

## SATELLITE SCHOOLS

The concept of *Satellite Schools* (or: “*Écoles Satellites*”) has been developed in 2004 for an Oxfam-Novib project in South Kivu (DRC) and successfully implemented, in order to provide an answer on the large capacity and effectiveness problems of primary education, with an emphasis on remote areas. This concept is partly influenced by BRAC in Bangladesh, and by REST in Ethiopia.

Common problems identified are the following:

1. Low level of quality and maintenance of school buildings
2. Governmental support absent in many cases: parents pay all costs
3. Teacher salaries are insufficient
4. Teacher in-service training is almost absent
5. Teacher motivation is declining
6. Shortage of competent teachers, unqualified teachers are hired
7. Large walking distances to school, parents keep their children (mostly daughters) at home
8. Large walking distances to school, creating unsafe situations for girls
9. Many parents are unable to pay school fees for all children, girls are kept at home
10. Lack of sufficient meals
11. Many classes are overcrowded
12. High drop out rates, especially among girls
13. Lack of teaching means;
14. Lack of teaching materials;
15. Lack of adequate furniture;
16. Teaching method is not functional, nor contextual; many pupils do not learn anything useful, life skills are not introduced.

The common concept of primary schools does not provide any sustainable answer to these problems. In order to cope with these large problems, we should be pragmatic. Therefore it is necessary to “re-think” the primary school concept. The Satellite School concept provides an answer on problems 1 to 13, and 16. Some main elements are the construction by parents (ownership!) of simple schools in their own village, a condensed time table, introduction of life skills and vocational skills in a child centred manner. This way the Satellite Schools present an efficient and effective answer to many of the large problems identified.

For more information about the *elements of this concept*, and about the *necessary educational methods and means*, mail to: [info@vantrood.nl](mailto:info@vantrood.nl)