

**A Human Development Project for the
Communities of West Kasai, D.R. Congo.**

Program-Project #: S064161



Final Report

Submitted by:

**Help The Aged (Canada)
Butoke (D.R. Congo)**

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Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION	5
PROGRAM-PROJECT TITLE: A HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF WEST KASAÏ, D.R. CONGO. CIDA PROJECT	5
3.0 GENERAL COUNTRY SITUATION	5
4.0 PURPOSE, GOALS AND ACHIEVED RESULTS	6
4.1 PURPOSE.....	6
4.2 DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES:	6
4.3.1 FOOD SECURITY	6
4.3.2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION.....	7
4.3.3 EDUCATION	9
4.3.4 HUMAN RIGHTS.....	10
4.3.5 THE REINFORCEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES	11
5.0 RISK AND CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	12
6.0 VARIANCE	12
7.0 SUSTAINABILITY	13
8.0 BENEFICIARIES	14
9.0 ENVIRONMENT	15
10.0 GENDER EQUALITY	16
11.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	16
12.0 LESSONS LEARNED	16
13.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	17
14.0 PROJECT ASSETS AND DISPOSAL	17
15.0 COST SHARING OBLIGATIONS	17
16.0 SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS	18
17.0 CONCLUSION	18
18.0 APPENDIX A:	19
19.0 APPENDIX B:	20
20.0 APPENDIX C:	21
21.0 APPENDIX D:	22

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Front Cover: Dr. Jean of Butoke and a cooperative member holds up huge cassava tubers. Approximately 200 cooperatives were provided a better variety of cassava (provided by the FAO) which yielded excellent results, 200% increase over traditional varieties.

1.0 Executive Summary

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has endured a devastating civil war that has destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, including agriculture and health care. The DRC is now at an uneasy peace and is hopefully moving towards greater stability. The project site outlined in this project is located in the West Kasai Province in Southern DRC.

The purpose of this project was to contribute to the human development of West *Kasai* by fighting poverty, reinforcing equity, and improving the understanding and respect of human rights. The objectives were:

- Contribute to greater food security and sustainable livelihoods of the marginalized rural population, especially internally displaced persons (IDPs), the elderly, and widows.
- Support the most vulnerable population, in terms of access to basic health services and nutritional rehabilitation.
- Support the most vulnerable youth population, in terms of access to basic quality education services to prepare these youth for their contributions to the region's development.
- Reinforce human rights, particularly for women and children.
- Organization reinforcement of *Butoke* as a sustainable non-governmental organization (NGO).

The project accomplished its output goals by:

- Assisting to establish and train 1,055 community agricultural cooperatives in agricultural best practises including increasing acreage in production, introducing better crop varieties and promoting higher nutrition foods including fruit trees. for an estimated outcome of increasing beneficiaries caloric intake by an estimated 5 to 10%
- Improving access to health care and improving health outcomes through the provision of vaccinations to 3174 women and children; teaching 2230 persons on responsible sexuality (women's right of consent, child spacing, etc.); 98% successful interventions in 1071 severe malnutrition cases; and provision of 13,100 primary health consultations. The provision of care to many sick also helped dispel the view that people were dying as a result of their sorcery and could not be helped
- Improved quality of education and access to education through development and distribution of a recyclage training module, recyclage training of 60 teachers and 30 school directors from 30 schools and 670 vulnerable children enabled to attend school though financial assistance
- Strengthened human rights through the provision of care and support for 2,020 accused sorcerers; education forums teaching about the rights of women and children; and regular radio broadcast about sexual violence and psychosocial support for the severely ill and their families (those generally accused of being sorcerers). Eight human right legal challenges unsuccessful to date as a result of victim's reluctance to participate

- Strengthened capacity of Butoke through acquiring qualified staff, staff and board training and improved assessment and coordination between agencies of current priorities through participation on Interagency Provincial Committees and UN agencies
- Strengthened gender equality through the provision of opportunities for women to provide leadership in community cooperatives, through training and employment opportunities and access to education
- Strengthened environmental consciousness and protection through agricultural best practice training of cooperative members

The actual numbers of beneficiaries in this project were 21,100 farmers and their 148,000 dependents; 13,100 medical patients; 3,074 women and children receiving vaccinations; 2,230 receiving responsible sexuality training; and 92 receiving human rights training; 1,071 severely malnourished restored to good health; 670 students supported and 90 teachers and school directors received recycling training as well as numerous listeners of human rights radio broadcasts. This is a total exceeding 189,400 persons.

2.0 Project Information

PROGRAM-PROJECT TITLE: A Human Development Project for the Communities of West Kasai, D.R. Congo. CIDA Project

CPB PARTNER: Help the Aged Canada
PROGRAM-PROJECT #: #S064161
CIDA OFFICER: Ms. Liane Dussault
DIVISION & SECTION: Voluntary Sector Fund
REPORT PERIOD: April 01, 2008 to June 30, 2010
PROJECT PARTNER: Butoke ONGD

Implementing Organizations

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3.0 General Country Situation

The duration of this project has taken it through the early years of DRC's first democratically elected government in 2007.

