

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (QUIPS)

COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALLIANCES (CSA) PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT

1 April to 30 June 2004

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

Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)
Educational Assessment and Research Centre (EARC)

INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report covers the period from 1 April 2004 to 30 June 2004 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, 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; 3) communities participating in the design, implementation and monitoring of schools; and 4) district education officers using monitoring and evaluation to improve education management.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following major accomplishments were completed during this quarter.

Remobilisation. Three-day phase-out PLA remobilization exercises were conducted in 107 Cohort 1, Cohort 2, Cohort 3, and Cohort 4 communities. Teams made up of GES, CSA staff, and CSA facilitators worked with eight sub-groups of the community (men, women, boys, girls, teachers, SMC/PTA executives, Unit Committee, and Chief and elders) to facilitate discussions around education and how community members could continue to contribute to improving quality. The last day of the activity was used to appraise and refine existing SPIPs and to provide a framework within which the communities will continue to improve their schools. The CPC in each district participated in the exercise to enable him/her to undertake follow-up activities subsequent to the CSA phase out. These exercises have now been completed in all 347 CSA communities.

Sustainability Data Collection. Three-day sustainability data collection activities were conducted in conjunction with the PLA exercise in 2 Cohort 1, 2 Cohort 2, 3 Cohort 3, and 24 Cohort 4 communities. Data was collected by teams of 2 District Monitoring Assistants (DMAs) using the CSA's *Improving Quality Education Through Community Participation: 'Best Practices' Assessment Instrument*. Data has now been collected in a total sample of 116 communities and will be analyzed in the next quarter. Results will be used for annual R4 reporting to USAID and will be included in CSA's final report.

SMC/PTA Training Expansion. The SMC/PTA training expansion program was completed in 16 Cohort 6 districts during the quarter: Ahafo Ano South, Ajumako, Amansie East, Amasie West, Aowin Soaman, Asante Akim North, Asante Akim South, Atebubu, Fanteakwa, Keta, Ketu, Kintampo, Kwahu North, Kwahu South, Sene, and Upper Denkyira. A total of 1,801 schools in these 16 districts participated in the program and 13,308 SMC/PTA executives attended 4-day cluster workshops. This concludes the SMC/PTA Expansion activity in the 84 districts in the seven southern regions of Ghana. In total, 76,458 SMC/PTA executives from 9,416 schools were trained.

SMC/PTA Handbook. A total of 3,159 SMC/PTA handbooks were distributed during the quarter in 16 Cohort 6 districts as part of the SMC/PTA expansion program. In addition, 2,000 manuals were released to CRS to support the SMC/PTA expansion program in the north. To date, 51,838 of the 80,000 handbooks

have been distributed as follows: 2,000 to GES headquarters, 11,500 to CRS, and 38,338 to district trainers and SMC/PTAs in the 84 districts that have participated in CSA's SMC/PTA training expansion program. The remaining manuals will likely be transferred to USAID's GAIT II project to support the community participation in education component of the program.

District SMCs. District SMCs were formed in 16 Cohort 6 (Ahafo Ano South, Ajumako, Amansie East, Amasie West, Aowin Soaman, Asante Akim North, Asante Akim South, Atebubu, Fanteakwa, Keta, Ketu, Kintampo, Kwahu North, Kwahu South, Sene, and Upper Denkyira) districts as they completed their SMC/PTA Expansion cluster training activities during the quarter. The committees were formed by taking two nominees from each cluster training activity, bringing the nominees together after all clusters had been completed, and assisting them to elect a district body consisting of ten members.

