

PRESSRELEASE

Development Workshop • P.O. Box 1834 • Guelph, Ontario N1H 7A1 • (1 519) 763 3978 • Fax: (1 519) 821 3438

For Immediate Release

Date: October 2, 1996
Contact: Maribel Gonzales or Farokh Afshar
Phone: (1 519) 763 3978
Fax: (1 519) 821 3438
E-mail: devworks@web.net

Guelph Project Makes Best 100 List

Guelph, Ontario — An African community development project of a Guelph-based agency, Development Workshop, has won a place in the “Best 100 List” of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) “Best Practices Competition.” More than 600 entries worldwide were reviewed before arriving at a “Best 100 List.” The project was also among the 40 submissions short-listed for the final awards. Development Workshop's Sambizanga Project, to improve water supply, sanitation and community health for more than 100,000 people in some of the poorest areas of Luanda, the capital of Angola, was nominated as a “Best Practice” by the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) in the Netherlands.

“Community development is an important focus of the Sambizanga Project,” says Allan Cain, Director of Development Workshop in Angola. “Almost two decades of war and the current economic crisis has left the Angolan government unable to provide basic services to this community, so the citizens’ own capacities have to be mobilized. And when that happens, people have a stake in the project's long-term success.” The project area now has over 60 elected water users committees that collect monthly fees to repair and maintain the stand posts. It is the first community managed system of maintaining public stand posts in Luanda.

The “Best Practices Competition” was part of the recently concluded Habitat II, the

second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul, Turkey last month. The purpose of the competition is to highlight projects that have resulted in "clear improvements in the quality of life and living environments of people in a sustainable way." Over 600 "Best Practices" have been compiled from entries all over the world. The database is available on CD-ROM and diskette from the UNCHS. The database will also be installed on the Internet via the World-Wide-Web to enable users to access the best practice case studies quickly from anywhere in the world.

Development Workshop is a Canadian non-governmental agency (NGO) specializing in community development projects in Africa and Asia. It works with community organisations, other NGOs, and public agencies to implement projects in water supply and sanitation, basic health services, housing, training, and appropriate technology.

Funding for the Sambizanga project was provided through UNICEF by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Swedish International Development Agency, the Dutch Cooperation Programme, Swiss Cooperation Programme and the NGOs One World Action (UK) and Trocaire (Ireland).