

**FINAL DRAFT REPORT**

**Data Quality and Reporting Compliance Assessment  
RFP#641-08-001**

Submitted:

To  
USAID / Ghana  
(United States Agency for International Development)

By  
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Data Quality and Reporting Compliance Assessment was in response to the desire of the USAID/Ghana Mission to determine whether principal performance indicators established in the Performance Management Plan (PMP) of the Basic Education Strategic Objective (SO) and the data compiled from its field activities for purposes of reporting in the Agency's Annual Performance Report are satisfactory in terms of meeting the criteria for quality as outlined in the USAID Automated Directives System (ADS) and the TIPS guidance provided by the Center for Development Information and Evaluation.

USAID guidance ADS 203.3.5 requires missions to verify and validate performance information prior to reporting. The ADS further requires that a quality assessment of the data reported on all indicators should be conducted every three years. This will assist the SO team to plan and manage the processes of assessing and reporting progress towards achieving strategic objectives.

To manage for results there is the need for reliable and timely data. Performance indicators specify the data that the SO team should collect in order to measure program progress and compare actual results over time against planned targets. In all, the SO's results framework (RF) includes sixteen performance indicators, comprising three main outcome indicators and thirteen intermediate results grouped under five major performance areas. Since 2007 the SO team has also been tasked to report on output oriented results to how the Agency is directly involved in the implementation of the country's strategic education plans. In this regard fourteen indicators, referred to as "Agency-wide Standard Indicators" have been identified to track progress for on-going activities.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives of the data quality assessment are to:

- Assess the SO8 PMP vis-a-vis the Agency requirements outlined in ADS 203;
- Undertake a data quality assessment of the data reported by its implementing partners and compiled by SO8 for all sixteen indicators established in the SOs RF and the Agency-wide common indicators;
- Examine the SO8 portfolio of interventions to determine linkages between RF and Agency –wide common indicators;
- Assist the SO team to establish a framework for the compilation of standard indicator data from different implementing partner sources;
- Establish a mechanism and process for the continuous internal monitoring of program performance data by implementing partners in order to assure year –on-year integrity of data compiled by the SO team from all sources;
- Review and advise on the operational feasibility of a common monitoring and evaluation framework for the Education Quality for All (EQUALL) and Government Accountability Improves Trust (GAIT) project of the SO;

- Assist the SO to update its PMP to incorporate the standard indicators and other recommended revisions from the 2006 DQA;

### **Implementing Partners**

Four main partners implement intervention activities under SO8; Education Development Center (EDC) implements the Education Quality for all (EQUALL) project. Cooperate League of United States of America (CLUSA) implements the Government Accountability Improves Trust (GAIT II). The other two implementing partners are the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) implementing the Food for Education Program in the three northern regions and the MoESS/GES that implements the Window of Hope (WOH) project, Ghana Basic Education Comprehensive Assessment System (Ghana BECAS), and a five year Performance Enhancement Program in the Islamic Education Unit (IEU) in the Greater Accra Region.

### **Methodology**

The design for the DQRCA review was an integrated technical approach which emphasized the triangulation of data from all sources as the tasks and activities of the assignment were inter-linked. The approach involved critical review of relevant documents by the review team. Field data collection was done through interviews and field observations by experienced field data collectors. The field work was executed using approved DQA protocols and checklists which were built on the previously conducted DQA by the SO team in 2006 to ascertain how the two main projects (EQUALL and GAIT II) collected data in the field. Field staff was carefully trained in a one day seminar in the use of the protocols and checklists in order to enhance the reliability and validity of the outcomes.

The DQCAIT in the process of assessing data quality visited each IP office to dialogue with the project team, including Chief of Party and members of the M & E team. The DQA team also dialogued with CTOs at UASID/Ghana and the M & E Officer and reviewed the capacity of the IPs for quality data collection, management, analysis, and reporting.

Furthermore, the team also reviewed and updated the PMP and incorporated the common indicators and other recommended revisions from the 2006 DQA and determined linkages between RF and the Agency-wide common indicators, among others.