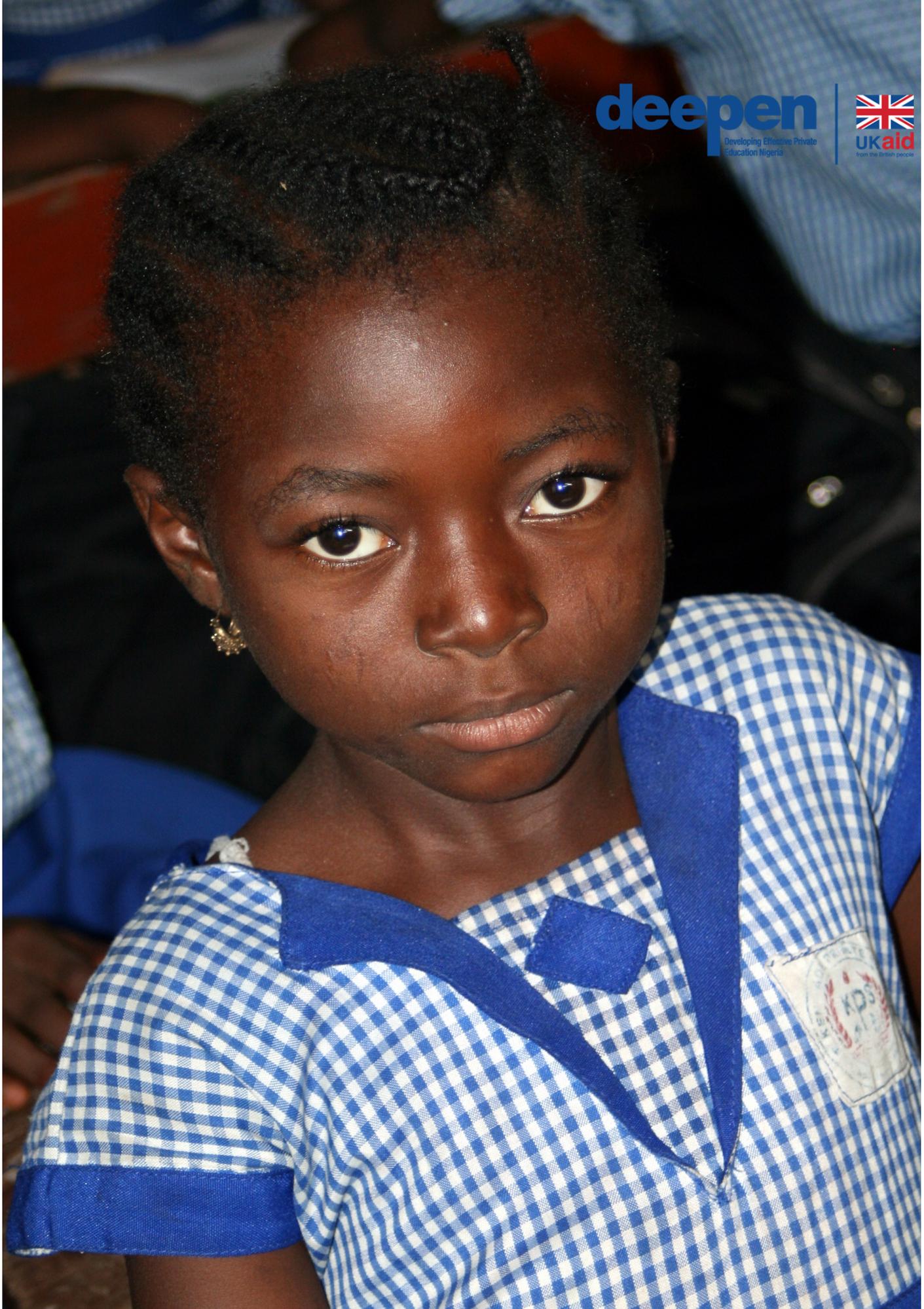


deepen
Developing Effective Private
Education Nigeria



DEEPEN (Developing Effective Private Education Nigeria) is a new programme funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). The programme is focused on improving learning outcomes in private schools, especially for children from low-income households in Lagos.





Background

DFID has been supporting public sector education in Lagos through the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) since 2008. However, recent research has revealed about 15,000 private schools; many of which are unapproved, yet provide education to about 1.5 million children in Lagos state. The size of the market is likely to expand, yet the quality of education these

schools offer remains unknown and open to doubt.

Although private education is often labelled elite, many of these schools actually serve the poor. While government schools remain important, they alone cannot cope with the ever growing demand.

Given the large number of private schools, DEEPEN will therefore work to address the constraints in this market, in order to improve the quality and demand for better private education.



There are at least 15,000 private schools in Lagos, educating 1.5 million children.

The main objective is to improve the quality of education

Objectives

The programme seeks to improve the quality of education offered in private schools. but with particular focus on children from low-income families.

DEEPEN will achieve this by facilitating a more enabling environment for private schools and a more effective market for them to offer an increased quality of education.

