

CHILDREN'S REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD IN MOZAMBIQUE

February 2023

PRESENTATION

As children were the main focus of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children, with the support of adults, we were given the opportunity to organize ourselves and write our own report, which we called the Children's Report on the Implementation of the African Children's Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Mozambique.

Our opinion about this process

In addition to the comments during the validation meeting, we decided to hear the feelings of some of us individually about the process and content. Below are some of the opinions.

❖ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the adults for their support in this process, we acknowledge that it was important to have the involvement of several children of our vast Mozambique, but first and foremost we would like to say that we want our thoughts and opinions to be respected and reflected in the report, in our child language in the form of how we express ourselves, which is why the methodology used in the process of preparing this report was interactive, participatory and from child to child.

❖ REPORT

Methodology

1. Education

1.1. What do we like and think is positive

1.2. What we don't like, negative things that exist in our schools

1.2.1. Access to school and attendance

1.2.2. school equipment

1.2.3. school environment

1.2.4. teachers

1.3. what do we children suggest

1.3.1 Access to school and attendance

1.3.2. school environment

1.3.3. school environment

1.3.4 . teachers

2. Child Protection

2.1 positive aspects

2.2. negative aspects

2.3 suggestions

3. Health

3.1. positive aspects

3.2. negative aspects

3.2.1. quality of services

3.2.2. infrastructures

3.3. *suggestions*

3.3.1. quality of services

3.3.2. infrastructures

4. Right to Play and Leisure

4.1. positive aspects

4.2. negative aspects

4.4. suggestions

5. Food and Nutrition

5.1. positive aspects

5.2. negative aspects

5.3. suggestions

6. Child learning and participation

6.1. positive aspects

6.2. negative aspects

6.3. suggestions

7. Environment

7.1. positive aspects

7.2. negative aspects

7.3. suggestions

8. Other

8.1. positive aspects

8.2. negative aspects

8.3. suggestions

METHODOLOGY

The collection of children's opinions was done by children. Thus teenagers in the country were trained on methodologies and techniques for collecting information from children and these children, in turn, trained other teenagers who later collected information in their neighbourhoods and schools. The Children's Report is attached to the Supplementary Report of Civil Society Organizations.

The tools we used to collect information and opinions from other children were: (i) use of digital platforms, for training and collection (Zoom, WhatsApp, SMS,) a questionnaire was organized to collect information about what children liked from January to October (positive) what they didn't like from January to October (Negative) and their suggestions to improve the situation; And a dream for Mozambique.

Number of children and locations covered:

The voices of 1400 children between 10 and 17 years old (760 boys and 740 girls) from 10 provinces were heard.

Tete Province (City of Tete and Municipal District of Ulongue in Angónia)

Cabo Delgado Province (Chiúre, Mocímboa da Praia, Moeda and Pemba City)

Niassa Province (Lichinga, Cuamba, Mandimba)

Zambezia Province (Municipal City of Mocuba and District of Milange)

Manica Province (Municipal Village of Manica)

Nampula Province (Municipal City of Nampula, Municipal City of Nacala-Porto and Island of Mozambique)

Sofala Province (Beira City, Districts of Dondo, Nhamatanda, Marromeu)

Inhambane Province (Municipal City of Inhambane)

Gaza Province (Municipal City of Xai-Xai)

Maputo Province (Municipal Cities of Maputo and Matola).

Nature and groups of consulted children

The consulted children were aged between 12 and 17 years old and, in addition to children who are members of the Children's Parliaments, children assisted by members of the Rede da Criança and children from other child participation platforms, the consultation was carried out with children living in the environmental affected areas, street children, children on the move, children with disabilities and orphaned and vulnerable children. Therefore, the message below reflects the opinion and feeling of the diverse group of children.

