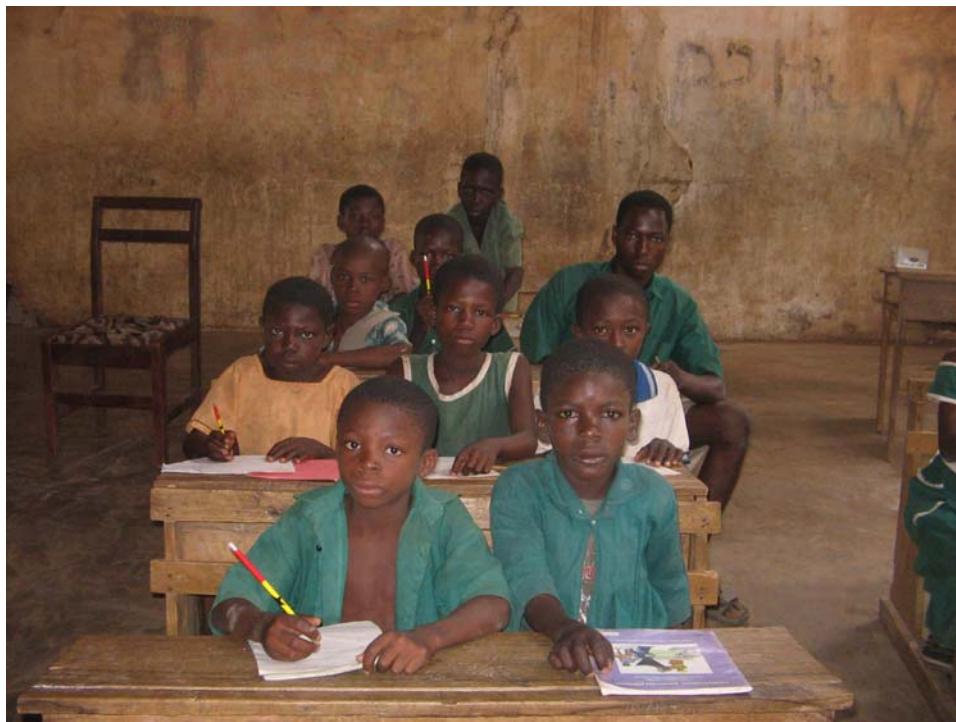


**GHANA NATIONAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN COALITION  
(GNECC)**

**QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR PERIOD  
APRIL – JUNE 2008**



**ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE AND ADVOCATE THE RIGHT TO EQUITABLE  
ACCESS TO FREE COMPULSORY QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION FOR ALL  
GHANAIAN CHILDREN**

**JULY 2008**

**ACCRA**

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## List of Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CEF	Commonwealth Education Fund
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DEFATs	District Education for All Teams
EFA	Education for All
GNECC	Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOESS	Ministry of Education Science and Sports
NEC	National Executive Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNED	Northern Network for Education Development
VSO	Voluntary Services Organization
WUSC	World University Service of Canada
GES	Ghana Education Service
GNAT	Ghana National Association of Teachers
GCE	Global Campaign for Education

## List of Pictures

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the activities carried out by the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) for the second quarter of 2008, from April to June, at the National Secretariat and six regional chapters: Volta, Eastern, Western, Brong Ahafo, Ashanti and Central regions. The Greater Accra Region unfortunately saw inaction this quarter due to the resignation of the Muslim Relief Association (MURAG) from the position of lead agency which resulted in disorganization and the need to re-structure the regional branch. All efforts have been made over the course of the quarter to find a replacement for MURAG and the Coalition is hopeful that activity will resume for the region in the third quarter. The Northern Network for Education Development (NNED), an affiliate of GNECC, provides similar services in the three regions of Northern Ghana. In GNECC's bid to ensure that duty bearers and policy makers undertake the important task of achieving the goals of Education for All and the Millennium Development Agenda in Ghana by 2015 through advocacy and fact based research, the organization undertook the activities captured in this report.

## 2.0 ORGANIZATION OF REPORT

The composition of this report is broken down according to the four specific program objectives of GNECC for the second quarter. Each section will analyze the results achieved in accordance with the corresponding expected outputs.

