

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (QUIPS)**COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALLIANCES (CSA) PROJECT****QUARTERLY REPORT**

1 October 2000 to 31 December 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 October 2000 to 31 December 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:

PRA/PLA – Cohort 4. PRA/PLA was conducted in 46 Cohort 4 PSCs during this period, thus completing the exercise for this Cohort. There were nine PRA/PLA teams, each led by a CSA staff member, all with local language capability, and each composed of three to 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. Draft PRA/PLA reports were completed and C-SIPs were typed and distributed to ILP and USAID.

School Selection – Supplementary Cohort 4 Communities. Four additional school-communities have been selected in each of the 18 Cohort 4 districts, adding a total of 72 communities to replace the 72 communities being implemented by CRS in the north. Schools were selected by the CSA staff in conjunction with the district directors, DEOC members, and other district officials. Activities with these supplementary communities will begin with PRA/PLA and baseline data collection in January 2001.

Remobilization – Cohorts 2 & 3. Remobilization exercises were conducted in all 27 Cohort 2 communities as part of the CSA process of preparing the communities for the phase-out of the project. Each community reviewed their C-SIP and set new targets. Remobilization exercises were also conducted in 9 Cohort 3 districts (27 communities): South Tongu, Akatsi, Ho, Hohoe, New Juabeng, Akwapim North, Suhum Kraboa Coalto, Dangme East, and Kpando. These communities also reviewed their C-SIPs and set new targets. The remaining 9 Cohort 3 districts will receive remobilization activities in January 2001.

SMC/PTA Training – Cohort 2. SMC/PTA Training of Trainers workshops were held in all 9 Cohort 2 districts as a part of the phase-out process in that cohort. Participants were drawn from

community leaders, district education officials, and district assembly officials. In addition, selected community leaders from the 18 Cohort 1 and 15 Cohort 2 comparison schools were also included in the training to show appreciation for their cooperation in providing data for the 'Best Practices' data analysis.

Microgrants - Cohort 3. Proposals have begun to be submitted for Cohort 3 – tranche 3 microgrants. These proposals will be reviewed in January and disbursements will take place next quarter.

IEC – Radio and Newsletter. Thirty-three live radio programs were conducted plus repeats on the alternate weeks; Sunyani/Brong Ahafo (5), Cape Coast/Central (6), Ho/Volta (5), Takoradi/Western (5), Koforidua/Eastern (6) and Ada/Greater Accra (6). Volume 2, Issue 4 of the newsletter, 'Voice from the Community' was prepared for distribution. The newsletter continues to provide a medium to share practical experiences and actions about what is happening between/within school-communities.

Spread/District-Driven. A five-day SMC/PTA TOT was conducted with 20 GES staff of the Asutifi district. The workshop was a collaboration between the District Education Office, ActionAid, and CSA. The district plans to follow-up by conducting SMC/PTA training for 72 non-partnership school-communities, which will be funded by ActionAid. The SMC/PTA TOT for Akatsi district is being rescheduled for January/February 2001. Discussions are on-going with South Tongu and Birim South relative to the planning of their SMC/PTA TOTs.

Monitoring and Evaluation. Cohort 4 baseline assessments have been completed by the DMAs in 46 communities, in conjunction with the PRA/PLA activity. Following the completion of this activity, a data verification and reporting workshop was held. For Cohort 3, R4 data on Empowerment and Participation was collected in a random sample of 18 communities and submitted to PME. Cohort 2 impact assessments were completed in 27 partnership and 15 comparison communities. Analysis of the Cohort 2 impact data is on-going.

Community Match. The cumulative 'community match' collected for CSA partnership school communities through 31 December 2000 was \$538,163; an average of \$4,852 per each of 18 Cohort 1 PSCs, \$8,024 per each of 27 Cohort 2 PSCs, \$4,014 per each of 54 Cohort 3 PSCs, and \$322 per each of 54 Cohort 4 PSCs. The overall average for Cohorts 1, 2, and 3 is \$5,260 per PSC, which exceeds the \$5,000 per PSC needed to meet a \$1,300,000 commitment. Tracking sheets for Cohorts 1, 2, 3 & 4 and each PSC are included under separate cover.

Facilitators. The 25 Cohort 4 facilitators participated in a 2-day workshop on facilitator activity modules and report writing and have been working in their communities following up on issues raised during the PRA and monitoring the implementation of the C-SIPs. The Cohort 2 & 3 National Service facilitators have been collecting match, assisting with remobilization exercises, participating in SMC/PTA TOT training, tracking C-SIP updates and facilitating PRA/PLA exercises.

