

Mozambique- Ditosa

Case study and activities



I am so grateful...and know that without the support of the people from Australia and Caritas, I would not have been given this opportunity to continue my schooling."

– Ditosa

You might remember learning about Ditosa in a Project Compassion story when you were in primary school. Caritas Australia first shared Ditosa's story for Project Compassion in 2013. This is an opportunity to revisit Ditosa's story and learn how things are going.

Ditosa is a young woman from Mozambique in her final year of school, who hopes to go to university and become a police officer. Featured in Project Compassion during 2013, Ditosa faced a challenging future with food scarcity, little education and few job prospects. Cared for by her grandmother and aunt, after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, the family also suffered the loss of their home and livelihoods, in severe flooding. Ditosa now lives in a comfortable house and is hoping to go to university.

A just future for Ditosa continues...

Ditosa lives in Matuba, near Chokwe in southern Mozambique where many children have lost one or both parents to an AIDS-related illness. An estimated 11 percent of adults in the country live with HIV.

Ditosa was 12 when she featured in Project Compassion during 2013. Back then, she was living with her grandmother, half-sister and aunt (who is HIV positive), in a dilapidated, one-room mud hut. Her grandmother made

a small living from gardening and selling charcoal but it was difficult to afford school fees, uniforms, lunches and transport for Ditosa to get to school.

Ditosa started attending the Matuba Children's Centre (which Caritas set up in 2007) after school each day. The Centre provides vulnerable children, like Ditosa, with lunch every day, study help, and training in computer skills, jewellery-making, sewing, raising chickens and growing vegetables.

In 2013, floods devastated the area, destroying their house. Incredibly, Ditosa stayed in the top of a tree for five days with a neighbour's family, with no food or drink, until the water subsided and she could locate her family.

Thanks to the support of Project Compassion, in 2014, Caritas Australia and Caritas Regional Chokwe (CRC) helped Ditosa's family to build a new two-room house.

With their help, Ditosa has also been able to afford transport fees to attend school as well as school materials and school fees.

In recent years, the Matuba Centre has expanded its activities to include a pig project, teaching the children to sew uniforms and build carpentry benches for sale. It has been so successful at generating its own income that it only needs to access Caritas funds in an emergency such as the distribution of maize, beans and sweet potato seeds during droughts.

"The joy of Matuba Child Care Centre is that it is now sustainable without Caritas Australia's financial support," says Elvira, the Centre's Director. "I never thought the day would come. Now we are thriving, with enough food from the seeds that were given to us and the rains this year

have been good. But we don't want to be forgotten. We are fighting to keep Matuba operating for the sake of the children who are so poor," Elvira says.

Now, Ditosa's grandmother is still selling produce from her garden but says she is now too old to work in other people's gardens. She finds it hard enough walking the 30 kilometre round trip, three times a week to work in her own garden.

Her aunt no longer lives with them as she is too ill with AIDS-related illnesses and has moved closer to the hospital. Ditosa's half-sister, Figue, has gone to live with her father in South Africa where she is receiving treatment for asthma.

Five years Ditosa is incredibly grateful for the support of Caritas Australia and the Australian community.

"Without the support of the people from Australia and Caritas I would not have been given this opportunity to continue my schooling."

"I am also so happy to have a house. There were previously four of us living in one room, after our home got washed away with the floods," Ditosa says. "Now I share a room with my grandmother and am more comfortable. This is all because of the generosity of the people of Australia and Mama Cacilda (Director of CRC)."

I love to learn and want to be a police woman when I leave school.

–Ditosa

Ditosa has finished school and hopes to go to university. The challenge is that her grandmother does not have enough money to fund further study.

"Education is important in my life but I know that university is expensive, so if I can't go to the police academy I want to learn commercial science so that I can work in a bank," Ditosa says.

Your support of Caritas Australia is helping young women like Ditosa to grow up with confidence and hope... providing them with a just future.

Ditosa was able to stay at school with the support of people like you.

Her just future has started with education.

A just future starts with all of us.

Classroom Activities



FIND THE **STUDENT INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK** AT:
<https://www.thinkinglink.com/scene/1130000012093161473>
(Click 'Refresh' if the hot spot icons don't display correctly.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Prayer

God of Justice, All children have the right to an education. We thank you for the opportunity that Ditosa and her friends have been given through the Children's Centre in Matuba. We pray they have fun learning different skills and that they do well in school. We pray that all children treasure their education and work to build a better future for all people.

Amen.

Or write or say your own prayer for Ditosa and her community.



Reflect:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

—Galatians 6:9

- What challenges you from doing good at all times?
- Has there been a time when you have felt like giving up when working to help or serve others?
- Why does integral human development take time before a community can 'reap a harvest'?



Catholic Social Teaching Principles: Preferential Option for the Poor

We believe in prioritising the women, men and children most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

- a. How do you see this principle reflected in Ditosa's story?
- b. What other principles of Catholic Social Teaching can you see reflected in this story?
- c. How does your support of Caritas Australia strengthen communities like Ditosa's?

LEARNING TASKS

INQUIRY TOPIC: A JUST FUTURE STARTS WITH EDUCATION



Watch Ditosa's original film from 2013 (5mins)-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp9Nj9fd7E4>



Task 1: Story Study

English Y7- ACELY1723, Y8- ACELY1734, Y9 ACELY1744, Y10- ACELY1754.

Read Ditosa's story and discuss:

1. What made Ditosa's life challenging?
2. How did Ditosa's life change for the better?
3. How did Caritas Australia contribute?
4. How did the Matuba Children's Centre contribute?
5. What are two facts you learnt about poverty and injustice from Ditosa's story?



Class Debate

English Y7 ACELY1804, Y8 ACELT1807 ACELY1808, Y9 ACELY1811, Y10 ACELT1812, ACELY1813, Civics and Citizenship Y9 ACHCS089, ACHCS085, Y10 ACHCS099.

Topic: "A just future starts with education."



Making prayer beads

Religious Education

One of the activities Ditosa did after school was make jewellery.

Make your own beads out of strips of paper. Write a prayer on the back of each strip of paper before rolling them into beads.

Make some beads, string them together to make a class set and keep them in your prayer space. Or each student can make their own bracelet, anklet or necklace.



Human Wellbeing

Geography Y10- ACHGK081/Religious Education

Investigate differences in human wellbeing between places.

a. Examine the different concepts and measures of human wellbeing, and the causes of global differences in these measures between different Caritas Australia case studies.

b. Explore spatial differences in wellbeing within and between countries, and evaluate the differences from a variety of perspectives.

c. Explore how Caritas Australia supported programs are designed to reduce the gap between differences in wellbeing.

Suggested websites:

<https://data.worldbank.org/>

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

www.caritas.org.au