

## Republic of Mozambique

### Part 1: Situation update in the country

According to recent analysis by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and UNICEF, half of all children in Mozambique lived in monetary poverty. Almost one in two Mozambican children were considered multidimensionally poor and nearly one-third of children were consumption poor and deprived at the same time. Using comparable data of DHS and the Alkire-Foster approach, multidimensional child poverty in Mozambique was found to exceed that of neighbouring countries (E-Swazini, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

Limited progress has been made in improving the standard of living of the general population, especially children. The forthcoming 2019 Ministry of Economy and Finance/UNICEF report confirms that 'progress on child stunting and child marriage has stalled and has not tangibly improved since 1996-97'. 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. Mozambique had 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 was growing at an average rate of 3.5 percent per annum. Fertility rates, particularly adolescent fertility rates, were very high, while life expectancy remained among the lowest in the world, at 55 years. It is estimated that the total population will double by 2030 and that an increasing proportion of the population will be children. The preliminary findings of the 2018 census indicated that 51 per cent of the population was under 18 and 64 per cent was under 25.

Sixty-eight per cent of Mozambicans lived in rural areas. The population was unevenly distributed and just three provinces in the centre-north (Nampula, Tete and Zambézia) were home to almost 50 per cent of the population. Two provinces (Nampula and Zambézia) hosted almost half of the population classified as poor. Significant gender discrimination and inequalities existed in Mozambique, which ranked 178 out of 188 countries on the UN Gender Inequality Index. Fifty-eight per cent of women lived below the poverty line, compared to 54 per cent of men. There was a 48 per cent child marriage rate, with some geographic disparities – the rate in Nampula and Cabo Delgado was as high as 61 per cent. Evidence indicates that school-related gender-based violence affected millions of children and adolescents in Mozambique and negatively impacted school participation, learning levels and completion rates, and raised barriers to gender equality in education and wider society.

Structural and geographic inequalities were 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 was 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 lived in provinces of Nampula and Zambézia. Child deprivations were deep and cumulative, and most children in Mozambique suffered more than one form of deprivation at a time. There was slow progress in reducing child stunting, which stood at 43 per cent nationally, and was higher in rural and Northern areas. Child stunting has not improved tangibly since 1996-97. Almost three-quarters of Mozambican children lacked proper access to sanitation and electricity, and 40 per cent lacked clean and accessible sources of water. One in five children was simultaneously deprived in access to water and sanitation (WASH), health

and nutrition. The high level of multidimensional child poverty was mostly driven structural factors, low education of household heads and the types of jobs they held.

In 2019, the Institute for National Statistics plans to release the 2017 census data, which will provide more relevant, up-to-date information on the status of children in Mozambique.

Mozambique remained one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 180 out of 189 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index. In 2018, economic growth was 3.3 per cent of GDP and inflation fell to 4.7 per cent. The economy showed signs of slow recovery but continued to have a challenging outlook, especially due to unsustainable gross debt level of 112.9 per cent of GDP with projection of 118.7 per cent in 2019 (the average in Sub-Saharan Africa is 41.7 per cent of GDP). The deficit of 8.9 per cent was mainly financed by internal and external credit as well as grants. Growing internal credit has led to higher interest rates and crowding-out of lending to national small and medium businesses. Attracting donor support to finance part of the deficit continues relevant ensuring the social spending on children (Ecorys 2018). The International Monetary Fund estimates growth of 4 to 4.7 per cent in 2019 due to fiscal consolidation, tight monetary and financial policies and policy reforms. The General Budget Support continued to be suspended due to lack of disclosure of debt issues. Donors, including the European Union, were increasingly moving to project funding, including through the UN.

The Government reached agreement with four international creditors on the key commercial terms to restructure part of undisclosed debt related to EMATUM company (US\$726.5million). The four members of Global Group of Mozambique Bondholders owned approximately 60 per cent of the outstanding bonds. The parties agreed to a US\$900 million Eurobond with an interest rate of 5.875 per cent, with full payment in 2033 (instead of 10.5 percent interest rate paid by 2023). The interest repayment will start in March 2019 and the principal payment will start in 2029. The agreement enabled the Government to lower interest rates and extend the repayment window, but at a cost of agreeing that a 5 per cent share of revenue from two offshore natural gas projects (Area 1 and 40) will be paid to creditors until 2033. At year end, the deal still needed the approval of Parliament and was expected to be finalized in early 2019. The Government has not clearly reflected those repayments in the 2019 budget, which could imply a risk to cuts in social sectors and therefore impact child-sensitive sectors such as social protection and education.

In 2018 the Government set a goal of allocating at least 60 per cent of the state budget to the priority sectors, excluding financial operations and debt servicing from the denominator. Because financial operations and debt servicing have more than doubled since 2013 as a share of total spending, adversely influencing the real expenditure on priority sectors, 60 per cent is no longer an achievable benchmark. The public spending in real terms has decreased. It was lowest in 2017, at 39 per cent, and increased to 49 per cent in 2018. UNICEF was negotiating with the Government to revise this approach to better express real spending.

In 2018, the percentage of the state budget and the percentage less financial ops and debt servicing, respectively, were: 17.2 per cent and 22.4 per cent for education; 8.7 per cent and 11.3 per cent for health; 1.4 per cent and 1.9 for WASH; and 2 per cent and 2.6 per cent for social action.

In all sectors, the execution rates left room for improvement. Education had the highest execution rate, at 92 per cent over the past decade. In 2017, in health the overall execution

rate was 76 per cent, in WASH it was 49 per cent and for social action it was 80 per cent.

In the current fiscal and political situation, prioritization of child-focused programmes and scaling up of new initiatives may become constrained. Under these conditions, ensuring efficient and equitable implementation of child-sensitive sectors becomes increasingly relevant.

Municipal elections were held on 10 October 2018. The ruling party Frelimo won in 44 out of 53 municipalities. Overall Frelimo won 51.95 per cent of the votes, which represented its lowest score in any election to date. Voter turnout was 60.05 per cent, well above the 46 per cent in the past two municipal elections. For the first time in 10 years, the main opposition party, Renamo participated in the local elections and won several important municipalities, including Nampula, Nacala and Quelimane. Renamo also won several smaller municipalities that used to be Frelimo strongholds, including Chiure in Cabo Delgado and Cuamba in Niassa. MDM, the second largest opposition party, kept its position in Beira. The elections were contested as fraudulent by the opposition in at least five municipalities and clashes took place in some polling stations. The Constitutional Council, the highest body of constitutional and electoral law, rejected the results of Marrromeu in Sofala but validated and approved the rest. The rerun of Marrromeu was held in November but similar irregularities took place. The CNE declared Frelimo as a winner in an environment of mistrust. In 2019 Mozambique will hold general elections.

The Frelimo-Renamo peace discussions were ongoing. There were no armed attacks on Renamo since the party leader declared a truce in 2016. With his death in May 2018, just before the municipal elections, the political climate remained unclear regarding the future of the peace talks, the leadership of the party and its strategy for elections. The opposition party's interim leader took a constructive approach. In 2018, Members of Parliament approved a proposal for the constitutional amendment on decentralization of power, one of the key issues linked to the peace dialogue. The political and fiscal implications of this constitutional amendment were yet to be clarified. These sensitive political processes, elections and peace discussions are key processes toward further social cohesion in the country and ensuring a peaceful and safe environment to Mozambican children.

Since October 2017 there have been violent attacks in Northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado), an area rich in natural resources. The sporadic violence, possibly linked to radical Islamist groups, led to displacement of people from affected areas and suspension of some activities by companies involved with the multi-billion dollar development of off-shore natural gas fields. The attacks, initially restricted to the northernmost districts bordering Tanzania, spread southward and intensified in frequency. There was no official data on the number of affected people, but the World Food Programme was assisting 33,000 people who were affected by violence in 47 villages in the districts of Mocimboa da Praia, Palma, Macomia, Quissanga and Nangade. While it seemed that a small number of radicalized groups were behind the violence, they operated on fertile ground in communities that were extremely poor and marginalized, with high levels of illiteracy and unemployment. There was little press coverage of the vast impact, such as of the displacements due to attacks. In December 2018 three journalists were arrested by the local police for researching the situation, but they were set free soon after the arrest. In 2018, families who had fled to Malawi in 2015-16 from the central province of Tete during an extended period of violent conflict between government forces and Renamo began returning to Mozambique. Approximately 3,872 people returned to Tete in 2018 according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

Mozambique experiences natural hazards every year, given its geographic location and the social and economic vulnerability of the population. Climate models predict more frequent and intense natural disasters in the Southern Africa region, because of climate change, accompanied by detrimental effects on food and nutrition security. The 2017-18 rainfall season resulted in below average agricultural yields, particularly in the southern and some central parts of the country, with an estimated 815,000 severely food insecure people in 32 districts and more than 19,000 children in nine districts expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. Climatic predictions for the 2018/2019 rainfall season indicate an 80 per cent likelihood of an El Niño during the period of November 2018 to March 2019. Based on the experience of the 2015-2017 El Niño season, the impacts might extend beyond food insecurity, with increased levels of malnutrition, water scarcity, increased rates of school dropouts, and higher risk of communicable diseases and exacerbated HIV rates.

Important changes were made in 2018 in terms of the overall legal framework in Mozambique, especially in the education sector. Extensive advocacy by multiple stakeholders led to the Government revoking controversial legislation (Decree 39) that required girls who were pregnant to attend the night shift of schools (an option in fewer than 5 per cent of schools that exposes girls to additional risks). Another important legal change was the approval of the new National Education System Law, which establishes pre-primary as a formal sub-sector, reduces primary education to six years taught by a single teacher, and extends compulsory education from seven to nine years (six in primary and three in lower secondary), with primary education remaining free.

The Government approved a National Strategy of Inclusive Education, which ensures that children with special needs are included in the regular education system. In the field of child protection and social protection and with UNICEF support, the Government adopted a list of hazardous activities that are prohibited for children and approved a National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The Government approved the Civil Registration Code that introduces a unique national ID number from birth as well as the electronic civil registration system, among other innovations. By August 2018, the Government approved Decree 47/2018 approving the new programme structure of ENSSB II (Basic Social Security Policy) and allowing implementation of a child grant for children 0-2 years old.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance prepared an initial Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report with the objective of designing the SDG National Framework of Indicators. The report also analyses progress in the implementation of selected indicators for education, health, fisheries, water and sanitation, agriculture and the environment from the perspective of sustainable development. UNICEF was part of the SDG taskforce led by the United Nations Development Programme.

## **Part 2: Major results, including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents**

### **Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives**

Building on the creation of a National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) chaired by the Prime Minister, UNICEF worked closely with partners to shape the new leadership being replicated at provincial and district level to convene sectoral experts for better nutrition. Historically, the technical secretariat for food security and nutrition in the Ministry of

Agriculture struggled to convene sectors. The CONSAN aims to address this challenge by elevating leadership to the Prime Minister's office, the Governor's office at provincial level, and the District Administrator at district level.

UNICEF conducted an institutional capacity assessment and developed seven district-level five-year multi-sector nutrition plans in the provinces of Zambézia and Nampula. The assessment created an innovative adaptation of the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) movement guidance to allow objective appraisal of nutrition coordination and leadership capacity compared to global criteria and permit a systematic, objective definition of needs across different levels. In future, the results of capacity building efforts will be measured against those criteria.

Wider advocacy on nutrition was supported by UNICEF in orientations and training sessions targeting journalists (60), community leaders (90), and Members of Parliament. The sessions focused on the impact of stunting and the participants' roles in bringing forward concrete actions to address it, including behaviour change. UNICEF also supported the finalization of the Cost of Hunger study led by the World Food Programme. Its main finding of more than 10 per cent loss of yearly GDP linked to chronic malnutrition provided compelling evidence and rationale for society at large to engage in reducing chronic malnutrition.

At community level, UNICEF worked with community-based platforms, including community-based health, nutrition, WASH and communication activists, to reverse poor practices on infant and young child feeding, sanitation and hygiene. Only 13 per cent of Mozambican children received an optimum diet. Aligned to the National Nutrition Social and Behaviour Change Communication strategy, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health to define a new package for community-based nutrition, leveraging the Global Financing Facility financial support to create momentum for large scale, government-led and community focused maternal, infant and young child nutrition. In the focus provinces of Zambézia and Nampula, UNICEF linked the complementary sectors of Agriculture, Public Works and Social Communication by supporting district authorities to synergize efforts of the Ministry of Health with the expertise of other sectors. UNICEF helped engage 600 community health workers, 60 sanitation and hygiene animators, and approximately 270,000 people (129,000 female) who were reached by the Multimedia Mobile Units in four priority districts of Zambézia and three districts in Nampula provinces with key messages on infant and young child feeding, water and sanitation, HIV, birth registration, education and child marriage

On the eve of another El Niño climate event, which two years ago brought drought and crop failures across the sub-region, UNICEF supported improvements in nutrition information, and created consistent standards for nutrition emergency assessment to ensure a timely diagnosis and response to evolving needs. The March seasonal vulnerability assessment identified 18 vulnerable districts where 91,283 children were screened and 4,797 were identified with severe acute malnutrition.

Focusing largely on primary health care and community engagement, UNICEF worked to support the priorities identified in the Reproductive Maternal Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Investment Case. With generous support from the UK Government, USAID and other donors, UNICEF worked closely with the UN Population Fund and World Health Organization on a joint programme to tackle specific areas of the Investment Case and catalyse additional resources from the Global Financing Facility.

At community level, deployment of additional community health workers was accelerated to reduce the number of remote communities without access to the health system. In 2018, 864 community health workers graduated and started service. Research on barriers and facilitators of feminization of community health workers conducted in the second half of 2018 informed approaches to improve the gender balance of the community health worker programme (which had a 70-30 male/female ratio).

A mobile phone platform (UpScale) was implemented in Cabo Delgado and Inhambane provinces as a job aide and reporting platform to help community health workers organize their preventive and curative community work while simultaneously reporting activities within the national health information system. An expansion plan was designed to cover the whole country. Partnerships with the Malaria Consortium, DIMAGI and Saugigitus were critical for this work. A pilot for community-based treatment of acute malnutrition within their own community – avoiding the delays to seek treatment and expense associated with travel to a health facility for care. Systematic mapping to identify recently formed communities without access to health services was conducted. Working in Tete, Zambézia, Nampula, Sofala and Manica provinces, to date, 301 previously unserved communities were mapped for follow-up support through deployment of community health workers and/or health facility outreach, representing more than 250,000 people (approximately 52 per cent women).

With support from the Global Alliance, immunization services added combined measles-rubella vaccine, which was successfully introduced through a two-phase campaign covering the Northern and Southern Provinces and close to 14 million children and adolescents. 'Reach Every Child' is a global strategy to ensure high quality plans and social mobilization for outreach activities. Complemented by the community mapping and a revised National Guideline for Vitamin A Supplementation, UNICEF and the World Health Organization worked with provincial health offices to roll out the new guidelines and improve the quality and implementation of micro-plans for immunization and vitamin A supplementation.

UNICEF improved the range and quality of services provided within primary health care facilities, working closely with partners. A new quality improvement model, involving the national associations for paediatricians (AMOPE) and obstetricians (AMOG) and Health Alliance International assessed and then trained high performing nurses as peer mentors across half of the districts of Zambézia to share their expertise during the ante-natal, partum and post-partum process. An evaluation planned for early 2019 is being closely followed by the Government for possible programme replication to other provinces.

A similar approach was taken with the paediatrician's association for inpatient care of children with complicated acute malnutrition. In partnership with PATH, this training emphasized the importance of responsive care and child stimulation (key elements of early childhood development) along with clinical nutrition case management training. Additional early childhood development elements on developmental milestones monitoring and stimulation during young child feeding were strengthened at community level, revising standard registers and updates to training materials. UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the National Civil Society Network on Early Childhood Development and developed an internal early childhood development strategy to guide future programming.

UNICEF continued to focus on improving retention and adherence to care and treatment of HIV positive pregnant women by tapping into the community health outreach initiative through the community health workers and civil society organizations. The accelerated plan (2018-2020) for

the elimination of mother to child transmission for HIV and syphilis was developed and was approved by the Government. Special attention was given to adolescent girls and young women by building the capacities of youth friendly health centres for the provision of comprehensive quality care. UNICEF continued to support the expansion of point of care sites for early infant diagnosis to increase retention and reduce morbidity and mortality due to paediatric AIDS. The first phase of the expansion was completed, with the installation of point of care machines in all 130 sites as planned. By the end of the third quarter of 2018, more than 66,000 exposed children were tested. Turnaround time for results in less than 28 days was 60 per cent, compared to 49 per cent in the same period in 2017.

## **Goal area 2: Every child learns**

In 2018, the completion rate for primary school at national level increased to 52 per cent. The gender parity index at the end of the primary school first cycle was 0.94, up from 0.90 in 2016. The gender parity index at the end of primary school second cycle was stagnant at 0.90, the same rate as 2016. The latest available data for preschool indicated that the gross enrolment rate was 4 per cent. No data on children developmentally on track was available.

An additional 2,700 children aged 5-6 years (50.7 per cent girls) benefitted from the 120-hour low-cost accelerated school readiness pilot programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Development and Save the Children, enabling them to transition to primary school. This included 27 children with a disability (17 girls). Primary enrolment increased by 14 per cent. With these promising results, the programme has a huge potential for scale-up in the new Education Section Plan, as well as leveraging potential with Global Partnership for Education.

