

Human Interest Story Uíge

Interview with Area Coordinator Mr Augusto Matias, conducted during the training period comprehended between the 21st and 22nd of October 2014, by the partnership Provincial Health Department of Uíge (DPS), Provincial Department of Education of Uíge (DPE) and Mentor-Initiative, as preparation for the MDA campaign in October/November 2014.

Q&A:

1- How did you find out about the training of area coordinators for the deworming campaign promoted by the Mentor-Initiative?

AM: I was informed by the Provincial Department of Education (DPE).

2- What motivated you to attend this training?

AM I was motivated by the willingness to help our partners during the MDA and the Ministry of Health in eradicating the various parasitological diseases that plague the country in particular Uíge province.

3 Remember what expectations you had when joining the training?

AM: My expectations were that the training would have an inclusive character in the representation of the education responsible to help the NGO and the MOH during the MDA.

4- Were those expectations met?

R: Yes. However, my opinion is that given the participation of the school directors and health elements, the Sobas (Community Leaders) and parents should have also participated in order to gain more knowledge about the activity.

5- Did you managed to learn something new with this training?

AM: Yes. I learned about the DTN's, the administration of Praziquantel and its applications.

6- To what extent did this training contributed to your performance as area coordinator for the deworming campaign?

AM: I acquired new knowledge and experience, given being the first time I participated on an event like this in our province.

7 Of all that acquired knowledge what do you consider more important?

AM: The usage of the ammeter for the Praziquantel administration. Before that we thought that the only way to administer Praziquantel was through weight scales.

8- How did it went the training directed to teachers and directors of the different schools of Uige?

AM: *It went smoothly. We had good adherence numbers from the several teachers and directors, which given the high number of trainees we had to divide it in two days. However we had some difficulties given the lack of scales.*

9- Was it difficult for the directors/teachers to assimilate the information?

AM: *No. It was not difficult.*

10- The deworming campaign was well received by teachers / parents / children?

AM: *The campaign was well received by the education community. However it was more difficult for the communities to accept it when spoken directly. We had to resort to the Sobas (Community leaders) to pass the message.*

11- How do you evaluate the work of the Mentor-Initiative during the deworming campaign?

AM: *The deworming campaign was a beneficial effort given that this was a sanitary exercise as Mentor-Initiative has been always doing. As such we would like that more initiatives like this took place in our province.*

12. How do you characterise the Mentor-Initiative as an NGO that promotes this type of deworming campaigns against intestinal parasites.

AM: *A humanitarian gesture.*

13. Do you consider that the Mentor-Initiative meets the health needs of Uige?

AM: *Yes it does.*

14. Would you like Mentor-Initiative to promote more campaigns of this kind?

AM: *Yes I would like. In a matter of fact, much more campaigns.*

OBS. In the end of the interview, the interviewee added some recommendations for further campaigns:

“In the next deworming campaigns you should make an effort to do more sensitisation initiatives before the activity, in the communities and health units in order to create a higher incentive to participate in the MDA’s. Furthermore we should add parents and Sobas to the trainings in order for them to sensitise the communities.”

Photographs from the interview:

