

Mozambique



Photo: Silvio Garrido/Bonilla

A NURSE PROVIDES HEALTH INFORMATION ON HOW TO PREVENT MOTHER-TO-CHILD HIV TRANSMISSION AT A CLINIC FOR WOMEN IN MOZAMBIQUE

With a population of 18.6 million people, Mozambique has an estimated adult HIV prevalence of 13.6 percent. More than 500 new HIV infections occur daily and the epidemic is not expected to plateau until the end of the decade. The effect of the drought, coupled with increasing death and illness among adults is forcing Mozambique deeper into poverty. Mozambique is one of 15 focus countries under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Through the USAID-funded IMPACT project, FHI is joining forces with the Ministry of Health in order to expand HIV/AIDS testing and care and treatment facilities.

A COUPLE RECEIVES COUNSELING. MALE INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND INCREASING ADHERENCE TO PMTCT SERVICES



Photo: Jose Alberto Elias

News from the Field

FHI/Mozambique, Introducing PMTCT in Zambezia Province

In March 2004, FHI introduced HIV prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services in Zambezia Province through the USAID-funded IMPACT project. Zambezia is the most populated province in Mozambique and it also has the lowest health services coverage. Prior to this intervention, no PMTCT services were available in the province.

In September 2004, FHI was the first organization to establish a fully operational PMTCT site as part of the National PMTCT Program. FHI has made available a comprehensive package of PMTCT services in seven sites located in four districts. HIV prevalence among pregnant women in these sites is above 20 percent, which is among the highest in Zambezia, and Mozambique as a whole.

More recently, FHI started a partnership with the CDC to assist the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s efforts to introduce improved protocols for STIs management. FHI is also providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women and Social Action to develop a monitoring and evaluation system of orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS to closely link with PMTCT.

Once the first three sites were fully operational, there has been rapid scale-up of PMTCT service delivery. Programs are fully financed with USAID funds through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This work would not have been possible without excellent collaboration with the MOH, particularly with the Provincial Health Directorate (DPS), and the hard work and enthusiasm of local implementing partners including faith-based and community associations, and associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.



Photo: Jose Alberto Elias

WOMEN AND THEIR INFANTS AT THE INAUGURATION OF HEALTH CENTER "17 DE SETEMBRO"

FHI/Mozambique Promotes Evidence-Based Best Practices

Zambezia PMTCT Program has been praised for its initiatives, which are promoted hand-in-hand with FHI. Among the evidence-based best practices, of which DPS has full ownership are:

- 1) The establishment of a PMTCT Working Group that has been recently identified by the MOH as a model of an efficient mechanism for coordination.
- 2) The inclusion of males in VCT services, despite the cultural challenges for males to attend mother and child health services. Thus far, almost 150 men have been counseled and tested within our PMTCT sites.
- 3) The effective use of opportunities, in this case, by introducing counseling and testing in two referral hospitals in which more than 300 women have been counseled and tested, and more than 100 women and their babies received a full course of nevirapine.