



MOZAMBIQUE
ANNUAL REPORT

2020

RESPONDING
TO A YEAR
OF CRISIS



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FOREWORD



The COVID-19 pandemic challenged every country in the world but was most threatening, perhaps, to developing countries like Mozambique. The effects of the pandemic placed great stress not only on the national health system, but also on development programmes and threatened advances in achieving gender equity and equality and improving sexual and reproductive health.

In the case of Mozambique, the pandemic came on the heels of two destructive cyclones that had devastated large parts of the country in 2019 and whose consequences were still being felt. In northern Mozambique, increasing violence in Cabo Delgado province resulted in a surge of internally displaced persons into local communities in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces. With host communities ill equipped to meet the needs of those displaced, this population movement created a new humanitarian crisis in the midst of the pandemic. Like all of our governmental, civil society and donor partners, the resilience of UNFPA was tested, and we had to adjust quickly after the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in March and the Government declared a state of emergency.

At the most basic level, women continued to get pregnant and babies were still being born, even in the middle of a pandemic. Addressing the needs of adolescent girls and young women could not be put on hold. Helping to meet the needs of the symbolic target of UNFPA's work – “the 10-year-old girl” – could not wait until she was 11. Helping to meet her aspirations for the future, advocating and working for her growth and self-fulfillment as a woman leading a healthy, productive and violence-free life – these could not wait a year.

The right of a girl and woman to a life of self-fulfillment and free from violence can only be achieved if the world, and Mozambique, attains the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including three transformative results – zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices. UNFPA supports the Government of Mozambique in achieving these three goals - and they had to move forward in spite of the pandemic.

UNFPA worked under the Government to help meet immediate and direct needs created by the pandemic, helping to set up the COVID-19 national hotline and supplying personal protective equipment to the heroes of the pandemic response - the doctors, midwives, nurses, mobile clinic staff and others who put themselves at risk to provide essential health services. Medical equipment and supplies were distributed to help health facilities meet the needs of mothers and newborns, while mobile clinics were dispatched and tents were installed so that health facility compounds could conduct socially-distanced pre- and post-natal consultations.

Adapting to the exigencies of the day, virtual trainings and various platforms were used to reach women and girls with messaging on COVID-19, as well as child marriage, family planning, and obstetric fistula.

Knowing that crises exacerbate inequalities, emphasis was put on delivering messages to as wide an audience as possible via a variety of platforms, including radio, social networks and telephone hotlines so that everyone could benefit. Using statistics from the census and the new geo-referenced maps helped to plan all of these COVID-19 response services.

Recognizing that gender-based violence, especially domestic violence, was a greater risk under the isolating conditions of the pandemic restrictions and in times of conflict and displacement, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Government and other partners, widened the reach of programmes addressing gender-based violence, including strengthened initiatives to combat child marriage. Reducing the prevalence of child marriage had been a theme of the agency's programmes targeted at young people. Since these youth programmes were already in place and had large audiences in their areas of operation, they also served as ideal platforms to reach out to youth on COVID-19 prevention and to listen to their voices.

Unfortunately, as 2020 ended, the number of cases of COVID-19 was showing a sharp increase and the violence in Cabo Delgado was growing. The new year showed that the challenges of 2020 are only likely to increase in the coming year. The need to ensure adequate reproductive health services for women and girls and families will deepen. The rights of women and girls and young people will continue to be under threat. Protection from gender-based violence and reducing the incidence of child marriage will be an ongoing challenge, exacerbated by the pandemic and the humanitarian crisis.

As demonstrated by the resilience shown under the 2020 projects, I am certain, with the support of our governmental and non-governmental partners, that UNFPA is up to the challenges of the coming year.



Andrea M. Wojnar
UNFPA Representative in Mozambique



2020 PROJECTS

Census

Donor: Census Trust Fund (Canada, Sweden, United Kingdom)

Supported the 2017 population and housing census in Mozambique and the analysis and dissemination of the data among the general public and to inform policy and development.

Chopela Mama

Donor: UNFPA

A community-based ride-hailing app being piloted in two provinces in order to provide transport to the nearest maternal health facility for women about to deliver.

