



Luanda Skatepark Project
Report 2019

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Introduction

After three decades of civil war Angola today enjoys relative stability. Yet with a median age of 16.1 years and widespread poverty amongst the young, the generational impacts of the internal conflict are unmistakable. This is a nation of youth. Moreover, it is a country of deep-rooted inequality and corruption, a predicament fuelled by oil wealth and weak political institutions.

Perhaps nowhere are these two sets of circumstances better illustrated than in downtown Luanda, the country's capital. Here, against the backdrop of gleaming skyscrapers and a Miami-like shoreline, hundreds of underprivileged youth from the suburbs gather daily. While there to socialize and enjoy themselves, their presence unmistakably also represents a claim on a city that was built not for them, but for the rich.

With hundreds of thousands of marginalized youth it should come as no surprise: Luanda has become a breeding ground for skateboarding. And with no skatepark in the country it didn't take long before they started to organize themselves.

Jesse Mendes, President of Angola Skateboarding Union (ASU), reached out to CJF in September 2017. At the time, the Angolan skateboarding community had been seeking government support for the construction of a community skatepark for several years, but without success.

Jesse told us that skateboarders in Luanda were being threatened with arrest, harassed and confined to skate in dangerous areas of the city. With no skate shop in the country either, he also highlighted the severe lack of access to skateboarding equipment they faced. Could we help? He asked.

After assessing their wishes, the socio-economic environment in Angola and the logistics of the proposal, CJF took up the Luanda Skatepark Project as its next mission in November 2018.

After a year of fundraising, coordination and preparation, a dozen international builders teamed up with 50 Angolan skateboarders in Luanda to realize the construction of the country's first skatepark. And in extension, ASU took it upon themselves to locally manage CJF's skateboarding-based youth development programme, Edu-Skate, which now reaches dozens of street children and disadvantaged youth at the skatepark every week.