❖ EDUCATION

❖ 1.1 Positive aspects

❖ *What do we children think is positive.*

- ❖ We talk about rights and duties at school on Wednesdays;
- ❖ We enjoy our rights: Study and play;
- ❖ We enjoy education, new friendships with others and all the subjects we study;
- ❖ We like it because colleagues who dropped out went back to school;
- ❖ This year, classes were not interrupted due to Covid 19;
- ❖ We like it because a new school was built;
- ❖ We made several study visits;
- ❖ We are glad that we learned to speak Portuguese;
- ❖ We like going back to school after not studying for a while due to Covid and adopting new ways of studying;
- ❖ Teachers' performance and patience in teaching;
- ❖ We are very happy that our school won the Olympics;
- ❖ Our parents have been very supportive with our studies and homework;
- ❖ We really like it when our schools are rehabilitated, we improve when it rains;
- ❖ There are workshops in schools, so that students do not consume alcoholic beverages, do not smoke and also talk about violence after consumption;
- ❖ We have more desks in schools, so we no longer sit on the floor;
- ❖ We appreciate the inclusion of pregnant teens in daytime classes;
- ❖ Bathrooms were built in our school;
- ❖ We like the opening of some new schools;
- ❖ We like it because we get scholarships.

❖ 1.2 . Negative aspects

What we don't like, negative things that happen in our schools

❖ Access to school and attendance

- ❖ Children without the opportunity to attend school;
- ❖ We don't like being without face-to-face classes;
- ❖ My friend dropped out of school because of her pregnancy;
- ❖ There is poor school performance on the part of girls, due to pregnancies and premature marriages;

- ❖ We don't like to see other colleagues not attending classes due to lack of uniforms and school supplies;
- ❖ In our school sometimes we don't have classes due to lack of teachers;
- ❖ We don't like the fact that our district doesn't have enough high schools for every child;
- ❖ There are children who dream of going back to school, but due to lack of conditions, they end up getting involved in many risks for themselves, such as child labour;
- ❖ It bothers us that there are no inclusive schools in almost all provinces;

❖ **Equipment and school supplies**

- ❖ There is a demand for many brochures in schools, as some cannot afford the brochures;
- ❖ There was a reduction in academic subjects and days of weekly classes;
- ❖ The semester was not very productive because not everyone had access to online classes
- ❖ Lack of computers in schools;
- ❖ We need desks at our school;
- ❖ We do not have libraries in schools;
- ❖ We don't have all the textbooks;

❖ **School environment**

- ❖ Despite the return of classes, we don't like to see students studying outdoors;
- ❖ Poor hygiene in school bathrooms contributes to various diseases;
- ❖ We don't like to see cases of premature unions increasing in schools;
- ❖ Lack of ramps in schools;
- ❖ Bullying persists in schools;
- ❖ We do not like the assaults and harassment that we have suffered in schools;
- ❖ Some children experienced violence in schools;
- ❖ There is a lack of sports activities at school;
- ❖ There are children who stay on the street not worrying about their studies, but drugs.

❖ **Teachers**

- ❖ There is a lot of corruption in schools;
- ❖ It is not good to see students dating with teachers;
- ❖ Some of our teachers do not explain lessons well;
- ❖ There is harassment by teachers;
- ❖ We suffer violence from some teachers;
- ❖ Lack of professionalism on the part of teachers;

❖ **Other**

- ❖ There is little concern on the part of parents in solving their children's exercises;
- ❖ We don't like going to school because we have to walk 12km every day We don't like going to school because we have to walk 12km every day;
- ❖ The insurgents brought disgrace to many children who missed the school year;
- ❖ Some children did not study due to lack of space in the classes;
- ❖ We didn't like the class period during Covid there was little studying time;
- ❖ The fact that they are short courses, there is a lot to learn and time is really short;
- ❖ Not having taken into account that there was an important subject that was not introduced in the year 2021;
- ❖ Have more extra-curricular activities in schools so that students interact with teachers and make classes more interesting.

