

AZLera's Projecto Oceano: Monthly Report – June 2014



June started off strongly with a big event we organised to celebrate Dia da Criança (Children's Day) on the 1st June. This is an important day here on Ilha de Moçambique and for a few years now Projecto Oceano has been taking the lead in organising games and activities for the many children that live on the island. A large number of volunteers from partner organisations and youth from the local high school also helped with the organisation of the event. The kids seemed to have a great time and as the day was drawing to an end were already asking about whether we would be doing it again

next year!

This month, or at least the latter part, has been dominated by the World Cup in Brazil. I'm told the excitement among locals hasn't reached the heights of the last World Cup in South Africa. However, every time an African team, Portugal or Brazil are playing, enthusiastic crowds gather around the few venues on the islands showing the games, which makes for a great atmosphere.

We had a great debate this month on child marriage at the secondary school attended by some teachers, students and other members of the community. Mozambique has one of the world's highest rates of child marriage in the world so this topic is particularly relevant here. A couple of speakers gave a short talk on the topic before the rest of the audience got involved in a debate on the subject. Over 60 people turned up and we had a lively exchange. We are planning to follow up on this with the showing of a film at the museum and invite youths to attend.



The end of June has also brought the beginning of Ramadan. This is an important month on the island as a large majority of population are Muslim. This also affects life at the Project as we have adapted the timetable in order for our members and students to observe their religious commitments.