

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

With increased efforts in schools and communities, enrolment in Kaduna public pre-primary and primary schools has increased from 1,195,014 (648,971 male and 546,043 female) in 2012 to 1,345,735 (728,983 boys and 616,752 girls) in 2013; plus a remarkable improvement in the provision of classrooms, water and sanitation, furniture and health facilities at school level.

Ratio of pupils per classroom increased from 59:1 in 2011/2012 academic session to 70:1 in 2012/2013 academic session ;showing that, more children have been enrolled into schools even though more facilities are required to accommodate pupils, especially within the classrooms.

The quality of lesson delivered and the learning achievements of pupils have increased. 2012/13 Annual School Census report on teachers statistics, shows that, the percentage of qualified teachers in Public Primary Schools increased from 63% in 2011/2012 academic session to 64% in 2012/2013 academic session.

ESSPIN's contribution

ESSPIN has supported a review of the Annual Education Sector Performance Report to ensure improvement in quality as well as timely preparation of the 2013 edition. Also for the Strategic Planning for Medium Term Sector Strategy and Departmental Work Plans, ESSPIN helped to develop the 2014 Local Government Education Authority Action Plan.

ESSPIN also supported the training of 49 teachers and Desk Officers in charge of Inclusive Education, (23 Female, 26 Male), on 'sign language' to strengthen their capacity for basic communication and delivery of lessons to children living with hearing impairment and speaking disorder.

School Based Management Committees have been rolled-out to an additional 1,150 schools ESSPIN has helped roll-out; 26 trained Master Trainers conducted a step-down training to 5,750 members who extended the chain. As a result 1,795 schools now have functional SBMCs with over 30,000 members.

ESSPIN Impact in Schools

About 6,234 head teachers and teachers have benefitted from training on Classroom Teaching Strategies, thereby improving classroom communication and participation and making lessons more interesting for pupils. Rebecca Omale, a School Support Officer from Angwan Shanu in Kaduna North said, *'We discovered that when you give a pupil an opportunity to express his/her views- answer and ask questions or even contribute to class discussions, he/she is very willing to do so; and even pay more attention now to the teachers'*

'Schools also hold Professional Development Meetings organised by ESSPIN-trained head teachers, at least thrice in every academic session. They share ideas on issues like "how to source for teaching aids" to make their work easier; and other areas of difficulty... '; said Simon Joshua a DSO from Kawo District in Kaduna North.

50 schools (ranging from Primary to Junior Secondary) were evaluated and reports entered into the QA database to validate investments in infrastructure, teacher training, SBMC expansion etc. *'The reports will serve as reference documents when planning for school improvement projects, they will guide decision making'* said Director Quality Assurance SUBEB Jibrin Abdullahi.

Government has begun to show signs towards embracing and supporting the Integrated Qur'anic Tsangaya Education project, following ESSPIN's support to Kaduna state through the development of an Almajiri Education Policy. *'We have received series of training from ESSPIN and this support has helped us attract government's attention; I have made a few public presentations at National Conferences creating awareness on Almajiri Education, and one of the key results from this awareness creation is this block of classrooms constructed by the Universal Basic Education Commission,'* said Alaranma Imam Musa Kawo.

ESSPIN-trained Civil Societies members are supporting SBMCs and schools through focused routine mentoring visits, and their visit reports are sent to the Social Mobilisation Department of SUBEB. Summary of reports of about four CSOs show an average of 25 schools visited by each CSO. The CSOs are ensuring constant monitoring and documentation of increase in enrolment rate, funds mobilisation, etc.

An abridged report from the Social Mobilisation Department shows that through SBMC activities, about N41, 000,000 was committed to support school improvement in public schools in 2013.



Caption

Hajiya Hatama Mohammed, a Gender Champion at Ungwar Shanu zone, at a gathering of women in Kaduna north.

ESSPIN Impact in Communities

Following ESSPIN's continued support to ensuring the provision of better quality basic education, and the drive on the Quality Assurance Board, 458 Evaluators have been selected from communities across the 23 Local Government Education Authorities in Kaduna state, and trained as part of the overall strategy for strengthening practical linkages to school improvement. Honest Hauwa from Kaduna South said *'we have heard of Evaluation in the past, but I now understand better what it means; I can now gather findings properly and verify my findings regarding quality of lesson delivery and a pupil's learning achievement across lesson planning, learners' participation and use of instructional materials.'*

On the other hand, Gender Champions are working with SBMCs in Kaduna LGEAs to deepen efforts toward women's participation in school improvement and enrolment of more girls into schools. A meeting of the Mothers' Association held at LGEA Rimau Gari, with 54 females and 4 males in participation. The purpose of the meeting was to find solutions to incessant teenage pregnancy and drop-out rate. In Kaduna North Ungwar Shanu zone, a Gender Champion Hajiya Hatama Mohammed said, *'After ESSPIN trained us, I made uniforms for 7 children whose parents could not afford one; also, I mobilise mothers to attend monthly meetings- where we discuss ways to protect our girls from rape and other kinds of abuse they face outside their homes even on their way to schools.'*

A 13-episode radio programme titled 'Education - Everybody's Business' was produced in English and translated into Hausa making 26 episodes. 12 staff members of the State Universal Basic Education Board featured on set for discussion along with 7 SBMC Chairmen and 6 staff of different Civil Society Organisations. The 25 persons had their capacities built on the use of radio in knowledge sharing. *'Some of us may be coming on air for the first time; it feels good to be exposed to such exercise but at the same time, it is obvious we are feeling the reality of the knowledge being acquired from ESSPIN intervention as we are share with a wider audience of radio community'* said Education Secretary Kaduna South Mallam Tahir.



Caption
SUBEB representatives and traditional rulers from Kawo visit site where UBEC is constructing classrooms during the IQTE Assessment in Kawo

Case Study –Government compliments efforts of School Based Management Committee in classroom work

'Simply knowing that the schools belong to communities changed our perception. I really wonder what we have been doing for this long- thinking the Government had to do every little thing for us before we could make progress', said Musa Sarkin Noma, SBMC Chairman, LGEA Yelwan Bawa in Lere. Waiting for government to do everything, especially work that relates to school improvement does not favour pupils' education at the long run.

The UK Department for International Development's Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) is strategically building capacities of communities in Kaduna to support management of public schools. It was common for people to think of public schools as government property and therefore its responsibility to cater for all their needs. *'Our schools were in terrible conditions before; many of the classrooms were not good for our children to learn in. Some parents were even discouraged from bringing their wards back anytime they withdrew.'* Musa said.

Presently, majority of schools in Kaduna where there are functional SBMCs, communities are collaborating better with schools and this is yielding rapid support and improvement of school structures. In LGEA Yelwan Bawa, the school has worked with its SBMC to mobilise for funds; they started a renovation and construction of a block of classrooms and a new one respectively, and their efforts consequently attracted government's support to the project. *'We saw the need to build new blocks of classrooms in our school, so we encouraged and mobilised our community members to partner with us. While the renovation was on for a block of classrooms and a construction of a new block too, with work on both buildings at the lintel level, we solicited for government support. Shortly, the State Universal Basic Education Board took over the whole work and they are almost completed'* said Mallam Musa Sarkin Noma.

LGEA Yelwan Bawa can now boast of two new blocks of classrooms and the pupils could have better learning environment because the community is working with schools and government to improve schools. ESSPIN will continue to deepen support to strengthen collaboration between communities, schools and Kaduna state government to help more children in the state have access to quality basic education.



Caption

These are the 2 blocks of classrooms - on the left is the one being renovated, and the other on the right is being newly constructed at LGEA Yelwan Bawa in Lere