

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (QUIPS)

COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALLIANCES (CSA) PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT

1 July 2000 to 30 September 2000

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 641-CA-00-97-00160-00

Education Development Corporation, Inc. (EDC)
SAVE the Children, U.S.
CARE International

Introduction

This quarterly report covers the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 September 2000 under USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 641-CA-00-97-00160-00. The report summarizes major accomplishments by the CSA project in Ghana during this period, issues for review, plans for next period, and a summary of expenditures for the period. Briefly, the sub-activities of the CSA project are: 1) increased community awareness, responsibility, and advocacy for education; 2) strengthened school support organizations in each community; and 3) communities participating in the design, implementation and monitoring of schools.

Major Accomplishments

The following major accomplishments were completed during this period:

Launch Workshops – Cohort 4. CSA participated in 18 Cohort 4 Launch Workshops jointly with ILP and PME. The workshops included representation from GES/headquarters, partnership school-communities, and GES/district and regional offices. An overview and orientation to the QUIPS program was provided.

SMC/PTA Training – Cohort 1 & 3. Two Cohort 1 SMC/PTA training of trainers (TOT) refresher workshops were conducted as a phase-out exercise for Cohort 1 PSCs and 18 three-day Cohort 3 SMC/PTA training workshops were conducted. Participants included SMC/PTA executives, other selected local leaders and GES officials (training officers, circuit supervisors, AD for inspection and selected DEOC members). Each training session was followed by individual community visits/meetings.

Microgrant Distributions – Cohort 1, 2 & 3. The four outstanding microgrant fund distributions for Cohort – 1 tranche 3 were made, all but two Cohort 2 - tranche 3 (27 PSCs) and all Cohort 3 – tranche 2 (54 PSCs) microgrant fund distributions were made. Follow-on financial monitoring continues to take place with selected PSCs from each cohort.

IEC – Radio, Newsletter and Brochure. Thirty-two live radio programs were conducted plus repeats on the alternate weeks: Sunyani/Brong Ahafo (7), Cape Coast/Central (6), Ho/Volta (6), Takoradi/Western (7) and Ada/Greater Accra (6). Volume 2, Issue 3 of the newsletter, "Voice from the Community" was produced/distributed. The newsletter continues to provide a medium to share practical experiences and actions about what is happening between/within school-communities

PRA/PLA – Cohort 4. There are nine PRA/PLA teams, each led by a CSA staff member, all with local language capability, and each composed of three-five National Service facilitators. The PRA exercise takes four days and the teams reside in the communities. The exercise involves eight sub-groups: men, women, boys, girls, teachers, SMC/PTA executives, Chief/elders and Unit Committee.

At least two PRA sessions are held with each sub-group culminating in a community-wide meeting where community actions are identified, discussed and prioritized for implementation. Eighteen of the 54 Cohort 4 PSCs have been completed.

Spread/District-Driven. A five-day PRA/PLA TOT was conducted with 23 GES staff of the Kumasi Metro district (31 July-4 August). The district plans to follow-up by conducting PRAs in four non-partnership school-communities. Three 3-day SMC/PTA workshops (23-25 Aug., 28-30 Aug. & 31 Aug.-2 Sept.) were held by Asutifi district in which fifteen non-partnership school-communities (approximately 150 participants) were invited. CSA furnished SMC/PTA Resource Handbooks for the workshop and a resource person while Action Aid and the district covered the remaining costs. A five-day SMC/PTA TOT workshop (4-8 September) was conducted with 10 Ho district-level GES staff and six representatives from partnership school-communities. The district plans to follow up by conducting SMC/PTA training workshops with 12 non-partnership school-communities. A four-day SMC/PTA TOT workshop (12-15 September) was conducted with 12 Akuapem North district-level GES staff, four representatives from partnership school-communities and eight representatives from non-partnership school-communities. The district will follow up by conducting SMC/PTA training workshops with 18 non-partnership school-communities.

Spread/Community-Driven. SMC/PTA chairmen from seven non-partnership school-communities joined in the Akatsi district three-day SMC/PTA training workshop; linked with neighboring SMC/PTA executives from partnership school-communities, made a commitment to implement the strategies discussed, and indicated a willingness to share their experiences on the radio. Similarly, SMC/PTA executives from three non-partnership school-communities joined in the South Tongu SMC/PTA workshop. This initial linking of partnership communities to non-partnership communities and sharing of strategies and experiences has been well received.

