



## Scouts and UNICEF – Interpersonal Social Mobilization for Polio Eradication in Angola

### The Results

- 5,000 Senior Scouts and Rovers in 16 of the 18 provinces of the country were mobilized to participate in the polio eradication campaign and they were provided with training in interpersonal communication (IPC);
- 200,000 households were visited and as a result about 1,000,000 persons were targeted with polio eradication messages;
- 400 Scouts participated in 6 international football matches at the National Stadium, wearing polio eradication T-Shirts and holding banners around the playground, so disseminating messages;
- Over 300 megaphone rallies and street theatres were made at public places like schools, markets, water points, etc, all over the country.



Scouts take the message of immunisation to mothers at the markets

### The Reasons

The project was undertaken because Angola faces a serious humanitarian situation, and the situation will only be reverted if its people, especially the young ones take ownership of the process of social change. Angola is one of only 8 countries in the world where the wild polio virus is still present. Europe is now certified as polio-free.

This project provided Scouts with an opportunity to contribute to social change through undertaking a community

development challenge. It created an awareness amongst the Scouts of a real challenge in the community, whilst giving them an opportunity to contribute to its solution.



Scouts acquire skills in interpersonal communication to improve their effectiveness

It provided each Scout with an opportunity to learn and acquire new skills (Inter Personal Communication) which will enable them to be more effective as young people in their community now and in later life.

Also by participating in the Project, the Angola Scout Association could benefit from resources which could help to strengthen our own structures and enable us to run more training occasions and supervise more activities in the field.

### The Method

The project was undertaken in partnership with UNICEF with whom the Angola Scout Association already has a proven track record and good experiences of partnerships which benefit each



Scout Association of Angola

# Strategic Priority 7

Scouting's Profile – strengthening communications, partnerships and resources



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association. For this project a win-win approach was negotiated, based on mutual respect for the values of each partner, and seeking common ground and mutual benefit (in all dimensions of the term, not just financial).

The Scout Method was used, with emphasis to the patrol system while implementing the project. The Scouts worked together in patrols to take the immunisation messages to houses and market places where mothers would meet. This provided an opportunity for the young people to work as a team and support each other.

The project also required full participation by adult leaders. The project provided the association with an opportunity to put together an intensive training programme for leaders, using a cascade system. A course to train trainers was also included and this was supported by Abdoulaye Sene, a member of the Africa Regional Office.

## Our Learning

The enthusiasm, fortitude and discipline shown by the Scouts during the project has made of them an example of commitment to the Polio Eradication Cause. The Ministry of Health now insists that the Scouts participate every year.

If the negotiation stage is well conducted, and Scout values are interlinked with Community Development Projects, it is possible to raise very much needed resources, while meeting our own educational objectives in a win-win approach.

With the current political situation, altruism and disinterest of financial gains are rare commodities in Angola. While undertaking the project, people were always looking to see if the Scouts had a hidden agenda.

## Our Future Plans

We have renewed our 'Project Co-operation Agreement' with UNICEF, and have raised the number of participating Scouts from 5,000 to 7,000. This time we will intervene more in the Routine Immunization, and our target will be children under 1 year of age. In doing that, we will be using fully the Patrol System, and applying techniques like mapping to divide the communities amongst the Patrols.

In exchange, UNICEF will provide materials like rucksacks, whistles, pens, notebooks, etc, which the Scouts will use to implement the Monitoring and Evaluation component of the Project, while learning to deal with statistics, numbers and reports in the process.

Training will be increased. UNICEF will provide the funds for the members of the National Training Unit to travel to the Provinces, and train Adult Leaders in IPC and other social mobilization techniques, and in the process will conduct a preliminary Woodbadge Course to at least 80% of them throughout the country.

Supervision and follow up will be done by the Project Co-ordination Unit, which is composed by our Commissioners at national level. While doing that with the funds the Project will provide, it will also be possible to strengthen the Association's structure, and make efforts to spread Scouting to rural areas, as it is now mostly confined to the provincial capitals.

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