Community Engagement In Bilingual Education

BACKGROUND
Mozambique has made remarkable progress expanding access to primary education. From 1975 to 2018, the number of primary schools increased from 1,000 to 12,768, and enrollment has more than tripled to over 6.5 million students currently. Unfortunately, the educational quality did not improve with increased access to schooling. In 2016 only 4.9% of children achieved the required reading and writing skills, dropping from 6.3% in 2013. Global evidence shows that most children who attend school in resource-deprived contexts learn to read better in the language they speak at home. Since only 1 in 10 Mozambican children speak Portuguese at home, providing bilingual education in early grades is critical to improving reading. The government of Mozambique has made bilingual education a priority, but implementation has been difficult due to a lack of training for teachers and understanding among parents and communities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
This program supports improved reading skills for early grade students by empowering parents and communities to engage in reading activities with their children and push their schools to deliver higher quality services to students. Activities include providing parents and guardians practical tools and techniques to help their children at home in reading and math, establishing reading corners led by community volunteers, and creating community dialogues about gender and girls’ rights to education.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS
The activity will improve the literacy skills of 15,000 children across 760 schools and communities by:

- Improving community and parental knowledge of the importance of using local languages in early grade reading, writing, and math.
- Providing opportunities for school councils, parents/guardians, and communities to support and engage with early grade reading, writing and math interventions in the home and community.
- Introducing techniques that enable school councils and communities to address the loss of instructional time delivered to children in target schools
- Effectively monitoring gender equality in education, early marriage, and gender-based violence at the school and household levels effectively.

Goals:
Raise parent and community awareness of the importance of bilingual education and strengthen school council’s role in holding teachers and administrators accountable for improved reading outcomes

Life of Activity
July 2020 to July 2023

USAID Funding
$2.6 million

Geographic Focus
Zambézia Province

Implementing Partner
Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitacao da Sociedade Civil (CESC)

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