

July 2014 Newsletter – Mid Year Review



AZLera

Africa | Latin America | Education | Environment



Dear all,

Thank you for your continued support and interest in AZLera's work in Mozambique. It's great to be able to share some news of the fantastic work the project is doing – equipping young bright lives to fulfil their potential. It's a privilege to share this journey with you.

As always, there is huge energy and optimism running through the project, pointing to an even more exciting and successful 2014, despite many challenges ahead....



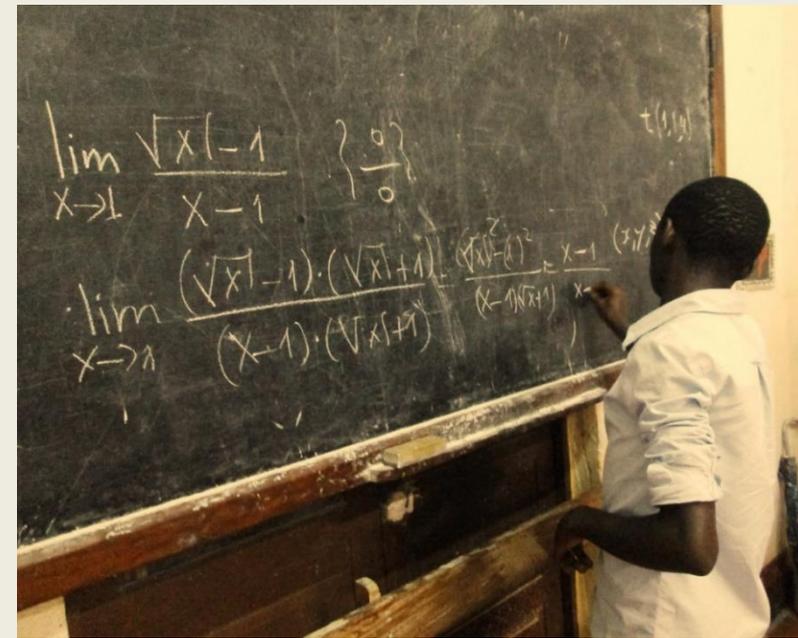
AZLera conducted a mid-year review of our work in Mozambique, assessing the health of Projecto Oceano and our 'Scholarship Programme' that supports our students into further education...this update follows that study. We hope you enjoy it but if you have any queries, please get in touch.

Project News – Headlines

AZLera University Scholarship Programme

The unique [AZLera University Scholarship Programme](#) is now seeing three students, [Manuel Domingos \(Mingos\)](#), [Firoza Abdulcadre](#) and [Naiza Langa](#) excelling on their respective courses – fully committed to their studies and living out the AZLera philosophy. They are showing a clear desire not just to realise their potential in their chosen fields but also to maintain their commitment to peer to peer education and social entrepreneurship at the community level. We are inspired by the change these young people can bring.

Our next task is to consolidate relationships with the educational establishments in Mozambique in order to drive forward productive partnerships nurturing the next generation of social entrepreneurs. A significant investment has been the hiring of [Rita da Silva](#) as our Mozambique Programme Coordinator based in Maputo – we're looking forward to seeing this work develop.



Our Members / Peer to Peer Education

Our project members (a group of outstanding young students who use their drive, ambition and intelligence to teach their peers as well as being nurtured into becoming the next generation of change makers) are the heartbeat of what we do on the Ilha de Moçambique. Capable, ambitious, motivated and entrepreneurial, these students exemplify the philosophy of AZLera.

A number of our members from last year have now graduated from high-school and have moved into higher-education, already providing us with real evidence of how the project enabled them to learn new skills, develop their abilities and succeed at a University level.

We are now excited to see the newest group of members excel and epitomise what the project is all about. After some challenging recruitment decisions our current crop of members are already showing real potential, with [Almiro, Magda, Sofanias and Sergio](#) leading the project from the front!

What we expect from these young lives is necessarily demanding and requires commitment, focus and learning. In order to ensure the absolute best members are recruited and supported, we're comprehensively reviewing our recruitment processes; developing a more robust assessment, selection and evaluation process.

Improving our curriculum

Projecto Oceano's curriculum remains unique and progressive and we're proud of the holistic, diverse and unique programme we run.

