

## Christmas Appeal 2013



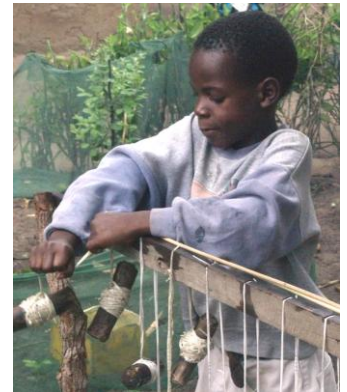
This year we are launching the start of the next phase of building work at the Inhamizua site of Casa Reom. An architect in Beira continues to finalise plans for a new two-storey block that will house a dining room, kitchen and offices on the ground floor and more staff accommodation on the upper floor. Before this work can begin the water and sewerage system on the site needs to be improved to cater for the extra demand. We are looking to raise funds for improvements to the clean water storage and to include a rain harvesting system for cleaning and gardening water as well as a less expensive source of water for the building work.

To donate go to [www.justgiving.com/CasaChristmas2013](http://www.justgiving.com/CasaChristmas2013) or donate to this appeal by SMS (text message). To donate £10 by text you just need to text "CASA55 £10" to 70070.

## Visit to Casa Reom – October 2013

During October, David MacLellan and Iain Slater visited Casa Reom as trustees of the Casa Reom Trust but also on behalf of St Matthews & St Oswalds and Overslade church in Rugby to which they belong. One of the main objectives of the visit was to discuss and finalise plans for the next phase of building work but this was also a chance to meet new members of staff and to visit some of the children who had been re-integrated back into families over the past few years.

Re-integration is a key part of Casa Reom's work. Living standards in Mozambique, one of the poorest countries in the world, can be shocking by western standards. There is the tendency when visiting this area and seeing the poverty to want to give to people to help them out. But giving money or taking children away from poorer families is not always the helpful thing to do - in many cases it is actually harmful in the long run. The staff at Casa Reom have to make hard decisions alongside social services about who to return to families and which children to keep at Casa Reom. We met Jose (10), pictured here, who was returned to his father along with his sister Florinda (11). Both children are learning mat weaving skills from their father while going to school in their local town.



Casa Reom has given support to this family to improve their situation and the staff keep in touch through ongoing visits. Nevertheless we left with a sense of the heartache of what family life in Mozambique is really like and the great privilege the boys have who come to Casa Reom.



During our stay we had the special treat of spending a night at Inhamizua and experiencing the boys' weekend with them. Alfredo and Pablo are members of staff who look after the boys overnight and have a small room next to the boys' dormitory where they live, cook for the boys and store much of the food for the centre. Alfredo writes music and teaches the boys to sing

as well as trying to fit in his own studies. Like all Casa Reom staff members, Alfredo has to raise his own support to work at the centre. As he cares for the boys he continues to look for others who can support him financially.

## Vocational Training



We also managed to visit some of the local vocational training centres where the older Casa Reom boys have been trained. Pedro (Wilson), Frank, Miquitao (Meccy) and Pedro (Angel) are currently training at the nearby Catholic Training Centre which have facilities for training in Tailoring, Cooking, IT, Computer Hardware, Electrical Wiring, Carpentry and Plumbing. We were impressed by the facilities there and the boys have used their training in electrical wiring to install the lights in the recently finished classroom block at Inhamizua. The local Electrical Company is able to give the boys work experience and there is evidence that some of the boys who have moved on from Casa Reom are successful in finding jobs in the port area and in local companies – although it is difficult (as in the UK) to find good jobs.

## Green Fingers



Agriculture is a key skill that many Mozambiquans need to learn as much of the food they eat is home-grown in whatever land they have available. At Casa Reom the land within the Inhamizua site has been put to good use in teaching the boys how to plant and grow vegetables. To protect the crops a variety of barricades and mounds have been built between the areas where children run around and where the plants are cultivated. The boys have to rise early in the morning to weed and water the plants before the sun gets too hot to work. Quick-growing plants have been selected to give several crops a year. These includes spinach, tomatoes, lettuce, onions and carrots.

## Escola Reom celebrates “Dia do Professor”

The visit of David and Iain to Casa Reom coincided with the national “Dia do Professor” (National Teachers Day) in Mozambique. Escola Reom hosted their own celebration with the support of the teachers at the school. YWAM have been working to develop the school which not only provides Y1 to Y5 education for the Casa Reom boys but also for another 180 local boys and girls who live in the Inhamizua neighbourhood. A recent inspection by the local education authorities recognised the achievements of Escola Reom over the past few years. There are also long-term plans to improve and expand the education and training facilities at Casa Reom. Headteacher Joana thanked us for all we are doing to support the school.



## Regular Donors Still Needed!

We are grateful to the many people who support the work of Casa Reom through regular donations. As we plan for a new phase of building work we'd like to find more people who can give regularly to Casa Reom Trust and support the future of Casa Reom. There are more details on how you can set up a standing order at [www.casa-reom.org.uk](http://www.casa-reom.org.uk) (select “Donate”)

**Casa Reom Trust** is a non profit making Trust established to support the Casa Reom Centre and to support work among children in Beira, Mozambique. Registered Charity Number 1113673.

For further information please contact Casa Reom Trust, 1a New Street, Rugby, CV22 7BE.

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