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Innovative approaches to basic academic and vocational education

Background

The Angolan government has positioned vocational training as an essential tool to promote economic development. Such training equips young people with practical skills to enter the labor market. However, the existing 165 vocational training schools are unable to meet the country's burgeoning educational needs. Most schools are located in urban centers, with rural areas remaining under-served.

Project focus

This project offers innovative basic academic and vocational education. The Escolas Polivalentes Profissionais (EPP, or Polyvalent Professional Schools) run by Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP) combines basic education from seventh to ninth grade with vocational training.

Students graduate with job-ready skills in a wide range of occupations such as community health agent, energy assistant, agricultural and environment agent, pre-school assistant, information and communication assistant. The schools engage an innovative approach of micro-study groups, highly interactive classes, community projects and internships at partnering companies and institutions.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to build a qualified workforce by supporting vocational training schools that provide young people with technical skills for productive employment. The project also seeks to improve the facilities at nine schools through provision of better equipment and educational material for professional classes.

Key activities

A number of key activities provide support to improved professional education as follows:

- Improving teachers' skills through on-the-job training
- Providing support that better matches professional education for private sector needs
- Preparing a business expansion strategy to provide for 36 schools.



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Results

Anticipated results of the project include reducing the number of school dropouts by 20 per cent and doubling the business contact network for internships for graduates by the end of 2016.

Location and target group

The project targets seven provinces as follows: Bengo: Caxito; Benguela: Vale de Cavaco; Cabinda: Lândana and Cacongo (expansion); Kwanza Norte: Lucala; Luanda: Cazenga, Zango II and Ramiros; Huambo: Quissala; and Namibe: Tômbwa (new school)

The project is supported by 40 teachers with a total of 1 500 students lined up for graduation in 2016. The target group also includes families and communities.

Project duration

The project was established in March 2015 and will end in September 2017.

Implementing partners and stakeholders

Ajuda ao Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP), working closely with the Ministry of Education