

General Overview

Mozambique's management of its COVID-19 situation made headlines in November, in both the local and international media, for good reason. The interim representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Mozambique, Tomás Valdez, said on 17 November that the pandemic was 'under control in the country', praising the Government and partners for the measures taken to control the disease since the first case was identified on 22 March.

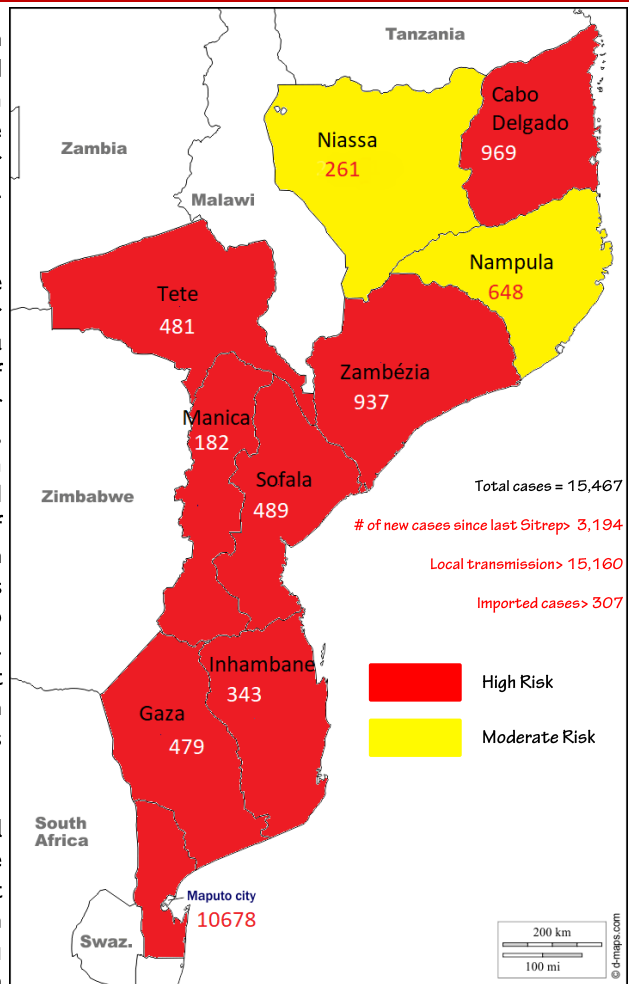
The WHO observation was made the day after the Minister of Health of Mozambique said that the country may have reached the peak of COVID-19 between September and October and they have classified the current situation as 'stable and with a tendency to reduce'. In fact, while from October to November there was an increase of 3,194 cases, we reported an increase of 4,290 from August to October. 1,096 fewer people were reported this last month. Another indicator relates to Nampula province, which was once a high-risk province, but now is classified as moderate-risk, along with Niassa. Of the 15,467 cumulative cases in Mozambique, 13,520 (87.4%) have recovered completely. There are 597 people hospitalised, and more than 500 are in the city of Maputo. These are encouraging signs for this country that is already grappling with other problems, with a focus on the humanitarian crisis of internally displaced persons due to the armed conflict in the province of Cabo Delgado. This is against a backdrop where, already now, 53 out of 1,000 children die before they reach their first birthdays. Despite this more positive picture, the Mozambican authorities are concerned about the apparent relaxation, almost universal, of the preventive measures, which can change the course of the disease dramatically, like we are seeing in other countries with second and third waves, more severe than the first.

However, apart from the fact that the disease shows signs of stabilising, it is still concerning, mainly because there has been a rise record of deaths in the last three months compared to previous months. Seven more people died in November than what we have reported in October, especially in Maputo, the current COVID-19 hotspot in the country. In general, the fatality rate for COVID-19 in Mozambique remains among the lowest globally (0.8%). The global average of fatalities is 6%, according to John Hopkins University. In fact, we are witnessing a reduction in the number of active cases, but there are new cases being registered every single day.

The Government continues with the sero-epidemiological surveys, considered as important guides in the design of prevention strategies because they help to identify the places of greatest risk and the most exposed social and professional groups. The health authorities are currently analysing data from surveys carried out earlier this month in the cities of Xai-Xai and Chókwè (province of Gaza), Maxixe and Inhambane (province of Inhambane — where another survey is underway, in Massinga) and Chimoio (province of Manica).

Meanwhile, 7th grade students finally returned to school on November, 2, but not all schools have met the minimum conditions for a safe reopening, which is dictating a gradual return. It is estimated that in total there are 530,000 children in this class across the country (compared to approx. 8m normally). Save the Children is supporting the government with the necessary conditions for safe return in many schools.

