

Summary of evaluation:

1. About the evaluation:

- Evaluation year: 2012
- Conducted by: Helena Farinha
- Country: Angola
- Region: Southern Africa
- Theme / sector: Accountable governance / economic justice

2. Summary

- Title of the report: "Governance and social monitoring – 2010 – 2012, Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA)"
- Background: End-review of first three years of support from the Oil for Development fund, 2010 – 2012.
- Purpose/objective:

The review will in particular enable learning based on the collection of objective data and suggest possible changes for future intervention. In addition the review shall:

- a) Determine the sustainability, relevance and appropriateness of the program in achieving the results and goals.
- b) Determine the degree of progress of the indicators of expected results and the contribution of these to achieve the specific objectives and the overall objective.
- c) Document lessons of best practices (in order to maintain and reproduce) and errors in the implementation (in order to modify them for the future).

- Methodology:

The evaluation methodology took into account the basic principle of objectivity and quality, as well as participatory principles based on respect and appreciation of local customs, knowledge and experience. Moreover, the methodology also took into account the evaluation criteria proposed in the terms of reference and a set of tools for gathering information such as: consulting reference documents, interviews with

key stakeholders, attending a social monitoring session and meetings with the social monitoring groups in the three municipalities.

- Key findings:

The Project for Good Governance and Social Monitoring, although being a pilot experience, achieved very consistent and effective results from which it can draw a future intervention proposal that eventually may extend to other municipalities in the provinces Uige, Kwanza Sul, Benguela and possibly other provinces (Zaire), within the standards set out in this proposal or relying on strategic partnerships with CSOs interested on it.

The project implementation allowed to build and test a methodological paradigm of promotion of social justice based on affirmative actions from relevant issues to the lives of citizens and to improve the performance of Municipal Administrations regarding the management of municipal budgets. However, in order that this paradigm can be disseminated and used by other partners, it becomes necessary to improve some methodological tools.

- Recommendations:

- To draw a **social advocacy** strategy that allows on one hand to bring into focus the problems and needs identified in the Social Monitoring and Poverty Participatory Assessment (PPA), but fundamentally that influence and promote significant changes in public policies;
- The training and technical assistance actions, as well as the production of manuals and **social monitoring** forms should take into account the specificities of social monitoring groups. To do so, it becomes necessary that the manuals are written in simple and accessible language with many images. As for the monitoring forms is suggested that adopts a "check list" with several response options to be noted;
- In the specific case of **social monitoring**, technical assistance should essentially aim at improving the capacity of the social monitoring social group to observe, question and mainly to analyze the information that collects;
- The social monitoring reports should include a municipality baseline setting out the main social indicators in order to measure the changes brought about with the initiatives contained in the Municipal Budgets;

- The social monitoring approach should start when planning the budgets to ensure that issues of gender equity and equality are taken into account. For example, when considering the construction of a social infrastructure for health or education must ensure that it meets certain requirements such as location that facilitates access to students from the farthest village, access conditions for the disabled, etc...;
- Taking into consideration that the HIV/AIDS situation is now a major factor that contributes to the exacerbation of poverty household, whereas the treatment of this subject is still taboo, it is necessary to think on how you can include in the Poverty Participatory Assessment (PPA), questions about the theme that essentially allow information about the number of families whose heads of household are PLWHA, the number of orphans de PVHIV who are cared by teenagers and the number of orphans whom are cared by the elderly; also, take into consideration the data collection on other specific groups such as the disabled, elderly, orphans, etc..., and some specific issues related to gender approach. For example, do girls and boys sleep in the same space?
- The PPA report must include a information sheet about the timing of the assessment, as well as some municipal social indicators (health, education, access to water, basic sanitation), access to electricity, transport and communications, and access to information (radio, television);
- The project coordination should consider the design of a monitoring system that enables the systematic collection of information on the status of implementation of the same, from the design of a database with key information such as: number of advocacy actions undertaken (at national, provincial and municipal levels); number of successfully completed projects visited annually; number of bilateral meetings with the Municipal Administration; number of PPAs conducted per provinces; number of training actions/ events held each year, the number of participants by gender, etc. Furthermore, it should also set specific times for the collection of information that in principle should match the moments of reporting (quarterly, semiannual and/or annual);
- The logical framework of a new project proposal should include effect and result indicators, formulated to help measure what has been achieved at the end of the project and not activity oriented as well as the means of verification;

With regard to the **sustainability and continuity of the initiative**, considering that the project is an operationalize tool , the statements, both at the CICA leadership level, coordination, members of social monitoring groups and Municipal Administrations show the importance that the project actions have to develop a "culture of transparency and accountability on the use of public resources", requiring:

- To make the social advocacy component more effective and visible in the sense that it not only feeds itself of the information provided by the Social Monitoring and Participatory Poverty Assessment but also constitutes a powerful instrument to influence public policies;

Regarding the social Monitoring there are two possibilities to explore:

- (i) Social monitoring activity to be undertaken by CACs¹, what results to some extent not feasible compared to what is defined as its role in the Decree Law 17/2010 and mainly due the attitude of most of the Municipal Administrators in regard to the changes;
- (ii) The social monitoring activity working within the current standards, seeking to strengthen the capacity and performance monitoring social groups and extending its action at the level of communes, through member churches represented there. However, for such becomes necessary to improve the system for recording and disseminating information in both directions (see Annex 8).

¹ Council of Auscultation and Social Dialogue.

Annex 8: Proposal for a future institutional arrangement

