



Six-monthly Interim Report

Date of report: December 2014

Project and Country: Provision of Pre-School Education, Oasis Mozambique

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Overall aim

The project aims to improve children's educational attainment and prepare them for formal primary school, as well as providing psycho-social and healthcare support to the children and their caregivers.

Overview

This programme will establish a community based pre-school and which will cascade to create other community pre-schools in the Beira slums through the provision of teacher training to 10 women/trainees. Oasis Mozambique has adapted the Oasis Zimbabwe Early Childhood Development curriculum which covers numeracy, literacy, health, science and discovery, art, drama and music, physical education and ethical education. Oasis Mozambique also uses the Oasis Zimbabwe teacher training materials.

Executive Summary

"Tereza Jose, 3 years old knows how to count 1,2,3 till 10 and she loves her school..."

A pre-school building was renovated and equipped, and the pre-school started in the Nghupa community. 25 children have been selected in the first intake, and attendance has been good, with the exception of 5 of the children, who were inconsistent but were followed up and supported by our teachers through home visits. 6 community teachers are undergoing training as per plan and a skilled teacher has been employed.

Our spend is at 49% and on target after 6 months.

1. Brief overview of activities

- The building was refurbished in July-August 2014, and as result two child-friendly classrooms were created with capacity for 40 children per room furnished with chairs, and tables.
- 1 skilled teacher and 6 volunteer teachers were appointed.
- Trainees were selected from the community and went through health checks for contagious diseases, as a standard requirement of government for people working with children. They also went through competency checks.

- A management committee was formed. The committee mobilized parents and caregivers to enroll their children and to participate in parenting meetings, school party and conflict management during tense time of national elections.
- The preschool started on September 1st, 2014 with 25 children.
- Documentation was created in line with government requirements and enhanced by the Oasis Zimbabwe Early Childhood Development resources.
- 6 trainees have been equipped with knowledge on how to run quality ECD Centres that enhance growth and development in children, and have attended refresher training sessions done by Oasis Zimbabwe.
- As a result of Oasis Zimbabwe training, 4 trainees were equipped to conduct case management assessments, case planning and referrals.
- 12 case management visits have been conducted with families since the training.
- 2 children were assisted to access health treatment for chronically diseases and one has undergone an operation.
- 9 children are being supported to access birth registration.
- A partnership with Nghupa Primary school was secured and 2 children of the right age (6 years) who finished the preschool will be taken by the local school in February 2015.



At the end of the year school party (28 November 2014), parents shared different stories of change such as:

- *“My child (Celina A. Rufumo) who is just 5 years now knows that there is time to play and time to study she knows how to open the books in the right order...”*
- *“Tereza Jose, 3 years old knows how to count 1,2,3 till 10 and she loves school...”*
- *“Joana used to be shy but now she very confident child and likes to help, she washes her plate after meals...”*

2. Added Benefits of the Project

- **Ownership by the community and facilities utilisation** - The Management Committee has established the pre-school as a community centre. The shaded area is used for community meetings, trainings, and adult-literacy lessons.
- **Increased trust and relationships** – are developing between Oasis and the local community as well as the local primary school.
- **The number of children reached** – this has been higher than expected, with over 60 additional children being reached through after-school programmes (home work) run at the school building. This was identified as good use of the building by the Management Committee.
- **Increased partnerships** – by involving government to train the 6 trainees we learned that this enhanced community trust around the preschool and made the partnership with the

local school and clinic easier. We have also been able to see the gaps in government preschool training and then fill them with input from Oasis Zimbabwe.

3. Challenges Faced / Lessons learnt from the Project

- **Registration** - has been a slow process. We have the paper work in motion, and having the training from the government and as part of the registration process, has greatly helped in moving the process forward. These delays are usual for Mozambique and we have permission to operate regardless.
- **Conflicts** - there is ongoing tensions between the Beira city authorities (MDM) and the countries ruling party (FRELIMO). This has been a big distraction as people are expecting the preschool to support a particular party. Oasis remains neutral to any party affiliation, and the community are aware of this and appreciative of it.
- **Recruitment** – it was harder than expected to find an experienced and qualified preschool teacher. We finally found a teacher with the right qualifications, and with government-quality training. In order to strengthen her skills she was sent to Zimbabwe for a weeks exposure in Oasis EDC centers.
- **Educational attainment** – the planned base-line assessment of children’s skills will be conducted in February. This has been delayed in order to establish day-to-day routines with the children, and finalise other necessary elements of the pre-school set up.

4. Future and Risks

- We see no reason not to meet our end of Year 1 objectives.
- The only risk to the future is government registration. Although we are operating legally, having used the government for training, we are actively pursuing government registration of the preschool. We hope it will be finalized within the next 6 months. Our relationship with government is strong, and we see no reason why we will not to be registered. The community would be very unhappy if we were not.

