School desks help increasing quality of education

“A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed” - Henrik Ibsen

The practice of “Good deeds” is one ethos of WVMozambique’s staff. This goal does not only apply to our work with children and communities but is also part of our staff practice, how we interact and support each other as WVMoz staff.

We have entered a new era in our organization, serving our customers, strengthening the current systems, improving on accountability, building trust and practicing truth telling – all this along with capitalizing on new opportunities. WVMoz, due to its disbursed operation, has been utilizing an internal weekly newsletter to insure that all of the offices are informed about current initiatives and challenges.

It is also an excellent venue to share stories from the various provinces. Our commitment to improve communication also includes our external stakeholders. Thus we are launching a bi-monthly newsletter aimed to inform our support office colleagues and friends of current events in WVMozambique. We trust that you will enjoy hearing about our work in Mozambique and we look forward to your feedback.

WV-Mozambique is currently operating in 4 out of 11 provinces of Mozambique, namely Nampula, Zambezia, Tete and Gaza distributed in the country main regions north, central and southern regions. 2 of them; Nampula and Zambezia are the most populated of the country almost. There are currently 106,000 registered children and its operations benefit directly and indirectly 3.5 million people.

US $61 million Ogumaniha Project: under implementation in Zambezia province.

On going wheat monetization: US$ 13 million generated last year for agricultural recovery, health & nutrition and resilience.

US $51 million Global Fund, fighting Malaria: Implementation due to initiate soon in three provinces: Tete, Zambezia and Nampula in the first phase.

More than thousand children of Saua-Saua Area Development Program in northern Mozambican province of Nampula are now studying in comfortably conditions, following the provision 200 double school desks to three primary schools.

More than having pupils sitting on desks they will encourage them to continue going to school, thus reducing the number of children who drop school for lack of encouragements and increase the country’s literacy objectives.

"It was hard to study sitting on the floor because my back always hurt," says Elio Paulo Sousa, 14, grade 7. "Sometime we could leave home clean and return all dirty because of the dust on the floor. With school desks we can now sit comfortably and we will no longer feel that pain," he added.

According to the Education Ministry, 700,000 children are studying outdoors this year in the country due to lack of properly equipped schools, thousand children from Saua Saua ADP, are no longer part of that list, an initiative expected to continue.

For Albertina das Dores, 14, other pupil also in grade seven, the new desks means quality in education. "It was quite hard to write sitting on the floor and as result my handwriting was bad. I am now improving," she said.

The school desks were delivered on the 1st June during the International Children’s Day celebrations.
It wasn’t for sure if Maria João, a 12 months baby was going to survive, her mother Fátima Sousa could not produce enough human milk strongly recommended by health authorities for babies in the first six months. Fátima Sousa is married and she is a mother of 7 children she recalls having problems to produce milk during the first three days of her last baby Maria João.

But thanks to World Vision nutritional education she is now recovering. “When she was born, the first thing a noted is that she was very small and thin. I tried to breastfeed her, but I could not produce milk for the first three days. “I started to have milk in the fourth day, but a week after it stopped again and it was like that for the following five months.”

Fátima says she tried everything she could to save her babe’s life, including consultations with traditional doctors she was unsuccessful.

Desperate to save her life, Fatima, tried everything. “I did not know what was wrong with me. For sometime a thought I had bad spirits and went to see traditional doctor without success”.

Through World Vision Mozambique nutritional education programs Maria was trained on how to prepare nutritious meals for babies under the age of five, which was fundamental for her babe recovering process.

“I started to make ‘enriched porridge’ for my baby girl, as I was trained by World Vision. I used to buy some sugar, eggs, cornflower, and peanuts and cook them. Sometime after, she started to recovery her body.”

Fátima Sousa visible happy with her recovered dauther Maria João

“From that moment, mothers from the village who heard about my baby girl were somehow amazed with her recovering, because most of them thought she would not survive. They wanted to know the miracle of my child recovery, what I was giving to her. I explained that it was all about enriched porridge, and everyone wanted to know to prepare these meals.”

Fatima is presently part of a group of 49 trained mothers who are advocating for the cause of children malnourished in the community, teaching their fellows methods for preparing nutritious meals for the children.

“We contribute some foodstuff we produce locally in our farms and put together; then we mobilize our mothers, especially pregnant women, and teach them how to prepare meals. Normally we do it at churches, hospitals and boreholes where there is people concentration”.

- In the last two months Saua Saua Area Development Program carried a number of activities among them, distribution of irrigation cans for five farmers groups as part of the communities food security programme for vegetable plantations in Namila, Teterre, Chicamalala, Muchico Sede and Napera. Provided fruit trees to Muchico primary school and Saua-Saua Administrative Post.

- In health and HIV&AIDS, two Community Care Coalitions CCCs, were provided with one bicycle ambulance each for better assistance to needed people.

- In the education project, Saua-Saua assisted 41 ADP students from Namapa and Marere Secondary schools (with school fees and material), in addition to that as part of the partnership with the local education department, two coordination meetings were held.

- With 12 U.S dollars, 4 dollars each, it is possible to prevent a family of 6 people from getting the water born disease malaria one of the main killer diseases in Mozambique, purchasing 3 mosquito nets that last for a period of 4-6 years.