

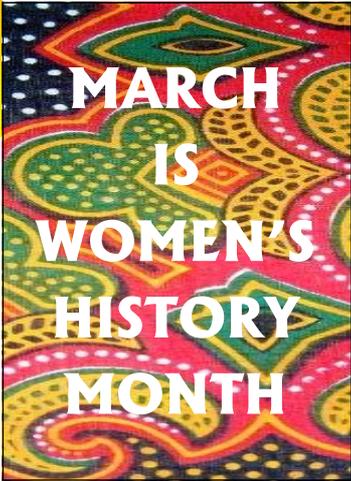


Estamos Juntos



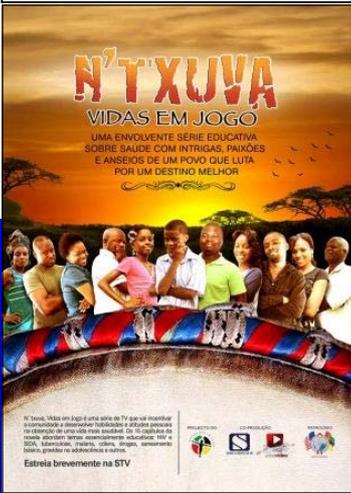
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MARCH 2009



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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USS Robert G. Bradley Visits Mozambique



Top Brass band member signs an autograph for students in Xai-Xai

You may have seen local press stories about the U.S. Navy "Top Brass" band which gave concerts in Xai-Xai, Boane, Matola and Changanane as well as at the Maputo Shopping Center, National Music School and Radio Moçambique headquarters; they played classic American jazz pieces as well as a Marrabenta favorite that they learned and rehearsed especially for this visit, their first to Mozambique, as part of the visit of the USS Robert G. Bradley.

The Top Brass concerts were just one component of the public outreach that we put together

for the visiting U.S. sailors who wanted to repay Mozambique for its hospitality. Over 120 sailors and U.S. Mission staff and families also donated blood to Mozambique's national blood bank at a station set up by our Embassy health unit. And 30 sailors participated in community relations projects -- at Arco Iris Orphanage in Zimpeto and the Hamza Institute in Matola.

At Arco-Iris, the sailors repaired a dilapidated septic tank, painted a nursery, made roof repairs, and cleared the grounds of debris and



US Navy Sailor Kneori Sermons helps haul rubble at the Arco-Iris orphanage in Zimpeto

overgrown grass for the children to play.

At the Hamza Institute, another group painted an annex of the school and spoke to school-children about what it is like to be in the U.S. navy and aboard a ship.

The sailors all enjoyed getting out into the communities and giving something back to the hosting nation: "It was awesome doing something for the people here" said U.S. Navy sailor and crewmember Caleb Pearson, "and we got to see a part of their daily lives."

Message from the Chargé d'Affaires



Todd C. Chapman

Last month we welcomed for the second time a U.S. Navy ship to Mozambique. The USS Robert G. Bradley visited with about 200 sailors and a classic jazz quintet called Top Brass. While the purpose of the ship visit was to assist Mozambique to improve its maritime security, there was lots of time for fun and outreach into local communities, which you

can read about in this page. Our bilateral relationship with Mozambique continues to grow and develop. We believe that a safer Mozambique makes for a safer world; because of this, U.S. military forces provide assistance, equipment and training to help Mozambique secure its long coastline. As visiting U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Loeffler noted, we also learn from Mozambique. I thank the people of Mozambique for hosting our ship in February, and we look forward to further strengthening our relationship.

A Public-Private Partnership for Success



A woman in Chimoio expresses her joy dancing

USAID and Coca-Cola have a “global alliance” in many countries around the world – the Water and Development Alliance (WADA) -- which provides access to clean water and protects the environment. Last month, American and Mozambican officials launched WADA in Chimoio, amid fanfare and colorful displays of local culture.

WADA-Mozambique is an alliance that brings together several other partners including FIPAG, (the Government of Mozambique Urban Water Investment Program), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Vitens, a Dutch water company, with a total funding amount around \$1.79 million. By combining local community involvement, technical knowledge, and funding, the partners find innovative and sustainable solutions to local water problems.

In Chimoio, the WADA project combines the resources of these local and international public and private entities to address the city’s urgent water needs through one project with two complementary components: the TextAfrica Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and the Bairro 4 Urban Water Supply component.

At present, only 10-15 percent of Chimoio’s 250,000 residents are served by an inconsistent and inadequately treated water supply posing serious public health risks and constraining local industrial and commercial growth. By the project’s end, around 35,000 residents should have access to reliable and potable water. Now that’s a partnership to be proud of!



USAID Program Officer Nancy Fisher-Gormley participates in the ground-breaking ceremony at the WADA project site

PEPFAR Partners with Sol de Carvalho to Fight HIV/AIDS

Those working on HIV/AIDS in Mozambique often state that the most difficult challenge is behavior change – and so the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) team is looking for new approaches, new methods and new activists.

In a response to that challenge, our Public Affairs Section is partnering with acclaimed filmmaker Sol de Carvalho (whose 2004 film “Another Man’s Garden” on the struggles of a Mozambican girl won a top film prize in Amiens, France) on his most recent work, “The Webs of a Spider.” “Webs” is both a 2-hour film and a

multi-part TV series that tells the story of another Mozambican girl, this time in Beira, who contracts HIV but makes a decision to live healthily and happily with the support of family and friends.

Carvalho’s company, Promarte, in collaboration with the German development agency DED, is training activists, including actors from “Webs,” from Beira and Chimoio to take the film out into peri-urban areas in Sofala and Manica provinces and lead discussions with youth (15 – 30 years) about the



Film Director Sol de Carvalho and Embassy Public Affairs Officer Kristin Kane talk to the participants in the “Teias da Aranha” outreach project

real-life messages in the film. We believe that these film stars and activists working in the coming months can help make a difference in people’s lives.

Striving for Food and Nutrition Security in Nampula

In Nampula Province, at least 350,000 people will be able to purchase and grow more nutritious food, ensure that their children are well nourished, and withstand the natural shocks that come every year because of a new USAID-funded food security program called SANA, Food Security Through Nutrition and Agriculture. SANA includes three NGOs - Save the Children, Africare, and CLUSA.



Feeding small children in Nampula
Photo: Courtesy of SCF

SANA integrates components that are needed to ensure a well-nourished population: nutrition, agricultural production and marketing, income generation, and protecting the household from shocks like drought and floods. SANA also teaches farmers improved techniques to maximize crop yields and connect them to markets. Then farmers are able to form or join associations where they learn from each other and adopt new techniques.

SANA has also embarked on an exciting campaign to teach caretakers and their support network, e.g. husbands and grandmothers, about specific ways to prevent malnutrition in their young children, beginning with good nutrition during pregnancy. A network of almost 4,000 nutrition volunteers, as well as mass media (radio, theater, market stalls), spread messages on the importance of certain practices, such as breastfeeding, taking care of sick children, and preventing diarrhea, malaria, and other diseases that lead to malnutrition.



Women preparing the greens for a family meal
Photo: Courtesy of SCF

U.S. Mission Celebrates Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, the U.S. Mission, along with hundreds of Mozambicans, celebrated Black History Month with a series of events including a film festival, presentations and even a "quiz show."

Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles — slavery, prejudice, poverty — as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

With the inauguration of the first African-American President of the United States, President Obama, just days before the start of Black History Month, a number of events during the U.S.

Mission's celebration captured the spirit of that historic event. Students and teachers watched a video biography of the new President on the final day of the film festival. Members of the Mission's Martin Luther King Jr. Library participated in a book club reading of President Obama's first book "Dreams of My Father." And, capping the month-long celebration Chargé



Students contemplate their response during the Black History Month Quiz Contest

d'Affaires Todd C. Chapman delivered a speech on one of the earliest figures in the American Civil Rights Movement, President Abraham Lincoln, who has been an inspiration to President Obama. While some are more famous than others, Black History Month honors all of the many Americans who have made the United States what it is today.

Pomp and Circumstance: PEPFAR Drama Show Off to a Glitzy Start



Guests applaud the launch of STV N'txuva drama show
(Photo: Courtesy of SOICO)

In a setting befitting a Hollywood movie premier, SOICO Television (STV) recently launched its much-awaited high-profile drama show, "N'txuva, Vidas em Jogo" (Life Is at Stake) at a glitzy event at Jardim dos Namorados in Maputo. Supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, the soap opera will be on STV from March 30, 2009.

"Honra, pompa e glória" (honor, pomp and glory) was the mood at the garden ceremony. The tented, neon-lit, venue was filled with politicians, diplomats, journalists and local celebrities -- reflecting excitement about this initiative, which delivers HIV/AIDS prevention messages through the storylines of its diverse characters and was produced in cooperation with Brazil's Ciné-Video. While there have been short HIV/AIDS-themed documentaries on Mozambican television in the past, this is the first show on Mozambican television dealing with HIV/AIDS that fits into the "telenovela" category. Be sure and tune in!

The Public Affairs Section is now accepting (preliminary) applications for two programs in the U.S.:

Fulbright scholarship for up to 2 years' study at the Masters'/PhD level -- deadline March 26th

Humphrey community/leadership program for 9 months' academic and professional development -- deadline March 30th

Visit our website <http://maputo.usembassy.gov> to print out the applications and learn more!

Mozambique at a Glance



Photo by Michael Barrientos

Francisco Tivane, 59, of the Donga district, Gaza Province lost his leg to a landmine in 2004 while farming. His wife died a year before leaving him to care for his daughter, 7. Unable to work, he cannot afford to replace his broken crutches. However, he feels lucky to be alive and is not resentful about his loss. Here, Tivane is pictured in his home on February 24, 2009.

Comments/Questions? Would you like to receive this publication by e-mail?

Contact us at EstamosJuntos@state.gov