

A META!



**AJUDAR,
APOIAR,
E CONSTRUIR
MOÇAMBIQUE
+
HELP,
SUPPORT,
AND BUILD
MOZAMBIQUE**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- MEPM UPDATE
- DDV KICKS OFF
- WOMEN TEACHER'S IN MOZAMBIQUE
- LMF SPOTLIGHT: VANIA TEMBE
- LMF NOW ONLINE

MEPM BUILDING ON SUCCESS



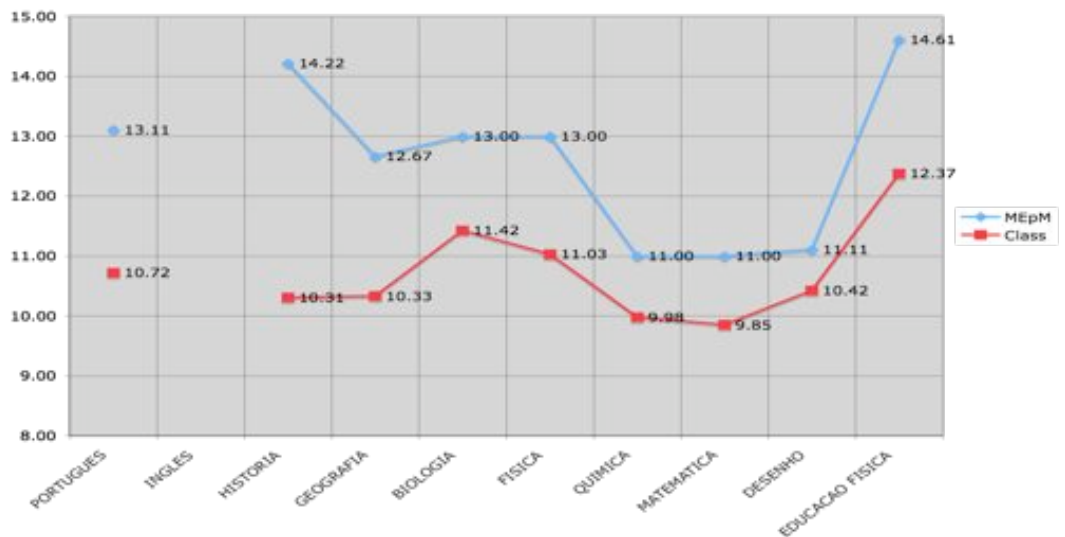
CELEBRATING THE GIRLS' ACHIEVEMENT WITH AN ALL-FOUNDATION END OF THE YEAR BANQUET.

The 2008 academic year is now over in Mozambique, and LMF and the Mais Escola Para Mim (MEpM) scholarship girls have much to be proud of. All 18 of the scholarship recipients passed their examinations and plan to reenter the program for 9th grade. As students, they consistently outperformed their secondary school classmates in every subject (see graph below for a second trimester comparison). As a group of housemates, they formed strong bonds of friendship and grew as independent young women.

The Foundation has already begun construction on its new dormitory site. Situated alongside the tree-

lined school road, this custom-designed facility will allow MEpM to house two classes of scholarship recipients at a time. A team of builders will be working hard throughout November, December, and early January to have everything prepared by the time MEpM 2009 begins.

LMF coordinators are also working with local school officials to recruit applicants from the most rural areas of the Maputo Province, thereby providing a secondary school opportunity to the girls who need it the most. Logistical planning is already underway to ensure that Year 2 builds on Year 1's success.



THE MEPM GROUP AVERAGE WAS HIGHER THAN THEIR PEERS' AVERAGE IN EVERY SUBJECT IN TRIMESTER 2. NEXT YEAR WE WILL FOCUS ON IMPROVING SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS, AND ESPECIALLY ENGLISH (NO TEACHER).

