



Estamos Juntos



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SEASON'S GREETINGS



As Últimas Notícias Internacionais e Regionais—Todas as noites em Moçambique

O Seu Mundo, A Sua Doz

Emissão Vespertina 19:30h-20:30h

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QUILIMANE	Novo Rádio Pux	110.7 FM
BEIRA	Rádio Pux	102.7 FM
MAPUTO	Rádio Fronteira	88.3 FM
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New Center Opens at Military Hospital

For World AIDS Day, the U.S. Embassy's Department of Defense, with support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its PEPFAR partner, Columbia University (ICAP), celebrated the opening of the new Center for Integrated Care and Treatment at the Military hospital of Maputo with the Ministers of Defense and Health present.

The Military Hospital is a true example of partnership; in addition to those mentioned above, voluntary counseling and testing outside of the Hospital is carried out by PSI; a bio-safety program is supported by John Snow Inc.; food supplements for eligible patients are supplied

via a program with World Food Program; and a small project involving prevention with positives was done by the University of Connecticut, using ICAP-trained peer educators.

The main objective of the Center is to expand access to care for people living with HIV/AIDS, including access to antiretroviral therapy, ART. Currently, the Center has enrolled 7,152 patients in care and treatment, over 2,000 of whom are on antiretroviral therapy. The program provides access to quality care and follow up for HIV/AIDS for both military and civilian people living with HIV/AIDS -- as well as their families; although it is a Military Hospital, the grand majority of patients are civilian.



Deputy Commander of the US Africa Command meets Minister of Health Garrido outside the new Center at the Military Hospital

Message from the Chargé d'Affaires



Todd C. Chapman

In December, we commemorate World AIDS Day. This year is a special year for us since it marks the end of Phase I of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which resulted in \$600 million in health assistance to Mozambique over the past five years. Earlier this year, President Bush authorized an additional \$30 billion for PEPFAR to continue over the next five years in Phase II, which could result in an additional \$1 billion for Mozambique during the next five years. We work closely with the National AIDS Council (CNCS) and the Minis-

try of Health to implement these programs.

On December 3, we inaugurated the new "Center for Integrated Treatment and Care" at the Military Hospital of Maputo to serve the Mozambican military and also the general public. I hope that you enjoy reading about a small sample of our PEPFAR projects in this issue.

December is also the month, in which over two billion people around the world celebrate Christmas, including many millions here in Mozambique. I wish to take this opportunity to wish all Christians a Merry Christmas as you celebrate with friends and family.

PEPFAR Providing Care To Children

This issue of the newsletter is full of stories and photos about our projects and the people dedicating their lives to help improve the lives of Mozambicans affected by HIV/AIDS. What they are working for is this kind of story; please read on.

In the district of Inhassunge (Zambézia Province), there live over 120,000 people who get their health care from six different health centers. 325 of these people are currently on antiretroviral treatment (ART).

Chambule is a one of these. He is a 9-year old Mozambican boy who lives in Inhassunge. He is the oldest child in the district receiving ART provided with PEPFAR funding through Vanderbilt University's Friends in Global Health.

His mother died from complications related to AIDS, and his father is also HIV-positive. Today Chambule lives with his aunt and 8 other people.

He was diagnosed as HIV positive and was enrolled in care in January 2008. At his initiation into care, he had a CD4 count of 86, a weight of 19 kg and was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). Chambule began treatment for TB in early April 2008 and began antiretroviral treatment in the same month. His weight has increased by 9 kg on treatment to 28 Kg.

During the course of his follow-up, health workers identified a Kaposi Sarcoma lesion in his nose, but it is im-

proving with antiretroviral therapy.

The health care workers call Chambule the "commander of the platoon" of HIV-positive children, and are proud to see his improvement. The life expectancy of a HIV-positive child in Africa is still very low. Chambule represents a hope for a new generation living with HIV/AIDS.



PEPFAR Supports New STV Drama

The PEPFAR "Small Grants Program" run by the Embassy's Political and Economic affairs section assists Mozambican organizations to develop capacity in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Recently, the program launched a groundbreaking endeavor: With PEPFAR support, SOICO Group is producing a TV drama show entitled "Lives At Play." The show is a series of 15 drama episodes that will cover various health topics. To capitalize on the vastly appealing Brazilian "telenovela" style, the program is using a Brazilian production team (but with Mozambican actors). Each episode will be followed by a live studio audience discussion, including discussion of HIV/AIDS and other preventable diseases. Chargé d'Affaires Todd Chapman presented SOICO with a check for \$400,000 on October 15, and already STV has completed filming in and around Maputo. The TV show is scheduled to air in early 2009. We hope that this new joint venture between the Embassy's PEPFAR program and private sector media company SOICO will provide an opportunity to reach a wide audience with important and accurate health messages in an approachable and compelling format. We encourage readers of *Estamos Juntos* to tune in and see for yourselves!



Group SOICO CEO, Daniel David, and Chargé d'Affaires Todd Chapman

New Higher Institute for Education and Technology Opens



The stunning architecture and scenery of One World University

In late November, history was made in Mozambique: For the first time ever, a university, the Institute for Higher Education and Technology (ISET), also known as One World University, was officially opened, not in a provincial capital or a district capital but in a rural administrative post area, Changalane. The school was primarily financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Our partners in this project, Planet Aid and its local implementing agency, ADPP-Mozambique – both members of the Federation Humana People to People, strategically chose the location of One World University so that the students will learn about their rural surroundings and give back to them during and after their studies.

The U.S. Government funding for One World University represents only one of four components in a \$23 million “Food for Progress” program which aims to create economic development in rural areas and includes implementing a model for HIV and AIDS prevention.

The U.S.-financed One World University shows the importance that the U.S. places on educational development in Mozambique. And, like almost any of our projects here, PEPFAR is part of it: USDA, Planet Aid and ADPP, have established 50 soy canteens in rural areas where thousands of Mozambicans affected by HIV/AIDS receive free meals. The students’ courses also incorporate learning about HIV and AIDS.

Delivering Medication to Those Who Need it

While prevention, treatment and care are all important components of PEPFAR, treatment is the most tangible – and arguably the quickest to change people’s lives. In Mozambique, our anti-retroviral treatment (ART) program has reached around 120,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. These are 120,000 Mozambicans now living normal, healthy lives because of treatment that they would not have gotten if it were not for PEPFAR. How does it all work? This year, the majority of the medication was purchased and delivered through our PEPFAR partner “Supply Chain Management Systems” (SCMS).

SCMS coordinates PEPFAR- funded procurement closely with Clinton Foundation donations and the Ministry of Health procurement. Four times per year, the forecast of each type of anti-retroviral medicine needed for all adults and children in the national program is updated. The numbers of total patients constantly changes because Mozambique’s program is expanding. The drugs patients need to receive change also. SCMS deals with crises to keep the system running: When a supplier’s procurement was delayed, SCMS brought emergency shipments to fill the gap. When a manufacturer issued a global recall for a particular medicine, SCMS ensured that all patients received a substitute.

Being able to forecast medicine needs, ensure funding is available, and procure medicines on time is critical to the lives of the 120,000 Mozambicans receiving ART.



Boxes of drugs stored in a warehouse in Maputo

PEPFAR and Local Artists Team Up for Success

Thumba Sound is a cutting-edge civil society group in Maputo targeting Mozambican youth (between 12 and 36 years old) with creative messages on HIV/AIDS – interspersing these messages through contemporary popular music that appeals to them.

After launching its initial projects, Thumba Sound became a PEPFAR partner in 2006 through U.S. Embassy’s Public Affairs Section, which recognized the group’s potential for success in dealing with youth populations.

Through their radio and television programs, “Thumba Space” and “See to Believe”, this youth-managed group sends messages that help guide Mozambicans to change behavior in order to prevent the

spread of HIV. Their projects, including large-scale concerts at the French Cultural Center and in Matola, have had mass appeal, and they are hopeful that their HIV prevention messages are being adhered.

With PEPFAR funding, “See to Believe” has expanded to television (every Sunday on TV Mana from 6 – 7pm) with challenging and up-front discussions about what it really means to contract HIV. Thumba Sound also invites in guests to speak in efforts to launch meaningful debate on the difficulties that today’s Mozambican youth face in trying to lead healthy lifestyles.



Thumba Sound’s Aleixo Paunde interviews a guest at the TV Maná studios during their show “See to Believe”

PEPFAR Achievements To Date



MOÇAMBICANOS E AMERICANOS
JUNTOS NA LUTA CONTRA O HIV/SIDA

-  **120,000 Mozambicans on anti-retroviral treatment (ART)**
-  **Over 100 local Mozambican partnerships established on prevention programs**
-  **Support for over 200 health facilities on HIV in Mozambique**

Mozambique at a Glance



Photo by Michael Barrientos
Voters, many who had arrived at 5:00 a.m. Wait in line for polls to open for municipal elections in Quelimane, November 19, 2008

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

Contact us at EstamosJuntos@state.gov