

## Communities in Action

**EBO ARTHUR**

**SMC CHAIRMAN, ABANDZI**

QUIPS Program has made Abandze community members responsible towards school issues. Thus community people attend communal work in their numbers everyday, which was not the case in the past. A levy of ₵1000 per head has been instituted for communal labour defaulters.

As the SMC Chairman, the numerous workshops by CSA have equipped and committed me to visit school project sites everyday to encourage work and review the performance of artisans to ensure that they speed up the work.

The QUIPS programme has also helped the community to understand the need to mobilize local resources, like sand, stones, logs and communal labour for school projects. Through the same programme, certain individuals like Nana Kwasi Amoako Essel, the chief Fisherman, purchased woodboards to the tune of Three hundred thousand Cedis (₵300,000) for the start of the school project foundation. Another individual, Mr. Kwaw Appiah, bought 2 shovels for the project.

Following the call for an improved library for the school, one Mr. John Ocran purchased English Readers for the lower primary.

The intervention has also now instilled in the parents the need to visit the school regularly to know and interact with teachers. The importance of PTA meetings has also been preached. The PTA chairman, Mr. Napoleon Beacham, who is a member of the District Education Management team, is leaving no stone unturned concerning letting all stakeholders attend meetings without fail.

As a result of this programme, the SMC/PTA have been holding their regular meetings to evaluate work in the school. Opinion leaders have also been contacted to contribute towards the development of the school.

The community has purchased wood boards as their contribution to CSA's microgrant to be used for making tables and chairs for pupils. ❀

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*I just hope that the Ghana Education Service and the District Assemblies will adopt the approach of the QUIPS programme to help all schools in the community for a better, quality, education in the years ahead.*

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*Chiefs, community members, and pupils, during a school drama performance*

# Teachers' Observations

**C.K DOKU**

**HEADMASTER**

**GOASO METHODIST PRIMARY/JSS**

There is no dispute about the fact that the Quality Improvement in Primary School (QUIPS) programme, spearheaded by the CSA and ILP projects in the Goaso Methodist Primary, has contributed immensely to raise the image of the school. It is on record that the level of the pupil's performances in their areas of study, especially in English and Mathematics, has improved tremendously.

Extra curricula activities like Excursions and Open Days, which improve pupils' performance, have been re-introduced and re-activated.

## **Teachers Performance**

Because of series of courses and workshops organized by CSA and ILP for the teachers, their performance in the classroom has tremendously improved and their teaching methods have become effective. Their lesson notes preparation has become orderly and systematic with lots of innovations. They have blended various teaching strategies with the use of various teaching and learning materials to produce effective lessons delivery. This has produced an enviable result, which many schools in the district cherish.

## **Pupils Performance**

In only a year of the introduction of the programme, the school experienced drastic improvement in the pupil's performance. Series of CRT (Criteria Reference Test) administered in the school reflect this. Another examination, which bore clear testimony to improved pupil's performance, was the Best Pupils Award Examination administered in the Circuit. Despite the fact that all the preparatory schools in town took part, pupils of the Methodist primary won most of the best pupils' awards.

It is even on record that two of the pupils scored hundred percent in English language, a position which made them win scholarship offered by the district director of Education.

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***The CSA program has helped us accept the fact that our school does not belong to the government alone but rather owned by the community.***

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## **Community Awareness**

Before the intervention program, the community had the notion that the school was the property of the government. To them, it was the responsibility of the government to provide logistics for teaching and learning and rehabilitate school facilities when necessary. The intervention however created the realization that this notion was 'wrong'. Presently community members, and especially parents, assist the school a lot, mostly in the areas of school fees payment, meeting attendance, school visits and provision of other school needs. ❀

**BENJAMIN KWADZO AMEKUDZI**

**TEACHER, TEFLE PRESBY PRIMARY**

**TEFLE**

I have come to realize that the QUIPS programme has brought many changes in my school. Children are regular and punctual at school, they understand lessons quicker than before.

The new sitting arrangements in the classroom made me use little energy in teaching several lessons within a day.

Children can now speak good English. Parents also provide the needs of their wards as soon as needed.

With the coming of the QUIPS programme many methods of teaching and learning have successfully been practised. I like the measures being taken by CSA, ILP, and PME to improve teachers' lots in the partnership schools and in my school in particular. ❀

## VIEWS FROM DISTRICT OFFICIALS

**W.C.T AHONTU**

**CIRCUIT SUPERVISOR**

**EFIDUASE CIRCUIT, NEW JUABEN.**

The QUIPS program has brought a great change in the Akwadum Methodist Primary School. Teachers are more responsive to their duties than ever before. Lesson plans are prepared in detail covering all the elements. Teaching and learning materials relevant to topics are being effectively used to enhance pupils understanding of the topics. Teachers are conscious of the effective use of contact hours.