Livro Aberto and Nhapupwe, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Development, continued to provide supplementary in-service teacher training to 714 teachers on early grade reading and the production and use of low-cost teaching-learning materials, reaching approximately 43,554 children. A study on programme implementation by the Universidade Pedagógica highlighted challenges in terms of scalability, particularly at the school cluster (ZIP) level. UNICEF will revise these activities in 2019.

The collective efforts of UNICEF, relevant ministries and civil society resulted in the repeal of Decree 39, which posed barriers for girls who were pregnant by forcing them into night classes and therefore increasing their risk of dropout and exposure to violence. UNICEF also contributed to the development of a national inclusive education strategy and analysis of the implementation of the gender strategy (2015-2020), which will help the Ministry of Education and Human Development define its priorities for the next two years. Access to education was supported through emergency programming. This included a partnership with Architects without Borders to rehabilitate schools damaged by Cyclone Dineo in 2017, using more resistant materials to better withstand future storms. UNICEF also provided learning materials to 26,850 students (12,620 girls) who were affected by emergencies. UNICEF supported education in emergency training and the expansion of school-based emergency plans to 32 schools (up from 6 previously). Violence against children was addressed through a study on referral and response mechanism in schools.

UNICEF supported other research, including a study on dropout undertaken in Zambézia, which is expected to be scaled up nationally, to inform the next 10-year national education sector strategy, to begin in 2020. UNICEF also brokered Mozambique's participation in a

regional study on teacher absenteeism led by Innocenti to provide additional dropout data and support the World Bank's Service Delivery Indicators' Survey.

System strengthening involved further training to improve the quality of planning and monitoring, including regarding district supervision in target provinces. Data strengthening was supported through EMIS training and quality checks. In collaboration with the UNICEF regional office, UNICEF Mozambique provided technical support on learning assessments, aiming to strengthen the capacities of the National Institute for Education Development on data collection, implementation, analysis and reporting.

### **Goal area 3: Every child protected from violence and exploitation**

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. The Government and partners reached more than 1 million children with UNICEF-supported child protection programmes. Partners included AMME, FDC, Handicap International, ICDP, the International Organization for Migration, Linha Fala Crianca, Lurio Green, Nafeza, Ophavela and World Education, UNICEF contributed to further strengthening national and subnational systems of care and protection, including community-based case management, integrated service delivery of social action, police and justice, civil registration and vital statistics, improved access to justice and response to humanitarian needs of displaced and at-risk children.

Continued capacity building of national and sub-national actors in delivery of child and adolescent friendly protection services targeted more than 600 members of community child protection committees (approximately 350 male and 250 female), 96 social welfare staff (40 female and 56 male), 200 justice personnel and 202 (136 male, 56 female) police officers in selected districts. The training increased knowledge on child protection legislation and procedures and improved working practices of these stakeholders.

To promote legal awareness and access to services, UNICEF and partners, including the Legal Aid Institute, Save the Children and the police, reached more than 200,000 people, including more than 18,000 children in communities, schools and penitentiaries. Community outreach and mobilization was guided by communication for development strategies developed with UNICEF support and endorsed by the Government around alternative care, birth registration and child marriage.

UNICEF and the International Labour Organization 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 the UK Department of International Development and Ireland, the Netherlands 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.

In partnership with the Government, UNICEF concluded the assessment of the community child protection committees and design, testing, and approval of the National Registry for Alternative Care to speed up placement of children in need of family care with adequately screened and trained families. In partnership with the UN Population Fund, UK DFID, Handicap International and civil society organizations, the definition of key national commitments to define major interventions, policy and programmatic priorities aiming to improve protection and

promotion of rights of people living with disability for people living with disabilities.

Quality social services provided by adequately trained and certified actors, vital for provision of care and support services to vulnerable families, was one of the biggest challenges Mozambique faced. UNICEF partnered with Ireland and the National Association of Social Workers to organize the first conference on social work and identified priority actions to be addressed in 2019. The vision developed by the Association focuses on professionalization of social work, development of a quality assurance system, code of ethics and harmonization of learning curricula.

With UNICEF support, the Government drafted a new Strategic Plan for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics to secure investment for a sustainable system. Partnership agreements with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health were 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 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system (eCRVS) was rolled out and was functional in 75 conservatories and 183 registration posts. A total of 292 staff were trained in its use, including 134 from Justice, 109 from National Institute of Statistics, 43 from Ministry of Interior and 6 from State Administration. In 2018, this new system registered 54,539 people, including 33,878 children under the age of one.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Affairs, with UNICEF support, 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. Findings indicated that the largest investment by the Government and partners was in social mobilization and social norms transformation, with gaps remaining in areas of strengthening of 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 Zambézia to implement the core package of assistance and a district-level coordination and monitoring framework was developed and piloted in two districts.

As part of the rollout of the national communication for development strategy to prevent child marriage, a mass media campaign reached more than 5 million people with key messages. Four hundred community dialogues were conducted in Nampula (where child marriage rates were highest), engaging 5,087 people (2,550 men and 2,537 women) in social dialogue, empowering them to identify feasible solutions and alternatives.

With the Judicial Training Centre, the Regulation on Children's Law, which provides a clear definition of mandates, responsibilities and roles of each institution overseeing the law, was drafted. UNICEF also contributed to the ongoing legal reforms related to the Family Law, Criminal Code, the draft Child Marriage Law, and Decree 39 regarding pregnant girls' enrolment in schools.

UNICEF also reviewed the policy and legal framework on violence against children in schools, reporting and referral mechanisms and good practices. Findings indicated 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. The report will contribute to formulating strategies to strengthen the reporting and referral mechanisms for addressing violence in schools.

With the International Organization for Migration and ICDP. UNICEF supported displaced and at-risk children in host communities in Tete and Manica provinces in five districts (Mossurize, Bárue, Gondola, Vanduzi, Moatize). A total of 179 local officials and members of Child Protection Community Committees were trained to provide psychosocial care and reached 4,470 children (2,683 female, 1,787 male).

#### **Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment**

In 2018, the WASH programme continued to grow, both in terms of financial resources and in programmatic breadth. Significant milestones were reached in supporting the WASH enabling environment and in reaching increased numbers of beneficiaries with WASH services.

Key UNICEF WASH upstream activities included support to the Government to develop a national rural sanitation strategy. This work was supported by UNICEF in partnership with the UK DFID and included sub-national and national level workshops, consultations and development and technical review of a final strategy scheduled for submission to Council of Ministers in the first quarter of 2019. UNICEF conducted a series of advocacy events that targeted key decision makers at district, provincial and national levels. At the decentralized level, a one-day institutional triggering event chaired by the Governor was attended by all district administrators from Zambézia Province. At the national level, an institutional triggering event focused on reminding the Government of their sanitation commitments (including Ngor commitments) and the need to include household sanitation in national budgetary allocations. The event included key sector donors and the participation of the Ministers of Finance, Public Works, Agriculture, the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Health and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration.

UNICEF supported the Government to finalize the new national rural WASH Programme (PRONASAR 2018-2030). The existing Common Fund was revised. To attract additional donors to the sector, the basket fund (or Joint Fund) will include multiple funding management modalities. This approach gained support from all key sector donors and attracted new interest in participation by USAID and Irish Aid.

UNICEF supported the Government to develop a harmonized two-year action plan for modernizing the existing WASH information management platform. Key sector donors supported various components of this plan. UNICEF supported capacity building and the installation of DHIS2 software for countrywide WASH data integration and visualization. UNICEF supported the Government to adapt the UNICEF sustainability check into a national annual sustainability check that looks for lessons learned and best practices from existing WASH infrastructure, independent of initial funding source.

UNICEF continued to support capacity development of government partners, expanding this support to national scale by providing it in all provinces of Mozambique. Trainings were provided in public procurement law, sanitation promotion, quality control, monitoring and contract supervision. UNICEF continued to deliver improved WASH services through the exclusive use of government procurement platforms (except in emergency response), which provided critical on-the-job training to build capacity.

In 2018 UNICEF supported 487,000 people (254,214 females and 232,786 males) to gain access to clean water. UNICEF supported 322,052 people (168,111 females and 153,941

males) to gain access to improved sanitation, a 12.5 per cent increase in the rural population who had access to improved sanitation compared to 2017. Water access improvements included new handpumps, multi-use solar powered water systems and small-town systems. Sanitation improvements focused on the rural sector and supported 1,382 communities to reach open defecation free status, ensuring that 490,798 people (256,197 females 234,602 males) had access to an open defecation free environment.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to support a range of innovative financing initiatives. Household level interventions aimed to reduce financial barriers and included creation of multi-family savings groups (Xitiques) to support sanitation improvements and the piloting of a small-town revolving fund to pro-rate water system connection fees over several years. One thousand households gained access through piloting this revolving fund. At the macro-level, UNICEF continued to support the development of an approximately US\$100 million small-town water fund. The initiative gained momentum in 2018 with UNICEF successfully advocating with USAID (via WASHFin) and with the World Bank to support it.

In 2018, UNICEF launched the WASH in Health Centres initiative, which will follow the ongoing work supported in WASH in Schools and develop gender sensitive, disability friendly WASH standards and norms for health centres. UNICEF also launched WASH infrastructure improvements in 90 health centres using a set of temporary Ministry of Health-approved standards.

In 2018, UNICEF ensured access to water and sanitation services in 95 schools, providing access to 33,250 students. Works included completion of water points at 71 schools and construction of latrine blocks at 35 schools. The facilities provided water and sanitary facilities that are girl-friendly with separate toilets for girls and a private washing place when needed (during their menstruation) aimed at creating a safe school environment where adolescent girls can thrive. The national assessment of water and sanitation services was concluded, and results were presented to the Ministry of Education. Based on the findings, norms and standards will be developed in 2019. Formative research around menstrual hygiene management at schools also was initiated, with the findings to be made available in mid-2019.

UNICEF supported a stunting reduction initiative. An integrated social and behaviour change communication strategy on eliminating stunting was developed. Infant and young child feeding and WASH messages were mainstreamed across platforms in the strategy, including sanitation promotion platforms. Operationalization of the integrated strategy was facilitated with the development of 7x district SBCC micro-plans and joint multi-sectoral capacity building workshops with government partners.

In 2018 UNICEF continued to support the government humanitarian sector as WASH cluster lead and through emergency response to cholera outbreaks and water scarcity issues. Preparedness activities included the establishment of several contingency agreements with nongovernmental organizations, prepositioning of supplies and support for the ongoing regional cholera hotspot mapping initiative and drought preparedness response plan.

UNICEF supported the bi-annual Development Observatories, providing technical assistance to the DPEFs in Nampula and Zambézia to promote transparency with the development of the 'Citizens Budget,' which summarizes the Provincial Plan and Budget in language for public consumption. UNICEF also helped reinforce the capacity of civil society in the two provinces in the analysis and monitoring of provincial planning and budgeting instruments. As a part of the

decentralisation agenda, UNICEF supported four municipalities (Maputo, Mandlakazi, Quelimane and Pemba) to implement child-sensitive plans or interventions, as a part of the Sustainable Child Friendly Cities initiative.

### **Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life**

UNICEF consolidated analysis on child poverty monitoring and advocacy into a new multidimensional child poverty report that was approved by the Concelho Technico of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and was awaiting final approval by the Ministry. The results were used to stimulate inter-sectorial discussion on planning and budget priorities in the light of SDG accelerators in Mozambique. This advocacy work will continue in 2019.

The new Basic Service Delivery Atlas initiative focused on equitable distribution of resources for child-relevant basic services at provincial and district levels. Databases on child-focused administrative indicators for Nampula and Zambézia were developed, compiled with support from district and provincial level planning and data focal points. The child-focused social service indicators were used to advocate for reducing disparities in budget allocations within the province.

UNICEF facilitated dialogue between the Government and civil society organizations to foster transparency and promote the organizations' engagement in the budget cycle nationally. Together with the Public Integrity Centre, UNICEF launched the Open Budget Survey results and led follow-up discussions on how to strengthen Mozambique's score.

