

CSPR Enhanced Community Participation In Service Delivery Project, Yields Collaborations Between Community and Sianda School



Laboratory under construction at Sianda School

Sianda Combined School is one of the schools in Nalolo District situated on the eastern part of the Mongo Senanga Road. It is one of the five schools in the district under the Voice and Accountability project. The school enrolment stands at 552 for secondary and over 400 pupils for the primary section.

What the project is trying to achieve: This Case Study demonstrates enhanced collaboration between the school and the community which has enhanced education services and experience for learners at the school. The community having undergone social accountability training by CSPR, has enhanced collaboration between the school and community which has resulted into infrastructure development at the school. The school is a day school. However, due to the long distances that the learners have to cover, the school has weekly boarding facilities which provide learners with accommodation during weekdays.

The school has in the past experienced two female learners being raped by unruly drug addicts (commonly known as junkies) who were causing havoc in the area and have since been rounded up by the Zambia National Service (ZNS). The school, working together with the community, lobbied for the construction of boarding facility for girls from Action Aid and they were granted. The dormitory accommodated 90 girls. The facility also provides security for the girls and electricity which allows the learners to study.

Working together with the community social accountability group, the school constructed a temporary boarding shelter which accommodated about 32 male learners. They also conducted community sensitization activities in the community on the school re-entry policy, ending early child marriage, and deforestation. The sensitization meetings saw over 30 learners returning to school after having dropped out. The school also received 32 mattresses from the District Administration after the school and the community lobbied for the learners who previously were sleeping on the floor.

Sianda school had no laboratory. Learners had to travel a distance to another school for learners to conduct laboratory tests and lessons. The community and the school agreed to renovate one classroom into a laboratory. The community established a gardening project where they cultivated vegetables for sell after which 20 bags of cement were purchased to supplement the resources from the school grant to construct a laboratory. The community further planted fruit trees at the school for future fund raising ventures.



Girls at Sianda demonstrate their weaving skills to the World Bank team

For other fund-raising projects at the school, the community printed T-shirts which they sell to learners for special occasions. Further the community has taught weaving skills to the learners who are in the weekly boarding facilities to keep them occupied so that they do not engage in bad vices. The skills have provided a platform for the community to transfer life skills to the learners, earn resources from the sell of the crafts for supporting the learner's sustenance during their stay at the school as well as support the school financially. The weaving venture saw the school scooping the first position at the district functional literacy competition and they represented the District at the Provincial level.

The community working together with the school applied to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for a one by three classroom block which has been approved and construction is set to commence. They also applied for funding to an NGO ECO which has provided two by three flushable toilets and showers for boys and girls as well as a hand washing facility.

The situation prior to the V&A project: Prior to the Project, the community had rejected the Headteacher when she was first posted to the school. When CSPR conducted the social accountability training, they created a platform for the school and the community to work together. The school administration involved the community in all the planning and budgeting processes. Representatives from the Parent Teacher committee (PTC) were selected to be part of the school finance committee. Grants and budgets were displayed on the school notice board and regular community meetings were called at the school where not only is the community sensitized on social accountability but information on the school grants and budgets is shared. Working together the school and the community has identified other sources of funding as well as undertaken community projects to support the school. The Headteacher credits this collaboration to the CSPR intervention through the enhanced community monitoring at participation in the service delivery monitoring at the school.

The key message is that when the Social Accountability Committee of the school works with community members and the school administration, much can be achieved. Case Study derived from an interview by Bob Mweetwa with Ms. Dorcus Sasa Muletambo, Former Headteacher at Siyanda School.

Community Empowerment For Improved Local Service Delivery In Zambia
Voice and Accountability Project Story of Change

