

**March Editorial**  
**When is an Organization Mature?**  
**What do you want from KULIMA?**

**May 5th marks our 36th year of existence!** 36 years of implementing social activities in countless communities in Mozambique, with offices and technical teams in each district. Our presence is not governmental or political and does not identify with those who govern the country.

**Ours is a social presence!** A presence of support for all Community Education initiatives, related to the strengthening of Food and Nutrition Security, support in Water and Sanitation programs, establishment of Microcredit programs, Gender Equity rights, Education and Health for all, the implementation Environmental Programs, and finally, ever ready to enter the Emergency programs sphere, when the need arises.

**Are we adults yet?** Can we say that KULIMA is a well-established organization that is self-assured in program implementation, concretely supporting mainly rural communities in their integrated socio-economic growth? If we consider the accumulation of acquired experiences, if we consider our portfolio of activities implemented, we could say YES! We are absolutely able to deliver sustainable development programs and, over time, create innovations and improvements in the services provided.

**However, we are not a private company, a consulting company!** So, it is difficult to say that we have enduring stability, the financial capacity to face all development challenges. We are often misunderstood and encounter donors whose evaluation methods reflect a lack of actual local appreciation for what should be done in support of communities, embodying stereotypically bureaucratic and incomprehensible attitudes. These continue to follow the path of calls for proposals, as if NGOs should mirror for profit entities. Founding one stupidity on top of another and proposals of real value turn into rubbish, conceding to proposals from for profits. Organizations that are *non-Profit* in name and legal registration, only. He also exerts influence over the *brother-in-law*, securing approval through illicit means, if not to say, racketeers!

**Donors should select an NGO for its operational capacity** and because it is actually capable of implementing the proposed program. No calls for proposals! No faceoff between NGOs for a race to the prize. Donors, if they really wanted effective programs implemented, should research, assess, foster alliances, so that available funds deliver the proposed results and no pretty reports, veiled in lies about their execution. How many millions over these 36 years of development! How many funds for the eradication or at least to lower the rates of HIV-AIDS, to increase the yield and financial capacity of farmers, to eliminate chronic malnutrition, to provide jobs for all, to fight against climate change ... And, all this, to still be launching real programs that should have radically change the state of poverty of Mozambican populations.

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**In practice, *the word among us*, we are an “adult” NGO, but not old and analyzed!** We are an NGO, by the nature of its composition, continually regenerating and growing, with the inclusion of new technical staff in search of innovations and applying methods that correspond with realities within communities. We continue to be a “*non-Profit*” organization, in the true sense of the word, without mechanisms, without subterfuge, with the correct application of available funds, implementing programs, placing the heart and mind, as well as a great desire to serve those who need it most!

This therefore leads us to **have clear ideas for growth**, updated documents on different social matters, to be able to reorient ourselves towards The Millennium Goals with best practices identified with national and international NGOs as well as private sector; with an “integrated” technical and social vision, always.

A warning! **No "Copy and Paste."** Each social achievement must always be encountered, accepted, and integrated with community participation. Local communities must grow! And that means adapting to present-day, with present-day means, however, enhanced with past successful experiences!