

# Heather in Mozambique

## July 2021

### Greetings!

Hello and greetings from Mozambique! I had hoped that by this time I would be back in the UK amongst you all but with the current travel and quarantine restrictions I am unable to visit again this year. I will very much miss visiting you all and especially spending time with my family and niece and nephews who are growing up far too quickly!

### Back to school

But I can not really complain. We have all kept well and healthy and Mozambique hasn't registered a huge amount of Covid-19 infections and deaths compared to other countries. I'm not sure exactly why this has happened but I'm very thankful as our health service is extremely limited on the best of days! When Covid arrived in Mozambique the Government instigated various restrictions to limit cases. The main one affecting us was the closing of schools last year in March. The 6th graders and above went back to school part-time from November last year but the younger grades did not start back until March of this year, missing a whole year of school! Needless to say we were very happy when they finally were able to go back to school!





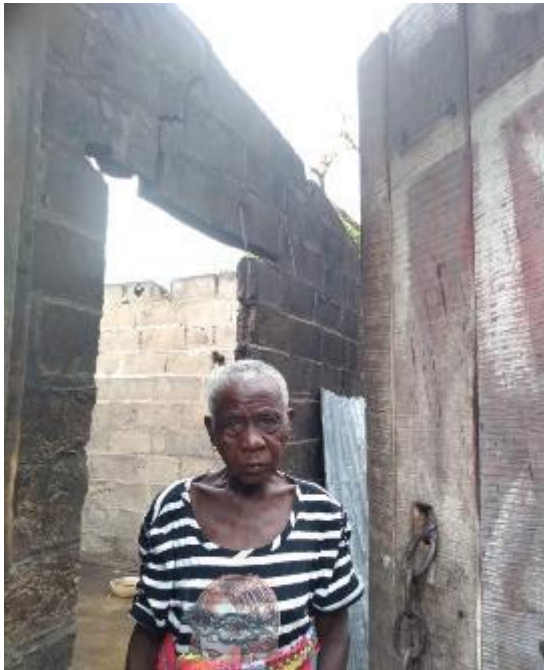
## Storm season

With the lack of school and lack of visitors that we usually welcome to Kedesh, it has been quite a strange and busy year for us. Since I last wrote in September, we made it through another hot and rainy season! This year brought a lot more rain and we all (including the dogs) enjoyed cooling off in the pond as well as fishing in the various streams formed by the down pours. As well as rain, this hot season also brought us a tropical storm and another cyclone (Eloise)! Thankfully, we all stayed safe and well and only had quite a few trees down and the workshop roof damaged. We are now getting pretty good at cyclone prep!



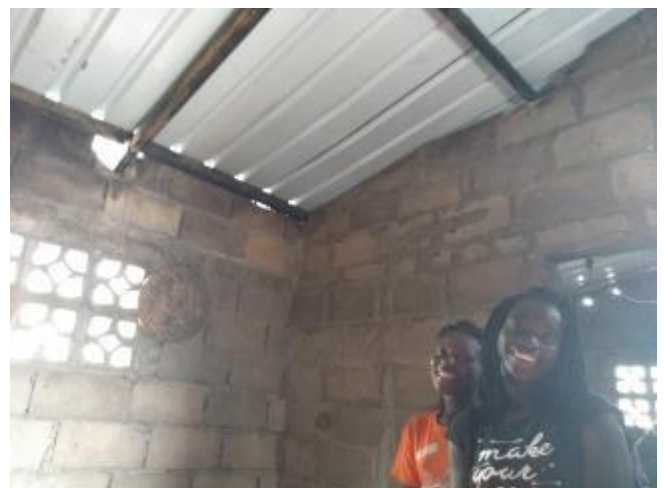
## Giving roofs to neighbours

This time around, the Government put out warnings about the storms and cyclone that was coming our way and many businesses and locals did their best to prevent damage and keep themselves safe. Unfortunately for a lot of people in our community, there wasn't really a way to fully secure their tin roofs and many lost parts or all of their roofs. With the donations we were sent we have been able to give new roofs to 2 of the elderly ladies we support regularly as well as to a the home of two sisters we support in school. Below are photos of one the elderly ladies and the two sisters before and after they received their new roof!



Before.....

After





## Girls in school

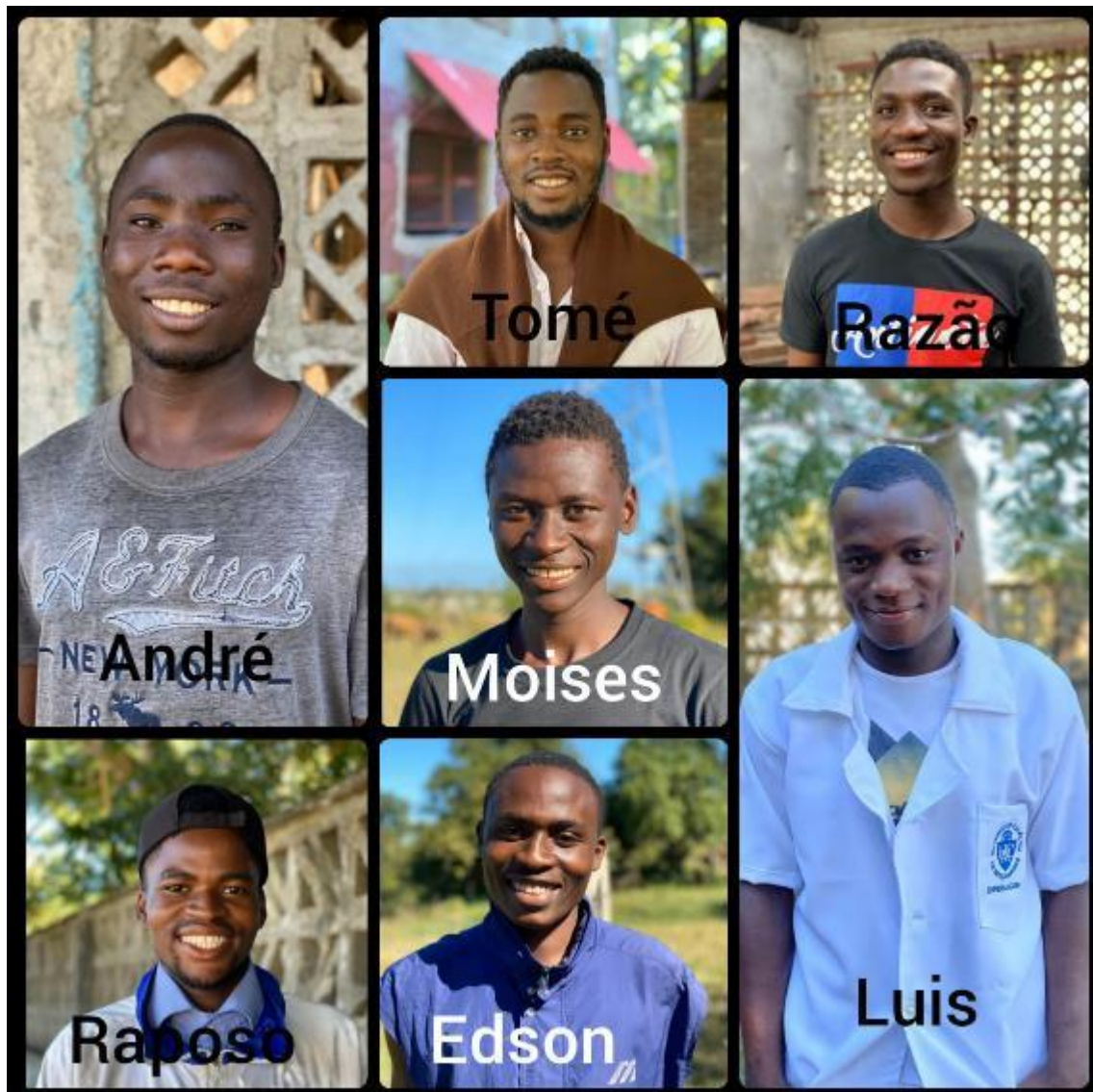
As many of you know, Kedesh is a home just for boys but for several years now we have also been supporting girls to continue in secondary school level education. There have been many challenges to the girls, including family expectations and cultural pressures and sadly, despite our support and encouragement we have seen many girls drop out of studying, often due to pregnancy or moving away to get traditionally married. But amongst those who drop out are several girls who have shown a different attitude and commitment to their studies and instead of giving up, we believe it's worthwhile to keep giving girls in our community this opportunity with the hope that others too will do well and succeed. This year I'm very happy that we are able to support 15 girls from ages 12 to 18. Secondary school here starts from 8<sup>th</sup> grade and goes to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Amongst the girls we support, 1 is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 are in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 8 are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Here's some of their faces!



