



RIGHT TO PLAY



Right To Play in Mozambique

PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GIRLS AND BOYS

Right To Play began working in Mozambique in 2002 through a partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports that trained local youth to lead play-based programs in their communities. In 2005, Right To Play started working directly in schools to promote holistic child development, HIV awareness, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The use of games and activity-based, gender-responsive methodologies has now been endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Human Development (MoEHD).

Right To Play works in close coordination with the thematic groups and networks of the MoEHD and is a member of the National Coordination Team for Teacher Training, the National Thematic Group for Cross Cutting Issues, and the Education Cluster under the humanitarian cluster system. As a board member of the National Network for Education for All, Right To Play played a pivotal role in the national advocacy campaign against Decree 39/2003 which barred pregnant girls from attending regular school, leading to the successful reversal of the decree in December 2018. Right To Play is also part of the National Coalition to End Child Marriage where it contributes to enhancing child participation in national advocacy campaigns against forced marriage and gender-based violence. This network is affiliated to the Girls Not Brides global partnership.

In 2019, Right To Play reached **85,000 children**
in Maputo City and Maputo, Gaza, and Zambézia provinces.

The challenges faced by children and youth in Mozambique

The Government of Mozambique has demonstrated a strong commitment to education as a driver for economic, social, and human development; it has sponsored primary school fees since 2004 and undertaken large-scale construction and teacher recruitment.¹ Despite this investment, Mozambique has not yet achieved universal primary education. Of those children who do enroll, just over half complete primary school.² Serious challenges also remain regarding the quality of education. As many as two-thirds of children complete primary school without basic reading, writing, or math skills.³

Early marriages and pregnancies, and high poverty levels are major contributors to school drop-out for girls in Mozambique, resulting in the loss of development and economic opportunities. While 94% of girls enroll in primary school, more than half drop out by the fifth grade, only 11% continue on to study at the secondary level, and just 1% continue on to college.⁴

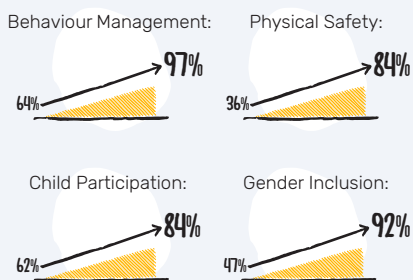
- 48% of children live in absolute poverty.⁵
- Over 6% of primary school-aged children are out of school: 7.5% of girls and 4.6% of boys.⁶
- In Mozambique, 48% of women aged 20 to 24 were married before the age of 18 and 14% were married before the age of 15.⁷



Girls' participation in play-based activities can develop their confidence and self-protective skills.

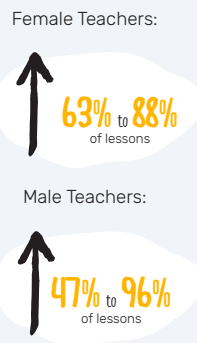
Achievements

MORE POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



Midway through Right To Play's program, significantly more classrooms demonstrated positive learning practices.⁸

IMPROVED TEACHING PRACTICE



After one year, teachers are delivering more lessons that engage students through child-centered learning.⁹

CHILDREN ARE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL



1,974 children in Zambézia province have returned to school due to advocacy campaigns supporting the right to education and combating early marriages.¹⁰

¹ UNICEF Mozambique, "Current Situation", 2014. Retrieved from: <http://www.unicef.org/mz/en/our-work/what-we-do/education/>

² World Bank/UIS/UNESCO 2019 data. <https://data.worldbank.org/>. Net enrolment rate was 94% and primary completion rate was 52%.

³ UNICEF, "UNICEF Education Strategy Progress Report", 2017. Retrieved from: https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/documents/1965/1/USAID_2018_Progress_Report_Web.pdf

⁴ USAID, "USAID Education Strategy Progress Report", 2017. Retrieved from: https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/documents/1965/1/USAID_2018_Progress_Report_Web.pdf

⁵ USAID, <https://www.usaid.gov/mozambique/education>

⁶ UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/en/child-protection/>

⁷ World Bank/UIS/UNESCO 2019 data. <https://data.worldbank.org/>

⁸ DHS 2011.

