

Project for Improving Learning Outcomes through Community Participation for Sustainable School for All (COMPASS)

Ghana COMPASS project aims to improve students' learning outcomes by strengthening community-based school management. School Management Committees (SMCs) were reformed democratically in 2022, and formed SMC Federations for efficient training and information sharing purposes. In collaboration with community members, SMCs and Federations has carried out various activities for the sake of students' learning improvements.

Project Period: March 2020 to March 2024 **Target regions:** Eastern, Volta, and Oti

The Akosombo dam spillage in October 2023 let a massive floods, leaving three districts in Volta Region (South Tongu, Central Tongu, and North Tongu) a disastrous damage. Many schools, including 16 COMPASS target schools, were submerged and got their teaching and learning materials swept away. To support resuming remedial activates, the Project provided 7,500 workbooks (Level 1~8) with the flood affected 52 schools.

Even though a lot of aid organizations had already delivered emergency relief, there were almost no other examples focusing on learning support. Therefore, this workbook release was welcomed by the district education officials and community members. In addition to remedial lessons, the workbooks will also be utilized in regular classes as agreed in the Education Forum in July 2023.

North Tongu District Education Office Director (right) receiving workbooks from Volta Regional Education Office Director (left).



Support for Learning Continuity

The workbooks the Project developed were designed to be used by students individually. This made it difficult for some SMCs to make enough copies to continue remedial lessons. Reflecting this feedback, the Project made board-writing-style-workbooks, and piloted them in Upper Manta Krobo District, Eastern Region. The style in which students copy questions written by a facilitator on a black/white board, contributed in reducing printing costs significantly.

In about one month, from November to December 2023, Level 4 class (two-digit addition) improved by 2.1 points out of 10 points on average. Level 5 class (two-digits subtraction) showed an improvement of 1.2 points. When all the levels were included, an average of 2.0-point improvement was observed. Though these workbooks are still on a pilot stage, the data of them were shared with all the target District Education Offices for the sake of the continuity of remedial lessons.



Facilitator writes questions on the board and students copies them on their notebooks.



Error correction and explanation.



Completion of Crowdfunding!

Okere SMC Federation A, Eastern Region, raised 722.98 USD in four months. They procured 20 desks with chairs, and organized a hand-over ceremony to present the items to the member SMCs in December 2023. The District Assembly got inspired by this activity and distributed 500 extra desks with chairs within the district. The results and the process of this crowdfunding were shared as a good example of fundraising activity done by SMC Federations.



Way Forward

The COMPASS Final Model was approved by stakeholders of Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service. From here, National and Master Trainers will initiate follow-up activities planned in the Action Plan to ensure the sustainability of SMC activities and academic improvement of students. They also eye the roll out of the Model to other regions.

"Over the past four years since 2020, the JICA COMPASS Project has been the game changer for primary school children in the learning of mathematics in Ghana. With the revived community participation which induced SMCs, the future of high proficiency in numeracy looks very promising in Ghana's Pre-tertiary Education system, thanks to the technical cooperation and support from JICA."

Mr. Bright Dey (Project Team Operation Lead/ National Trainer)

