CEWs in Action:
Nutrition, Literacy & Gender Parity in MVP Schools!
March 15, 2013

**Rwanda** - A National Consultative meeting on homegrown solutions for the **National School Feeding Program** took place. The meeting was attended by many partners including: the Minister of Education, State Minster in charge of Primary and Secondary Education, Minster of Agriculture, State Minister in charge of Primary Care and Public Health, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, Vice Mayors and all District Education Officers. Additionally, delegates from the Brazilian Center of Excellence and development partners from DFID, WFP, UNICEF and selected INGOs attended.

It was a two day fully interactive session in which **recommendations and conclusions** were reached regarding how SFP will be branched out nationally through accessing legal and policy framework, financial capacity, institutional capacity and coordination, design and implementation and community participation.

**Next Steps:** A Steering Committee led by the Ministry of Education is to be formed to come up with a clear and well defined way forward.

**Mbola, Tanzania - World Read Aloud Day** is celebrated annually on 6th March. It's an awareness day advocating for literacy as a right that belongs to all people. This years' theme was “**Read It Forward**”.

Mbola students during WRAD session at Lolangulu Secondary School
A total of 27 students from Mbola (Lolangulu Secondary and Primary School), Team leader (Dr. Gerson Nyadzi), Partnership & Communication officer, ICT coordinator, Community facilitator and 3 Teachers from Lolangulu participated during the day.

To mark the day, students from Mbola joined with students from New Canaan Country School via Skype and read together, guided with the subject below:

“Reading is important because…”

Below are some responses from Mbola students on why reading is important because…

1. It improves language skills and gives wisdom and help relaxing my brain” – Lucy Kasuku
2. You can learn about different cultures in the world and how people or communities differ, their environment and weather conditions – Kastom Lucas
3. It helps a person to learn new vocabularies in language and accelerating the thinking capacity. – Anna Marco

Conclusion: This year’s World Read Aloud Day was so special; all children were so happy and enjoyed the day. Every child had a chance to speak and read aloud to a friend. All students celebrated the power of words with their friends. In closing remarks, Mbola Team Leader Dr. Gerson Nyadzi told the audience that, next year the project will arrange to have government officials coming to make the Day more colorful. He also said, it’s an opportunity for the students to excel their capacities after seeing their fellows outside.
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Tiby, Mali -

- **International Women’s Day** celebration was used to officially launch Connect to Learn (improving quality of education through technology) at the site.

- The theme "**Women’s bodies, Social Issue: Eliminate Discrimination Against Women to End Gender-Based Violence**" was chosen to commemorate this event focusing on enrollment of girls and empowerment of women.

- In both schools, 50 girls (25 per school) were selected to benefit from the program interventions.

- The official launch was to inform partners of the school, including administrative, municipal and community on the importance of Connect to Learn on personal development for the 50 girls beneficiaries.

A view of the participants in the ceremony

Pupils accompanied by the Mayor of Dioro, Team Leader and Coordinator of Education during the ceremony

**MVP Education Sector Upcoming Events:**

The **Comparative & International Education Society** (CIES) - hosted their 57th annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA this March with the theme: “Educational Quality: Global Imperatives and Contested Visions”. Stay tuned next month as we provide updates on the panelists Radhika and MVP Intern Sarah participation in: Assessment and Utilization of Children’s Learning Data and Improving School Completion and Achievement.