THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT LEARNING IN MOZAMBIQUE

**FACT 1**
The children's reading skills are very low

Only one in 10 children can read a simple grade 2 story.

45 out of 100 children do not recognize/know the letters of the alphabet. Only 6 out of 100 children successfully completed a simple grade 2 reading test.

**FACT 2**
The children's mathematics skills are very low

Only 3 out of 10 children can solve a basic grade 2 addition exercise.

92 out of 100 children cannot solve basic grade 2 division exercises. Only 6 out of 100 children can solve basic grade 2 mathematics exercises.

**FACT 3**
Students pass to upper grades without having acquired the basic reading and mathematics skills defined by the national curriculum

At least 2 out of 10 children in grade 5 can/are able to read a simple grade 2 story.

At least 5 out of 10 children in grade 5 are not able to solve a simple grade 2 addition exercise

At least 4 out of 10 children in grade 8 are not able to successfully complete a simple grade 2 mathematics test

Grade 5 marks the end of the first cycle of primary education (in Mozambique). In principle, it is expected that children in this grade will already have acquired the basic reading and mathematics skills. However, as demonstrated here, the children move up to grade 5 without having acquired such skills. Even more alarming is the fact that the children enroll into secondary school (grade 8) without having acquired the basic reading and mathematics skills defined for grade 2.
Girls have lower reading and mathematics skills than boys

There are notable inequalities in reading and mathematics skills between girls and boys. In every 10 children who reach the highest level of reading, 6 are boys and 4 are girls. In mathematics, the difference is even greater. Being a girl or a boy seems to influence the levels of learning in our context.

The higher the level of test difficulty, the fewer girls can solve it compared to boys. At the lowest reading level, in every 100 children there are 52 girls versus 48 boys. At the highest level, in every 100 children, there are 60 boys against 40 girls. In math, every 100 children of those who reach the highest level, 65 are boys and 35 are girls.

Children in rural areas have lower reading and mathematics skills compared to the urban children

One in two rural children do not recognize / know the letters of the alphabet

In urban areas, one in three children is in the same situation

In mathematics, only 2 out of 10 rural children can complete a simple addition exercise

In urban areas, at least 3 out of 10 children can complete a simple addition exercise

For more information, visit www.facilidadeicds.org/tpc-mocambique