



THE SAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EDUCATION



The San Education Programme in Namibia has been one of the most high profile ones for the Office, resulting in an increase of San children in school by 842 in pre primary school and 658 in primary school from 2003 to 2008.

The project established and continue to support 4 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Ohangwena region (Ekoka, Ouhalamo (Eenhana), Eendobe, and Onamatadiva). Additionally, three Primary Schools are supported, more particularly their hostels through an established feeding programme (these Primary Schools are: Ekoka Combined School, Oshisho Combined School, and Hainyeko Primary School). Two resource centres were established, one at Onamatadiva and another at Ouhalamo ECD centres, and a total of 8 teachers were trained under this project. The project was recently nominated and selected to be exhibited at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 31 March – 2 April 2009 in Bonn Germany.

In West Caprivi, two ECD centres were established under this project, one at Chetto and another in Mutchiku, each with 30 learners registered for this year. Construction is underway to build a third centre in Omega 3 which is expected to be completed by March and plans are also underway to build a fourth centre in Omega before end of this year. Additionally, 6 teachers were trained and 12 NAMCOL students are supported.



Most funding is extrabudgetary and implementation has been contracted to a Community Based Organization which is very active and enthusiastic, but has management challenges.

Mainstreaming is being attempted in two ways: to persuade the regional authorities to take full responsibility for the education of the San and secondly to work with UNDP to coordinate all UN efforts with the San and have them under the umbrella of the National Planning Commission.

To this end, possibilities of mainstreaming some of the project activities into national activities and programmes are being negotiated. A national stakeholders' meeting took place on 16 February 2009 which discussed this process of mainstreaming. This is especially necessary since programmes for the San have been catalysed by the energy of the Deputy Prime Minister and remain largely project based.

The UN, including UNESCO, has a major opportunity here to work with the government in the area of poverty reduction and the full inclusion of previously marginalized groups. Although placed under education, UNESCO's programme with the San includes work on indigenous technologies and cultural relevance, so it is indeed inter-sectorial.

