMC. Things we do in the children committee are enormous. We have achieved a lot. Through our committee we were able to request for the repairs of our classroom doors, the renovation of our school, made essential school first aid medications available, and ensured that sports kits are provided in the school especially for the physical development of students.”

Things we do in the children’s committee are enormous: Adamu describes what his children’s committee have achieved.

Muhammad Muhammad Zakar, Primary 6, Birniwa Tasha Special Primary School, Birniwa Local Government, Jigawa State

“Because of SBMC’s work in our community, you now see children from communities and villages coming forward to enrol in school and if you interact with the children you will hear how they come to realize the importance of being rightly educated through the work of SBMCs. In my town alone, I know about 10 children that enrolled in school as a result of the advocacy and community engagement efforts of school SBMCs.”

Children now realise the importance of being rightly educated. Muhammad has seen improvements in school enrolment in his community.

Maryam Muhammad Zakar, Primary 6, Birniwa Tasha Special Primary School, Birniwa Local Government, Jigawa State

“Our school SBMC was able to construct toilets with one set designated as ‘for boys only’ and the other set ‘for girls only’. This is a significant leap because it addresses the concern of most of our parents and religious leaders. Among other benefits of the toilets SBMC provided for us are the improved sanitary condition and the possibilities of children remaining in school to take lessons.”

Improved sanitation allows girls to stay in school. Maryam is pleased with the improvements in her school.

Aminuddeen Adam Ismail, JSS 1, GJSS Birniwa, Birniwa Local Government, Jigawa State

“I am in JSS 1 thanks to our primary school’s SBMC whom steadfastly supported both students and school with timely interventions. At some point, most children and teachers in our school realized the benefits of supporting the work of SBMC in the school and decided to fix a weekly contribution of ten naira (N10) to support their

work. We use these monies to support minor repairs and supplies in the school, and where the problem is bigger than our savings, we used to agree on effective ways to tackle the problem.”

I was supported to transition to JSS: Aminuddeen describes how SBMCs are improving schools.

Zahrau Usman Baffa, JSS 1, GDJSS Birniwa, Birniwa Local Government, Jigawa State

“One of the most attractive features of our school now is the increasing availability of sporting wares and kits which came courtesy of SBMC’s effort and I can tell you for free that a number of children are now enrolled in the school because of that. We like sports, we like to play and the availability of sporting activities and sport kits in the school is making us feel more at home in the school.”

We like the sports in our school: Zahrau describes how sports is a new attractive feature in her school

Fatima Abdullahi, JSS 1, GDJSS Birniwa, Birniwa Local Government, Jigawa State

“I want to start by saying that before the advent of ESSPIN in the state or rather in our school, we really toiled and suffered! We lacked teaching and writing materials, and that has grounded all teaching and learning activities, and resulted in learning not taking place at all. ESSPIN not only engineered the provision of teaching and learning materials in our school; it also considered the fact that most of our parents are poor and cannot afford to sew new school uniforms for us and then gave us free school uniforms, sandals, math set and bags.”

Before ESSPIN we really suffered: Provision of teaching and learning materials has made a big difference in Fatima’s school and community

Musa Ibrahim, JSS 1, GDJSS Birniwa, Birniwa Local Government, Jigawa State

“We saw increased government support to us and our school as a result of ESSPIN’s work. I enjoyed free uniform, free sandal, free abacus machine, free math set, and free bag from I am very sure-ESSPIN. Today, I finished my primary school without feeling the need to request for more of any of the free learning material I received, and I was very much elated when I handed over those items to my brother who was also enrolled in school but lacked the necessary kits to learn effectively.”

ESSPIN provided the necessary kits to learn effectively: Musa has now shared these with his brother.

Ibrahim Mahmud, Primary 6, Dr. Nuhu Muhammad Sanusi SPS, Jigawa State

“My hope for acquiring quality education was rekindled by ESSPIN, who came to our school, provided water and sanitation facilities for us and by so doing helped me and my friends stay in school. I also bought some writing materials with the monies I saved from my welder work, while ESSPIN provided for me the ones I don’t have and I am very grateful to them. With this kind of support and encouragement, I will like to study and become a commercial pilot.”

ESSPIN helped me and my friends stay in school: Ibrahim feels supported to succeed in his studies.

