

# MOZAMBIQUE

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Impoverished children with special needs in Mozambique have received a vital lifeline from the Halcrow Foundation which will help keep their school open throughout 2009.

The school in Maputo is supported by a registered charity, Cooperativa para a Educação e Reabilitação de Cidadãos Inadaptados (CERCI), and helps educate and rehabilitate 24 children aged from six to 15. The Halcrow Foundation's £10,000 donation will meet almost half the annual running costs.

Most of the children attending the CERCI school are from poor families unable to contribute any fees. In 2010, CERCI is planning to move the school from its rented, temporary premises, to a permanent site on land donated by the local council.

While Halcrow is not currently engaged on any project work in Mozambique, old Halcrovian Baghi Baghirathan is closely involved with the Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP)-supported Maputo water and sanitation project serving 150,000 people. Several Halcrow engineers have also been involved with the Maputo project,



CERCI's school provides a lifeline to many impoverished children

including Rob Clarke and Richard Shackleton. Richard, a water engineer, currently on a six month assignment in Maputo, has offered to support and monitor the school programme.

Established by a group of parents seven years ago, CERCI, together with interested professionals, aims to provide education and rehabilitation facilities for children with special needs. It also aims to foster social integration where the disabled have traditionally been excluded and marginalised.