Potentially destabilizing political tension remains in DRC and as new elections approach in 2011 there is concern that it will result in more instability. Little substantial change has taken place to improve the infrastructure of the country and politicians, anxious to be seen as doing something often choose highly visible projects which often do not provide long term benefits.

Often improvements are not sustainable due to lack of strategic planning and resources. For example, a road undergoes a major repair only to return to its former state in the next rainy season, it might be several years before it receives its next attention.

Economic conditions in DRC continue to be very critical. Poverty is endemic and few are able to do anything other than just survive on the produce of their gardens. In surveys of rural subsistent farmers very few owned any tool other than a machete for gardening, no axes, shovels or hoes, much less a bicycle. The lack of a market to sell surplus produce at reasonable prices causes many to be unable to pay for school fees, health care, etc. While many are very hopeful that tomorrow will be better there is a possibility of the psychological malaise of despondency.

4.0 Purpose, Goals and Achieved Results

4.1 PURPOSE

Contribute to the human development of West Kasai by fighting poverty, reinforcing equity, and improving the understanding and respect of human rights.

4.2 DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Contribute to greater food security and sustainable livelihoods of the marginalized rural population, especially internally displaced persons (IDPs), the elderly, and widows.

Objective 2: Support the most vulnerable population, in terms of access to basic health services and nutritional rehabilitation.

Objective 3: Support the most vulnerable youth population, in terms of access to basic quality education services to prepare these youth for their contributions to the region's development.

Objective 4: Reinforce human rights, particularly for women and children.

Objective 5: Organization consolidation and reinforcement of *Butoke* as a sustainable non-governmental organization (NGO).

4.3 Project Activities and Results from April 1st 2008 to March 31 2010:

4.3.1 FOOD SECURITY

Food security has been threatened by the 2008/2009 worldwide economic crisis that hit hard the industrial and artisanal mining in Southern DR Congo. It has meant loss of jobs and income for many tens of thousands of people in the West Kasai province. As well, an influx of economic refugees from Angola has further stressed the limited resources of the area. Many of them have attempted to turn to agricultural activities but lack of access to arable land and lack of seeds and tools have been serious obstacles.

The agricultural season of 2009/10 began in the midst of a widespread food crisis throughout Southern Congo, which can be attributed to poor agricultural practices and climatic changes. Prices of food and seeds increased not only because of scarcity but also because of the increasing cost of fuel for transport

The lack of seed availability coupled with high demand and costs, has made it difficult for farmers West Kasai province to afford and secure seeds. Butoke is concentrating on securing seeds that are more drought-resistant; including beans, peanuts, soy, and cassava.

Roads and transportation systems in the project area continue to decline, making it very difficult to import food from other areas. Project staff is encouraging self-sufficiency in the 1,055 established cooperatives.

Crop production is generally low within the Savanna region surrounding West Kasai, therefore, project staff are encouraging simple and sustainable techniques to improve production. Agricultural extension officers work with the cooperatives to encourage row cultivation and crop rotation and other simple techniques, beginning with legumes such as beans, peanuts, and soy, to improve the fertility of damaged soil. After three seasons of these leguminous crops, farmers can plant cassava or maize.

Extension officers works with the cooperatives, where they teach agricultural techniques. They also assist the cooperatives to build their capacity, in order to play a key role within their communities in food security, nutrition, sanitation, and other areas, such as conflict resolution.

The project provides cooperatives with locally available seeds and tools. On a contractual basis, cooperative members must conserve seeds following the harvest, so that they have seeds for the following season. In light of the food crisis that began in April 2008, it is a challenge to ensure that farmers do not consume their own seeds. Approximately 70% conserve some seed while the balance is unable to.

In the latest harvest season, 440 hectares of beans produced approximately 100 tonnes; 100 hectares of cassava produced approximately 1,400 tonnes; 143 hectares of soy produced approximately 28 tonnes; and 119 hectares of peanuts produced approximately 23 tonnes; for a total of 922 hectares. The soy, beans and peanuts produced less than hoped due to too much rain at the time of flowering, but the cassava harvest on fields using the new variety produced 200% more than traditional varieties.

The total crop acreage was less than proposed due to difficulty in encouraging the cooperatives to expand and holdback enough seeds for the next season.

In general there was a lot of enthusiasm among the cooperative members and an opportunity exists to use the structures to deliver other beneficial programs such as a focus on training youth how to farm using better practices, training on nutrition, training of human rights etc.

Outcome: Project activities have improved food security for approximately 21,100 members and when including dependants, 170,000 individuals in total. In terms of caloric intake (while difficult to quantify) it is perhaps as high as a 10% improvement. This can often be the difference between hunger and food security.

4.3.2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The project uses a complementary approach to address the needs of vulnerable groups through food security, nutrition, and primary health care support.

Food availability is a *sine qua non* condition of good nutrition, but it is not necessarily a sufficient condition.