Voices for Kaduna



Saifullahi Shamsu

Saifullahi Shamsu, Primary 3, IQTE Pilot School, Zabi, Kudan LGEA, Kaduna state

“I joined the Almajiri school because I needed Islamic education. Now, literacy and numeracy lessons have been integrated into the system, enabling us to acquire wholesome knowledge. Now we have a combination of Islamic, Quranic and Tsangaya education, with how to read and write in English and lessons in mathematics. More so, ESSPIN gave us a borehole, which encouraged me to remain in school. We stopped bathing in the ponds since we now have a borehole.

I now receive both Islamic and basic education: Saifullahi is happy to be literate and numerate.



Fidausi Bala

“I am a member of the SBMC Children’s Committee. During meetings, I am allowed to speak and other members listen to what I say. What I say are usually the views of the pupils I represent. I am happy to be representing my fellow pupils. It gives me a sense of responsibility. It also helps to build my self-confidence.”

Al-Zakkiya Usaini, Primary 3, Mallam Saidu IQTE School, Kudan LGEA, Kaduna state

“I have attended school regularly since the SBMC got me a tricycle and a pair of crutches. I am able to go to school and learn conveniently with my friends. I want to be a teacher since my desire to go to school is now becoming fulfilled.”

Al-Zakkiya Usaini

I want to be a teacher: Al-Zakkiya’s desire of attending school is now getting fulfilled.



Maryam Adamu

Maryam Adamu, Primary 6, Mallam Adamu IQTE School, Makarfi LGEA, Kaduna state

“ESSPIN helped to introduce English, mathematics and social studies into the IQTE school I attend. I am happy to be learning other subjects so that I can fulfil my life’s ambition of becoming a doctor someday. I want to use my profession to better the lives of women in my community.”

I want to better the lives of women in my community: Maryam wants to be a doctor.



Abubakar Abdullahi

Abubakar Abdullahi, Primary 6, Assisted Model Primary School, Sada, Makarfi LGEA, Kaduna state

“As a member of SBMC children’s committee, I voice out the opinions of my fellow pupils to the larger SBMC. The encouraging part is that the committee listens to the needs of pupils and act. Establishing the SBMC helps us to learn better, as we now have a forum to channel our concerns and get results that improve our school. We once raised concerns about a teacher who was not regular in school. He was cautioned and he now attends classes promptly.”

Our concerns are important: Abubakar is happy to represent his fellow pupils during SBMC meetings.



Ibrahim Salisu

Ibrahim Salisu, Primary 4, Central Primary School, Makarfi LGEA, Kaduna state

“I want to become a doctor so I can help those who are challenged. Being in school has opened my perspectives for a brighter future, thanks to SBMC members who insisted that my father enrolls me in school. My father bought me a tricycle which has helped me get to school on my own. In school, the teachers and pupils are caring; I do not feel left out, because I am included in everything.”

I want to be a doctor: Ibrahim feels included in his school and has hopes for a brighter future.



Amina Aminu

Amina Aminu, Primary 6, Assisted Model Primary School, Sada, Makarfi LGEA, Kaduna state

“As head girl of my school, I attend SBMC meetings. Representing other pupils as a girl is an empowerment opportunity for me. I feel responsible for and accountable to others who put me in that position. I do advise other pupils who play truancy. This is why I want to become a teacher so I can keep building the lives of other children in school.

I want to build the lives of other children: Amina hopes to become a teacher in future.



Sa'adiya Idris

Sa'adiya Idris, Primary 3, IQTE Pilot School, Gubuchi, Makarfi LGEA, Kaduna state.

“I prefer the IQTE School I attend because Islamic lessons are merged with literacy, numeracy and other subjects. The teaching method is also favourable. Teachers take care to teach to enable us understand; they do not rush through lessons, and they take time to explain the topics to our understanding.”

I want to become a doctor: Sa'adiya's ambition is to care for pregnant women and the sick.



Abubakar Suleiman

Abubakar Suleiman, Primary 3, IQTE Pilot School, Gubuchi, Makarfi LGEA School, Kaduna state

“We now have sanitation facilities in our school. Using the facilities makes life safer for us in school. We no more use the bush to ease ourselves because it was dangerous. Using the facilities also saves time as it is now possible to finish in a few minutes and get back to class.

I want to be an engineer: Abubakar hopes to build bridges and infrastructure when he grows up.



Nana Ibrahim

Nana Ibrahim, JSS1, Government Day Secondary School, Gubuchi, Makarfi LGEA, former pupil of IQTE School, Kaduna state

“I am able to transit to Junior Secondary School because of the foundation I received in the IQTE School. My ability to cope with the demands of a secondary school is from the fact that I learnt other subjects while in the Almajiri school. As a girl, I am happy to be moving ahead in my education and I want other girls to value education over anything else.”

