



THE **FuQueroSer** YEAR

PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 2018

"RUGBY HAS GIVEN ME THE DETERMINATION I HAVE NEEDED TO REMAIN IN EDUCATION. THE SPORT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE COMPLETELY"

- **Caio Henrique**, 18 years old, Dark Blue

SUMMARY

Activities in May were unfortunately affected by a national lorry strike, and several police operations in Morro do Castro that limited access to the community. We were nonetheless able to launch our website, Project Blue, and keep our programmes running at 75% of its usual capacity, in spite of these challenges thanks to the dedication and courage of our volunteer teams.

DEVELOPMENTS

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY:

UmRio English: Following three months of unprecedented participation levels at UmRio English, class-sizes for UmRio Blues (12-17 years) have stabilized at 25 students per class. This has proven to be a positive development, since high and inconsistent attendance levels have had negative repercussions on our teams ability to execute the UmRio English curricula. Our Dark Blue (formally described as adult) class, which is now composed of students aged 18-25 years, has maintained an average attendance of 5 students. There have been significant improvements in the comprehension and speaking amongst students from the Dark Blue cohort.

A preliminary self-completed survey found that 88% of participants at UmRio English feel more motivated to learn English since joining the programme, and 94% feel more confident in applying their English skills in practice.

Beyond these findings, we have also made progress in relation to curricula development and recruitment

- 1) **Curricula development:** As per our previous report (Ref. April 2018), planning for our teacher training programme has commenced. The teacher-training programme will overlap with our employability programme to offer residents in Morro do Castro, who have a good/advanced level English, training to apply their English language skills. Planning on content design for the 2019 curricula has also commenced.
- 2) **Recruitment:** We are very proud that our current UmRio English Coordinator, Monique Mendes has been accepted to read a Masters Degree in Italy. This has meant, however, that UmRio English will have to revise its organisational structure for 2019. A transition plan has already been put in place, and a new incoming coordinating team have been recruited to work with Monique over the next three months to design curricula for 2019. The incoming coordinating team will be composed of three language professionals:
 - *Rebeka Aytenfisu*, a Canadian-Ethiopian English teacher at the Rio International School. Rebeka has been focused on elaborating the TEFL curricula (that will be

applied on Saturdays), and supporting the design of a curricula structure for UmRio English (Baby Blues, Blues and Dark Blues) 2019.

- *Aline Barros*, a resident of Morro do Castro, Aline teaches English at a nearby school where one of our Dark Blues is currently completing his primary education. Aline is a highly qualified experienced teacher, who will be supporting curricula design and implementation.
- *Eduardo Nunes*, also a resident of Morro do Castro, Eduardo is a freelance English teacher who is particularly passionate about project-based learning. Eduardo's timetable indicates that he will be leading classroom operations on Mondays and Wednesdays moving forwards.

In combining Rebeka's international experience with Aline and Eduardo's local knowledge, UmRio English seeks to engage young people from Morro do Castro who have been traditionally alienated from the classroom to the programme. One of the key goals established by the incoming UmRio English coordination team is to assist young people in attaining EFL certificates.

Project-based Learning: Our programme team has learnt a lot from the first month of our project-based learning programme, which launched on the 5th April. Attendance amongst our key target audience (15-21 year olds) has been a key challenge, and our team have been proactive in analysing the causes of poor attendance. It is worth noting that the lorry strike and conflicts between drug gangs and police last month have been part of the cause. However, after several weeks of research, our team has identified a gap in our young people's understanding of the employability skills they need in their professional lives, and those that have been taught via the projects offered in this course. Based on these findings the project-based learning team will be working to make the link between the employability skills they are teaching, and real life scenarios clearer, and provide shorter, more tangible projects that end in products that can be used for employability or entrepreneurship purposes.

With this understanding in mind, on 24th May, the team held their first entrepreneurship workshop.

Rugby: Over the past 2 years, UmRio has been building its relationship with University rugby clubs, in an effort to consolidate the association young people have with the sport and education. While lorry strikes and drug-related violence hampered our capacity to deliver training on Friday's, we were able to secure participation in the State of Rio de Janeiro's University 7s Tournament in June.

Preparatory Course for University Entrance Exams: Class sizes and attendance at our preparatory course for university entrance exams have also stabilized at 23 students with an average attendance of 67%.

In May we registered UmRio with the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), facilitating our students enrolment to the University's entrance exam in June. Two students from our course are set to take the exam next month.

Healthcare: Unfortunately, our ART Dentistry Programme's activities in Morro do Castro were cut short due to conflict between police and drug-gangs last month. They are however, confirmed to return in June.

Project Blue: Project Blue was launched on the 7th May. Project Blue is an impact-driven programme that will take two young people to the United Kingdom in December.

The project has three key objectives:

- 1) To raise academic and professional aspirations of participants
- 2) To develop the skills and attributes of participants to help them make positive decisions in the future
- 3) To engage more hard to reach vulnerable young people in our education & employability programme.

To qualify for the opportunity, young people must be over 18 years old, and attain 90% or more attendance in our rugby programme, our English programme, and an educational programme that is aligned to their academic objectives for 2018. As mentioned in our previous report (Ref. April 2018), the programme has already been reaping results, with every young person aged 18-21 who was neither in education or employment in January 2018, returning to education by March 2018.

Website relaunch: Long-serving volunteer Kiki Kruize, who is now based in Holland, relaunched the UmRio Website (www.umrio.org) earlier this month. New features on the website include testimonials from our young people and volunteers about their experiences with UMRio, more information about the different ways you can get involved and an overview of our achievements to date.

MOVING FORWARDS

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY:

- 04th June:** Oxford University Captain, Dominic Waldouck, visit to UmRio
- 15th June:** Dentistry Visit
- 15th June:** KEDGE Business School's TUDO BEM project arrival
- 24th June:** Rio de Janeiro State University Sevens Tournament

FINANCIALS

Financial Statements, and monthly audited accounts can be made available by our partners at **Multiplic Contabilidade** (a Brazilian-based accountancy firm) upon request.