The current food crisis is affecting virtually all of the West *Kasai* area leading to the consumption of only one monotonous meal per day, for the majority of the population. This infrequency of meals leads to hypoglycemia. Adults often consume their single meal late in the day, at about 8pm, which is usually composed of a serving of cassava mixed with maize, or simply cassava for the very poor. This meal is consumed with few vegetables, or some fish for the more affluent. Older children are sometimes fortunate to consume a little fruit, whereas adults rarely eat any.

It remains difficult for both rural and urban populations to be able to afford maize. Consequently, individuals primarily consume meals of cassava, which is poor in nutritional value containing few minerals, vitamins, or proteins. The new variety of cassava introduced to cooperatives is lower in cyanide and produces a larger crop, while still low in nutrition provides greater carbohydrate intake.

This food shortage is harmful for early childhood development as well as for adults. Indeed, *Butoke* has seen over the last year a sustained high frequency of young mothers with total or near total failure to lactate based on their own malnutrition. This in turn prevents their babies from thriving in the first 6 months of life. Territorial surveys show that 20% of women are below normal weight and approximately 10% are severely malnourished

The nutritional state of the human body is directly linked to the capacity of the immune system, in that one's nutritional state influences immune function and is therefore responsible for the severity and length of infections. The synergy between malnutrition and infectious diseases is the basis for approximately 75% of infant mortality rates.

For this reason, *Butoke* offers an inclusive nutritherapy response with care for infections. In the case of severe malnutrition, *Butoke* is following the *World Health Organization* (WHO) guidelines. Recommendations include the removal of parasites, then broad-spectrum antibiotics and anti-malarial measures, followed by frequent and well-balanced meals every 2 to 5 hours. *Butoke* often have had to rehabilitate both mother and baby in the failure to lactate.

By applying this integrated nutrition and health formula, the organization's nutritional centres at *Tshikaji*, *Luiza*, and at *Kanzala* serve as health centres with two doctors, Dr. Jean Lumbala and Dr. Cecile De Sweemer, in addition to two nurses each.

As basic services are financially inaccessible to more than 70% of the population, *Butoke* offers these services free of charge. Emergency admissions are referred to the most appropriate location, either a specific hospital or neighbouring clinic. *Butoke* receives 40 to 60 new cases per day. Approximately 2,000 admission cases per year are categorized as urgent in nature. *Butoke* is seeking to address urgent fundamental health needs through its interventions, but also to reinforce the health system in West *Kasai*.

Butoke continues to offer some support for orphans of *Kanyuka* and *Ndesha*, where abandoned grandmothers and their orphaned or abandoned grandchildren are gathered. *Butoke* helps these institutions facilitate education for such children, while also taking care of their health needs and cultivating their use of seeds and tools to become more economically independent.

In summary, project output as a result of *Butoke*'s activities are as follows:

- Rehabilitation or supplementation of the malnourished population, which is currently, comprised mostly of children under 10, the elderly and very young women. Over the term of this project, the organization has treated 1,071 individuals.
- Nutritional education for the optimal utilization of local produce, with a focus on vulnerable groups: Pregnant and nursing women, children under 15 years old, the elderly, and the unwell. All mothers coming to the nutrition centre received instruction and the radio programs also presented this information.
- Primary healthcare is provided as a component of the three nutritional centers, with the goal of encompassing the most vulnerable groups, with over 13,100 consultations over the term of the project.
- Education on safe motherhood, with human rights for women and children as an integral component. A focus is placed on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and on birth spacing. Throughout the term of this project 2,230 persons have received training
- Technical and financial support for emergency medical transfers to larger hospital, with 3,292 cases over the project term.
- Social and pastoral support for marginalized individuals such as those accused of witchcraft, the severely malnourished, those living with HIV, widows or orphans, individuals with disabilities, or others that are within a marginalized group. Judiciary support has been tried for human rights abuses but so far is limited in scope.

These actions have direct effects on beneficiaries. *Butoke*'s observations are that 98% of severely malnourished people and other urgent cases are capable of recovering.

Outcome: Beneficiaries are demonstrating an increased knowledge of nutrition, STD's and other health related issues. There is also evidence of changing cultural practices that marginalize individuals such as for the severely malnourished and sick who are often accused of being sorcerers and cannot be helped. Community members when they see individuals recover from serious illnesses or malnutrition begin to refer other persons accused of witchcraft for care. As well, children are turning up in earlier stages of malnourishment at the nutrition centres indicating parents are recognizing the signs of malnourishment as a result of training

4.3.3 EDUCATION

In regards to education, *Butoke* assists 235 children in primary school, 365 (45% girls) in secondary school, and 50 youth in post secondary education. These are vulnerable youth such as orphans or abandoned children as well as those that are being cared for by a grand-parent. *Butoke* provides support for their school fees and other associated expenses that are required by the school, such as books and writing utensils.

Parents and teachers are encouraged to provide equitable treatment to girls, children with disabilities, and AIDS orphans.

