A META!
Small Grants, Big Impact

On Tuesday, December 16 all of the SGPM grant recipients met with Program Manager Quisito Bastos Gimo Gimo in Chimoio, Manica for a management workshop.

In December, after a half-year of implementation, the Lurdes Mutola Foundation’s Small Grant Program in Mozambique (SGPM) passed a serious benchmark when LMF’s Board of Directors approved 14 micro-level, youth-led projects with grants ranging between 20,000.00 MTN ($816) and 100,000.00 MTN ($4,081). Out of more than 30 funding applications, these 14 projects, which are all working within the Manica Province districts of Chimoio, Manica, Sussendenga and Gondolam, distinguished themselves with creative yet realistic approaches to small-scale community development.

Taken together, the approved projects form a diverse, multifaceted group. There is, for example, a street theatre performance troop that will concentrate on HIV/AIDS awareness, DJs that will organize rural community radio programs, and a team of courageous women committed to training deaf children (an at-risk population) how to avoid, report, and sensitize their community to sexual abuse. Funding gender and sexual and reproductive health projects is a new and exciting challenge for LMF.

With SGPM, LMF’s program directors have created a new model of dynamic and integrated intervention that places young people at the epicenter of community outreach. LMF then concentrates on providing financial support and the managerial and technical training necessary to carry out or strengthen the proposed projects. This process requires participating groups to first assess their needs and those of their community, and then address these problems with a spirit of partnership and a feeling of community ownership.

Many of the youth associations working in rural Manica have either started only in the last one or two year or, if longer, have never had access to funding. These first-time grantees must work hard to improve the internal capacities required to ensure the sustainability of their associations. They are nevertheless poised to make a giant leap forward as informal organizations. LMF is proud to support their individual and institutional growth.

“As Program Officer of SGPM and a young person myself,” says Quisito Bastos Gimo Gimo, who is currently based in the city of Chimoio, “I humbly admit to having joined others in bemoaning the lack of occupational opportunities available in Mozambique instead of finding those opportunities that already exist.” Mr. Bastos has led LMF efforts to increase youth and community led projects in gender and sexual and reproductive health since July. “I know that planting, growing, and harvesting the fruits of a project like SGPM will take time and effort. I hope, however, that the 14 approved projects will serve as an example to others, and that with time they’ll recognize that they are ready and capable to create jobs and develop communities on their own.”
A CENTRAL PART OF THE DDV PROGRAM IS THE Craque! MANUAL (SEE COVER BELOW), WHICH HELPS COACHES PLAN OR IMPROVE TEAM TRAINING SESSIONS. "Craque" is an informal Mozambican term for a star—the best player on the field—but LMF uses it more generally to refer to all those hardworking, self-motivated youths with improving physical health and body habits.

Craque! can be downloaded from the Foundation’s website at www.flmutola.org.mz/programs/sports/desporto-da-vida/

LMF and Dutch Embassy Expand “Sport Gives Life” Program

On December 1st, LMF and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mozambique teamed together in the growing field of sports for development by signing a three-year 200,000.00 EURO agreement that will allow the effective “Sport Gives Life” pilot program to expand into two districts within the Nampula Province.

The Foundation has been implementing the program in the Gute District of Zambézia Province with funds provided by OXFAM Novib, and now has the financial resources to expand into three more districts of Zambézia. In sum, this new agreement with Frans Bijvoet and the Dutch Embassy will allow LMF to implement DDV in six Mozambican districts.

More than a mere training regimen, DDV and the Craque! manual were originally conceived as engaging catalysts of youth behavioral change. Soccer is by far the most popular sport in Mozambique for both boys and girls, and can thus be harnessed as a vehicle to ameliorate attitudes regarding health and hygiene. From AIDS awareness to understanding the importance of regularly using a mosquito net as an anti-malarial measure, our program helps coaches and mentors improve their practices, teams and, most importantly, young individual players, by tapping into the will to win that exists within every aspiring athlete.

For long-term self-sustainability purposes, DDV has also developed a corporate social responsibility campaign called Passa Bola, or “Pass the Ball,” through which companies donate percentages of certain products that contain the Passa Bola logo or contribute a lump sum. LMF then provides companies with use of the Passa Bola slogan and collective marketing materials while donating soccer balls to Mozambican communities in need, making sure that balls are never the limiting factor for those children that want to play or train.

Mutola Biography Launched!

“My Life in 1 minute, 55 seconds and 11 hundredths of a Second”

After two years of research and collaboration between the Foundation and Millennium bim, the official biography of Maria de Lurdes Mutola is finally ready for the reading public. With over three hundred pages of text and stunning images spanning the gold medalist’s entire life and athletic career, this biography has the power to inspire any reader of any age or nationality. The Foundation would like to congratulate its own Mukulina Soares, who served as the internal manager and principal liaison of this project.

If you are interested in acquiring a copy for your personal library or that of your organization or corporation, copies will be made available through the Foundation’s website with a donation of $100 or 2,500 MTN, which will be used to support current and future Foundation projects. If interested, please contact us at flmutola@flmutola.org.mz. Please remember that delivery fees may apply.
A META!

