

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2016 REPORT

Institutional Strengthening – with focus on Partnership in Development to U-landshjelp fra Folk til Folk, Norge



HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONGO
HPP – CONGO



Content:

-  The project at a glance
-  HPP-Congo strategies for strengthening Institutional Capacity with focus on partnership in development in 2016 and achievements January-December
-  Conclusion
-  Photos

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE – JUNE 2016

1	Name of the project	Institutional Strengthening with focus on Partnership in Development
2	Operation area	All of DRC, but at present there are projects in 6 provinces
3	Project Leader	Bodil Sejerøe
4	Address	31 Av Katako Kombe II, Q. Joli Parc, C. Ngaliema, Kinshasa
5	Telephone fax e-mail	+243 81 161 5225 B.S@HPP-Congo.org
6	The project idea and who the project reaches	<p>DR Congo continues to need assistance with a big population living in poverty. The country has experienced economic growth over the last 5-7 years, but the economic growth has not trickled down to the poorest and most vulnerable, and the government still has little institutional capacity to bring about changes in the lives of the majority of the population. Despite the country's immense wealth of natural resources, more than 63% of the population lives for less than 1,25 USD per day and Congo ranks among the countries with the lowest human development index (HDI) on the planet. The need for assistance remains very high, and every effort counts. Using the experiences and the results achieved so far, Humana People to People Congo wants to continue to work with The Poor to improve their living conditions.</p> <p>HPP-Congo has in 2016 reached 40,000 families in 13 projects on a daily basis; more than 1/2 million in two mosquito net use and distribution campaigns, and further 700 Community Health Workers in a new project just started.</p> <p>The objective of Institutional Strengthening with focus on partnership in development is to continue to raise funds for development and increase the capacity to do so.</p> <p>Whereas international donor agencies and governments show readiness to fund existing and new projects, it is difficult to raise funds for research, planning and partnership, including promotion, efforts for future projects, as well as to increase HPP-Congo's capacity in the grant administration of big projects.</p>
7	The history in	Starting as a small group of 5 persons in 2006, the staff of

	brief	<p>Humana People to People Congo has grown to 225 employees and 400+ volunteers who work at the projects, raise funds through sales of second hand clothes, work in administration and project support and create and maintain partnership in development with a big range of funding and supporting partners.</p> <p>The mission of Humana People to People Congo is to work together with The Poor and marginalized populations to create better living conditions. This is done by organizing people in projects where they work together to create change in their own community through increased agriculture production, through many kinds of learning from literacy training, skills training to teacher training, by organizing children and young people so they become active players in the Congolese society, by protecting our environment and by improving health and hygiene.</p>
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II. HPP-Congo strategies and achievements for strengthening Institutional Capacity with focus on partnership in development in 2016

DRC is at the bottom of the UN Human Development Index with 70 million people where the vast majority lives under the poverty line, and where 43% of the children suffer from chronic malnutrition, HPP-Congo can only respond to this situation by uniting our efforts to create change together with the thousands of people in the projects and to increase our collective capacity to mobilize funds from an ever growing number of partners, who wish to contribute to the fight with the Poor in Congo for a better life.

The expansion and the partnership office

The expansion over the last 3 years is a result of the solid implementation of the projects and the efforts done by the Partnership Team of HPP-Congo, often in cooperation with the partnership teams in Europe and the United States. The large growth has put new demands on HPP-Congo to lead ever larger projects and to train new and existing staff members to lead these new projects. The growth in the size of projects has also meant that HPP-Congo is managing larger funds from more partners, and grant administration with its precise and accurate reporting to the partners has taken a more prominent place in the partnership work.

From January to December 2016 the partnership team has undergone changes several times in the efforts to create a highly professional team capable of responding to strong competition and continuously increasing demands from funding partners to the development of proposals and budgets and often a need to work in Consortiums for very large project applications. From the beginning of the partnership work, the idea was to find staff with a fair potential and background and develop their capacity over the years, but this idea does not work any longer, there is an urgent need of staff with almost immediate capacity to fulfill the demands. It was thus decided beginning of this year to search for staff (for proposal writing, negotiation and grant administration) that with a short training period would be able to live up to these demands. Ten new have been employed for a trial during the year but five left during the trial period for lack of qualifications and one for wish of another employment. Further an old has been dismissed. We thus remain with four of those found, and two of them have a very promising level whereas the other two a medium level but still seem to be able to produce well. It is difficult to find people with the needed experience and qualification for partnership in development work, and we have realized that it takes time to reach the good level. We have managed in increasing the level significantly in 2016 and clearly feel the positive effect from a new grant administrator and a negotiator. The team is almost complete except for the lack of someone to work with promotion, as we did not find a qualified staff; and we might need to find a higher qualified proposal writer to substitute a proposal writer that changed position to become a Project Leader in Child Aid.

Two staff from the partnership team have managed to get funding for training abroad in topics very relevant from our work. This has supported well their capacities.

New and bigger partnerships

It was HPP-Congo's intention to increase the number of partners during 2016, by a combination of writing ever better applications and getting the optimal results from meetings with partners based in DRC.

2015 did not produce the planned results as we at the start of the year had too little "cooking" meaning too few potential partners, but the production the last part of the year had increased significantly. This situation has spilt positively over to 2016 as we had good possibilities to work on and this year six new partnership contracts have been signed for four new projects to start and two to be extended, and our diplomatic and political efforts over a long period have now resulted in a new agreement with the Government of DRC for VAT and import duty exemption and a start of payments of salaries to teachers at DNS Mbankana. These achieved partnership and agreements are mostly smaller and medium ones, no new bigger ones have been achieved.

The above mentioned achievements are not only a result from work done in 2015 but also from strengthened capacity in negotiation and improved team work.

Applying in consortium

HPP-Congo decided for 2016 to be eminent at getting new partners with whom to apply in consortium. This is a long term diplomatic and partnership work about getting more known and respected for the capacity to produce results also under tough conditions (lack of roads, electricity and high levels of illiteracy), to be seen and heard among the various stakeholders, to have eyes and ears open and follow a good timing and not least to cooperate with Federation partnership offices in Europe and the USA so as to meet partners locally here in DRC and also meet their international headquarters. We have made progress in getting in as a sub-contractor in a Consortium for a big call from the USAID and another one with funding from Global Fund. We are yet to receive answers from these.

Project evaluations – and what it takes

Three projects ended in 2016, and HPP-Congo has plans to make evaluations of these projects. They are the Farmers' Clubs Ubangi in the Sud-Ubangi province (former Equateur province) and the Boys Skills Training program, which is integrated in Child Aid Kingabwa, that both finished end of July, and Farmers' Clubs Gemena that ended in March. For the FC Ubangi project we were part of a group of implementers in a government program funded by the World Bank, and the government entity will do the evaluation. However they have been very satisfied with our work and expect we can fit into the next program with the World Bank. Evaluation of Boys Skills Training program is internal and has just started, and for FC Gemena an evaluation will not be carried out as there is no funding for this.

HPP-Congo has gathered significant experience over years in the implementing of the above projects which should be documented by evaluations to have proven experience to show to future partners. HPP-Congo is more and more becoming known for our capacity, for being serious, reliable and honest, - capacities that are (unfortunately) sought after in a country where corruption reaches high and low.

Getting known to more potential partners

One of the results of the recent years' work to contact many partners and the results produced in the projects has made HPP-Congo more known. As a consequence more persons visit the website, and we have been approached by partners who found HPP-Congo via the web. One of the strategies for 2016 to get a stronger public profile is to improve the website by renewing the articles more often and by upgrading the English language page. This work has only taken place on a small scale as we have not managed to find a qualified promotion worker. We are once again looking for a new one to employ.

Mobilizing more partners for the teacher training at DNS has remained a key task for the partnership team in 2016. The strategies above have all supported the efforts to raise

funds for DNS, but separate actions have also been implemented during the year for DNS only. This includes a negotiator assistant working almost full time on business partnership often in cooperation with another negotiator. It was also planned to publish a new general description of the DNS program in English and French and write and distribute regular newsletters. The first two Newsletters have been developed and attempts to make a new description have been done, but not succeeded due to lack of a qualified promotion officer.

Campaigns and actions

The year of 2016, HPP-Congo planned to organize actions and campaigns to raise funds for the construction and operation of the second DNS teacher training college in the Katanga province "DNS Kasenga" and for more projects in the new Sud-Ubangi province to substitute the two that will finish. A team of two has been working in Katanga province from January to June in an effort to mobilize funds from the mining companies (see separate report about DNS Expansion). Focus has been on potential activities in Sud-Ubangi and a short term project with UNICEF was secured for the distribution of mosquito nets and mobilization against malaria reaching 420,000 households, as well as a Farmers' Clubs project to start in January 2017 in Sud-Ubangi.

The partnership team continues the basic work of identifying partners, write applications, write reports and negotiate throughout the year.

The campaign to establish partnership with companies in particular to increase the number of permanent partners for the teacher training program has continued but with few results. It is obvious that many companies here in Congo struggle to achieve a reasonable profit and are not in the habit of supporting social work. Previous and present business partners are cared for very well with project visits, reports, Newsletter and meetings, so they want to stay partners. This we seem to have succeeded in.

III. Conclusion

HPP-Congo understands that expansion is needed to improve the lives of the very many poor people here and to consolidate the operation. Expansion helps creating new energy and vitality among the staff and provides opportunities for staff to grow personally and as a collective and move forward which is a strong and encouraging incentive for each.

The responsibility for the expansion is mostly in the hands of the National Partnership Team thus it is crucial with continued strengthening of the capacity and focus on the partnership work. In order to achieve the goal above, HPP-Congo has in 2016 been working on and will continue looking for the missing 1-2 qualified staff for vacant positions and improving the capacity within the existing partnership team.

IV Photos



Photo of the partnership team together with staff at economy & administration, national HQ and some project leaders during the celebration of the 10 years anniversary of HPP-Congo the 25th of September



Staff and trainers from a potential partner from the Netherland during a visit at DNS Mbankana listening to presentations from the students



Visit from the partner CTB in the project « FTAK » in Kasenga, Haut-Katanga talking to the agriculture students about their vegetable garden established as a practice field



The Minister of Health gives a speech in Tanganyika during the official opening of the Global Fund funded project to fight malaria where HPP-Congo is responsible for the Tanganyika province