This effort is meant to provide hope and confidence for the future of these children, and to remind the communities of a child's right to education.

Unfortunately, the quality of education that these children receive has a lot of room for improvement. Therefore, the project also seeks to improve the quality of primary education through support of teacher retraining. Butoke staff developed three modules covering Math, French and Conflict Resolution as a training tool for teachers. Four “recyclage” training seminars were held in *Kananga* and *Luiza*. During the term of the project 60 primary school teachers and 30 directors from 30 schools received the training. The modules have been provided to the Ministry of Education to be used in further training.

Outcome: Increased access to education for vulnerable girls and boys and improved quality of education as a result of recyclage training of teachers and school directors.

4.3.4 HUMAN RIGHTS

West *Kasai* society is hierarchical. Within this context, the concept that all human beings have inalienable rights has probably never existed. Christianity and Islam have offered the principal foundations for human rights, as more than 90% of the population nominally adheres to either one of these religions.

Customary leaders are regarded as socially ethical guardians, however they may tolerate infractions against human rights in the name of customary beliefs, which systematically blame the victim of illness or accident and punish them.

Project staff has opened a dialogue with community members on the contradictions between traditional beliefs and human rights, especially concerning women and children, the handicapped and the severely ill. This is an attempt to strike a balance between customary beliefs and human rights for leaders and members of *Butoke*, across parishes and faith communities that have working associations within the organization, and across the legal system. To date 92 persons received training about human rights in four forums. Radio broadcast on four radio stations also highlighted sexual violence and the need for psychosocial support for severely ill persons and their families (those generally labelled as sorcerers).

Butoke uses agronomists, some clerics, teachers, and counselors to expand the dialogue to everyone in the community. An unsuccessful attempt was made to mobilize the help of lawyers to pursue legal cases of human rights abuses such as rape. It became clear that legal challenges would not work in the short term as most families prefer to settle at the community level for monetary gain. As family members are “owned” by the families human rights abuses such as rape is seen more as a theft (the girl will bring a lower bride price) and a financial settlement in the extreme cases can be seen as a benefit. More discussion, especially in the faith community is being pursued to highlight the importance of protecting human rights and the dignity of the individual.

A summary of *Butoke*’s activities that reinforce human rights especially for the elderly, women, and children are:

- Social, legal, and pastoral support to marginalized persons, such as those accused of witchcraft. Over 2,020 persons declared sorcerers by their families and communities assisted in nutrition centre and through health care.
- Human rights awareness for marginalized populations: Widows, the elderly, orphans, women, children, chronic illness sufferers (AIDS, tuberculosis, etc.), Congolese driven from Angola as illegal aliens, ex-soldiers, prisoners, and those accused of witchcraft. Four forums with 92 persons in attendance received human rights training. Also radio broadcasts on human rights have reached over 100,000 listeners. The broadcast have been almost daily in Luiza and weekly in Kananga for approximately 20 months,
- Consultation, mediation, and the legal pursuit of human rights. To date, eight human rights cases have been pursued legally and are pending with concern that the families will not pursue them. Another 10 rape cases were pursued but the victims and their families refused to go to court.

Outcome: Expanding dialogue on human rights, especially the rights of women and children. Community members, after seeing a person successfully restored to health begin to refer other persons/children for care. This indicates a change in perception that malnutrition is a result of sorcery and incurable to a realization that it is curable

Children are turning up in earlier stages of malnourishment at the nutrition centres indicating parents are recognizing the signs of malnourishment as a result of training.

4.3.5 THE REINFORCEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Butoke has implemented several activities to reinforce institutional capacities:

- The reinforcement of human resources such as training: the administrative secretary and accountant have taken information technology courses; four spokespersons have taken French courses, and an additional 17 personnel have been recruited in the sectors of administration, information technology, health, nutrition, education, protection, and water and sanitation.
- Activation of the Administrative Council with 3 meetings in the last 6 months.
- Reinforced management of human resources of staff and volunteers, with job description supervisory terms, competency development and citations.
- The use of mentoring, regular meetings and performance evaluations to monitor staff results and to reinforce reflection and feedback.
- Formal participation by staff, volunteers, schools, health and rehabilitation centers, and other involved parties, in the creation of action plans and in their evaluation.

Outcome: As a result of the increasing capacity of *Butoke*, *Butoke* has been able to successfully implement this project and has been recognized by UNICEF at the national level as a model of development for a local NGO that is competent and reliable. UNICEF has also awarded *Butoke* five projects in nutrition and sanitation and in nutrition.