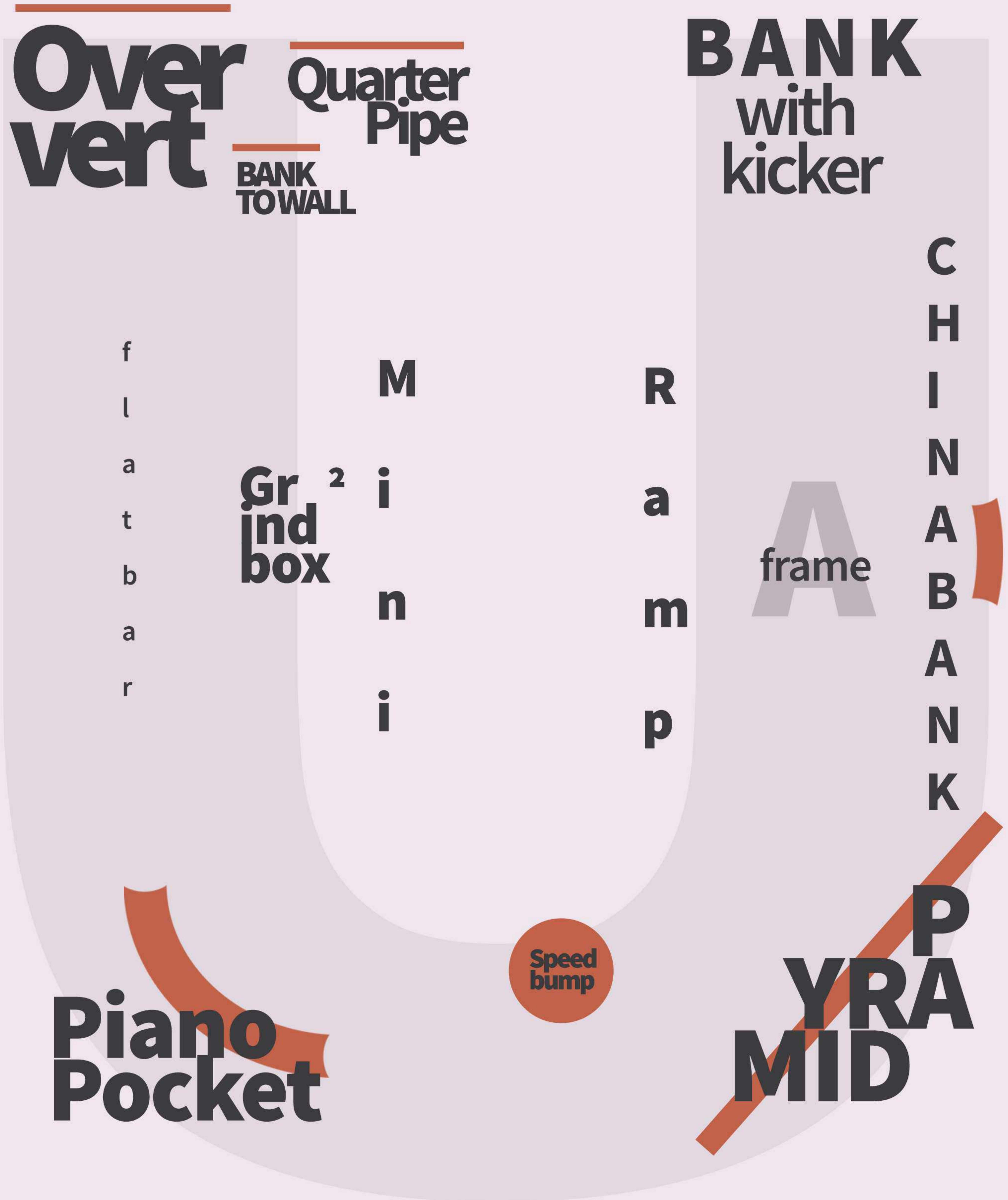


1. Timeline

- September 2017** ● Jesse Mendes from Angola Skateboarding Union (ASU) got in touch with Concrete Jungle Foundation (CJF), inquiring whether CJF could help them realise Angola's first skatepark
- November 2017** ● A partnership was established between CJF and ASU for the implementation of the Luanda Skatepark Project. The objectives were to i) construct Angola's first skatepark in the capital city of Luanda; ii) provide complementary skateboards and safety equipment on-site; and iii) implement CJF's Edu-Skate Programme, locally managed by ASU, to support underprivileged youth in the area through skateboarding.
- December 2017** ● Fundraising campaign was launched with a goal to raise \$30,000 for the construction of the skatepark.
- October 2018** ● Fundraising campaign was closed, having reached \$29,000.
CJF's Programmes Director flew to Luanda to meet and greet our partner and the Secretary of State for Sport.
Launch of Mr. Andre collection by The Skateroom in Paris
- November 2018** ● CJF crew and a dozen international volunteers arrive in Luanda, Angola to commence construction of the skatepark.
- December 8th 2018** ● Construction of Luanda Skatepark is completed, and skateboarding equipment for the programme is handed over to ASU's leadership
- December 9th 2018** ● Opening Day: Luanda Skatepark is inaugurated by Kilamba Kiaxi's Administrator
- January 2019** ● CJF's Edu-Skate Programme, locally managed by ASU, began for local youth.

