



Escola Primaria De Intaka: Maputo, Mozambique

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Just an hour's drive from Maputo is the informal settlement of 'Spontania.' As its name vividly suggests, it is a township that sprung up almost overnight as people fled their rural homes at the start of the civil war. The Intaka School has been part of the region's history from the very beginning. In an effort to establish a sense of normality for the children in the area, the school opened in 1976 with just a few palm woven structures called casitas and very little else.

Mr. Antonio Xavier Gomane has been here for almost half of the school's life and has exactly 1,633 students under his care. With just 21 teachers to attend to their education, the average class has 55 children.

In 1990, the school's first two classrooms were built from bricks and mortar—fourteen years after the school was first opened. "It was a help, but it was slow and never enough. The pump was designed to serve only 100 families but 300 families were trying to get water there

everyday," says Mr. Gomane. "The people would become impatient and go back to their old water sources, even though the water made them sick."

In 2005 things changed for Intaka. A PlayPump® water system was generously donated to the school, much to the delight of the children, teachers, and community. A large turnout of local officials, donors, and supporters came out to see the country's first PlayPump system being opened, among them the Minister for Education. Soon after the installation of the PlayPump system three new classrooms were added to the school.

The school environment at Intaka is unique in many ways. At most schools the school yard would be silent while children are in class until their lunch time break, but at Intaka students attend class in two shifts. While half the children attend classes with the 21 teachers, the other half are allowed to play nearby while they wait for their rotation. With the

PlayPump system being the only form of play equipment at the school, the merry-go-round is almost always spinning with children grateful for a place to play. Today, the PlayPump system is a source of pride, play, and water for the more than 1,600 children who attend school each day.

The school has created a schedule for the surrounding community to access water from the PlayPump system during intervals between the teaching shifts. "Whenever there is a woman standing by the tap waiting to fill her bucket, the children are racing to get to the wheel first to help pump the water," says community member Mrs. Helena Armando Machiani, who used to walk to an old well 3 kilometers away. "Life is so much easier for us now."