## 3.0 OBJECTIVE 1 – Strengthening GNECC Structures and Participation

The first objective of the first quarter 2008 activities is to strengthen and consolidate GNECC's structure and participation in the design and implementation of national and district level plans and mobilization. The expected outputs of this objective are to ensure that the functioning of the National Secretariat is enhanced and strengthened as well as to increase the Coalitions participation in local, national, and international education initiatives and policy making. The activities included in this objective for the second quarter of 2008 were an Executive Council Meeting, Monitoring Field Visits to the Regional Chapters, and a Regional Coordinators Meeting.

### 3.1 Executive Council Meeting

**Date:**

**Location:** GNECC Secretariat Conference Room

**Participants:** \_\_\_ members of the Executive Council

**Beneficiaries:** \_\_\_ Direct; 360 Indirect

The purpose of holding an Executive Council Meeting was to allow for the highest decision making body of the Coalition (apart from the AGM) to have an opportunity to discuss and create concrete action steps on issues seriously affecting the Coalition. The objective of this activity is to provide the body with quarterly/semi-annual opportunities to meet in order to ensure a smooth functioning of the Coalition.

While those who were not part of the Council were not invited to attend the meeting, key issues addressed was a revision of the terms of service for staff, a change in management at the National Coordinator level, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Ultimately, the meeting was a success as several key issues hampering the administration of the Coalition's work saw resolutions, decisions, and concrete action steps all of which helped the functioning of the Coalition at all levels.

### **3.2 Monitoring Field Visits to Regional Chapters**

**Date:** May – June 2008

**Location:** Six regional capitals

**Participants:** The Regional Coordinating Committees and Regional Coordinators from the 6 regions, Secretariat Program Officer, and the Secretariat level WUSC Volunteer.

**Beneficiaries:** 24 Direct; 360 Indirect

In keeping with the planned activities for 2008, GNECC National monitored the institutional framework and activity progress of six of its seven regional structures over the course of May and June 2008. The purpose of the monitoring was to assess the level of effectiveness each of the regional lead agencies and coordinating committees demonstrated in the functioning of their structures, resources, programming, financial management, and activity status using a series of indicators before the end of the second quarter. The objectives of the monitoring were to provide GNECC National an opportunity to observe challenges and successes of regional work on a wide scale to identify issues that need addressing across the board, create solutions to these problems regionally and nationally, begin the semi-annual monitoring process, and bring an informed basis of issues to the next Regional Coordinators meeting.

The monitoring took the form of regional meetings with the Regional Coordinating Committee (including Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and other Executive Council members), the Regional Coordinator, and GNECC National staff at each of the regional capitals. The discussions proved fruitful in addressing key issues affecting the smooth operation of the Coalition at the local level and identifying region specific challenges hindering activity delivery. The monitoring tool that was used for the 2008 monitoring field visits was created using institutional issues highlighted in the 2007 re-appraisal report, current issues affecting program delivery in the Coalition, and a cross section of indicators key to maintaining a strong Coalition and advocacy platform. As the first monitoring conducted since the re-appraisal on regional institutional and organizational structures, the monitoring tool evaluated the institutional issues and action steps that arose from the re-appraisal and built upon them by adding a number of sections relevant to sound program delivery, building a strong advocacy platform, and maintaining an effective coalition. Of the cross section of indicators created, the main components that dominated the monitoring discussions were that of **media engagement, communication, narrative report writing, financial report writing, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, signatories, 1st/2nd quarter activity updates, information sharing, and member data base and membership drive.**



Picture 1: Monitoring of Western Region, Meeting with Regional GES.

Each regional discussion saw a delving in of these main issues as well as any regional specific challenges that arose over the course of the quarter with each region creating action steps for necessary problems. The end result of the monitoring field visits was the creation of a comprehensive report indicating the findings region by region, as well as their action steps and ways forward on a national level. The outputs of this activity was an increased awareness of the regional coordinating teams of what is expected of them for the rest of the year, an identification of local level challenges by GNECC National, a comprehensive document indicating emerging issues and necessary action steps, and an informed basis for discussion on Coalition wide action points at the next Regional Coordinator and Executive Council Meetings.