Here's a flavour of some of what we offer our students at our after-school programme Projecto Oceano on Ilha de Moçambique:

Social debates / Coding / English / Voz Jovem (our ground-breaking community paper Voz Jovem, researched, written and published by our students) / Peer to Peer education / Windows, Office and Internet Skills / Logo / Current Affairs / Maths / Study Skills / Sports training / Community Art and Film Events / Film Discussions

We are committed to providing our students with a set of skills, knowledge and an aptitude that will allow them to progress into further education and also importantly into positions of social leadership. To this end AZLera will be applying a greater focus on improving the nature of our curriculum and investing in better management, monitoring and structure, enabling us to better understand the benefits to the students from each class that they take.



Understanding the impact of our work

One of the strengths of our set up in Mozambique is the personal relationships that we have with our members and students. As a team at Projecto Oceano, we work everyday with these young people, we see them grow up to become the capable, rounded adults that we always knew they would be.

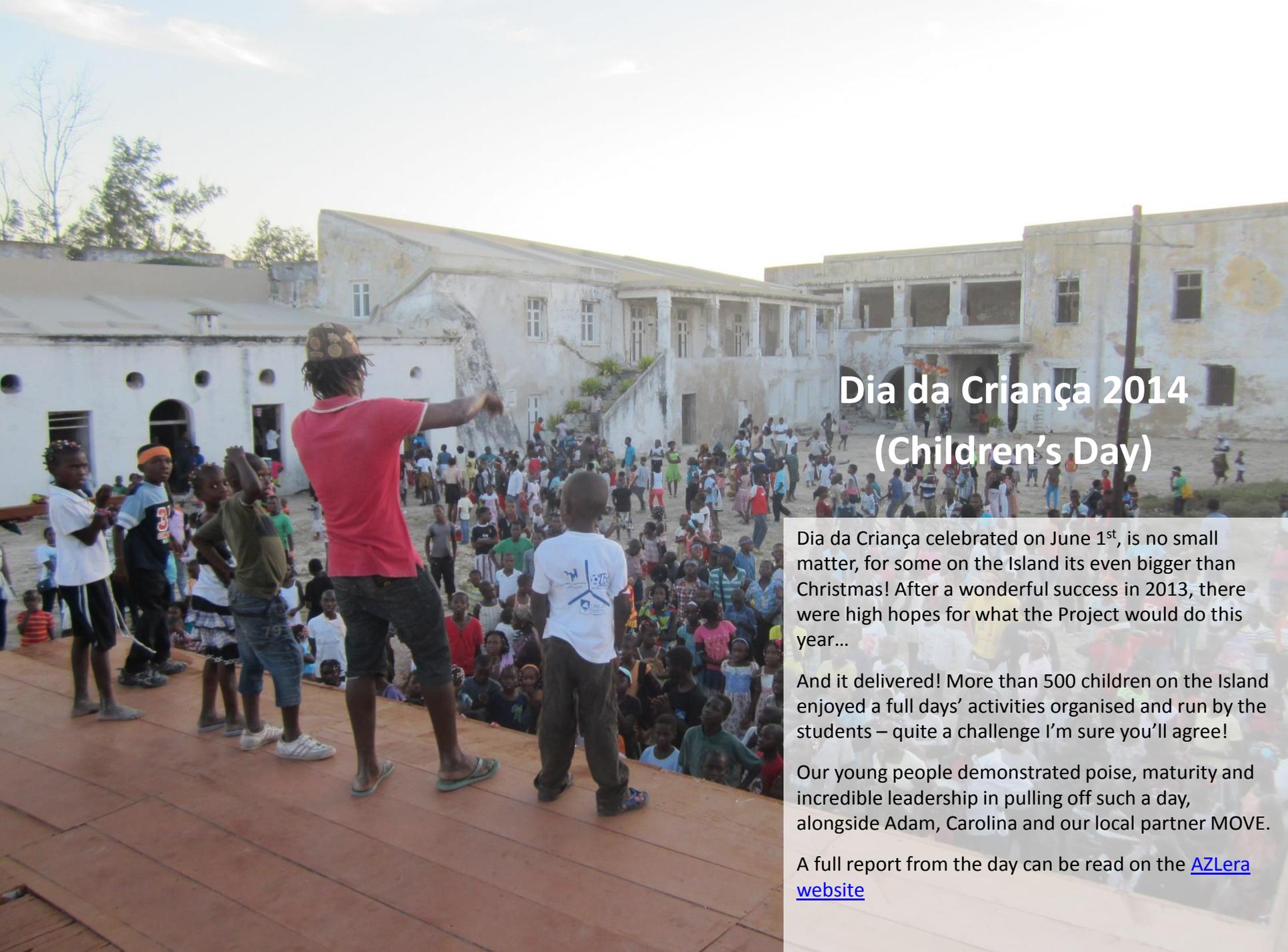
However, being able to show the impact of our work in a more quantifiable way is also vital. Some of the new measures we are investing in to achieve this include:

Closer tracking of project member performance and goals

Stronger research into the broader relationships between educational attainment and entry into the job market in core industries and sectors in Mozambique

Improved monitoring of our classes and activities

Tighter selection process of future members to ensure expectations are clear and standards maintained



Dia da Criança 2014 (Children's Day)

Dia da Criança celebrated on June 1st, is no small matter, for some on the Island its even bigger than Christmas! After a wonderful success in 2013, there were high hopes for what the Project would do this year...

