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**GHANA**



**A promise is a promise: time for action to end gender-based violence in schools**  
**USAID/PAGE in collaboration with GES Gender Education Unit celebrates International Women's Day**

"We want everybody to know that our education does not end in the kitchen...Take prompt action on issues of violence against girls in schools to make our dreams of being educated a reality" Duffor school girls.

March 8, 2013

**USAID/PAGE, managed by CARE International,** in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service, Girls Education Unit, organized a mobilization in Duffor, a community in the Dangme West District, to commemorate the International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The celebration on the theme "A promise is a Promise: Time for action to end gender-based violence in schools" was particularly intended to raise awareness on the challenges of women and girls in our schools, and to solicit support from stakeholders in ensuring a safe teaching and learning environment for both pupils and teachers. A total of about 330 stakeholders including 95 pupils (mostly girls), 155 women, 76 men, 12 Traditional Authorities (8 Chiefs and 4 Queen Mothers), Teachers,

**Duffor community, Ghana**

155 women, 76 men, 95 pupils mostly girls, 12 Tradition Authorities (8 males, 4 females), District Assembly members, GES HQ and District Officers, including GEU Director, District Director), children, etc.



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GES Officers, DEO, DA, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, National Commission on Civic Education, participated in the event. One of the key issues identified as a major hindrance to girls' education in the community is teenage pregnancy and harassment of girls by male teachers and pupils. A representative of the girls' focus group stated "People think a girl's education ends in the kitchen but we want everybody to know that our education does not end in the kitchen; we therefore appeal to all stakeholders in authority to take prompt action on issues of violence against girls in schools to make our dreams of being educated a reality". On an incident in which community members manhandled a female head teacher of the Duffor Methodist Basic School, (one of the reasons the community was selected for the programme), the Asafuatse of Asutuare and chairman of the occasion, Tettey Ekpah IV stated "I wish on behalf of the entire Traditional Council to express our sincere apology to the Head Teacher and the entire Ghana Education Service for the unfortunate incident that almost dented our community. Never again in this community would we allow such an act to be perpetrated against any women the way we did to the poor Head Teacher for whatever reason." The Traditional council has promised to sanction anyone who commits any act that constitutes a violation of the right of a woman or girl especially in school.