⁹ PADE Midline Evaluation, 2019.

¹⁰ GREAT, Year 2 annual report, 2020.

¹⁰ PADE, Annual report, 2019.

Program Overview



STRENGTHENING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR BETTER LEARNING OUTCOMES

Right To Play's comprehensive in-service teacher training program aligns with the national curriculum to enhance teachers' use of child-centered, active learning approaches, as well as their ability to create positive, inclusive, and gender-responsive learning environments. After training on coaching and mentoring, ZIP (cluster-level) trainers, principals and their deputies, and select teacher champions provide one-on-one feedback to reinforce teachers' new skills. Given their important leadership role in school governance, Right To Play trains school councils on their mandate, child protection, and the creation of school improvement plans. Right To Play's school leadership training guide has been contextualized and approved by MoEHD and will be rolled out to all schools nationally.

Beginning in 2020, Right To Play is placing additional focus on early reading, supporting the capacity of teachers to use play-based approaches to promote early literacy, and working with parents and communities to provide supplemental opportunities to read.



PROMOTING GIRLS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Since the repeal of Decree 39/2003, Right To Play has worked within national advocacy networks to develop practical strategies to enable pregnant girls to attend school. Right To Play ensures that the voices of girls are heard during these discussions: it supported girls participation in the 2019 International Conference on Girls' Education and in the national forum with parliamentarians that discussed how to protect girls from violence in schools and how to implement the new law against child, early, and forced marriage.

At the community level, Right To Play partners with local civil society organizations to carry out advocacy campaigns, sports and play events, and other sensitization activities on gender equality and girls' right to education. Right To Play uses participatory gender analysis to engage community members and education officials in developing action plans to respond to the major barriers to girls' education. Gender equality-themed play days are also used to promote positive masculinities in boys.



EMPOWERING AND PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Right To Play develops self-confidence, critical thinking, leadership for decision-making, knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, and skills in self-protection against gender-based and other forms of violence. Through children's clubs, Right To Play has developed a network of 1,500 Junior Leaders who actively promote the rights of their peers.

Right To Play creates safe and inclusive schools by rehabilitating classrooms and latrines to enhance their safety and accessibility. Under Education Cannot Wait, Right To Play is extending its work to cyclone-affected areas of Manica and Sofala where it will support children affected by Cyclone Idai, targeting early childhood development centers, primary schools, and temporary learning centers with teaching and learning materials. Teachers and early childhood development facilitators will be trained on active child-centered pedagogy, psychosocial support through play, and strategies to address protection issues such as gender-based violence.



In the past, teachers relied on lectures and rote memorization to impart learning to girls and boys, but now, teachers are able to employ participatory methods structured around children's learning needs and use games to facilitate learning

– ZIP coordinator¹¹



Right To Play International

Right To Play is a global organization that protects, educates, and empowers children using all forms of play – games, sport, poetry, performance, dance, art, and music. We work with children in some of the most difficult and dangerous places on earth, empowering children with the knowledge and skills to drive change in their lives, their families and their communities. In 2019, Right To Play transformed the lives of 2.35 million children in 15 countries around the world, working in collaboration with teachers, governments, communities, and parents.

In 2018, Right To Play launched the Gender Responsive Education and Transformation (GREAT) program with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada. Active in three countries, Ghana, Mozambique and Rwanda, GREAT uses Right To Play's play-based learning approach to remove barriers to education, especially for girls, and to build teacher capacity to improve learning outcomes.



Supporters



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada



Rua Fernão Melo e Castro, N0 276, First Floor | Maputo, Bairro da Sommerchild | +258-82 304 2021

www.righttoplay.com

Charity Number: 88880 4218 RR0001