



Safe, inclusive, quality education for all

Sustaining and Improving

School Monitoring, Support and Supervision



Key lessons and recommendations

Effective school monitoring, support and supervision are critical for improving teaching, school leadership, learner wellbeing and learning outcomes. Regular, high-quality support helps schools identify weaknesses, implement improvements and create positive learning environments.

In recent years Sierra Leone has moved from an almost non-existent middle-tier school support system to one that is showing signs of improvement and impact. Under the first phase of the Leh Wi Lan (LWL) Programme, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) recruited School Quality Assurance Officers (SQAOs) and introduced school visits. However, visits were often irregular, focused on compliance rather than improvement.

LWL 2 strengthened systems for school monitoring, supervision and support at national and district levels. Schools now receive more regular visits using standardised improvement tools, while enhanced data is being used through district Performance Management Meetings to identify challenges, target support and strengthen accountability.

Outcomes

- New systems and tools including the national whole school SQA tool and the SQAQO Management system.
- Greater coherence and integration between SQAQO systems and the Annual School Census (ASC) data, the SQA Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) data and the School Master list.
- All districts are holding monthly PMMs that now use data to follow up on individual schools/issues.
- SQAMR directorate conducting monthly reviews of SQAQO and school/district performance.

What we've learned

School visits need to be regular and well targeted

LWL helped MBSSE make school visits a routine and expected part of district support, while strengthening related planning processes. Visit targets were adjusted to reflect travel time and school location, and the planning process was revised to prioritise schools that had not been visited in the previous 12 months.

Better tools can improve support, feedback and data

LWL supported MBSSE to develop a single national School Quality Assurance (SQA) tool, improving the consistency of school monitoring, feedback and data collection. Clear scoring criteria and guidance for SQAQOs have strengthened school improvement support, while more reliable national data has enabled a user-friendly dashboard for performance monitoring.

1,350

school visits conducted by SQAQOs per month during the 2025-2026 academic year



**Building
on Strong
Foundations**

Strengthening systems is essential for sustainability

LWL strengthened the integration of School Quality Assurance systems with other education data systems to improve coherence and sustainability. The new SQA Management System links directly to the School Master List and digital SQA tools, automating school assignments and visit tracking. SQA, FLN and ASC data are also being consolidated on a shared platform, reducing costs and enabling stronger analysis. SQA and ASC data are already available through a national dashboard, with FLN data to be added.

There are still gaps and areas for improvement

School visits, the data they generate, and Performance Management Meetings are now routine, providing the foundations of a connected national performance management system. However, further improvements are needed, particularly in strengthening School Improvement Planning and improving feedback and information flows between different levels of the system.

SQA cannot be treated in isolation

Although LWL focuses on secondary education, the School Quality Assurance system serves both primary and secondary schools. The programme therefore worked with MBSSE and partners to strengthen tools and processes that benefit the wider education system, increasing sustainability and extending the impact of investments beyond secondary education.

Recommendations

Sustain progress made	Improve progress further
School Level	
Continue to provide routine visits for schools using consistent tools and approaches	Systematise School Improvement Planning so that all schools have an action plan for improvement
District Level	
Continue to hold monthly PMMs that use data to identify areas for follow up and support	Use the districts to better connect school and national levels with flows and feedback to build a fully connected national performance management system
National Level	
Build on the SQA systems developed and the integration started under LWL	Provide greater leadership on building a stronger SQA systems with clear priorities for improvement

Where to get more information

Visit <https://sl.education-os.org/reports/school-quality/quality-assurance> to view data collected by SQAOs on visits.

For further information, you can also review: <https://mbsseknowledgeplatform.gov.sl/material/digital-monitoring-systems-to-strengthen-accountability-and-data-use/> and <https://mbsseknowledgeplatform.gov.sl/material/quality-of-support-provided-by-the-sqao-cadre/>



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