

Oxfam in Mozambique

Oxfam has worked in Mozambique since 1984.



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Since the end of the civil war in 1992, we have supported poor people to improve their livelihoods and strengthen their ability to deal with the effects of HIV and AIDS.

We also work with local organisations to help give vulnerable children access to quality basic education.

In numbers*...

48.4
average life expectancy

46.2%
adult literacy rate



Photo: Neo Nisoma

Education

Zambezia Province in central Mozambique suffered the worst damage from the civil war. Rebels targeting and destroying basic public services left this densely populated and poor province with limited basic services and in need of reconstruction, especially of schools. Communities in this province are far from health and educational facilities, Government administration, commercial networks and communications.

We're working in five districts (Gurue, Alto Molocue, Gile, Ile and Namarroi) to increase access to quality basic education, particularly for girls and vulnerable children; to strengthen the Government and non-governmental groups' ability to address the country's education needs; and to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS.

Children studying in a full classroom at Montes Namuli Primary School.

Food and livelihoods

Agriculture is the main means of support in Niassa Province in northern Mozambique. Land is abundant and generally fertile. Households in Oxfam's five target districts (Maua, Metarica, Mandimba, Macanhelas and Cuamba) are the poorest in the province because of their isolation from core services, poor infrastructure, lack of reliable markets and weak farmers' organisations.

We support poor farmers to improve their access to food by using different

agricultural methods and diversifying their crops. The programme also supports farmers' income opportunities by improving their access to markets. Women and other vulnerable groups are targeted to take a greater part in decision-making, to acquire literacy skills and to receive training on nutrition.

Right: Selvajo Alberto demonstrates the furniture-making skills he has learned with Oxfam's support.

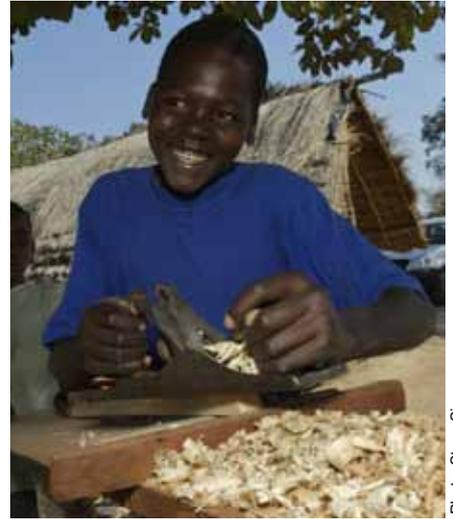


Photo: Steve Simon

HIV and AIDS

In the last 15 years, Mozambique has experienced a steady growth in the number of people infected with HIV. It's estimated that more than 16% of 15-49 years-olds live with the condition. 60% of HIV-infected adults are women, and infection rates are significantly higher among 15-24 year-old women. The highest number of infections is found in the central region.

Left: A nurse holds Anti-Retro Virals in an Oxfam-supported satellite health post and HIV testing centre

We work in two districts (Machaze and Mossurize) of Manica province in central Mozambique, helping the community to deal with the impact of HIV and AIDS, to revitalise prevention strategies and to prevent further infections. We're also working to improve the district and provincial institutions' capacity to implement the government's plan for HIV and AIDS response.



Photo: Steve Simon