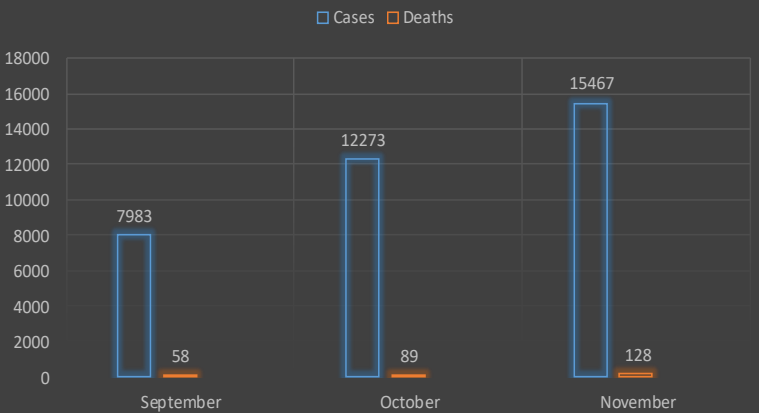
The country has embarked on distribution of COVID-19 subsidies for the most deprived families. This is an initiative of the Government of Mozambique that is expected to benefit more than one million people across the country. The response to the crisis is anchored in the current political and legal framework emanating from the National Strategy for Basic Social Security II (ENSSB II), which allows the activation



of social protection programs in emergency scenarios, being considered one of the few such initiatives in Africa. This plan aims to ensure social support and strengthen the resilience of households in situations of poverty and vulnerabilities exposed to the effects of COVID-19. The work is led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action.

In the meantime, our response, always in partnership with the Government, is supporting critical areas of education, health, child protection, child poverty, and rights and governance. The positive note that WHO has given to the country, results partially from the openness the Government has been given to its non-governmental partners, like Save the Children, on the pandemic management. So far, the Save the Children response has benefited 1,533,497 people, 841,746 of whom are children through prevention campaigns via radio, television and home visits. We distributed close to 80,000 PPEs and more than 18,000 hygiene products, in addition to training for community health workers, activists and child protection committee members.

COVID-19 Evolution since September



RESPONSE UPDATES

Government

- The Government went to Parliament on November, 18, to answer questions from the Members of Parliament (MPs) about its 2020 performance. Regarding COVID-19, the Government said it received more than \$400 million out of the approximately \$700 million pledged from international development partners. Of this amount, \$81.6 million were allocated directly to the health sector; \$31.1 million went to direct support to families; \$249 million to reinforce the State Budget and \$15 million to support the business sector.
- On the November, 3, the sero-epidemiological survey was launched in Chókwè and Xai-Xai, in the province of Gaza and on the 26th of November it was launched in Massinga, Inhambane province.
- The Government has announced that it is preparing to recruit at least 126 technicians from various specialties to reinforce the staff that is treating patients due to COVID-19 at Polana-Caniço and Central Maputo hospitals in Maputo city. These are responsible of almost 80% of total hospitalized patients in Mozambique.
- On October, 29, the President of Mozambique, Joaquim Nyusi gave an update on the status of the implementation of the State of Public Calamity, having announced, among other measures, the reopening of the country to tourism and without mandatory quarantine, provided that a negative PCR test is presented, carried out 72 hours before arrival.

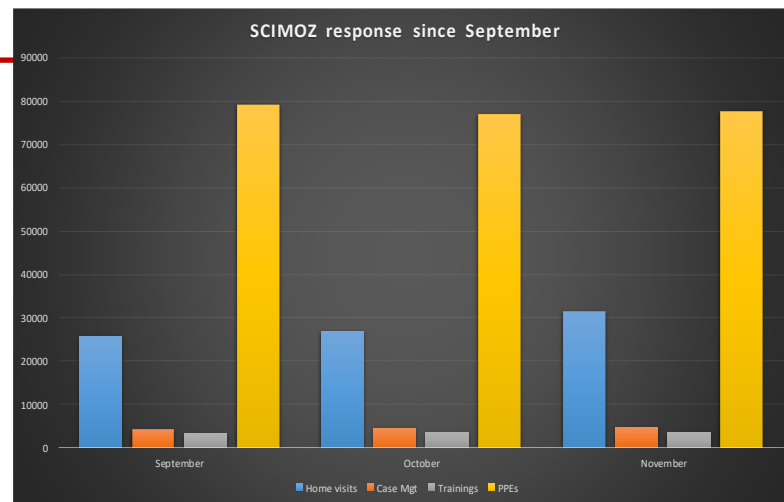
Our response HEALTH & NUTRITION

- With the support of DEC-2, response teams assisting Cyclone Idai victims trained 750 mothers of children under the age of five on hygiene and nutrition, with a focus on strengthening the immune system of children with fortified porridge. This activity took place in all districts implementing the Emergency project in Sofala province, namely Nhamatanda, Dondo and Búzi.
- In Manica, the Emergency project (DEC 2 funded) carried out COVID-19 prevention activities through mobile clinics, screening for malnutrition and promoting health and immunization in the districts of Macate, Manica, Gondola and Sussundenga.

