Public Spaces for Children Project

Mr. Abel Manhique, on behalf of Quelimane City Municipality, Mozambique

Date: October 16, 2019
PROJECT MAIN GOAL

Creating Safe, Inclusive and Accessible Public Spaces for Children in Mozambique cities
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Integrate children’s perspective in urban planning
- Enhance children capacity for urban governance to improve public spaces

Participatory mapping validation and "Block by Block" workshops at Licungo University, Quelimane September, 2018
Mozambique’s population is growing faster in urban areas. By 2050, 50% will be living in urban areas (today: 32%)

Children are already **MORE THAN HALF OF THE POPULATION IN MOZAMBIQUE!**

23% do not have access to primary school
82% to secondary education  (**UNICEF 2008-2012**)
Mozambique
Cities' main challenges for children

Mozambican cities have low density and spread, making people have long travels to access services. Public spaces are limited.

Access to basic services (education and health): Public services coverage are uneven in cities.

Children mobility is mainly by foot: they are more vulnerable to violence and road accidents.

Safe and accessible public spaces are missing: Children are vulnerable to violence and lack spaces to play.

As a result, country development is affected if children do not have access to good public spaces and safe mobility.
Children had field visits and talk to the Chief of the Cololo Administrative Center in September 2018, before the participatory design workshop.

PROJECT AGENTS

- Children between 11 and 13 years old
- School teachers and principals of 4 schools: 17 Setembro, Coalane, Sinacura and Acordos de Lusaka;
- Licungo University students (as volunteers)
- Community of Cololo neighborhood
- Quelimane Municipality
PROJECT PHASES

1. DATA COLLECTION
SCHOOLS MOBILIZATION AND INFORMATION COLLECTION WITH CHILDREN, WITH SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Process started in 2017
PROJECT PHASES

2. PARTICIPATORY MAPPING
CHILDREN MAP THEIR EVERYDAY ROUTES WITH MOBILE PHONE APPLICATION KOBOTOOLBOX AND GPS TRACKERS

Mapping helps to identify problems (such as unsafe streets, bad roads, etc) but also good qualities of urban spaces (walkable streets, etc)
3. CHILDREN USE CARD GAMES TO BUILD NARRATIVES ABOUT THE SPACES AND ROUTES THEY USE AND HELP TO CLASSIFY AND QUALIFY THE SPACES

EXAMPLES OF WORKING QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN:
• HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
• IS IT GOOD/ EASY TO ACCESS/ SAFE?
• WHY DO YOU USE/ DO NOT USE THIS SPACE?
• WHAT DO YOU DO IN THIS SPACE?
THE PROJECT

PHASES

MAIN QUESTION TO CHILDREN: HOW CAN WE IMPROVE SPACES WE USE EVERYDAY?

espaços públicos para crianças

Participatory design workshop

UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
Child Friendly Cities Initiative
UNICEF for every child
Stadt Köln
4. GAMES FOR PARTICIPATORY DESIGN OF IMPROVEMENTS, REFLECTION AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS
Participatory design workshop
5. Block by Block Method

A public space is selected by the municipality to be rehabilitated; Children design real improvements in the digital platform.
Example of one design made by children with sports court, table and toilet.

The real space was digitalized into a Minecraft video game model and children work to improve it with services and infrastructure.
Challenge: digital illiteracy, many children hadn’t had access to computers before the project.
6. Real requalification of a public space in the neighborhood of Cololo
A. Analysis of Minecraft models made by children and prioritization of the desired elements with children
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PART OF THE PRIORITIZATION LIST MADE WITH CHILDREN
B. Translation of children’s Minecraft models into technical drawings by UN-Habitat

January to February 2019
C. PRESENTATION OF TECHNICAL DRAWINGS AND VALIDATION BY CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY LEADERS
STEPS

D. Requalification work of the selected public space engaging the local community

June to September 2019
espaços públicos para crianças
E. Decoration workshop with children and local artist at the end of rehabilitation
September, 2019
espaços públicos para crianças
PARQUE PÚBLICO DA AMIZADE
Children are empowered for urban governance

By learning about spaces, services and infrastructure, children engage in urban issues and are enabled to become agents of change in neighborhoods and schools.
MAIN RESULTS
Improvements are for everyone

Children’s solutions are not simple playing parks, they include sanitation, markets and mobility ideas and reach all the users of the public space (such as mothers and elderly)
MAIN RESULTS

Public space created with simple and local solutions from children

Space in Cololo neighborhood was requalified, considering the solutions proposed by children, local materials, etc.
NEXT STEPS
How to multiply these results and integrate children into the planning and governance of cities in Mozambique?
Thank you!

Obrigado!