Monitoring and Evaluation. A preliminary report on impact-assessment for Cohort 1 has been prepared. Planning is in process for a full impact-assessment data collection on Cohort 2 (November) and a sample R 4 data collection on Cohort 3 (October). For Cohort 4, district monitoring assistants have been trained and baseline-assessment data collection is in process. Baseline assessments have been completed on 18 of the 54 Cohort 4 PSCs.

Community Match. The cumulative 'community match' collected for CSA partnership school communities through 30 September 2000 was \$456,467; an average of \$4,852 per each of 18 Cohort 1 PSCs, \$7,131 per each of 27 Cohort 2 PSCs, and \$3,270 per each of 54 Cohort 3 PSCs. The overall average is \$4,610.78 per PSC, which is close to the \$5,000 per PSC needed to meet a \$1,300,000 commitment. Tracking sheets for Cohorts 1, 2 & 3 and each PSC are included under separate cover.

Facilitators. Twenty-five new National Service Personnel have been identified, provided an orientation and PRA/PLA training, and posted to their Cohort 4 school-communities. The Cohort 2 & 3 National Service facilitators have been collecting match, assisting in microgrant fund distribution, participating in SMC/PTA training, C-SIP updates and PRA/PLA exercises.

Field Time and Project Staff. Average field time for senior staff for the quarter was 42.0 percent, which included the project director, M & E technical advisor, deputy director for finance and operations, and two associate directors for field activities. Field vehicle usage time was 86.7 percent.

Issues Needing Attention

The main item needing further discussion is the continuous involvement of MOE/GES headquarters in QUIPs activities: i.e., materials/methods, processes and mainstreaming.

GES/Headquarters. A MOE/GES Implementation Management Team (IMT) was established and has met with the QUIPs partners. This is a positive first step as it provides a formal structure for involving MOE/GES/headquarters in the review/refinement of QUIPs materials/methods and

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strategies (spread, C-SIP and SMC/PTA handbook) and providing institutional support for mainstreaming; for example:

Spread CSA is responding to spread initiatives on a demand-driven basis at the district-level involving PRA and SMC/PTA TOT workshops and facilitator support. With Cohort 4 and the advent of IEC radio programs, there is increased QUIPS program awareness at a broader regional level. This is resulting in further inquiries and interest and some associated costs and facilitator requests. CSA is trying to be responsive but as demand exceeds resource availability (cost and personnel), there are program cost implications. CSA proposes that the MOE/GES IMT be given a directive to develop a national level QUIPS spread strategy.

C-SIP. Again this is an item which needs IMT attention as strategies here must support existing MOE/GES FCUBE efforts. School Performance Appraisal Meetings (SPAM), actions plans being facilitated by other donors (e.g. Dfid), and current MOE/GES policy/procedures related to the role of the SMC/PTA in the development and implementation of school improvement/action plans.

SMC PTA Handbook. The handbook has been reviewed by the Access and Participation Thematic Group and the GES Advisory Council but needs a technical group like IMT to review and sanction it so it can be mainstreamed as an official MOE/GES document with an MOE/GES strategy for distribution and implementation.

CSA Cumulative Tracking Summary of Key Activities Completed - FY 98/99/00

Sub Activity 1: Community Awareness, Responsibility and Advocacy Increased

| Activity | Cum. 31 Mar. 00 (FY 98/ 99/00) | | | 1 Apr. - 30 Sept. 00 (FY 2000) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Cohort 1 (18 PSCs) | Cohort 2 (27 PSCs) | Cohort 3 (54 PSCs) | Cohort 1 (18 PSCs) | Cohort 2 (27 PSCs) | Cohort 3 (54 PSCs) | Cohort 4 (54 PSCs) |
| Baseline | 18 | 27 | 54 | | | | 18 |
| PRA/PLA | 18 | 27 | 54 | | | | 18 |
| IEC Comm. Drama (public forum) | 18 | 27 | 45 | | | 9 | |
| IEC Re-mobilization (video drama/forum) | 15/9 | 4/18 | | | 4 | 6 | |
| IEC Remobilization (story picture-card/ forum - 50 cards dev.) | Developed & tested | Developed & tested | Developed & tested | 18 | 1 | | |
| IEC Calendars (pocket/wall) | 10,000/ 400 | 25,000/ 600 | 20,000/ 1,000 | | | | |
| IEC Radio Programs (6 sites) | | | 18 progs. & 4 launches | | | 61 progs & 2 launches | |

Comments: Thirty-two live radio programs and 32 repeat programs conducted this quarter. Koforidua/Eastern Region had some delays but has started. Cohort 4 PRA/PLAs and baseline in-progress. New facilitators posted.

