

EDUCATION in MOZAMBIQUE

New buildings – new teachers

Imagine classrooms made out of sticks and branches tied together as walls under a thatched roof. That was the state of the primary school in the Cahorra Bassa district in rural Mozambique, where Bento has been the headmaster for the last four years. The huts were small so the children had to crowd together. When temperatures soared to over 40 degrees in the warmer months, the classroom felt like an oven. Not only were the huts not conducive for learning, few teachers could be encouraged to stay for long.



Before: The old thatched roof classroom was crowded and very hot.

As part of a larger community development project, World Vision helped build a new school building. There are now eight classrooms, all with brick walls and tin roof. The community played a big part in the construction. Women and children carried sand and water to the site while the men provided labour.

Basic facilities are not only essential to children's learning, they also help to retain teachers who have been posted to remote rural areas. Two new teachers have arrived at the school and enrolment has risen to 400 students.

Training teachers – better education

Education is always changing because the world around us is always changing. In order to deliver quality education, teachers need to upgrade their own knowledge and skills regularly. The lack of resources in many developing countries makes this a challenge.

In another part of Mozambique, World Vision has set up a learning centre with the collaboration of the Ministry of Education. This centre is located in the province of Gaza and provides teachers in the area with opportunities to upgrade their qualifications.

This new initiative is welcomed by teachers, who would otherwise have to travel to major cities to improve their qualifications. Now they can attend these training courses without having to leave their work area. Fifty teachers have enrolled in the course, which consists of over 60 lessons led by two qualified tutors.



After: Children in the community are looking forward to their new classroom.



Most of the teachers in Mozambique are men. A great advantage of this new initiative is the opportunity it offers to female teachers to improve their skills while remaining in their home area. With more qualified female teachers in schools, there'll be more female role models for students. Families will also see the advantages of sending their daughters to school.

World Vision and Education

In developing countries, World Vision and other non-government organisations are working with communities to improve the education outcomes for all children. This is achieved by:

- training school teachers in developing countries
- building new schools and classrooms
- helping families understand the importance of education for their children
- providing school furniture and materials
- helping communities produce curriculum that is relevant to their culture
- lobbying the Australian Government to increase overseas aid for education projects

For you to do

1. How would these activities improve the education outcomes for children in developing countries?

- Training school teachers
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- Building new classrooms
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- Helping parents see the value of education
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- Increasing Australian Government aid to education projects in developing nations
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