

Success Story: Bicycle ambulance in Namaime makes all the difference for pregnant women

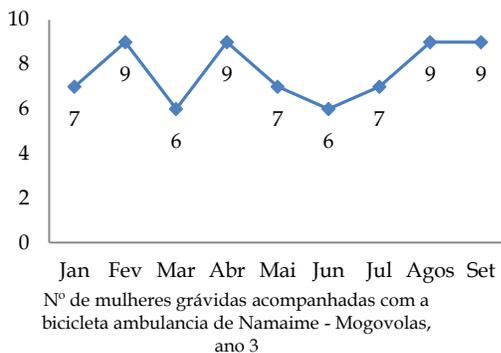
Namaime, a community in the Muatua locality of Mogovolas is 11 km from the Muatua HF. There are approximately 75 families with 381 inhabitants. Mainly farmers and pecuária. The CLC is composed of 30 members, 9 women and 21 men.

One of the biggest concerns of the Namaime CLC was the lack of transportation to bring acutely ill patients and pregnant women to the HF. Hot Topics discussions facilitated by SCIP highlighted the dangers of community births and the advantages of institutional deliveries. These discussions prompted CLs and TBAs to a consensus: Namaime needed a bicycle ambulance. CLC members were selected to form a management committee for the bicycle ambulance and the community raised 20% of the total cost of purchasing a bicycle ambulance.

The bicycle ambulance was handed over in an official ceremony at the end of 2011, with the participation of the district health authorities, CLC members and SCIP staff.



Since then, the Namaime bicycle ambulance transports between 6-9 pregnant women per month to the Muatua HF for delivery. The CLC president says “We are very grateful and happy with the SCIP project. SCIP has supported us in re-structuring our CLC, introduced discussions on health issues and assisted us in getting a bicycle ambulance. These activities have contributed significantly in improving knowledge and understanding health risks, both with CLs and in the larger population. We are so happy with all the support and the community participation in the process of community mobilization.



Bicicleta ambulância em plena actividade (acompanhando uma mulher grávida a US)

He further emphasized “We can see the behavior change taking place in our community. Now, the majority of pregnant women have had their deliveries in the Muatua HF. They go to their pre-natal consults. Women want to use the bicycle ambulance, and their children are now on course to complete the vaccinations they need.”

The bicycle ambulance has had a big impact in Namaime – contributing to reducing the number of community deliveries