

Press Release

BFA and UNICEF complete the building works and make the official handover of two more primary schools in Ombadja township, Cunene province.

On the 24th of October, BFA, UNICEF and the Cunene Provincial Government (CPG) greatly welcome and had the pleasure of handing over two more primary schools, called Augusto Ngangula primary school and Okaku primary school, built from the ground up, each with three classrooms and with a capacity to accommodate more than 100 children from the Xangongo and Okaku communes, Ombadja township, Cunene province.

The official ceremony was attended by BFA representatives, namely, Dr. Rui Mangueira (Chairman of the Board of Directors), Dr. Luís Gonçalves (Chief Executive Officer), Dra. Vera Escórcio (Executive Director), Dr. António Matias (Executive Director), and Dr. Paulo Alves (Executive Director). The ceremony was also attended by the UNICEF country representative in Angola, Dr. Ivan Yerovi, as well as by Dr. Apolo Ndinoulenga, Deputy-Governor for Political, Social and Economic Affairs of the Cunene Provincial Government (CPG) and also by Dra. Elizeth Candjasli, Ombdja Municipal Director.

In the opinion of Rui Mangueira, Chairman of BFA's Board of Directors: "In view of our business activity, it is our understanding that children should be our priority within the "BFA + Water + Life Project". Children are the future of Angola, and it is therefore crucial that they are provided with the vital resources for their proper growth and development. This project has given access to quality education to approximately 520 children. Thus, we are aware that, by adopting and championing the Children's project, BFA not only supports and benefits the local communities and population, but also plays a key role in the shaping of Angola's future".

During the ceremony, more than 200 books were also handed over to the Ombadja Municipal Directorate, which will be part of the Municipality's Library collection.

Background...

In 2019, following the appeal issued to the general public by the Angolan Government to address and tackle the social crisis affecting the south of the country, BFA activated its organisational structure to partner with the Government in the implementation of specific and tangible initiatives to support the population that was hit by the crisis.

In order to put this initiative into practice, the Bank in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Cunene Provincial Government, launched the "BFA + Water + Life project", with the aim to mitigate the vulnerable position and exposure to the natural risks of drought and flooding that occur in that region, as well as to improve the social conditions of the children and their families, mainly in the Ombadja township's most vulnerable communities.

Linked to the "Safe Haven" concept, the "BFA + Water + Life" project strategy advocates schools and other social infrastructures as foundational platforms for the provision of basic social services, vital for the survival, development and protection of children, with a particular focus on access to water and sanitation, health, nutrition and education.

The rationale is that this broader holistic approach ensures the withholding and continuity of children's education and performance at school, as well as the improvement of their living conditions and those of their families. However, the project had to broaden its scope of action to also ensure that in some communes, schools had the proper infrastructure to welcome, with quality and dignity, the children of the Ombadja township. The commitment is to build a total of six schools.

The "BFA + Water + Life" project is entirely financed by BFA and implemented by UNICEF, and to date the Bank has invested the equivalent in Kwanzas of USD 3.4 million.

Against this backdrop, BFA handed over in September of 2021, 3 primary schools called Omayuku, Mphuikiti and Hakeke, built from the ground up, with capacity to accommodate more than 180 children of the Ombadja township.

The impact of the "BFA + Water + Life" Project...

A total of 18 schools are part of the "Safe Haven" project with the following results:

- 10,000 beneficiaries, 6,000 directly and 4,000 indirectly;
- 70 teachers, 18 school principals and 18 parents were trained through the TUPPI methodology /programme (Todos Unidos Pela Primeira Infância);
- Over 8,500 children have benefited from the birth registration process;
- Approximately 4 concrete water storage deposits and 15 permanent toilets have been built;
- 18 schools benefited from school kits;

On UNICEF...

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as a United Nations agency dedicated to promoting the defence of children's rights, has a wealth of experience in implementing projects in this area, and has already been instrumental in reducing the vulnerable position and exposure of children and their families to natural disasters in Ombadja township (Cunene Province), with an impact on health, water, sanitation and education, through the ongoing cooperation programme with the Angolan government.

On BFA's Social Fund...

In April 2005, BFA's Board of Directors, feeling strongly committed to Angola's economic and social development, decided to create a Social Fund with the purpose of financially supporting specific projects in the areas of health, education and social solidarity, thus showing an authentic commitment to the Angolan society, institutions and its population.

The BFA Social Fund was initially financed with 5% of the net profits obtained from the 2004 to 2008 financial years, having reached a maximum endowment of **USD 25.86 million**.

Since 2005, the Bank has approved requests for assistance classifying them into three main categories: Social Solidarity, Health and Education. BFA has adopted a traditional philanthropic strategy, with the collaboration and aid of four strategic partners: USAID, UCAN, UAN and the Catholic Church. Between 2005 and 2020, the BFA Social Fund has aided assistance to approximately **285 projects**, with a total investment of **USD 20 million**.

From 2017 to 2018 the BFA Social Fund was endowed with an additional **USD 30 million**, making a total of **USD 55 million**.

To implement its social responsibility strategy, BFA has created the following areas of action:

- BFA Solidarity - Strategic philanthropy and empowerment of the social sector;
- BFA Voluntary Work - Corporate volunteering with the involvement of its staff members;
- BFA Grants - Support for structured projects aimed at improving the living conditions of children and their families, ensuring their long-term resilience and confidence in the future.

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