

## Sustainable development along the coast of Mozambique



Skillshare International has worked with the Institute for the Development of Small Scale Fisheries (IDPPE) for several years and is currently recruiting a number of development workers (DW) to support IDPPE's work in Nampula and other provinces in northern Mozambique. Angie Stratton, one of Skillshare's DWs, has been advisor to the Nampula Delegation of IDPPE on financial management and monitoring and evaluation since March 2002. This case study is based on an article she wrote for Skillshare International's newsletter.

Mateus da Costa is a fish processor in Mpuitine, a small fishing village in Nampula Province. He earns his living by salting and smoking fish. Until 4 years ago, when the nearby road was improved, it was impossible for Mateus to sell his fish outside the local area. Now he can catch a truck to take his produce to the bigger markets further inland. It's a 2-hour walk to the road and still difficult to bring essential goods to Mpuitine. Last year, a lot of fish was destroyed because local processors like Mateus could not buy salt to preserve it. IDPPE funded road improvements as part of their work to help improve the lives of small scale fishing communities in one of the poorest countries in the world.

The northern province of Nampula is one of the poorest places in Mozambique. Most people make their living through subsistence agriculture or fishing but face an enormous challenge to earn enough to feed their families and afford essential healthcare and education.

IDPPE works in conjunction with other government institutions and NGOs to carry out a wide-ranging programme. Using a community development approach, IDPPE aims to increase the incomes of fishing communities by improving fishing and processing techniques and addressing other problems of poverty such as lack of infrastructure, social services and training. It works on the principle that community participation is vital for sustainable development. The community decides whether they need a school or a health centre and provides a quarter of the cost of buildings by supplying labour and materials. Schools, health centres and water pumps have been built in several villages along the coast using this approach.

The water pumps have made a big difference, as António Manual, a 36-year old fisherman in Mpuitine, explains: *"The most important benefit that the project has brought is the water pumps because there is no life without water. Before, the women had to walk 3 or 4 hours a day to collect water. Now it's easier for them as we have water here in the village and it's cleaner."*

For others, education is the key to a better future. Eliza Niante is a member of the water committee in Pilivili and has been trained to maintain the pump. For her, education is fundamental: *"The most important thing which would improve my life would be a school here in Pilivili because if my children's lives are improved, so is mine."*

IDPPE also gives training and advice to groups set up to develop income generating activities or to encourage savings. Muanaribo Jorge, secretary of 'New Beginning,' a savings and credit group with 16 women members in Angoche, describes their plans: *"As a group we have some ideas for improving our lives. We want to buy a machine to make bricks to sell and we would also like to be able to buy a video, TV and generator to set up a video club for the community. People pay 1000 meticals (about 2 pence) to watch a video, which will help us earn money. These are the hopes and plans of the group because we could not do these things on our own."*

By involving local people in planning and managing development activities and encouraging the initiatives of groups such as 'New Beginning', IDPPE hopes to bring lasting benefits to the fishing communities along the coast of Mozambique.