

Final Report for year 2005 for Youths' Rights Information Project at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, Mindolo, Zambia - Project nr.: 200502096

(A critical summary of the experience of both parties is a base for future improvements.)

1. *(Short project description; what was achieved, with focus on organisational development, gender and HIV/Aids.)*

The whole project aims at improving the environment for transfer of knowledge about Human Rights, Gender and HIV/Aids. Although the project took off later than planned, a very dedicated effort on the part of the staff at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) resulted in the execution of most of the planned activities, directed towards the target groups in the Kitwe community, especially schools and high school students. In carrying out these activities the staff at MEF made organisational improvements in the implementation as such, but also as an executive group. The MEF student body was not involved as much as was planned.

The attached cost specification shows how much was spent on the various activities and the Summary Monitoring Form gives an idea about the content/results of the ambitious activity programme.

2. *(Were project results as planned, short-run and long-run effects?)*

It is too early to talk about long-run effects; maybe they can never be measured. SweZam is basically very happy with the results and the correspondence between plans and results in the short run, as explained under 1. above.

3. *(Describe other positive or negative effects; causes/remedies)*

It is really hard to imagine any negative side effects. One remarkable positive effect was the initiative by a group of SweZam members to visit, at their own expense, the project for an unplanned, but extremely fruitful monitoring exercise. This led to an elimination of earlier misunderstandings, to a reorganisation of MEF's Steering Committee, and an immediate improvement in communication routines. Thanks to an article by the SweZam vice Chairman the project was further planted among SweZam's members (cf. enclosed clipping). This and other communicative efforts in Sweden have led to unexpected positive response as to the collection of new funds, enough, already, for a two-year prolongation of the project (already approved by Forum Syd and Sida).

4. *(Target group[s], numbers, involvement in project cycle)*

Especially the activities directed towards the exterior (the secondary target group) have been well described in the Monitoring Form; impressive is the fact that near 1000 students were reached by the Theatre Anti-aids message. About 39 persons in the MEF staff have been actively engaged in the project. Involvement of the MEF students is planned for the future.

5. *(Have gender roles and tasks changed through the project?)*

We think it is too early to speak of actual changes, but the project has definitely put a sharper focus on gender issues and brought the message of equality to all target groups.

6. *(Describe the co-operation; plus/minus, learning experience, changes.)*

This is probably the most important change and lesson. The co-operation has all

along been very constructive and friendly, but we have learnt that despite good intentions there is ample room for misunderstanding in communication due to technical problems and cultural differences. We thought that a Pre-study would pave way for smooth implementation, but it was not until the above-mentioned visit (cf 3. above) that work-group agenda, monitoring procedures and communication routines were elaborated. The Pre-study was necessary for the focussing of targets and relevant project content, but not enough for smooth implementation!

7. *(Local ownership; any changes in leadership, and financing? Plans?)*

Both parties agree that this is a project of true partnership and that the leadership in content and implementation is gradually moving towards MEF. This was obvious when lessons from this first year were transferred into the new programme for years 2006-2007.

The nature of this project is such that there will not realistically be a transfer of ownership as to financing of activities. Hopefully, the lasting effects will be in the way future activities are organised and focused as to gender, Aids awareness and HR.

8. *(Experience and conclusions; Any fruitful lessons for future, even for others to share?)*

See 3. and 6. Also, it is obvious that the late date for learning about the final approval and the risk of delays in money transfer very easily result in delays in project execution. In our case, we had been much too optimistic about the programme for the first 6 months.

9. *(Financial aspects; SweZam's contribution, any local revenue, budget deviation.)*

Thanks to our Newsletter and to the reference to Dag Hammarskjöld, plus the fact that Swedes have a deeply rooted conviction about the importance of transferring knowledge of HR, gender and anti-Aids to young Africans/Zambians SweZam has been quite successful in collecting the "own contribution" from the members and even persons without direct connection with SweZam

The project as such is not income generating. As to the deviation between budget and outcome it is to be observed that a substantial amount was transferred from books to HIV/Aids theatre. This is definitely in line with the priorities of both SweZam and Forum Syd and is a laudable local initiative. A more detailed description of the deviations can be found in the Summary Monitoring Form.