I would like to see more girls in school: Nana hopes to excel and become a doctor.



Zuwairiya Yunusa

Zuwairiya Yunusa, Primary 6, LGEA Primary School, Kajuru, Kaduna state

“The SBMC of our school is active. The women go from home to home to encourage parents to allow their children to attend school. The SBMC has also helped to provide most of the facilities pupils ask for. Most importantly, they have built a fence around the school, and this has helped to prevent trespassing and accidents. We also care for our colleagues with special needs because they need our support. We play with them and welcome them because they are like our siblings.”

I want to be a nurse: Zuwairiya cares about colleagues with special needs in school.



Mussadiq Isyaku

Mussadiq Isyaku, Primary 6, LGEA Primary School, Kajuru, Kaduna state

“Learning in school has been my desire because I need to be useful to myself and my community despite my special needs. Now that I am finishing my primary education, I would like to go further. I encourage those with special needs not to relent in their education because it is the only way to lead an independent and meaningful life.”

I want to be independent: Mussadiq believes that education is the only way to succeed in life.



Joel Y. Nkom

Joel Y. Nkom, Primary 6, LGEA Primary School, Ungwa Abagai, Kaura, Kaduna state

“Our classroom is decorated with teaching aid, illustrations and posters. These help us to learn by seeing a picture of what the teacher is talking about. If I see the picture of a horse with a name under it, I have an idea of how a real horse might look like. The teachers also take time to explain each topic to our understanding.”

I want to be a doctor: Joel believes teachers’ performance encourages pupils to stay in school.



Jummai John

Jummai John, Primary 6, LGEA School, Ungwa Abagai, Kaura LGEA, Kaduna state

“Our teachers encourage peer learning and peer support in school. They believe we must represent the school well in any competition, quizzes and debates. They organise for us to learn together and they are there to mentor us. I find that school has become more interesting because our teachers are friendly.”

I want to become a teacher: Jummai believes in excellence and outstanding results.



Nasiru A. Umar

Nasiru A. Umar, Primary 5, LGEA Model Primary School, Kaura, Kaduna state

“Being a Fulani, I prefer to go to school than follow cows, even when other Fulani boys tease me that I don’t rear cattle. I know what I am receiving from school, and I know my future can only be built through education. My parents love education and want the best for me. They ensure I never come to school late. I enjoy school because our teachers are caring, supportive and close to us as pupils.”

I want to join the airforce: Nasiru prefers education to anything else.



Gloria Joseph

Gloria Joseph, Primary 6, LGEA School, Ungwan Mamuda, Bayan Loco, Kafanchan, Kaduna state

“The SBMC gives me the opportunity to voice out concerns of the pupils I represent as the head girl. Some of the requests I tabled before the SBMC have been granted. The SBMC has provided more teachers in the school, repaired broken furniture and roofs. These provisions are making the school environment more conducive for learning.

I want to be a lawyer: As head girl, Gloria is already a voice in defence of fellow pupils.



Anointed Martins

Anointed Martins, Primary 6, LGEA School, Ungwan Mamuda, Bayan Loco, Kafanchan, Kaduna state

“We now have more teachers who are competent in their subjects. This is enabling better learning for us. The situation before was not encouraging as we had just one teacher teaching all the subjects. School was not interesting with such situation. Now that the SBMC has brought us more teachers, they are encouraging us to build a better future through education.

I want to become a doctor: Anointed is keen in building his future through education.



Faith Micah

Faith Micah, Primary 6, LGEA School, Aduwan 1, Bayan Loco, Jema'a LGEA, Kaduna state

“The SBMC has helped to improve teaching and learning in my school. They have provided furniture for teachers and pupils. Teachers used to sit on the windowpanes to mark our books and we used to sit on stones to learn. But now the SBMC has provided desks for pupils, tables and chairs for teachers.”

I want to be a nurse: Faith no more sits on stones in class, thanks to the SBMC, thanks to ESSPIN.



Isaiah Samuel

Isaiah Samuel, Primary 6, LGEA School, Ungwan Mamuda, Bayan Loco, Jema'a LGEA, Kaduna state

“Our school environment is now better and more conducive for learning. This makes me eager to wake up in the morning and go to school. I did not like being driven away from school when it rained because of leaking roofs. The SBMC intervened and repaired the leaking roofs of our classrooms. We now stay in class, even when it rains.”

Our classrooms are now conducive for learning: Isaiah's ambition is to join the army.



