



www.fcmanica.com

MANICA

Grupo Desportivo de Manica ~ DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ~ Manica ~ Mozambique

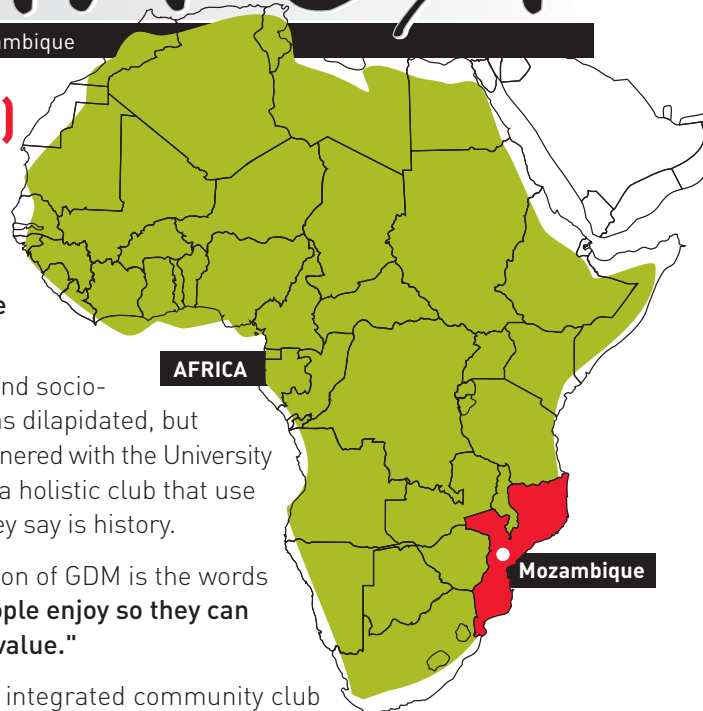
Grupo Desportivo de Manica (GDM)

BACKGROUND ■ GDM is a sport and recreation club that was founded in **1980** by the community of Manica, in the province of Manica, Mozambique. In a time of brutal civil war; ordinary people expressed their need for social cohesion, hope and a belief that life under the Mozambican sun can be good.

26 Years later, the very same club, crippled by overbearing poverty and socio-economic challenges still held fast to their dream. Their building was dilapidated, but their pride and belief in a better life remained. And so in 2006 they partnered with the University of Johannesburg to start 'operation reclaim the dream': a dream of a holistic club that use sport, specifically football to facilitate social change. The rest, as they say is history.

MISSION ■ The most appropriate manner to articulate the mission of GDM is the words of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen: "**To expand the real freedoms people enjoy so they can be able to choose to live the lives that they might have reason to value.**"

VISION ■ The way to achieve this overall mission is to create an integrated community club that uses sport for social good. The club is an inclusive hub which provides infrastructure and relationships that facilitate change.



Reflection: True development means each person knows and chooses what he or she wants! We may pick words that reflect a mission, but in Manica a mission is not exact words printed on a poster, it is a communal idea negotiated over many years.



Zambito | I grew up in very sad circumstances. I won't even tell you. But GDM has been a home for me. Whether doing great things like being the youngest volunteer computer teacher at 11 years or even when I was naughty, I was always accepted and given advice and love. I am very lucky to have been so close to GDM.

VALUES ■ Three main values distinguish and guide GDM:

- Relational: Everything happens through relationships, GDM pursues all activities and programs through friendships that explore sustainable solutions.
- Organic: GDM allows growth to occur organically. One success leads to another and people grow naturally in their specific contexts.
- Holistic: Our lives are integrated and HIV/Aids, poverty, fun, money, love, education etc. can never be split into artificially separate boxes. Development as freedom will always imply an integrated approach.

OBJECTIVES ■ To provide focus, the following objectives have been agreed on:

- Promote social inclusion and integration (vibrant civil society)
- Provide a wide variety of positive opportunities for youths to be involved in (participation)
- Promote gender equality (Mozambique at grass-root level is still very paternalistic)
- Promote skills-transfer (entrepreneurship, sport, life-skills, financial literacy, etc)
- Provide sustainable infrastructure (social hub)
- Promote physical health and safe places (including HIV/Aids and violence/crime free environments)
- To support a top-level football team that can inspire the town.



Opportunity in Manica

PROGRAMS ■ The following forms the core the activities, however due to GDM's nature and the dynamic exchange between community members, activities often include ad-hoc participation and interventions, from things like food supply and tree planting to local government capacity building and clean-up drives! The organic, holistic and relational approach always ensures (pleasant) surprises which are welcomed as learning opportunities.

SPORT

Football | The town of Manica is football crazy and this is the tip of the GDM spear. The top players are local heroes and role-models. All A-team players also perform other social interventions as volunteers in various other programs. In 2008 GDM was crowned National Junior Football champions! In the same year the A-team won the provincial league being promoted to National Second Division for the first time in Manica's history. The teams are the core of GDM's social interaction drive and includes A, B, Junior, District, and C-teams. There are also six u/14 teams, six u/10 teams and two female teams. GDM also uses Futsal (indoor soccer) to provide opportunity for more girls to participate (6 teams).

Other sports | To ensure substantive inclusion a gymnasium, basketball, volleyball, chess club, handball and athletics is also pursued. Future plans include swimming, rowing, tennis and a driving range!



Prisca | As the first female employee of GDM I take my job very seriously. I do accounting and also ensure that women and girls are never left out of the picture! Regarding gender our successes are in the chess club, basketball, HIV/Aids workshops and computer literacy.



Learning in Manica

RESEARCH CENTRE

Formal | GDM is positioned and well-suited as a SADC Research Centre. Theoretical works such as dissertation fieldwork, industrial design, engineering, graphic design, development studies, high school life orientation, architecture, religious studies and agriculture are some of the past focus areas. Accommodation, internet, clean toilets and a very receptive community provide the basics needed to conduct research in a unique and remote area!

Informal | Visitors and volunteer groups are always very welcome and have included groups and individuals from England, USA, Germany, South Africa and Zimbabwe. These exchanges are viewed as very important cross-cultural mile-stones that promote mutual learning and friendship building.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Computer Literacy | Internet Café, learning centre and communal office for the majority part of the town. Volunteer teachers are often soccer players and over 500 graduates and more than 1000 users prove the sustainability of the Centre.

English School | Integration into SADC and workplace marketability requires English speaking skills. Over 100 students have graduated to date.

Financial Literacy | Working strategically with money, budgets and planning is foreign to most Manican youths. It was recognized that poor 'money-matters' can keep an individual from reaching any goals. Therefore we conduct seminar and peer interventions.

Agriculture | Food security, variety research, participation for life-skills, income generation.

Entrepreneurship | Indigenous band, restaurant-bar at clubhouse, bakery, welding, barber shop, seminars, etc.

Life-Skills | Leadership, teamwork, communication, HIV/Aids, substance abuse, conflict resolution, gender, children's rights, mentoring, decision making, project management and environmental care.



Genoda tyre shoe factory



Short | When I consider someone like M...(name censored), who started with us as a convicted criminal and thief (very stubborn), but who is now an active contributor and a role-model for the young kids, I know there is magic in GDM. The whole town said this boy will never change – but he did. These things make me want to be a part of this story for a long long time to come.



PARTNERS ■ Strong partners are crucial to sustainability. Good partners provides human, monetary or physical resources, they are committed, they promote learning, ensure transparency, demand accountability, explore opportunity and consequently, they share in the numerous highs and lows.

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation – Using Sport to make a difference (England)

Laureus is much more than a donor. Since our partnership was established Laureus helped and motivated us to work hard at our structures and processes. They assisted us with the needed capacity building so that we can multiply our impact. With Laureus we work on refining exactly how sport is used for positive social impact and life change.



University of Johannesburg – An Engaged University (South Africa)

Besides being our official vehicle in South Africa (financial and administrative home) through UJ Sport, the university is involved through more than eight different divisions and departments, spanning five faculties. As our official knowledge partner UJ contributes through human resources, material resources, research and access to information and intellectual property. UJ staff, students and Alumni are also particularly involved as volunteers.



Arsenal in the Community – Victoria Concordia Crecit (England)

What a privilege to partner with one of the top football clubs in the world! This relationship includes assistance with material and funds, coaching curriculum, youth volunteers going to Manica and knowledge sharing. It means the world for the kids in Manica to know that the Gunners knows about them and cares enough to be engaged! Arsenal in the Community has distinguished itself through their GAP year, Soccer Schools and various community interventions. Highlights included Schalk's trip to the Emirates Stadium and Walec's visit to Manica!



Art for Aids International – Using art to combat HIV/Aids (Canada)

The start of this partnership and friendship was a visit and workshops conducted by Hendrikus Bervoets (CEO), Sandra Balsdon (President) and JP Bervoets during 2008. Our partnership includes food security to ANDA orphanage, HIV/Aids workshops, Educational scholarships and support for various primary school learners that cannot afford school fees, clothes or books.



Barclays/ABSA

Any project like this requires a strong corporate partner. At the one end of the spectrum Barclays sponsors the English Premier League, but at the other end they still care about remote African communities, and we are therefore very proud, not only to bank with Barclays, but to work with them in promoting socio-economic change in Manica. The partnership was brokered by ABSA Africa in Johannesburg and executed through Barclays Mozambique in Maputo.



LOCAL PARTNERS IN MANICA

- Macecece Community Radio Station
- Local Government (District and Municipality)
- ANDA Orphanage
- Kwaedza Simukai Manica

INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS ■ Without the care, love and financial contributions of individuals, (and they know their names!) this program would not where it is today. Most of these private contributors live in Johannesburg and live out a story much different from the narratives of apartheid, xenophobia, material selfishness and apathy. GDM's success is proof that even modest contributions can make a huge difference when individuals care and combine with others. GDM knows all about humble beginnings and personal sacrifice. Some friends also live in the USA, Germany and England. We have learnt that one's neighbour does not only live in the house next to you, but sometimes in a neighbouring country or even a neighbouring continent! "Faith, hope and charity, but the biggest of these is charity (agape)"



Mariano | I was with GDM since I was very small. First I was just Zambitos friend, but now I have so many friends, even the A-team players are very kind to me and always help me with little things. I teach computers with Chico, who is the A-team captain, we are both volunteers. My highlight: I am the captain of the Junior team that won the National Championship!

