

Education

PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION IN DEPRIVED AREAS

Period: March 2010 – ongoing

Beneficiaries: Primary and Junior High School students and teachers

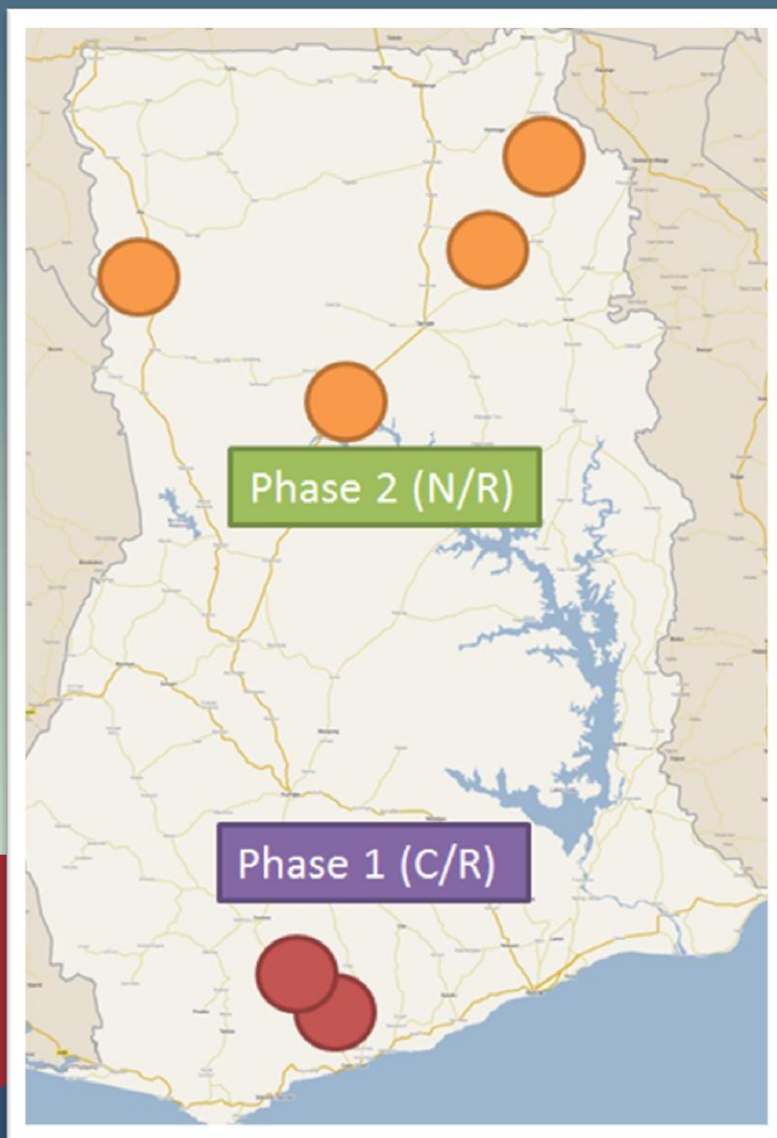
Implementing Organization: Ghana Education Service and Ministry of Education

Project objective:

To improve educational environment and access to basic education through the construction of facilities for Primary and Junior High Schools



TARGET AREA : SELECTED DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS OF GHANA



Implemented in phases

Phase 1 (Central region) districts: 16 schools

Assin South
Assin North

Phase 2 (Northern region) districts: 17 schools

Sawla Tuna Kalba
Bunkpurugu Yunyoo
Karaga
Central Gonja

Activity



The Government of Ghana (GoG), through its Constitution, guarantees free basic education to its citizens. The number of schools to accommodate the increased students however has come under enormous pressure. This challenge compelled the Government of Japan to agree to the GoG's request to construct schools for the most deprived areas.

The school construction project is using a 605 million Japanese Yen grant (approx. US\$ 6 million) to construct classrooms for Primary and Junior High Schools, teachers' accommodation, toilet facilities and educational furniture in 33 schools. This is made up of 16 schools in the Central Region and 17 schools in the Northern Region.

The project is being implemented under Japan's Grant Aid for Community Empowerment Scheme: a scheme which aims to develop communities by empowering their capability by positively utilizing local design, local contractors, and local material suppliers.

To date six schools (five in phase 1 and one in phase 2) have been handed over to District directors of Education for students' use (as of September, 2012).



Comment from Counterpart –

Interviewed in October 2012

Mr. Charles Aheto - Tsegah, Deputy Director General, Ghana Education Service, and the Project Manager of the School Construction project at the Ghana Education Service



The project has real benefits for the improvement of access and quality in the targeted communities. The support will contribute to the empowerment of the beneficiary communities as they send more of their children to school after its completion. The project has faced some challenges but it is anticipated as these are addressed, the project will be completed in time for use by the communities.

Comment from Assistant Project Manager - Mr. Masafumi Takino

Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is working hard to ensure the success of the Community Empowerment Project. In order to make the building stronger, structural beams and stiffeners have been added so that students can use the classroom for longer. We believe this project will improve the educational system in the deprived areas of Ghana and be a motivation to the teaching staff as they are assured of accommodation facilities too. There has been challenges but we are still doing our maximum best to sustain this project.