10. *(Time of fund transfer, rate of exchange.)*

To avoid administrative delays SweZam got the whole Forum Syd support on 21 March 2005. Transfers were made on the following dates and rates of exchange:

1 st transfer	SEK 4.767.....	Date...March 16, 2005...	Rate SEK/\$ 6.84 (advance)
2 nd transfer	SEK 7.218	June 1, 2005	7.46
3 rd transfer	SEK 92 434	October 21, 2005	7.91
4 th transfer	SEK 10.581	December 16, 2005	7.92

SUMMARY MONITORING FORM - MEF/SWEZAM PROJECT 2005

	Activities (according to Description of Planned Project)												
Indicator	a Books	b Facil Course	c Theme Days					d Library Orientation	e HIV Theatre	f Reading Habits	g Rural Workshops	Adm. in Zambia	Total
				Human Rights	Youth	UN and Women	AIDS						
Budgeted Costs USD	5 700	550	1 900					235	2 130	1 050	2 550	885	15 000
Actual Costs USD	3 715	721	1 768					138	3 239	1 132	2 853	961	14 527
Deviation %	-35	31	-7					-41	52	8	12	8	
Budgeted Costs Kwacha													69 000 000
Actual Costs Kwacha													59 440 955
No. of participants	No. of books and videos 124 many in triplicates	20	155	20	21	29	85	32	956	33	11		1 207
of which													
Primary group females		5	13	4	2	3	4	2		6	2		28
Primary group males		1	7	1	3	1	2		2	1			11
Secondary group females			82	9	9	15	49	16	504	15	4		621
Secondary group males			53	6	7	10	30	14	450	11	5		533

Primary group = Mindolo teachers and other staff

Sevondary group = Secondary School teachers and students (youth)

Deviations

A general remark is that a budget is a plan, the best one you can come up with when you are writing it. When it comes to implementation, usually several circumstances have changed to which you have to adapt. Costs can have gone up, you improve the implementation plan etc. In this case there is another important factor as well, the appreciation of Kwacha. When we did the budget we calculated with an exchange rate of 4600 Kwacha/USD, today it is 3250 Kwacha/USD. In average the exchange rate has been 4090 Kwacha/USD.

Budget post comments:

a. Procurement of books has functioned as the shock absorber and has been decreased to compensate for less Kwacha than expected.

b. Facilitator course was difficult to budget for because we didn't have the appropriate information.

d. Library Orientation; less participants than calculated

e HIV Theatre was considered a prioritised activity and reached more people than originally planned for.

Important comments from Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation

1. The activities did not cause any capacity problems for the library staff.
2. MEF has been able to open up to the secondary schools and this has made the heads of the schools to get involved in the project.
3. The activities for the SweZam will be included in the Mindolo weekly, this is a newsletter. This will be done by MEF Media & communication students who will interview workshop participants and write articles
4. We have been thinking of starting a club for the youths in MEF, what are some of the activities that we can be doing with them? We've also heard of book clubs done in some countries, how do we go about it, this is one way of boosting children's reading habits and also introduce the children and the youths to the library. We do not just want to have a one day workshop or activity and then wait for another one. Mindolo is now opening up to the outsiders because of the activities we've had
5. Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation intends to introduce a Youth Club that will look into issues of HIV/AIDS in relation with the youths. We also noticed that more people want to be affiliated to MEF because of the impact it is having towards the community.
6. The project needs to expand to other towns of the province, but for now we know that the budget is restricted and we would like further discussions to see how this can be done. Invited youths have also expressed the same feeling. They expressed concern that issues of sex are not discussed in the homes and therefore children would want to go and see what their parents are telling them to stop doing. Children in the secondary schools also need counselling in areas such as academic studies, behavioural change and there are also children who are affected and have seen their parents, friends and teachers die of HIV/AIDS. In some schools counselling was provided in secondary schools but is no longer the case.
7. The youths on 3rd December, 2005 watched a movie (Yellow Card) produced in Zimbabwe and it looks at teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS. Youths need to be taught about teenage pregnancies, the dangers of engaging in sexual relationships. If there are movies in Sweden that talk about such things it would be good to include them on the list so the Zambian youths can also see that though cultures differ some experiences are similar.
8. The HIV/AIDS policy was formulated and adopted in October 2005.