

MOZAMBIQUE'S "TENNIS ON WHEELS" PROJECT: PHASE 2 CONCEPT NOTE

I. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT ("what and why")

- Mozambique has a large number of disabled persons, including disabilities due to their long civil war;
- There are numerous organizations which are endeavoring to address the multiple needs of disabled persons, but a negligible number offer sporting opportunities for the disabled (basketball, soccer, volleyball, and track). There are none that provide sporting opportunities in tennis;
- For those disabled that participate in some form of sporting, there are tangible benefits to their self-image, confidence and broader societal positive image of disabled persons
- In other countries, wheel chair tennis has become an important sporting opportunities for disabled persons (e.g., in Africa, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, and other regions/countries). This country experience and engagement in wheel chair tennis offers opportunity for learning lessons and collaboration of different types, if Mozambique were to introduce wheel chair tennis.
- Maputo Tennis Club has numerous local tennis coaches who have demonstrated commitment to supporting wheel chair tennis in Mozambique. The Mozambique Tennis Federation has expressed support for this initiative;
- Tennis Coach Stelio Carlos ("Teo") initiated "wheelchair tennis" in mid-2019, with modest financial support (\$1,500, to fund the retrofitting of 6 donated wheelchairs, and some initial tennis equipment) from the Rotary Club of Shepherdstown; this support also included funding contribution from the Rotary Club of Maputo/Polana, Mozambique;
- Especially with stifling Covid conditions, the ToW program has become more popular, especially among youth disabled persons. Coach Teo has requested a Phase 2 support from our Rotary Club.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH ("what" and "how")

Objective: To consolidate and expand the wheelchair tennis ("tennis on wheels"/ToW) program in Mozambique, in a phased manner, for the direct benefit of disabled persons. This support will comprise Phase 2 (see below).

Approach: More specifically, this initiative already is demonstrated the following achievements:

- a phased approach, with:
 - Phase 1, covering about 2 years (2020 and 2021), mainly to get the program established, launched, and with some initial experience/results, and focusing on Maputo, with a limited initial number of disabled tennis players (about 10), and with beginner's lessons;
 - Phase 2, which is the focus of the current proposal, would: expand the number of players residing in Maputo, and whereby the beginners (from Phase 1) would advance to "intermediate" level; mobilize a new batch of beginners. This phase 2 could take about 1 year/during 2022;
 - Phase 3 (in about 2023): would expand the number of players in Maputo, whereby the intermediate players would become "advanced", and participate in regional tournaments for the disabled (e.g., South Africa, Kenya); the beginners would advance to "intermediate" level, and a new batch of beginners. This phase could take about 3 years.
- Obtain relevant information from other countries of their wheel chair tennis program, including approach to the origins, lessons learned, and practical suggestions;
- Mobilize interest/support from key stakeholders/partners, beginning in Maputo;
- Obtain and retrofit the required wheelchairs, and other key equipment (rackets, balls, nets as needed) obtained on a donation basis; 6 wheelchairs obtained in Phase 1 need retrofitting/repairs, to be fully functional;
- Identify relevant associations for the handicapped which will provide the source of tennis player participants, beginning with 2-3 associations based in Maputo. From these associations, recruit/select the additional group of disabled players from the participating associations (initial group of about 10 players)
- Identify the suitable tennis courts/facilities (to ensure the tennis surface is not damaged); there are some area playgrounds and university play areas, where portable tennis nets can be used and training take place.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS (“how” and “who”)

This initiative is supported by various participating partner organizations, including:

- Rotary Club of Shepherdstown, West Virginia (which has donated the initial wheelchairs and some initial funds for Phase 1);
- Rotary Club of Polana, Mozambique, participated in Phase 1, and can provide different types of local support during Phase 2 and beyond, especially to help ensure expansion and local sustainability;
- Mozambique Tennis Federation, which provided endorsement and support during Phase 1;
- Maputo Tennis Club provides the main source of tennis coaches and two local universities in Maputo provide the venue for the teaching/ToW activities;

Participating disabled organizations in Mozambique, including: Liga Muculmana, AAIPD (Associação Aeroclube para Inclusão da pessoa com Deficiência, and others (being identified and mobilized by “Teo”);

The main responsibility for carrying out this Phase 2 initiative is an established Tennis on Wheels Coordination Group (TWCG), whereby the “core” members are comprised of (all working on a volunteer basis):

- One coordinator (one of the local tennis coaches who is the main founder of this initiative: Stelio Carlos (“Teo”); also, Teo was Africa’s first black African who was a tennis empire for Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, selected in 2019);
- One member from each sponsoring organization to serve as a focal person, regarding the progress, challenges and required resources, and key decisions for its future development.

IV. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING STRATEGIES/SOURCES (“how much”)

Resource Requirements:

- Wheelchairs (6) which have been retrofitted for tennis, with Phase 1 support, and currently need repairs;
- Tennis rackets (used)
- Tennis balls and cones;
- Tennis net, especially for use in places which are not specially constructed tennis courts.

The estimated cost/budget of this project for Phase 2 would be about US\$ 1,850 equivalent (or about Meticais 118,400). For details, see Table 1 below.

Funding Strategies/Sources

The above equipment will be mobilized on a grant/donation basis, from interested individuals/organizations (including members from the above sponsoring organizations). Other donating organizations could include: international tennis wheel chair association, and interested country tennis associations (e.g., South Africa).

V. TIMELINE (“when”)

Key Activity	Target Date	Main Responsibility
1) Completion of Draft Concept Note/Proposal (including consensus from key stakeholders/potential funders)	By end-March, 2022	Stelio Carlos and Richard Anson
2) Mobilize Funding (from Rotary Clubs of Sherperdstown, of Polana/Moz., Moz. tennis association)	By end-April, 2022	Stelio Carlos and Richard Anson
3) Repair Wheelchairs for Tennis (6)	By end-May, 2022	Stelio Carlos
4) Re-engage players from Phase 1 and Mobilize additional disabled participants	During 2022	Stelio Carlos
5) Carry out Phase 2	During 2022	TWCG (coordinated by Stelio Carlos)
6) Assess Experience of Phase 2 and Prepare Phase 3	By end-November, 2022	TWCG/Carlos Stelio

TABLE 1: Estimated Budget for Phase 2 (for 2022)

Expenditure Item *	Unit	No of Units	Unit Cost (US \$)	Total Cost (US \$)
1) Tennis Equipment				
Rackets	No.	4	30	120
Balls	No. of cans	20	10	200
Wheelchairs (for retrofitting/repair)	Wheelchair retrofitting	6	125	750
2) Local Transport expenses for players & coaches	local trip (to/from home)	12 persons (10 players, 2 coaches); activity: 1 time per week = 624 local trips	2.50 (participant contribution: 1.25)	780
TOTAL				US \$ 1,850

* It is assumed that some of these required items/expenses also will be provided on a donation basis from local supporters in Maputo. These funding requirements show the “core” funds required for Phase 2. Various sources of funding are envisioned. The main repairs for the wheel chairs include: adjusting/cutting the seats, and adding safety locks on the legs/wheels.