My hope is that we are able to support some of these ladies in further education in the future.

## Moving on

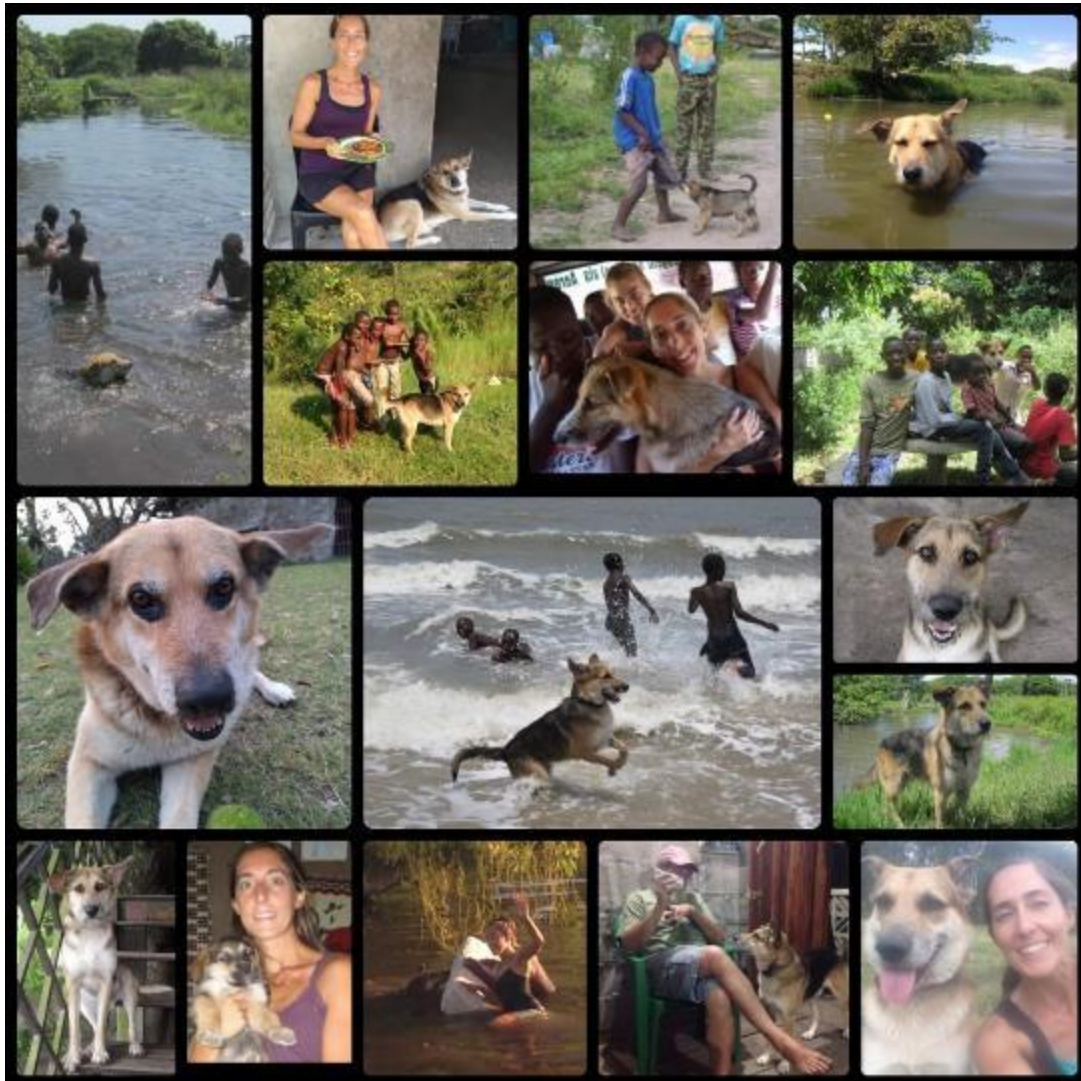
Since I last wrote we have said goodbye to 7 boys (young men really!) who have moved on from Kedesh. They have all worked hard and we were able to help several of them to build their own houses on family land. Luis and Edson are being supported by a friend of Kedesh to study at university (nursing and nutrition). Razão is being supported to study a course to train in operating heavy machinery and Raposo is doing a course in construction. Andre had a job for a while and did a course in agriculture and is currently working in our vegetable garden and helping to train one of our younger boys. Tomé and Moises are also temporarily working for us, helping with various projects but both hope to soon join a construction project we have heard about run by a German company. Please pray for them and this next chapter in their lives.





