

EMACK Success Story: Facilitating Transition from Pre- to Primary School

Mwache Primary School is located in Kwale District in rural Kenya and the Mwache ECD Center is attached to it. When the Coastal Rural Support Program (CRSP), an EMACK partner, came upon the schools in 2004, the ECD center and primary school were operating as separate entities. Each school had its own SMC but neither coordinated with or consulted the other. Relationships between teachers at the ECD center and the primary school were virtually non-existent. The learning environments in the schools were also very different.



The primary school was a permanent structure with desks and learning materials, while ECD pupils sat on stones in a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure, and had no learning materials.

In November 2004, Mwache Primary School and ECD Center teachers participated in three-day CRSP training in facilitating transition from ECD to primary school. The Mwache school teachers learned that one effective way to make transition easier for children was to strengthen ties and increase interaction between the ECD center and primary school).

When CRSP visited the Mwache ECD Center and Primary School in February 2005, they found that their relationship had evolved. ECD teachers freely and regularly consulted with the Head Teacher and lower primary school teachers; learning materials given to the primary school, including manila paper and chalk, were being shared with the ECD center. All of the teachers worked together to develop learning materials for the ECD and lower primary school classrooms. Lower primary school teachers have also assisted ECD center teachers to recover outstanding school fees



from parents of pupils who have moved to primary school. Relationships between the students have also been strengthened because the two groups interact and play together.

According to the Head Teacher at Mwache Primary School, his counterparts at other primary schools do not understand the importance of the ECD center-primary school relationship or the benefits of strengthening the relationship for children's transition to and retention in primary school He hopes that CRSP will continue to support children as they transition to primary school by opening others' eyes.