On his mother's back, a child is assisted to screen for chronic malnutrition under COVID-19 in Manica



- In the province of Zambézia, through the Ungumi and Kudiziuva projects (GAC SCI-Italy / AICS), 60 Health Committee activists (34 men and 26 women) were refreshed to consolidate their knowledge of COVID-19 and improve their skills in the correct completion of health



records sheets and use of IEC material during awareness sessions in the communities. 12 activists were trained for integrated support for child development; 12 on reproductive health; 12 on epidemiological surveillance; and 12 traditional midwives. Activists were also given masks to ensure their protection and the protection of children and their families during home visits.

- In Tete, the project 'Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - HIV Knows No Borders' (supported by IOM) is preparing to respond to an appeal for 575 masks by the Nkata Secondary School in Chidunde, to be delivered in December.

EDUCATION

- In Gaza, the "Para Todas as Crianças" project, funded by Save the Children Italy, is adopting a home education strategy for children of pre-school age and with Special Educational Needs. The strategy is to empower the parents to carry-out some activities with regular mentoring and monitoring of the child's progress.

RESPONSE UPDATES

Our response

This approach is another way to ensure pre-school education learning continues, in the current context where the official resumption of classes remains unknown and potentially distant



A mother receives instruction on how to use educational material for her child with special educational needs

- In the province of Zambézia, Save the Children supported the safe reopening of 43 primary schools in the districts of Milange, Morrumbala and Derre with the distribution of buckets with tap, soap, gel alcohol, sprayers, liquid disinfectants, thermometers and IEC materials on the prevention of COVID-19. The donation will benefit 7th grade children who returned to school at the beginning of November. This activity is carried out by the Ungumi project with funds from the Government of Canada.

- The Norad project delivered over 61 mobile libraries to an equal number of schools in Macossa, Tambara, Machaze and Manica districts to reinforce the family-based education, a strategy used for children to continue having classes while at home.

