

MULENVOS DE BAIXO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

October 92 Project Report

Comments and Questions

December 1992

NARRATIVE REPORT

The project was conceived

"i) to provide materials (including basic tool kits) for completing construction of a primary school for Mulenvos de Baixo, as well as upgrading the existing tiny school and providing accommodation for three primary school teachers;
ii) to provide agricultural tools and equipment to help develop the school's lavra;
iii) to provide a small pick-up truck to enable Mulenvos de Baixo to be self-reliant in transporting construction materials, and in commercialization of agricultural products." (CCIC-Angola Task Force, Proposal for a Canadian NGO Program in Angola - A Submission to PAC, October 27, 1988, 6.2.f, p.3).

Although the agricultural component was not implemented yet but only the school, the two teacher-houses, and the bathroom blocks have been built and equipped, the project was reported as completed and successful. How can it be a success when the agricultural component (the core, the "soul" of the project) has not been considered? The project will not be sustainable if it boils down to the construction of the school and the teachers' houses: it was defined to provide the agricultural tools and equipment to enhance the agricultural productivity of Mulenvos and to improve the commercialization of local production. This would enable therefore the "community" to generate enough income to support the smooth running of the project, ensuing its self-sustainability.

It appears that this component will be once again suspended to the advantage of other "activities:

- 1) Supply of electrical power to the school area,
- 2) Supply of potable water,
- 3) Construction of a health centre,
- 4) Periodical technical assistance for the functioning of the new structures."

As to the "supply of electric power to the school area", does it mean that the village does not have power? So what were the electrical materials (ordered in September 1990) for? How can people use the audio-visual equipment then? The same questions can be raised about the water! "Due to the shortage of water, the works which were to cover agricultural activities were postponed": the need for water (running water in general or drinking water, more specifically?) is undeniable. Some precise information would be valuable.

Regarding the construction (once again) of the **health centre**, a sound justification would be imperative. What does "**periodical technical assistance for the functioning of the new structures**" mean? What kind of technical assistance? Given to whom by whom? What structures? This component is very nebulously expressed! Did the "community" actually indicate these activities as priorities rather than going ahead with the agricultural component? How were the priorities defined?

The operational aspect of a project (how to conduct a project in order to meet the objectives aimed) can be changed during its cycle, but an objective cannot be altered or

abandoned without the approval of the Board, because the rationale of the project would not be the same as was initially approved.

If the construction of the school is complete and it is well equipped, does it mean that the benches were received (they were not as of January 1992)? The report indicated that "the new academic year has begun with enthusiasm and hope" but did not mention that the academic year for schools in Mulenvos/Viana (Province of Luanda) was different from the rest of the schools in the province of Luanda which started only on the 16th of November 1992.

Is the "community," referred to as one of the two Angolan counterpart agencies, the Farmers' Association? The evaluation report commented that "a farmers' association does exist but it has no significant impact." What is its status? Who is the contact-person?

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. School Construction:

	NKZ	US \$	Exchange rate
Building Materials	11,030,000	12,367	892 NKZ/US \$1.00
Salaries	9,478,000	6,054	1,566 NKZ/US \$1.00
Transport	1,875,000		
Other Exp.	1,630,000		
Total	24,013,000	18,421	

The school construction cost 24,013,000 NKZ. According to the above information, the Canadian NGOs funded the building materials and the salaries for a total of 20,508,000 NKZ (11,030,000 + 9,478,000). There is no indication who funded the transport and the other expenditures (?). However, later the report stated that

"included in the total costs in local currency, are the contributions made by the Ministry of Education (NKZ 5,498,000.00), the total value of building materials received from the Office for the Rehabilitation of Musseques (GARM) (NKZ 8,590,000.00) and the contribution of Mulenvos de Baixo Community itself both on the labour provided and on voluntary contribution in money (NKZ 9,935,000.00)", for a total of 24,023,000.00 NKZ (5,498,000 + 8,590,000 + 9,935,000), in other words, the total costs of the school construction. Therefore, why have the Canadian NGOs been charged for US \$18,421? What is included in the "other expenditures"? Why are there transport costs when a truck was provided (before the construction of the school) "to enable Mulenvos de Baixo to be self-reliant in transporting construction materials".

2. Construction of Bathroom-block and Teachers' Houses

It appears to me that some materials (electrical and plumbing materials) were already bought and paid by SHF (to R&D in December 1990 and March 1991): switches, pipes, sinks, sprinkling nozzles,... but the budget summary indicated that the hardware was not received.

Thus where did these materials go to? were they shipped?

The construction of the bathroom-block cost 12,600,000 NKZ or Cdn \$8,400 (using 1,500 NKZ for Cdn \$1.00) and the teachers' houses cost 30,000,000 NKZ or US \$20,000.00 (1,500 NKZ for US \$1.00). Four different exchange rates are used in the report and Canadian and US currencies are used indifferently.

3. **Food Received from Food-for Work project**

To whom does the Mulenvos project have to pay 1,696,646 NKZ for the maize? to an Angolan agency? to CFGB? to the Baptists? to DW? ... Where is this cost showed in the budget summary?

4. **Transport of Materials using DW Truck**

Why is there a cost for transport of material using a DW truck when the project has its own? Is the transport cost needed for the construction of the school (1,875,000 NKZ) a part of this one?

5. **Budget Summary**

First, the narrative report stated that "the full participation of the community considerably reduced the costs of the construction works" while the budget summary showed, for the "expenses made in Luanda", a variance of \$31,814.00 over budget, if the costs include

"Technical Assistance and Supervision"	\$20,000.00
Vehicle Operations	6,250.00
Contingency	10,008.00
Administration	21,806.00

However, the figures shown are not exact:

18,421 (US) + 8,400 (Cdn) + 20,000 (US) + 20,000 (Cdn) + 6,250 (Cdn) + 10,008 (Cdn) + 21,806 (Cdn) = 104,885 (US-Cdn!?) and not 73,071. Therefore the "expenses made in Angola" are \$66,171 (US-Cdn) over budget.

Moreover, are the contingency and the administration costs actually expended? Where were the contingency funds (\$10,008) spent? To whom was it paid? Who should receive the administration funds (\$21,806)?

Two important items (the agricultural tools and equipment) were reported as "items not received". In fact, they were not ordered yet. The "Programme Angola-Canada officer who acted as a development promoter" should remind the SHF or the Secretariat in Ottawa to place an order. The hardware was bought and paid for in December 1990 (\$29,368 to R&D) and March 1991 (\$7,209). Was it received or not? How could they finish the constructions without the electrical and plumbing materials?

