



ITAKA-ESCOLAPIOS, MOZAMBIQUE

Since its beginnings in 2016, the Piarist mission in Mozambique has been coordinated through the São Luís Maria Grignon de Monfort de Meza Parish, where the pastoral, educational, and social work is entrusted to the Pious Schools by agreement with the Diocese of Pemba, in the province of Cabo Delgado (in the north of the country).

At the end of 2018, the first Itaka-Escolapios agreement was signed with the Order to promote and maintain the Piarist presence in Mozambique, as a shared mission within the network. This agreement was initially made with the General Congregation, and since 2019, it is with the Province and the Emmaus Fraternity, this Piarist presence having been incorporated into Emmaus in its last Chapter.

From the civil standpoint, the process for the legal recognition of Itaka-Escolapios in Mozambique is already in process. In early 2020, the documents required for the official recognition of the delegation of the Itaka-Escolapios Foundation were submitted. We are still awaiting a response from the Maputo authorities.

Those in charge and the teams promoting Itaka-Escolapios in 2020 are the following:

Pemba headquarters team: Jean Bernard Dialomao DIATTA (coordinator), Jean de Dieu EHEMBA, André FOGUE, Diamantino Xavier Bento ARMEQUE, and Donaciano Valeriano GIPITI

SHARED MISSION PROJECTS

The Emmaus Pious Schools projects shared by Itaka-Escolapios in Mozambique are the following:

1. Parish of São Luiz Maria Grignon de Montfort

As a very large parish, it serves 30 communities across the areas of Minheuene, Meza and Mariri, each community having its own small chapel. The population centers are far from each other. In fact, one of the greatest difficulties and efforts is to travel the long distances to visit the various chapels.

Until the Piarist community arrived, the parish did not have a priest for several years, and was unable to hold mass. In the parish, there are various groups (women, children, youth, prayer, parish Caritas, etc.) that make up a lively parish community with great participation. The pastoral activity with children, adolescents, and young people has been carried out through the Infância Missionária and Adolescência Missionária parish groups.

In this context, alongside the pastoral work of the Piarists, the Calasanz Movement has emerged, and has been implemented as an offering to structure the work with children and youth.

2. Beata Maria da Paixão Kindergarten

The kindergarten is for children from 3 to 6 years old, located in Minheuene and dependent on the parish of São Luíz Maria Grignon. It began operating on May 13, 2005, with 36 children and it was initially run by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

Over the last few years, the number of students at the kindergarten has grown significantly. When the 2020 school year began in February (suspended two months later due to the pandemic), it was serving 122 children: 67 girls and 55 boys. The forecast for the 2021 academic year is that it will reach a total of 200 students.

The kindergarten building has seven rooms. In addition to the Piarist religious persons in charge, there are five monitors, three cooks, and two caretakers. The kindergarten maintains its Christian identity, although it is open to different religious beliefs. Children from the entire community may enter without any distinction, other than that which supports the most underprivileged.

3. Other Initiatives

In the context of such great needs as seen in the region, the Piarist pastoral, educational, and social mission faces great challenges in its attempts to respond to the problems encountered by the population in a situation of widespread extreme poverty.

In addition, there is currently a situation of great difficulty due to the violence in the northernmost area of Cabo Delgado: it is a very complex armed conflict, which has worsened over recent months and is causing the displacement of hundreds of thousands of displaced, many of them arriving into the territory of our parish and its communities.

With this in mind, and also taking into account the additional needs of the displaced population, one line of intervention for now and into the future is the development of agriculture, which will improve living conditions and, in particular, the food supply. For all these reasons, the development of an agro-pastoral project, the foundations of which having already been laid by the Piarist community, is one of the priorities for Itaka-Escolapios Mozambique.

**RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE ITAKA-ESCOLAPIOS NETWORK TO THE WEST
MOZAMBIQUE PIOUS SCHOOLS**

Economic Contributions (up to October 2020)

The solidarity network has contributed a total of 67,659.05 EUR (6,153,880 MZN) since 2019.

	2019	2020	TOTAL
GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES			-
PRIVATE SUBSIDIES	€7,855.83		€7,855.83
SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN			-
TITHES	€31,128.42	€28,674.80	€59,803.22
MEMBERS			-
ENTITIES			-
DONATIONS			-
	€38,984.25	€28,674.80	€67,659.05€

Human Resources

	2020-2021	Annual cost in euros
PAID STAFF		
PAID PIARISTS DEVOTEES	3	€6,000
VOLUNTEERS		

Beyond this, without forgetting the abundant volunteer work that drives the parish, Itaka-Escolapios has also been supporting the salaries of the non-religious persons who work in the kindergarten and in the parish activities.