Japhet N. Angel

Japhet N. Angel, Primary 6, Model Practising School, Angwam Mission, Jema'a LGEA, Kaduna state

“Our teachers now spend more time to ensure we understand what is being taught. They organise group discussions in class, which helps me to learn more from my peers. The dialogue exercise also helps me to express myself, get feedback from other pupils and have fun while doing it. I am motivated to remain in school when classes are interesting.”

I want to become a pilot : Japhet is motivated to be in school when classes are interesting.

Voices for Kano

Surajo M. Hafiz, JSS 1, Gwani Sanusi Tsangaya Primary School/ IQTE School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state

“I don’t have enough words to thank ESSPIN for the efforts she invested in providing us with the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of studying secular education side by side with our traditional Islamic education. My advice is, since we all know that ESSPIN is not going to be with us forever and is even closing its shop in Kano, I urge all local government chairmen and any LGA official in a position of authority to take stock of these Tsangaya schools, adopt them and work towards integrating to as give as much almajiri children opportunity to learn as possible.”

Surajo feels transformed by his opportunity to learn literacy and numeracy alongside Islamic education and wants other children to have the same experience.

Shamsiyya Ibrahim, JSS1, Madrasatul Ikram Tahfizul Qu’ran/ IQTE School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state

“One of the things I like the most about how ESSPIN does its work is the fact that even our parents were factored into their education support arrangement. ESSPIN enlisted our parents in a vocational training scheme where they were trained on vocational skills that helped them start business on their own thereby generating income that helps them pay for my school fees. “

Shamsiyya is appreciative of the holistic approach from ESSPIN that benefited both herself and her parents.

Bara'atu Sani, JSS1, Madrasatul Ikram
Tahfizul Qu'ran/ IQTE School, Kumbotso Local
Government, Kano state

“I can recall vividly how my parents become so happy with the progress I was making as a student of both Tsangaya and western education. Whenever I took my books home, they will check and see how I was able to take notes, write and read letters, and they will tell me that they are proud of what I became. Before ESSPIN's intervention, I can tell you that I cannot read or write letters, I don't know anything about literacy and numeracy but now I do and I am making my parents proud for that.”

Through ESSPIN Bara'atu learned to read and write making her parents proud and enabling her to transition to secondary school.

Maimuna Ahmad Isa, P6, Shekar Barde Special
Primary School, Kumbotso Local Government,
Kano state

“Before ESSPIN's intervention, and especially before I participated in the Summer Camp Academy, even though I was fascinated by maths, I cannot count from one to ten, but with the kind of environment created by ESSPIN for learning, I am now able to count from one up to 100 and more; and the Summer Camp Academy contributed a lot in this regard.”

Maimuna describes how ESSPIN's Summer Camps improved her numeracy skills.

Halima Ibrahim Usman, P6, Jaoji Model Primary School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state

“It even become a resounding cliché in my community to see students failing to pass math and English in exams and this I think is a big problem for us. I personally had issues understanding the two subjects before, but thanks to ESSPIN’s support, with its very helpful Kano Summer Camp Academy for girls, I now feel at home solving Maths problems as well as in understanding, writing and speaking in English.”

Through ESSPIN, Halima overcame her barrier to understanding maths and English.

Halima Ibrahim Usman, P6, Shekar Barde Special Primary School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state.

“What brings me joy is the fact that the idea of building the classroom blocks came from the children’s committee. We sat together as pupils directly affected by the lack of additional classroom block to cater for ECCD and we took up the matter with the leadership of the SBMC which in turn immediately sat with other members, strategized and solicited for the support of wealthy individuals in our community.”

Halima feels like her voice is being heard and she is making improvements to her school through the children’s committee.

Rabi'u Umar, P6, Shekar Barde Special Primary School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state.

“Before the provision of water and sanitation facilities in our school, we will come to school and when we become thirsty in the process and with water in unavailable in the school, we have to leave class and go out of the school to get water to drink. This has affected our studies negatively. It is the same when we want to use a toilet especially the girls; they have to leave class session and rush back to their homes, and when they come back to the class they usually feel exhausted and uninterested in lessons.”

Rabi'u describes how provision of water and sanitation facilities enables him and his peers to stay in school.

Nuraddeen Umar, P6, Shekar Barde Special Primary School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state.

“We really suffered a lot in the past when our school lacked this water and sanitation facilities. Because, before our SBMC intervened, we use to abandon class sessions immediately we felt the need to use the toilet and rush back home which is a very difficult task and when we came back we usually don't meet the class in session anymore, meaning we missed the lesson however important it is.”

