



Work with school councils (SCs) to improve girls' education in Mozambique¹

Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) partners worked with School Councils (SCs) in Mozambique, supporting them to use locally tested approaches to address obstacles to girls' education, such as early marriage and pregnancy.

Through training and constant support SCs are becoming a forum where communities and parents 'meet' with the formal structures of education, and the formal structures meet with the communities. Hence, locally tested approaches are being employed by SCs' members aimed at increasing girls' enrolment, increasing girls' retention and reducing incidences of abuse. For instance, Mahlahle - Associação Para a Promoção e Desenvolvimento da Mulher (Mozambican Association for Promotion and Development of Women) continued to make a difference by working with communities to tackle factors hindering the participation of vulnerable children in education, and to improve coordination between the school and the community on these issues. Furthermore, training of SCs' members conducted by Mahlahle and LDÇ - Liga dos Direitos da Criança (League of Children's Rights) included specific activities aimed at improving girls' education. The following are examples of such activities and their specific outcomes:

Organisation	Problem	Action	Outcome
LDÇ - Liga dos Direitos da Criança (League of Children's Rights)	Girls leaving school because of pregnancy (Morla Primary School – Nante, Gogone, Namuinho, Sampene, in Zambézia)	Community members of the school council working with the girls and parents	All pregnant girls returned to school
	Girls dropping out due to early marriages (Mugoloma, Zambézia)	The setting up of girls' club at school	Reduction of number of girls dropping out
	Sexual abuse (Sampene, Zambézia)	Community member denounced the perpetrator	Perpetrator imprisoned
Mahlahle - Associação Para a Promoção e Desenvolvimento da Mulher (Mozambican Association for Promotion and Development of Women)	Girls dropping out in Funhalouro district due to domestic chores	Workshop with members of school councils to look for ways to reduce the problem	Local solutions and specific actions suggested for each case at the workshop
	Parents complain that girls at school were unable to learn domestic and life skills (Funhalouro, Massinga)	School councils proposed the inclusion of needle work and other domestic subjects into the local curriculum	Girls able to acquire certain life skills at school

¹ Edited extract from: Alderuccio, M. (2008). *CEF Mozambique End of Project Evaluation*. pp33-34. Available at: <http://www.commonwealtheducationfund.org/resources.html>