

Overview

On 22 March, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was announced in Mozambique and as of 26 April there are 76 confirmed cases, with 9 recoveries and fortunately no deaths yet been recorded. Of the total cases, 56 are located in Cabo Delgado province and 20 in Maputo. The first pediatric case was registered on 26 April, a girl aged between 5-14 years old.

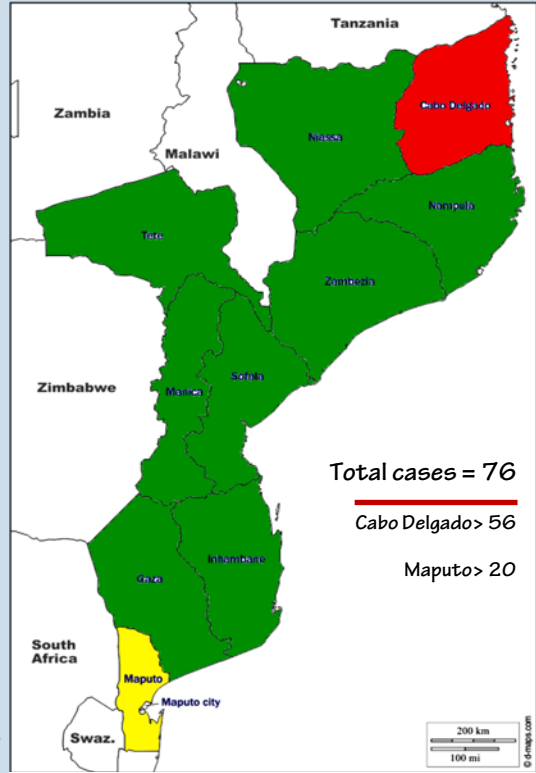
To date, Mozambique has been relatively shielded from the global pandemic. However, despite the government's early response, it is likely that the situation will become significantly worse, and the country's already weak health system could rapidly become overwhelmed. There was an estimated 2.2 million Mozambicans living with HIV in 2018 ¹, and millions more with other chronic underlying health conditions. An exponential rise of COVID-19 infections across the country would create massive disruption and knock-on effects in education, employment, and the economy. Based on the models from a recent report by the Imperial College (London) COVID-19 Response Team, 'The Global Impact of COVID-19 and Strategies for Mitigation and Suppression'², the impact of COVID-19 on Mozambique is likely to be significant and rapid action is needed to prevent many deaths. The models suggest that if the government does nothing, between 61,000 and 65,000 Mozambicans will die; 94% of the population will become infected by the virus and at the peak, 190,000 people will require hospital beds of whom 32,000 will need critical care, far beyond the capacity of the health services. Reducing social contacts by 45% cuts the infection rate to 63% of the population, but the deaths only fall to 48,000. Even the most successful response models (if there is fast suppression) 11% of the population would be infected, there would be 9,000 deaths (compared to over 60,000 if nothing is done) and peak hospital demand would be 19,000 patients, of whom 3,500 would need critical care.

The onset of COVID-19 could not have come at a more difficult time for Mozambique, as thousands of families are still recovering from the two devastating cyclones, Idai and Kenneth, which struck over a six-week period between March and April last year. Both cyclones caused mass displacement and severe infrastructural damage, and the main crop for the year was washed away. Families are still struggling to recover their agricultural and fishing livelihoods. The impact of the cyclones also exacerbated protection

COVID-19 Mozambique Sitrep#1

needs for thousands of children in Manica, Sofala, Zambezia and Cabo Delgado provinces. These events have left emergency stocks depleted and insufficient to be able to respond adequately to potential future shocks.

Save the Children is still operating in the worst-hit areas, supporting the government's recovery efforts. Since the cyclones, there has been more flooding in several of the cyclone hit areas, and an Islamic insurgency in Cabo Delgado has become increasingly more violent and aggressive. In addition to the pre-existing humanitarian needs, COVID-19 will have a significant impact on children and their communities and urgent assistance is needed to control the situation.



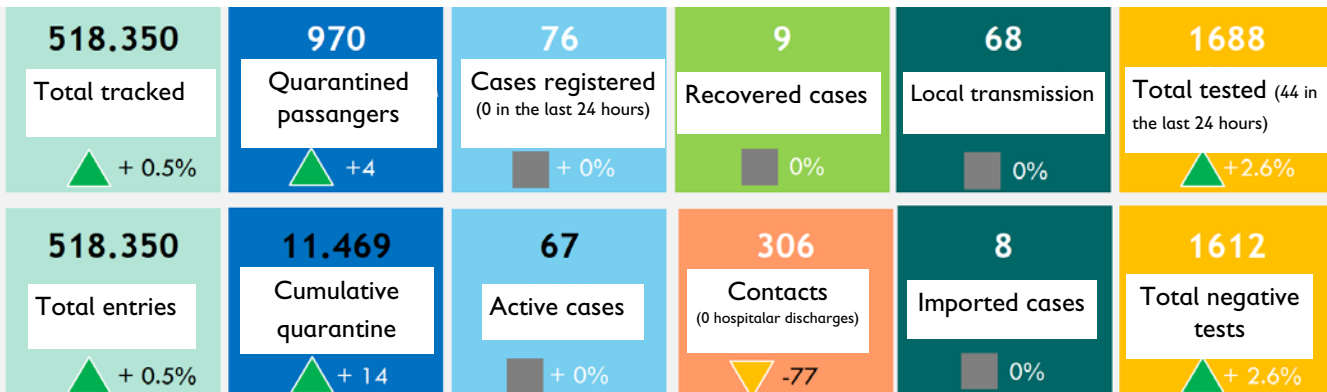
Maputo (yellow) and Cabo Delgado (red) are Mozambique provinces with confirmed cases of COVID-19

