



Volunteer Partnerships *for* West Africa

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**PERIOD COVERED BY THIS COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

**(2017 APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2019)**

**FROM: 2017 APRIL**

**TO: 2019 SEPTEMBER**

**PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR EQUIVALENT**

To our stakeholders:

I am delighted to announce that our Organization, thus Volunteer Partnership for West Africa (VPWA) reiterates its full backing to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption practices. The communique above is our statement on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. Feedback are cordially welcomed.

Within this Communication of Engagement, we have detailed out and described the activities that VPWA has taken over the period to aid the work of UN Global Compact and its Principles as recommended for organizations like ours.

We also reaffirm our commitment to sharing this information with our partners and stakeholders using our core communication channels. We believe these activities implemented by our organization will go a long way to promote the UN Global Compact and its Principles.

Sincerely yours,

**Hayford Siaw**

**Director, Volunteer Partnership for West Africa, VPWA**

## **PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS**

### **INCREASE FUNDING ALLOCATION, TIMELINESS AND FUNCTIONALITY OF THE FREE SHS PROGRAM. PLEASE STATE THE SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES YOU WILL UNDERTAKE TO ACHIEVE EACH SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE.**

Activity 1.1.1- Facilitated 2 government/citizens interface meetings at selected district and regional levels yearly, to synthesis and share research findings to be used for advocacy purposes.

Activity 1.1.2- Advocacy materials developed and provided by VPWA to enable district, regional and country level structures engage effectively in advocacy, using skills acquired from the various trainings that would be provided- in communication and advocacy especially.

Activity 1.1.3- Ongoing tracking of commitments made by duty bearers/service providers/government agents during the various interface meetings. 'Free SHS Tracker Update' will be circulated widely 3x a year.

Activity 1.1.4- Ongoing Research into how the funds from central government to schools are managed and used in accordance with given guidelines or not. Findings will be shared termly.

### **INCREASED CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREE SHS PROGRAM**

These activities were designed to ensure exchange of information between Ministry of Education and the public.

Activity 1.2.1- Using Media (Print/Radio/Television/Online) we educated people to enable them participate in monitoring the implementation of Free SHS programme. 30 Media engagement per year.

Activity 1.2.2- Created Mobile application and Web Portal to enable citizens share information, as well, access various reports on Free SHS from stakeholders. The Web and Mobile Application to be deployed within 3 months of commencement of project and maintained throughout project duration.

Activity 1.2.3- Created Hotline to receive feedback through voice and Short Message Service (SMS) from citizens on Free SHS programme implementation.

### **ENSURED PROJECT MONITORING AND LEARNING TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE SHS PROGRAMME**

Activity 1.3.1 - Reviewed management and administrative procedures and processes put in place by the government to implement the Free SHS programme including Performance Monitoring Plan, Performance Indicator Tracking Table, Key M&E deliverables. Reports to produced 3x a year

Activity 1.3.2 - Developed a management information system (MIS) and geographic information system (GIS) to monitor key deliverable of the Free SHS Programme

Activity 1.3.3 – Provided 2x M&E orientation and capacity building for project stakeholders to monitor project activities

Activity 1.3.4 - Organized 3x learning and reflection events

Activity 1.3.5 - Document knowledge assets.

Activity 1.3.6 - Conducted termly visits to selected schools in project implementation areas.

### **DACF TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**

Budget process monitoring and use of District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) in Ga West Municipality. Working with the local Assembly, VPWA participated in the Assembly's budget process in its utilization of the annually allocated DACF from central government. This projected strengthened our engagement with Local Government structures.

### **TARGET BENEFICIARIES**

1. Children: Through the effective monitoring and advocacy work of VPWA, the project will ultimately benefit Ghanaian children who have completed and passed their Basic Education Certificate to have a fair and equal access to Free Senior High School education.

2. Citizens: Greater access to information from duty bearers, as well, platforms for citizens to share on the ground information for the attention of stakeholders through the radio, web and mobile apps and social media.
3. Civil Society: Civil society groups capacity will be built to demand accountability from duty bearers as well to advocate for fair share of resources through the various training and interface meetings that will be organised by VPWA.

### **PART III. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES**

1. Improved Implementation procedures and systems of Free SHS programme
2. Increased citizens' participation in the Implementation of Free SHS programme
3. Increased funding allocation and functionality of the Free SHS programme.
4. Government of Ghana Free SHS programme implemented effectively and efficiently, providing equal opportunity for boys, girls and vulnerable group access to secondary education
5. A follow up VPWA undertook following the exposure of the insanitary condition of the Pokuase town public toilet facility. The government constructed a new toilet facility for the constituents in Pokuase following our intervention
6. Stakeholders were engaged and issues were discussed in open forums
7. Outcome: VPWA's advocacy for the opening of special account for People with Disability (PWD) so their allocation within the DACF is directly paid to them for their management and disbursement. This was done by the local authority.
8. Partnerships formalized with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles