



Preparations for TPC – Mozambique : A Citizen Led Assessment Facilitated by FACILIDADE

Part III

1st pilot of testing tools (Day 2) in village
Nacurare, district Murrupla, Nampula,
Mozambique



We are back early in Nacurare this morning. We will start afresh. Each group will test 20 children from the age of 7 to 16. Additionally we will also pilot the 'school observation format'.

While our destination is the EPC school in Nacurare, the 2nd group is headed for the EPC school in bairro Tiponha

Houses in interior Nacurare



Just as we enter Nacurare we meet the Chief Secretary (Chefe de Secretaria) of EPC Nacurare. She is walking in the opposite direction, away from the school! In the ensuing conversation we learn that the school is now shut, as all the teachers of EPC and the school functionaries have gone to a meeting with the district Director of Education. The school is unlikely to open today.

We immediately decide to carry on with the pre-test of the testing tools in the households, and also pilot the household observation format, to see whether the desired information can be obtained easily from the respondent. No piloting of the 'school observation' format today.

One of the son's of the Secretario do Bairro Nacurare (village headman of Nacurare)



We head for the Secretario do Bairro Nacurare's home (home of the village headman of Nacurare) to seek his permission to test children of the village in their respective household. The Secretario do Bairro is away on work. His relatives call him on his mobile. He telephonically gives us permission.

In the meanwhile Armando finds out that the Secretario do Bairro has many children, most between 7 and 16. Some of them are home. We decide to administer test on them and also employ the household observation format.

Armando collecting household information from the wife of the Secretario do Bairro



After collecting the household information, Armando starts testing the 1st child, who seemed to be the oldest of the lot. Isidine and Lino have gone to other parts of the village. Each of them will test 7 children.

Secretario do Bairro's wife, is very curious to know how her children fare in the testing and sits at a discreet distance, keenly observing the proceedings.

Armando administering the reading (leitura) test, while the Secretario do Bairro's wife looks at the camera



Loud local music blares from a neighbouring home, as we test the children. All of a sudden the music changes – which I feel sounds like Hindi film music. No Indians in this village, apart from me. It can't be Hindi. Must be a similar tune. I do not pay much attention. Nay! It does not stop with just that song, the next one again sounds familiar, it definitely is a Hindi film song... and the next one... and again. This is so similar to our own villages, particularly in northern India!

Pelto, who we have met yesterday, he was amongst the 1st lot to be tested, pops up to watch the testing. We think he must have heard about our presence in the neighbourhood today, and passes by. He is actually the youngest son of the Secretario do Bairro!

Pelto (2nd of right) watches his sibling being tested



Mr Eurico Gabriel Nival, the Secretario do Bairro, Nacurare, arrives when we are about to give the feedback of his children's performance to his wife. We have tested 5 of his 6 children. (Pelto is not tested). His presence makes his wife step back. The feedback is not very encouraging. His children, many of them in higher classes can barely read words. In mathematics some of them could go upto subtraction.

Both the parents ask Armando many questions on why the learning levels are so poor.

Grim looking Armando giving feedback about the learning levels of the children to the father - Secretario do Bairro. The children huddled together, listen.



As we step out of the village head's home, many children are waiting outside. Some insist upon being tested. Armando has already finished 5 of the 7 he has to do. He starts testing the rest on the street.

I leave Armando, and go in search of Isidine and Lino, to see what they are doing. Lino is in a house on the main road of the Bairro. He has just tested 4 children and is on the 5th. We will have to wait for him to test 7 children.



(Top left): Pelto, much relieved today as he is not tested. (Top right): Armando testing a child, who cannot be seen. (Bottom right) Lino testing (Bottom left): A confident child solving the mathematics problems. Finally Armando can relax, and look the other way



It is time to leave. Armando has tested 8 children, Lino and Isidine 7 each. Tomorrow, there will be a feedback session on the experience of pre-testing of testing tools, where the difficult words in reading and difficult mathematical problems will be reviewed. Also all 6 samples of reading (leitura) will be administered the 'Type Token Ratio' (TTR) to check the consistency of language and words

On the way back Armando makes 2 significant observations:

- The interest amongst the community elders and parents is tremendous, the others agree**
- Many children who can answer the reading comprehension questions, answer them in Macua, the local language and not Portuguese the language in which the questions are asked!**



We will miss Bairro Nacurare