Improving Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health

Donor: United Kingdom

Supports improved sexual and reproductive health services by training health professionals, equipping health facilities and providing needed commodities in Cabo Delgado.

InfoFistula

Donor: Canada

A mobile-based app designed to consolidate information on obstetric fistula patients and follow up on their care.

InfoViolencia

Donor: Spotlight Initiative (through the European Union)

A digital platform designed to support the Ministry of Interior in tracking and managing gender-based violence cases.

Midwifery Programme in Tete

Donor: Flanders

Supports the capacity building of the maternal health workforce through training midwives on the ground and by training Mozambican nurses abroad to become trainers of trainers.

UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage

Donors to global programme: Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, European Commission, and Zonta International

Supports the rights of adolescent girls to avert marriage and pregnancy and enables them to achieve their aspirations through training, education, social protection and alternative pathways to marriage.



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preco



Violencia baseada no género
ontra Crianças e Mulheres Ba

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2020 PROJECTS

“MyChoice”

Donor: The Netherlands

Supports the provision of family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services, including communications and service strengthening, for adolescent girls and young women.

Obstetric Fistula

Donor: Canada

Supports raising awareness about the condition, referring women to health facilities, providing surgical repair, facilitating socio-economic reintegration, and training health care professionals.

Rapariga Biz

Donor: Sweden and Canada

A holistic and multi-sectoral joint United Nations programme to support sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescent girls and young women, working to prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls

Donor: European Union

A multisectoral programme working to end gender-based violence in Manica, Gaza and Nampula provinces.

Support for Women and Girls Affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai in Mozambique

Donor: China

Helps to prevent maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity by increasing access to emergency obstetric care in Manica and Sofala provinces, including through supplying equipment and medicines.

UNFPA Supplies

Donor: Multi-donor trust fund managed by UNFPA headquarters

Provides support in procuring reproductive health supplies, tracking contraceptive availability, training health providers, and logistics management to reach the “last mile”.

“We Decide”: Young Persons with Disabilities

Donor to global programme: Spain

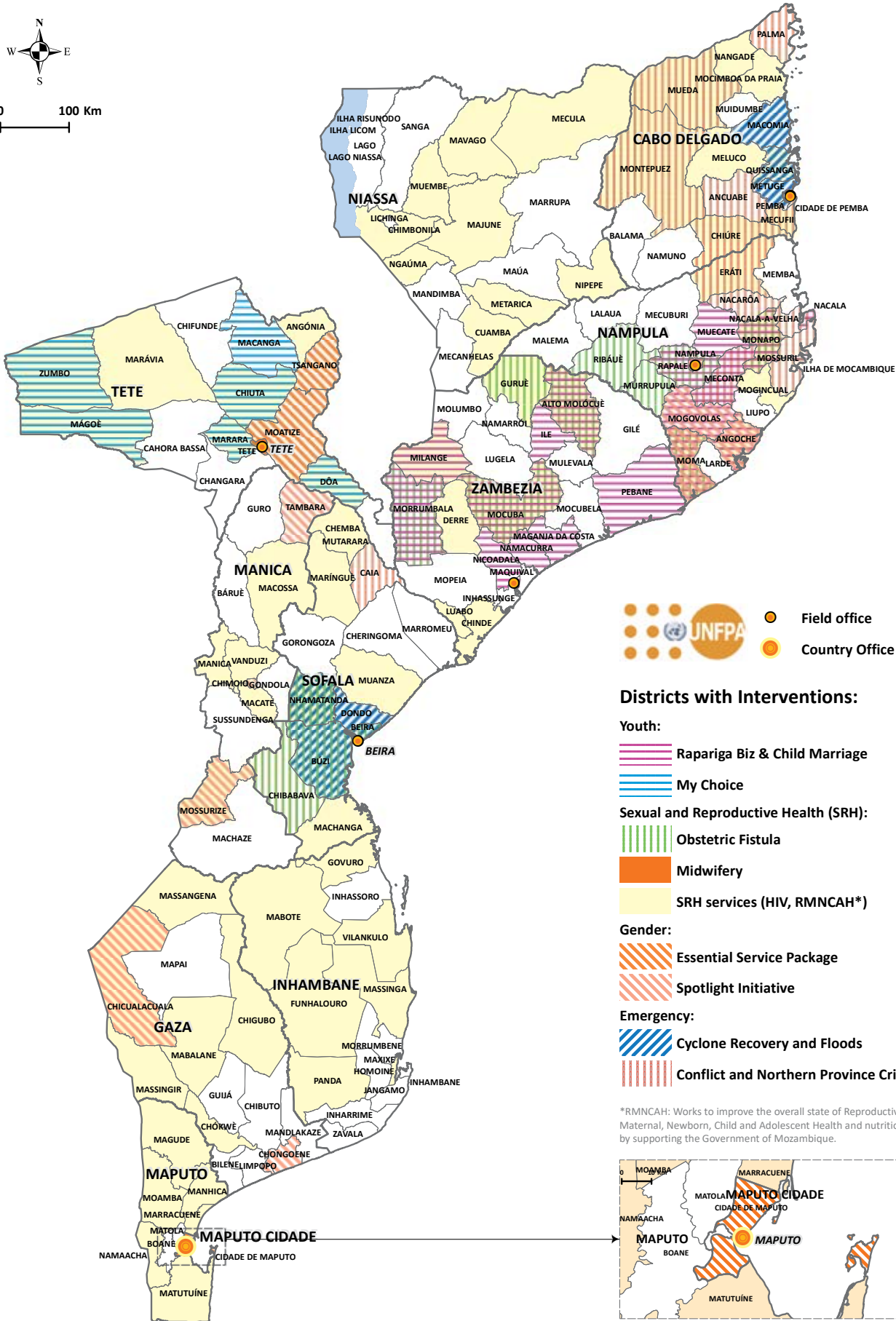
Promotes the rights of youth with disabilities to make their own sexual and reproductive choices and to be protected from all forms of violence.



GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF UNFPA'S CURRENT PROJECTS



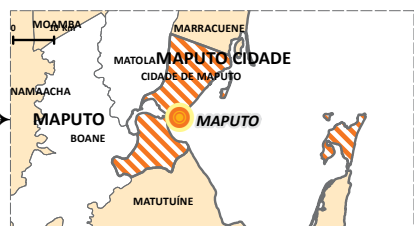
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Field office
 Country Office

- Districts with Interventions:**
- Youth:**
- Rapariga Biz & Child Marriage
 - My Choice
- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH):**
- Obstetric Fistula
 - Midwifery
 - SRH services (HIV, RMNCAH*)
- Gender:**
- Essential Service Package
 - Spotlight Initiative
- Emergency:**
- Cyclone Recovery and Floods
 - Conflict and Northern Province Crisis

*RMNCAH: Works to improve the overall state of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and nutrition by supporting the Government of Mozambique.



RESPONDING TO COVID-19



Staff at Mahate Health Centre celebrate the installation of a new tent that will allow for adequate distancing in the health units, particularly for vulnerable women and girls requiring prenatal consultations.



As with all the countries of the world, in 2020 Mozambique was faced with the unparalleled crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, which negatively affected the health and wellbeing of the population and threatened the development gains of recent years. Work plans of the Government, United Nations agencies, international development partners and local implementing partners were put on hold or slowed by restrictions put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus.



More than **2,500 health professionals** and community leaders trained on COVID-19 prevention



More than **330,000 calls** made to the COVID-19 call centre from May through December



Over **\$2m procurement** of personal protective equipment, tents and consumables



Surveillance supported at central level and in four provinces



COVID-19 readiness assessment in **34 facilities**

Working with the Government and other partners, UNFPA responded positively to the crisis in a variety of ways: providing direct assistance in the fight to prevent the spread of the virus; addressing the secondary repercussions of the pandemic; and adapting its programmes and work procedures to conform to restrictions on mobility and in-person contact.

The Mozambique country office supported the establishment of the Government-led national COVID-19 call centre in early May. The call centre utilized 20 clinicians to refer callers to medical services and health facilities, track quarantine violations and respond to non-compliance with the Government's state of emergency restrictions.



