Learning Task Force:
Student Learning is the Goal!

Welcome to the Learning Task Force!

How can we make a difference in the learning levels of children? What do we know works to improve learning levels? Who are some of the model teachers in our sites and what is it that they do that improves learning?

We have launched a Google Group (accessible to everyone with the link), to share resources, site examples, stories, and discussions on this topic of improving learning. We have sent an invitation to this link to all Education Coordinators, please share your experiences, ideas, readings, and findings with this working group via Learning Task Force Google Group.

One example from our team’s readings this week includes usage of simple, cheap, readily-available materials as learning materials and resources, such as Bridge International Academies in Kenya using egg cartons and bottle caps to teach/learn basic numeracy skills of how to count!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT in EDUCATION in SADA, GHANA

By Francis Avonsige

There was an effective training of School Management Committees (SMCs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Headteachers for SADA in early January.

The two –day training per location (Fumbisi and Kpesenke) covered a broad range of major topics, including the following:

- PTA and SMC –(meaning, composition, tenure of office and functions)
- Planning and organizing PTA and SMC Meetings
- Conflict and conflict management
- SMC-PTA Collaboration for quality education in schools - Action planning: School Performance Improvement Plans (SPIPs)

Ten frames:
Repurposed egg cartons serve as ten frames, grounding pupils in early counting skills in base 10 and explaining concepts like counting, addition, subtraction, and even fractions in a natural setting.

For more information on their model and tools, please visit:
http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com/approach/model/ and
http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com/academics/tools/

Participants at group discussion on how to draw their SPIP at Kpansenke
Participants showed a lot of enthusiasm during trainings, as evidenced by their active participation throughout the sessions. The level of participation, however, was more pronounced in the Fumbisi Cluster than that of Kpesemkpe.

The number of women who participated in the trainings was rather small (7 out of 40 in the Fumbisi Cluster and 4 out of 35 in the Kpesenpke Cluster). Even with this low number, the women in the Fumbisi Cluster contributed more actively to discussions than their counterpart from the Kpesenpke cluster.

There was an outcry for more of such training for them (all members) to be active in school programs in their communities at the end of the training at each cluster.

This year’s capacity development training for teachers and Community Education Workers (CEWs) was planned to address the noticeable gaps and needs of the teachers in the cluster. It is no longer news that teachers, particularly in the rural areas are ill-equipped and lack capacity for basic classroom delivery.

In order not to disrupt, academic activities in schools during the 2nd Term, this 1st Quarter activity was delayed to the second week of April, when schools were vacation.

The workshop session this year also featured prospective volunteers for the role of Community Education Workers that consist of secondary school graduates with varying degrees of competences, fresh basic teacher graduates and a few university graduates with no prior teaching training or experience.

Including this group in the training workshop was predicated upon recognising their achievement as young school leavers and using them as role models and partners in community sensitisation for school enrolment and attendance.

The Millennium Villages Project, through the Education Sector therefore organised a 3 day training and workshop session to address specifically the following areas:

- General Teaching Methodology
- Subject Content Refresher
- Training in English Language
- Mathematics
- Methodology
Cross Sectoral Synergies Update

NY team has created a one-pager resource list for WASH materials and activities. The list has been shared with Regional WASH Coordinators ready for distribution as needed. Please contact your WASH Coordinator in site or the NY Education Team if you would like this list.

Data Collection

Monthly data collection by cluster and school levels have now been turned into easily readable “Report Cards” for sites and all parties to use. Some Education Coordinators have begun to share this with local government and community members. We hope these will be a great tool for wide awareness and usage of education status of sites.

Please contact M&E Coordinator at sites for any questions and issues with your sites’ Report Cards and data.

The next step will be to collectively think of effective and cost-effective education interventions that address findings in our data. We are looking forward to hearing ideas and experiences from all sites to guide this collective effort!

*The full-version of the Pampaida report will be shared via Learning Task Force Google Group email. Please be on the lookout for this informative report!*