

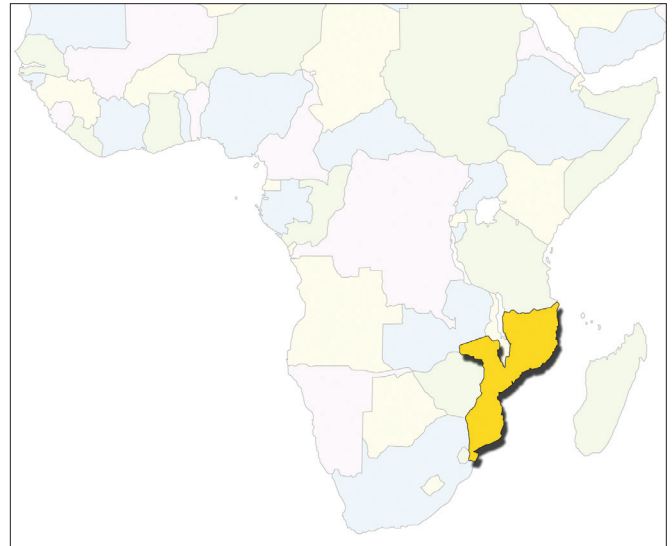
MEASURE Evaluation in Mozambique

With an adult HIV prevalence rate of 12.5 percent, Mozambique faces a severe HIV/AIDS epidemic. This nation of almost 22 million sits on Africa's southeastern coast and is bordered by the Indian ocean and five different countries—Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa—all of which have their own severe HIV/AIDS epidemics. Until 1992, a civil war restricted movement inside and outside of Mozambique, which stifled the disease's spread. As refugees returned and travel picked up between Mozambique and its surrounding countries, so did HIV transmission.

Heterosexual contact remains the virus's primary mode of transmission in Mozambique, but rates vary regionally and among different sectors of the population. Women overall face a higher risk of contracting the virus than men, but young women are at particular risk. Nearly 11 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 24 have the virus, compared to 3.6 percent of men in the same age group. Infection rates vary regionally. According to the World Health Organization, the northern part of the country has a prevalence rate of 8 percent, while the south, which includes the capital city of Maputo, has a rate of 15 percent. The central part of the country is estimated to be the most afflicted, though, with 17 percent of adults there infected with the virus. Tuberculosis and malaria epidemics, along with seasonal cholera outbreaks, complicate the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic further.

MEASURE EVALUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

In 2000, Mozambique's government created the National AIDS Council (CNCS) to coordinate the country's response to the epidemic. The council includes representatives from both the public and private sectors. Maria Joao Nazareth has led MEASURE



COUNTRY FLAG



DEMOGRAPHY

Population: 21,971,000

Population Growth Rate: 1.797%

Age Structure:

0–14 years: 44.1%

15–64 years: 53.0%

65 years and over: 2.9%

Death Rate: 17 deaths/1,000 population

HIV-RELATED DATA

Adult HIV Prevalence: 12.5%

People Living with HIV: 1,500,000

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

Infant Mortality Rate: 97 infant deaths/1,000 live births

Total Fertility Rate: 5.4 children born/woman

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 520 maternal deaths/100,000 live births



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Evaluation's activities as resident advisor in Mozambique since 2007. During Phase III, MEASURE Evaluation has been working extensively with government institutions and international stakeholders involved in the HIV/AIDS response.

Maria Joao speaks enthusiastically about all activities that MEASURE Evaluation is involved in, from working directly with government ministries to assisting the National AIDS Council.

Building M&E Capacity Within Government Ministries

"One of our most interesting projects," Nazareth said in a phone interview, "is our work with the Ministry of National Defense to create a patient tracking system."

After assessing the ministry's previous system, MEASURE Evaluation helped customize a new health information system to ensure that data from military hospitals is systematically collected and stored so that decision-makers can retrieve and disseminate the information when necessary.

Although MEASURE Evaluation helped with database development, installation and training through the Department of Defense, Nazareth emphasized the ministry's ownership of the system, which is very important in sustaining an information system. "When we do workshops, the Department of Defense insists on conducting the workshops with minimal help from us," Nazareth said. "The training is for them, and they take great ownership of it."

Another ministry that MEASURE Evaluation worked with was the Ministry of Women and Social Action, which develops and implements programs related to social policies and programs for women. MEASURE Evaluation helped build M&E capacity within the ministry by assisting in the development of its M&E plan.

Improving Information Systems

Nazareth also spoke passionately about MEASURE Evaluation's customization of Mozambique's HIV/AIDS Country and Program Monitoring System into a multi-sectoral information system. The new system is to prioritize the health sector, but also incorporate other

areas such as food, nutrition, education, agriculture and livelihood. The purpose of the new multi-sectoral system is to reduce the burden of reporting and standardize the way implementing partners collect data, thereby improving overall data quality.

Collaboration with CNCS, the national AIDS council, remains a major component of MEASURE Evaluation's portfolio in Mozambique. During Phase III, MEASURE Evaluation has been providing technical assistance to CNCS for its HIV/AIDS database and information systems strengthening. "The goal of the HIV/AIDS database is to facilitate the collection, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information on Mozambique's response to the epidemic," said Nazareth.

In addition to assisting with the database, MEASURE Evaluation is working with CNCS to develop a national M&E curricula and to build the capacity at the district-level and with local organizations.

Assessing Data Quality

MEASURE Evaluation has carried out multiple data quality assessments for HIV programs in Mozambique to determine the quality of data they report to USAID. And to ensure that implementing partners in Mozambique are able to assess the quality of their own data, MEASURE Evaluation had conduct routine data quality assessment (RDQA) training activities for PEPFAR implementing partners there.

Translating Tools

Portuguese is the language spoken in Mozambique. To facilitate the use of MEASURE Evaluation's tools in the Mozambican context, therefore, they have translated many of them—such as the Child Status Index and the 12 Components Tool—to Portuguese. "This is good for Mozambique, but it is also very good for other countries where Portuguese is spoken," Maria Joao pointed out. "It allows many more people in more countries use these tools."

As the needs of Mozambique evolve and expand, so will MEASURE Evaluation's activities there. "It is very exciting working in Mozambique," Maria Joao said jubilantly. "We are working on so many interesting things!"