5.0 Risk and Critical Assumptions.

Assumptions:

1. Food security is an urgent felt need and therefore a good platform around which to create intergenerational solidarity
2. Intergenerational solidarity will facilitate child raising by providing a presence of responsible adults and channelling of experience and information
3. The health centers will collaborate in child care and maternal care

Challenges/risks:

1. Risk of insecurity (election 2011, land/clan conflicts, banditry)
2. Risk of discouragement due to low results in agriculture due to climatic vagaries
3. Risk of competition and arbitrary division of benefits of the harvest within each village association
4. Instability of key collaborating health personnel, in remote area

Strategies to address challenges/risks:

1. Butoke and its associations should show no political or religious leanings. Butoke will take every precaution to ensure the safety of its staff.
2. Selection of most hardy seeds and seed varieties which produce higher yields.
3. Rules of sharing are agreed upon prior to planting with all association members. Agronomists have as one of their main tasks conflict prevention and resolution, if unsuccessful they appeal to the coordinator
4. Key personnel are chosen as much as possible from the local area and receive encouragement and support such as training and when employed by Butoke, reasonable wages.

Results:

1. The project was not impacted negatively by insecurity and instability.
2. Some harvests were disappointing due to poor rains and in some cases too much rain. New varieties of cassava provide by the FAO produced outstanding results of 200% increases in production and created a lot of excitement in communities.
3. Some members expressed concern due to arbitrary divisions of harvest

6.0 Variance

Most of the project activities were successfully completed. Areas of variance are as follows;

- The project proposed the planting of 90,000 firewood, anti- erosion and soil rejuvenating trees however only about 15,000 trees were planted. This was due to the lack of interest by cooperative members and difficulty obtaining permission from authorities to plant in public places.
- The project proposed that at least 100 human rights cases would be pursued legally. This proved unsuccessful due to the fact that most families do not want to pursue cases legally but prefer to settle at the community level for monetary gain. As family members are “owned” by the families it is seen more as a theft and a financial settlement in the extreme cases can be

seen as a benefit. As well, there is a fear of reprisals as some of the abuses are committed by people in authority. Community forums, especially in the faith community promoting discussion, and radio programs highlighting cases of abuse and what human rights are has become the new approach to raising awareness on human rights and the dignity of the individual.

- The project goal of dialoguing with 30% of provincial leaders about the rights of women and children’s was unsuccessful. Provincial leaders were not open to participating and made themselves unavailable.

7.0 Sustainability

The following table identifies how project outcomes will be sustained:

Project Goal/Expected Result	Components to Sustain	Sustainability
Contribute to greater food security and sustainable livelihoods of the marginalized rural population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed availability • Crop production • Fruiting trees for familial / institutional orchards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Butoke</i> has provided seeds that are more drought-resistant than previous varieties. Farmers are taught to save sufficient seeds for following years crops • Cooperatives are educated on simple and sustainable agricultural practices, such as row cultivation and crop rotation. • Agricultural extension officers help to build regional capacities through locally available tools.
Support the most vulnerable population in terms of access to basic health services and nutritional rehabilitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper and adequate nutrition • Responsible sexuality / safer sexual practices • Decreased incidence of infectious diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritional education has been taught for the optimal utilization of local produce (focus on vulnerable groups) • Healthy reproductive education has been provided in order to promote positive behavioral change, with a focus on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, on and birthing rights • Teaching proper agricultural practices, good nutrition and sanitation will reduce incidence of infectious diseases
Support the most vulnerable youth population, in terms of access to basic quality education services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable student treatment • Child’s right to education • Student performance improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Butoke</i> has encouraged teachers to provide equitable treatment to girls, children with disabilities, and orphans. • <i>Butoke</i> promotes the rights of children to receive an education to both teachers and parents. • Teacher “recyclage” has improved the quality of education
Reinforce human rights, particularly for women and children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights awareness • “Sorcerer” paradigm shift • Legal pursuit of human rights (when necessary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Butoke</i> has helped to expand the dialogue within the community regarding a balance between customary beliefs and human rights, particularly for marginalized populations • Leaders within the communities have been encouraged to shift away from the “sorcery” paradigm and to initiate advocacy for individual human rights • Radio programs and training forums have provided information on human rights. • Legal pursuit was unsuccessful, changed strategy to include radio and community education as a community acceptable approach

Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater capacity of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hiring of qualified personnel and training increases <i>Butoke’s</i>
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consolidation and reinforcement of <i>Butoke</i> as a sustainable NGO.	<i>Butoke</i> staff	<p>capacity to design and implement needed developmental initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Butoke</i> growing profile has given it access to funding through UN based organizations and a growing support base in N. America • <i>Butoke</i>'s collaboration with other organization allows it to play a key role in sharing and receiving valuable information and thus better solutions for the area.
Equality between Men and Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in leadership positions • Equitable access to education for girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cooperative structures have provided women with opportunities for leadership roles • Parents and teachers have been taught the importance of education for girls (and boys).
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally sustainable agricultural practices • Agroforestry plantations and fruit trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Butoke</i> has trained cooperative farmers how to use anti erosion methods and natural methods of rejuvenating the soil. • Farmers have been trained how to grow agroforestry and fruit trees and encouraged to plant orchards and plantations.

