Mozambique

Thematic Report January – December 2018





19 March 2019

unicef for every child

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ACRONYMS

AMME Associacao Moçambicana Mulher e Educaçao CCPC Community Child Protection Committee

CFJJ Judicial Training Centre

CRVS Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

CSO Civil Society Organisation

DFID Department for International Development

FDC Forum para Desenvolvimento
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ICDP International Child Development Programme

INAS Institute of Social Action
INE National Institute of Statistics

IPAJ Legal Aid Institute

IOM International Organization for Migration

KAP Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices LFC Linha Fala Crianca (Child Helpline)

MGCAS Ministry of Gender Children and Social Action

MINT Ministry of Interior
MISAU Ministry of Health
MoJ Ministry of Justice
MTR Mid Term Review

NAFEZA Nucleo Associacoes Femininas Zambezia

NGO Non-governmental organization

OoR Office of Research
PSS Psychosocial support

SDSMAS District Services of Health and Women and Social Action

SWW Social Welfare Workforce

ToR Terms of Reference

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

VAC Violence Against Children

Glossary

Alternative care: Alternative care is divided into formal and informal care. Informal care is defined as any private arrangement provided in a family environment whereby the child is looked after on an on-going or indefinite basis by relatives or friends (informal kinship care) or by others in their individual capacity, at the initiative of the child, his/her parents, or other person without this arrangement having been ordered by an administrative or judicial authority or a duly accredited body. Formal care is defined as all care provided in a family environment that has been ordered by a competent administrative body or judicial authority, and all care provided in a residential environment, including in private facilities, whether or not as a result of administrative or judicial measures.

Basic social services: The basic social services provided to vulnerable children include health, food, nutrition, education, care, shelter, water and sanitation as well as legal, financial, and psychosocial support.

Social protection system: This term is generally understood as a set of public actions that address poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion as well as provide the means to cope with life's major risks throughout the lifecycle by building resilience of the households affected by chronic poverty and vulnerability.

Decree 39: A legislation which required pregnant girls to shift from day schools to attend the night shift of schools.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, UNICEF supported the implementation of a rights-based agenda, focusing on legislative improvements, demand creation, equitable access to quality preventive and protective services and addressing harmful traditions and social norms. Government and civil society partners reached over 1 million children with UNICEF-supported child protection programmes.

UNICEF and ILO supported the government to implement the National Strategy for Basic Social Security focusing on the design and piloting of a child grant, and grants for orphaned/vulnerable children and child headed households, with contributions from Netherlands, Ireland, DFID and Sweden. Several key milestones were achieved including piloting of the child grant in Lalaua district (0-2 years of age) and endorsement of the case management model.

With UNICEF support, the government, is drafting a new Strategic Plan for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) to secure investments for a sustainable system. Partnership agreements with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health have been discussed for opening birth registration facilities at health posts and training of health workers for notification of births. Following the necessary legislative adjustment in the Civil Registration Code the electronic CRVS system has been rolled out and is functional in 75 Conservatories and 183 registration posts. In 2018, this new system registered 54,539 people including 33,878 children under 1.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Affairs, with UNICEF strengthened the child marriage coordination mechanism at the national level and in target provinces (Nampula and Zambézia) and conducted a review of the implementation of the National Child Marriage Strategy. A mass media campaign on child marriage reached more than 5,000,000 people with key messages, and 400 community dialogues were conducted in Nampula (where child marriage rates highest), engaging 5,087 (2,550 men and 2,537 women) in social dialogue and to empower them to identify feasible solutions and alternatives.

UNICEF contributed to the ongoing legal reforms related to the Family Law, Criminal Code, the draft Child Marriage Law, Decree 39 regarding pregnant girls' enrolment in schools and others. UNICEF also reviewed the policy and legal framework on Violence against Children in schools, reporting and referral mechanisms and good practices; findings indicate large gaps in education sector regulations and policies in terms of addressing violence in schools, and the need for harmonization with core laws, such as the Children's Law and the Penal Code.

With IOM and ICDP UNICEF supported displaced and at-risk children in host communities in Tete and Manica provinces. 179 local officials and members of Child Protection Community Committees were trained to provide psychosocial care reaching 4,470 children (2,683 female, 1,787 male).

The table below illustrates the thematic contributions received in 2018 for Child Protection thematic area.

Donors	Grant	Income
Flanders International Cooperation Agency	SC149906	\$113,831
Total		\$113,831

II. STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF 2018

Mozambique remains one of the poorest countries in the world ranking 180 out of 189 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index (HDI: 0.437). UNICEF's 2018 Multidimensional Child Poverty Report, which is awaiting final endorsement by the Minister of Economy and Finance, confirms that 46.3 per cent of Mozambican children are multidimensionally poor and 25 per cent of Mozambicans under 18 are deprived in four or more of eight key deprivation dimensions, notably higher than peers in neighbouring countries.

Structural and geographic inequalities are apparent in the disparity of the situation of children living in rural and urban areas, southern and northern provinces. A child born in a rural area or one of the northern provinces is three times more likely to live in multidimensional poverty than a child in an urban area or in southern Mozambique. Almost half of all children deprived in multiple dimensions (45%) live in provinces of Nampula and Zambézia, two of the most populous provinces of Mozambique.

Childhood poverty has been shown to leave children at risk of child protection violations such as sexual exploitation, child labour and early marriage, and to increase the risk of unnecessary family separation. The forthcoming report also confirms that progress on child stunting and child marriage has stalled and have not tangibly improved since 1996/7. In addition, the reduction in poverty has not kept up with the fast pace of population growth and, as a result, the absolute number of poor people has increased from 11 million in 2003 to 12.3 million in 2015 (IOF 2016). Mozambique has a population of almost 29 million people (52.2 per cent female and 47.8 per cent male) according to the 2017 census, and the population is growing at an average rate of 3.5 per cent per annum. Fertility rates, particularly adolescent fertility rates, are very high while life expectancy remains among the lowest in the world (55 years). It is estimated that the total population will double by 2030 and that an increasing proportion of the population will be children (currently 51 per cent under 18 and 64 per cent under 25) (Preliminary findings of Census 2018).

Key challenges affecting the Child protection sector include limited government capacity at national and sub-national levels which impedes UNICEF's support to government's service delivery – for example, most districts in Mozambique do not have any social workers, and other staff, and in the rare case they are often not qualified. Gaps exist with regards to the legal framework on violence against children, especially regarding education sector regulations and policies in terms of addressing violence in schools, and the need for harmonization with core laws, such as the Children's Law and the Penal Code. There is also need for continued investments in institutional and technical capacity strengthening of various justice sector institutions (courts, police, forensics, legal aid, prosecution).

In view of the above, in 2018, UNICEF continued to support the implementation of a rights-based agenda, focusing on legislative improvements, demand creation, equitable access to quality preventive and protective services and addressing harmful traditions and social norms.

III. RESULTS IN THE OUTCOME AREA

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

By end of 2018, UNICEF provided financial and technical support towards the eCRVS (electronic Civil Registration and Vital Statistics) system that has been deployed in 75 Conservatories and 183 registration posts. Necessary legislative adjustments were approved in the Civil Registration Code, 292 staff trained on the use of the system specifically notification through USSD, including 134 from justice, 109 from National

Institute of Statistics (INE), 43 from Ministry of Interior (MINT) and six from state administrations.

In 2018, 54,539 people were registered (33,878 are children under 1) through the eCRVS system and three conservatories were refurbished in Mocubela, 1st Conservatory of Inhambane City and 1st Conservatory Nampula City, to ensure secure conditions for eCRVS and positive working environment for the system users.

New birth certificates are being disseminated to other government institutions such as Civil Identification, so that they start accepting these In 2018, 10 new civil registration posts at health units were opened, in various provinces.

UNICEF worked with Save the Children to develop a Communication for development Strategy, which shall form the basis for communication messages for social mobilization activities. During the reporting period, social mobilization activities were rolled out in 21 test sites in the provinces of Maputo, Zambezia, Gaza and Nampula, reaching a total of 20,404 people.

UNICEF supported provincial birth registration initiatives in Nampula in partnership with a private company called Green Resources, resulting in 280,647 birth registrations and 92,713 IDs captured, while in Cabo Delgado 16,540 registrations and in Sofala 142,356 birth registrations were carried out.

UNICEF supported the office of the Provincial permanent secretary in Nampula and Zambezia to secure the community leaders' engagement in birth registration.