❖ **1.3 Suggestions**

What do we children suggest

Access to school and attendance

- ❖ Creation of study groups to improve marks;
- ❖ We suggest that girls dedicate themselves to their future and their studies;
- ❖ That we have more children in school;
- ❖ We ask for the creation of centres in primary schools;
- ❖ May the children be more united and friendly;
- ❖ Qualified professionals;
- ❖ More time for face-to-face classes;
- ❖ We ask the government to sensitize parents about the importance of going to school
- ❖ They should hold workshops in communities and schools so that girls do not drop out of school;

❖ **Material and Equipment**

- ❖ That the school gives us all the material necessary to take the exams;
- ❖ More availability of books on digital platforms;
- ❖ Conditions must be created for us to return to classes;

❖ **School environment**

- ❖ Create more discussions about drugs;

- ❖ A debate between students and teachers always;
- ❖ Improvement of public schools and better conditions for children to study;
- ❖ That next year we can go to school to celebrate Children's Day;
- ❖ Sensitize teenagers about pedagogical use and the advantages they can have;
- ❖ Monitoring the level of quality, especially in the most remote areas;
- ❖ The school should improve the water channelling in the bathrooms;
- ❖ Improvement in the academic system (building schools, extracurricular activities, encouraging street children to make use of their right to study);

- ❖ **Teachers**
- ❖ Put an end to cases of harassment in schools, which causes some children to get involved with teachers;
- ❖ Talk to the teachers so they don't hit the children;
- ❖ We ask teachers to be more serious and committed to their work;
- ❖ In schools, teachers must be made aware of the consequences of corruption;
- ❖ Better teacher training;

- ❖ **Other**
- ❖ May we have more workshops in schools, neighbourhoods and localities;
- ❖ We would also like to see some school groups dealing with early marriage, human rights, sexual and reproductive health;
- ❖ Have cheap transportation to school;

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Positive aspects

- ❖ *What do we children think is positive.*
- ❖ We like child protection in the context of COVID19;
- ❖ Children no longer go around selling on the roads anyway;
- ❖ Solidarity with displaced children in the Cariaco neighbourhood;
- ❖ We like the work done by the PRM-Police of the Republic of Mozambique in the fight against child trafficking;
- ❖ We liked that they arrested a man who raped a child;
- ❖ The collection of children in premature unions to be entrepreneurial forms;
- ❖ We like to see elders respecting children's rights;

- ❖ Reduced cases of premature unions in my district and built infrastructures that defend the interests of the child;
- ❖ We like to know that there are people and organizations here in the city that are concerned with helping and guaranteeing the well-being of people and especially of homeless children;
- ❖ Associations that help for the well-being of children, all in rural areas.
- ❖ The opportunity to train girls in the technical area given by the company Electricidade de Moçambique;
- ❖ We are pleased to know that the Government Officials and Save The Children are really committed to educating children and safeguarding children's rights;
- ❖ We like to see that children really have an active participation;
- ❖ All children had the right to receive the vaccine;
- ❖ We liked was to see that many girls now have access to school and that they go to school;
- ❖ We would like to see more engagement in the fight against child marriage;

❖ **Negative aspects**

❖ ***What we don't like, negative things that happen in our schools***

- ❖ We don't like to see many cases of violence against women and minors under 18;
- ❖ Attacks in Cabo Delgado, children living in terror in Cabo Delgado districts;
- ❖ Increase in pregnancies of girls between the ages of 13 and 15 years;
- ❖ We don't like it when a mentor from a group that fights premature unions gets involved in a premature union;
- ❖ The increase in the child labour rate;
- ❖ Sexual rape of minors;
- ❖ Discrimination against albino children and teenagers;
- ❖ Poverty in remote areas;
- ❖ Seeing children or young people giving themselves to men and using their bodies to acquire goods;

❖ **Suggestions**

❖ ***What do we children suggest***

- ❖ What I suggest to improve that I didn't like is: more dissemination of law 19 to prevent and fight premature unions;

- ❖ Improve security, that is, there should be more movement of PRM agents;
- ❖ Support families and children who are suffering the direct impact of the war in Cabo Delgado;
- ❖ Light up neighbourhoods and streets;
- ❖ That there is no racial discrimination;
- ❖ We suggest that the Government and other Organizations in particular Plan International continue to do the good work which is to create some clubs for the eradication of premature marriage;
- ❖ They must punish parents who make their children do child labour;

