



Estamos Juntos

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In April We Celebrate

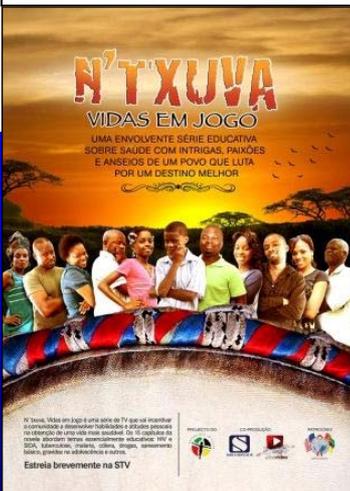


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**Broadcast on STV
Weekdays at 6:00 pm**

Improving Livelihoods in Northern Mozambique



Farmers in Zambezia prepare soil to plant healthy coconut tree seedlings

Coconuts and coconut products form an important part of the economy in Northern Mozambique, but outbreaks of the Coconut Lethal Yellowing Disease have threatened the industry and the livelihood of almost 2 million people in Zambezia and Nampula Provinces. Farmers in those provinces recently received 50,000 coconut tree seedlings through the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). This hand-over is part of the Farmer Income Support Project, which represents \$17 million of the \$507 million five-year MCC compact.

Farmers in those districts are now very busy caring for their new coconut tree seedlings. The trees, once grown (5 – 7 years), will help farmers recover profits lost in recent years: 1,000 families will benefit from this initial hand-over which results in enhanced agricul-

tural productivity, increased revenue and better livelihoods.

When we asked Mr. Paulo Fumane Executive Director of MCA, the governmental body which manages the compact programs, why this project is so important, he explained, "Coconut trees are part of the lives of these people. A coconut tree is used in its totality by the local communities: Beyond just the coconut fruit that is eaten and sold, the leaves are used for the roofs of their homes; the stems of the leaves for making local brooms; the trunk of the tree for various ends. And of course there is the palm juice which locals transform into a local drink, delicious for the people and an indispensable condiment during parties."

The project could not have gone forward without the endless support of the Governors of those provinces and the local district and administrative authorities.



Coconuts hanging from the tree

Message from the Chargé d'Affaires



Todd C. Chapman

The Millennium Challenge Corporation, or MCC, is now a name known to many Mozambicans – as it should be. The \$507 million compact signed in July 2007 between the Government of Mozambique and the U.S. Government's MCC is designed to help lift about 5 million Mozambicans (1/4 of Mozambique's population) out of severe poverty. What is less known is exactly how MCC works and when Mozambicans will start seeing the benefits of

the investments.

Activities have already begun in the Northern provinces, where the MCC is largely focused: Under the Farmer Income Support Project, smallholders have already received and planted over 50,000 palm seedlings in Zambezia and Nampula. And as part of the Land Tenure Project, the Provincial Land and Geographical Services (SPGC) offices have been selected to undergo major upgrades. In addition, bidders' conferences are on-going, and contracts are being signed. We are looking forward to the tangible differences the MCC Compact will make in Mozambicans' lives.

Exchange Program Participant Returns Home as an “Ambassador”

It's not often that an official from the Tax Authority of the Ministry of Finance of Mozambique becomes an Ambassador almost overnight, but that is exactly what happened to Ms. Berta Macamo who participated in the U.S. Government's International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) in early 2009. IVLP annually brings to the U.S. approximately 5,000 foreign nationals, who are current or potential leaders in their fields, to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience America firsthand.

Among the thousands of distinguished individuals who have participated in the IVLP since its inception almost 70 years ago are more than 290 current and former Chiefs of State and Heads of Government,

including here in Mozambique, President Armando Emilio Guebuza.

Nominated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ms. Macamo spent three weeks in the U.S. visiting Washington, D.C., Oregon, Maryland, Florida, and Arkansas. In Arkansas the state named her a “Goodwill Ambassador.” When she returned home the Tax Authority invited the Embassy to formally present her with her “Ambassador's” certificate.

During the ceremony Ms. Macamo spoke of the profound experience she had in the U.S. and how pleased she was to have had the opportunity, which we can clearly see from



Ms Berta Macamo receiving certificate from Public Diplomacy Officer Viraj LeBailly, while Mr. Rosário Fernandes President of the Tax Authority looks on

the smile on her face in this photograph above!

Peace Corps Volunteers in Action

I am Megan, and I am serving as a Peace Corps health volunteer with a faith-based organization in a small town near Xai-Xai. Through current program activities such as home visits and support groups, the organization provides education and support to people living with HIV/AIDS as well as to orphans and vulnerable children.

