



**SUPPORTING
BETTER SCHOOLS**
Making classrooms
a great place to learn



Promoting every
child's right to read

SUPPORTING BETTER SCHOOLS in Mozambique

Final Report

June 30, 2022

During the past 2 years we (have) had several challenges, but the support provided by the BETTER Project made it easier to overcome them as we received various materials for teaching and learning and also materials that help to keep personal and collective hygiene of the school.

Ms. Minerva, Teacher, Cuanine Primary School (Manhiça District)

CODE AT WORK IN MOZAMBIQUE

CODE has been working in Mozambique for over twenty years in collaboration with our local partner, Associação Progresso, and the Ministry of Education and Human Development. Our current work is with four teachers' colleges and 61 schools in which teachers in training conduct their practica. These colleges and schools are located in four provinces: Maputo (the capital), Tete, Niassa and Cabo Delgado.

In these schools, there are hundreds of teachers and thousands of students striving to do their best under challenging conditions. Most schools are located in rural communities where the majority of parents are farmers, day-labourers or market-sellers - families that were already poor before the pandemic, lost ground during the lock-downs and now high inflation is hampering their economic recovery.

The *Supporting Better Schools* initiative was developed in the midst of the pandemic in direct response to urgent requests from schools for more learning and hygiene resources. Associação Progresso consulted with the leadership of the schools and the Ministry to identify and prioritize the most important items that the schools needed.

Even though the pandemic has now waned, schools are wisely enforcing extra cleaning and hand-washing practices.

The schools that received these resources will continue to be participate in other CODE programs; the books, teaching aids, school supplies and cleaning supplies will be utilized in an integrated fashion to improve the quality of teaching as well as support the acquisition of literacy skills. More than ever these primary schools will be positive learning spaces not only for the children who attend but for the teachers in training who come to prepare for their own careers as effective teachers.

ACCOUNTING FOR YOUR INVESTMENT

Your gift was instrumental in ensuring we could fully meet our commitments to the primary schools in Mozambique. The total budget of \$212,919 was raised from generous supporters like you and used to directly support these schools with material items.

Your contribution helped schools receive a complete set of books, school supplies and cleaning materials. Thank you!

YOUR IMPACT

We are pleased to report that all of the items have been distributed to the 61 primary schools and four teachers' colleges in four different districts in Mozambique. Initially the plan had been to distribute items to 62 primary schools but since last year, one school has been dropped because it has been privatized.

In Cabo Delgado, the resources were provided to schools hosting children displaced by the insurgency that has been going on for more than four years.



Books

Public primary schools across Mozambique suffer from a lack of high quality, culturally relevant supplementary reading books. We know that without good books to read, children will struggle to learn to read and succeed in school.

Each of the 61 primary schools and four colleges received 54 copies of nine different titles. Six titles are aimed at lower primary and three titles are upper primary although it is widely recognized that even at upper primary, there are many students who are reading at a much lower level than they should be.

All the books portray the culture of Mozambique, have been vetted by the Ministry of Education and Human Development and were printed in-country by a Mozambican printing house.

Each school also received three totable book boxes to move the books among the classrooms and even outside when classes meet under the trees.

The books for Tete and Cabo Delgado, after being printed in Maputo, were transported first by plane and then by road to reach the schools. Many of the books traveled more than 2000 km to reach their final destination - no small feat in any country but in a country with poor roads and infrastructure, it is especially challenging.



School Supplies

As planned, each of the primary schools received 400 notebooks, 500 pencils, 50 rulers, 50 erasers, and five sets of teaching aids that are specially designed to teach reading and writing in Portuguese (the national language). To turn otherwise empty walls into learning spaces, each school was given 30 boxes of chalk, 2 paint brushes and 2 cans of blackboard paint. All of these items were purchased in the regions in which they were distributed to reduce transport costs and support the local economies.

Hygiene and Cleaning Supplies

Each school received 100 masks, 72 large bars of soap, 2 thermometers, 2 mops, 2 brooms, 2 litres of disinfectant, rubber gloves and 10 buckets with taps that are used as hand-washing stations. These materials were also purchased regionally. All these items are being used to support good hygiene and provide a safe learning environment for teachers and students alike.





OBRIGADO - THANK YOU!

Please know that we are deeply grateful for your support in supporting improved literacy and education in Mozambique!



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