HEALTH

- ❖ **Positive aspects**

- ❖ *What do we children think is positive.*
- ❖ Inauguration of the district hospital;
- ❖ The opening of a pharmacy;
- ❖ We liked the distribution of mosquito nets which perhaps helped a lot in my neighbourhood in reducing malaria;
- ❖ We liked that they rehabilitated the hospital;
- ❖ Promotion of sexual and reproductive health services for the youth;
- ❖ Compliance with the measures implemented by MISAU for students will reduce the level of respiratory diseases caused by dust and other microorganisms;
- ❖ We like to have hygiene and good treatment at the hospital;
- ❖ Being able to talk to others about STDs;
- ❖ We always hear a warning about premature marriage at graduation;
- ❖ The government is very concerned about the health of children, we follow the on-going campaigns about the vaccine.

- ❖ **Negative aspects**

- ❖ *What we don't like, negative things that happen in our schools*

- ❖ **Quality of services**

- ❖ There is a shortage of water;
- ❖ Bad service in hospitals;

❖ Lack of medication for patients.

❖ **Other**

❖ We were disappointed with the increase in the rate of malnourished children in rural areas;

❖ It was when a neighbour gave birth to a girl who was born sick and she also had health problems;

❖ The number of people infected with HIV is rising all the time

❖ See children with chronic illnesses

❖ **Suggestions**

❖ *What do we children suggest*

❖ **Quality of services**

❖ Improving access to medicines

❖ **Infrastructure**

❖ Improvement of health facilities

❖ Construction of a new hospital in our district

❖ **RIGHT TO PLAY AND LEISURE**

❖ **Positive aspects**

❖ *What do we children think is positive.*

❖ Dissemination of children's rights and duties through theatre;

❖ We like to play ball;

❖ In our neighbourhoods we like to see children putting into practice their knowledge, such as modelling, sewing and building toys with wire and cans;

❖ Children are now allowed to participate in neighbourhood meetings.

❖ **Negative aspects**

❖ *What we don't like, negative things that happen in our schools*

❖ Not playing ball with friends;

❖ We didn't have a party on the 1st June;

❖ Ignorance on the part of adults to respect and value the child's opinion;

❖ **Suggestions**

What do we children suggest

- ❖ Construction of amusement parks, places that can accommodate all children;
- ❖ That there is more awareness and appreciation of children's rights;
- ❖ That there is availability of transport so that we have access to rural areas.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

❖ **Positive aspects**

What do we children think is positive.

- ❖ We made vegetable gardens, planted onions, carrots and garlic;
- ❖ There are more water pipe sources in our city;
- ❖ We like it because we receive a basic kit in the community;
- ❖ Food donation.

❖ **Negative aspects**

❖ *What we don't like, negative things*

- ❖ Hunger;
- ❖ There are children who do not go to school due to lack of food;
- ❖ Chronic malnutrition;
- ❖ Involvement in prostitution as a guarantee of food;
- ❖ Search for food in garbage containers;
- ❖ Search for iron in the neighbourhood in order to guarantee money for food;
- ❖ We haven't eaten for days and it's hard to go to school hungry;
- ❖ There are children who suffer abuse, child labour to be able to feed themselves.

❖ **Suggestions**

What do we children suggest

- ❖ That the government create food baskets in order to help the most disadvantaged children;
- ❖ Creation of small businesses for disadvantaged families;
- ❖ That there are more nutrition and food programs;

- ❖ We ask for government support in school meals.

CHILD LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

❖ Positive aspects

What do we children think is positive.

- ❖ TVM has been broadcasting the teleescola program;
- ❖ We like to be part of the children's programs on Rádio Moçambique and Televisão de Moçambique;
- ❖ We like the initiative that Plan International took to put girls in school;
- ❖ We liked the workshop that were made to put an end to early pregnancies, and the awareness that was also made to fight premature unions!
- ❖ We were given the opportunity to learn how to cook at the cooking school;
- ❖ We had the opportunity to take a language course, and we improved our English;
- ❖ We like the creation of groups that go around neighbourhoods talking about sexual and reproductive health;
- ❖ I enjoyed joining the Children's Parliament;
- ❖ What we like is that we learned more at (AMODEFA) Mozambican Association for the Development of the Family to guarantee the protection of our rights, fight premature marriages and more;
- ❖ We had the opportunity to teach literacy to other children and teach them what we know.
- ❖ We enjoy working in the children's parliament, giving talks at resettlement posts;
- ❖ We like it because there has been people walking around schools talking about the menstrual cycle;
- ❖ We sensitize girls to stop dating and focus on her studies;
- ❖ I liked it when I participated in a radio debate talking about sexual and reproductive health;
- ❖ We like to see children in debates with government officials, because it's good to know that their participation and opinion is already being considered;
- ❖ Join a youth organization in my city;
- ❖ We managed to have the opportunity to participate in the theatre about reducing early pregnancy;