M&E Capacity Building Program. Sixty-four 2-day on-site training visits were conducted, including at least one visit to all 18 Cohort 3 South and all 22 Cohort 6 districts. The on-site visits provide the districts with an opportunity to receive training specific to their own M&E plans and allow the CSA training team to track progress. Five-day cluster training 3 workshops, which focused on dissemination and usage of information, were conducted for 3 selected Cohort 3 (Ho, BAK, and Berekum) and 3 selected Cohort 6 (Jomoro, Kwahu South, and Wa) districts. Six 1-day M&E forums, which provided DMIT members with an opportunity to share successes and challenges and refine M&E implementation plans, were conducted for all 18 Cohort 3 South and all 22 Cohort 6 districts. The M&E Capacity Building Program has now been completed in all 110 districts of Ghana.

IEC Newsletter. Volume 6, Issue 1 of the newsletter, 'Voice from the Community' was produced and distributed during the quarter.

Field Time and Project Staff. Average field time for senior staff for the quarter was 60 percent, which included the project director, deputy director for finance and operations, and two associate directors for field activities. Field vehicle usage time was 90 percent.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE QUARTER

Contract:	Total Estimated Amount	\$ 11,111,886
Expenditures:	Actual Cumulative Expenditures through 30 June 2004	10,793,316
Remaining Unexpended Balance:		318,570

CUMULATIVE TRACKING SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES COMPLETED - FY 98/99/00/01/02/03

Sub Activity 1: Community Awareness, Responsibility and Advocacy Increased

Activity	Cumulative 30 September 2003 (FY 98/99/00/01/02/03)						1 Oct. 03 – 30 June 2004 (FY 2004)		
	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (126 PSCs)	Cohort 5 (62 PSCs)	Cohort 6 (60 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (126 PSCs)	Cohort 5 (62 PSCs)	Cohort 6 (60 PSCs)
Baseline	18	27	54	78	21	20			
PLA	18	27	54	126	62	60			
IEC Comm. Drama (public forum)	18	27	54/54	126/126	62/62	60			21
IEC Re-mobilization (video drama/forum or story picture-card/forum)	18/6/18	27	54	126	62				
IEC Calendars (pocket/wall)	10,000/ 400	25,000/ 600	20,000/ 1,000	25,000					
IEC Radio Programs (6 sites)	510 programs & 11 launches						2 programs		

Sub Activity 2: School Support Organizations Strengthened

Activity	Cumulative 30 September 2003 (FY 98/99/00/01/02/03)						1 Oct. 03 – 30 June 2004 (FY 2004)		
	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (126 PSCs)	Cohort 5 (62 PSCs)	Cohort 6 (60 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (126 PSCs)	Cohort 5 (62 PSCs)	Cohort 6 (60 PSCs)
SPIP Development	18	27	54	126	62	60			
SMC/PTA Training	5, 3, 2 & 2 days	5, 3 2 & 2 days	5, 3 & 2 days	5, 3 & 2 days	5 & 4 days	5 & 4 days			
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) Tr. 3 (54)	Tr. 1 (126) Tr. 2 (126) Tr. 3 (121)	Tr. 1 (62) Tr. 2 (62) Tr. 3 (61)	Tr. 1 (60) Tr. 2 (60) Tr. 3 (46)			Tr. 3 (4)
IEC Newsletter	Vol.1 #1-3 Vol.2 #1 -3	Vol.1 #1-3 Vol.2 #1 -4	Vol.2 #1 – 4 Vol.3 #1-3	Vol.2 #4 Vol.3 #1-4 Vol.4 #1-4	Vol. 3 #4 Vol. 4 #1-4 Vol. 5 #1-3	Vol.4 #3 Vol. 5 #1-3		Vol.5 #4	Vol.5 #4

(Note: SPIPs, SMC/PTA training & microgrants support both Sub Activity 2 & 3.)

