



Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)

Project Goal

To improve health and education services for children, their families and communities – especially the most vulnerable in Ghana.

Project Outcomes

Improved government health services in 6 health facilities in Talensi, Mpohor Wassa East and Ga West ADPs by 2016.

Improved Education Services for children, families and communities especially the most vulnerable in 18 schools in Talensi, Mpohor Wassa East and Ga West ADPs by 2016.

Background

Poor service quality by service providers and non-participation of communities in holding government and power holders accountable.

Project achievement/ Specific interventions/ Evidence of measurable outcomes

CVA communities are empowered, dialoguing and demanding improved services in education and health in communities.

Measurable impact

In the Talensi ADP, four(4) schools reported different levels accomplishment for government education policy standards. The table below provides the percentage change per the last monitoring

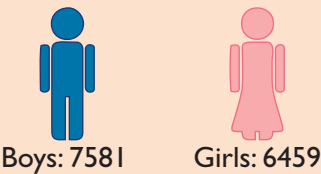


School Name	% Change
Duusi Primary Sch.	25%
Gorogo Primary Sch.	50%
Tongo Primary Sch.	50%
Datuko Primary Sch.	25%

Number of beneficiary communities/ districts

CVA is currently implemented in 19 communities in three districts namely Mpohor Wassa East, Ga West and Talensi Districts

Total number of children (boys/girls) benefitting from project



Project contribution towards improved child well-being

CVA has contributed to the wellbeing of children and mothers and especially the most vulnerable in communities through improved education and health services. Through CVA the Mpohor Wassa District Assembly has provided apartments for nurses in the community. The Talensi district has provided a playground and sports equipment to the Gorogo primary school that led to an increase in enrolment.

Project alignment with Regional Strategic Priorities

The project focuses on improving education and health for children and families in communities particularly the most vulnerable. This is in sync with the national strategy as well as the regional strategy.

Evidence of reaching the most vulnerable through policy influencing and budget changes

Through dialogue with communities, district assemblies made budgetary provision for improvement of education and health services in some communities, for example Sekyere krobo, Gorogo ,Tongo and Datuko communities have addressed water, sanitation, playground ,sports equipment and school infrastructural issues.



Construction of new nurses quarters by Mpohor Wassa East District Assembly at Sekyere Krobo

Evidence of children's participation in project implementation

CVA is non-discriminative and therefore children from all backgrounds are active participants in the CVA processes. Children are members of CVA working groups contributing to their wellbeing in communities. Also WVG has facilitated the formation and training of three child led CVA working groups in the three districts of the project i.e. Mpohor Wassa East, Ga West and Talensi districts.

In what way does project show potential or already proven ability to scale-up?

CVA approach to community dialogue for improved services has gained popularity and acceptability in many communities. Evidence of service improvement in pilot communities is attracting other communities to demand for CVA. Some district assemblies have embraced the concept and wants WVG to replicate it in all communities as it empowers the communities to participate in democratic governance processes at the local level.

Lessons learnt/ Innovation

- CVA is process focused, follows defined methodology and sometimes takes time to achieve results
- The community leads in the screening and selection of CVA working groups ensuring equal representation and ownership
- District authorities participate in the CVA processes and are very receptive and supporting the project to achieve its objectives



Renovation of classroom at Sekyere Krobo by Mpohor Wassa East District Assembly

Best practice

- School enrollment in Gorogo primary increased from 219 in 2012 to 230 in 2013. School dropout and low enrollment were key challenges confronting the school, however the intervention of the CVA working group through facilitating dialogue between communities and service providers, led to the provision of playground and sports equipment coupled with an enrollment drive through community sensitization. The community went through a score card, monitoring standards and interface sessions leading to the development of community action plans resulting in the change.
- Nurses' quarters have been provided by the Mpohor Wasa District assembly to improve health services in Sekyere Krobo. The community through score card, monitoring, interface and action planning sessions with service providers dialogued and provided a solution on nurses living outside the community and commuting every day to provide health services

Evidence of sustainability of outcomes and stakeholder engagements

Pilot communities have been empowered through training, policy education and facilitation leading to community mobilisation for development through CVA. Communities have taken the responsibility of meeting and dialoguing with decision makers, service providers and power holders for services to be improved.



Renovation of classroom at Sekyere Krobo by Mpohor Wasa East District Assembly