5. Sustainability

- Future plans for sustainability involve income from grinding mills. A second mill has been purchased for this purpose. In addition, the preschool has been promoted in Oasis Academies in the UK which will generate regular monthly GAYE income and technical support the pre-school.
- A minimum fee pay of £2 per child per month is received from parents, as well in-kind gifts such as food for children’s lunches.
- Deliberate training and mentoring of the management committee with tools for project management is part of the plan. This will make it possible for them to eventually take on more of the leadership and responsibility for running of the project, thus making it more of a partnership with Oasis.
- Developing the partnership with the Nghupa Primary school for mutual ownership of joint project activities that enhance project outcomes.

- Training trainees and mentoring them to become resourceful people in the community and to be able to start other community-based pre-schools in Beira slums.
- Documenting the model and success of the programme, so that it can be scaled.

6. Financial report

This is given in Appendix A below

APPENDIX A: Financial Report including brief summary of activities against plan

Objective	Activities	Output achieved	BFSS Budget Year 1	Actual Year 1	Variance
Objective 1 "To provide access to quality and integrated pre-school education to 125 children"	1.2 Community sensitization and child recruitment	We held 1 open community meeting where the community agreed the recruitment process of children as well of the potential teachers. 10 volunteer teachers were interviewed and subsequently 6 selected for training. One skilled teacher was appointed as a paid employee. 25 children were identified.	£2860	£1861	(£999)
	1.3 Establish Community Management Committee	1 management committee was formed in September 2014 and committee members were selected by the community members in an open community meeting. The committee is comprised by 1 Oasis teacher, 1 community leader and 9 community members.			
	1.4 Refurbish building and purchase furniture including outdoor play equipment	The building was refurbished with extra windows, toilets were constructed, and the rooms furnished with tables and chairs for 50 children. Early in 2015, the play equipment will be completed. This is being built by community members.			
Objective 2 "To provide technical and material support to the pre-school for quality education"	2.1 Technical support visits (assessments of teachers and safeguarding) by competent training institutions	For final registration, the Government insisted that all training was carried out by them. Therefore, the Ministry of Women & Social Affairs trained the staff. However, this was reinforced by Oasis Zimbabwe training as below.	£1430	£1086	(£344)
	2.2_Purchase stationery and other necessary consumables	Initial stationary and consumables have been purchased, and are replenished on a monthly basis.			
	2.3_Case management incl. health assessments and birth registration assistance	Training on Early Child Development (ECD) was carried out by Oasis Zimbabwe in October 2014 for the 6 trainees. This included capacity building and how to conduct case management assessments, case planning, referrals and birth registration. Further to that the preschool teacher went to Zimbabwe in November 2014 for an exposure visit to learn by experience how to deal with specific cases.			
	2.5_Parenting education incl. nutrition	No action taken. This is still an early stage. This activity will be developed in year 2.			
	2.7 Food assistance for 75 children, including growing food at the pre-school	Attending children have been assisted with 1 meal each day when they are at school. In addition, a vegetable garden has been created which will be harvested and supply food for the children.			

Objective 3 10 trainees will be trained in early childhood development leading to increased employability by June 2017	3.1 Contextualization of Oasis Zimbabwe training and curriculum including translation of manual	Oasis Zimbabwe supported the preschool through onsite/technical support visits for training and quality assurance as planned. Assessments of teachers on children's activities and other theoretical aspects were conducted. The Officer assessed the teaching methods, and conduciveness of the learning environment at the preschool centre. Administrative records were also checked to ensure consistency in record keeping. All were found to be satisfactory.	£1250	£576	(£674)
	3.2 Interviews and vetting of trainee teachers	6 trainees were successful at interview, and recommended by the local community.			
	3.3_Training costs from ESSOR pre-school education training specialist	A full 3 days training was given by the relevant government office (Ministry of Women and Social Affairs) as explained above.			
Objective 4 Increased livelihoods for 125 care-givers to cover future educational costs and household needs	4.1 Livelihoods training	Not applicable in this period	£0	£0	£0
Objective 5 Monitoring & Evaluation	5.1 Data collection and evaluation by Country Leader	Data collection training was carried out by Oasis Zimbabwe and monitoring systems have been put in place. Weekly project meetings are being conducted and the data from the preschool is being collected, verified, analyzed and filed with success stories documented. This has enabled Oasis to monitor the frequency of child attendance, child improvement, and the number of family visits and follow-ups achieved.	£0	£0	£0
	5.2 Oasis International monitoring visits	Not applicable in this period. Visit will be conducted within the next 6 months.			
Salaries & Administration			£3576	£914	(£2662)
Total			£9116	£4437 [49%]	(£4679)