On MVP Mbola, UN week, New Coordinator & MDG West Retreat

MVP Mbola Education Cup Launched
By Nemes Colman Temba
Education Coordinator in Mbola, Tanzania

MVP Mbola via its Education sector called an education stakeholders’ meeting on September 24th 2013. The meeting involved the UYUI District Education Officer in charge of education statistics and logistics (Francis Majaliwa), four Ward Education Coordinators, 17 School committees Chairpersons, 17 Heads of Schools and 22 Community Education Workers. This special meeting aimed to share results of the monthly data collection from schools. CEWs services in villages were also made clear to the meeting participants. (See page 4 for list of discussions and agreements from the meeting)

Francis Majaliwa handing over the MVP Mbola Education Cup to Inonelwa Primary School Committee leaders

After the meeting, 3 best performing schools in terms of the students and teachers’ attendance, literacy and numeracy skills were awarded. MVP Mbola Education Cup was launched by the DEO (statistics and logistics) where Inonelwa Primary became the first school to win the title after attaining an average of 89.06% in all the four assessed indicators. The cup will be rotating to the winning school in a quarterly basis.

Announcing MDG West Education Retreat
To focus on Education Sector’s major gaps, share experiences, and best practices, MDG West sites will be coming together for a regional retreat in Dakar, Senegal next month. Since the West sites are facing similar issues that affect the indicators (school retention, out of school children, enrollment), the objectives of the retreat are:

• To have specific plans and objectives targeted towards each sites’ needs for the coming year along with finalizing the 2 year plans (revisiting 3-year plan from last year) to consider essential interventions
• To address managerial and administrative concerns with the support of Team Leaders
• To establish possible policy linkages at the regional and national level with the Government officials and other stakeholders to ensure project sustainability and share and transfer knowledge and lessons.
• To start the process of formally documenting best practices at sites
• To plan for data sharing and usage with Stakeholders at sites for impact, and discuss the exit strategies.

We’ll be sharing retreat outcomes and summary in the next newsletter!
**Event at the United Nations in New York City**

By Angelique Mahal, Education Technical Advisor, New York

On September 25, 2013 in New York City, during the week of the United Nations General Assembly, The Federal Republic of Nigeria hosted a side event entitled, *Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development in Nigeria and Africa: Lessons, Actions, & Emerging Perspective*. The event was hosted by His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of Nigeria.

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs) presented on progress and results of their work towards achievement of the MDGs in Nigeria. Three presidents from the West African region also presented on the status of MDGs in their home countries. These three were President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, President Macky Sall of Senegal and President John Mohama of Ghana. President Johnson Sirleaf commended the Nigerian government on the creation of an innovative office that was set up to strictly target the MDGs. Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute, presented on the positive and continued promise of Nigeria’s structured efforts towards achievement of the MDGs. OSSAP-MDGs is an inventive pioneering initiative that prioritizes the MDGs with federal funding throughout the nation. For more information, please visit [http://www.mdgs.gov.ng/](http://www.mdgs.gov.ng/).

Since 2010, The Earth Institute and OSSAP-MDGs have been collaborating on the Conditional Grants Scheme to Local Government Areas program and on the creation and sustainability of the Nigeria MDG Information System (NMIS).

**Professor Jeffery Sachs’ address on Nigeria’s efforts towards MDGs**

**Announcing new MVP Pampaida Education Coordinator**

By Bala Yunusa
Team Leader in Pampaidia, Nigeria

We are happy to welcome Mr. Adamu Bulama, the New Education Coordinator for Pampaida MVP. Mr. Bulama obtained his B.Ed. (Primary Education Studies) from Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto in 1997 and a Master of Education in Community Development from Bayero University Kano. He has extensive experience in primary education, nomadic and adult education.

Prior to joining the MVP, Mr. Bulama worked in rural development for about 10 years working with UNICEF funded education Programme in Katsina state as Research Officer (2011-2013), PSE Consultants (EU Funded programme) as Team Leader, M&E (2009-2010), World Bank Assisted Community Based Urban Development Project in Jigawa state - first as Project Community Development Officer (2003-2007) and later State Desk Officer – Monitoring & Evaluation (2007-2009). Mr. Bulama speaks English, Hausa and Fulfulde fluently and has attended several Seminars and Conferences with publications to his credit.
MDP Students’ Summer Field Experiences in MVP Sites

By Zoe Stopak-Behr

Our Masters (MPA) in Development Practice Program students spent their summers in the field in MVP sites and have been sharing their experiences through a Brown Bag session in New York at the Earth Institute.

By interacting and working with site teams, schools, teachers, parents and community members, their work focused on education access and quality, investigating current status, activities, training, challenges, and implementation related to their topic.

Zoe Stopak-Behr worked with the CEW program in MVP Sauri, Kenya and shared part of her summary below:

“Following a full year of intervention there existed a need to gauge the impact of the pilot and determine points for improvement. Working closely with the Sauri Education Sector from June to August 2013, I conducted an investigation aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of the Community Education Worker (CEW) program in increasing school enrollment and retention rates in East Gem……

……Based on the data collected by CEWs, the most significant reasons behind non-enrollment and non-completion of school relate to the costs associated with education. Although primary school education should be free for all children, according to the Kenyan Basic Education Act, schools must charge some levies in order to maintain their activities and functions. For many families the financial requirements exceed their means, especially in families with a large number of school-aged children. Parents express their frustration that school is not in fact free or universal, stating that they would send their children to school if they could only afford to…

Other common challenges preventing children from completing primary school include, special needs that are not met in local schools, early pregnancy, and the necessity to participate in income generating activities such as gold mining.

By virtue of their direct contact with families and participation in community meetings surrounding education, CEWs are well placed to increase community awareness of Kenyan education policies, child rights and the general importance of education. They have provided problem-solving and follow-up assistance to children out of school, those at risk of dropping out and other vulnerable cases, and they have increased pre-school enrollment ….”

We are looking forward to Diptesh Soni (MVP Potou) and Heather George’s (MVP SADA) presentations to happen later this month.
...MVP Mbola Education Cup continued...

The meeting in Mbola aimed to share results of the monthly data collection from schools (data collection process started in February 2013) as well as to discuss CEW services. The following were agreed:

- Teachers and CEWs work together to reduce dropout rate
- Schools establish projects like poultry, gardens etc...to help resolving some problems like blackboard and toilets renovations.
- Teachers be encouraged to join and use SACCOS and Government Employees Provident Fund to enhance savings that could resolve their problems and lead to them attend school daily.
- School committees sit and think on how to get sources to help students who pass their PSLE but not able to proceed with further studies.
- Parents be encouraged to adhere to family planning for them to manage taking their kids to school.
- Participate in events like meetings and internationally recognized days.
- Advise children to have or help their parents in their small projects to make them responsible and also independent of some school materials upon transition to Secondary Education.
- School committees have to be the first to identify problems facing a school and also become first solvers of those problems
- The data collected from schools need to be verified by both CEWs and heads of schools before they are submitted to other levels
- School committees need to work more to oversee schools programs including students and teachers attendance.
- Results of the education data collected from schools will be shared to responsible stakeholders to allow discussions on how to improve education indicators.

Education stakeholders during the meeting – sharing results of the education data collection from schools