Field Time and Project Staff. Average field time for senior staff for the quarter was 46 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 90.2 percent.

Issues Needing Attention

The main item needing further discussion is the continuous involvement of MOE/GES headquarters in QUIPs activities, including collaboration with the Whole School Development Program.

GES/Headquarters. A workshop with MOE/GES and CSA has been planned to review and sanction the SMC/PTA Resource Handbook for wider use within the GES. Participants from this workshop will also participate in the Cohort 4 SMC/PTA TOT activities so that they get some exposure to actual training activities. This is a positive step toward the mainstreaming of the handbook as an official MOE/GES document and should prepare MOE/GES officials to undertake additional training

activities, but still may require that the MOE/GES be supported with a strategy for distribution and implementation. It is also unclear what the MOE/GES may expect from USAID in terms of resources to implement such a strategy, as the issue of financial reimbursements has already come up in terms of planning the initial workshop.

Whole School Development Program. Discussions have taken place between CSA and the WSD coordinator at GES about opportunities for collaboration between the two projects. Both parties are very interested in collaborating, especially in terms of CSA assisting WSD with SMC/PTA TOT activities. CSA has invited 2 WSD representatives to participate in the SMC/PTA Resource Handbook review workshop, which should lay the groundwork for future collaboration. However, discussions need to continue to clarify the nature of the collaboration and the availability of resources to facilitate cross project activities. One possible arrangement would be for CSA to supplement the WSD SMC/PTA training for District Education Planning Teams (DEPT). Such an arrangement would require additional funds for both CSA and WSD.

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

Sub Activity 1: Community Awareness, Responsibility and Advocacy Increased

Activity	Cum. 30 Sep. 00 (FY 98/ 99/00)				1 Oct. - 30 Dec 00 (FY 2000)		
	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (54 PSCs)
Baseline	18	27	54	18			36
PRA/PLA	18	27	54	18			36
IEC Comm. Drama (public forum)	18	27	54				
IEC Re-mobilization (video drama/forum or story picture- card/forum)	18/6/18	27	6			27	
IEC Calendars (pocket/wall)	10,000/ 400	25,000/ 600	20,000/ 1,000				
IEC Radio Programs (6 sites)			79 progs. & 6 launches			66 progs.	

Comments: Thirty-three live radio programs and 33 repeat programs conducted this quarter.

Sub Activity 2: School Support Organizations Strengthened

Activity	Cum. 30 Sep. 00 (FY 98/ 99/00)				1 Oct. - 30 Dec 00 (FY 2000)		
	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (54 PSCs)
C-SIPs Developed	18	27	54	18			36
SMC/PTA Training (10 days)	5, 3, 2 & 2 days (6 dist)	5, 3 & 2 days (9 dist.)	5 & 3days (18 dist.)		2 days (9 dist.)		
Microgrant	Tr. 1 (18) Tr. 2 (18) Tr. 3 (16)	Tr. 1 (27) Tr. 2 (27) Tr. 3 (25)	Tr. 1 (54) Tr. 2 (54)				
IEC Newsletter	Vol.1 #1-3 Vol.2 #1 -3	Vol.1 #1-3 Vol.2 #1 -3	Vol.2 #1 - 3		Vol.2 #4	Vol.2 #4	Vol.2 #4

Comments: Vol. 2 – Issue #4 of newsletter prepared for distribution. (Note: C-SIPs, SMC/PTA training & microgrants support both Sub Activity 2 & 3.)

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

Activity	Cum. 30 Sep. 00 (FY 98/ 99/00)				1 Oct. - 30 Dec 00 (FY 2000)		
	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (54 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) 18 (third)	27 (first) 27 (second) 27 (third)	54 (first) 54 (second)				
C-SIPs Reviewed & Updated	18/9/18	27/18/5	6		27		
Re-mobilization/ Refresher & Phase-out	18	27			27		
Assessment/Impact	18				27		

Plans for Next Quarter

The work plan includes conduct of Cohort 4 supplementary communities PRA/PLA; collection of Cohort 4 supplementary community baseline data; continued coordination/conduct of radio programs at six sites; re-mobilization for 27 Cohort 3 PSCs; SMC/PTA 5-day TOT and 5-day training for Cohort 4; disbursement of Cohort 3 – tranche 3 microgrants; distribution of Vol.2, Issue 4 of IEC newsletter, and preparation of Vol.2, Issue 5 of IEC newsletter.