DESPORTO DA VIDA KICKS OFF

REFLECTION BY DDV PROGRAM MANAGER MURILO OLIVEIRA

Desporto da Vida (DDV), or “Sport Gives Life,” is a program that uses the most popular pastime in Mozambique, soccer, to promote health education in Mozambique. The program harnesses every coach’s will to win to create better players by changing their attitudes about health, in particular HIV and Malaria. The program utilizes a “*Craque!*” manual made explicitly for coaches working with 8 to 16 year old children that introduces games that help to create star players by developing their skills on and off the field.

“GIRLS THAT ONCE HAD TO ARGUE WITH THEIR PARENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS AND PHYSICAL HEALTH ARE NOW MAKING DDV SESSIONS PART OF THEIR DAILY ROUTINE. IT’S ONLY THE BEGINNING, BUT ALREADY WE’RE SEEING A CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR.”

The biggest challenge I face as Program Manager of Desporto da Vida (DDV) is organizing the community of Gurue and aligning it with some sort of regular schedule. Unfortunately, in the past many of our local partners did not receive adequate behavioral support. They may have been given funding or material from distant donors, but they did not learn the importance of regularity in projects related to social, physical, or educational development. In this early phase of implementation LMF Gurue is addressing this problem by arranging meetings, dropping in on practice sessions, and providing constant in-field feedback to volunteers and participants. We’re trying at the moment to outline the basic shape of the training regime, building step by step with the *Craque!* manual and gradually introducing more of the educational and life skills components.

We’re also committing ourselves to public divulgation: letting everybody in the community know about who we are and what we’re trying to do. To facilitate this process we struck a partnership with the local radio station and have a newsletter coming out soon. We hope this will not only assist the Foundation in reaching its objectives but also provide volunteers and child participants with an avenue to share opinions, suggest improvements, and share information.

We’re slowly starting to see results. People visit our

office and stop members of the staff while walking on the street to ask questions about the Foundation and DDV. They want to know more about our work and how they can join in.

One of our goals is to add 75 new volunteers to our project by the end of the year. This will require that we host three volunteer training sessions and will ensure that we cover the entire district of Gurue. It’s a serious logistical challenge because of transportation constraints, but we’re working with the local government and using our on creativity to make it happen.

Field rehabilitation is another issue we’ve started to confront, specifically in communities that have not yet established a definitive space for children to practice and play.

In general, the feedback from community members has been very positive. They say we really are contributing to the elevation of sport at the local level. Children that never even saw a proper soccer ball and now playing with one regularly. Girls that once had to argue with their parents about the importance of sports and physical health are now making DDV sessions part of their daily routine. It’s only the beginning, but already we’re seeing a change in behavior.



EUSVENCIO SULVAI (RIGHT), A NEWLY MINTED LMF TÉCNICO, LEADS A COED PRACTICE SESSION AT ONE OF THE MANY “POLO” FIELDS IN GURUE.

MOZAMBIQUE LAMENTS LOW PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN STUDENTS

(SOURCE: AFP, OCT. 8, 2008)

Maputo, Mozambique - Mozambique's Professional Education Reform Executive Commission Monday [October 6th] lamented the low proportion of women students and teachers in Mozambique's professional education institutions.

The report of a study on the gender situation in five out of the 16 institutions covered by a pilot phase of the professional education reform, showed that 80 per cent of the students are male and only 20 per cent female.

According to Eugenia Rodriguez, of the consultative group that carried out the study, among the reasons for this imbalance was that only a small number of girls meet the requirements for entering for professional education training.

However, there is also an alleged lack of interest among girls for professional studies, linked to gender stereotypes in the family, while on a practical level, housing for girl students is described as "precarious".

"There are socio-cultural factors that determine the poor participation of girls and women, such as the reproductive role that is socially linked to women, or the perception that technical and professional specialisms such as electricity, welding or mechanic are for men, because women are destined for domestic chores," Rodriguez said.

On educational performance, girls on professional courses have high drop-out and failure rates, because of premature marriages, discrimination, even in the

class room and sexual harassment by teachers.

The study concluded that the number of women teachers in professional education had scarcely increased between 2005 and 2007.

"Only 20 per cent of the teachers in the professional schools and institutes and 14 per cent in the training centres, are women", said Rodriguez.

