IMPACT OF ASEM ACTIVITIES

ASEM, (**AS**sociation en faveur de l'**E**nfance **M**ozambicaine), is a nonprofit org, which works on behalf of children in difficult situations, founded in 1991, with the purpose of helping children and young people in Mozambique living in situations of vulnerability and social exclusion, to recover a life with dignity, namely VOCs, victims of HIV/AIDS and abandoned children.

ASEM is an institution that has been providing assistance and interventions within the community, related to information, education and communication (IEC), psychosocial support, professional and university training, strengthening the family bond in the community, reintegration of orphaned children into their real and surrogate families, referral to institutions to respond to the needs of VOCs, as well as the training of caregivers and families of children.

In addition to social assistance in the community, ASEM owns 3 community schools, teaching more than 6 thousand students per year.

Since ASEM's founding, it has brought a multifaceted and crucial social impact to sustainable development and the well-being of communities. Acting on several fronts, such as aid in times of emergency, social development, defence of rights and promotion of sustainability, often where the public and private sectors cannot reach.

ASEM plays a key role in society, acting where the public authorities and the private sector often fail to reach efficiently, promoting social inclusion, defending human rights and providing opportunities for the most vulnerable communities. Here are the main impacts that ASEM has provided to the communities:

Humanitarian support:

ASEM was founded during the civil war in Mozambique that lasted 16 years (end Oct 1992). During this period, it provided immediate assistance in situation of crisis (natural disasters and conflicts), offering food, shelter (home), medical care, education and psychological support.

At that time, children were brought to our homes where they were welcomed and provided with the main social services, so that they could become resilient

from the traumas experienced in the combat zones or on the streets, where they were found sleeping on cardboard in the stalls of the city's large markets.

Over 200’000 children have received ASEM’s support in different areas of intervention and are no longer vulnerable, having been integrated into the communities to have a dignified path, where, direct or surrogate families have gained encouragement through thanks to the social services provided by ASEM.

Social development:

ASEM has been developing long-term projects aimed at improving access to health, education, infrastructure and livelihoods in the most vulnerable rural communities of Vilankulo’s district, promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction.

One of its main objectives, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, is the combat of chronic malnutrition in children up to 5 years of age, where the most vulnerable communities are supported and trained to grow crops, and taught how to prepare meals with higher nutritional value,

ASEM’s 3 community schools (about 6000 kids) give access to quality education where the neediest children, without any financial capacity, can study, receiving all the necessary school material, tests, etc., free of charge.

Advocacy:

Mozambique ratified the United Nations convention (1994) on the protection of human rights, defending vulnerable groups, fighting discrimination and promoting equality.

ASEM, through its schools and activities ensures that the child rights are respected.

Sustainability:

ASEM, with vast agricultural fields, where various crops are produced, assures a partial self-sustainability and supports the neediest families. This activity involves small partnerships with small companies that can acquire what is grown in our fields.

Ensuring the continuity of projects and programs is a constant challenge. Mechanized agriculture would to allow us to explore major agricultural fields, to have greater productivity.

Civic engagement:

ASEM has lately been working on environmental preservation, fighting pollution, protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices, through partnership at the local level, encouraging communities to collaborate between different sectors, for mitigation and prevention of natural disasters.

In summary, ASEM has played a vital role in society, promoting positive change and improving the quality of life to hundreds of thousands of children and families.