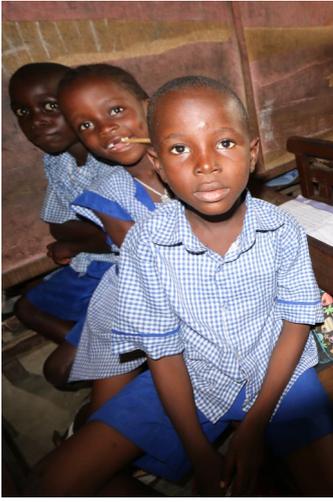
Challenges for the way ahead

The main problem in low-fee private schools is the relatively low quality of learning outcomes achieved. For Lagos to progress, both socially and economically, this challenge must be addressed. This means developing a more ‘enabling environment’ for private schools: one that sets the right *incentives* for schools to improve the quality of their service and allows them to build their *capacity* to offer a better service.

Programme Structure

DEEPEN has conducted detailed market analysis to identify the main constraints and challenges for improved private education in Lagos. These have been classified into four priority areas, through which the programme will be delivered and which make up the basic output or intervention areas:

Rules and Standards	Information	Finance	School Improvement
the formal regulatory framework and informal cultural practices that undermine the private education sector.	the lack of reliable information available to parents, schools and policymakers for making decisions about education.	the inaccessibility of financial services and products to meet the needs of schools and their parents.	the absence of affordable and effective services for low-cost schools to improve their methods and teaching practices.



The Vision for Private Education

By the conclusion of the project in 2018, we anticipate a vibrant and dynamic market for private education especially

in low-cost schools across Lagos. We expect a sector characterised by learning innovations and quality improvements for children at all levels of household income. We envisage private schools that respond to parental demands and adapt to meet

their expectations for better education.

The programme's **outcome** will be better learning conditions and teaching practices in private schools, especially among schools serving poor children, as a result of more investment, better management, and improved pedagogy and innovation. This will be facilitated by the creation of a more enabling environment in which schools operate, building both the incentives as well as the capacity to improve.

The programme's **impact** will be the improved learning outcomes for children attending private schools as a result of interventions to tackle the major constraints to schools' investment in better learning



The programme – overall approach

DEEPEN will adopt a market systems – or 'making markets work for the poor' (M4P) – approach. M4P is grounded on the principle of 'doing no harm': every proposed intervention considers what impacts – negative and positive – it may have and ensures sustainability. Some characteristics of the programme include:

A focus on the wider market system around schools.

This will address the underlying issues that prevent the current system from working well. Such approach seeks to have a larger and long-lasting impact without the need for subsidisation.

Working with a range of different players in the market

These include school associations, government, mass media, banks, research organisations and training providers. It will not usually work with individual schools.

A strong emphasis on innovation and research

As a new approach, the programme will measure its impact rigorously and establish a sound evidence basis for its actions.

Overall, DFID's experience with the market systems approach provides a sound basis for pioneering an innovative approach in an area of education that is gaining global attention. With Lagos regarded as leading the way in reform, there is potential for replicating this model across Nigeria and beyond—there is already interest from other DFID offices working with private education in Pakistan, Kenya and Bangladesh. .

Programme Duration

The programme will last for five years from September 2013 to August 2018.



Programme Leadership

Gboyega Ilusanya – Team Leader
Stephen Bayley – Deputy Team Leader
Ron Tuck – Project Director

Contact Details

10a Abimbola Okunuga Close
Off Harold Sodipo Crescent
Ikeja GRA
Lagos
Nigeria

Phone: 0909 392 8969
E-mail: info@deepen-nigeria.org
Website: www.deepen-nigeria.org



Frequently Asked Questions

Where will DEEPEN work?

Initially focused in Lagos state, the programme will work to create an enabling environment for the private schools including those serving children from poor households. There is scope of possible extension to other states in the future.

Why private education?

Private schools are a major player on the Lagos education scene, dominating at the pre-primary and primary levels, and serving children from all levels of household income. However, most of these schools are not licensed to operate for several reasons. In this context, it is clear that a better educational future for Lagos requires going beyond state schools.

Why Lagos?

Lagos has a growing population, a vibrant economy and an aspiration to be Africa's model megacity. Education is recognised to be central to fulfilling this aspiration. With 15,000 private schools, Lagos has one of the largest private education markets in the world. Credible efforts to improve the human capi-

tal of Lagos clearly need to include the private sector; which is now the main provider of education, even for children from low-income households.

Why now?

DFID currently supports several education programmes in Nigeria, including the Girls Education Programme, the Teacher Development Programme, and Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN). However, none of these programmes is focused on the private education sector. DEEPEN was introduced to work alongside these public sector programmes in order to achieve a wider impact in educational improvement.

Will DEEPEN provide grants to the schools?

DEEPEN will focus on stimulating the market, rather than funding schools. The M4P approach seeks to address

the causes of weakness in the private education market, and focuses on strengthening market systems so that they function more effectively, sustainably and beneficially for poor people.

Who will DEEPEN work with?

DEEPEN will work with individuals and organisations that have a stake in the private education sector. Together we will identify and address issues impacting private education, in order to improve learning outcomes.

How will this programme impact other DFID-funded programmes?

DEEPEN will draw on the experiences of other projects - indeed this is already the case. This project was initiated as a result of research conducted by existing DFID programmes. We will also continue to leverage their relationships with stakeholders in the government, media and the private sector.