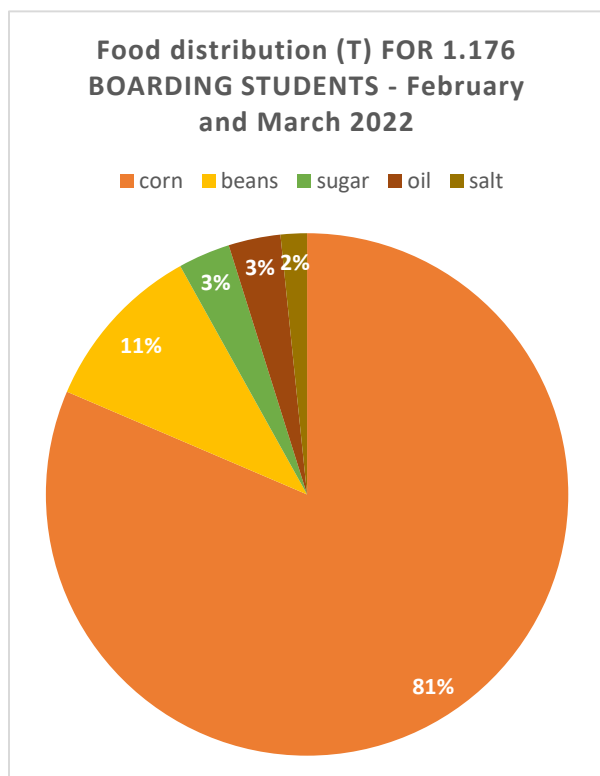




Boarding schools - Emergency Needs (54150) Report (1st quarter of 2022)

1. Results



During the first quarter of 2022, ESMABAMA distributed in total to the 4 boarding schools: **45T of corn, 5,8T of beans, 1,78T of sugar, 900 Kg of salt and 1.780 litres of oil.** The food **benefited 1.176 boarding school students** in February and March.

ESMABAMA also provided **basic hygiene materials for the individual and collective hygiene** of the boarding students (liquid soap, domestic soap, disinfectant products, ...). The schools closed between the 9th and the 13th of May for a holiday break.

ESMABAMA **ensured the basic food for each student:** corn – 0,5Kg/day, bean – 0,065Kg/day, sugar – 0,05Kg/day, salt – 0,01Kg/day, oil – 0,05Kg/day.

2. Summary

Guaranteeing the functioning of 4 general schools with 6.928 students, 119 pre-school students, 3 agricultural Institutes with 262 students, and a total of 1.176 boarding students is a big challenge for ESMABAMA. Especially in the Mozambican rural context, where ESMABAMA works and where there is a lack of basic services in education, health, agriculture and livestock.

Currently, we are pursuing to **ensure food and hygiene materials** for the boarding students. At the same time, each student only pays €2/ month, which represents 10% of the monthly basic needs. However, the lower prices are important to guarantee access to quality education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and away from any high school close to their homes.

COVID-19 prevention measures are still in place. A recent increase of cases in South Africa foresees to have an effect in Mozambique soon. Therefore, ESMABAMA keeps extra rooms and bedrooms available to guarantee distancing in the boarding schools.

Additionally, the cost of living and the prices in Mozambique continue to escalate, making it very challenging to cover all food and hygiene costs.

3. Challenges

The **consequences of the pandemic at an economic and social level** are still very prevalent for the population in Mozambique. After a peak of around 4.000 cases per day in December and January, the cases decreased in February.

2022 has been a challenging year. **Prices of essential goods are continuously rising**. At the beginning of June 2022, the **inflation was around 7.9%**. The major rise in prices started taking place right at the same time as the beginning of the school year, in February. Shortly, the war in Ukraine started with a major impact on the economy. Russia and Ukraine are the largest African **grain** suppliers, including Mozambique, but the war in Europe has brought **uncertainty to their supply**. In addition, the **production of maize**, the staple of the local diet, has been **greatly reduced** this year (due to drought). As a result, the **price of grain is very high**. **Fuel and cooking oil prices have never been so high** in Mozambique, as well. However, more price increases are on the way. This situation makes it **difficult for ESMABAMA to purchase maize and oil for the boarding schools**.

European funders support most of our projects. With the pandemic of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, the European focus is to help in Europe first, so **ESMABAMA has been receiving less aid**. Moreover, for the first time in several years, the **Euro to Meticais exchange rate is below 70 Meticais**. Managing project budgets is a great challenge, as these were approved at a higher exchange rate. Therefore, **less money is available locally in Meticais (MZN) to manage the same number of activities** and challenges as initially agreed. Therefore, **ESMABAMA is struggling more and more with providing a basic diet for the vulnerable students, while allowing them an opportunity to study**.

4. More about ESMABAMA's boarding schools

The boarding schools were set up to welcome pupils from remote areas and enable them to study. **ESMABAMA grants scholarships to the most disadvantaged and exempts tuition fees in boarding schools in order to combat the high rates of rural illiteracy and provide access to education and a future**.

Schools in Mozambique are organised into complete Primary Schools, which teach from 1st to 7th grade, from 2023 1st to 6th grade, and Secondary Schools, which teach from 8th to 12th grade, from 2023 7th to 12th grade. **In the southern Sofala Province of Mozambique, there are not enough schools for all children, especially from grade 8 and above,** and many children are **many kilometres away from schools or drop out for various reasons.** Primary schools are predominant, but the further one progresses in his/her studies, the further away the schools become.

For example, regarding Secondary Education, Machanga district has only 2 Secondary Schools. There are cases where pupils live more than 200 km away from a Secondary School. For this reason, it is common for many pupils to drop out of school after completing the 7th grade. With the educational restructure starting in 2023, school drop outs will start sooner, when finishing the 6th grade, when a child is only 12/ 13 years old. **The boarding schools run by ESMABAMA are, for many, the only existing opportunity for access to education. Students without the opportunity to enrol in boarding schools end up abandoning school.**

5. Next step

The school year in Mozambique is in its middle (it will finish in November). With the current global and local challenges, ESMABAMA will continue to do its best to provide food and hygiene material.

6. Pictures

Food Transport and storage (February and March 2022)





[Stew of beans and chima – made with corn flour, the staple of the diet in Mozambique]



[Boarding students having lunch with the food provided by ESMABAMA]



[Female dorm room – picture before the COVID-19 pandemic]