- ❖ We like to know that the children's voice is heard and that each of us doing our part can improve the future of many children;
- ❖ We like to be with the boys from the club *Roda viva*,
- ❖ The interaction we had from child to child.
- ❖ We enjoyed participating in a SADC regional children's meeting;

❖ **Negative aspects**

What we don't like, negative things that happen in our schools.

- In some places we don't have freedom of speech
- The Zambezi government officials don't give us the freedom to participate, they decide matters that concern us for us

❖ **Suggestions**

What do we children suggest

- That there is more inclusion of the child in decision-making in which he is involved

ENVIRONMENT

❖ **Positive aspects**

❖ *What do we children think is positive.*

- ❖ Cleaning done in the villages, and at the school in the environment;
- ❖ Increased green space throughout the city;
- ❖ We like it because there are already garbage containers in the neighbourhoods;
- ❖ Schools are evolving little by little, they are becoming cleaner and less sloppy;
- ❖ Cleaning inspection in markets;
- ❖ Improvement of environmental sanitation;

❖ **Negative aspects**

❖ *What we don't like, negative things that happen in our schools.*

- ❖ The garbage disorder in the city;
- ❖ The cyclone in Beira;
- ❖ Environmental pollution and recycling;
- ❖ Lack of hygiene in the school bathrooms;
- ❖ The wildfires;

- ❖ Increased temperature;
- ❖ The deaths caused by climate change (cyclone);
- ❖ Stop cutting trees;
- ❖ The cyclone taking place here in the city of Nampula;

❖ **Suggestions**

❖ *What do we children suggest*

- ❖ Improve roads in neighbourhoods and streets;
- ❖ We suggest that there be awareness-raising lectures on caring for the environment. We believe that the solution is not to always clean, but simply not to get dirty;
- ❖ Create more garbage deposit fields (trash bins);
- ❖ With regard to cyclones, we ask the government to be more prepared to avoid further disasters.

❖ **OTHER**

❖ **Positive aspects**

❖ *What do we children think is positive.*

➤ **Public infrastructure**

- ❖ More schools;
- ❖ Road safety;
- ❖ Improvement of health conditions;
- ❖ (EDM) Electricidade de Moçambique should work more on the energy for all project;
- ❖ More sports practices;
- ❖ That there are more basketball and futsal fields;
- ❖ Construction of schools for these children, the well being of the Child must be a priority;
- ❖ Ask the government for minimum road conditions to allow good circulation of vehicles;
- ❖ Construction of more shelters or orphanages for children in need;
- ❖ In the case of kidnappings, I see that, for example, in Beira an anti-abduction group has already been created to help these people;
- ❖ Creation of more information dissemination methods;
- ❖ I suggest that corruption be reduced, since there is a shortage of schools, health centres;

➤ **Conflict and Peace**

❖ *Suggestions*

What do we children suggest

- ❖ More vigilance to end attacks in Cabo Delgado;
- ❖ I suggest that there be peace;
- ❖ That Marginality be reduced;
- ❖ That Mozambique is a truly independent country;
- ❖ Find these terrorists and not come here anymore;
- ❖ Ask the government for more light on the roads, because this is the type of place where bandits like to act, sexually violating girls among other problems;
- ❖ To improve living conditions in that northern region of our country, the armed forces must take defensive measures, making it possible to end the insurgents and deaths in Cabo Delgado;
- ❖ Support victims of attacks;
- ❖ I suggest that we help those who are in the zones where the war is taking place.