A meeting was convened with other Lusophone countries to discuss the latest Open Budget Survey and modalities each country can assume to ensure that it improves its score in the 2019 open budget survey.

The scrutiny and oversight role of the Parliamentarian Planning and Budgeting Commission was supported through analytical work of Parliamentary Budget Office on key government instruments (budget proposal and budget accounts), enabling the State Budget 2019 to be more aligned with key priorities for children. Transparency and the participatory approach of the Commission were strengthened by supporting systematic engagement with the civil society organizations nationally and provincially.

UNICEF, with support from the UNICEF Regional Office, conducted a Political Economy and Fiscal Space Analysis generating evidence and key advocacy messages for 2019. UNICEF continued its support to budget analysis with four new budget briefs used in the sector budget preparation process and a budget memo used in discussions with the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

UNICEF supported implementation of the UN Joint Programme for Social Protection, also supported by UK DFID, the Netherlands and Sweden. Following UNICEF's joint advocacy with donors and the World Bank, two decrees were issued by the Government to operationalize the new Social Protection Strategy, including a new Child Grant, and to increase the values of social protection transfers. UNICEF supported the design and launch of the pilot phase of the Child Grant, ensuring full ownership by the Government and strengthening capacity of the implementing partner, the National Institute for Social Action. The Child Grant has two components: a cash subsidy (approximately US\$10 per month) and a care component (nutrition package and case management) linked to social services. The Child Grant was

launched in September 2018 in Lalaua, the district with the highest poverty and malnutrition indicators in Mozambique. By December the first registration and bi-monthly payments reached 841 children ages 0-2. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, developed a policy simulation on the impact of the universal child grant vs. the grant to the elderly.

UNICEF supported the Government to design national commitments on disability rights, which were presented at a Global Disability Summit in June. The final commitments include comprehensive legislation on disability rights, including the creation of a disability fund with private sector leadership. With UNICEF support the Government approved the inclusive education strategy and approved recommendations to promote access and retention of children with disabilities in school. UNICEF supported digital communication initiatives on #TodosIguais (for children with albinism) and #Fairnsquare (for children with disabilities), which reached more than 400,000 people.

UNICEF and several youth organizations (children and adolescents' media clubs, child parliament, peer education safe spaces, youth parliament and peer counselling platform) engaged 1,900 adolescents (1,140 girls) in dialogue on second decade priority issues. Nine hundred adolescents and young people (495 girls and 416 boys) were trained as agents of change and empowered to inform and educate 87,496 peers in 28 districts on priority issues. More than 1,600 young media producers were involved in producing 3,400 child-to-child and adolescent-to-adolescent radio and TV programmes. The SMS BIZ/U-Report platform was scaled up, with the establishment of a counselling hub in Quelimane reaching more than 93,000 adolescents ages 10-19 and youth ages 20-24. In mid-December a user satisfaction poll about health quality services was launched to assess the availability of information on sexual health and HIV adolescent-friendly services. Of 186,573 users polled, 35,045 users (19 per cent) participated, of which 26 per cent had visited relevant services in their last medical visit. Seventy per cent of the participants reported being satisfied with the services provided.

UNICEF continued a long-running entertainment-education radio drama series ('Ouro Negro'), broadcast on 41 radio stations in 22 local languages and reaching 2.5 million people (32 per cent frequent listeners). A new radio drama ('Os inTXunaveis') was launched in July 2018, targeting adolescents and focusing on sexual health, HIV, violence and education.

UNICEF helped strengthen multi-sectoral coordination on adolescent-sensitive issues with technical support to the Geração BIZ Programme at national level and in Zambézia and Nampula provinces through the UN Joint Programme (Rapariga BIZ) to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health. To improve coordination on HIV prevention for adolescents, a consultant was seconded to the National AIDS council to help develop provincial plans to improve the adolescent and HIV responses in critical provinces.

### **Cross-sectoral**

In 2018, cross sectoral work included a range of initiatives and approaches to help improve efficiency and effectiveness in programming, including new accountability frameworks that were operationalised for the multisectoral working groups and matrix-management of provincial staff to clarify the roles and accountabilities.

The first conference on child and adolescent well-being in Mozambique took place in Quelimane. The first data collection for the flagship primary school dropout study was

conducted nationwide. Major research studies were conducted, including an adolescent situation analysis and formative research on adolescents living with HIV. The results of the mid-line impact evaluation of the accelerated school readiness programme were used for advocacy work on early childhood development.

Several communication for development approaches were implemented at national and sub-national level and multiple platforms were tapped into to channel key messages and information to target audiences. More than 500 community leaders (436 men and 64 women) were trained and empowered as champions to address social norms and practices around nutrition, sanitation, birth registration and child marriage, in collaboration with the Provincial Secretariats of Nampula and Zambézia provinces. Community platforms such as multimedia mobile units, theatre groups, community health committees and religious leaders were instrumental in improving knowledge and practices on critical issues. They reached more than 2 million people in priority districts of Zambézia, Nampula, Tete and Gaza. The introduction of the innovative concept of the Model Family to increase uptake of key family care practices led to the certification of 1,594 families in Zambézia. Religious leaders' engagement also ensured 13 million children aged 6 months to 14 years were vaccinated against rubella and measles.

UNICEF Mozambique completed 120 per cent of targeted programmatic visits (253 versus 210 planned), 108 per cent of spot checks (70 completed versus 65 planned) and 100 per cent of planned micro-assessments (16) and audits (19). UNICEF created a working group and designed tools to monitor and follow up recommendations from financial assurance activities. Of 385 findings from 14 audit reports, 252 were closed.

UNICEF Mozambique hosted 21 field missions with donors. Eight global and 58 local press releases were published, along with 52 articles. A total of 347,000 people visited the UNICEF Mozambique website. More than 2,000 social media posts were shared, reaching more than 14 million people. UNICEF Mozambique continued working with national UNICEF ambassadors to promote child rights and expanded cooperation with the private sector, introducing the Child Rights and Business Principles and engaging various 'champion' enterprises.