8.0 Beneficiaries

Activities	Proposed Primary Beneficiaries	Actual Primary Beneficiaries	Proposed Secondary Beneficiaries	Actual Secondary Beneficiaries
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,050 cooperatives representing 30,000 farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,055 cooperatives representing 21,100 farmers. (11,645 women, 145 cooperatives led by a women, 950 cooperatives have a women in one of the top three positions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180,000 dependents of farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 148,000 dependents of farmers.
Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,000 primary health care consultations per year. • 1,800 people trained on responsible sexuality. • 1,000 children/500 women vaccinated. • 25% villages practice safer sex. • 95% severe malnutrition cases rehabilitated in 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13,100 primary health care consultations in two years (over 50% women). • 2,230 people trained on responsible sexuality. • 2,360 children/714 women vaccinated. • Information not available • 1,071 severe malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,500 emergencies referred to better equipped medical institutions • 30% decrease in STDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,292 emergencies referred to better equipped medical institutions • Information not available

	months.	cases treated, 98% recovery rate.		
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 students supported in primary and secondary schools • 10 schools (20 teachers in total) receive training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 670 students supported in primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools (45% girls) • 30 schools with 60 teachers and 30 directors have received training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 individuals benefiting from a family member's improved education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,822 individuals benefiting from a family member's improved education
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 "sorcerers" helped • 100 human rights cases pursued • 30% provincial leaders exposed to women and children's rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted 2,847 people helped (including 70 elderly). All declared "sorcerers" • 8 human rights cases pursued unsuccessfully • Information not available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 parents of sorcerers" supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 30 % (854) of parents of severely malnourished children declared "sorcerers" as well

9.0 Environment

The villagers of West Kasai are living with the consequences of climate change, with higher than normal temperatures; unusually long periods of drought and very violent storms destroying harvests and buildings, sometimes even without rain.

The attempts at modernization contribute to environmental degradation. For example the burning of bricks creates a high demand for wood that goes largely uncompensated by planting and thus around the brick kilns deforestation stretches for several kilometers. Moreover community homes, especially those on slopes often experience serious erosion due to most of the vegetation around the houses being cleared as well as poor drainage systems. The fields are not terraced or drained and are often subject to erosion. Similarly, maize cultivation often demands the clearing of land in the forest.

As a result of project activities, cooperative farmers were taught how to plant their fields in rows, at a right angle to the slopes in order to slow down erosion. In addition, they were taught how trees can be used both for fertilizer and as an anti-erosion measure.

Outcome: Through community surveys, cooperative members report that project agricultural training and support have provided them with better knowledge of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices (see appendix A). This knowledge has led to changes in farming behaviours such as improved intercropping techniques, the use of nitrogen-fixing plants such as beans and peanuts, and prevention of soil erosion as approximately 90% of cooperative members are now using anti-erosion techniques.

10.0 Gender Equality

Gender issues are fundamental to all of *Butoke*'s activities. Women have traditionally been restricted to familial duties, and they have been excluded from public or cooperative roles.

The 1055 cooperatives collaborating with *Butoke* must have at least one woman in a leadership position. The cooperative membership is made up of 8,475 men and 11,645 women. One hundred and forty-five of the cooperatives are led by a woman and 950 of the cooperatives have a woman in one of the three top positions. This has provided women with the opportunities to develop leadership skills and address needs specific to women.

Girls account for 45% of the children supported in school by sponsorship and approximately 60% of medical services are provided to women.

The rights of women have been the main themes on human rights training and radio broadcasts.

In all activities, *Butoke* seeks parity between the genders, but where women are traditionally discriminated against; a special focus is placed on developing equity.

11.0 Public Engagement

HTAC has assisted to build awareness of the issues and circumstances faced by the populations of West Kasai through the distribution of two newsletters sent to over 2,200 homes, two annual reports sent to 6,000 households, regular e-news postings of its website visited by over 6,000 persons per month. As well, information of West Kasai was presented in approximately 15 events including universities, a Parliamentary Sub Committee, churches, volunteer groups and informal settings.

Over the course of the project Canadians provided resources for the matching funds for this project as well as significant donations (approximately \$40,000) to *Butoke*'s work outside this project.

12.0 Lessons Learned

Some valuable lessons have been learned throughout the implementation of this project and are as follow;

- There are often gaping contradictions between customary beliefs and human rights. Customary leaders may tolerate infractions against human rights in the name of customary beliefs, which systematically blame the victim of illness or accident and punish them. Victims are often unwilling to use courts to resolve what are considered community matters. As well the judiciary is not dependable and often corrupt. *Butoke* has had to change its strategy in addressing human rights by placing more emphasis on community awareness training and less on test legal cases.
- Existing faith based groups are more open to the issues of human rights than non faith based groups.

