

## **ASKUT –‘ People caring for each other’, Macarungo, Beira**

I have been involved with this group for over 5 years both professionally and personally as they participated in a study I undertook as part of my masters research. Both the President Joaquim Passades and the members of the group are committed to the work they do. The association formed in 2001 as a response to the ever growing number of people living with HIV in Sofala province. While ASKUT began as a small group it now has over 300 members. All members are not only HIV positive but are on ARV treatment. The philosophy of the group is not just to help each other within the group but also to reach out to their communities. This means while the members are beneficiaries themselves receiving support and education through their membership they are also playing an active role in their communities by providing information and fighting stigma. A number of the members work as activists in hospitals and many are active volunteers in their own communities. While this type of support group plays such a key role in the fight against HIV/AIDS it is very difficult for the group to access resources.

### ***Assistance required:***

- Bicycles to help the volunteers travel around the communities.
- ‘Cesta basicas’ - this is a bag/box of items that will help meet the basic needs of the elderly and sick in the community. The bag/box includes a blanket, mosquito net, basic cooking utensils and can include some basic food stuffs.
- Financial assistance is required to help with transporting people to and from the hospital for checkups and treatment.
- The association itself needs somewhere to serve as an office and meeting place in the Macarungo area.

### **Contact:**

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