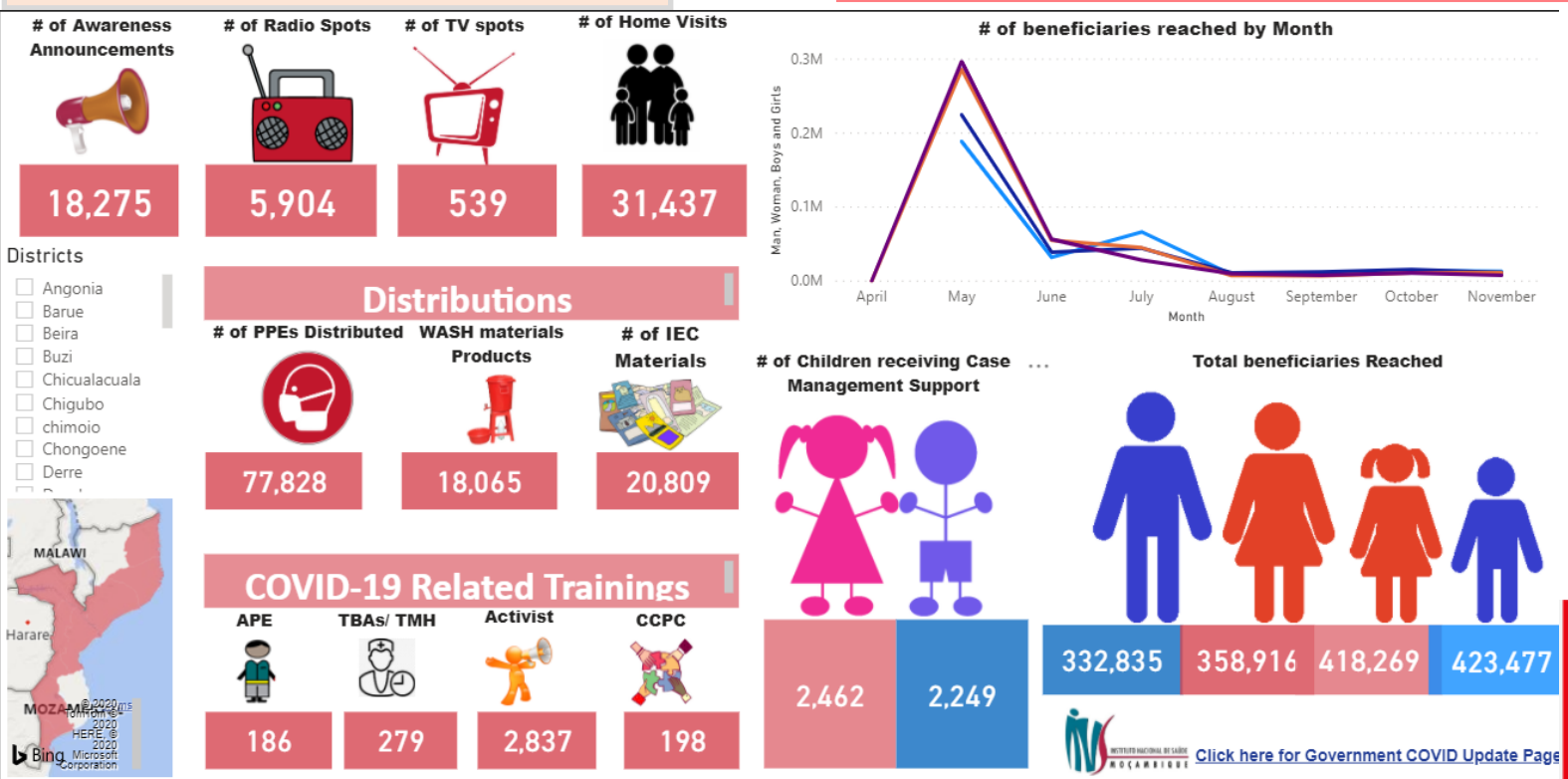
CHILD PROTECTION

- With the celebration of the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the 31st Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC) (19 and 20 of November), members of the Children's Parliament in the districts of Morrumbala, Derre and Milange, supported by the Ungumi project (GAC funded) denounced the violations of the rights of children in pandemic times, raised awareness of the child helpline (Linha Fala Criança), and other available mechanisms to report violations and perpetrators of abuse.



Members of the Child Parliament in Zambezia. The poster reads: "Violence against children is not acceptable. Don't let COVID-19 stop you from reporting violence against Children..."

SCIMOZ reach figures dashboard as of November, 26, 2020



Districts

- Angonia
- Barue
- Beira
- Buzi
- Chicualacuala
- Chigubo
- chimoio
- Chongoene
- Derre

RESPONSE UPDATES

Our response

- 255 partners and volunteers from the Kudziua project were refreshed on Save the Children's Safeguard Policies to ensure that children and adults are safe, and protected from deliberate and accidental harm and abuse through our work. This activity was carried out by the Kudziua Project, with funding from the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development.

AWARENESS & CAMPAIGNS

- In Morrumbala and Milange, in the province of Zambézia, members of the Children's Parliament led two radio debates on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and COVID-19, reaching around 200,000 people. This activity is carried out by the Ungumi project with funds from the Government of Canada.
- In Cabo Delgado, with support from UNICEF, awareness sessions were conducted through case workers in the communities of Miezi and Metuge, where 132 people (84 children and 48 adults) participated.
- 308 awareness-raising sessions were held in Milange, Derre and Morrumbala, in the province of Zambézia, reaching 5,885 people (4,056 children and 1,829 adults). These sensitizations were possible thanks to the support of the Government of Canada and the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development through SCI-Italia, who



A car equipped with megaphones sends important messages about COVID-19 prevention measures and encourages parents to take their children back to school

funds the Ungumi and Kudziua projects.

- In the province of Manica, through the NORAD project, awareness sessions were carried out through mobile radio with pre-recorded messages about COVID-19 in the districts of Macossa and Machaze. Still in Manica, the teams used megaphones to encourage parents to send their children in attending 7th, 10th and 12nd grades back to school, reaching nearly 6,000 people in 1,432 households.

WASH

- The registration of about 4,253 resettled IDPs families in the Metuge district is underway in the province of Cabo Delgado. These will benefit from hygiene kits for the prevention of COVID-19 in the coming days. This action is being carried out thanks to funds from Irish Aid and the Central Seed Fund (Save the Children internal humanitarian resources)



Tip-tap taps continue to be an important component of hygiene promotion in the context of COVID-19 prevention efforts

COVID-19 FUNDRAISING

Secured **\$ 1,493,000**

COVID-19 Specific Awards:

OFDA (through COSACA, CARE) COVID-19 Response in Manica: **\$350,000**
Bank of America: **\$127,000**

COVID programming within multi-themed awards:

OFDA Multi Sector (through COSACA, CARE) (Sofala, Manica, Cabo Delgado)
Child Sponsorship (Nampula and nationwide)
ECHO (Cabo Delgado)
SIDA (Cabo Delgado)
UNICEF (Sofala, Manica, Cabo Delgado)
Irish Aid (Cabo Delgado)
GAIN (Sofala)
DEC II (Sofala, Manica)
SC Italy supporters (Gaza)