Provision of toilets means Nuraddeen no longer has to miss out on learning.

Faruk Salihu Umar, P6, Shekar Barde Special Primary School, Kumbotso Local Government, Kano state.

“We now have enough classroom blocks, we also have water borehole powered by solar; they [SBMC] are regularly maintaining and repairing our school furniture; what they do for us here in the school is like making us feel at home and I honestly am feeling like we have our parents supporting us always in the school environment.”

Faruk has seen his school environment transform since the introduction of SBMCs.

Naja’atu Alhassan Shehu, P6, Gulu Central Primary School, Rimin Gado Local Government, Kano State

“Before we were selected and enrolled into the summer camp programme, I can tell you we are all afraid of writing exams, but after we went through the programme, I believe all of us felt no fear writing our exams; we really saw a difference between girls that goes through the summer camp academy programme and those who don’t.”

Naja’atu developed skills and confidence through the ESSPIN Summer Camps.

Fadila Garba, P6, Rimin Gado Model Primary School, Rimin Gado Local Government, Kano state.

“What we faintly understood in our regular classes, the summer academy came and amplified our understanding of the subjects... what I can proudly say to you is that, my last exam was a home run. I was able to answer most of the questions asked in literacy, numeracy and other summer camp courses with less hitch and my colleagues are taking note of my progress.”

Participating in the Summer Camp greatly strengthened Fadila’s understanding of what had been taught in school.

Voices for Kwara



Bashirat Safi

Bashirat Safi, Primary 6 pupil, LGEA School, Moshe-Gada, Kaiama, Kwara State.

“Provision of water and sanitation facilities has helped me save time for learning. It required a lot of time to get into the bush to ease myself. Likewise, I used to spend a lot of time going to fetch water. Now that the facilities are provided by ESSPIN in my school, I use them conveniently and return to class on time.”

More time to learn in class: Bashirat Safi in Kaiama, Kwara, elaborating on the advantages of water and sanitation facilities in her school.



Nasiru Mohammed

Nasiru Mohammed, Primary 6, Moshe Gada LGEA School, Kaiama, Kwara state.

“I now have more time to learn in school, to do my homework in the evenings and to concentrate in class during the lessons. Before now, I spent a lot of time while trying to ease myself in the bush and to look for water during school hours. Now that we have a borehole and toilet facilities in the school, I can use the facilities and quickly return to class without losing much time. The facilities have also helped to increase confidence in my school and reduce worries that my needs can be catered for while I remain in school.

My learning time has increased: the facilities provided by ESSPIN have helped me have more time for learning.



Alfa Farouk

Alfa Farouk, Primary 3, LGEA School, Camp, Kaiama, Kwara state.

“I was attracted by the new classroom, which made the school look much better than it was before. Seeing how good the school looked, I began to associate with the pupils who would tell me about their school. Through association, I ended up enrolling. Even after enrolment, there were days I was not able to come to school, the head teacher made follow-up visits to my home to find out how I was faring and to bring me back to school.”



Faisat Abubakar

Being in school is a good experience: Alfa Farouk has hopes for a bright future.

Faisat Abubakar, former pupil of KLGEA school in Camp, Kaiama, now a Senior Secondary 1 student of Government Day Secondary School, Kaiama, Kwara state.

“I am able to transit to secondary school thanks to ESSPIN’s interventions. I was motivated by the textbooks and the complete package of learning materials, school uniforms and sandals that I received; the new furniture that facilitated pupil-centred learning provided; and the encouragement from SBMC members who visited our school.”

I transitioned to Secondary School, thanks to ESSPIN: Faisat Abubakar is happy to continue her post-primary education.



Aishat Danda

Aishat Danda, student in Junior Secondary 2 at Offa Grammar School, and former pupil in OPWA LGEA School, Kwara state.

“I want to become a journalist, and my teachers have encouraged me to pursue that ambition. I was made the school newscaster and I read news at the assembly of OPWA LGEA school. This built my confidence to face the crowd. I also represented my school at quiz competitions. My teachers were able to coach me because they were trained.”

I want to be a journalist: Danda Aishat recounting her news casting ambitions.



Abdulmumini Muritala

Abdulmumini Muritala, Primary 6, The Apostolic Model School, Offa, Kwara state

“The new seating arrangement introduced by ESSPIN has helped me learn more from my peers and they have also learnt from me. When the teacher comes around to the table where the six of us sit, we are able to demonstrate the lessons since the teacher takes time to explain one-on-one to us at our desk. This relationship we have with our teacher gives me more freedom to ask



Deborah Adewuyi

questions in order to understand better.”