PROJECT OFFICE TRAVEL SCHEDULE – JANUARY to MARCH 2001:

Cohort 3 – Conduct Remobilization Exercises

15 – 23 January Berekum, Sunyani, and Kumasi District
25 Jan. – 2 Feb. BAK, Adansi West, Cape Coast, KEEA, SAEMA, and Wassa West Districts

Cohort 4 Supplementary Communities - Conduct PRA/PLA

Dates	District
15 – 31 January	Asuogyaman, Jasikan, Krachi, Yilo Krobo, Ejisu Juaben, Dormaa, Mpohor Wassa, Nzema East, and Tano Districts (DEOC Meetings on 31 January)
1 – 17 February	Ga, Kadjebi, Nkwanta, Manya Krobo, Afigya Sekyere, Jaman, Twifo Hemang, Wassa Amenfi, Kwabere Districts (DEOC Meetings on 17 February)

Cohort 4 – Baseline Training Workshop & Debriefing Sessions - Accra

17 January DMA Cohort 4 Baseline Refresher Training Workshop
10 - 15 February DMA Cohort 4 Baseline Debriefings

Cohort 4 Supplementary Communities – Conduct Baseline Assessment

Dates	Community (District)
19 – 22 January	Banka (Krachi), Bukunor Junction (Yilo Krobo), Boamadumase (Ejisu Juaben), Dwenase(Tano)
23 – 26 January	Ehiamankyene (Krachi), Sawyer (Yilo Krobo), Essienimpong (Ejisu Juaben), Abukrom (Mpohor Wassa), Koforidua (Tano)
27 – 30 January	Tosen Nanyoa (Asuogyaman), Atonkor (Jasikan), Koraso (Dormaa), Domama (Mpohor Wassa)
1 – 4 February	Pampawie (Kadjebi), Abrewankor (Nkwanta), Buni (Jaman), Daman (Twifo Hemang), Ejuratia (Kwabere)
5 – 8 February	Asato (Kadjebi), Obanda (Nkwanta), (Afigya Sekyere), Taano (Jaman), Ankaako (Twifo Hemang)
9 – 12 February	Kecheibi (Nkwanta)

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Radio Programs

9 & 23 January	Brong Ahafo Region - Sunyani
3, 17 & 31 January	Volta Region - Ho
9 & 23 January	Central Region - Cape Coast
12 & 26 January	Greater Accra Region - Ada
16 & 30 January	Western Region - Takoradi
4 & 18 January	Eastern Region - Koforidua

Spread

The CSA/MOE/GES workshop to review and sanction the SMC/PTA Handbook is scheduled to be held at Abokobi on 28-31 January. Participants from this workshop will also participate in the SMC/PTA TOT workshops to be held 26 February – 2 March.

Radio Programs

6 & 20 February	Brong Ahafo Region - Sunyani
14 & 28 February	Volta Region - Ho
6 & 20 February	Central Region - Cape Coast
9 & 23 February	Greater Accra Region - Ada
13 & 27 February	Western Region - Takoradi
1 & 15 February	Eastern Region –Koforidua

Cohort 4 – 5-day SMC/PTA TOT Workshops

26 Feb – 2 March Kumasi, Accra (Abokobi)

Cohort 4 – 5-day SMC/PTA Training (all 126 Cohort 4 communities)

5 – 9 March	Jaman, Dormaa, Nkwanta, Kadjebi, Manya Krobo, and Asuogyaman Districts
12 – 16 March	Tano, Ejisu Juaben, Wassa Amenfi, Krachi, Jasikan, and Yilo Krobo Districts
19 – 23 March	Kwabere, Afigya Sekyere, Nzema East, and Ga Districts
26 – 30 March	Twifo Heman and Mpohor Wassa Districts

Radio Programs

6 & 20 March	Brong Ahafo Region - Sunyani
14 & 28 March	Volta Region - Ho
6 & 20 March	Central Region - Cape Coast
9 & 23 March	Greater Accra Region - Ada
13 & 27 March	Western Region - Takoradi
1, 15, & 29 March	Eastern Region –Koforidua

Summary of Expenditures for the Quarter

Contract:	Total Estimated Amount	\$ 4,899,847.00
Expenditures:	Cumulative Expenditures - 30 Sept. 2000	\$ 3,316,798.52
	Est. Expenditures - 1 Oct. to 31 Dec. 2000	\$ 314,420.00
	Est. Cumulative Expenditures - 31 Dec. 2000	<u>\$ 3,631,218.52</u>
Remaining Unexpended Balance:		\$ 1,268,628.48