



Community engagement

Stakeholders' demands on businesses, and expectations to how businesses can and should contribute to the environmental, social and economic progress of the communities in which they operate, are greater than ever. Maersk Drilling engages with local stakeholders and supports programmes that address aspects of the societal context which are insufficiently developed. This promotes prosperity both for community and business.

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS CASE · OCTOBER 2014

There is light at the end of the tunnel

On 28 September, 2014 Patricia Hansen and Brian Schluckebier from Maersk Drilling's head quarter in Denmark travelled to Angola to witness the Maersk Drilling sponsored UNICEF project; 'Integrated Community-based Case Management'.

It was a visit that revealed a lot of poverty. But it was also a visit that provided hope and optimism for the future of the Angolan families. "I kept shaking my head, wishing I had found a bottle to rub to get a Genie out of it and give her anything the Angolan family wanted," Patria Hansen said when meeting one of several unfortunate families.

A dangerous birth giving

Rosa was pregnant when the local community health worker Ermelinda, started working in Caconda in September 2013. It was impossible to tell how far along in her pregnancy Rosa was, because she had never attended prenatal care.

Over the coming month, Ermelinda visited Rosa



Photo: UNICEF-Denmark/Julie Troilborg

regularly to gain her trust and convince Rosa and her family on the relevance of basic nursing care. On the night of October 15, 2013, Rosa realised that this birth was not going to go down as smoothly as the homebirths of her other six children. Rosa went to Ermelinda in the middle of the night and she helped Rosa to the nearest health unit.

After two days of labour pain, Rosa was transferred to a hospital 45 kilometres away, where the doctors discovered that Rosa was expecting twins. The doctors performed a caesarean on Rosa and a week later, Rosa and her healthy babies returned home to the rest of the family in Caconda.

A world of difference

Rosa is lucky that she lives in Caconda where the community workers have been present for a year. If she had been living in Lubango it is not sure she had received the help she needed.

“The difference between Lubango, where 25 community health workers are just about to begin work, and Caconda, where 25 community health workers have worked for a year, is striking”, explains Patricia Hansen.

All 1500 families included in the project in Caconda now sleep under a mosquito net. Many of

them have a latrine and a dwell, and with regular visits from a community health worker many more go to see a doctor or nurse, when needed.

“Continuous efforts must be made and this will take time, as there are so many effected people, however from what I have seen, there is light at the end of the tunnel”, Patricia Hansen concludes.

50 Angolan community health workers trained

Maersk Drilling and UNICEF Denmark have since March 2013, provided training to 50 Angolan community health workers. The local community health workers have provided health care to 10.161 Angolans, of which 3.197 were children under the age of five.

Every community health worker is responsible for 60 families, all with pregnant women and/or children under five years old. A community health worker visits two families a week and gets a small salary, a bike, a uniform and notebook developed by UNICEF for the collection of data and monitoring.

UNICEF’s goal is to make the pilot project sustainable, so that many more families will be reached in the years to come. This way, the hardest-to-reach children are provided with health care, which is one of the main challenges to reduce child mortality in Angola.



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Patricia Hansen, Safety Performance Manager

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Published by:
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