

World Bank Vice-President for Africa, Obiageli Ezekwesili, Visits the Angolan Demobilization and Reintegration Program

N&N no. 13 – October 4, 2007



Vice-President Ezekwesili addresses project beneficiaries

New World Bank Vice-President for Africa, Obiageli Ezekwesili, visited Angola recently as part of an official tour that also included Mozambique, Ghana and Burkina Faso, among other countries.

The main purpose of Ms. Ezekwesili's two-day visit to Angola was to undertake high-level discussions with the Angolan government and visit bank-financed projects.

Among projects visited, the Vice-President went to meet beneficiaries of the Bank-financed Angolan Demobilization and Reintegration Program (ADRP). She was accompanied by World Bank Country Director, Michael Baxter, World Bank

Country Manager, Alberto Chueca Mora and the ADRP Director, General António de Andrade.

The ADRP is administered through the Institute for the Socio-Professional Reintegration of Ex-Combatants (*Instituto de Reintegração Sócio-Profissional dos Ex-Militares, IRSEM*), and supported with resources from the World Bank, the European Commission and the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP).

The specific ADRP project Ms. Ezekwesili visited was a reintegration support activity focusing on empowering war-affected women through improved livelihoods and self-reliance. It is implemented by the Association for Rural Development and Agriculture (ADRA), an Angolan NGO, in close partnership with the IRSEM.

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The project, which targets women in and around Luanda city, aims to meet the following specific objectives:

- To provide basic / relevant education and short-term vocational training;
- To supply toolkits and/or instruments to beneficiaries, in accordance with their skills, abilities and personal options and preferences;
- To offer technical and follow-up services to maximize job opportunities for beneficiaries;
- To increase access to complementary financial services, such as savings and credit for women with entrepreneurial capacity or a business project;
- To foster conditions needed for the development of cooperative supply of financial and non-financial services.

The ADRA project takes an inclusive approach with its women beneficiaries – while the project was designed to directly benefit women related to ex-combatants, the project also assists other vulnerable women. Of the 460 women that have so far received support, 252 are wives or widows of ex-combatants, 20 are ex-combatants themselves, and 208 are vulnerable women from the larger community.

Through the project, beneficiaries complete a training program and then choose a profession in consultation with the project. ADRA then provides them with toolkits associated with their new chosen professions, containing such items as sewing machines, brooms, combs, and scissors.

The project also focuses on facilitating women's insertion into the market economy in order to ensure their access to income through business creation. ADRA supports initiatives for enterprise creation through delivery of individual business tutorship, managerial training and market networking.

ADRA plays a unique role as a critical partner in efforts to provide reintegration support to vulnerable women, and contributes to the Angolan Demobilization and Reintegration Program's overall efforts to incorporate a gender sensitive approach into its activities.



ADRP Director General Andrade, Vice-President Ezekwesili and Country Director Michael Baxter

Vice President Ezekwesili said that, as she interacted with widows and wives of ex-combatants, she was impressed by the human fabric of the Angolan people – their resilience and the eagerness of the women of the project to pull their families out of poverty.

For more information on MDRP, please visit www.mdrp.org or contact Bruno Donat, Communications Officer, MDRP Secretariat, World Bank at info@mdrp.org.