### **3.3 Regional Coordinators Meeting**

**Date:** June 30, 2008

**Location:** GNECC Secretariat Conference Room

**Participants:** Six Regional Coordinators, National Program Officer, WUSC Volunteer

**Beneficiaries:** 7 Direct, 360 Indirect

A national Regional Coordinator's meeting was held at the end of June as the final activity of the second quarter of 2008. The meeting centered on issues arising from the regional monitoring field visits conducted over the course of the second quarter, which were aimed at determining how regional programs were being implemented, the challenges that lead agencies were facing in executing these activities, and the extent of collaboration between regional structures. Upon completion of the Coalition's first, and soon to be semi annual, regional monitoring exercise, a report was compiled that highlighted challenges, emerging issues, and action steps for each of the regions as well as GNECC National. The purpose of this regional coordinators meeting was to discuss emerging issues, challenges, and new developments within the Coalition that had arisen across the board as well as looking at third quarter activities and Coordinator concerns.

The major issues that were discussed as per the findings from the monitoring field visits were as follows:

- Reporting: Includes timely submission of reports, input from regional coordinating committee members into regional quarterly reports, dissemination of reports to regional members and key stakeholders, and an analysis of the new reporting format to be effective as of the third quarter of 2008
- National Newsletter: Delved into the issue of lack of regional representation of impacts and success stories within the Education Agenda as well as the poor distribution of the Education Agenda to regional members and key stakeholders.
- Regional Spending: Included a look at the issue of budget constraints for local level activities, the need to know when to over spend and when to under spend on activities, and the necessity to provide more funding for DEFATs local level advocacy work.
- Regional Strength and Program Planning: This looked at the issue of building regional institutional capacity in terms of filing, auditing, and financial management which will be crucial in securing institutional support funds in the coming year, as well as an explanation of the importance in creating a year long program plan for the region to help bring on board external donors.
- New GNECC Project Involvement: An update given on two external advocacy projects GNECC has been commissioned for including the three year "Learn Without Fear Project" with PLAN Ghana and the five year "Violence Against Girls in School Project" in collaboration with ActionAid, the Gender Center, and SONABA.
- Regional Signatories: A discussion was held about the 2007 directive to change Regional Coordinators from the position of signatory on regional accounts.
- Lead Agency Support: Acknowledgement was made by National to the fact that Regional Coordinators have not received their allowances or institutional support for 2008 due to a funding gap in the 2008 budget, however coordinators were assured that all efforts were being made to rectify this for the year and in the future.
- Courier Service: Notice was given to all Regional Coordinators that the courier service to be used by the Coalition from now on is a national account with FedEx instead of STC.
- Advocacy Support: Coordinators were informed of a new potential institutional support funding collaboration with DFID whom GNECC is looking to seek support for rent, staff salaries, and regional institutional support.

All in all the Regional Coordinators meeting was a success with outputs being a concrete list of action steps were created on some of the above issues, all regions are up to date on the happenings of GNECC at the national level, and Coordinators were able to voice the concerns of their regional chapters to GNECC National ultimately resulting in a more participatory and smoother running of the Coalition.

### **3.4 Local and International Workshops and Meetings**

Date: April – June 2008

Location: Accra, Tamale, Elmina, Kumasi, Senegal... ?

Participants: GNECC Program Officer Kofi Asare, WUSC Volunteer Courtney Strutt

The Coalition is not an organization that works in isolation to achieve the goals of quality basic education in Ghana, and as such members and staff of the National Secretariat take part in a

variety of different activities within and outside Ghana to help build partnerships and strengthen their structures and participation in education initiatives. In the first quarter, the external meetings attended took place in Ghana are as follows:

*MOESS BOOK LAUNCH*

GNAT Teacher's Hall

May 22, 2008 @ 11am

GNECC Representative: Courtney Strutt

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, the Ministry of Education Science and Sports officially launched the release of their book entitled "Access to Basic Education in Ghana: The Evidence and the Issues – Ghana's Country Analytic Report". The book was created in conjunction with the Consortium for Research on Education, Access, Transitions and Equity, also known as CREATE which is a partnership of institutions from the UK, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa working to develop and encourage the application of knowledge to improve access to basic education through developing a programme of research focused on countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa to analyze policy and practice designed to reduce exclusion in education. Research commenced in Ghana through a partnership between CREATE, MOESS, and the University of Education in Winneba, Ghana to produce the country Policy Brief on Access to Education. The purpose of the book is to compliment the work being done in the country on education by looking at the information available through different critical lenses and following access trends across a span of 25 years.

*AEF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING*

IBIS Ghana Office, Cantonments, Accra

May 27, 2008 @ 2pm

GNECC Representative: Courtney Strutt

The purpose of the meeting was to revive the participation of Steering Committee members in the planning and decision making process of the Civil Society Parallel Conference on Aid Effectiveness to be held on August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 there is to be a meeting between the AE Ghana Secretariat and the international body responsible for coordinating planning, IBON International. It has been found that over the last few months member participation in these meetings has been low, thus this meeting was called to bring members back into the fold regarding pertinent issues and updates for the planning of the conference so that all members are aware and on the same page for the IBON meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance at the meeting were the 3 core staff at the AE Ghana Secretariat and representatives from WILDAF and GNECC. It was decided that detailed minutes of the meeting would be taken and passed to other members before Thursday. The first matter of business was the question of getting members more involved, in which WILDAF and GNECC were asked to hold the next two monthly Steering Committee meetings in June and July respectively.

KOFI:

ActionAid Partners Meeting

PLAN Ghana Meeting

Oxfam in Senegal

CEF Wrap Up Workshop

???

## **4.0 OBJECTIVE 2 – Regional Structures and DEFATs Strengthened**

The second objective of the second quarter activities was to enhance the capacity of GNECC Regional and DEFAT members to engage in local level advocacy and budget tracking of public education spending. The expected outputs of this objective are to improve the capacity of civil society and GNECC members to track educational recourses and budgets at local, regional, and national levels as well as building member's capacity in participatory planning, monitoring and advocacy in order to ensure a functional Coalition making improvements in regional and national education advocacy. The bulk of the activities for this objective are to take place in the regions. Regionally, the activities allotted for the first quarter were that of organizing a regional meeting on educational issues and holding one regional radio discussion on the findings of the GAW research findings on the rural-urban divide in education. For DEFATs, the expected activities were to hold one DEFAT meeting on educational issues and to support one DEFAT activity in each of the regions.

### **4.1 Regional Meetings on Educational Issues**

Date:

Regions:

Participants:

Beneficiaries:

### **4.2 Regional Radio Discussions**

Date:

Regions:

Participants:

Beneficiaries:

### **4.3 DEFAT Meetings**

Date:

Regions:

Participants:

Beneficiaries:

#### **4.4 DEFAT Activities**

Date:

Regions:

Participants:

Beneficiaries:

### **5.0 OBJECTIVE 3 - Campaign for Free Quality Basic Education Sustained**

The third objective for the second quarter activities was to sustain the Coalition's campaign for free quality basic education for all Ghanaian children through national and regional level advocacy with government and other key stakeholders. The expected outcomes of this objective are to increase engagement with policy makers on education policies to achieve quality and equitable access to free basic education as well as increasing the participation of GNECC and civil society in the implementation and monitoring of educational plans. Two activities were held in this direction: The implementation of Ghana's Global Action Week (GAW) celebrations, and the National Forum on Independent Assessment of ESAR.

#### **5.1 Global Action Week**

Date: April 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Location: Accra, Central Region, Eastern Region, and Brong Ahafo Region

Participants: GNECC Members and structures, the greater population of Ghana

Beneficiaries: \_\_\_ Direct, \_\_\_ Indirect

#### **5.2 National Forum on Independent Assessment of ESAR**

Date: June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Location: Kingsby Hotel, Accra

Participants: 26,

Beneficiaries: