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NOVEMBER 2009

**November 25  
International Day  
for the Elimination of  
Violence Against  
Women**



According to the World Health Organization, one in three women around the world will experience violence in her lifetime, either through the form of domestic, sexual, and/or psychological abuse, or mutilation and murder. The Obama administration and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a long-time defender of human rights, have taken a number of decisive actions to help stop violence against women and girls both in the United States and around the world. Raising awareness about gender-based violence is the first step.



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**The U.S. Provides Additional \$2 Million to Remove Land Mines**

On October 19, 2009, Charge d'Affaires Todd Chapman participated in a ceremony in Matola announcing that the U.S. Department of State will provide \$2 million in new assistance to help Mozambique safeguard its citizens from abandoned landmines and unexploded munitions remaining from decades of conflict.

The award will fund survey and clearance teams from The HALO Trust, a UK-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) and leading U.S. humanitarian demining partner. These HALO teams will survey all villages across six districts of Maputo Province as well as conduct re-survey and clearance of priority minefields in Maputo, Manica and Tete.

Since the 1992 Rome General Peace Accords ended nearly 30 years of civil conflict,

the United States has provided Mozambique more than \$47 million in assistance under the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action program, a



A HALO Trust technician demonstrates the procedures for locating and disabling land mines

joint effort by the Department of State, Department of Defense, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action has contributed to significant reductions in casualties from mines and explosive remnants of war, and is one of many ways the United States is demonstrating its commitment to peace and stability in the region. Since 1993, the United States has been the world's leading contributor to post-conflict efforts to remove landmines and unexploded munitions around the globe, delivering more than \$1.4 billion in aid to nearly 50 countries worldwide.

**Message from the Chargé d'Affaires**



Todd C. Chapman

I recently attended a the U.S.-Africa Business Summit organized by the Corporate Council on Africa in Washington, D.C., along with business leaders from a variety of important sectors in Mozambique. U.S. and African companies saw outstanding opportunities for collaboration and investment, and I left convinced again of the need for increased economic growth here in Mozambique. As Presi-

dent Obama and Secretary Clinton highlighted during their trips to Africa, the U.S. hopes for and will invest in countries with sound economic policies, strengthened by institutions that can guarantee a safe and transparent environment for investors. Our goal is to help make that vision a reality in Mozambique, and as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Partnership for Progress this year, we hope collaboration on economic growth will be a cornerstone of our continued cooperation.

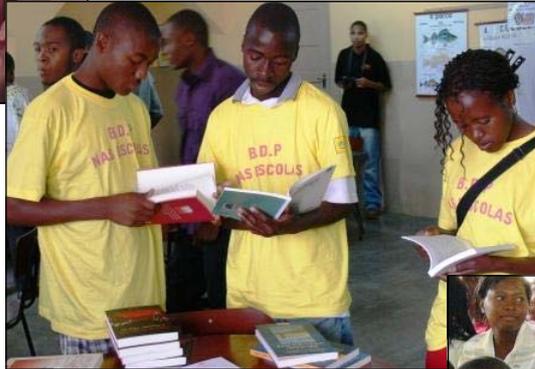
## Escola Secundária do Povo Won Literary Competition



for the students conducted by 15 activists lead by Dr. Marisa Teresa, who said that attendance was high.

The Associação Cultural Kilombo plans to extend its HIV/AIDS prevention programs to other provinces. The organiza-

The award ceremony was entertained by Rachel Pombe and Relampago, well-known musicians such as Fernando Luis, Nelma Mpfumo, the ELEX, as well as dancers from Escola Secundária Força do Povo.



Top left: Explaining HIV/AIDS testing. Middle: Students from Escola Secundária do Povo reading the new books. Bottom right: Students enjoying the show during the award ceremony.

The Escola Secundária do Povo, located outside Maputo, won the first edition of the literary competition “Beco das Palavras nas escolas”, promoted by Associação Cultural Kilombo, which recently received a small grant from the U.S. Embassy in Mozambique to promote HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns at schools in Maputo.

The prize, consisting of 200 new books for the school’s library, was handed over at a ceremony held on October 17, which included voluntary testing and counseling sessions

tion runs a weekly program called “Beco das Palavras” that is broadcast by 99 FM. Once in a month it goes to a secondary school outside Maputo to do HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns, targeting hundreds of students.



U.S. MISSION TO MOZAMBIQUE

## Economic Officers Explore Business Opportunities in Tete

Economic officers recently traveled to the province of Tete where they met with representatives of Hidroelectrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB), Riversdale Mozambique, Vale, Mozambique Leaf Tobacco (a U.S. company), and the Gabinete do Plano de Desenvolvimento da Regiao do Zambeze to learn about economic and business opportunities in Tete province. The HCB dam creates Africa’s fourth largest artificial lake. At HCB the officers learned about HCB’s north phase expansion plans, with the future addition of three more turbines to obtain 1,200 MW of additional capacity of renewable energy.



The Cahora Bassa Dam in Tete  
Photo by Phillip Baker

The officers spent a day investigating the huge coal potential around Tete. The Tete province will soon be home to the world’s largest open pit coal mine. Between Vale and Riversdale mining companies, more than \$1.5 billion will be invested in Tete. It is projected that around 5,000 to 6,000 new jobs will be created, directly attributed to the coal mines. Studies indicate that for each job created by the mines, six addi-

tional jobs are generated in the surrounding communities. An estimated 36,000 new jobs will be created within the next few years. Both companies expect to mine coal in Tete during the next 35 years or more.

Mozambique Leaf Tobacco, which has received awards for being Mozambique’s largest exporter, sources from 100,000 independent farmers, throughout all of the north. The company provides seeds, fertilizers and technical assistance to the farms, and sell most of its products in Europe. All three companies and the Gabinete are committed to the hiring and training of local employees. Both Vale and Riversdale spoke of their partnerships with technical colleges in Tete to increase human capacity-building. Vale even uses virtual reality simulators to train future dump truck drivers how to operate the multi-million dollar pieces of equipment. The economic/commercial section of the U.S. Embassy seeks to further the economic development of Mozambique by strengthening the business ties between the two countries.

# For the Love of My Children

**M**y name is Marta Ernesto Mbiza and I'm 20 years old. I have two children — one is three years old and one is just 20 months. I live in Mahubo, Mozambique, 25 kilometers from the nearest city of Boane. I found out I was HIV-positive in 2006, when I was pregnant with my second child. I went to the health center in Boane — which is supported by the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation — for prenatal care, and that is when I discovered my status. I received HIV counseling and testing, as well as pills to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to my baby. I gave birth to a healthy baby boy, and I followed my counselors' advice — exclusively breastfeeding him and not using any traditional medicine.



My baby was tested for HIV when he was one month old and we received the results two months later. The result was negative. I continued to breastfeed for six months and then began feeding my baby cow's milk and other foods produced on my small farm.

My son took the last test at 20 months of age to confirm his HIV status. Once again, the result was negative. I was very happy, but I was afraid to bring my older child to be tested, as I had not accessed prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services while I was pregnant with her. But with the help of the lay counselor at the health center, my daughter took the test and she, too, was HIV-negative. I still have not told my mother about my HIV status. I do not want to traumatize her since she has already lost her husband, who contracted HIV while working in South Africa. However, I have disclosed my HIV status to my mother-in-law, and she promised our HIV counselor that when her son (my husband) returns from South Africa, she will have him go to the health center in Boane for testing.



I am now receiving treatment, and I encourage all pregnant women, and everyone else, to be tested for HIV and to follow the advice of health workers. This is the only way we can save ourselves and our children.

Marta Ernesto and her youngest son

## U.S. Embassy Helps Promote HIV/AIDS Awareness



Border controlling officers at the closing ceremony

**O**n October 09, the Mozambican border control, an elite group of the Mozambican Army, completed a 19-day training course that included a two days workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention, provided by the Population Services International (PSI) with the support of U.S. Embassy in Mozambique.

The training course, the fifth of its kind, brought together border control officers from Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Tete, Manica, Maputo and Gaza provinces. The 33 participants met in Namaacha district, outside Maputo, and were trained on several issues, including drug trafficking, law, and military ethics.

The technical part of the training was administered by two experienced Portuguese

instructors and it included also a workshop on child trafficking, provided by Save the Children.

"We hope that this kind of partnership will continue", said the Special Forces Chief of Staff in the reserve.

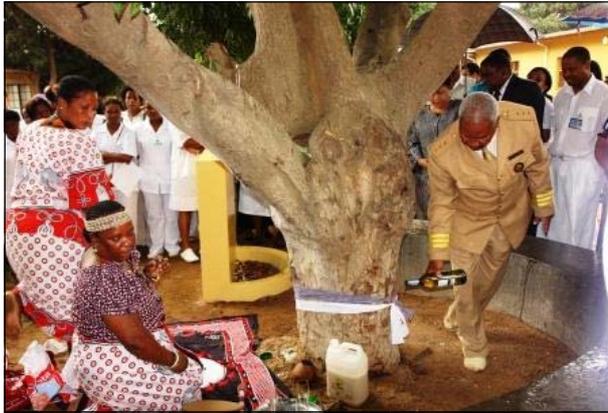
During the event, the PSI representative, Rodrigo Português, gave HIV/AIDS training certificates to the U.S. Embassy, represented by Sarah Horton and distributed CDs with music containing HIV/AIDS prevention messages to the course participants.

The representative of the Embassy of Portugal in Mozambique, the Administrator of Namaacha, and the Special Forces operations commander also attended the closing ceremony at Namaacha.



PSI representative handing a training certificate to Sarah Horton, U.S. Embassy representative

# José Macamo Hospital Inaugurates New Health Facilities



A traditional leader performing the traditional ceremony

**O**n October 22, 2009, the José Macamo Hospital in Maputo inaugurated new health facilities which will serve close to 100,000 people, including those who live with HIV/AIDS.

The rehabilitation was supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the Centers for Prevention and Disease Control (CDC) and Columbia University (ICAP), in partnership with the Mozambican Health authorities.

Before the official inauguration, a traditional ceremony was attended by the governor of Maputo City, Rosa da Silva, as well as representatives from the U.S. Embassy, ICAP, and local health workers.

"I would like to thank in a special manner the



Maputo City Governor, Rosa da Silva, inaugurating the new health facilities

financial support provided by the American government through CDC and ICAP", said Rosa da Silva, in a speech after the inauguration, adding that the new health facilities will play a central role in prevention, control and surveillance of endemic diseases.

She also said that the new health facilities constitute for the Maputo city government "a great contribution in the expansion of the health services network." In Mozambique, PEPFAR is being implemented by five federal agencies – the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Centers for Prevention and Disease Control, the US Agency for International Development, and the Peace Corps.



*25 years*  
of Progress & Partnership

**25th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION**  
at FORTALEZA de MAPUTO

*Celebrating 25 years of Progress and Partnership between the United States and Mozambique*

FEATURING PHOTOS AND DISPLAYS FROM THE COLLECTIVE PROGRAMS  
SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
THAT ARE WORKING TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN MOZAMBIQUE

**20 NOVEMBER 2009 14:00 - 17:00**  
**21-22 NOVEMBER 2009 10:00 - 17:00**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
\*Exhibit closed between 12:00 - 14:00 on 21-22 November

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

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