



Education Spike Campaign

Terms of Reference

Study into the effects of privatization of education on access and exclusion in slums and inner cities and resiliency of private schools in emergencies.

1.0 Background

Africa Education Watch (Eduwatch) in partnership with the Coalition Against the Privatization of Education (CAPCOE) with the support of OXFAM and is implementing the Education Spike Project, aimed at promoting investment in public education to improve quality and discourage the commercialization of quality in the pre-tertiary education sector.

One of the key drivers of privatization of education in Ghana is the low quality of public basic education due to inadequate/inefficient resourcing of basic education, especially along rural-urban lines. Over the past decade, Ghana has witnessed a strong growth in the number of private schools due to high demand, with a marginal increase in public schools. An analysis of the growth of school's data over the past ten year reveals that the number of public schools increased from 36,822 in 2010 to 41,598 in 2018, an increase of about 13%. Over the same period, private schools which numbered 18,380 in 2010 increased to 36,327 in 2018, an increase of about 98% with about 70% of schools in some districts in Greater Accra being private¹.

At the receiving end of the growth trends in public vs private schools are slums and unplanned settlements. Since slums are poorly planned human settlements, there are scarcely spaces for constructing public schools. In slums like Agboghloshie for instance, there is not even a single public school while there exist about ten private schools. The situation is not too different in slum dominated districts like Awutu Senya East (Kasoa) where about 85 % of schools are private. Amid this privatizing trend, residents in some

¹ CDD Ghana, Promoting Responsive and Responsible Manifestos for Inclusive Development CDD-Ghana Research Paper on the Education Sector, 2020.

slums and unplanned communities without adequate public schools are faced with either paying for private basic education or have their children dropping out.

The emergence of COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation. According to the Ghana National Council of Private Schools (GNACOPS), the 10-month closure of schools in 2020 led to the collapse of over 222 private schools, a situation even more dire for urban slums and unplanned settlements where most of these collapsed low-cost private schools exists as a matter of necessity, due to the absence of public schools. There have also been reported incidents of students in collapsed private schools failing in their bid to secure admissions into nearby public schools due to congestion.

As part of the Education Spike Campaign, Eduwatch wishes to gather evidence on the effects of privatization of education on access and exclusion in slum, inner cities, unplanned emerging cities such as Kasoa, Abgogbloshie etc for the purpose of engaging government on innovative policy options to consider in ensuring every Ghanaian child in irrespective of geography, has access to free quality public basic education, especially within the impact of COVID-19 on low cost private schools and public basic education.

2.0 Objective of the Assignment

The objective of this assignment is to undertake a critical assessment of the effects of privatization of education on access and exclusion in slums and inner cities and resiliency of private schools in emergencies like COVID-19.

3.0 Scope of Work

The Consultant is expected to:

1. Gather evidence on the effects of privatization of education on access and exclusion in Ga South, Awutu Senya East and Abgogbloshie, with a focus on COVID-19 impacts and resilience.
2. Make policy recommendations to address the findings of the study.
3. Present the findings and recommendations of study at a convening of policy makers and stakeholders.

4.0 Assignment Time-frame

The assignment shall commence by 16th August 2021 for a maximum of 30 days.

5.0 Required Qualifications and Experience

1. An advanced University degree in education, development studies or other equivalent qualification.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the education privatization issues in the education sector of Ghana
3. Documented experience of undertaking policy research in education.

6.0 Bidding Process

Eduwatch invites interested consultants to submit a letter indicating Expression of Interest, their CVs containing evidence of similar assignments undertaken and a budget for the assignment to info@africaeducationwatch.org no later than 23rd August 2021. The subject of the email should read: ToR for Research 1-Education Spike.