

MOZAMBIQUE

National Human Development Report 2007

Challenges and Opportunities
**The Response to
HIV and AIDS**



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Preface

“Mozambican men and women: We are dying!” It was with these direct and clear words that, in his 2006 end of year message, the President of the Republic, Armando Emílio Guebuza, once again issued a warning to the nation, about the deadly HIV and AIDS pandemic, which now has reached the level of a true national emergency.

Despite the reinvigorated efforts by the government, civil society organisations, the private sector, and international partners, including the United Nations System, the number of people who become infected every day remains extremely high – there are an estimated 500 new adult HIV infections every 24 hours.

The national HIV prevalence rate has risen from 13.3% in 2002 to 16.3% in 2004 among those aged between 15 and 49 years. This means that the pandemic is striking at the most economically active age group of the population, with tragic economic, social and cultural consequences for the development and viability of Mozambique as a nation.

While HIV prevalence rates are generally high in all three regions (north, centre and south) of the country, it is the central region, covering the provinces of Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambézia, which is the most severely infected and affected, with an average rate of 20.4%, compared with 18.1% in the southern provinces, and 9.3% on the north.

It is under this scenario that the current report makes an in-depth analysis of the HIV and AIDS phenomenon in Mozambique and its effects on the various dimensions of human development, including the capacity of people to lead long and healthy lives, to enjoy access to knowledge, and to maintain a decent living standard.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) deal with vital aspects of human development, advocating the eradication of poverty and hunger; the achievement of universal primary education; gender equity and the empowerment of women; the reduction of child mortality; the improvement of maternal health; the response to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and environmental sustainability, all by 2015, as well as a global partnership for development.

The impact of HIV and AIDS is a serious threat to the MDGs. It is now affecting negatively the development of Mozambique, exacerbating problems of poverty, malnutrition, poor school attendance and results, and gender disparities. Indeed, the estimates indicate that HIV and AIDS in Mozambique could reduce *per capita* economic growth by between 0.3 and 1.0% per year. As a result, the reduction in poverty rates will be slower because of weaker economic growth.

HIV and AIDS is a worldwide phenomenon; but sub-Saharan Africa, with only 10% of the world's population, has over two-thirds of the people living with HIV (25 million people). Almost 2.8 million people became infected in 2006, and 70% of the two million deaths due to AIDS in the world have occurred in Africa.

Southern Africa, where Mozambique is located, is the epicentre of the pandemic, with a third of the total number of HIV-positive people, and a third of all AIDS deaths.

According to the UNAIDS annual report 2006, the countries of this region have the highest rates of HIV prevalence in the world. In Zimbabwe, about 20% of the population is infected, according to the World Health Organisation, and the numbers are over 20% in Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia. In South Africa some 5.5 million people (UNAIDS 2006) including 240,000 children younger than 15 years were living with HIV in 2005. In Zambia a slight decline in HIV infection levels – from 28% in 1994 to 25% in 2004 – has been observed, especially in urban areas among pregnant women aged 15-39 years (Ministry of Health Zambia, 2005). The Kingdom of Swaziland, which also borders on Mozambique, has the highest rate in the world with a level of adult infection that reaches more than one-third of the population.

This scenario of a regional disaster impacts directly upon the rate of spread of the epidemic in Mozambique, a country that is also marked by serious internal weaknesses and vulnerabilities, including infrastructural ones, and complex socio-cultural contexts. Here the health network covers only about 50% of the population.

Based on the literature available about the epidemic in Mozambique, this report brings an independent intellectual discussion about the disease in the country, as a phenomenon spreading in a generalised way among the various segments of the population.

The report notes that, while the primary effects of the disease are devastating, at the individual, family, community and national levels, its secondary effects are equally serious, including the need to guarantee the survival and education of orphaned and vulnerable children, a reality that is a heavy burden for the present and future of Mozambique. The most recent studies show that 800,000 people may die from the disease between 2004 and 2010, with a significant increase in the number of orphans.

The stigma associated with people living with, or affected by HIV and AIDS has led to still greater isolation and human suffering. The losses in productivity caused by deaths and prolonged periods of illness associated with the virus that provokes AIDS constitute a real threat to development and to governance, since

the indices of HIV prevalence in the public sector, including in the health and education services, in agriculture and in the police, reach 17% of the qualified technical staff.

