

Report on working visit, February 2020

As usual, we returned to Beira just before the start of the new academic year. We found that the repairs made to our roof last year were not as thorough as we had hoped. There was lots of water and mould in the house. Not a healthy living environment, so we arranged for the old roof to be replaced with a new one. As you can imagine, living in a place while the roof is being replaced is a messy, noisy business, but our home is now dry and habitable.

The re-sit season had just ended and we were anxious to find out how our students had done. A number of them had had to do re-sits because of Cyclone Idai. We were very happy to learn that all our students had passed the year. Just two fourth-year students have had their studies delayed by a couple of months. They are not permitted to start clinical rotations until they have passed all the previous year's exams, and these two students had failed one exam each, which means that they now have to do an extra placement and sit an extra exam.

All the new student who started last year passed their preparatory year.

We also met up with the three students who have just qualified. They were glowing with pride – and quite rightly. Doctor Eugênio is teaching at the faculty on a temporary basis. Luisa and Raul, both senior nurses, are busy looking for work. Meanwhile, Raul is helping to teach senior nursing students at the UCM.



The enormous task of putting new roofs on the faculty buildings has been completed successfully - just before the start of the rainy season.

As on our previous visit, this time we once again invited all our students to enjoy a nourishing meal at our home. It was a treat for them to eat fish or meat with salad or vegetables, followed by yoghurt or fruit - a welcome change from their standard diet of "chima" (maize flour). Apart from the health benefits, these shared meals also afforded us a perfect opportunity to discuss all sorts of issues with the students. And they were able to talk to students from other years. They particularly appreciated being able to talk to fellow-students who are further on in their studies. They all wrote letters saying thank you for the support they received in the wake of Cyclone Idai. You can read these letters on the website.



The start of the academic year is always the busiest period for us. In addition to providing individual supervision, we also give support to each cohort. And as usual, I gave microbiology practicals to around 80 second-year students.

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE APOIO À PROFISSIONAIS E ESTUDANTES DE SAÚDE EM MOÇAMBIQUE

(APESMO)

APESMO, our subsidiary, has taken up its first responsibilities. It now pays the subsidy for the seven first-year students. Other tasks will be added gradually. We are guiding the board step by step so that it will be able to function fully in the future.

Grant repayments are happening according to plan. All the doctors and nurses who have qualified via Doctors for Mozambique are keeping to the agreement! Abelarde has written a nice thankyou letter. We have placed it on the website so that you can read it.

Gitta van der Meeren
March 2020