



EDUCATING CHILDREN TOGETHER

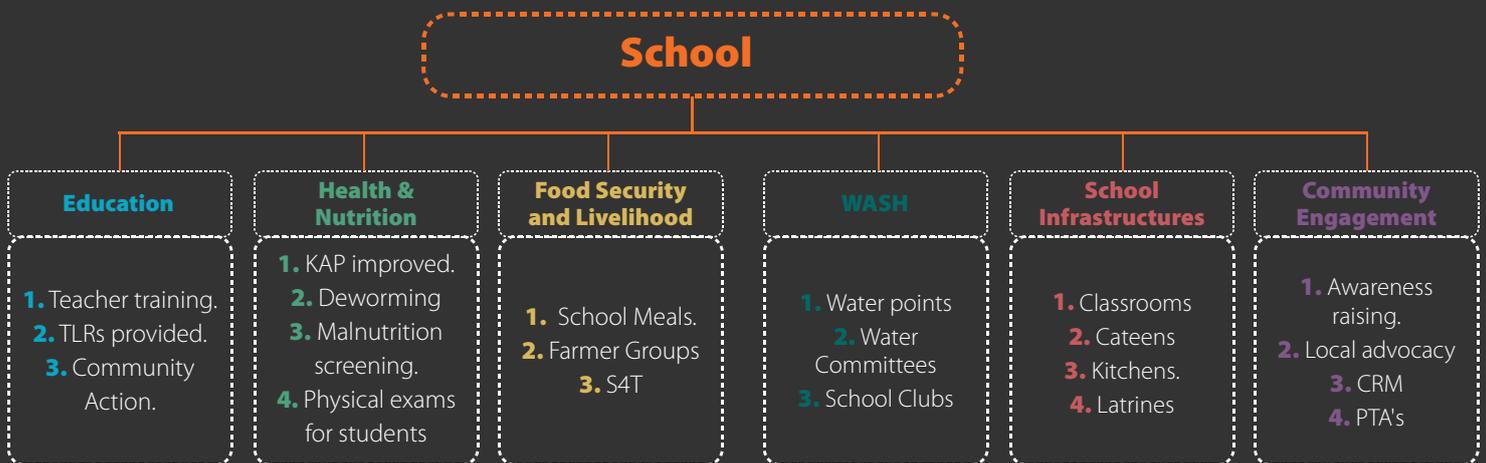
PHASE III (ECT-3)

Background on Mozambique and the Nampula Province

- » Mozambique remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with a population of 28 million in rural areas.
- » It is ranked 180 out of 189 countries on the 2023 Human Development Index.
- » At the national level, 60% of women and 32% of men are actually illiterate in Mozambique.
- » Economic access to food remains a major obstacle, specifically for the rural population with about 46% living below the poverty line.
- » The country also faces major challenges related to chronic malnutrition responsible for over a third of deaths among children under five years of age.
- » Climate change and COVID- 19 Pandemic have an outsized effect on food security, literacy and nutrition outcomes in Mozambique.

How does this program work?

- » As you know, the McGovern-Dole programs are meant to improve the literacy level of school-aged children. For our Program in Mozambique, it uses a more integrated approach, to address the holistic needs of schools and surrounding communities.





1 School Meal (commodity)

- » The McGovern-Dole programs are administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and provides U.S. agricultural commodities as well as utilize local and regional procurement to reduce hunger and malnutrition.
- » In our program, we use a corn-soy blend plus (CSB+) and enriched vegetable oil to create a school meal for 90,000 children across 160 schools.
- » So far, we have served more than 14 million daily meals to 90.000 children since the beginning of ECT-3 Project.

2 WASH interventions

- » McGovern-Dole programs also focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions by improving latrines and handwashing stations within the school.
- » This ensures that children aren't getting sick from waterborne diseases that may keep them from attending class.
- » We have built and restored wells and latrines in several of the schools as well as provided trainings on how to maintain these structures.

3 Health and Nutrition

- » Maternal Child Health Interventions, with focus on health and nutrition education, deworming for children, physical examination, tracking of nutritional status of CU5 using MUAC.
- » McGovern-Dole programs also encourages working with local farmer groups and in our program 90 farmer groups have been supported and linked to 160 schools.
- » McGovern-Dole programs also contain a critical local and regional procurement piece that allows us to partner with local farmers to supplement the school meal we are providing with local fruits and vegetables like beans, tomatoes, and onions.
- » By partnering with local farmers, we create the opportunity for farmer associations to supplement school meals with portions of their harvest. This allows the school feeding program to be sustainable and carry on after our work is complete.

4 Education Outcomes

- » Because children are being fed at school, we see attendance and retention drastically improve above 145%.
- » School meals provide a valuable incentive for families to send their children to school.
- » This is particularly true for girls who are often kept out of school to help with household chores or childcare. We see attendance and retention rates for girls improve when they are provided a school meal.
- » In addition, our program has created a conducive learning environment by constructing classrooms, inclusive latrines and canteens and improved role of communities on education.

Reading Camps:

When learning becomes an exciting experience



Carolina José, 12 years old, is a 3rd-grade student at Nathuo Primary School, in Muecate district, Nampula province, north of Mozambique. Like her peers, after class, she attends the reading camp nearby the school.

This is her routine since she first enrolled in the first grade in Nathuo, which is one of the 160 schools supported by the Educating Children Together – Phase III (ECT-3), implemented by World Vision-Moçambique (WV-Moç), in Muecate and Nacarôa districts, aiming to improve literacy learning in school-aged children.

She is confident to show literacy skills, by writing her name and the alphabet on the small board, during the reading camp session. Her commitment and dedication earned her First Place in the reading contest for the 3rd-grade category, held on June 16, during the celebrations of the International Day of the African Child.

Carolina's success results from learning inside and outside the classroom, the latter taking place in the reading camp created in the community. Here, children develop reading and writing abilities through interactive activities such as music, games, story reading, and drawing.

"Going to the reading camp helped me to prepare

myself for the reading competition. With the help of the promoters, I now can read and write", said Carolina reflecting on the benefits of the reading camp sessions.

As part of its education component, ECT-3 has promoted sessions in reading camps, in the districts of Muecate and Nacarôa, through the training of community volunteers (reading camp promoters) who lead the sessions.

"I work with the children to teach them the basics of literacy. I guide them to make the transition from our mother tongue (Emakhuwa) to the official language (Portuguese). The parents are supportive of their children efforts in reading. Also, the community leaders are active in mobilizing children to go to the school and attend our sessions", said Paulo Eduardo, reading camp promoter



The challenge of defying chronic malnutrition statistics



Nampula province, in the north of Mozambique, has the highest rate of chronic malnutrition although the region offers optimal agro-ecological conditions for agriculture.

According to the National Household Budget Survey (IOF, Portuguese acronym) for the 2019/2020 period, 46.70% of children under 5-years-old suffer from chronic malnutrition, which remains a national high. The province has been on much worse scenario, with 49.5% as per 2013/2014 reporting period.

The six children of Filomena Manuel and Costa Rafael, who live in Minicane village, Muecate district, are no longer in the risk of falling in to the statistic of chronic malnutrition thanks to the parents awareness which led to the inclusion of diversified and fortified meals.

Filomena Manuel is one of the mothers who benefits from take-home rations provided by Educating Children Together – Phase III (ECT-3) project, implemented by World Vision-Mozambique in the districts of Muecate and Nacarôa.

For the past two years, she and her children have been receiving Corn Soya Blend plus (CSB) and vegetable oil

on regular distributions.

This year was not different. Filomena, woke-up before sunrise and arrived early in the distribution site, located in the health post of Minicane. She went with her youngest daughter Bélvia, 3-years-old, who is fed with these highly nutrient foods.

“One day the volunteers from the Community Health Committee were making door-to-door visits and they announced that I was eligible to be a beneficiary of food distribution since, at the time, I was breast-feeding my daughter. Therefore, I’ve took my identification documents and completed the process of registration”, Filomena explained.

The father of the household, Costa Rafael, is also a volunteer of the local Community Health Committee and, with the information obtained in trainings provided by World Vision, he support Filomena’s efforts in prioritizing high nutritional food for the children.

Both parents rejoice that their children are healthy. Besides Bélvia, her older siblings have access to CSB+ in school during lunchtime. “My children have increased weight and they are strong because we provide them fortified meals,” said the father.