Social Protection and social welfare

In 2018, UNICEF support resulted in government endorsement of the case management component of the child grant, realization of the first conference on social work, improved community-based case management mechanisms supporting over 100,000 children, reintegration services benefitting over 350 children, and social protection fairs reaching 20,000 vulnerable families.

UNICEF supports the Government to implement the National Strategy for Basic Social Security primarily through increased focus on children in social protection programming, designing and piloting different child grants, a child sensitive social welfare services programme, social welfare workforce (SWW) strengthening and the improvement of the monitoring and evaluation system of social welfare.

The Child Grant Technical Working Group (MGCAS, INAS, MISAU and UNICEF) endorsed the case management model of the child grant (0-2 years) and the partnership with UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti (OoR), resulted in finalized research instruments for the impact evaluation of the child grant including gender, mental health and (child) protection modules. A draft vulnerability prioritization tool to help screen at-risk beneficiaries in need of case management services was drafted and is to be tested in January 2019.

The Social welfare workforce plays an important role in coordinating the provision of care and support services to vulnerable families. Available data shows that 16 per cent of districts have no qualified social worker, resulting in a deficit in coverage of their service. Currently 630 community child protection committees (CCPC), adequately trained by UNICEF and partners are filling this human resource gap.

UNICEF partnered with the National Association of Social Workers in holding the first conference on social work, that concluded to conduct a mapping exercise of existing qualified social workforce, the development of a code of ethics, social work regulation and accreditation system, and a further of assessment the curricula. These outcomes will contribute to strengthening the social welfare workforce throughout 2019.

The limited capacity of the SWW, the increasing number of children out of parental care or formalized alternative care, places children in situations of deprivation, risk and lack of access to services. UNICEF continues to support the strengthening of community-based case management mechanisms along the continuum of care from communities to statutory services, through partnership with national and international civil society organizations (FDC and World Education) and provincial stakeholders. In Zambézia, UNICEF supported programmes reached 7,238 children, trained 34 CCPCs, 102 SDSMAS (District Social Action and Health Services) staff and conducted 53 monitoring visits. Partners in eight provinces including Nampula, reached 92,810 vulnerable children and trained 57 CCPCs.

In 2018, 114 alternative care centres were inspected in the country by the multi-sectoral teams. As a result, 254 children were reintegrated into their biological families, 81 in alternative care (25 of which were adoptive families) and 19 children in institutional foster care.

Partnerships with national NGOs (AMME, and NAFEZA in Zambézia, and Ophavela in Nampula), resulted in integrated service delivery at 26 health and social services' fairs, reaching 20,000 vulnerable families with HIV, health and other services (birth registration, ID cards and taxpayer card).

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the design of the national commitments for people with disability. UNICEF's assistance included high level advocacy with the government, development partners and consultation forums with CSOs and people with disability.

UNICEF supported the Government to deploy a monitoring and evaluation system of the social welfare in eight additional districts in Zambézia and Nampula provinces, strengthening evidence generation.

Multi-sectoral coordination and child marriage

Multisectoral coordination to address child marriage and VAC was strengthened through review of laws and policies, implementation of the Child Marriage Strategy and development of a core package of interventions and a monitoring model for child marriage in focus districts.

MGCAS, with UNICEF support strengthened the national child marriage coordination mechanism at the national level and in target provinces (Nampula and Zambezia). UNICEF provided technical support to develop tools, train multi-sectoral focal points and collect data on the implementation of the Child Marriage Strategy. The review indicated that the largest investment by the government, UN and civil society was in social mobilization and social norms transformation, with large gaps remaining in areas of strengthening services and creating economic empowerment opportunities.

UNICEF developed and validated a core package of child marriage interventions internally by relevant sectors, UNFPA and the government. Six districts were selected in Nampula and Zambezia to implement

the core package in a phased manner. To start the implementation, a district level coordination and monitoring framework was developed and piloted in two districts (Pebane, Monapo).

UNICEF and UNFPA supported the University of Lurio to hold the first national conference on initiation rites and provide a platform for discussing the existing evidence and research. The conference outcome will provide a basis for consultations planned by UNICEF and Ministry of Culture in 2019 to discuss lessons learnt from the current programming efforts and adopt a harmonized approach and a way forward.