- Men seem to grasp the concept faster than woman perhaps due to better education. Woman may be more isolated from community affairs and feel due to their “inferior status” in the community that they can not be seen as rebellious by becoming outspoken on human rights issues.
- Cooperatives can be channels to transmitting a great variety of messages to communities regarding life skills, food security, human rights, nutrition, etc.
- Community members often have a poor concept of food security, food diversity and good nutrition. Traditional meals of cassava and maize are seen as the staple of nutrition even though there are many other food types which would supplement their requirement such as beans, fruit etc. One example experienced by a project member was someone who had just finished eating a meal of rice and beans and was asked if they had eaten today, they said no because it was not cassava and maize. Even intellectuals often have a poor concept of nutrition, the belief that if you have not gone to bed hungry then you have eaten well. Kids are not fed before going to school nor do workers eat a good meal before starting a hard physical day.
- There are poor concepts of health. Emergencies are often based on the most pain. Some one with a serious cut is treated immediately but someone with a long term illness but lower pain is left until it is often too late to treat.
- Families are often reluctant to spend money or put much energy into finding money for health care until it is too late but will spend much money (put lots of energy into finding money) to provide the traditional funeral rights to avoid ridicule if the person dies.
- Two greatest obstacles to health care is lack of comprehension of what requires care and lack of resources to pay for care.

13.0 Intellectual Property Rights

NA

14.0 Project Assets and Disposal

The following assets were purchased by the project;

- Five motorcycles
- One Toyota Landcruiser

All assets have been turned over to Butoke to be used for continued post project activities consistent with the project objectives.

15.0 Cost Sharing Obligations

Below are the proposed and actual cost-sharing obligations.

Proposed Budget (CIDA, applicant, and developing-country partner organization contributions)

Proposed Budget	Project Activities	Monitoring Activities	Public Engagement Activities*	Total (C\$)
CIDA	\$473,046	\$21,840	\$5,040	\$499,926
Applicant	\$157,682	\$ 7,280	\$1,680	\$166,642
Developing-country partner organization(s)	\$ 89,100			\$ 89,100
Total	\$719,828	\$29,120	\$6,720	\$755,668

Actual Budget (CIDA, applicant, and developing-country partner organization contributions)

Actual Budget	Project Activities	Monitoring Activities	Public Engagement Activities*	Total (C\$)
CIDA	\$474,011	\$21,840	\$4,075	\$499,926
Applicant	\$158,004	\$ 7,280	\$1,359	\$166,643
Developing-country partner organization(s)	\$ 98,948 ¹			\$ 98,948
Total	\$730,963	\$29,120	\$5434	\$765,517

¹ Includes \$89,100 of inkind and \$9,48 of cash

16.0 Shared Responsibility and Accountability for Results

Help the Aged Canada was the lead agency in the implementation of the project with the Butoke implementing the project activities. Butoke selected the project staff and made the day to day decisions in following the project proposal implementation. Butoke maintained a project bank account and financial records and provided financial and narrative reports every six months or as requested. HTAC staff visited the project site on two occasions including reviewing the financial records and making field visits to inspect project activities. HTAC also reviewed statistical records for the collection of data for the final report.

17.0 Conclusion

All project activities have successfully concluded and projected outcomes were accomplished with some minor variances as detailed above and in the RBM report.

The project management staff did a good job of implementing the project under difficult political and economic conditions and on very poor roads.

Community visits and results from community surveys indicated a very positive community response to the project activities and community members were excited about the positive changes to their lives as a result of the agricultural, nutrition and human rights training.

It is encouraging to note that the cooperative groups, as a result of training and encouragement, are making tangible advances towards finding solutions to their problems. While they still face many obstacles the groups are improving their food security through collective farming and the implementation of better agricultural practices.

The project goal which utilized the greatest portion of the project budget was food security and it was encouraging to note that for almost 170,000 people a 5 to 10% increase in food calories was as a result of project outcomes. This often is the difference between hunger and food security. There were also some noted changes in community attitudes to human rights especially among community leaders.

The results of the project goals and activities are expected to be sustainable as a result of training, support and encouragement by project staff

18.0 Appendix A:

Analysis of Food Security Survey

Based on interviews of 100 participants in the supported associations. Five participants each were chosen from 20 associations.

The participants reported a total surplus production for their families of 24,702 kg or an average of 247 kg per family, they reported using most of this surplus for family consumption: 15,026 kg or 61% of the production, The next greatest amount was sold; 7305 kg or 31% and lastly, the balance was kept for seeds; 2277 kg 8%.

The latter is a happy surprise. In some of the associations there is a common reserve of seeds (11/20) but in both the associations with and without reserve, slightly over 30 % of the members have created their familial reserve of seeds. Two families sold part of the harvest to buy a goat that will be sold to buy seeds again.

On the question “have they have adopted anything of the teaching” of Butoke-98/100 respond that they will follow the system of spacing the seeds and sowing on line, 42 also talk about the lessons they learned on weeding, 2 said that they learned nothing.