And it delivered! More than 500 children on the Island enjoyed a full days' activities organised and run by the students – quite a challenge I'm sure you'll agree!

Our young people demonstrated poise, maturity and incredible leadership in pulling off such a day, alongside Adam, Carolina and our local partner MOVE.

A full report from the day can be read on the [AZLera website](#)

New additions to our team!



Heather Quelch

Senior Consultant

Heather joined the AZLera team in 2014 as a senior consultant, supporting all areas of programme management and fundraising. Based in Brussels, Heather works for EU CORD as a development expert having previously worked for Deloitte Consulting in London.

LLB Law with Spanish and an MSC in Development Management



Rita da Silva

Mozambique Programme Coordinator

Rita is Portuguese, was born in Mozambique and joined AZLera Mozambique management team in 2014. Rita has a background in community and international development and currently works in communications and knowledge management for an international development and advocacy organisation in Maputo, Mozambique.

BA in Community Development and Masters in African Studies

Recruitment: In-Country Project Manager, Ilha de Moçambique

AZLera is looking to fill the role of 'In-Country Project Manager', based on the Ilha de Moçambique. The project manager will be required to lead the coordination and management of our small after-school education programme on a day-to-day basis both in the classroom and the community.

Interested candidates should have experience in project management, education and international development, be willing to work voluntarily for AZLera in Mozambique for up to a year and have strong English and Portuguese language skills.

Please visit the [recruitment page](#) of our website for more details.



Saide Habibo (Coman) New Local Project Assistant at Projecto Oceano

[Coman](#) was one of our founding students at Projecto Oceano in 2002 and a strong and loyal member for over 10 years. He performed very well during the selection process for our Scholarship and was unfortunate not to be awarded the fund.

In 2013, Coman was selected to be part of a 6 month international cultural exchange between Canada and Mozambique run through Ajude and Canada World Youth. He has grown up in many ways in the last years and has become a very impressive young man – highly articulate, organised and respected.

The project is in great need of further local management support and Coman fits the roll perfectly, using his extensive knowledge of the project, the island, the students, as well as allowing him to develop new management and leadership skills working with us.

Welcome on-board Coman!!!

Year ahead – Objectives for second part of the year

1) Fundraising

Fundraising remains a key priority for us as an organisation. We are so passionate about the lives and futures we are investing in, that the work of AZLera has been funded through predominantly personal funds, but we know this is not sustainable! For the good of the project and our vision, we are looking outward for partners and benefactors to walk along side the students, to change the minds, lives and the future of this island and Mozambique. Having seen the benefits of the project first hand, we are more convinced than ever of the vision we are working towards.

We have prepared some new fundraising materials and are now looking for appropriate donors, grants and foundations that will be able to support us in the short and longer term.

2) Improved Governance

The governance, accountability and management of the organisation is vital in enabling us to achieve our ambitious goals and to be sustainable. We are looking to fill new senior management roles to help direct and oversee our operation – we are recruiting a number of new trustees so please do recommend any appropriate candidate who would be interested in working with us.

3) New approach to branding and communications

Over the coming months, AZLera will be rolling out new and improved brand identity for all our materials and general communications. We are confident that our new branding will consistently reflect the philosophy and approach of the organisation. Any comments or thoughts would be warmly received!



As ever, all reports and updates from the project in Mozambique, including information regarding our Scholarship Fund can be found on our website – www.azlera.org We also have an AZLera Facebook Page for those of you who are connected, which provides frequent updates from the project as well as photos, videos and other useful web links. Our page can be found at the following address: <http://www.facebook.com/AZLera>

Please do let us know if you have any further questions about the programme or our scholarship process, we would be more than happy to speak to you in further detail. If you would like to support the project or contribute financially to the Scholarship Fund, please go to the following link: [Donate](#). We wish you all a successful and happy end to 2014

With best wishes,

AZLera team

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www.azlera.org | contact@azlera.org