
Transforming Basic Education in Enugu

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

Improving the quality of basic education is a key policy thrust of Enugu State Government. The government identifies unstable policies, inadequate funding, poor teacher motivation and poor supervision over the years as leading to the dysfunctional state of the education system. The 2009 Annual School Census (ASC) Report revealed the poor condition of public primary schools. There are no adequate classrooms. As much as 40% of the existing classrooms need major repairs; 80% have insufficient furniture and 66% are without good chalk boards. 72% of the schools have no source of potable water. There is an acute shortage of toilets with an alarming toilet/pupil ratio of 1:278. Furthermore, the absence of coordinated Head/teacher and teacher in-service training hampers effective teaching and learning with adverse consequences for pupil achievement. Since inception in the State in March, 2010, ESSPIN has been supporting government reforms to improve the planning, management and financing of education for quality service delivery and teaching.

ESSPIN's contribution

ESSPIN supported the 2009/10 Annual School Census (ASC) and Annual Education Sector Performance Review (AESPR) and the development of the 2011-2013 Education Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS). The ASC and AESPR provided vital statistics and information for the development of the MTSS. With the MTSS, an evidence-based comprehensive sector-wide plan is now available for effectively coordinated action, well-prioritized budgeting and improved financing. The State has been assisted to establish baselines of pupils' learning achievements in numeracy and literacy, by a Monitoring Learning Achievement (MLA) assessment. A Teacher Development Needs Assessment has indicated areas of support required for teachers to improve their performance. Under a School Improvement Programme (SIP), ESSPIN is piloting a package of inputs in schools that include provision of water and sanitation facilities, provision of school grants, capacity development of School-Based Management Committees, (SBMCs). Head-teacher and teacher training and support in Udi Local government is demonstrating good practice in enhancing teaching and learning for replication across the State. ESSPIN's Challenge Fund Scheme will fully provide for the primary education in Mission schools of 1,200 pupils per annum from very poor households.

esspin
Education Sector
Support Programme
in Nigeria



UKaid
from the Department for
International Development

ESSPIN Impact

ESSPIN interventions have made significant impact in the State, particularly in the areas of awareness creation among key stakeholders and capacity development of numerous staff of education Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

About 200 staff of Education MDAs personnel have benefited from various skills development training in:

- Data Processing, Analysis and Management
- Strategic and Operational Planning (MTSS Development),
- Realistic Budgeting and Costing
- Teachers Development Needs Assessment (TDNA).

15 staff of education MDAs now understand MLA and test administration following their training and experience as MLA enumerators during the exercise. Over 30 management and senior education staff supervised and monitored the conduct of MLA and TDNA leading to increased awareness and support for these vital initiatives. Head teachers were optimistic that MLA and TDNA follow-up activities would help to raise the quality of teaching and learning.

A 70-member State task-team comprising relevant staff of all education MDAs and representatives of civil society stakeholders was trained and supported to jointly develop the 2011-2013 Education Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS).

The 2011 Budgets of most education MDAs are informed by the MTSS. Educational planning and budgeting in Enugu State is beginning to be structured, systematic and better coordinated. Resources will therefore be more effectively allocated and utilized to improve education service delivery.

Opinions across the sector clearly indicate optimism for better things to come from the Enugu State Government-ESSPIN partnership for education reform.



Caption

Enugu Education MDAs staff in a working session during an MTSS development workshop facilitated by ESSPIN staff.

ESSPIN Impact

There is excitement among teachers and communities that will benefit from ESSPIN's support to Head-Teachers and the provision of school water and sanitation.

At Community Primary School 1, Ngwo Uno, which is to benefit from SIP water and sanitation provision, a female teacher, Nkechi enthused: *"The provision of water and toilets will make our work in the school easier. Children will no longer have to leave the school premises in search of water or go to the bushes to ease themselves."*

Mrs Appollonia Ugwu, Assistant Head Teacher, Community Primary School, Okwonjo-Ngwo, radiated joy as she said, *"Water is a big problem in this community. ESSPIN borehole will provide clean water to pupils and teachers in the school. The community will also benefit because there is no source of water around the community"*.

At Central Primary School, Nachi, a teacher, Mr. Udeh, was more interested in the Head-teacher and teacher training. *"Teachers go for in-service training in turns. If you are lucky you will attend once in 3 years. ESSPIN's regular and continuous Head Teacher and teacher in-service and support will be of tremendous help. Teachers will be able to help children to learn better and measure up to expectations. Our Head-teachers also need training in school management and leadership to be able to encourage and carry all of us along"*.

The Ministry of Education is galvanizing community support for school improvement through the resuscitation and strengthening of SBMCs. ESSPIN's support has been very significant in driving this process.

There is an awakening to the need for more community involvement and participation in education to complement government efforts. A large group of stakeholders including officials of education MDAs, traditional rulers, representatives of community associations and the civil society on 8th March 2011 endorsed a State Learning Outcome Benchmark for pupils in primary schools and set up working group to develop a policy guideline for SBMCs reform in Enugu State.



Caption

A cross-section of participants at the Stakeholders' sensitization on SBMCs, Enugu.

Planning and budgeting made easy in Enugu

Good planning and budgeting are essential to ensure schools can function effectively with the resources they need. ESSPIN is developing confident and competent state planners and finance specialists so they can roll forward the states' Medium Term Sector Strategies (MTSS) for education.

For Benedicta Onyia from Anokwe in the Udi - Enugu state, life at work is beginning to blossom. She now enjoys planning and budgeting and feels confident taking on any task of this kind. Benedicta now enjoys her job more than ever: '... there is a big difference between what you know well to do and what you used to do just for the sake of doing it. Now I have been equipped, thanks to ESSPIN.'

As the Chief Executive Officer for the budget in the Enugu State Universal Basic Education Board (ENSUBEB), Benedicta played an important role developing the Enugu state education plan 2011-2014 as well as its Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) for education.

The MTSS describes everything the education ministry, its departments and agencies (MDAs) will do over the three-year period. It is part of the wider state planning process which starts with a basic analysis of the sector and will serve as a platform for longer-term planning. For Enugu state, there had been gaps in the budget allocated to the MDAs because the strategy was not detailed and realistic enough.

ESSPIN supported Enugu state in developing the MTSS in order to encourage planning and financial management processes. So now the story is different. Benedicta acknowledges that her eyes have been opened to the right things. 'ESSPIN has given us shortcuts to success...' she says.

Compared to what she used to do in the past, Benedicta says she knew nothing about developing precise budgets based on the needs of the state or about budgeting for individual activities such as equipping a school with basic infrastructure. But after the MTSS development workshop, Benedicta says '...now I can cost and cost things right'.

Enugu state education officers are sure that MTSS will bring about positive change in the education sector. They are hopeful that the next Enugu state budget will reflect the MTSS.



Caption

Benedicta (right), trying out the new Medium Term Sector Strategy template.