FIRST MEETING OF FOUNDATIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE
SOURCE: ALLIANCE MAGAZINE, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2008

Thirteen foundations, including six international ones, participated in national meetings of foundations in Mozambique in July and September, the first meetings of this kind in the country.

The July meeting was convened by the Lurdes Mutola Foundation (FLM) and the Foundation for Community Development (FCD). The Synergos Institute identified Rebecca Raposo, a member of Synergos’ Senior Fellows Network from Brazil, to prepare the agenda as well as facilitate the meeting. Synergos has played a long-standing role in the capacity-building of Mozambique’s philanthropic sector, and its Senior Fellows have provided technical assistance to this and other innovative initiatives that are building partnerships to address poverty and social injustice.

Opportunities for exchanging knowledge and experiences are much needed in Mozambique, given the weak tradition of philanthropy and the dominant ‘learn as you go’ approach to grantmaking, but few Mozambican foundations had previously participated in such forums. In the course of the meeting, the participating foundations realized that they were not isolated – many had not realized so many foundations were active in Mozambique. They were able to identify common goals and values, which they saw as a first step towards joint action in the future. They also discussed the opportunities for establishing a permanent working group and its potential impact on the foundation sector in Mozambique.

LMF “SPOTLIGHT”: SARITA SIMONE

Sarita Simone is one of the young professional female athletes that the Lurdes Mutola Foundation has taken under its wing. In November 2008 she traveled up to Gurue, Zambézia to lend her soccer expertise to the rapidly expanding “Desporto da Vida” program.

In three or four sentences, introduce yourself. Where are you from? How old are you? What is your profession? What team do you play on? When did you start to play soccer? Etc.

My name is Sara Jacob Simone. I’m from the Province of Niassa (the capital, Lichinga). I’m 24 years old, I’m a student, and recently I signed with the Falcon Brazilian Team, a professional soccer club in South Africa. I started my career in 1997 with the club “Sporting 25th of June” in Mozambique.

What do you do for the Lurdes Mutola Foundation?
How did you meet Maria de Lurdes Mutola?
I have been a beneficiary of LMF for close to four years. To begin with, the Foundation has encouraged my efforts by providing lots of moral support. Secondly, the Foundation has helped me financially, allowing me to continue my education and covering my travel and communication expenses. I met Lurdes when I was 14 on a soccer field, in a Maputo City All-Star game held at Maxaquene Field. Since then, alongside the Foundation, she’s personally been giving me moral and professional support.

What are the challenges you have confronted as a Mozambican athlete? Which were the hardest? How were you able to overcome these challenges?

A female athlete certainly confronts many challenges on the way to becoming a professional athlete here. The biggest obstacles for me were all the biases and preconceptions I faced as a female and trying to navigate a route to professionalism that was not clearly laid out. To overcome these issues I needed to be determined, humble, and persistent, dedicating myself to my studies and training sessions.

Why do you think it’s important for young Mozambican girls to participate in sports? What values and abilities did you learn through sport?

Girls who succeed or just participate in athletics learn far more than sporting values. They learn moral values and are better able to resist domestic violence, rape, early marriage, etc. For me, Lurdes helped to change my mentality. I want to follow her example!

Why do you enjoy working on the Desporto da Vida (DDV) project?

I see DDV as a way for me to help out my people and my country, especially Mozambican women. I believe that kids can make themselves a better future through sport. Even if a girl is not a champion soccer player, leaning about things like marriage, planned motherhood, and domestic violence can make her a champion at life!
“META” IS PORTUGUESE FOR “Finish Line.” At LMF, we believe that development can only occur with a clear objective in sight. Our work aims to help Mozambicans visualize that endpoint, and then achieve their personal, communal, and national best.

Maria de Lurdes Mutola is often ranked as the greatest female 800 m runner of all-time. After 20 years, from the 1988 Olympics in Seoul to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, “The Golden Lady” finally decided to phase out her athletic career and focus even more of her energy on developing the country she loves.

- Mais Escola Para Mim Update -

On December 10th and 11th, LMF completed MEpM’s 2008 selection process in the rural villages like Motaze and Panjane (left). Meanwhile, in Magude, the construction team continues to prepare the new dormitory site (right) for the 8th and 9th grade girls that will be arriving in late January 2009.

Visit LMF and FLMF Online
www.flmutola.org.mz - www.youngmindsofafrica.org

About Our Organization

The Lurdes Mutola Foundation, a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization was founded in 2001 in Maputo, Mozambique. It now works in five of Mozambique’s eleven provinces.

The Foundation is chaired by Maria de Lurdes Mutola, Mozambique’s only Olympic gold medalist. The thematic areas of its programs are: education, sports, culture, and entrepreneurship.

Vision

A society that recovers the self-esteem, initiative, entrepreneurship, solidarity, and the sense of leadership of youth, with a view to their professional, social, intellectual and physical development, while simultaneously creating bases for its sustainability.

Mission

Promote and facilitate the empowerment and development of youth, encouraging them to awaken their entrepreneurial spirit, their creativity, initiative and their physical and intellectual capacities, through working in partnership with interested organizations and communities.