



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

Part IV

2nd pilot of testing tools (Day 3) in Murrupula, Nampula, Mozambique



2 days of pre-test of the testing tools is over. The 2 days actually represent the 1st round of pre-test. Day 2 was necessitated as we started late on day 1. There will be 2 more rounds of pre-test. But first, we have to compile the observations from the 1st round, where each one of us have noted down the words that the children found difficult to read and the mathematics problem difficult to solve. 6 samples each to modify based on these observations.

Farida, is busy all day with the team to find suitable replacement for the difficult ones.

Farida with the team (Matilde and Lino have gone to Beira)

Once the team is done with finding suitable replacement for the difficult words and mathematics problem. Farida initiates them to the concept of Type Token Ratio (TTR), which will be administered on all 6 samples of the reading test tools.

The way TTR functions is first all unique words in a paragraph or a story are counted. A unique word is a word that features only once in a paragraph or a story, and also includes articles such as 'a'. Then all the words in a paragraph or a story are counted. Following which, unique word count is divided by the total word count.

The same treatment of TTR is administered on all 6 samples to see that the difference is not more than '.1'. Anything more than will necessitate replacement of words in the sample of paragraph or story, which falls out of the permissible limit.

By late evening the team manages to do the balancing act. A modified version of the 6 samples are ready. Tomorrow we will visit the Murrupula EPC school for the 2nd round of pre-test and also pilot the 'school observation' format.

One of the numerous rounds of Type Token Ratio that we go through, after every round of modifications of all 6 samples

1: Hist. → 0,74 0,74

2: Hist. → 0,74 Min → 0,70

3: Hist. → 0,74 Min → 0,74

4: Hist. → 0,68 → 0,74

5: Hist. → 0,71 Min → 0,70

6: Hist. → 0,70 Max → 0,74

Media → 0,72

~~58~~ 55 1. $\frac{41}{55}$; 2. $\frac{41}{55}$; 3. $\frac{38}{51}$;

4. $\frac{34}{50}$; 5. $\frac{37}{52}$; 6. $\frac{38}{54}$

↓

4. $\frac{40}{54} = 0,74$



Armando has informed us, yesterday, that they are expecting visitors from the NOVIB office in Maputo. NOVIB funds FACILIDADE Chamo and Nilton are supposed to visit us.

Only Nilton arrives and he will come with us to Murrupula to witness the 2nd round of pre-test.

Farida and I briefly explain to him the salient features of CLA and what we will do in Murrupula.

This time all of us are going to Murrupula. It is a large EPC school in the district headquarter of Murrupula.

We are explaining Nilton about CLA



Just before we start, Isidine informs Armando that the Provincial Governor is visiting Murrupula today. This could affect the school functioning. Oh! Not again.

Sure enough, the EPC school is shut! No 'school observation' yet again.



Time is running out for us. We only have 2 more working days (including Saturday, which is a holiday for the team here) before we return. One more round of pre-test after today's round.

Scene outside the school.



Being a 'holiday' we find many children playing in front of the school, which is a massive open space. We cannot resist the temptation. These children would suffice. We start chatting them up.

We have a slight problem. The functionaries of the Bairro are all attending the Provincial Governor's meeting. To test the children in Murrupula, who do we seek permission from?

The leisurely day will soon get busy



After a longish wait, Mr Abdul Bandeira, Presidente do Conselho de Escola (head of School Management Committee) of Murrupula arrives. We explain to him the purpose of our visit. He readily gives us permission to test children, but does not show much curiosity about the purpose of testing children!

Mozambique schools also have a School Management Committee – to oversee the functioning of the schools. Usually there are 13 – 18 members on the committee, comprising members from the civil society, school principal, school teachers and students.

Left: The Bairro ladies making use of the school facilities

Right: Isidine, Nilton, Abdul Bandeira and Armando



While we wait for the , necessary permissions Amelia, Bene and Faridah have already started testing the children. Amelia is administering the reading tests and Bene (to his left) has given the child the mathematics problems to solve.



Armando and Isidine, finally, start testing children. While Isidine administers the tests, Armando notes down the words that the child is finding difficult to read.

Despite the many children that are lounging around, not many want to be tested. They are unsure and scatter around.

A willing volunteer - not only willing to be tested but also goes looking for children on our behalf!!



Nilton is very happy. 'This is great, I can actually instantly assess the learning level of a child!' – the NOVIB representative exclaims. He has grasped the essence of Citizen Led Assessment (CLA)!

Gradually the children come back. After seeing a few test cases (children being tested) from a discrete distance. They surround us. This time more confident of being tested themselves. Not many readers amongst them though, not to talk about their mathematical skills.

The children warming up to the occasion!



I head for the car we came in. Today we have tea and savouries stocked. Need some tea.

Amelia and group, in the meanwhile have a more orderly bunch of children around them.



We finish testing 40 children by mid-afternoon. All have been administered all 6 samples of reading and mathematics tests.

Tomorrow, we will again be in office and review the difficult words and mathematics problems. Followed by a final round of TTR.

On Saturday, which is the day after, will be our last pre-test and pilot. This time we will visit an urban slum in Nampula, neighbouring the FACILIDADE office.

Children of Murrupula