

Mozambique

Story from the field: Tina, a Master from Katapua

In the north of Mozambique, the Norway–ILO partnership is active in Cabo Delgado Province, the third poorest province in the country. Cabo Delago has the lowest literacy rate among women and highest early pregnancy rate in Mozambique. Gender-based stereotypes, determined by a traditional separation of roles between women and men, often dominate social structures. In this context, the partnership helps unemployed and underemployed young women and men from rural communities to acquire the skills needed to obtain decent work that is productive and delivers a fair income. However, over 70 per cent of jobseekers do not have basic levels of education. The use of “*Mestres*”, experienced technical professionals/entrepreneurs from the rural communities, as trainers has emerged as a fundamental strategy to achieve the results set out by the partnership programme.

Capacity building of Mestres in Katapua, Chiure.



One of these Mestres is Tina Chaibo, from the rural community of Katapua in the Chiure district. At 28 years old, Tina is a single mother of seven. During the civil war in Mozambique she was kidnapped and taken to Tanzania. When her adoptive father died some years ago, she learned that she was Mozambican and returned to her country of birth. Until recently, Tina lived on a government subsidy – the only source of income for her family.

The Katapua community leader informed the Norway–ILO partnership’s coordination team that Tina was highly experienced in working in

the horticulture sector in Tanzania. After taking a training course, delivered by a specialized agency (IABIL), Tina was recruited as a Mestre of horticulture training. She received the necessary equipment and seeds, which are hers to keep. Today, Tina is responsible for providing practical training for 22 individuals, 75 per cent of whom are men. In addition, the community has allocated her a substantial agricultural plot (a machamba) to cultivate, where she will be able to produce her own vegetables. She plans to become a member of a cooperative set up under the Norway–ILO partnership.

In the context of the community, Tina’s role as a Mestre and trainer does not conform to traditional expectations. When she first began teaching she experienced harsh criticism from her trainees. “They didn’t accept me in the beginning. Even other women told me that they would not accept that a woman could train them”, explains Tina.

“But now, after two months, they are happy with the training and recognize my authority. I am committed to this project. It is a job that I do with great pleasure and I intend to continue working for the social and financial well-being of my children. My message to other women is to not wait for their husbands to provide for them. Rather, do any activity that can help in the economic well-being of the family. Finally, I now have an activity that will improve my family’s status and life conditions”, says Tina.

In the heavily gendered social context in which the partnership operates, Tina’s story stands out as an inspirational success.