1 UNAIDS, <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/mozambique> -accessed 02/04/2020

2 <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/sph/ide/gida-fellowships/Imperial-College-COVID19-Global-Impact-26-03-2020v2.pdf>

For more information on COVID-19 response in Mozambique, please contact: Chance Briggs, Mozambique Country Director at: chance.briggs@savethechildren.org and/or the Program Development and Quality Director, Adam Davies, at: adam.davies@savethechildren.org

Epidemiological situation in Mozambique as of April, 27, 2020



Source: Ministry Of Health, Mozambique—<https://covid19.ins.gov.mz/>



Government Response:

The Government of Mozambique responded early to the COVID-19 pandemic with numerous prevention and mitigation measures, including significant travel restrictions, the suspension of all public and private schools, from pre-primary through university levels, the ceasing of all events involving more than 20 people, and the implementation of mandatory preventive measures in all institutions. The Ministry of Health has also establishing treatment and isolation centers and Rapid Response Teams in all provinces. A state of emergency was declared on 30 March 2020, moving to phase 3 restrictions (out of 4 phases), with an initial duration of 30 days. It is expected that during this week the Government will likely announce it will prolong the State of Emergency. Meanwhile, the Cabo Delgado Governor admitted that they may restrict people's movement between Cabo Delgado and Nampula, given the fact that province has the most number of record infected people (mainly at Afungi camp, part of the Total natural gas megaproject).

These are some of the other steps the Government of Mozambique has taken to combat the COVID-19:

- COVID-19 National Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan
- Resolution 20/2020 of March 25 - Creation of the Technical-Scientific Commission for the Prevention and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Home Quarantine procedures for travelers from countries with high transmission of COVID-19
- Contingency measures against COVID-19 at the National Institute of Health
- Procedures for the Prevention of COVID-19 for Families and Community
- Service Package for Populations living with HIV as part of the COVID-19 response
- Consultation flow for chronic patients in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Save the Children Response:

Our COVID-19 Response Plan aims at supporting the Government of Mozambique, and the relevant clusters addressing Child Protection, Health, Livelihoods and Food Security, Nutrition and Education to ensure that COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response activities are child sensitive, support the most vulnerable children and communities, and address the secondary impacts on health, nutrition, education, child protection, child poverty, and child rights governance.

Objective 1: Provide technical support to mass produce and widely disseminate key messages through various platforms, including those that are developed specifically for children.

Objective 2: Provide support to the health system to strengthen COVID-19 prevention, detection, and response and foster

stronger coordination across sectors.

Objective 3: Provide technical support at the national, provincial, district and community levels to support to the education sector to implement formal and informal alternative learning modalities.

Objective 4: Strengthen the child protection mechanisms and institutions to ensure their capacity to support and protect children, with focus on vulnerable and at-risk populations, and respond to emerging needs.

We believe that we are strongly positioned to rapidly pivot our ongoing programmes and leverage our national footprint across 8 provinces (Gaza, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Zambézia, Nampula and Cabo Delgado) to respond where and how children need us the most. Save the Children Mozambique initial 6-month national response plan requires \$7.32m of investment and aims to reach 10.9m people (including 6m children). This investment will enable us and our wide network of partners to be able to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19 among children, their caregivers and families, and the wider communities, and to build community and household resilience in order to deal with the impact of the virus when it arrives.

Some highlights of COVID-19 interventions so far:

- The CO is very prominent in key national coordination and advocacy forums – for instance in the National COVID Technical Working Group, the HPG COVID working group, and other health, education, protection, FSL, WASH and child protection fora drafting and influencing the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal for Mozambique to ensure it works for children.
- Country Director video message on COVID-19 and its impact on children; published on Workplace, Facebook (3560 views), Twitter, Youtube and the SCIMOZ website.
- As part of the Advocacy, Communication and Community Engagement TWG (ACC-TWG), we supported the MoH to develop awareness raising materials and a training kit for community cadres to disseminate preventive messages. We have already printed and distributed 25,850 posters and 146 roll up banners.
- We have started commissioning a large-scale national COVID-19 awareness raising mass communications campaign that could reach approximately 8 million people across the country, over 3 months. This is through national TV spots, short videos to be delivered via whatsapp, short national and community radio spots in up to 17 languages, as well as community mobilisation through mobile units broadcasting messages.
- Trained 180 community Health Care Workers (APEs) in Gaza, 187 in Manica, 164 in Zambézia, 136 in Nampula. Additional trainings are in process in Sofala.
- Supported all of our 17 main projects to adapt their workplans to ensure we continue to provide services to directly supported communities, ensuring no harm, staff protection and the integration of COVID-19 actions.

