

Baby Nonsa still Alive !

- with the help from Community Facilitator (Sungukate) Martha

"If it was not for Sungukate Martha, my daughter would have died as soon as her mother died ... I did not know what to do". Alexandre Ngovene, father of Nonsa



Sungukate Martha and a little Nonsa in May 2015

Nonsa Alexandre, like so many other children in the village of Mbanguine A in Funhalouro district, is a beneficiary of CARE's Early Childhood Development program since 2014. Nonsa's mother, Adelaide, had received regular visits with advice on prenatal care from Martha (Sungukate) during her pregnancy. The hospital is 14km away and Nonsa came early so she was born at home. The day after the birth, Adelaide fell ill. Despite Martha's efforts in accompanying them to the hospital, Adelaide died in the Funhalouro hospital. Largely due to the support by Martha (Sungukate) Nonsa has survived. Martha knew the family would have no means to get the milk formula that Nonsa needed and so she contacted the Social Welfare technician and stayed with the baby in

Background: CARE International in Mozambique is testing a home visiting model of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Mozambique. The model is built around home visitors called Masungukate (singular Sungukate) who are supported by local community-based organizations trained by CARE. The home visitors make regular visits to vulnerable households in rural villages in the two rural districts of Funhalouro and Homoine in Inhambane Province. One of the aims of the program is to provide support to caregivers so that their children aged 0 to 5 years old achieve their cognitive, physical, emotional and language development potential.

the hospital to make sure she received the required care and support.

Mutuque, Martha`s supervisor, describes how Martha took the initiative to care for the baby.

“I was informed by Sungukate Martha that Adelaide died in hospital three days after she had delivered a baby at home. When I arrived at the hospital Flora, the Social Welfare technician had already supplied the required milk formula and Martha was feeding the little baby.”

In December 2015 members of the CARE, Social Welfare and local partner team visited Alexandre (Nonsa`s father) and the baby and were impressed with how Martha had helped the father to overcome the challenge of a newborn baby.

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Sungukate Martha described to us how she had made sure Nonsa had food, stimulation and love. She also told us how she had learned through her experience with Nonsa how to access services for other families with young children.

“I take care of Nonsa as my daughter and I'm glad to see that she is growing. She has begun to eat enriched porridge and play with her older sister. When I am visiting other caregivers who face so many problems I have used Nonsa as the example to help them to perceive that they have to take care of their children as a treasure. Now that we are hungry because of lack of rain I have noted all the caregivers who have so many children and who do not have food to give... I gave their names to Social Welfare and program staff to be benefited by supplementary feeding”. Sungukate Martha



Nonsa, seven months after her mother's death



From right to left, little Nonsa, Sungukate Martha and Nonsa's sister

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