2. Skatepark

A. Design



B. In numbers

THE LUANDA SKATEPARK RECEPE

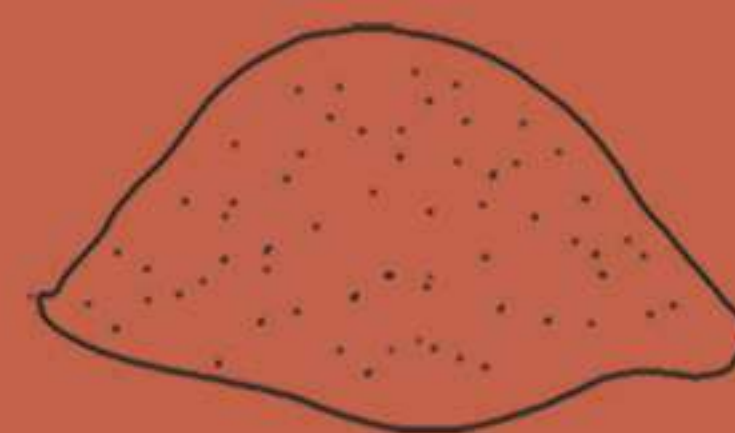
Recepe for

750 m²

320 bags of cement



20 cubic meters
of gravels



36 cubic meters
of sand

1500 blocks

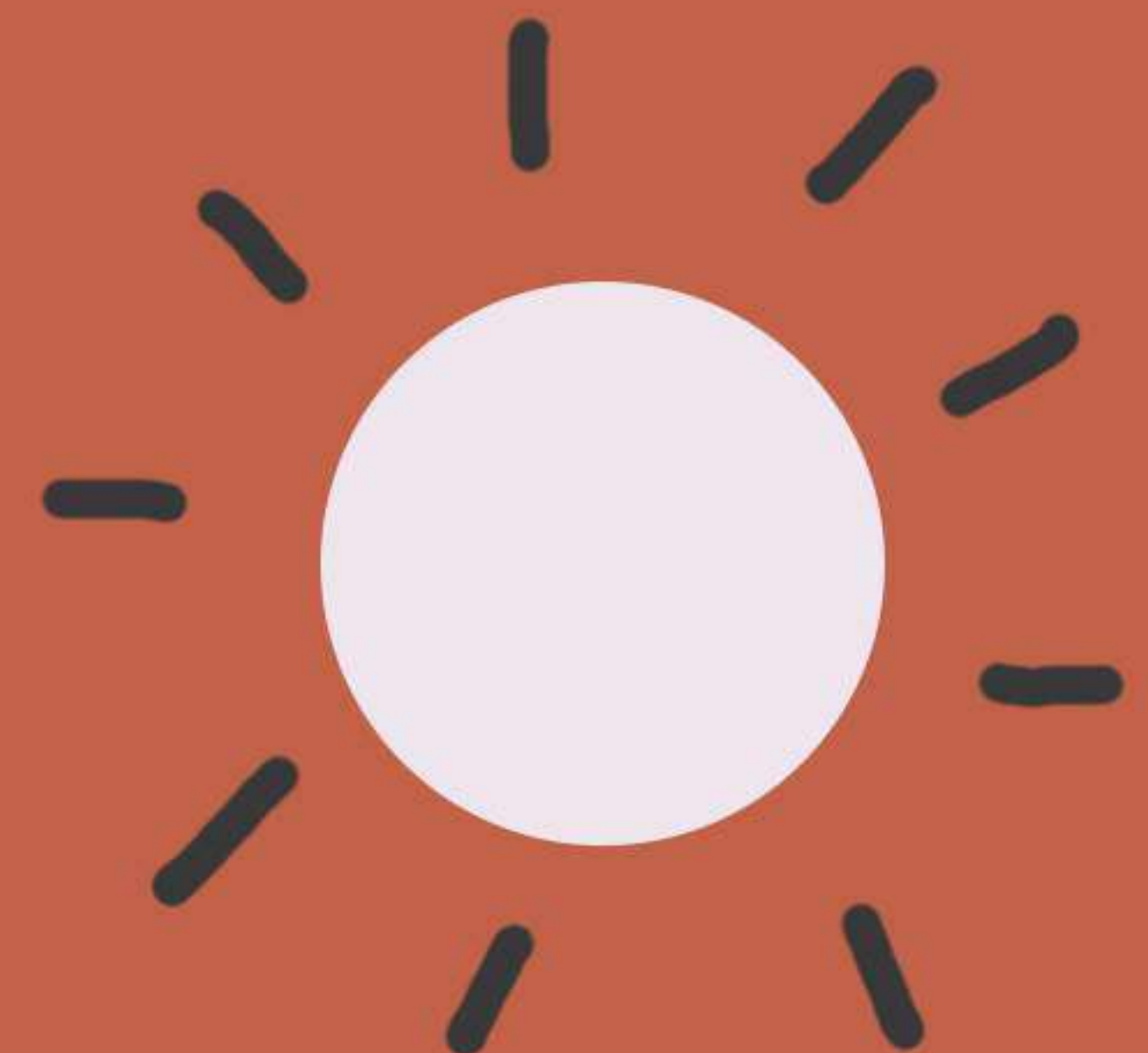


1.5 tons of rebars



5000
liters of water

60+ volunteers



**Please, bake for 29 days
under 30 °C**



C. Volunteers

A crew of 13 international volunteers coming from 7 different countries along with over 50 local volunteers, the skatepark was built in 29 days.

D. Pictures

All pictures by Ayden Stoefen





Nilton.



Bruno.



Chilly.

E. Opening Day

On December 9th, 2018, the first skatepark of Angola was opened in the capital city of Luanda, marking the end of five weeks of construction. With speeches, skate clinics, competitions, live music and drinks, the inauguration proved a jam-packed day of fun and celebration for local youth and the Angolan skateboarding community.

The day kicked off with an opening ceremony attended by government officials and media. Heartfelt speeches were heard by the administrator of the local municipality, sports officials, as well as representatives from Concrete Jungle Foundation (CJF) and our local partners Angola Skateboarding Union (ASU).

After a much cheered ‘Let’s skate!’ from the Administrator, the park was opened for its first proper skate session. With hundreds of skateboarders, roller skaters, children and bewildered parents on-site, as well as tunes blasting and drinks on the house, the atmosphere at the youth recreation centre was no less than ecstatic.

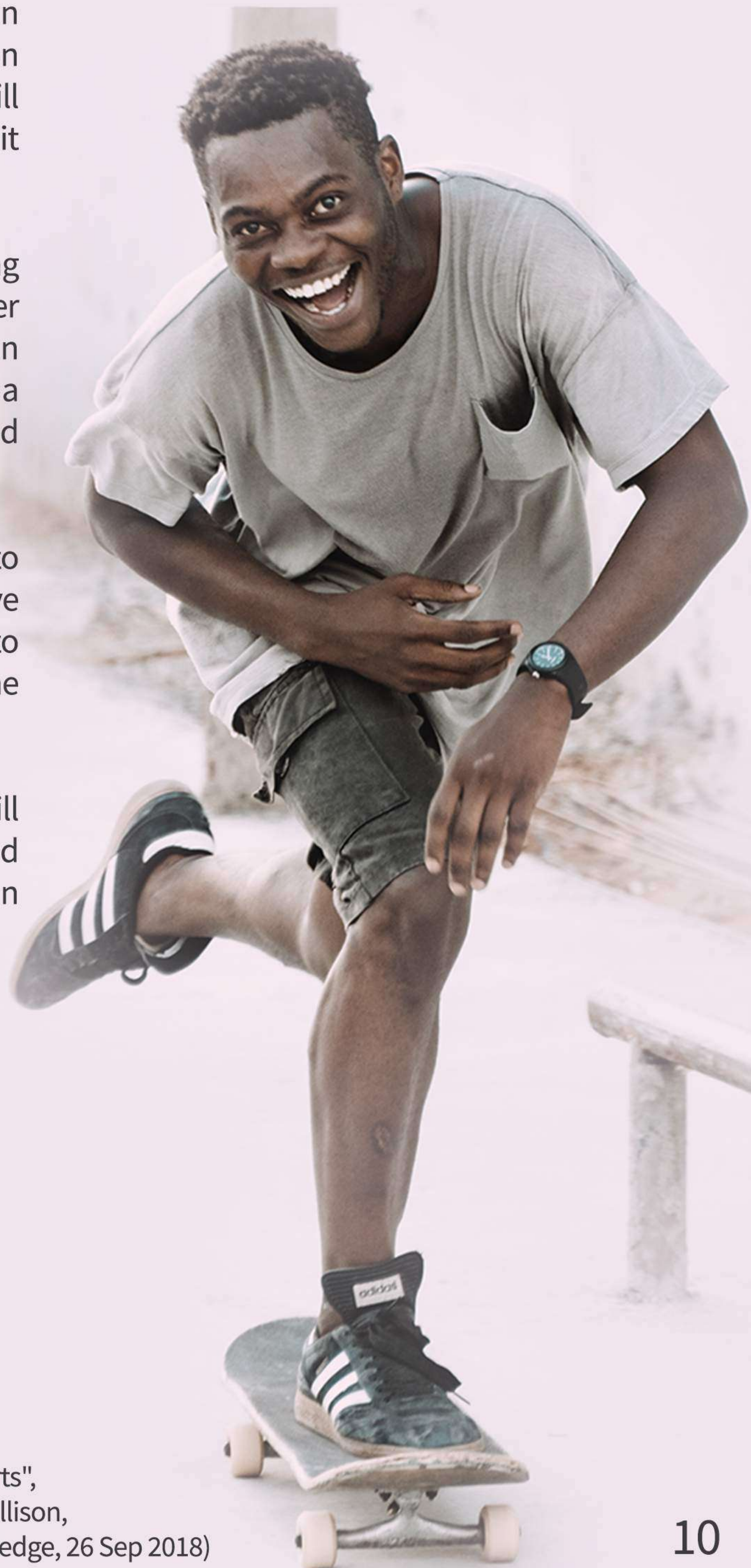
At the same time CJF’s Programme Director and ASU’s teachers taught the basics of skateboarding for enthusiastic kids. Unsurprisingly, dozens of children from the neighbourhood and the local youth shelter were eager to get on a board, so the skateboarding clinics were running on overdrive on the concrete football pitch next to the skatepark.



F. Benefits and Future

As a free-of-charge, professionally-built athletic & social space for youth, the Luanda Skatepark is poised to provide numerous benefits to the skateboarders, local community and the country as a whole.

- As a project and programme realized and operated under the complete ownership of young Angolans, the skatepark and its ongoing operations will continue to serve as a central hub for engagement, ownership and agency amongst local youth.
- Action sports are increasingly recognized to be an exceptional tool for promoting positive youth development and psychological well-being¹. As an athletic space specifically geared towards action sports and underprivileged youth, the skatepark will provide this invaluable support for those that need it the most.
- In contrast to most traditional sports, skateboarding does not categorize or discriminate based on gender or age - everyone partakes simultaneously and on an equal basis. As a result, the skatepark represents a gender-neutral zone, promoting equality and sound gender relations.
- As the country's first skatepark, the site is set to substantially increase the number of active skateboarders in Angola, which in turn is bound to create commercial value and impact through the creation of a new market for skateboarding goods.
- Perhaps most importantly, the Luanda Skatepark will provide a designated community space for play and fun in an environment where these are far and few in between.



1. Thorpe, Holly, Nida Ahmad and Neftalie Williams, "SDP and action sports", in Routledge Handbook of Sport for Development and Peace ed. Holly Collison, Simon C. Darnell, Richard Giulianotti and P. David Howe (Abingdon: Routledge, 26 Sep 2018)

3. Programme

A. Edu-skate explained

The Edu-skate programme was developed in response to the global phenomenon of children growing up in poor and underprivileged circumstances, often leaving them with very scarce (if any) opportunities to explore and develop their potential.

Edu-skate is a sports-based health intervention, aiming at stimulating personal development through skateboarding. In other words: valuable life education through the fun of skateboarding! The goal is to empower the children we work with by providing them with the tools to develop themselves into self-motivated and mentally healthy adults, in order to be agents of change in their lives and communities instead of victims of their circumstances.

Psychological well-being.

Edu-skate is based on the Self-Determination Theory, which states that humans have 3 basic psychological needs to satisfy for psychological well-being: autonomy, competence and relatedness. Not only does the extensive body of research on this theory show its utility in a number of different life-domains (such as education, work and physical activity), but furthermore, research suggests that these basic psychological needs are universal rather than depending on the culture you grow up in.

As a logical consequence, to contribute to psychological well-being Edu-skate focuses on developing the skills to satisfy these 3 basic psychological needs. The curriculum consists of a trajectory of 11 of these life-skill lessons. Every lesson is split in 2 parts: the first part is an organised lesson to work through a suitable skateboard activity on either a ‘competence’ life-skill, or a ‘relatedness’ life-skill. The second part of the lesson is focussed on ‘autonomy’.

With the constructive set-up of the curriculum, the students learn to apply slightly more difficult life-skills to slightly more difficult skateboarding activities each lesson. At the end of the curriculum they have worked on developing a basic set of skateboarding skills, as well as on developing multiple life-skills that lead to well-being and that they can take with them into the other domains of their lives.





Example: *In today's class we will work on the competence life-skill 'courage'. After having discussed what courage is with the students (doing something even if it scares you), they will experience this themselves in the first part of the lesson: they are going to learn to drop-in. This is a very scary thing the first time: you literally have to let yourself fall forward, which makes it the perfect activity to work on courage. After adequate support by the teachers, the students should be ready to conquer their fear and drop in by themselves. In the break the teachers reflects with the students on their experiences of courage and discuss how this can be applied to life in general. After the break it's free skateboarding time! The teachers don't give instructions to the children but only supervise their skateboarding and help out where needed. This leaves the children with space for their own autonomous decisions.*

Personal empowerment.

The self-determination theory has its foundation in human motivation and distinguishes 2 main types of motivation.

- Extrinsic motivation: a drive to behave in certain ways that comes from external sources and results in extrinsic rewards (material reward, social approval, avoiding punishment etc.).
- Intrinsic motivation: a drive to behave in certain ways that comes from within and results in intrinsic rewards (interest and enjoyment).

Since it's a critical element in cognitive, social and physical development, and the aim is to stimulate this personal development, Edu-skate's focus is on working through intrinsic motivation. An autonomy-supportive teaching style is adopted by the teachers to encourage this.

The necessary elements for intrinsic motivation are the 3 basic psychological needs: competence is needed so the activity results in feelings of efficacy (with relatedness as its feedback loop), and autonomy is needed for the activity to feel self-determined. With Edu-skate's focus on satisfying the basic psychological needs, the programme aims to foster high levels of intrinsic motivation. With this optimal motivation to achieve self-endorsed goals, the conditions are set for the students to truly get the best out of themselves!

B. Pre-programme

To prepare them for their management of the Edu-skate programme at the skatepark, the 3 months leading up to the construction of the Luanda Skatepark, 3 local skateboarders from ASU started teaching the programme in the local youth shelter CACAJ. With little activities and stimulation for the former street children in CACAJ, the skate-classes were welcomed with open arms: weekly classes served around 40 of the children with life-skill lessons through the fun of skateboarding.

C. On-site training



During the construction of the skatepark, every week ended with a seminar on the potential of the profound impact the skatepark can have for personal and community development, how to teach skateboarding and how to teach life-skills through skateboarding. The goal of these seminars was to recruit excited and motivated individuals to teach the Edu-skate programme after the skatepark's construction.

The seminars were surprisingly well attended, resulting in a motivated team of 10 teachers: before CJF left Angola, 10 local skateboarders signed a contract to teach Edu-skate for the first semester of 3 months.

D. Launch

The much anticipated start of the programme began in January 2019 under CJF's coordination: 4 days per week an Edu-skate lesson is given at the skatepark by local teachers to the local children free of charge. During the weekend open sessions open for all students of the classes are hosted to repeat and stimulate their development in skateboard- and life-skills even further.

E. Future

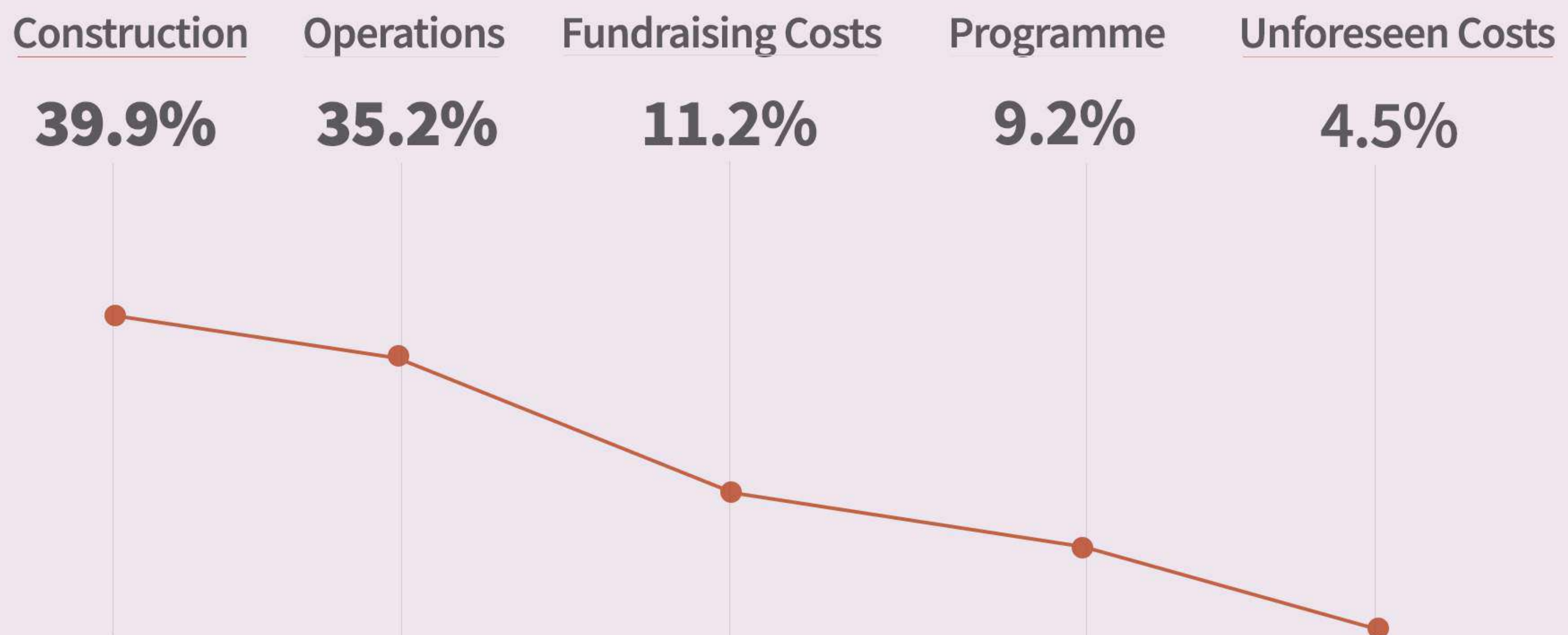
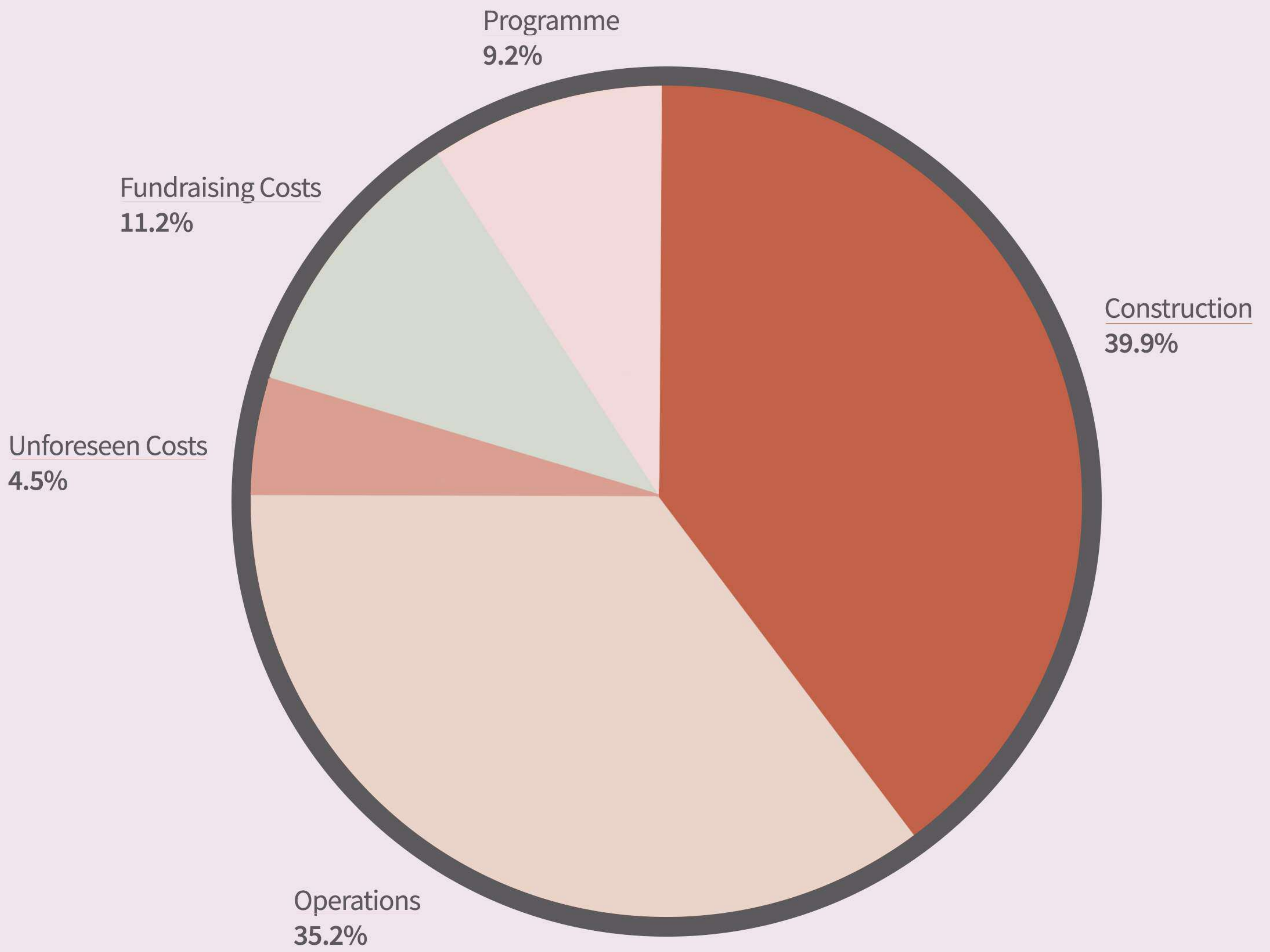
With its reach of around 50 different students every 3 months, Edu-skate is looking to introduce skateboarding and promoting personal development to 200 children in Angola the first year of its implementation.