UNICEF supported Linha Fala Crianca (LFC) to remodel the call centre and upgrade the information management system in line with international and regional parameters. LFC established partnerships with universities to recruit volunteers in order to expand working hours and access to child friendly reporting and telephone-based counseling. During 11 months of 2018, LFC received 116,855 phone calls (360 calls per day) of which 70,842 were calls with intervention, and 72 per cent were made by children. LFC registered 828 cases with a total of 978 victims. The cases of child marriage, early pregnancy and school-related problems were among the most commonly reported. Majority of victims were girls aged 15-18, followed by girls aged 11-14.

UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education reviewed the policy and legal framework on VAC in schools, reporting and referral mechanisms and good practices. Findings indicate large gaps in education sector regulations and policies in terms of addressing VAC in schools, and the need for their harmonization with core laws, such as the Children's Law and the Penal Code. The report will contribute to formulating strategies to strengthen the reporting and referral mechanisms for VAC in schools. In partnership with IOM and International Child Development Programme (ICDP), UNICEF supported displaced and at-risk children in host communities in Tete and Manica provinces, in five districts (Mossurize, Báruè, Gondola, Vanduzi, Moatize). 179 local officials and members of Child Protection Community Committees were trained to provide psychosocial care and support activities, which benefited 4,470 children (2,683 female, 1,787 male). 1,500 parents and community members were sensitized to enable children's attendance to child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support activities.

Justice for Children

In 2018, UNICEF worked with the government and partners to improve access to justice for children through legal reform, advocacy and capacity strengthening. In partnership with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Judicial Training Centre (CFJJ) the Regulation on Children's Law was drafted and consultations were held. The Regulation is essential to enable effective implementation of the Children's Law with clear definition of mandates, responsibilities and roles of each institution.

UNICEF ensured continuous engagement and contribution to the ongoing legal reform initiatives by the Government and civil society on Family Law, Criminal Code, the draft Child Marriage Law, Decree 39 regarding pregnant girls' enrollment in schools and others. UNICEF and MoJ developed Terms of References (ToR) for analysis of justice for children and review of administrative data on Violence against Children (VAC) working with all major stakeholders to ensure full ownership and close alignment with national priorities. With UNICEF support, 200 justice personnel were trained to provide adolescent and child friendly services. UNICEF also provided operational support to the Minor Court and Minor Sections of provincial courts. The annual meeting of the judiciary gathered 60 actors from judiciary, prosecution, social welfare and police and provided a platform for consultations on the draft Regulation of Children's

Law and the draft Law on Child Marriage and for discussing challenges and response to child protection issues. The Legal Aid Institute (IPAJ) conducted outreach in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, in communities, schools and penitentiaries and reached 17,353 people, including 1,874 children. 5,645 children benefitted from legal aid services.

UNICEF supported Ministry of Labour to disseminate the National Plan of Action and the List of Worst Forms of Child Labour which was jointly developed in 2017. The Police Department of Family and Children trained 30 trainers from all provinces to build decentralized capacity for regular training and coaching.

UNICEF also supported the Department with 30 motorbikes and one vehicle to increase access to services in districts with larger population and territory. From January-September 2018 the Department assisted 7,622 children (3044 boys, 4578 girls) - five per cent increase compared to the same period in 2017. From a total of 1,202 cases of sexual violence, 1,025 were against children. Police also registered 201 cases of child marriage, which in absence of criminalization, were detected through analysis of cases of non-support of a child or sexual violence. Police reached 150,000 persons through 2,092 community meetings to provide information on access to justice and increase awareness of laws.

Public finance for Children, communication and advocacy

UNICEF Mozambique conducted a series of budget analyses which included development of budget briefs on Child Protection and other sectors and budget memo, which were utilized in the sector budget preparation process. These provided the opportunity for members of parliament to be informed on key issues regarding child well-being and to use evidence-based information to demand for stronger equity focus on the 2019 Government Plan and budget proposal.

To promote adolescent and youth participation and engagement and develop their citizenship and leadership skills, UNICEF in partnership with several youth organizations, networks and platforms engaged 1,900 adolescents (1140 girls aged between 10 and 17 years old) in peer to peer dialogues on second decade priority issues. Nine hundred (495 girls and 416 boys) adolescents and young people were trained as *agents of change* and empowered to subsequently inform and educate 87,496 peers in 28 districts on child marriage, violence against children and sexual and reproductive health issues.