Save the Children Response (Cont'd.):

- Save the Children staff in all field offices were trained on preventive measures to be observed at office, work vehicles and in the field. We have also developed tools to provide regular mental and psychosocial support to the staff.

Education

- Revision and upgrading of existing training materials and methodologies, including education training materials.
- Introducing new ways of conducting staff and project trainings to ensure social distancing
- Supporting partners to be able to work remotely, including the provision of modems and laptops.

Child Rights Governance

- Working with the three main national child focus networks, namely Rede da Criança, Rede CAME and ROSC on child friendly messages to be jointly disseminated
- Conducted a rapid consultation to children parliamentarians nationwide to get their views on the current and ongoing Covid-19 response.

Planned Reach and Budget

Theme	# of Beneficiaries
Child Poverty	102,211
Child Protection	7,180,786
Crossthematic	38,939
Education	2,976,272
WASH	71,654
Health & Nutrition	597,075
Total	10,966,937
Response Budget	
Response Target	7,320,000
Secured	865,000

Child Protection

- Providing community-based case management to most vulnerable people through community child protection committees (CCPC). So far 83 CCPCs have been supported (Ungumi and NORAD projects). We are distributing phones to the focal points and disseminating their contacts through community radios.
- The Linha Fala Criança child helpline has started airing our key COVID-19 audio message to children and other people, through our communication campaign, providing psychosocial support and referral system. We expect around 39,000 people will receive this message over the next 3 months.



In the province of Manica, Save the Children donated various protective materials to the education authorities: 30 buckets for hand washing, 32 kilograms of chlorine, 300 gloves and 20 boxes of soap.



Handing posters and roll-up banners to Tete province health authorities



Sponsorship programme adapts to produce face masks in Nampula

Save the Children has supported the mass production of 3 ply face masks in Nacala Porto and Nacala-a-Velha, in Nampula province, and so far 1,695 have been produced.

SCIMOZ expects to produce a total of approximately 24,000 masks in Nacala, which will benefit Community Health Agents, Project staff of Save the Children (to protect staff and beneficiaries alike) and direct project participants/beneficiaries. Children will receive specially-sized masks as per Ministry of Health guidance.

The costs of production are being covered by the Save the Children Mozambique Sponsorship Programme, a 10-year multi-sectoral intervention located in Nacala Porto and Nacala Velha districts of Nampula Province, Mozambique. This programme is funded by generous sponsors based in Italy and the United States of America and does not receive any government funding.

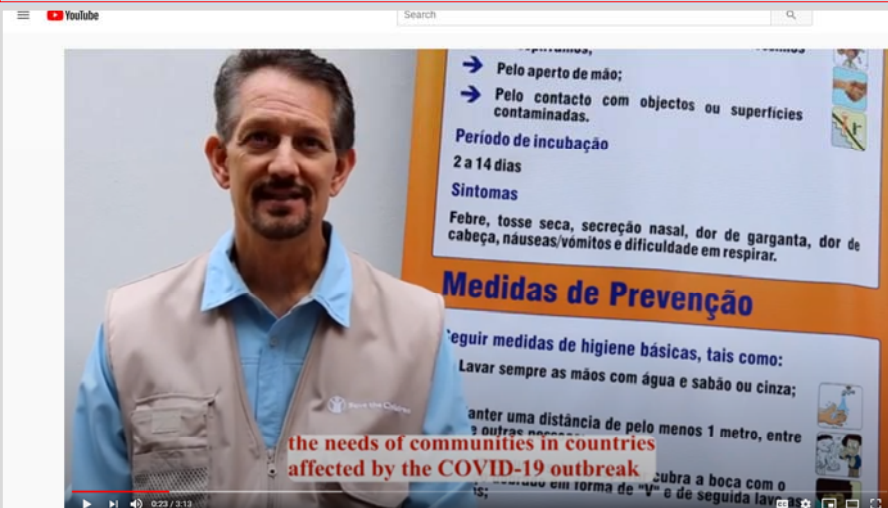
The sewing machines and some of the fabric used for mask production had previously been acquired for adolescent development programming focused on skills-building and micro-business development.

The masks are being produced by eight mentors that have been trained by the Sponsorship programme as tailors. During normal project periods, they mentor girls linked to school clubs and produce sanitary kits for girls in schools. As schools are closed, the fabric and the sewing machines have instead been used to produce face masks.

We are ensuring full adherence to the Ministry of Health's guidelines for the production of masks and the DNS has certified the quality and they are now being distributed to health system staff in Nacala Porto and Nacala Velha districts. We are looking to also start similar production in Tete province, and reach out to other large-scale potential manufacturers.



We have helped devise, print and disseminate more than 25 different posters with the Ministry of Health



Chance Briggs, Country Director, delivering a video message on COVID-19 and its impact on children in the country.

