

## Bryony Hutt – An exciting visitor!

A while ago, we had an exciting visitor in the LCD office. As a new Events Officer who has had little direct contact with our work in Africa yet, I, perhaps more than anyone else, was really looking forward to meeting **LCD Ghana's Programme Director**, Dr Kennedy Quagrain.

Kennedy has been working for LCD for the past eight years and knows our work inside out. He took the time to sit down with the whole staff to give us a first-hand account of the valuable work LCD is doing in Ghana. He shared with us [news of exciting projects](#) and detailed the ongoing challenges that he and his small team of Ghanaian staff face on a day-to-day basis.

In Ghana LCD has just 10 staff spread across [five districts](#); districts that vary greatly, from the arid Upper East Region to the tropical Ashanti Region in the South. A lot of our work is done in rural parts of these districts, with communities who are **often ignored by development efforts**, which generally grow out of cities far from reach.

[This is where LCD does things differently](#). Kennedy kept coming back to the point that LCD is 'working inside out from districts'. Our staff are not working from cities such as Accra or Kumasi, they are **working intimately with communities** in order to bring about direct results. And this is what we know works.

Kennedy talked of how LCD Ghana is **empowering and educating communities** so that those communities are able to 'hold teachers to account, hold schools to account and hold themselves to account'. LCD encourages parents and members of the local community to get involved with how their schools run by joining School Governing Bodies, much in the same way that many parents do in the UK.

LCD also works with teachers and helps them [to assess the performance of their schools](#). Where teachers are seen to be struggling with particular subjects, they are paired with stronger teachers from other schools who can support them and share knowledge. As the district education officials lack the funds for proper teacher training, these District Teacher Support Teams help to **fill the gap in a sustainable way**.

Although works like this allows LCD to take direct action, rural settings also have their pitfalls. Electricity is extremely unreliable and Kennedy told us he sometimes has to drive 40 minutes into town to get Internet access. Across Ghana, the road quality is so poor that it takes our Ghanaian staff twice as long as us to travel any distance: this means it takes 8 hours to drive from the head office to the regional office in Bolgatanga.

Nevertheless, LCD is still able to make a massive difference to the quality of education received by **thousands of children in Ghana**. Systems like our District Teacher Support Teams, which have already given support to 320 teachers in Ghana, are so effective that they have become engrained in the way the district education offices work.

Last year [the Hitch](#) raised a massive £550, 000 for LCD. This is money that we can use to ensure that projects such as those in Ghana reach their full potential. As you can see, it's impossible to over-estimate the value of your contribution so please get out there, tell people about what we do and raise as much money as you can. LCD's work in Africa is what makes me feel so **proud to be part of the Hitch** and, now that you know a little more about it, it should make you feel proud too.