IV. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Table 1 illustrates the planned budget for 2018 for Thematic Child Protection. The information, in USD, is disaggregated by output and funding type.

Table 1: Planned Budget for Child Protection in 2018

Programme Area	Funding Type ¹	Planned Budget ²
0C 04 CDVC	RR	912,417
06-01 CRVS	ORR	2,988,479
06-02 Social protection and social welfare	RR	1,037,122
00-02 Social protection and social wenare	ORR	1,649,595
06-03 Multisectoral coordination on child marriage	RR	840,441
00-03 Multisectoral coordination on child marriage	ORR	427,621

Total Budget		9,102,428
00-04 Justice for Children	ORR	243,794
06-04 Justice for Children	RR	1,002,959

Table 2 illustrates the country level thematic contributions received in 2018 for Strategic Plan Outcome 6.

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions received in 2018 (in USD\$)

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Programmable	
		Amount	Amount
Flanders International	SC1499060076	113,831	106,384
Cooperation Agency			
Total		113,831	106,384

Table 3 provides details of expenditure in 2018, disaggregated by programme area and resource type. All figures are in US Dollars.

Programme Areas	Expenditure Amount*			
_	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	218,219	1,845,996	2,215,670	4,279,885
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	63	416,216	95,970	512,249
23-03 Access to justice	1,079	5,246,888	2,150,441	7,398,408
Total	219,361	7,509,100	4,462,081	12,190,542

Table 4 shows thematic expenses by programme area:

Table 1 shows thematic expenses by prog.	Expenditure Amount*			
Programme Areas	Other	Other	Regular	All
	Resources -	Resources	Resources	Programme
	Emergency	- Regular	Resources	Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response	0			
services for violence against children		414,770	0	414,770
23-03 Access to justice		12,194		12,194
Total	0	426,964	0	426,964

Table 5 below illustrates the total funds utilized to deliver child protection programming in 2018.

Table 5: Major interventions using by specific intervention codes (2018)

Specific intervention codes	Expense
23-03-04 Birth Registration/Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems	4,277,843
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	1,769,885
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	740,426
23-03-99 Technical assistance - Access to justice	606,143
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence	
against children	567,946
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	548,773
26-03-05 Innovation, multi-media content production and dissemination	495,493
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing	440 777
and supervision)	413,777
23-03-02 Justice sector workforce strengthening and capacity building (including police)	412,459
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	251,186
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	249,218
23-02-03 Social and behaviour change communication for child marriage	
<u> </u>	239,356
26-01-02 Programme reviews (Annual, UNDAF, MTR, etc.) 23-03-06 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - surveys (e.g. KAP,	179,543
VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	162,578
26-06-04 Leading advocate	159,862
23-01-22 Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration on violence, exploitation	133,002
and abuse	140,830
23-02-98 Technical assistance - Child marriage	130,224
23-03-05 Alternative care reform and service provision	128,300
23-01-18 Child protection focused on care and support for children with disabilities	101,907
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	94,336
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data	·
analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	93,951
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	87,251
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	50,390
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	44,258
23-03-07 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - planning, co-	
ordination and programme monitoring	37,870
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	36,247
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for	
humanitarian action	27,284
26-06-01 Parliamentary engagement for policy advocacy	24,906
26-06-05 Leading voice	23,254
26-05-11 Building global / regional / national stakeholder research capacity	18,682
26-06-07 Leading brand	18,314
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	12,156
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	7,941
26-05-10 Research innovation learning, uptake and partnerships for research	6,808
26-05-09 Humanitarian research	6,257
26-03-06 Research, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for	5.46
C4D	5,164
23-02-06 Harmful practices - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	4,390

Total	12,190,542
26-05-01 Building evaluation capacity in UNICEF and the UN system	45
30-03-02 Private sector advocacy	49
26-06-02 Innovation activities	99
26-05-07 Building research capacity in UNICEF and the UN system	230
26-02-02 MICS - General	631
26-02-09 Field monitoring	986
23-01-23 Child Protection humanitarian AoR/humanitarian sector coordination	2,866
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	3,024
CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	3,377
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS)including	-
23-01-20 Protective services for children on the move	4,024

VI. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Areas of focus for 2019 include nationwide roll out of electronic CRVS (eCRVS) and continued partnership with the health system to improve birth registration. UNICEF will focus on better linking the community and statutory mechanisms for assuring continuum of care for children and families by designing standard operating procedures and referrals as well as regulating case conferences. Implementation and monitoring of the care component of the child grant will also be among major priorities.