Sub Activity 2: School Support Organizations Strengthened

| Activity | Cum. 31 Mar. 00 (FY 98/ 99/00) | | | 1 Apr. - 30 Sept. 00 (FY 2000) | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Cohort 1 (18 PSCs) | Cohort 2 (27 PSCs) | Cohort 3 (54 PSCs) | Cohort 1 (18 PSCs) | Cohort 2 (27 PSCs) | Cohort 3 (54 PSCs) | Cohort 4 (54 PSCs) |
| C-SIPs Developed | 18 | 27 | 54 | | | | draft (18) |
| SMC/PTA Training (10 days) | 5, 3 & 2 days (6 dist) | 5 & 3 days (9 dist.) | 5 days (18 dist.) | 2 days (6 dist.) | 2 days (9 dist.) | 3 days (18 dist.) | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|----------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--|
| Microgrant | Tr. 1 (18) Tr. 2 (18) Tr. 3 (10) | Tr. 1 (27) Tr. 2 (26) | | Tr. 3 (4) Tr. 3 (4) | Tr. 3 (27) | Tr 1 (54) Tr. 2 (54) | |
| IEC Newsletter | Vol.1 #1-3 Vol.2 #1 | Vol.1 #1-3 Vol.2 #1 | Vol.2 #1 | Vol.2 #2-3 | Vol.2 #2-3 | Vol 2 #2-3 | |

Comments: Vol. 2 – Issue #3 of newsletter prepared/distributed. Cohort 3-tranche3 microgrant funds distributed. (Note: C-SIPs, SMC/PTA training & microgrants support both Sub Activity 2 & 3)

Sub Activity 3: Communities Participating in Design, Implementation & Monitoring

| Activity | Cum. 31 Mar. 00 (FY 98/ 99/00) | | | 1 Apr. - 30 Sept. 00 (FY 2000) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Cohort 1 (18 PSCs) | Cohort 2 (27 PSCs) | Cohort 3 (54 PSCs) | Cohort 1 (18 PSCs) | Cohort 2 (27 PSCs) | Cohort 3 (54 PSCs) | Cohort 4 (54 PSCs) |
| SMC/PTA Self-Appraisal (3 times in 2 years) | 18 (first) 18(second) | 27 (first) 27 (second) | 54 (first) | 18 (third) | 27 (third) | 54 (second) | |
| C-SIPs Reviewed & Updated | 18/9 | 27/18 | | 18 | 5 | 6 | |
| Re-mobilization/ Refresher & Phase-out | | | | 18 | | | |
| Assessment/Impact | | | | 18 | | | |

Comments: Cohort 2 re-mobilization, refresher/phase-out and assessment/impact schd. for Nov. 2000.

Plans for Next Quarter

The work plan includes conduct of Cohort 4 PRA/PLA: collection of Cohort 2 impact-assessment. Cohort 3 R4 and Cohort 4 baseline data: continued coordination/conduct of radio programs at six sites: re-mobilization and refresher/phase-out SMC/PTA TOT for Cohort 2 PSCs: preparation of Vol.2, Issue 4 of IEC newsletter: and implementation of 'spread' activities.

PROJECT OFFICE TRAVEL SCHEDULE - OCTOBER to DECEMBER:

Cohort 4 - Conduct PRA/PLA & Baseline Assessment

| Dates | Venue (School-Community) |
|-----------------|---|
| 02 – 05 October | Wamanafo Methodist, Gonasua Presby, Subompang Methodist, Wassa Asikuma D/C, Kegvina D/C, Akotoshie D/C, Atimpoku R/C, Monkra L/A and Atakrom |
| 06 October | DEOC Meetings (Ga, Asuogvaman, Krachi, Jasikan, Dormaa, Jaman, Tano, Wassa Amenfi, Nzema East) |
| 09 – 12 October | New Somanya Methodist Primary, Sekesua Bishop Ando Primary, Nyanbong L/A Primary, Ahamansu E.P. Primary, Baamang R/C, Achiase Methodist, Denase L/A, Ashire Zion and Prato No. 1 D/C |
| 16 – 19 October | Oterkpolu Presby Primary, Atua St. Paul Primary, Abuburuwa L/A Primary, Dappah Amanta L/A Primary, Ntiribuoho L/A, Boankra Methodist, Kyerekrom L/A, Twifo No. 1 D/C and Ekutase |
| 23 – 26 October | Trawa Roman Catholic, Nuaso Presby Primary, Ofosu L/A Primary, Kadjebi E.P Primary, Adwumakase Kese Methodist, Amoam Achias, Bedomasi Methodist, Watereso D/C and Sekyere Heman Methodist |
| 30 October | DEOC Meetings (Yilo Krobo, Manya Krobo, Nkwanta, Kadjebi, Kwabere, Ejisu Juaben, Afigva Sekyere, Twifo Hemang and Mpohor Wassa) |

