



The Challenge

IYF's *YouthMap Mozambique* assessment findings¹ show that Mozambican youth aspire to learn, secure productive work, become economically self-reliant, and improve their lives and those of their relatives. For young people in school, the highly theoretical educational system does not adequately equip youth with skills that are aligned with today's labor market. Particularly lacking are the soft skills important for the world of work, from self-confidence to respect for authority and from time management to managing conflict. Young people that are out of school—including 38 percent of 13-to-17-year-old Mozambicans²—are at an even greater disadvantage in preparing for future livelihoods. Youth outside the educational system have even fewer opportunities for technical and life skill development and little to no guidance towards entering the labor market.

The sobering statistics around youth unemployment in Mozambique reflect these obstacles. Sixty percent of youth aged 15 to 24 are unemployed (currently available for and seeking work) or inactive (not in school or work, and not seeking work). In addition, with Mozambique facing an 87 percent overall rate of underemployment³ (working, but in low-wage, precarious, less than full-time, and/or informal jobs), those youth with a job are likely to be under-employed. Youth joblessness and underemployment pose multiple societal, political, and economic risks: from higher incidence of unhealthy or unsafe behaviors, to greater likelihood of instability or violence, to poor productivity and lower GDP. Long-lasting joblessness can have significant negative consequences for individuals' future employability: skills can erode without the opportunity to use them, and technological change may render existing skills obsolete. The high rate of youth un/under employment therefore threatens to perpetuate long-term adult unemployment, impacting individuals' and communities' socio-economic wellbeing, outlook, and positive development.

The Initiative

Dzima! Pontapé para o Sucesso leverages the power of sport to improve at-risk, out-of-school young people's preparation for and access to education and employment/self-employment opportunities in Mozambique. The initiative, whose name translates to "Kick Hard! Shoot for success", integrates life skills and work readiness training (using IYF's Passport to Success®-Sport (PTS-Sport) life skills curriculum) and career guidance sessions into soccer practice for out-of-school youth. Once training is complete, youth are referred to employment opportunities, higher education or vocational training institutions, self-employment training services, and/or national employment centers.

Sport is an important communal platform and mobilizing force that transcends cultures, educational levels, and social standing. With inherent appeal that can move at-risk young people off the streets into a collective experience, sport has also become a mechanism for social and economic development at the community level. The soft skills gained through participating in sport activities – leadership, discipline, communication, teamwork, and responsibility chief among them – mirror the skills that employers worldwide recognize as essential for success in the 21st century work environment. Young people who have grasped these competencies and are able to apply them both on and off the field of

¹ International Youth Foundation, "Voices of the Next Generation: An Assessment of Youth in Mozambique," (2014).

² UNICEF, "Situational Analysis of Youth and Adolescents in Mozambique—Focus on District and Rural Level," (2005).

³ International Monetary Fund, "Republic of Mozambique: Poverty Reeducation Strategy Paper," (2014), 12.

play are better prepared for economic activity, whether formal or informal, salaried or self-employment. It is with this backdrop that IYF adapted its youth livelihoods programming model to the sports context.

The PTS-Sport curriculum is designed to help young people build confidence in order to recognize and refine their life skills in a sports-based setting, develop skills for successful work readiness and employment, and understand that sport activities are viable mechanisms for personal growth and skills development.

To promote sustainability of the initiative, IYF is strengthening the capacity of local sports clubs in and around the capital city of Maputo to deliver high-quality, employability-focused curricula and career guidance services for out-of-school youth.

Impact & Outcomes

The project aims to achieve the following targets, while working in Maputo Province, Mozambique:

- 800 out-of-school youth trained in PTS to enhance their employability skills
- 800 out-of-school youth receive career guidance services
- 220 youth register at a national employment center
- 120 youth enroll in vocational training programs
- 40 youth re-enroll in secondary school or higher education
- 20 youth access entrepreneurship training services
- 2 sports clubs better equipped to promote economic opportunities for youth through sport

Partnerships

Donor: Mozal

Implementing Partners: Clube Desportivo da Matola and Escolinha do Tico

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