

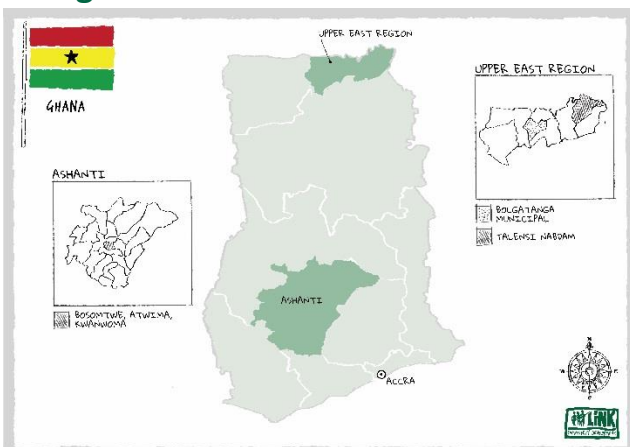


**"The CBE programme has freed me from carrying shea nuts and fire wood and missing school. I am now in school and have a future"**  
(Emmanuella, Grade 6)

## Summary

Link Community Development has been working in Ghana since 1999 with funding from DfID and Comic Relief amongst others and in partnership with VSO. One of the key outcomes of Link's programmes in Ghana is the improved local ownership of the schools. This is brought about by several factors including local fundraising efforts, increased awareness of children's performance and parents' involvement in bringing about quality improvements in the schools. The level of engagement within the communities has been very high due to the efforts of Link working in the district. At school level Link's work has demonstrated "improved quality of teaching and learning in underprivileged Ghanaian schools..." which has in turn led to improved learning outcomes for children. Link's approach has also supported direct interventions to improve teaching and learning outcomes by supporting head teachers' and teachers' through in-service training and by providing high quality teaching and learning materials to schools.

## Background



Educational development in Ghana has been improved significantly in the last decade, particularly in the provision of infrastructure and improving enrolment and retention rates at the basic level, especially for girls. However, there are still far too many children in Ghana, particularly girls, who do not enrol in basic education or do enrol but drop out in the first six

years of education. There are wide disparities in educational attainment between northern Ghana and the rest of the country. Approximately 650,000 children are currently out-of-school. Girls from northern Ghana average only four years of education, three years less than the national average. And 20% of children with physical disabilities are not attending school, according to the 2010 national census.

## KEY FACTS

- Link Ghana has been in operation since 1999
- Link Ghana works in the Upper East and Ashanti regions.
- We are leading the Complementary Basic Education programmes in the regions we work in.
- Link's TENI programme supports 23,449 girls using girls' clubs, role models and peer educators
- We partner with the Ghana Education Service to support teaching and learning
- Our CBE programme reaches 6,375 out-of-school children in 225 communities.
- Link Ghana modelled and piloted school report cards with the Ghanaian Education Service
- Our projects are sustainable – we work with government at all levels and ensure our interventions align with government policy

## A snap shot of our projects

### Tackling Education Needs Inclusively (TENI 1 and 2), 2009-2017

Link partners with the Voluntary Services Overseas and the Ghana Education Service in the **Tackling Education Needs Inclusively** programme. This project seeks to achieve systemic change in basic education by supporting children to complete a full cycle of primary education, particularly girls and children with disabilities. Link has established **gender clubs** through training **180 female peer educators**; trained **90 female role models** to support girls at risk of dropping out; mobilised community advocacy on barriers to girls' staying in school and performing well; and built and strengthened the capacity of the community to track education resources such as books and school grants. School Performance Review gathered data on girls' performance which will feed back into improved school planning. The project has enabled stronger communication between communities and government officials giving a voice to the vulnerable and excluded to demand and claim their rights.



### Complementary Basic Education (CBE)

Link is the main delivery partner for **Complementary Basic Education** in the Upper East Region of Ghana. This project supports children who have dropped out of school to return to mainstream education. Link supports communities to tackle underlying causes that prevent children attending and learning at school. For instance, the economic need for children to work and the belief that educating girls is unnecessary. Poor learning environments such as high pupil-teacher ratios or poor teaching methods are also addressed. The project reaches **6,375 children in 225 communities** working in close collaboration with local government. So far Link has established **125 community schools** which all have strong support from the local community. Over **80% of children enrolled** in these schools have now been integrated into mainstream public primary schools.



In 2016 Link Ghana conducted community animation to recruit out-of-school children into the CBE Programme. In the community of Tilli in the Bawku West District of Ghana the sensitisation and animation made them appreciate the value of education for their children to the extent that they decided to enrol their children into the public schools and skip the CBE process altogether.



### Delivery Partner



Ministry of  
Education

Please see our **Biennial review (2013-2015)** for more information