I now feel free to ask questions: Abdulmumuni hopes to transit to Junior Secondary School.

Deborah Adewuyi, Primary 6, St Andrews Anglican School, Edidi, Isin LGEA, Kwara state.

“I am now able to come to school regularly since I received a wheelchair from my pastor through the efforts of the SBMC. I am now encouraged to be in school, and I am also motivated by the performance of my teachers. They use a lot of praiseworthy words in class, and the class has become lively. They also help us arrange the class in such a way that we can learn from one another. The teachers also give us moral instructions and advise on life’s lessons. I have come to realise that in spite of my condition, I still have potentials and abilities to achieve greater heights and inspire others not to give up on their life’s ambitions.”

I can achieve greater things: Deborah Adewuyi on her wheelchair.



Mary Ajibade

Abdulateef Oyebamiji, St Paul’s LGEA School 1, Omu-Aran, Irepodun.

“Our teachers now use teaching aid. The teaching aid helps me identify items, pronounce words correctly and to see items and link them to appropriate words. The round-table seating arrangement also enables to learn from each other, encourages innovation and sharing of ideas.”

Mary Ajibade, Primary 6, St Peter’s LGEA Anglican School, Oke Ero, Kwara state

“Our teachers take time to explain the topics we do not understand well. I think they are now interested in making us understand what they are teaching. They do not just want to teach and go, but they want us to gain knowledge. They have become better especially in literacy and numeracy and have become more patient especially when we really need to understand what they are



Binta Bello

teaching.”

Our teachers teach us well now: Mary Ajibade is happy to be in school

.....
Abdulateef Oyegbami, St Paul’s LGEA School 1, Omu-Aran, Irepodun

“ESSPIN’s intervention through the SBMC has built my capacity to participate in effective dialogue towards making our school better. Being a member of the children’s committee, the discussions have helped to boost my confidence to represent fellow pupils and speak up for them. Since the SBMC also listens to pupils’ issues and act on them, I am encouraged to stay at the forefront as the voice of my fellow pupils.”



Omolaran Abdullahi

.....
Binta Bello, Primary 6, Nomadic LGEA School, Atapa Oke-Esi, Odo-Owa, Oke Ero, Kwara state

“The SBMC has taught us about issues of child protection. The SBMC and our teachers usually advise us to be careful when using the swing and other outdoor recreational facilities in order to prevent injuries. They also advise us to stay away from lonely places as they can be dangerous, and to use the toilet when we need to ease ourselves, and avoid easing ourselves in the bushes. As sanitation facilities are provided in school, I now feel safe to remain in school.

Child protection is important for learning: Binta Bello feels safe to remain in school.

.....
Omolaran Abdullahi, Primary 6, Iyeru-Okin LGEA School 1, Offa, Kwara state

“Being a member of the children’s committee has prepared me for leadership. I am able to participate in the decision-making processes; represent my fellow pupils and state their opinions before the larger SBMC; and take feedback to the pupils whose voice I represent. We discuss about the pupils opinions and needs and what would help improve learning.”



Rukayat Olayinola

I have learnt about leadership through the Children’s Committee: Omolaran hopes to take his leadership skills further in life.

Rukayat Olayinola, Primary 6, SDA Primary School, Omu-Aran, Irepodun, Kwara state

“I have learnt from SBMC meetings how to take care of the environment - keeping it clean and healthy; how to take care of myself in school, and to care for the younger ones. I am also usually given the opportunity to speak on what the pupils need for improved learning. The opportunity to voice out opinions of fellow pupils has helped to boost my confidence and advocacy skills.”

Membership in the Children’s committee has boosted my confidence: Rukayat appreciates the opportunity to represent her fellow pupils.



Abibat Adeyemo Adetola

Abibat Adeyemo Adetola, Primary 6, Iyeru-Okin LGEA School 1, Offa, Kwara state

“Since ESSPIN formed the SBMC for our school, they come regularly to monitor the school; identify issues that need attention; solicit for funds for repair work; and provide for pupils who lack learning materials. The leaders of the children’s committee also keep us updated on what was discussed at SBMC meetings. They represent us by presenting our opinions and bringing us feedback.”

Our SBMC is active: Abibat recounts the advantages of having SBMC in her school.

