

Estamos Juntos



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JUNE 2009

U.S. MISSION TO MOZAMBIQUE

HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting
June 10 – 14, Windhoek, Namibia
 2,000 program implementers from around the world gather to share best practices and lessons learned in the fight against global AIDS. The U.S. Mission in Maputo is proud to send a delegation, led by the Chargé d'Affaires, along with its Mozambican partners to participate.

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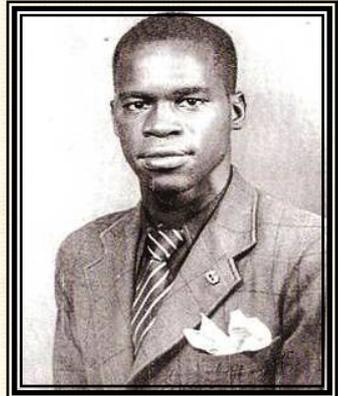
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Commemorating the Legacy of Eduardo Mondlane

On June 20th, Mozambique commemorates the birthday of Eduardo Mondlane, who would be 89 if living. The U.S. Embassy had the opportunity to visit a place that figured importantly in his life during our recent trip to the Presbyterian Mission of Chicumbane, where Mondlane spent some of his formative years studying and working after leaving his birthplace in Manjacaze and before going to South Africa.

In 2005, the Presbyterian Mission of Chicumbane successfully won a grant from the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation for \$31,000 to support the restoration of two school buildings and a library inside the Mission. The library was originally a chapel among schools and clinics in the Mission, and the complex dates back over 100 years -- from 1908. The 10-month cultural preservation



Eduardo Mondlane,
 11th February 1944

Photo: Courtesy of the Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane Foundation

restoration project was completed in 2006.

Chargé d'Affaires Todd Chapman paid a visit to the Mission during his recent trip to Gaza province, the first time a U.S. government official had formally visited since completion of the project. Mr. Bartolomeu Ernesto Langa, the Presbyterian Church Projects Department Director, was delighted to show Mr. Chapman around, and they participated in a signing ceremony to officially close out the project.



Bartolomeu Langa shows Chargé Chapman one of the restored classrooms at the Mission complex

Message from the Chargé d'Affaires



Todd C. Chapman

In 2009, the U.S. Mission to Mozambique is commemorating 25 years of partnership and progress – since 1984, when USAID, our flagship development agency, first opened its doors here. Our bilateral assistance partnership has grown from USAID providing post-conflict funds to several different U.S. Government development-related agencies and programs (USAID, MCC, CDC, PEPFAR, PMI and Peace Corps, and others) implementing expansive and holistic programs from

agriculture; to water & sanitation; to cultural preservation – all supporting Mozambique's own goals for its development.

Our Embassy's theme this year is Transparency, asking, "Are all of our programs and projects operating as efficiently as they could be?" In this regard, I have set as a goal visits to all of Mozambique's provinces in the next six months so that I can see more of our projects first-hand. You will read in this issue about my first visit on the "Cooperação Transparente" tour, to Gaza Province; I look forward to my future trips around the country to meet the Mozambicans who are benefiting from U.S. assistance programs.

Sweet Success for Female Farmer

Virginia Sebastião Neves has been working in fields since she was a young child. With four small children and an extended family to support, times were hard. Virginia lived in a small bamboo hut and worked a full day on a small plot of land growing subsistence crops like cabbage, cassava, and maize. It wasn't until a USAID-supported project introduced the benefits of growing orange sweet potato in 2003 that her business flourished and her life started to change.



international teams additionally taught small farmers like Virginia about the crop's market possibilities, linking farmers to potential clients.

Orange sweet potato is a now being used in Mozambique as a new ingredient in favorite baked goods -- such as breads, cakes and cookies. And the program has literally changed lives for some people, like Virginia: She now has an independent business and sells orange sweet potatoes to various clients under contract.

"Thanks to the income I receive from my sweet potato crop, I have been able to build a cement house and provide for my children and extended family with food, clothes, and school," Virginia says. In the future, Virginia hopes to renovate her new home, including adding more rooms and possibly painting the house orange in honor of her favorite crop!



USAID supported a collaboration between the International Potato Center and Mozambique's National Agriculture Research Institute. The result was a team of 120 national and international partners, who led an information campaign in Mozambique on the benefits of the orange sweet potato – its resilience as a plant, and its richness in Vitamin A as a food.

