



**As part of our commitment to regularly assess our partners' work and evaluate the impact of Egmont funded projects on improving the lives of AIDS-affected children, Egmont staff and trustees undertake annual face-to-face visits with each of our partners. Most recently we have visited Vukoxa and Meninos, in Mozambique.**

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in which Egmont's partners operate, and remains culturally distinct as a result of its Portuguese colonial heritage. Jane Baker, Egmont's Finance Manager, and Linnea Renton, formerly our Executive Director and now an Egmont Ambassador, visited the country in late September.

HIV first appeared in Mozambique in 1986. Due to the ongoing civil war, very few measures were taken to reduce the impact of the epidemic until 2004, when an estimated prevalence rate of 16.2% was declared a national emergency. Approximately 1.6 million people in the country are now living with HIV, including 190,000 children.

Traditionally, orphaned children in sub-Saharan Africa are looked after by their extended families,

but the sheer number of orphans in Mozambique is too many for Mozambique's impoverished families to support – an estimated 810,000 children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Egmont's partners are working hard to address the critical issue of supporting children both affected and infected by HIV & AIDS.

In Chokwé district, Vukoxa is helping elderly grandparents living in rural communities to support the many orphaned and vulnerable children in their care. In Maputo – the capital – Meninos de Moçambique works to improve the lives of young people affected by AIDS who, with no-one left to turn to, have ended up living on the streets.

Their vital work is only possible thanks to your continued generosity and support.

## NOTES FROM MOZAMBIQUE

**Mozambique is one of the few countries in the world where the number of people dying of AIDS has actually increased in the last 10 years. Since 2005, 682,000 people have died as a result of the disease. Here we tell the story of some of the children left behind.**

Although many are taken in by relatives, the large number of orphans means that some are left with no alternative but to live on the streets. The reality of street life for most of these children is not only a daily struggle to find food and shelter. Living on the streets also renders children particularly vulnerable to drug use and prostitution. As a result, street children run a very high risk of HIV infection.

Meninos de Moçambique works to turn around the lives of the street children of Maputo. Since 2007 Egmont has funded activities aimed at reducing the children's chances of HIV infection by providing shelter and access to medical treatment; providing older children with a means of supporting themselves through vocational training; and where possible reuniting children with their families.

Jane and Linnea were taken by Abdul Faquir, Meninos' Executive Director, to meet some of the young people they have successfully helped transition away from a life on the streets. In Luis Cabral, Maputo's poorest district, they met Gabrielle and her two young boys. Gabrielle came to the attention of Meninos on the streets of Maputo in 2013. Meninos enrolled her on an Egmont funded hair and beauty training course, and counselled her through her HIV diagnosis. With their help, Gabrielle set up a small beauty salon business. She is now able to support her two young children and is saving up to send them to school when they are old enough. In the meantime, Gabrielle is paying for night-classes to catch up on the schooling she missed when she was living on the streets.

The work of Meninos is clearly making a difference in Maputo. There has been a reduction in the number of permanent street children they work with – down to under 200 from over



Gabrielle hopes to enrol her children in school soon

300 in 2013. But the discovery of offshore oil and gas reserves in 2012 has changed life on the streets of Maputo. Chinese investment has led to a surge of foreign construction workers in the capital, leading more children from vulnerable families at the outskirts of Maputo to become 'weekend' street children, travelling in to engage in transactional sex as a means of making money to support their families.

Faquir told us that Meninos is adapting its work to this changing landscape. They no longer just focus on supporting children off the streets, but are actively trying to reduce the numbers turning to street-life in the first place. They are now going out into the communities and addressing the source of the problem. Meninos is working with families to enroll children in vocational training and increase their access to micro-credit, helping them to establish businesses.

This sustainable approach has been recognised by the Director of Social Services in Maputo, Angelina Lubrino, who also regards Meninos as a model for the interaction between government and local grassroots organisations. She praised Egmont for enabling Meninos, as the partner with full knowledge of the issues facing street children, to drive the response 'as they know best.'