Adam Saka, Primary 6 pupil, Dada LGEA School A, Ilorin East, Kwara state

“Since I became a member of the SBMC children’s committee, I have become bolder and better able to express myself. My duty requires it. I also lead other pupils in finding school mates who have been absent from school for some time. We visit them at home and bring them back to school.”



Amidat Bello

Amidat Bello, Primary 6, Ansarudeen LGEA School, Ijagbo, Oyun, Kwara state

“SBMC encouraged children’s participation. They allowed us to voice out our opinions freely and they listened as we expressed our views on behalf of other pupils. Even when we do not talk at the meetings, they always give us the opportunity to say something. This was really encouraging, teaching me to be bold and courageous.”

I represented my fellow pupils: Attending SBMC meetings have given Amisat further exposure as opinion leader in school.



Gbenga Ashonibare

Gbenga Ashonibare, Primary 6, ECWA LGEA School, Owu-Isin, Kwara state

“SBMC intervention has helped to increase the enrolment rate of pupils who dropped out from school. They have made the school environment interesting and conducive for learning. The daily feeding provided by the SBMC, the hostel, uniforms, play equipment, water sources and mosquito nets have encouraged many of us to remain in school.

Experience in school is now better: Gbenga Ashonibare loves to be in school.



Hamidu Adamu

Hamidu Adamu, JSS2, Junior Secondary School, Kemanji, former pupil of LGEA School, Tunga Zabaruma, Kaiama, Kwara state

“SBMC members monitored attendance of pupils and teachers regularly. This helped to retain pupils in school since teachers were also regular due to the monitoring. This is why I was able to progress to Junior Secondary School. The monitoring also helped to enrol up to 59 girls into our school between 2012 and 2016. Community sensitisation has helped the school to grow in population.”

My education is in progress: Hamidu Adamu is now in Junior Secondary School.



Comfort Sunda

Comfort Sunday, Primary 6, Baptist LGEA School, Ipe, Oyun, Kwara state.

“I transferred from private to public school because the nearest public school to me now looks better than it was. There are now more learning facilities, a more conducive environment and above all, I will be able to prepare better for my common entrance examination in a public school. Learning is now better since teachers are competent, SBMC is active, the school environment is pupil-friendly, water and sanitation facilities are provided, the seating arrangement is comfortable, and books and other learning materials are available.”

I enjoy learning because my school looks better: Comfort Sunday recounts her school experiences.



Muiz Anafi

Muiz Anafi, Primary 6, Ebenezer African School, Erin-Ile, Oyun, Kwara state

“When I was returned from a private school to this public school, I realised that the learning facilities were much better than before. The school now has outdoor play equipment; dilapidated classroom are now renovated; and there is a library. There is an improved sitting arrangement for pupils to learn from and support each other. Teaching is now better as our teachers have been further trained. We now take computer lessons and SBMC now monitors teaching and learning closely. More so, water and sanitation facilities are now available. These make the school more friendly for learning.”

Back to public school: Muiz appreciates that the school environment is now conducive for learning.

Voices for Lagos



Omowunmi Kabiru

Omowunmi Kabiru, Lagos State.

“I now know everything I never knew before now; I used to help my Grandma to sell groundnuts. But now I am in school and when I will be a teacher when I finish school.”



Faith Enadubor

Kehinde Kabiru, Lagos State.

“I help my grandmother to gather used gallons to go and sell when I was not in school, and then, I did not know how to read and write very well, but now I do”.

Faith Enadubor, Lagos State

“I like coming to school because I want to become somebody in the future. I like my school because they teach a lot of interesting things. My mummy is a widow and I help her to wash the plates in the kitchen.”



Nafisat Obishina

Nafisat Obishina, Lagos State.

“My mummy did not have money to buy school uniforms for me but the Head Teacher(SBMC) bought it for me.”



Michael Mbadoabi

Micheal Mbadoabi, Primary X pupil, Alaba Primary School, X LGEA, Lagos State.

“Touts used to enter our school and steal our teachers’ materials. My class teacher is very kind and friendly, but now things have changed; ESSPIN came, looked at how our school was very messy, they provided us with 32 water closets and also dug a boreholes for us.....I am happy because we are no longer defecating outside.”



Ayomide Ajiboye

Ayomide Ajiboye, Primary 5, Alaba primary school 2, Lagos State.

“I am in basic five. Anytime we don’t understand anything, we go and meet the teachers and they make us understand. Our school had no gate or fence before ...with the intervention of the ESSPIN, things are made easier for us.”



Oyekunle Dolapo

Peter Chidinma, Jimoh Ijora primary school, Lagos State.