It is also planned to include operationalizing of the core package of child marriage interventions and strengthening district level coordination, as well as strengthening coordination and response to cases of VAC through the National Reference Groups.

UNICEF focus in access to justice will be around the analysis of the justice for children situation and review of administrative data for violence against children that will help to develop a theory of change and a costed plan of action. Legal reform will focus on endorsement of the Children's Law regulation and conducting a gap analysis to inform revision of pertinent legislation on child marriage.

Table 6: Planned budget and available resources for 2019

Programme Area	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded budget	Shortfall
05-01 Civil vital registration statistics	RR	434,201	326,058	108,143
05-01 Civil vital registration statistics	ORR	4,349,148	935,491	3,413,657
05-02 Social protection and social welfare	RR	1,106,479	965,559	140,920
	ORR	2,449,804	1,965,458	484,346
05-03 Multi-sectoral coordination on child	RR	668,888	920,667	-251,779
marriage	ORR	876,908	657,072	219,836
05-04 Justice for Children	RR	1,131,202	811,479	319,723
	ORR	389,000	0	389,000
Total	RR	3,340,770	3,023,763	317,007
	ORR	8,064,860	3,558,021	4,506,839

VI. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

There can be no significant or sustainable transformation in societies - and no lasting reduction in global poverty—until all children receive the basic services and protection they deserve. UNICEF Mozambique Country Office is grateful to all contributors of thematic funds. These funds are a critical source of funding and allow the Country Office to respond to priorities and demands in a more flexible way than many other sources of funding. Thematic funds are critical for continuing to achieve results for the children of Mozambique.

VIII. HUMAN INTEREST STORY

I'm glad I took the HIV test

NAMPULA, MARCH 2018 - "I used to live worried about my HIV status, so I'm glad I took this HIV test," said Aida Rosario, a 22-year-old granddaughter of a social security beneficiary. Aida is a single mother who lives with her grandmother, a beneficiary of the PSSB programme.

The first time Aida heard about HIV was during a lecture in her community of Apakwe couple years ago, but she never had the opportunity to do a HIV test due to the long distances to the nearest health centre, which is 12 kilometers from her community.

To reach the community of Apakwe, in the district of Angoche, you need to drive for more than three and a half hours from the capital Nampula on bad dirt road with breathtaking bumps. Apakwe is a friendly community, with a population of around 30,000 people. There is no electricity for everyone, and you have poorly built houses made of local materials. The majority of the population are elders and female who work on the local farms (machambas). Apakwe was one of the communities benefiting from the health and social protection fair part of the 'Cash Plus Care' intervention – the fair approach is used to attract many people to gather around then PSSB beneficiaries pay points to access a series of services, from health check ups, HIV testing, counselling and follow ups; birth registration, SRH counselling for youth, family planning, ID cards, etc. The services are primarily meant to benefit the PSSB Beneficiaries and their families plus the people living around the pay points.

UNICEF conceived a 'Cash Plus Care' intervention in 2014, aiming to strengthen the linkages between HIV/AIDS services and national social protection programmes. The project, funded by the Government of the Netherlands, is being implemented in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The aim is to reach families with children and adolescents, who are vulnerable to or affected by the epidemic through cash transfer schemes and support.

For Aida, this idea of bringing this HIV/AIDS and health services close to the populations is very good as it saves her community time and reduces the distance to get quality health services. "Time is very important to ensure our livelihood, I can't waste an entire day to go the health centre, and during that time, who will be taking care of my grandmother," explains the young mother.

Aida made sure that she mobilized as many people as she could, "I also invited all my friends to go to the HIV test, because we always talked about our health and our future. I am a single mother and would not want to leave her orphan because of HIV".

"For me, these initiatives must continue because in addition to helping our elderly with health problems, it also gives us opportunities as young people to access health services that in a normal way you could not get without walking long distances," concluded Aida with a shy smile. End/

IX. DONOR REPORT FEEDBACK FORM

In order to improve the quality of our reports, we kindly request you to spare a few minutes to give us feedback on the report through the attached link: donor feedback form

Name of Report: Child Protection Thematic Report

Reference number: SC149906

Thank you.