With the support of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, our organization also provides education about mother-to-child transmission of HIV by administering weekly nutritional demonstrations known as “papas” for mothers and at risk infants. “Papas” are made with local ingredients to provide a nutritional supplement for babies. These sessions provide a great opportunity to educate on topics of nutrition, early childhood development, and other health topics.

In my second year of service, the organization and I applied for and have just received a PEPFAR grant, to start an income-generating project of selling chickens and eggs. All profits will support school material and other financial needs of orphans in the community. In addition this project will provide a forum to mentor youth topics of decision-making, life skills, and healthy living.



Women in Xai-Xai participate in a demonstration on making “papas”

Population Census Helps Define Development Priorities



Later this month, final results of Mozambique's 2007 census, supported by USAID and the U.S. Census Bureau, will be disseminated publicly, starting with Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane and Sofala, and other provinces to follow. This is a major undertaking, since the 2007 census marks

only the third by the National Institute of Statistics.

This type of census provides a wealth of basic data on demographic characteristics, including education, fertility, mortality (including maternal mortality), disability, labor force, and migration. It also includes basic data on housing characteristics, use of durable goods and technology, and some data on agriculture and fisheries.

With this data, the Mozambican government, and its partner donor nations can more completely understand the demographics of this nation and how to move forward.

USAID contributed over \$200 million to development projects in Mozambique last year. USAID, through the U.S. Census Bureau, has provided technical assistance

for both the 2007 and the 1997 population censuses, focusing on data processing; data dissemination; and sampling, in addition to procuring equipment. Data results will help us better understand development challenges.



A view of the data entry operation center

Sofala Women Creating New Futures

Judite lives in Caia district, in central Sofala province. Mother of two children, Judite was involved in transactional sex in the past.

"My main business was selling sex to truck drivers and workers at the Zambeze River bridge," Judite describes her former life.

In October 2007, PEPFAR partner Food for the Hungry (FH), based in Sofala, started a new project called "Capable of Deciding" with two goals: to teach young women HIV/AIDS prevention and how to manage small-scale businesses. About 72 former prostitutes and nearly 1,500 workers involved in the construction of the Zambezi Bridge have



Two women discuss during an HIV/AIDS prevention talk in Caia

benefited from the project.

Last year, FH lent Judite and a group of 11 girlfriends about \$300 of micro-credit to start a small business. With this loan, the women invested in butchery, and in the near future they plan to set up a mill. Now Judite and the group have safe and healthy livelihoods, and they all continue to attend FH's trainings on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Because of PEPFAR, Food for the Hungry and the ambition of women like Judite, the lives in this story and many others have improved.

Changing Lives, One Project at a Time



School children from Gungulo at the ribbon-cutting ceremony

Since 1988, the U.S. Embassy's Political and Economic Section has overseen an annual program called "The Ambassador's Self-Help Fund" for projects which seek to improve basic economic or social conditions at the local community or village level. In the past five years, Self-Help has supported 42 projects with over \$300,000 in funds. Each dollar spent is one that can help change a person's life, like in the story below:

Before the Self-Help financing of \$18,000 came to the village of Gungulo, in rural Mozambique, more than 150 primary school children were studying under some fallen trees

and amongst tree stumps outside, exposed to the heat and the rain. Last month, Embassy officials took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Self-Help funded school: a sparkling new three-room schoolhouse! Village elders, local politicians, and more than 200 of the village's children attended the opening ceremony. Local mothers were so grateful that their children would have a safe and reliable place to study that they personally stood up to thank the Embassy representatives.

Mozambicans interested in applying for Self-Help grants should contact Elizabeth Filipe at filipeec@state.gov or through Tel: 21 492 797 ext 4459.

Did You Know??

- ◆ *The United States is the largest donor to Mozambique – \$325 million in 2008 alone.*
- ◆ *The United States is also the largest single donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the United Nations; the World Bank; and the World Health Organization.*
- ◆ *The United States is leading the fight against global hunger. Today, more than half of the world's food aid comes from the United States.*

Mozambique at a Glance



Photo by Michael Barrientos

A girl walks through a wetland in Bairro dos Pescadores after water receded from the area on Tuesday, March 15. Residents say they are flooded two times a year for a week in February and March by salt water that feeds into the area from Maputo Bay. People have built up walls made out of dirt and planted native bushes to keep the water from entering their homes or gardens

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