

## Country strategic plan summary for 2008-2013

This document describes how Plan Mozambique and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2008 to 2013.

### About Mozambique

The Republic of Mozambique, which gained its independence in 1975, is located in the south eastern part of Africa. The estimated population is around 21 million. Around 71% of the population lives in rural areas and around 29% in urban areas. The majority of the income is subsistence farming from agriculture.

### Plan in Mozambique

Plan started its operations in Mozambique in 2006 and currently is working in Jangamo district in the southern region of Inhambane province. Over the next five years, Plan Mozambique, together with communities and partners, will work to support children and families focusing on improving the health of children and women, access to water and environmental sanitation, quality education for children, household and economic security, and promotion of child protection and participation. Plan Mozambique expects to expand its operations to some more areas over the next five years.

### Key issues affecting children in Mozambique



This is our learning environment

### Education and child protection issues

- The quality of education is poor. There are not enough qualified and trained teachers, and children learn in poor conditions. Classrooms have no desks or chairs, and books and learning materials are scarce. This leads to high drop out rates at basic and early secondary levels.
  - Children are cut off from accessing education, particularly in attending secondary school, due to the long distances, lack of available places, or having to stay away from home, where they can be put in situations of abuse or harm by adults. Pre-primary school opportunities are very few in Mozambique.
- There is also limited access to education for the most vulnerable children, especially children orphaned by HIV and AIDS, as they are often burdened with heading the households and looking after younger siblings after parents die. It is also difficult for girl children to attend and complete school – they often have to drop out due to domestic work, early marriage, early pregnancy, and there is a priority to educate boys over girls.
  - There is very low awareness about child rights and child protection issues, leading to increasing reports of girls being sexually abused by teachers in school.

### Poor health, economic and household security issues

- Long distances to health facilities, insufficient sterilized equipment, poor training of health personnel, including trained birth attendants, and low immunisation rates lead to high levels of infant, child and maternal mortality.
- Poor access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation leads to high incidents of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhoea and cholera, as well as high rates of malnutrition stunting in children.
- The HIV infection rate among children is rapidly increasing. Poor access to paediatric anti-retroviral medication and insufficient trained staff working in HIV diagnosis and care are threats to children's chances of survival in the midst of the epidemics.



- Mozambique is plagued by frequent natural disasters such as floods and cyclones which severely affect access to food, nutrition, adequate shelter, sanitation and to health facilities.

### How Plan Mozambique will address some of these issues?

Plan will adopt a rights-based program approach which entails facilitating to analyze their problems, the underlying causes and available resources to design programs that fulfil the rights of children. Active participation and protection of children and their families in their development will be the focus in the next five years. To address the issues affecting children Plan Mozambique is implementing the following programs:



**Community held project**

1. Child survival and maternal health, including access to water and sanitation through:
  - Training community health volunteers and promoting community managed health care.
  - Working with health authorities to promote access to primary healthcare, immunisation, maternal and child health.
  - Facilitating the provision of water and sanitation facilities such as community-managed water points, community health and hygiene program, peer and child-to-child health education.
2. Access to and quality of basic and early secondary education through:
  - Improving learning conditions by promoting access in the form of school construction, teacher training, provision of school materials, improving curriculum, and enhancing the participation of school councils and children.
3. Protection of children against all forms of abuse including conditions for their economic security through:
  - Advocacy in child rights against violence in schools, abuse against girl children, and promote rights of vulnerable children, including the improvement of dormitory facilities and security for children living away from their parents.
  - Promoting child rights and child protection awareness through children's clubs, community committees, program partners, and provincial and district government organizations.
4. Building and strengthening community and partner capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS and emergencies through:
  - Advocating for access to anti-retroviral drugs, promoting HIV and AIDS education, training health centre staff in HIV voluntary counselling and testing, and preparing communities for home-based care for people living with HIV and AIDS.
  - Promoting youth groups to provide peer support to adolescents in HIV and AIDS prevention education, child protection and child rights awareness.
  - Promoting development education and community capacity for communities to lead their own development, communicate effectively with other stakeholders, and respond to major threats.



**Inauguration of a borehole drilled with Plan support.**

Plan will strive to engage poor and marginalised children, their families and their communities to take the lead in implementing their own projects to address the issues identified and to fulfil the child rights outlined in the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child, which includes rights to survival, development, protection, and participation. To ensure sustainability of Plan's development interventions, long after Plan has left the communities, Plan will work to build strong partnerships and capacities with local and community based organizations, such as community committees, children and women's groups, and NGOs with local knowledge and expertise. Plan will also strive to influence policy and laws that affect children at national to reinforce its commitment to tackling the issues affecting children in Mozambique.