

Friday 19th March, 2010

Mozambique

CUARESMA **40** días para cambiar el mundo

Capital: Maputo
Population: 21,812,551 h
Adult literacy: 44%
Life expectancy: 42



Reaching out to grow

Something is changing in Mozambique

The Marrupa district, in the province of Miassa, is one of the most isolated zones in the 6th poorest countries of the world.

From the year 2000, the Mundukide foundation has been working for the integral development of the district, using a combination of public and private funds.

Since their work began, they have been able to reduce by a considerable margin the isolation experienced by some 40,000 people, more than 500 families have managed to obtain micro loans for developing agriculture, more than 400 families have begun working with smallholdings, and dozens of people have had the opportunity to create their own businesses.



At the beginning of the Marrupa programme, the local administration was instrumental in placing communication as a priority. Across the whole district, there was a dire shortage of roads to get to the rural villages. In effect, those communities were completely isolated.

After 6 years of hard work, by the end of 2009 almost 100% of the district of Marrupa was accessible (everyone has a road at less than 30 minutes from their house).

The network of roads is creating positive knock on effects for the local population. For example, sales of agricultural products have multiplied by 4, becoming the single most important source of income for families. Also, the attendance at school has improved, along with visits to the local health centres. There has also been an increase in the establishment of new markets and micro businesses in the rural zones.

Both the local population and the local administrations have participated in the manual tasks involved.

Another interesting aspect of the programme was the establishment in 2006 of an agricultural credit programme. Since its inception it has undergone various changes: at first, the credits were in kind, then it passed onto being financial. There have been a total of 8 campaigns since it began.

After each campaign, the number of clients has steadily increased. There has also been a steady increase in the participation of women in the programme, and there is also a noticeable increase in the trust and joint responsibility between the farmers and the programme.

When the Marrupa programme began its work, there was no extended production of crops, nor was there any type of irrigation system. In 2005, via the programme, farmers from other regions were brought in to show local farmers techniques on sowing, tending and irrigating. The results obtained have been astonishing.

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You can change your environment

It's easy to forget the richness that can be gained just by engaging with other people. We need each other to grow, and much more so when we are experiencing difficulties. When faced with a problem that affects us individually or as a group, we tend to run away from groupwide solutions, which are in fact the most effective.



Think about a problem that affects your class, family or office and look for a group wide solution, where each person has a role, and everyone is indispensable.

Prayer: «Joseph did what the angel of the Lord told him»

Lord, I want to learn the silence of Joseph, who trusts and complies with the will of God without questioning it. Put me in your hands; help me and those around me to do Your will.

Matthew 1:6.18-21.24a: