



SGS revisits Micaia Foundation, Chimoio

SGS Consulting's Community Foundation Development Programme (CFDP) revisited the Micaia Foundation, this time in Chimoio, Mozambique, in mid-October.



Micaia, a multi-faceted organisation

This visit was in support of the journey that Micaia is undertaking in transitioning in a Community Foundation development component to its collective of organisations, dedicated to growing community philanthropy for sustainable, local development. The Micaia Foundation was established in 2009, strategically using its revenue and donor contributions to execute a diverse portfolio of projects through its grantmaking programme. The community projects celebrated in this newflash bear witness to the grants and capacity development support made possible by the Micaia programmes team.

Additionally, the Micaia family encompasses two other unique entities. Eco-Micaia Ltd, established in 2007, a social enterprise committed to cultivating and overseeing inclusive business subsidiaries. It dedicates

its efforts to forging new value chains that ensure equitable market access for suppliers and producers, effectively leveling the playing field for fair trade.

In parallel, Micaia (UK) stands as a charity registered in the United Kingdom founded in the same year. Its primary purpose is to bolster the development initiatives of Micaia in Mozambique, providing essential support that enhances the foundation's mission and extends its reach. All three entities are united by a single mission to create an environment where all Mozambicans can achieve well-being and thrive, working together to build sustainable local economies and dynamic communities across Mozambique.



CELEBRATING THE WORK OF MICAIA



Essential oil products as derivatives of its honey making

The SGS team started their engagements on the first day, working with the Community Philanthropy Programmes Manager, Isabel Fernando, and the Communication and Media Specialist, José Cuna Junior. They met with the Micaia staff team at the Micaia offices and learned more about their programs, that include community philanthropy through the Giving for Change project, beekeeping (honey production) initiatives in the buffer zone of Chimanimani National Park, and the development of new non-timber forest products, such as essential oils.



Honey production and packing for large retail stores

MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT

The meeting with the Chief of Social Assistance and other colleagues at the Social Services Department of government was significant as Micaia emerged with the explicit commitment by local government to collaborate and work together to improve the quality of life for the people of Chimoio



Staff of the Social Services Department posing with SGS and Micaia staff

The Social Services Department supports populations across eight districts in the South, and areas surrounding Chimoio. The social protection system includes cash transfers of 1000 meticaís (equivalent to 350 ZAR or 19 USD), and food vouchers/parcels for women, children (especially undocumented children), people with disabilities, and marginalized groups (including human trafficking victims, mothers in prison, and sex workers). Micaia and partners work extensively with the marginalized populations, and were challenged to submit their database of all individuals and groups in need of social support to be included in the 2024 social assistance budget and programs.

LOCALLY-LED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY MICAIA GRANTS PROGRAMME



Meeting with the youth of Gonazololo

Gonazololo, a youth-led organization supported by Micaia that is passionate about youth philanthropy. In addition to giving, Gonazololo is also involved in skills training and income-generating activities, such as carpentry. Shaun Samuels, the Director of SGS, shared some insights as to how the organization can lead community philanthropy, to scale up its youth giving and agency.



Presentation of the many projects of Joshual

Joshual, is a non-profit in Mozambique focused on gender justice, sexual health and reproductive rights, conservation, climate justice, and paralegal advice. Joshual helps young people learn by facilitating internships. At present, Joshual works with 530 children on programs that include placement of young girls in schools, education and advocacy about gender and family planning, and TB prevention and treatment. Other support services include child registration, prevention of early child unions, supporting orphaned children, health and sanitation, literacy, and food security.



Yolisa Lawrence helping to sort peanuts to be used for peanut butter making

The **Taremba** organization advocates for women, young girls' and boys' human rights. Through the mobilization of communities, the organization was able to secure the infrastructure where they now shelter widowed women and orphaned children, and facilitating their registration by the state to ensure access to social security services. The peanut butter production enterprise is a remarkable example of how Taremba is helping women and young girls meet their basic needs. Taremba is also planning a program for boys, and its partnership with local government and surrounding schools is helping to make early childhood development services accessible to children aged 4-5 years.



Mabassa team members displaying their leather products

Mabassa is a group of 12 people with disabilities who started a shoe repair business in 2005. They quickly expanded to making sandals and slippers, even though they were working under a tree. In 2010, they received support from Rotary and Micaia, allowing them to buy better equipment and materials. Now, they make shoes for men, women, and children that are sold in Maputo, Tete, Beira, and other towns in Mozambique. They even had the chance to exhibit their products at international trade fairs in South Africa, China, and Portugal.



A group photo outside their project building



Women of the project meeting with SGS in their agricultural fields

The **Cuidos pela Vida Association** is leading a groundbreaking project in the Hombwa community of Malawi, empowering women in vulnerable situations. The project supports 15 women, many of whom are widows and heads of households facing unique challenges. The project provides these women not only with agricultural resources such as motor pumps, spray pumps, hoes, rakes, and high-quality seeds, but also an opportunity to strengthen their economic independence and position in the community. These tools are essential for improving the agricultural system, aiming to increase the income of these women, many of whom are the main support for their families.

Uma Familia, Uma Latrina

An inspiring project which the SGS team is eager to share with similar projects in South Africa is the latrine project by the **Visão Social da Rapariga association**. Working in close collaboration with their communities and, through matched-funds by Micaia, the association enabled the community to purchase cement and build a local sanitation system, in the form of VIP and inclusive latrines. A stark challenge was the poor sanitation in the community, where for example, women had to wait until dusk to attend to their menstrual hygiene needs. Furthermore, the design of existing infrastructure do not cater for the needs of those who are living with disabilities, an aspect that was catered for in this project. "Uma Familia, Uma Latrina" (one family, one latrine) is the slogan used by the association to advocate for access to quality sanitation for each compound in the communities it is serving.



Project staff explaining the concrete caps for their ventilated improved pit latrines

ENGAGING ORGANISATIONS INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

On the 19th of October, SGS hosted a community philanthropy workshop attended by delegates from associations (community self-help groups) and community-based organisations interested in learning about community philanthropy, and community foundations. The workshop covered content such as community philanthropy as a concept, embedded in African practices of giving,

values and principles, and community foundations as an organisational form that can help to facilitate community giving for community-led development. The workshop also afforded four associations (Visão Social da Rapariga, Cuidados pela Vida, Taremba and Mabassa) that benefitted from matched grant funding by Micaia to share their projects, challenges, successes, and fundraising strategies.



José Cuna Junior addressing the workshop

In the final stretch of the workshop, Shaun Samuels took the participants through thinking innovatively about resource mobilization, while maximizing partnerships and collaboration with local government, businesses and philanthropists interested in investing in Community-led development.

NEXT STEPS

SGS and Micaia agreed to the following next steps:

1. Micaia to launch a research study to collate data on traditional forms of giving in Mozambique - SGS will support the research design.
2. Micaia and SGS will connect with the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance concerning venture capital, angel investors and businesses interested in social impact investments.
3. Micaia will host a national community philanthropy conference in the second half of 2024
4. Micaia has agreed to contribute to the initiation and development of a continental Community Foundation network. The network will enable Support Organisations and Community Foundations and its allies engage on issues that affect them, build the infrastructure for community philanthropy, and grow philanthropy.
5. Micaia will explore an exposure visit to South Africa that will be facilitated by SGS - to be confirmed in the first half of 2024.



Obrigado!

Community Foundation Development Programme
With support from:

