



2005 UNHCR SUB-PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

As an implementing partner of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Search for Common Ground (SFCG) Angola continued its sub-project during 2005. The overarching goal of this project was ***to advance the protection and full reintegration of returning Angolan refugees as an essential component to supporting Angola's peace and reconciliation process.*** To this end, a variety of project activities were implemented including:

- Radio series
- Theater performances
- Conflict management and human rights workshops
- Spot messages
- Community dialogues
- Public sensitization campaigns

To assess these activities in light of the overarching goal, the evaluators collected data through two primary means; assessment of regular monitoring reports from SFCG staff, and interviews UNHCR and SFCG staff, project participants, partner organizations, and traditional authorities. The 35+ semi-structured interviews were carried out at two project locations, M'Banza and Luana. These interviews were conducted either individually or in small groups and included questions on their participation, suggestions, and the project's impact.

SFCG ANGOLA IS FLEXIBLE & PARTICIPATORY

The evaluation highlights the consistent, positive feedback given by interviewees on the programs incorporation of participants' comments, concerns and requests into its workshops and sensitization efforts. As a result, participants felt greater ownership and took more active roles in shaping the discussions.

Part and parcel of the program's willingness to incorporate participant's views was its flexible nature. Rather than implementing one-size-fits-all approach without considering context, SFCG genuinely reacted to evolving needs of the participants and communities. Taken together, the flexible and participatory nature of SFCG programming greatly enhanced its effectiveness.

SFCG ANGOLA RAISES AWARENESS

Prior to SFCG programming, awareness of returnees' rights and laws protecting them was extremely low, even amongst individuals who had previous exposure to this type of information. The evaluation highlights the constructive role SFCG programming played in increasing awareness among communities and returnees about the returnees' legal entitlements.

Furthermore, SFCG received positive feedback and thanks not only for increasing awareness of these rights but also its efforts in ensuring that the returnees were honored upon their arrival back in Angola. These efforts, the evaluation cited, were critical in ensuring that returnees receive entitlements upon arrival and further support in the crucial period of reintegration and re-establishment following arrival.

SFCG ANGOLA HELPS EMPOWER WOMEN

The evaluation notes that "women seemed to respond with a great deal of energy to the various forms of programming that SFCG provides." This is a result, in part, of SFCG's outreach to women including activities such as support for women's soccer teams, professional development for women members of a community center, and encouragement and space for women leaders in conflict resolution. These are important efforts given that each are traditionally provided for, or held predominantly by males in Angolan society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Transportation: Small motorbikes, as opposed to all-terrain vehicles, would have expanded the reach of the program and enabled staff to travel more efficiently to project sites
2. Improve communication and scheduling
3. Further develop highly-visible partnerships to mutually reinforce objectives of community survival *and* reconciliation
4. Expand role in facilitating the travel of individuals from one area to another, enabling the sharing of stories and experiences. This would open the door to increased intergroup understanding, and build capacity.
5. In core programming, place greater emphasis on the immediate political issues that impeded reconciliation, thereby addressing participants' concerns and highlighting the ways in which democracy can help achieve more lasting reconciliation.

Source: This document is a summary of "2005 UNHCR Sub-Programme Assessment" by Todd C. Cleveland. A copy of this document can be acquired by contacting Nick Oatley, Director Institutional Learning at Search for Common Ground at noatley@sfcg.org

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