## Goodbye to my faithful friend, Bailey

In February my beautiful dog Bailey got very unwell and I had to make the very hard decision to have him put down. Bailey has been by my side since 2009 when I was given him by friends when he was a 6 week old puppy. I did not fully realise then what a huge blessing he would be to me. He's fought and chased off thieves and been my body guard and best friend! Bailey was also loved by the boys as he loved to chase after them, especially in the pond! He had many quirks but one in particular was his love of water balloons. I miss him every day but will always be thankful for the 12 years he was with me.



Bailey fathered 5 puppies and one of them, Jackson also became my dog and stays in my house with me. Jackson is very different to Bailey but is lovely in many ways and I'm very thankful to have him. He's 7 years old this year.



## New to the kedesh family

A few months ago we welcomed two brothers to Kedesh. Joao and Claiton. Joao is 13 and Claiton is 8. They had been living with their older brother since their parents died several years ago but due to the Covid restrictions he had lost income and was struggling to provide for them and to take care of them. Joao and Claiton have settled into Kedesh really well. Claiton had not started school so has gone into first grade. He loves to sing and knows many songs! João is a very helpful and good natured boy who loves the dogs, particularly Jackson. He's made lots of friends and has just started secondary school.



## Girls Independence Party

Recently I had the privilege of participating in a party with some of the local girls and children (and a few stray boys) to celebrate independence day. I was amazed at how the girls managed to cook beans, rice and chicken and prepare a salad with very limited cooking/preparation facilities! As well as a great feast the girls had prepared a dance show which was super entertaining, especially when I later tried to copy some of the moves 😊.





## Holiday adventure

A few weeks ago the boys had a weeks holiday from school so we decided to make the most of it by taking the boys away to a place 40 km from the Zimbabwe border called Casa Msika. John took the first half of the boys from Monday to Wednesday and I took the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the boys from Wednesday to Friday. It's something we hadn't done before but was definitely worth the cost and effort to see the boys experiencing things that they had never done or seen before such as climb a mountain, go on a boat ride and see giraffe, zebra and crocodiles. The place was also very beautiful, had a pool (which the boys loved!) and fed us really well so it felt like a proper holiday experience for everyone. Hopefully we can make it an annual event. Here's a few of the highlights!





## Thanksgiving

- That we have all remained safe, especially during cyclone season and healthy
- The fantastic holiday we recently had and memories created
- Financial provision continuing, despite the worlds struggle with Covid, enabling us to give new roofs to families who needed them after the cyclone
- João and Claiton joining our family and settling in well
- The many girls we have been able to commit to supporting this year and the friendship I'm building with them

## Prayers needed

- For continued safety and health.
- For the situation in the north of Mozambique where terrorists are killing and kidnapping people and burning down villages. One of our boys, Dito who's about 13 now, came to our home about 2 years ago after loosing his family and home and getting caught up in the violence. He is doing really well but continues to struggle with anger issues at times.
- For the 15 girls we support. That they would do well at school and be supported to continue to study by their families.
- That visitors would make it to Kedesh! We have really missed visitors in the last year and a half.
- That the Uk would change their rules about mandatory quarantine so that I am able to plan a trip back.
- For continued energy in these times when it's hard to have time away from Kedesh.
- For our 5 year visas to be approved which we applied for almost a year ago.

Thank you so much for reading and supporting me and us all here and so sorry it's such a long newsletter! I was recently given a new phone which has made it a lot easier to write a newsletter, so I will hopefully get some shorter newsletters out to you all a bit more regularly from here on! Feel free to connect with me on Facebook or email ([hevdawnpev@gmail.com](mailto:hevdawnpev@gmail.com)).

Much love and blessings

Heather xx