Mozambique is a signatory to the Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals as well as other international pledges, including the undertaking adopted by the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS) and the Abuja Declaration, both of 2001, which lay down measurable targets and objectives to reverse the spread of the pandemic, and call for the allocation of more robust resources in response to the disease.

These objectives have been fully appropriated nationally, in the government's Five Year Programme, made operational by PARPA II (2006-2009).

The present report examines both the positive results achieved so far, and the prevailing constraints, in the context of the overall national response to HIV and AIDS. It presents serious recommendations, based on profound analyses of all the information available. Among the recommendations presented, the following stand out:

- Continued reinforcement of the government's strong political commitment at the highest level, and of an efficient and systematic leadership, seeking to ensure the integration of HIV and AIDS into the strategic plans of all sectors, including the private sector and civil society organisations, in a multi-sector perspective, coordinated by the National AIDS Council (CNCS);
- Continued promotion of voluntary testing and counselling as the way to ensure the provision of care and support, and the reduction in stigma and discrimination;
- Continued expansion of access to anti-retroviral treatment, under conditions of adequate technical and medical safety, and with the minimum nutritional levels required of patients;

- Implementation of an effective, knowledge-based communications strategy, which is integrated into the socio-cultural diversity of Mozambican communities;
- Mitigation of the impact of the epidemic, by ensuring programmes to protect and support orphans and other children who are vulnerable, due to the diseases associated with AIDS, and expanding the possibilities of preventing parental transmission of HIV;
- Promotion of home and community-based care, and of social support systems.

To implement these recommendations, it is essential to follow strictly the objectives laid down by PARPA and the MDGs, including strengthening the budgetary provision. In order for the National AIDS Council to perform to the full its tasks as the body coordinating the multi-sector strategy for responses, its authorities, powers and resources must also be strengthened.

Like the previous National Human Development Reports produced in Mozambique since 1998, the present document was written by a team of eminent consultants and advisors, under a dynamic partnership between the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI) and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in Maputo, in close collaboration with the National Statistics Institute (INE), the body responsible for the country's official statistics.

The institutions involved in preparing this report recognize the important collaboration and support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at all levels, in particular the important contribution and support of the UNDP Resident Representative in Mozambique, Mr Ndolamb Ngokwey. Comments and suggestions received from other UN agencies, including from outside Mozambique, have also contributed to enriching the final document.

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Foreword

by the UN Resident Coordinator

Keeping open the window of hope

National Human Development Reports are a major pillar of UNDP's analytical and policy work. The principal objective is to raise public awareness and trigger action on critical human development concerns. The NHDRs also contribute significantly to strengthening national statistical and analytical capacity.

This is the sixth NHDR produced since 1998. The theme of the 2007 edition is the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The report looks carefully at the general status of HIV and AIDS in Mozambique, its different facets and causes, its historical evolution, how it is regarded by society and its potential impact on the public and private sectors.

The underlying argument is that efforts to accelerate development in Mozambique, to achieve local development aspirations as reflected in national development frameworks including the PARPA and Agenda 2025 as well as the MDGs would be undermined unless the state and society at large further expand and strengthen the national, coordinated response to curb the devastating spread of the disease.

The report finds that HIV and AIDS are exacerbating the problems of poverty, malnutrition, low educational levels and gender disparities, thus threatening the attainment of the MDGs as well as slowing growth and development.

Through various indices the report assesses the nation's level of human development, an attempt to measure the standard of living and well-being of its people – effectively their ability to lead lives that are

economically productive and personally fulfilling, and that benefit the community and the nation as a whole.

The Government of Mozambique has given priority to HIV and AIDS in its national agenda, with extensive evidence of political commitment. HIV and AIDS has also been mainstreamed into the national development framework and programmes. The PARPA (the country's PRSP) identifies the response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic as one of the key areas for reducing poverty.

UNDP and other UN agencies, especially UNICEF and UNAIDS, and the UN Theme Group on HIV and AIDS have provided technical assistance to the independent team of national consultants who drafted the present report, under a process lead by a dynamic partnership of the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI), the National Institute of Statistics, and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in Mozambique.

UNDP is pleased to have provided its technical assistance for the implementation of the reporting process, and expresses the hope that the report will help to further raise public awareness and foster the national coordinated response to the pandemic, thus keeping the country's window of hope open for its present and future generations.

Ndolamb Ngokwey
UN Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative
Maputo, September 2007

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