UNICEF responded a cholera outbreak in northern Mozambique in 2018. Approximately 15,640 affected people were assisted through UNICEF's WASH interventions, which included the distribution of household water treatment products and hygiene/sanitation promotion. The March seasonal vulnerability assessment identified 18 vulnerable districts, based on which UNICEF supported screening for 91,283 children, including 4,797 children with severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF partnered with Architects without Borders/UNHABITAT to complete the rehabilitation of 50 schools serving 25,000 children.

UNICEF Mozambique trained staff on steps for key processes (harmonized approach to cash transfer, institutional and individual contracts) which improved clarity on roles and improved efficiency. UNICEF improved internal collaboration and efficiency through the development of a new SharePoint site launched in April. The site had 229 individual users who logged in 44,000 times. UNICEF also invested in workflows including ToR approvals, Vendor Evaluations and learning requests, decreasing the time to provide approvals and increasing transparency.

Office refurbishment began in mid-2018 and was scheduled to be completed by June 2019. A more strategic approach to recruitment, including direct selection from talent pools and lateral reassignment, led to faster and higher quality processes. There was a focus on female staff empowerment, with the launch of a skills gap analysis process. The country management team

developed its effectiveness and the staff survey action plan was implemented, with positive results.

UNICEF Mozambique provided supplies and services to support programme implementation and office operations valued at US\$39.4 million. Programmatic supplies and services exceeded US\$38.5 million, of which US\$31 million was channeled via the GAVI Alliance and regular procurement services. The total value of procurement conducted locally was US\$6.8 million, of which 60 per cent was related to contracting institutional services. UNICEF Mozambique engaged in collaborative procurement initiatives with UN agencies and implemented a tender plan to establish new long term agreements for 22 commodities. UNICEF strengthened capacity of government supply chains such as the Ministry of Health supply chains in vaccination and treatment of acute malnutrition and supported multi-year forecasting and capacity within the Ministry to manage and maintain cold chain systems. UNICEF continued its capacity building strategy to use government procurement systems for non-emergency civil works projects.

### **Gender specific interventions**

In 2018 UNICEF reached more than 7 million people (60 per cent estimated to be women and girls) nationwide with high impact messages on child marriage, violence, sexual and reproductive health rights. The messages were delivered through community dialogues, radio drama and live debates in local languages. Those efforts contributed to ensuring women and girls have the information needed to make informed choices supporting an increase in the number girls seeking adolescent sexual and reproductive health services at the youth friendly health centres.

Through the Joint Action for Girls programme (Rapariga BIZ), UNICEF, the UN Population Fund and UNWomen jointly reached more than 240,000 girls with mentorship and safe spaces support, which, at a community level, provided the girls with a safe, free space to learn new skills with a trained mentor. Fifty-six per cent of girls targeted were 10 to 15 years old and 38 per cent were 15 – 19 years old. Girls who went through the mentorship sessions showed significant increases in knowledge and capacity to make informed choices. Data indicated that only 1.6 per cent of marriage cases were reported among the girls reached through the safe spaces and only 0.3 per cent became pregnant. This represented a significant shift given that the national average for teenage pregnancy was 46 per cent and for early marriage it was 48 per cent.

There was a practical and concrete focus on quality gender programming and an emphasis on sex disaggregated data. UNICEF prioritized the formation of the child marriage working group and had the Gender Specialist lead the Spotlight Initiative proposal development and coordination of adolescent girls' programming.

## **Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints**

### **Integrated programme convergence requires time and leadership**

In line with the new UNICEF Strategic Plan and the UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office priority strategy, UNICEF Mozambique invested significant efforts to strengthen programme convergence in several programmatic areas.

The process of programme sections coming together to design a joint intervention requires the development of and agreement to a common vision and goal. It is critical that senior management buys into this vision and engages in the progress. After development of a common vision, accountabilities between sections and team members needs to be clearly defined and agreed upon and reflected in section workplans and staff performance reviews. Regular review is required to cross check that teams are continuing to work towards a common goal. An open communication style among colleagues is needed to ensure that bottlenecks can be identified early on and addressed. Government participation throughout the process is critical because its ownership of the convergence approach will be key to ensuring that the integrated services can be scaled up and reach the community level.

In the case of the integrated social and behavioural change communication on stunting reduction, a series of retreats were organised with participating team members to ensure development of a common vision and integrated workplans. Subsequent meetings reviewed progress and identified bottlenecks. Government participation was ensured throughout the process.

The design and implementation of the first phase of the child grant was another example of integrated convergence programming. The child grant is a new component to Mozambique's existing basic social security programme, and the first of its kind in the country. Its conceptual model is based on a cash and care approach to service delivery. It includes an unconditional cash transfer, behaviour changed related to stunting reduction targeted to child grant districts, and case management services targeted to at-risk beneficiary households. One of the main challenges for UNICEF was to support integrated convergence programming by the Government at the national and sub-national level. The sequential process of registration of children, selection of case management beneficiaries, first payment and delivery of care component was coordinated between agencies within national government and between national and territorial levels. It is expected that the whole package of interventions will be in place by the first quarter of 2019.

While the actual results of the integrated programme convergence cannot yet be measured, UNICEF believes that its efforts in this area are going in the right direction and are helping bring together programme sections and government institutions to develop integrated interventions that will make a difference for Mozambican children.

**UNICEF's convening role can be instrumental but demands patience, perseverance and effective partnerships.**

Given UNICEF's broad and neutral mandate, technical expertise, wide range of partnerships and experience in working both on policies and service delivery at the local level, the organization is well placed to act as a convening partner around sector-wide or new programming approaches. In 2018, UNICEF played an active convening role in most sectors, particularly in WASH and programming for adolescent girls.

Over the past year UNICEF's WASH programme used its convening advantage in support of the development of a joint fund for the new sector-wide approach for rural WASH and in supporting the development of an innovative financing scheme for small town water supply systems aimed at increasing, diversifying and improving financing to the WASH sector. It is estimated that a US\$320 million annual investment is required to reach the WASH SDG in

Mozambique, while annual expenditures have averaged less than US\$100 million in recent years.

