



FOCUS

EDUCATIONAL,
SOCIAL & SPIRITUAL

LOCATION

CAVUNGO, ANGOLA

LEADER

IRENE CARDOSO

OUR MINIMUM
ANNUAL TARGET

£3000

This project is an initiative started some years ago by Irene Cardoso in Cavungo, a rural town in the east of the country where previously there was no school. The school has moved from the church building to a newly constructed building and there are now over 250 children split over five grades. The classes in sewing, cooking and bread making which have been established as part of the school curriculum continue to develop with extra sewing machines having been added. Irene was taught these skills by a missionary when she was at school and has valued them ever since. She is totally committed to the wellbeing of the children from her native area and is highly regarded in the community. As in all parts of the developing world that have been blighted by war, the basis of hope for the emerging generation is education. Slowly but surely this village school is maturing into a significant centre of education. The government pay for the teachers' salaries but all other outlays have to be found elsewhere. Due to the fact that this school is in a rural area, it is difficult to find fully qualified teachers and Irene is now employing members from the local church to assist with basic literacy disciplines. This school is the only educational facility in the area.

Angola is a country rich in natural resources and with good government and educated young people the prospects for the younger generation are bright. Educational opportunities are focused largely in the urban areas.

Irene, who lived in the capital, secured a job with the UN near the rural area where she was brought up because she saw this as an opportunity to establish a school. At the end of the three year contract, the UN offered her another post, but not in her local area, which she refused to accept, choosing rather to build a mud constructed house in her own rural community to oversee the construction and development of the school. She secures income by renting out her city home but now lives permanently in Cavungo and has developed the school both in terms of facilities and pupil numbers. Irene also does innovative things, like bee keeping, to generate income that allows her to live in this rural setting. She has a real vision for the development of her own community and is giving all her time to the fulfilment of that vision.