The campaign reached over 800,000 families, and the

Above: Virginia holds sweet potato vines; Below: Virginia and her children in front of their new house

PEPFAR Helps Tuberculosis Victims as Well



A group of Manjangue health volunteers dancing for the U.S Embassy visitors

PEPFAR is the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, but PEPFAR is a holistic program that looks more broadly at the related dangers of HIV – including tuberculosis (TB). The link between TB and HIV/AIDS is a significant global health problem as there is a large rate of "co-infection." About 1/2 of all persons in Mozambique diagnosed with TB are also HIV positive.

With support from PEPFAR, non-governmental organization partners Family Health International (FHI) and World Relief are training local community health volunteers to provide basic TB-related assistance in remote areas in Gaza province .

In Manjangue (Chokwe district, Gaza), where two people have recently died from TB, the health workers conduct information campaigns to educate their communities about TB and how to seek treatment.

And according to one Manjangue traditional leader, because of the health volunteers' work, more people

in the community now know about TB and are getting the help they need; 21 Manjangue residents are currently getting TB treatment for the potentially deadly disease.

During the Chargé d'Affaires' recent trip to Manjangue, he got to meet one of the recipients, Fany. Fany came down with TB earlier in the year, but thanks to her neighbor and PEPFAR-trained *madrinha* (traditional caregiver) Leonor Baloi, Fany got timely treatment and is now recovering. "I am no longer feeling any pain," said Fany, who will finish treatment this month.



YES Students Counting Down to their Arrival in the U.S.

For the first time ever, five Mozambican secondary school students will spend an academic year in the United States through the U.S. Government's Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program. During their stay they will live as American high school students -- attending classes, participating in extracurricular activities and sports, and living with American families.

Established in 2002, YES has invited nearly 3,500 students to participate in this unique exchange program. The program aims to expand communication between the people of the United States and partner countries in the interest of promoting mutual understanding and respect. Here in Mozambique, the participation of the inaugural group of students is made possible through partnership with the Fundação Lurdes Mutola, American Field Service (AFS) and a team of dedicated volunteers, including English language tutors helping to prepare the students for their immersion in American life and culture. On August 8, the first group of youngsters will depart for the U.S. to share Mozambique with Americans and experience life in the United States.



Champion runner Lurdes Mutola pays a visit to members of the YES Mozambique team during a recent meeting at the Lurdes Mutola Foundation

Saving Lives From Malaria



Embassy officials posing with health volunteers from Mamonho community in Gaza province

Located 20km from Macia, not far from the popular beach resort of Bilene (Gaza province), Mamonho is a small village that is doing great work. A USAID-supported Pathfinder project helps train community health volunteers on child survival and reproductive health services. Their training has clearly paid off:

One health volunteer in his 50s proudly explained to visiting officials in May how he apparently saved the life of a young girl.

During one of his home visits, the volunteer met a young girl in

her home suffering from a high fever. Worse, she was taking medicine that had not been prescribed and that was past expiration. Realizing the potential danger of the situation, the volunteer persuaded the girl to go to the local hospital, where she was immediately diagnosed with malaria and prescribed with the correct treatment. Now she is living healthily and happily – and most importantly has learned about the importance and the risks of malaria, and how one must watch carefully for signs of the deadly disease.

Malaria is the biggest killer of Mozambican children. To respond to this pandemic, the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a joint program through USAID with technical expertise from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is working on a 5-year plan in Mozambique to try and reduce cases of malaria in the country by half.



The health volunteer that helped save a life from malaria

RIZE Cultural Envoys



De-mining in Mozambique: The Details Beyond the Photo

Last month's featured *Estamos Juntos* "Mozambique at a Glance" photo of the month (Michael Barrientos) told the story of a man living on a cleared landmine field. Mozambique's wars left hundreds of thousands of anti-personnel land mines, not noticeable with the naked eye, but dangerous or even life-threatening to any who come into contact with them. Recognizing the need for Mozambique to re-gain its land in order to ensure its development, the U.S. government supports Halo Trust, a non-governmental organization specializing in demining in several countries, to remove mines from the Mozambican countryside.

Having already conducted de-mining in northern Mozambique (Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambezia Provinces), Halo Trust is currently focusing its efforts on ridding southern Mozambique of the deadly mines.

The job is not easy: Halo workers have to meticulously survey the effected land, inch-by-inch, so that the area can be cleared, declared "mine-free" and then returned to Mozambicans. Halo Trust's staff is almost entirely Mozambican so the project is conducted with first-hand knowledge of the land and the implications for the nearby residents. The impact of a cleared landmine field on the communities is immeasurable -- after years, or even decades, the citizens finally regain their land, which they can then use for much-needed farming or commercial purposes.

Mozambique at a Glance



Photo by Michael Barrientos
Boys carry water from the Bay of Maputo at Marítimo Beach back to the fish market for seafood vendors to wash their merchandise.

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