



Activity Report: Dia da Criança 2014

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In Mozambique, Dia da Criança is celebrated on June 1st and is an important holiday for children and families on the island and throughout the country.

Given the enormous success of the event in 2013 we were under pressure to repeat the fun! With the help of our friends at MOVE we organized an afternoon of games, music and celebration for the kids on the Island in the Fortaleza de São Sebastião. Funds were provided by Projecto Oceano and private donations from friends in Brazil. In addition to MOVE volunteers, a number of students from the

Escola Secundária were involved in the organization and were critical to the success of the event.

The objectives for Projecto Oceano were the same as last year's, with the added element of having the repeat the success of previous events as well as working on lessons learned in order to improve this year's edition.

We planned the event as a repeat of last year's (lunch followed by games and activities and a movie). Adam and I discussed with the members the details of the last event to start the organization and to improve on whatever areas could be improved. We took stock of our ideas and divided the planning as follows:

1. Food: how to feed 500 hungry kids???

We decided to provide lunch of rice and beans, popcorn for the movie as well as a little bag of candies at the exit. Many of the children bring their own food but the members felt strongly about providing lunch for those who could not bring their own food.

- MOVE organized the preparation of the rice and beans and popcorn with three of their entrepreneurs
- Our members prepared the bags of candies to be distributed at the end



2. Marketing: make sure the schools are aware of the event!

The members prepared a poster advertising the event to be placed in the primary schools. Additionally, we spoke with the Directors of all three primary schools to discuss the event and ask them to tell their students about it.

3. Participants: be prepared for more kids to show up at the door on the day of the event!

Just as last year, we signed up the kids taking their names, school and age and gave them a little capulana and a "senha" to bring on 1st of June. We opened registration on May 21st at the Projecto and were completely mobbed by kids trying to sign up! In the afternoon there were about 30 kids "camping" in front of Projecto waiting to get their names on the list. It was the same the following day. In two days we had 560 names on the list, so we decided to stop adding names but knew we should be prepared for additional kids to show up



4. Activities: can't do it without the help from students at the Escola Secundária!

The day was organized as follows:

Morning	9-12h	Cleaning and setting up
Afternoon	12-13h	Lunch for volunteers
	13:30-14h	Arrivals of kids
	14-15h	Lunch (rice and beans, water and juice)
	15-17h	Games and Activities
	17-19h	Movie

With more than 500 kids to entertain we decided to organize them in a production line method. We created a buffer area at the entrance, where we put together groups of around 30 kids, similar in age whenever possible. They were then taken by 2 volunteers ("monitores") who accompanied them throughout the afternoon. First stop was lunch, then one of the 12 different activity stations spread throughout the Fortaleza. Each group of kids had a "color", a different capulana, used as flags by the monitores and armbands for the kids.

The different activity stations were:

1. Mata-mata
2. Cabo de guerra
3. Corrida de duplas
4. Passar embaixo de vara
5. Corrida de sacos
6. Lencinho (Bandeirinha)
7. Lencinho atrás, em roda
8. Dança das cadeiras
9. Futebol humano
10. Boliche com garrafas d'água e bolas de jornal
11. Macaquinho chinês
12. Corrida de carriola



5. Venue: be careful not to destroy a World Heritage Site and lose some kids while you are at it!

Once again the event took place at the wonderful Fortaleza de São Sebastião, providing a historical background for this wonderful day. Adam and I sent letters and met with the President of the Conselho Municipal and the Museu da Ilha de Moçambique to get their approval for the event. With them, we discussed the need to clean the space (many weeds and sharp stones around) as well as to ensure the safety of the kids and integrity of the Fortaleza.

In a reconnaissance visit to the Fortaleza we decided on how to best use the space, set up electricity and where to put the support stations. We also identified three spots from where the kids would be able to go on top of the building and decided to have security volunteers stationed on those places.

The members, together with the key volunteers, went to the Fortaleza on Friday evening and Saturday morning to clean up the spaces.

6. Music: kids loooove dancing!!



From a previous event organized by MOVE (the 1st of May celebration) we knew the kids of the Island love to dance and have dance competitions, so we set up loud speakers on the podium at the center of the Fortaleza and have a dance competition beginning at 16h30. This dance competition would also serve to gather the kids around the podium, where the movie would be shown. The loud speakers were lent by Senhor Putua (Firoza's father) and the competition was MC'ed by Harry Potter.

7. Conclusion: loads of fun for all, as long as it is not dark

As another fantastic sunset took place in the Ilha, the kids were excited dancing and participating in the dance competition. After discussing with the President of the Museu, we decided it was better to finish the event without showing the movie. There were many more than 500 kids around and with very little lighting, it was getting harder to keep track of them.

We all enjoyed ourselves and all kids survived (I think)!