As chair of the rural WASH partner group, and as implementer of one of the largest rural WASH programmes in the country, UNICEF was ideally positioned to help bring partners together to explore options for improved financing of the new rural WASH sector-wide approach. UNICEF promoted active participation of government officials from the Ministry of Public Works and existing and potential new donors in a transparent and highly participative process to assess the current situation, explore options and reach consensus on a joint fund that would respond to different donor sensitivities while supporting government leadership and a harmonized approach to technical assistance. UNICEF and Switzerland agreed to hire a team of consultants to support the entire process, with significant involvement of UNICEF's WASH section chief and a senior national officer. The new WASH joint fund includes options to finance through government systems or an external fund manager. It introduces performance-based financing and an investment prioritization system to ensure support to sanitation programming, and develops an algorithm to target geographic disbursements based on a multidimensional poverty assessment.

UNICEF's significant time investment and perseverance in building transparent consensus resulted in the integration of the joint fund into the new rural WASH sector-wide approach document due to be signed by the Government in early 2019. It also resulted in the development of a new draft memorandum of understanding for the joint fund to be signed by the Government and partners in 2019; and the development of an operational manual for the joint fund and partner coordination in the sector and terms of reference for a joint technical assistance team. USAID and Ireland have expressed interest as potential new donors to the WASH sector. The total disbursement of the Joint Fund was yet to be determined, but initial estimates indicated that contributions of approximately US\$15-20 million per year will be mobilized.

In 2017, UNICEF supported a feasibility study for an innovative financing initiative to support the rehabilitation and construction of water supply systems operated by the private sector in 30 small towns. The US\$100 million fund would consist of blended financing including grants, concessional loans and private sector loans channelled through a public private partnership. The results of the feasibility study were endorsed by a steering committee composed of key government agencies and sector partners. The results were subsequently presented to the former Minister of Public Works, who recommended that UNICEF pursue the initiative as part of its 2018 annual workplan.

UNICEF worked throughout the year to engage stakeholders on this initiative, including the Government, especially the new Minister of Public Works, as well as the World Bank, USAID and UNICEF Headquarters and its East and Southern Africa Regional Office. UNICEF also advocated with the African Development Bank, USAID/WASHFin, the European Union, the Dutch Embassy, and the UK Department for International Development to partner on the initiative.

In partnership with the World Bank, a timeline for the initiative was developed. UNICEF will lead and financially support the initial engineering assessment of the targeted 30 towns and the World Bank will lead on conducting the follow-up to the feasibility study through their partnership with PPIAF. USAID/WASHFin tentatively agreed to support the further development of the initial financial model for the scheme. The Fund's structure will likely

change as the initiative moves forward, potentially looking at additional innovative financing models that will expand the original scope and cover other WASH sub-sectors. Initial indications from the World Bank suggest that upwards of US\$300 million dollars could be mobilized. UNICEF is ideally placed to leverage various stakeholders' engagement for increased fiscal space in the WASH sector. A key lesson learned from the initiative was that there is significant interest from both development partners and the Government on innovative approaches to financing. There needs to be directed, consistent advocacy to push the agenda forward. UNICEF is well positioned to fulfil this role.

Mozambique had some of the worst indicators for children and adolescents, particularly girls, across different sectors. Adolescent fertility and child marriage rates were high, at 46 per cent, and 48 per cent, respectively. The Government and UNICEF are fully committed to promoting the development, participation and protection of adolescents and young people in line with the UNICEF's Gender Action Plan and Strategic Plan (2018–2021). UNICEF decided to strengthen its convening role to strengthen the coordination of increasing investments aimed at empowering adolescent girls in Mozambique by investing in a strong working relationship with the UN Population Fund, the World Bank and the Government. This was facilitated by the existence of several joint programmes focusing on adolescents and gender equality (the Joint UN Action for Girls Programme known as Rapariga BIZ, the Spotlight Initiative, the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Child Marriage Programme, and a new World Bank programme focused on harnessing the Demographic Dividend). Those joint programmes aim at very similar outcomes and work with the same government institution. If properly coordinated with organized synergies they represent a great opportunity to advance programming for adolescent girls over the coming years. UNICEF, in close collaboration with the UN Population Fund, provided leadership in advocacy and provided technical assistance to strengthen the government-led coordination mechanisms both at national and sub-national levels.

UNICEF convened partners, including the UN Population Fund, UN Women, the European Union, the UK Department for International Development, Canada, Sweden and the World Bank. The robust working relationship with the UN Population Fund acted as an accelerator to push for strengthened and harmonized coordination in this programmatic area.

Government capacity, both in terms of the actual number of technical staff as well as their qualifications, skills and knowledge, was one of the biggest challenges for UNICEF's support to government service delivery. Areas such as nutrition, social work and sanitation suffered from significant lack of staff at the district level. Most districts did not have social workers, nutritionists or sanitation technicians and in the rare case where they did they were often not qualified. Those limitations posed a great challenge to subnational capacity development in these programme areas.

Several years ago, UNICEF established a process to financially support the recruitment of qualified technicians (mostly in sanitation) to give the districts and the provinces time to integrate the new technicians in the government payroll. Staff were recruited by the Government using government terms of reference, salary scales and recruitment processes. This arrangement allowed UNICEF to invest in capacity building and have qualified people advance WASH in their districts. With the financial crisis in 2016 and the resulting wage freeze it became more difficult for districts to integrate new staff into their payroll and the capacity issue further deteriorated as retiring or departing staff were not replaced. UNICEF expanded the arrangement to other priority areas such as nutrition and social work. The financial cost of supporting the recruitment of such staff is relatively low and is offset by addressing the risk of

ineffective capacity development. In 5 to 10 years, once the revenue of mineral resources starts coming in, sustainability will no longer be a problem, as districts should have sufficient resources to integrate these technical staff so that they continue supporting their sectors.

END/