With the programme at the CACJ youth shelter starting up again soon and possibilities to run the programme in other youth shelters as well, it also aims to reach the most vulnerable children of Angola with an opportunity to work on personal development through a fun activity.

To check up with the development of the project in person and provide any necessary support or improvements of the skatepark as well as the programme, CJF is looking to revisit it's project at the end of the second semester. The contest to close this semester will coincide with Go Skateboarding Day on June the 21st.

4. Budget

Fundraised	\$30033
Crowdfunding	9875
Events	2780
Corporate	15000
In-kind	2000
Online shop	378
Construction	\$11979.49
Materials	5420
Heavy Machinery	4809
Tools	1750.49
Operations	\$10574.7
Pre-trip	1355
Volunteers	4564
Transportation	4655.7
Unforeseen cost	\$1351
Postage fees	865
Currency exchange and transfer fees	486
Fundraising cost	\$3352.55
Marchandising	2488
Promotional Materials	864.65
Programme	\$2775.26 (all remained funds)



5. Partners

THE SKATEROOM



6. What's next

Looking ahead, CJF is committed to continue to fulfill its mission in spreading the positive seeds of skateboarding where it is needed the most. To this effect we have already set our eyes on our next two projects, which will take place in Central America and the Caribbean during the winter of 2019/2020.

- **Panama:** In partnership with world-renowned non-profit organisation Glasswing International, CJF will work to realize a skatepark and the implementation of the Edu-Skate Programme at a primary school in Juan Diaz, a low-income community on the outskirts of Panama City. The project is expected to take place in December 2019 - January 2020.
- **Jamaica:** In partnership with Flipping Youth, a volunteer-based non-profit organisation that empowers youth through action sports and the arts, CJF will work to realize Jamaica's first public skatepark in the Harbour View community, in the capital of Kingston. The Kingston Skatepark and the subsequent implementation of the Edu-Skate Programme is scheduled for February - March 2020.