Likewise, when it comes to management positions, over three quarters of these positions in the professional training institutions are held by men.

Perhaps even worse is the bias against women graduates from professional education.

The study found that women graduates had much greater difficulty in obtaining jobs than their male counterparts; it blamed this partly on "lack of motivation", but also said there were few apprenticeships for women in industrial companies and that many companies are simply reluctant to hire women.

The study called for material incentives that would attract more girls into professional education, which could include improved accommodation, free school equipment and exemption from enrollment fees.

LMF "SPOTLIGHT": VANIA TEMBE

Vania Tembe, a native of Maputo City, is twenty-five years old and works as an administrative assistant for LMF in Maputo. She joined the LMF team in 2007. October was a busy month for Vania personally and professionally, but she still managed to find some time last week to sit down with her friend Kevin Block, the Foundation's Princeton in Africa Fellow, for *A Meta's* inaugural "Spotlight" interview.

Why do you like to work for the Lurdes Mutola Foundation? What is the best part of your job? What types of things have you learned since beginning with LMF?

The best part about working for LMF is that it is a staff comprised almost exclusively of young people. No offense to older people, but I prefer younger colleagues. This is my first real job and introduction into the professional world. I have learned so many new things. Recently, I changed sectors to work in the Finance Department, which I enjoy even though a little mistake could cause a big problem.

In your opinion, what are the greatest obstacles that prevent a young Mozambican woman from becoming a professional?

The biggest obstacle is motivation. It's difficult just finding an opening for a job like this, and then once you've found your chance you really need to fight to become a professional.

You recently became engaged. Is it true that you prepared cow heads for your engagement party? What did that involve? Is this type of entrée normal?

It's true. I prepared two cow heads with my brother, but it's pretty easy. You only need to clean the heads and cook them in water. We also made an appetizer with beef, tomato, and onion. Some people—especially those that like alcohol—like to prepare heads with wine, but I prefer just water. And yes, of course this is normal!

What are your plans after marriage?

I intend to continue my studies in either Portuguese pedagogy or public relations. Also, I would be very happy to have two kids with my husband-to-be.

LMF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
BRUNO MACAME MACAME

DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
GABRIEL FOSSATI-BELLANI

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE:
VICTORINO ADRIANO

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS:
LINA BELTRAN



VANIA AT HER "APRESENTAÇÃO" IN LATE OCTOBER.



“**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 MOZAMBICAN EXPRESS” FINALLY DECIDED TO PHASE OUT HER ATHLETIC CAREER AND FOCUS EVEN MORE OF HER ENERGY ON DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY SHE LOVES.

LMF AND FLMF NOW ONLINE

No matter where you are in the world—in the fields of Nampula Province or walking the downtown streets of San Francisco—the Lurdes Mutola Foundation is now only an internet signal away.

Gabriel Fossati-Bellani, Director of Institutional Development at the Foundation and in-house webmaster, put in a summer’s worth of hard programming work and content mining to make this portal a reality. It’s very much a project still in progress, but www.flmutola.org.mz is a way for LMF to maintain transparent operations and publicize a worthwhile endeavor, both to the Anglophone and Lusophone worlds. At this address you’ll be able to learn about the LMF staff, download media related to our programs and activities, sign up for an e-Newsletter

(which presumably you’ve already done), apply for a small grant project, download Foundation documents like the strategic plan for 2008-2012, and much, much more. In the future we hope to include links to program-specific blogs. It’s the next best thing to buying a plane ticket and flying to Maputo, not to mention much cheaper!

And while you’re online, head over to www.YoungMindsOfAfrica.org, the new and impressively design website for the Friends of the Lurdes Mutola Foundation (FLMF). Many thanks to all the FLMF board members for spreading the good word throughout the United States, and especially to Cristina Ballerio (Treasurer) for regularly volunteering her time to update the site with new content.

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.



LMF IS RAPIDLY EXPANDING. CURRENTLY WE WORK IN THE PROVINCES HIGHLIGHTED HERE IN ORANGE.