SMC/PTA Expansion Program

Cumulative 30 September 2003 (FY 02/03)

1 Oct. 03 – 30 June 2004 (FY 2004)

	Cohort 1 (6 districts)	Cohort 2 (9 districts)	Cohort 3 (18 districts)	Cohort 4 (18 districts)	Cohort 5 (18 districts)	Cohort 1 (6 districts)	Cohort 2 (9 districts)	Cohort 3 (18 districts)	Cohort 5 (18 districts)	Cohort 6 (17 districts)
5-day TOT	1	6	15	18	18	5				17
4-day Cluster Training	48 schools	399 schools	885 schools	1,941 schools	1,930 schools	730	578	1,041	14	1,850
Manuals Distributed	205	1,665	3,647	7,898	7,822	2,991	2,382	4,218	48	7,462

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

Activity

Cumulative 30 September 2003 (FY 98/99/00/01/02/03)

1 Oct. 03 – 30 June 2004 (FY 2004)

	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (126 PSCs)	Cohort 5 (62 PSCs)	Cohort 6 (60 PSCs)	Cohort 1 (18 PSCs)	Cohort 2 (27 PSCs)	Cohort 3 (54 PSCs)	Cohort 4 (126 PSCs)	Cohort 5 (62 PSCs)	Cohort 6 (60 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) 54 (third)	126 (first) 126 (second) 126 (third)	62 (first) 62 (second)	60 (first) 27 (second)						33 (second)
SPIPs Review & Update	18/9/18	27/18/5/27	54/54	126/126	62/62							
Remobilization/ Refresher & Phase-out	18/18	27/27	54	126	62		18	27	54	126	62	60
Assessment/Impact	18	27	54	42	21							

Sub Activity 4 – District Education Officers Utilizing Monitoring and Evaluation to Improve Education Management

Cumulative 30 September 2003 (FY 98/99/00/01/02/03)

1 Oct. 03 – 30 June 2004 (FY 2004)

	Cohort 1 (6 districts)	Cohort 2 (9 districts)	Cohort 3 (24 districts)	Cohort 4 (26 districts)	Cohort 5 (23 districts)	Cohort 6 (22 districts)	Cohort 1 (6 districts)	Cohort 2 (9 districts)	Cohort 3 (24 districts)	Cohort 4 (26 districts)	Cohort 5 (23 districts)	Cohort 6 (22 districts)
District Assessment	6	9	24	26	23	22						
Cluster Training (5 days)	6 (first) 6 (second)	9 (first) 9 (second)	24 (first) 6 (second)	26 (first) 26(second) 6 (third)	23 (first) 23(second)	22 (first)	1 (third)	2 (third)	24(second) 3 (third)		3 (third)	22 (second) 3 (third)
Technical Training (5 days)	6 (first) 6 (second)	9 (first) 9 (second)	24 (first) 6 (second)	26 (first) 26(second)	23 (first) 23(second)				18(second)			22 (first) 22(second)
On-Site Training (2 days)	6 (first) 6 (second) 6 (third) 6 (fourth)	9 (first) 9 (second) 9 (third) 9 (fourth)	24 (first) 24(second) 6 (third) 6 (fourth) 6 (fifth)	26 (first) 26(second) 26 (third) 26 (fourth) 26 (fifth) 18 (sixth)	23 (first) 23(second) 23 (third) 23 (fourth) 23 (fifth)	10 (first)	6 (fifth) 6 (sixth)	9 (fifth) 9 (sixth)	18 (third) 18 (fourth) 18 (fifth) 18 (sixth)	8 (sixth)	23 (sixth)	12 (first) 22(second) 22 (third) 22 (fourth) 22 (fifth)
Forum				7			6	9	24	19	23	22
Computer Disbursement	5	7	8	25	20	5		2	11	1	2	16

PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

The CSA Project will be concluding on 31 August 2004. Project activities for July and August are limited to district-based video screenings, as detailed below. The remaining project time will be spent on close-out activities.

PROJECT OFFICE TRAVEL SCHEDULE – JULY THROUGH AUGUST 2004

Video Screening

5 July Techiman, Tarkwa
6 July Sunyani, Takoradi
7 July Asante Mampong, Cape Coast, Accra
8 July Kumasi, Swedru
9 July Nkawkaw, Koforidua