“When ESSPIN came, they saw our school and did not like it. How ESSPIN changed our school -they changed our school environment and it made our school more beautiful than it was before. My teacher now teaches us very well; whenever she’s teaching us, she shows pictures to us during the class so we can understand what she is talking about.”



Oyekunle Dolapo

Oyekunle Dolapo, Lagos State.

“Mr Lawal, the class teacher is faithful and honest. Before ESSPIN came, my school was very dirty but our school is no longer dirty. Waste managers help us to take care of our toilets so that they remain neat. There was a boy in our school who did not have school uniforms, whose mother said he should not come to school because his uniform was torn, but an SBMC member came to the school and bought uniforms for him, and he still attends school regularly.”

Peter Isreal, Primary 6 pupil, Lagos State.

“I am in primary six. Before they brought water to our school, we would sneak out from school to look for water, but now, we have water running right here in our school. We no longer need to sneak out.”



Faith Enadubor

Louis Florence, Lagos State.

“In school, they take care of us and they take care of the children. Whenever we are thirsty or they ask us if we need water and we say yes they give us water to drink and we no longer go outside to drink water.”

Faith Enadubor, 5th Avenue Nursery and primary school, Lagos State.

“At 5th Avenue Nursery and Primary School, FESTAC, our teacher teaches us a lot of interesting things that make me happy. When she teaches, she asks us if we understand, if we say ‘No,’ she explains to us again.”



Ruqayat Salau

Yesirat, Saint Joseph RCM Primary I Epe, Lagos State.

“I like my school because they teach us very well. They use group methods – our teachers give us school work which we carry out, and they will write them out on a cardboard and ask us to work together to solve them.”

Ruqayat Salau, Ade-Oshodi Memorial Baptist School Lagos Island: “I was in Kano once, I sometimes attended lessons. I did not always attend school and whenever I don’t I always cry. Once they don’t allow me to “



Adenigbagbe Temilade

Adenigbagbe Temilade, Saint Peter Faji School, Lagos State.

“My school is good and the teachers are very nice. They speak about what is not good about the school compound and that it need to be changed. We discussed about our toilet - that the pupils should use them well; and about our dustbins -that the pupils should bring empty nylon bags for trash.”



Abdulsalam Sahad

Abdulsalam Sahad, Army Children Primary School, Lagos State.

“The SBMCs in my school repairs windows, doors, including the pumping machines, and if there are no SBMCs, these things will not be repaired.”

Louis Florence, Lagos State.

“I always sneak out to buy water when I am in school. That was before they started bringing water to our school.”



Rasheed Azizat Kehinde, Lagos State.

“I am happy coming to school because I never attended school before. I can read and write now.”

Augustine Gift, Lagos State.

“The SBMC in our school work really hard. There was a boy who had a torn school uniform; the SBMC members got another uniform for him.”

Janet Orovwaju

Janet Orovwaju, Lagos State.

“Our school was in such a bad situation, but now ESSPIN has brought a change for us and we are not defecating on the floor anymore - we have toilets, we have boreholes and we have computers.”

Oluwafemi Segun, Lagos State.

“I used live in the village in Badagry, but now, I am in school. When I need any book, all I have to do is go to the head teacher and she will give it to me.”



Oke Vijinayin

Oke Vijinayin, Lagos State.

“Initially, my father did not want me to come to school. So one day, I was playing by the river bank when my friends came to call me that some people were with my father. I went to meet the head teacher of the school talking with him .”



Oke Hoteyin

Oke Hoteyin, Lagos State.

“I always played on the streets before until the head teacher convinced my father to allow me come to school and now I enjoy coming to school”.



Joseph Adeyanju

Joseph Adeyanju, Lagos state Model Nursery and Primary school, X LGEA, Lagos State.

“I like my teacher because she uses instructional materials to teach us, and this makes us understand very well. The SBMC in our school repairs our broken furniture, and when we are having parties, they provide us with the party items; and anything we are doing they always support us.”



Luciene Segun

Luciene Segun, Our Lady of Fatimah Primary School Badagry, Lagos State.

“It was the Head Teacher in my school that convinced my parents to let me come to school, my parents are happy that I am in school now.”

Adepegba Fatimah, Lagos State

“Whenever I don’t attend school I don’t feel happy.”

Email
info@esspin.org

Website
www.esspin.org

Twitter
@ESSPINUKAID

Facebook
esspinukaid

esspin
Education Sector
Support Programme
in Nigeria

