

Summary

Description of the evaluated project:

“Midwifery Programme for the Western Province of Zambia” /2009-2012, Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague/ aimed at a full establishment of Midwifery programme at Lewanika Nursing School in Mongu. Project activities also comprised of the delivery of medical equipment to Lewanika and Nalikwanda Hospitals and of office supplies to Lewanika Nursing School, as well as of building two student hostels at Lewanika and Nalikwanda hospitals.

Context of the evaluation:

The evaluation team consisted of Lead Evaluator – Radka Bzonková, PhD; Expert on education in health sector and midwifery – Eva Janíková, MA; Expert on maternal care in Zambia – Liswaniso Mate. The evaluation was carried out in April – June 2013, the evaluation mission to Zambia took place in May 2013.

Below is the evaluation summary according to the evaluation criteria:

Evaluation criterion	Rating
RELEVANCE	High
EFFECTIVENESS	Rather high
EFFICIENCY	Rather high
SUSTAINABILITY	High
IMPACT	High
CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES:	
HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY OF THE BENEFICIARIES	High
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Rather high
GOOD GOVERNANCE	Rather high
VISIBILITY OF CZECH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN ZAMBIA	Rather high

RELEVANCE

The project “Midwifery Programme for the Western Province of Zambia” was relevant to the Zambian sector documents and the national strategy /[National Vision 2030](#)¹, [National Health Strategic Plan](#)²/. The relevance of the project on the local level was verified in hospitals, health centers and across the educational system in the Western Province. The project is also relevant to the Czech programme documents both in the geographical and the sector dimensions.

EFFICIENCY

The efficiency of the public contracts and grants was evaluated through inventory check in the hospitals and health centers and through the inspection of the constructed student dormitories. The public contract was managed very effectively in the case of building of the dormitories. The grant was not invested efficiently in the case of delivery of the medical equipment to the hospitals (delivery of items with low quality, one failed delivery).

EFFECTIVENESS

Output No.1 (Midwifery programme has been officially registered and functions in full accordance with the General Nursing Council of Zambia standards) was fulfilled completely: Midwifery programme at Lewanika Nursing School has been registered and opened, it has been working since 2010 and produces well-educated and experienced graduates every year.

Output No.2 (Strengthening of the technical and personnel capacities of the birthing center in Lewanika Hospital, Mongu) was not fulfilled completely as the last delivery of the medical equipment has not been carried out. The implementer agreed with the Czech development agency to refund the cost of this last delivery back to the budget of the Czech Republic.

Output No.3 (Strengthening of personnel capacities in the partner health centers and of field workers) was fulfilled completely as all the graduates return to their original occupation and they use newly gained knowledge and skills.

From the point of view of the Theory of change and outcomes, the project has successfully attained the following goals: the midwives are able to assist deliveries independently (more than half of the respondents were not able to assist deliveries alone before their studies); healthcare became more accessible thanks to the increased proficiency of the health center workers; the midwives are able to recognize high-risk pregnancy (more than three quarters of the respondents were not able to recognize it before their studies); educated midwives also have the role of a mediator between the

¹ National Vision 2030 Zambia:

http://www.theredddesk.org/countries/zambia/info/plan/vision_2030_zambia (poslední přístup 14. 6. 2013)

² National Strategic Health Plan 2011 – 2015: <http://www.zambian-economist.com/2012/04/zambia-national-strategic-health-plan.html> (poslední přístup 14. 6. 2013)

local community and the hospital, can persuade expectant mothers with a high risk pregnancy to deliver in hospital.

SUSTAINABILITY

Very high rating of sustainability was ensured through full inclusion of the Midwifery programme into the Zambian educational system and its full financing from the Zambian sources. This high project sustainability is now being influenced by two negative factors: low number of the teachers and decreasing number of the students in 2013. The two student dormitories are, in terms of sustainability, a good and reasonable investment, used to the full in everyday operation of the school.

IMPACT

The evaluation team focused on the end beneficiaries (graduates of the Midwifery programme) because these had not been monitored since the project started, and the Czech implementers did not have a clear picture about how the graduates utilise their newly attained knowledge in practice in the regional health centers. The evaluation team interviewed the graduates of the year 2010, 2011, 2012 who have been working in the West Province after their graduation. The evaluation team interviewed more than one third of the graduates working in the West Province. Based on these interviews, the evaluation team reached the conclusion that the project has definitely improved medical care for expectant mothers and improved their life situation: healthcare for them became more accessible and of better quality.

CROSS CUTTING PRINCIPLES:

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY OF THE BENEFICIARIES: The evaluated project is balanced from the gender point of view. No discrimination of minorities has been discovered during the evaluation mission.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: buying and using new cars have positively influenced the environment (compared to old vehicles used in the Western Province)

GOOD GOVERNANCE: Midwifery programme fulfills the conditions of GNCZ and cooperates with both crucial government institutions important for the running of the school: GNCZ (setting standards for the education of Midwives) and PHO (allows the Midwives to apply for a governmental scholarship)

VISIBILITY

All the equipment in visited hospitals has been marked with a logotype of Czech development cooperation. The most visible item is the ambulance car with a big logo on both sides, which significantly increases awareness of Czech presence among the province inhabitants.

LOGIC OF THE INTERVENTION

As the project was not finished at the time the evaluation was held, the evaluation team decided to focus on the logic of the intervention. A logical frame of the project was well developed, but the implementer underestimated two risk factors: decrease of interest of students in the Midwifery program and effective cooperation with the Zambian suppliers. Bad cooperation with the Zambian suppliers resulted in failing to fulfil all obligations, especially the delivery of the last part of the medical equipment to the hospitals. Underestimation of this risk, together with a third risk not mentioned in the logical frame – absence of the coordinator of the Czech implementer in Mongu – led to refund of this sum to the Czech state budget. This solution allowed for the project to be concluded officially, but all three risks influenced effectiveness and efficiency of the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level	Recommendation	Adrese	Importance
Project Level	1.1. Place a coordinator of the implementing organization in Mongu, ensure a close cooperation of the coordinator with a Zambian sector expert in follow-up projects	Czech Development Agency, Implementer of the follow-up project	1
Sector Level	1.2. New calls for interest, grant and public contracts should include an obligatory declaration of the Czech implementer that the implementer's coordinator will be based on the spot of the project. Selection commission should take into consideration such an obligation (even at the cost of higher expenses).	Czech Development Agency	1
Project/ Sector Level	1.3. The follow-up project should look for solution of the decreasing number of students in Midwifery programme: 1.3.1. Set a realistic estimation of the number of applicants for the newly planned Midwife Programme /Registered Midwifery/. 1.3.2. Lobbying for the change of the Zambian educational system, creation of an Bc. Midwifery Program at colleges 1.3.3. Focus on the advertisement for the Midwife Programme /secondary school visits, emphasizing advantages for students/	Czech Development Agency, Implementer of the follow-up project	1

Sector Level	1.4. Always deliver equipment of good quality (even though in smaller amounts)	Czech Development Agency, Implementer of the follow-up project	1
Project Level	2. School management, teachers, students: 2.1. Assure an appropriate number of teachers for the Midwifery Programme 2.2. Verify functionality and usage of the schoolbus 2.3. Clarify the disputable question of school fee reimbursement for the first graduates (2010) and communicate the opinion of the Czech implementer 2.4. Separate the students of Midwifery Programme from other (younger) students in the Mongu hostel 2.5. Verify functionality of the water reservoir for the hostel in Mongu	Czech Development Agency, Implementer of the follow-up project	2
Project Level	3. Improve the visibility of the Czech Republic in Zambia 3.1. through working of a permanent coordinator of the Czech implementer in Mongu/Lusaka 3.2. through placement of billboards in front of the hospital and the nursing school in Lewanika	Czech Development Agency, Embassy of the Czeche Rep. in Harare, Implementer of the follow-up project	2
Project Level	4.1. Transport the vacuum extractor from Nalikwanda health center to Lewanika hospital	Implementer of the follow-up project	3