Radio Programs

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 10 & 24 October | Brong Ahafo Region - Sunyani |
| 04 & 20 October | Volta Region - Ho |
| 3.17&31 October | Central Region - Cape Coast |
| 06 & 20 October | Greater Accra Region - Ada |
| 10 & 24 October | Western Region - Takoradi |
| 05 & 19 October | Eastern Region -Koforidua |

Spread

The Kumasi Metro district GES officials are to conduct PRA in four non-partnership school-communities. CSA will only act as a resource for the exercise.

Discussions are taking place with South Tongu district relative to SMC/PTA TOT on 23-27 October, which would include 26 participants: 11 GES officials, 9 SMC/PTA executives selected from existing partnership school-communities (3 each) and 6 SMC/PTA executives selected from non-partnerships school communities (1 from each circuit). Discussions are also taking place with GES officials in Birim South district relative to SMC/PTA TOT.

Radio Programs

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 06 & 20 November | Brong Ahafo Region - Sunyani |
| 1.15. 29 November | Volta Region - Ho |
| 14 & 28 November | Central Region - Cape Coast |
| 03 & 17 November | Greater Accra Region - Ada |
| 06 & 20 November | Western Region - Takoradi |
| 2.16.30 November | Eastern Region -Koforidua |

Debriefing & Training Workshops - Kumasi

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 06 – 07 November | DMA baseline and R4 debriefing: Cohort 2 Impact Data logistics |
| 06 – 09 November | PRA Debriefing and Activity/Reporting Training Workshop |

Re-mobilization Exercises – Cohort 2

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 13 November | Lekpungor, Asuofori and Kibi |
| 14 November | Dawhenya, Sukrong Awanfi and Kwabang |
| 15 November | Kongo, Adeiso and Ekorso Akwadum |
| 13 – 15 November | Mabang, Twabidi, Moree, Abandze and Achonwa |
| 17 November | Richard Akwei, Adabraka Presby and MOH |
| 17 – 19 November | Kojo Betiako, Nkrankrom, Aboase Obohen, Edumadze and Kejabil |
| 20 – 22 November | Odumase, Kenyasi, Korado, Immuna and Agona |

Partnership & Comparison Community Impact – Cohort 2

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 17 November | Partnership: Richard Akwei, Adabraka Presby and MOH |
| 19 – 20 November | Partnership: Mabang, Twabidi, Moree, Abandze, Achonwa, Lekpungnor, Asuofori & Kibi; Comparison: Mafanubi, Anyinam, Association International, Agbekotsekpo and Abase |
| 23 – 24 November | Partnership: Kojo Betiako, Nkrankrom, Aboase Obohen, Edumadze, Kadjebi, Dawhenya, Sukrong Awanfi and Kwabeng; Comparison: Pobriso, Apampatia, Mamrobi Sempe, Agaomeda and Aboadi |
| 26 – 27 November | Partnership: Odumase, Kenyasi, Korado, Immuna, Agona, Kongo, Adeiso and Ekorso Akwadum; Comparison: Tepa, Opass, Osofo Mako, Mampong and Abura |

Phasing-Out TOT for Cohort 2

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 20 – 22 November | East Akim and Dangbe West |
| 27 – 28 November | Ahafo Ano North and Asutifi Districts |

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 27 – 29 November | West Akim and Accra Metro Districts |
| 29 – 30 November | Abora Asebu and Ahanta West Districts |
| 04 – 05 December | Mfantsiman District |

Radio Programs

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 05 & 19 December | Brong Ahafo Region - Sunyani |
| 13 & 27 December | Volta Region - Ho |
| 12 & 26 December | Central Region - Cape Coast |
| 1.15. 29 December | Greater Accra Region - Ada |
| 05 & 19 December | Western Region - Takoradi |
| 14 & 28 December | Eastern Region –Koforidua |

Summary of Expenditures for the Quarter

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Contract: | Total Estimated Amount | S 4,899,847.00 |
| Expenditures: | Cumulative Expenditures - 30 June 2000 | \$ 2,901,357.52 |
| | Est. Expenditures - 1 July to 30 Sept. 2000 | \$ 287,610.00 |
| | Est. Cumulative Expenditures - 30 Sept. 2000 | <u>S 3,188,967.52</u> |
| Remaining Unexpended Balance: | | S 1,710,880.48 |