As a Circuit Supervisor my interaction with the other schools in the Circuit is producing a spill over effect. Some teachers in the Circuit who are not in the QUIPS PSCs are having improvement in their lesson preparation and delivery due to Spread.

During a confirmation exercise in Akwadum Islamic Primary School a teacher, who had taken advantage of the Spread in the circuit, performed as if she had attended all the training workshops organised by QUIPS/ILP for Partnership School Communities. This is a positive effect the QUIPS Project is having in my Circuit.

It is hoped that sooner than later all the teachers in the Akwadum town in particular and the Circuit in general will benefit from the Project. ❀

**JAMES DANKWA**

**CIRCUIT SUPERVISOR**

**AMEDE PRESBY PRIMARY**

The USAID-QUIPS programme has created awareness among the community members of the Amede Primary School.

Formally, the parents just dumped their wards in the school and saw teachers as solely responsible for these children's training. CSA has sensitized them to the fact that the parents together with the community have their roles to play.

Enrollment level has improved. Regularity and punctuality among both teachers and pupils have also improved. Parents now visit the school to have first hand knowledge of what goes on there.

Unit Committee and the SMC members also make sure that pupils stay at home in the evening to do their homework. Within such a conducive atmosphere it is not surprising that there has been improvement in teaching and learning in the school. ❀

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*The welfare of teachers during and after school should be a main concern of all parents*

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**MRS. MARY QUAYE**

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
GES/DODOWA**

Having worked with both the CSA and ILP projects, there are positive signs that the Partnership School Communities in the Dangme West District are presently doing a lot of good work to ensure the realisation of the fCUBE objectives. The SMCs and PTAs of these schools are presently playing very vital roles in their schools' development that the District office decided to spread the QUIPS Programme; especially that of CSA, to other selected schools in the district.

The District is grateful to QUIPS, especially CSA, for funding the multiplier workshop for 10 more communities in Dangme West.

Comparing public schools in the country with private schools, the District Office realized that although teachers in the public schools are trained and those in the private school are not, the private schools performed better.

The District Office believes that Management Efficiency and Parents Support for both their wards and teachers are the keys to quality teaching and learning.

Since the CSA programme is founded on the above as well as full community participation in school issues, the Dangme West District Education Office decided to spread the CSA programme to ten other schools. The office hopes to gradually cover all 60 schools in the district.

## PUPIL OBSERVATIONS

**ISAAC ASABERE(PUPIL)**  
**ADEISO PRESBY PRIMARY**

I am glad with this programme because at first I didn't know how to dress very well. With this programme I can now dress very well and neatly sometimes.

Many people come to our school to have a look at our beautiful compound. Presently all teachers are regular and punctual to school. I can now speak and write good English. I can also teach my friends in my group when my teacher is not around.

Thanks to QUIPS for the programme. ❁

**SAMUEL OFFEI**  
**PUPIL, ADEISO PRESBY PRIMARY**

In my former class, I didn't know how to read and write but with the help of QUIPS program I have learnt how to read and write. I can now do my homework alone at night. When I come to school I show it to my teacher for marking.

I am now the master of reading and writing. When my teacher is teaching I listen very carefully. I have improved in all the subjects and I don't want to be absent from school. The QUIPS programme has changed my way of dressing because now I dress neatly. I don't feel shy again, I am a leader in my group and my parents visit me at school, I am always happy in class. ❁

**BADZI PATRICK**  
**PUPIL**  
**TSAVANYA LA PRIMARY**

At first, in our school, when the teachers are coming to teach they do not bring along any materials. But now, when the CSA and ILP teams came to our school they brought many changes.

The CSA of USAID QUIPS programme spoke to our parents to buy us textbooks. Now, our parents often visit the school to see the performance of the pupils in the classrooms. Our teachers are also using teaching and learning materials in teaching us, such as pictures. Thank you, USAID and QUIPS, but we need more help and support from you.❁



*Children of Noberkaw RC Primary in the Asunafo District, during a remobilisation exercise.*

### CHILDREN - THE KEY TO THE FUTURE

Bringing up children is like holding a wet bar of soap:  
Too loose a grasp and it falls to the ground  
Too tight a hold and it shoots out  
A firm but gentle hold keeps it in place.

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*We need to be thankful to God for our wonderful children. For me I see them as our only asset for a brighter future.*

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