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UNICEF EDUCATION

Case Study

MOZAMBIQUE

Accelerated Learning Programme improves children's learning in humanitarian settings

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Since 2017, Mozambique has been facing widespread displacement due to [ongoing insecurity in the northern provinces](#). Cabo Delgado is the most affected Province with approximately 870,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), of which 55 per cent are children. Children have been leaving school because of insecurity, the lack of teachers, and inadequate learning spaces. The COVID-19 school closures further disrupted children's education leading to significant learning losses. To support affected children's catch-up on lost learning, an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) for primary school-age children was developed and implemented in 2022 in the Metuge and Chiure districts, two districts with the highest population of IDPs. The ALP was informed by Mozambique's Contingency Plan 2020–2021 for displaced people in the North of the Country and by Mozambique's Strategy of Preparedness, Response, and Recovery of Education in the Emergency Sector (2021–2029), which highlights that all school-age girls and boys affected by any emergency must be provided with access to inclusive, safe and quality education.

UNICEF together with the DPE (Provincial Education Directorate) of Cabo Delgado and the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Terres des Hommes, started by identifying and working with 30 schools with the goal of reaching 22,000 children. The School Management Committees' support of the ALP program was instrumental and included setting up 45 temporary learning spaces in or nearby these schools and encouraging parents to support their children's active participation in the ALP. In addition, school management committees agreed to focus on literacy and numeracy to re-align children with their age-appropriate grade levels. Formative assessments were used to identify children who needed remedial classes and catch-up lessons. Children in and out of school were given access to learning opportunities through the 45 ALP community-identified learning spaces. Learning environments were equipped with teaching and learning materials and classroom furniture. Recruited tutors and coaches supported 225 teachers with the provision of learning activities.

RESULTS

- **42,030 children** (23,000 girls) were reached through the ALP in 30 schools, as well as **2,747 out-of-school children** (1,274 girls).
- Out of the children enrolled in the ALP, **31.44 per cent** (53 per cent girls) improved their literacy skills and **49.61 per cent** (56 per cent girls) improved their basic numeracy skills.
- **225 teachers (86 women), 45 tutors (18 women), and 30 coaches (10 women)** received training to lead catch-up and remedial classes.
- So far, **1,337 children (551 girls)** have enrolled in the ALP for the 2023 academic year.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Creating learning spaces within the school premises leveraged the engagement of out-of-school children.** Children who had not attended school were able to participate in the ALP and eventually go back to school.
- **School management committees** were essential in successfully motivating children's engagement and active participation in the ALP. The committee led community-sensitive activities such as home visits and afternoon recreational activities which motivated parents to support their children's enrolment and attendance in the ALP.
- **The endorsement of the local education authorities** was critical in securing support for the ALP within the schools and the community.

NEXT STEPS

UNICEF is **advocating** at the provincial and national levels to include the ALP as a part of the strategy to support children affected by emergencies and out-of-school children. UNICEF is also working with Terres des Hommes in the creation of a toolkit that instructs teachers on how to lead remedial and catch-up classes. The toolkit can be circulated for future use by schools and school management committees among other partners and local authorities working to enact **ALPs**.

Cost effectiveness: UNICEF invested USD594,318 in the 9 months ALP programme, which benefitted 42,030 children, at a unit cost per child of USD**14.14**.