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**In Mozambique, 1.3 million elderly people have become primary care-givers for vulnerable children and sick adults. More than half receive no financial help from the Government. Egmont partner Vukoxa, works to alleviate the burden placed upon the older generations of Gaza Province, thereby improving the lives of the vulnerable children in their care.**

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Chokwé District, where Vukoxa is based, is one of the country's hardest hit areas, with an HIV prevalence rate of 25%. Its proximity to the border means that many working-age men journey to the mines of South Africa – those that survive often returning HIV+. Over half the population in this district is under 20 years old.

On paper, Vukoxa is a small, lean organisation with just four paid employees led by Michaque Ubisse, their Project Co-ordinator. But this belies their impressive logistical capability. They are able to reach many thousands of grandparents living in remote rural areas and offer vital support both to them and the vulnerable children in their care. Split into associations across 8 different communities, grassroots groups established by Vukoxa feed the needs of their local community to staff members, who in turn work with local government and NGOs to develop programmes that help the families decimated by AIDS.

Jane and Linnea visited the Mashua community, north of Chokwé, to see how Vukoxa was helping the elderly grandparents caring for vulnerable children there. Three years ago, as part of an Egmont-funded project, Vukoxa installed a water pump to irrigate the crops of the local community. Each grandparent is part of a collective, working the mashamba or garden and collecting a portion of the produce. We heard how the water pump has greatly increased their productivity and currently comfortably supplies 18 acres of farmland.

This simple, low-cost intervention has completely transformed the community's livelihood. As well as producing enough diverse crops to feed the collective, there is also a significant surplus. This year the Mashua group produced nearly 11 tonnes of beans and hired 250 workers from nearby communities to harvest the produce. The profit was enough to purchase a motorbike, 6 cows, seeds for re-planting, and books and school essentials for the children in their care.

The Mashua community are now self sustaining, and able to educate and feed the orphans in their care. This success is down to the strong relationship between Vukoxa and the community, a feature common to all Egmont's partners. Given the chance, those affected by AIDS can deliver huge returns for a modest investment.

## PARTNER NEWS

Egmont partner Life Concern (LICO), Malawi, received the Red Ribbon award at this year's International AIDS Conference in Melbourne. The Red Ribbon is the world's most prestigious accolade for community-based organisations responding to the AIDS epidemic.

Chosen from over 1,000 other nominees, LICO was recognised for their results in prevention of mother-to-child transmission, a critical step towards an AIDS-free generation. Egmont is proud to support LICO and the work they have achieved. The international recognition of the dedication and passion of Peter Gondwe (LICO CEO) and his team is further affirmation of how powerful local responses can be in the fight against AIDS.



In Zambia, at the Jubilee celebrations last month, Egmont partner – and 2010 Red Ribbon award winner – Pride Community Health Organisation, was recognised for their work improving the health of vulnerable children in Kafue District, central Zambia. Kenan Ng'ambi, Director of Pride, was honoured at the Jubilee investiture ceremony, celebrating 50 years of Zambian independence.

## FUNDRAISING NEWS



On 12 October Trustees Alison, Jeremy and Clare, accompanied by the 3 Evans children, Egmont Ambassador Helen Fairclough, and the Munn family, took part in the Denbies 5K Fun Run. To date they have raised over £6,500, far exceeding our initial target of £2,500.

Very many thanks to those who kindly and generously supported the Egmont runners. With Trustees & Patrons continuing to cover all operating costs these funds will go directly to partners such as Vukoxa and Meninos de Moçambique.

## EGMONT NEWS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ratan Engineer, formerly Global Head of Wealth and Asset Management at Ernst & Young, as a new Trustee. Ratan brings a wealth of financial governance experience and will be an invaluable addition to the Board.

### Contact us

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Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals. Often, photos are purely illustrative and do not represent the individuals portrayed.