The question on “what anti-erosive measures they will practice” was not understood, the answers were all about what to do to stop major erosion rather than how to prevent erosion in the field. The most prevailing answers are planting acacia or bamboo, 63 out of 100; followed by sandbags, 26 responses; digging canals, 13 response; bringing earth or stones, 19 responses; and 10 even mention developing grass beds

On whether they are going to work with the association: out of the 100 respondents, 9 refused saying they do not want an association because they want to be free to work as they want; 39 gave an unconditional yes and even elaborate on benefits; 36 say yes but want more order in the relationship of effort made and share earned; lastly 16 want clear rules on who and how seeds are kept

What changed in their nutrition: the answers range from very positive changes (72 out of 100), to no change (28 out of 100). The positive changes are said to be in quantity, including number of meals a day, improvements are also in more balanced nutrition with much more vegetables and in 16 families malnourished children are said to be rehabilitated

Butoke will continue the analysis.

19.0 Appendix B:

Survey on Health

For vaccinateable diseases Butoke's clinic has not seen any case since 2006 when there was a case of German measles in a 2 year old.

Butoke surveyed 154 adults living in the neighborhood of the Tshikaji clinic and asked about child spacing before and after 2006

Before 2006 these were the spacing of their children

Less than 24 months	7
24-35 months	67
36 months and more	34
No child birth	46

After 2006 spacing

Less than 24 months	4
24-35 months	65
36 months and more	21
No child birth	64

This indicates a shift to no births in the last 4 years, the average length of spacing ignoring the open spacing seems also lengthened

On the question whether there is more, less or the same amount of STD in the community the overwhelming answer of 133 persons is less, with only 15 saying more and six the same amount. The Tshikaji clinic indeed saw fewer cases in 2009 than 2008 or 2007.

20.0 Appendix C:

Human Rights Survey

Survey size-100 persons.

For the question “ what are the rights of women and children”: the most common answers(72 people) equated the rights of both groups: as nutrition and clothing, 16 people add marriage and child bearing for women and 70 people add education for children.

Only 34 people mentioned the right to life for both groups . The section on witchcraft shows that this may not be a simple oversight, some people deny the right to life to women or children declared witches although we can assume the 72 people recognizing nutrition as a right, implicitly recognize the right to life.

As mentioned, 70 people recognize education as a right for children. Two persons excluded education on financial grounds and one said education is for boys, marriage for girls. Some of the rights assigned to women seem to function more like duties such as marriage and childbearing

All other rights are only mentioned by small numbers of people, among the international list for women: liberty and security of person mentioned by 8 people, equality and non discrimination by 6, privacy and confidentiality by 6 people, freedom of thought by 6 people education and information by 8 people, to choose to marry or not and plan the family mentioned by 2 people, the right to decide whether and when to have children mentioned by 2 people, right to health care mentioned by 6, the right to the benefits of scientific progress, mentioned by 2 people , the freedom of association and political involvement mentioned by 4 people, the right not to be tortured mentioned by 2 people.

Locally perceived needs and rights are first the rights to clothes mentioned by 42 people, right on sexual satisfaction mentioned by 12, marriage end children mentioned by 8, housing mentioned by 4, right to work mentioned by 4

Concerning the rights of children, internationally recognized rights highly accepted locally are nutrition (although ill defined) by 72 people out of 100 and 70 also define education an essential right ,other international rights such as right to life has 34 people mention it, right on protection of parents 4 people, right on nationality 4 people, right on a name 1 person right to leisure 18 people, right on free speech mentioned by no one, right on respect of dignity 6 people, leisure mentioned by 18 people, protection against torture mentioned by no one

32 people refused to answer questions on rights

21.0 Appendix D:

Survey On Witchcraft and Analysis

Survey size;139 randomly chosen village respondents with exposure to Butoke

136 confirm that villagers designate some women and children as witches, 3 wish not to discuss this as they deny the reality of witchcraft.

On the reasons why someone is declared a witch we got many explanations, the ones most specific are spiritual anthropophagi mentioned by 6 persons, 3 mention prolonged illness, rebellion against parents or authorities mentioned by 15 people, confessions by 5 people, 84 are simply saying because of behavior,13 admit that reasons are mostly vague.

On the question “what rights a person has who is accused of witchcraft”, 29 persons declare they have no rights not even the right to life and should be killed, while 19 emphatically recognize the right to life, 62 affirm the accused has all rights, 15 moreover insist they have a right to rehabilitation

On the question whether rehabilitated cases of malnutrition continue to be labeled witches, 102 answer that a person in good health cannot be a witch, while 2 say the good health will not stay with the child as it is still a witch, 8 instead think the child is no longer a witch if its temper has changed too, 13 think once a witch always a witch. This seems to confirm we were able to rehabilitate in the eyes of most the children we received as malnourished witches and that ill health is one of the major reasons to declare a child or an adult witch.

We asked also what should be added to nutrition and health care so that the children be happy and well accepted, The traditional confession and exorcism has but 16 votes, confession with church prayers has 48 votes most people suggest counseling (54) with education (35), but there are more complex proposals such as to assemble the family and counsel everyone (7. To love and protect(6) provide nutrition (11))against 5 insisting killing is the only way.

The study shows Butoke has made significant inroads into the belief in the power of witchcraft with 102/139 believing the nutritionally rehabilitated children are no longer witches and 81 people out of 139 recognizing the right to life of those accused and 61 recognizing them all rights.