May 2020

Launch of the COVID-19 Call Centre

The Vice-Minister of Health inaugurated the COVID-19 call centre with remarks from the Representative of UNFPA, one of the partners in establishing the centre. The call centre allowed Mozambicans direct access to accurate advice and information on COVID-19 from medical clinicians.



GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN: AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MOZAMBIQUE

"I have informed the girls from my safe space and other community members about how they can prevent themselves from COVID-19, that they need to distance themselves, always wash their hands with soap and water, and stay at home. I am making sure that the girls continue to keep safe," said 18-year-old Amina Cavana from Nampula province. Amina is one of the 5,608 mentors under the Government-led sexual and reproductive health and rights programme for girls and young women, "Rapariga Biz", who are playing a role as change agents with their peers, families and communities in the COVID-19 response.

Since late 2016, Rapariga Biz has reached nearly 700,000 girls and young women between 10-24 years through mentorship sessions in safe spaces in Nampula and Zambezia provinces. The trust created between the mentors and mentees enabled the mentors to guide and positively influence the younger girls in the safe spaces, both in terms of sexual and reproductive health and choices – but also about how to protect themselves from COVID-19.

"I have been sharing preventive messages via SMS to the parents of the girls I mentor, then they pass the information on to their daughters. I also had the opportunity to take part in a training on the prevention of COVID-19 and I participated in the morning program of Radio Mozambique, where I shared information about prevention. I feel motivated to continue to share this information, and I came up with an idea to start making capulana (traditional Mozambican fabric) masks together with my girls to help prevent COVID-19," said 18-year-old mentor, Sheila Jamal, from Nampula city.



UNFPA reprogrammed funding in order to respond to the Government's priority of procuring personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health workers. As with other partners, the country office experienced supply chain challenges ranging from the closing of production lines, lack of commodities, and logistical and delivery challenges due to closed borders and international airspace. However, by the end of the year, oximeters, oxygen concentrators, medical coats, surgical masks and respirators were procured. All of this was in direct response to the Government's request for support to confront the health crisis.

Funds were also reprogrammed to enable the National Institute of Statistics to ensure business continuity across its offices and at the field level, which included supplying personal protection equipment, laptops and tablets to staff, among other activities.

Mitigating the secondary impacts of COVID-19

Addressing the secondary effects of the pandemic, such as the stress on health facilities, efforts were placed on ensuring continuity of maternal and child health services. Among other actions, the Ministry of Health developed protocols and flowcharts that enabled safe access for women in labour and post-delivery and changed the timing of family planning and prenatal consultations from monthly to quarterly. This contributed to service continuity and reduced both the costs for patients and the risk of COVID-19 infection. Adapted procedures included provision of short-term contraceptives, such as pills and condoms, for three or more months, reducing the need for face-to-face interaction.

More than 5,000 copies of protocol and flowchart material were printed and distributed, utilized by health workers and the nearly 600 maternal and child health nurses trained on their use. Twenty-four maternal and child health nurses were recruited and deployed to 15 health facilities across Manica, Tete, Zambezia and Niassa provinces to reinforce the continuity of services needed to ensure safe deliveries during emergencies.

Virtual training and digital platforms

In response to the need for social distancing and reducing the number and size of gatherings, the country office was a pioneer in supporting virtual maternal and child health training, including on COVID-19 infection and prevention control measures. More than 800 health care providers were trained through this new modality. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health and other implementing partners in making greater use of digital platforms and for integrating COVID-19 prevention messages into platforms that were already delivering sexual and reproductive health messaging.

COVID-19 created unprecedented demand for digital health technology solutions and other innovative approaches to share timely, localized, context-specific information in the absence of regular services, such as schools and youth-friendly health facilities. These included "Dika", a platform where Mozambican youth could access youth-friendly services and essential information related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. From mid-March, Dika opened a new category so that youth could access reliable and easy-to-read information on COVID-19. Viamo, a social enterprise operating in the field of telecommunications, was used to operate a toll-free, automated information hotline that allowed anyone, regardless of literacy level, to access information in eight national languages.

All of this was accomplished while the UNFPA office, along with offices around the world, was forced to reorganize its own work patterns by working from home and restricting travel. Yet the work of UNFPA staff and those of its implementing partners were able to mitigate some of the worst aspects of the pandemic, especially as it affected women and girls of reproductive age.



May 2020

Recovery and Resilience for Women and Girls

At a woman-friendly space that provides services and support for displaced persons in Cabo Delgado province, women learn to sew masks to sell in host communities, generating a small income and keeping people safe from the spread of COVID-19.





THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN CABO DELGADO

In May 2019, Cabo Delgado province in the north of Mozambique, with a population of 2.2 million, was hit by Cyclone Kenneth, impacting an estimated 227,000 people and resulting in extensive damage to infrastructure, including health facilities. Conditions had not returned to normal during the course of 2019 and were worsened considerably during 2020 with an increasing number of attacks and violence that led to widespread displacement of communities.





24,000 safe deliveries supported by 34 newly-installed health tents



240,000 community members supported through reproductive health-related supplies and equipment



7,000+ women and girls received dignity kits to support their menstrual hygiene and mitigate risks of gender-based violence



6,500 girls and women participated in activities in 6 women-friendly spaces

The number of displaced persons in Cabo Delgado more than quadrupled from March to November 2020. By the end of the year, the continuing wave of insecurity and attacks by non-state actors resulted in the displacement of more than 500,000 people in Cabo Delgado and the two neighbouring provinces of Niassa and Nampula. It is estimated that by the end of 2020, 1.3 million persons, either displaced or living in host communities, needed urgent humanitarian assistance.



April 2020

Ensuring Service Continuity Amidst a Crisis

The UNFPA team in Cabo Delgado responded to a request from the Provincial Health Directorate by supporting the installation of six tents across four health units in the district of Pemba so that women could receive maternal and child health services while social distancing as a protection from COVID-19.



MANAGING MENSTRUATION AMID CYCLONES AND A PANDEMIC

During 2020, many people who had lost their homes due to flooding as a result of the 2019 cyclones continued to face water shortages, impacting the ability of women and girls to look after their menstrual hygiene. Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, families were financially pressed, making disposable sanitary pads an impossible luxury for the thousands of girls and young women living in accommodation centres for displaced persons.

Domingas, 15 years old, had been living in the Nhamatanda accommodation centre in Sofala Province for over a year. With her parents unemployed and dependent on a small plot for food, she did not have access to underwear and menstruation pads for months.

"I have difficulties purchasing sanitary pads because they are expensive; I cannot buy them every month. When I do not have disposable sanitary pads, I make a multi-layered pad with pieces of cloth. But those are uncomfortable, and because they leak I cannot be very active through the day, which means I cannot help my parents in the field," said Domingas.

Led by the Government of Mozambique, with funding support from the Government of Norway, and in partnership with local and international NGOs, more than 4,000 girls were provided with menstrual underwear, menstrual pads, and education tools. Otherwise, these girls would have been forced to interrupt their daily lives, such as going to school, helping with domestic chores and socializing.

"Prior to COVID-19, I would be absent for a few days when I was menstruating because I did not have adequate materials. Since I received the reusable underwear, I can continue to be productive during my menstruation. I can go to school and not be behind on my studies," said Domingas.



Pregnant women at risk

Many of the displaced were forced to flee from coastal communities and offshore islands by boat, with more than 13,700 individuals arriving on some 200 boats from mid-October to the end of the year in the provincial capital of Pemba.

Those arriving included pregnant women, who required immediate medical attention, and others who had yet to receive any ante-natal care.

In every aspect of the crisis, women, especially pregnant women, were among the most vulnerable — approximately 160,600 women of reproductive age were displaced and of those, almost 19,000 were pregnant, with approximately 2,100 giving birth every month and 950 of the pregnant women facing life-threatening complications during birth. Amidst a faltering health system, in which 36 per cent of health facilities across the province had been damaged or destroyed, the provision of maternal health services was an urgent requirement.



April 2020

Dignity Kits: Ensuring Personal Health and Hygiene

Three hundred displaced young women and girls in the Paquitequete community of Pemba in Cabo Delgado received information on prevention and control of COVID-19 as well as dignity kits containing basic sanitary and protection items, including anti-virus masks.

During the Cabo Delgado crisis, pre-packaged reproductive health kits were supplied to support hundreds of thousands of people in meeting a variety of reproductive health needs. Recognizing that many people did not have access to health facilities, mobile health units were dispatched to provide more than 20,000 women and girls with sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services.

Addressing increased levels of gender-based violence

A focus of UNFPA's humanitarian response in Cabo Delgado was to support the Government in meeting the needs of women and girls at risk of or survivors of gender-based violence. This included organizing community awareness campaigns and activities in already-established women-friendly spaces and, in the context of COVID-19, providing virtual trainings to health and social workers, community activists and others.





One of the tools for meeting needs for basic human dignity and providing some protection items was through the provision of “dignity kits”. To address the urgent and acute needs of women and girls, including those of pregnant women and lactating mothers, UNFPA and the Government distributed female dignity kits containing essential and culturally-appropriate items to support personal and feminine hygiene, including soap, reusable menstrual pads, capulanas (traditional cloths) as well as lights and whistles as safety items.

The dignity kits included masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. During the year, 7,000 dignity kits were distributed in Cabo Delgado province and, in a novel approach, electronic vouchers were provided so that clients could purchase the dignity kit items themselves.

The humanitarian relief efforts were carried out against the backdrop of COVID-19, which caused delays in getting critical supplies, staffing shortages and the need in most instances to work remotely. The challenge continued into 2021 with an accelerating increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and continuing displacement across multiple provinces because of the ongoing wave of violence and attacks in Cabo Delgado.



December 2020

UN Regional Directors Visit to Cabo Delgado

The Regional Directors of the United Nations agencies, including FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR and WFP, working on the humanitarian response in Cabo Delgado visited settlements of displaced persons and later held meetings in Maputo city to advocate on behalf of the needs of women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services and protection from all forms of violence.



THE CONTEXT IN MOZAMBIQUE

The population increased by nearly **40 per cent** between the last two censuses — from 20.6 million in 2007 to 27.9 million in 2017.

Population is projected to reach 60 million by 2050, with the youth (ages 15-35) share increasing to **36 per cent** (21.7 million).

The Human Development Index ranks among the lowest in the world (**181** out of 189).

79 per cent of the population is less than 35 years old.

Maternal mortality is decreasing but remains high at **452** women dying for every 100,000 live births.

One in four women (**25.4 per cent**) who want to use contraception are not able to do so.

One of the top ten countries in the world in terms of child marriage: **one in two girls marries before age 18**.

37 per cent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives (43 per cent among women aged 20-24).

46.4 per cent of adolescent girls (15-19) either are pregnant or have a child.







ZERO UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING



The contraceptive prevalence rate (**CPR**) for married women increased rapidly from 2011 (**11.3 per cent**) to 2020 (**35.8 per cent**).



There have been **1.9 million more users of modern contraception** since 2013.



UNFPA contributed **31 per cent of the cost of the contraceptives** purchased and delivered in the country in 2020.



26,000 girls and young women received counselling and increased their awareness of family planning (exceeding the original target of 16,410).



Sexual and reproductive health services were delivered by **mobile brigades to more than 30,500 women and girls** in Tete province (surpassing the target of 21,410 women and girls).

Under the leadership of the Government, Mozambique has made enormous strides over the last decade in expanding the use of modern contraception, although there is still a large unmet need for contraception. Helping the country to address that unmet need has been a pillar of the UNFPA programme in Mozambique.

The national results have been impressive, and the rapid growth in the contraceptive prevalence rate has meant that 991,000 unintended pregnancies were averted, 218,000 unsafe abortions avoided and 2,300 fewer maternal deaths were recorded between 2011 and 2020 than would otherwise be the case (including through the support of UNFPA Supplies).

However, the statistics show that the unmet need for contraception is particularly high among adolescent girls and young women. Closing that gap is the focus of UNFPA projects working to increase the use of modern family planning.



“MyChoice”

The “MyChoice” programme, funded by the Netherlands, was a major factor in meeting the need for family planning in 2020 by providing \$6.7 million (out of a total programme package of \$14 million) for the procurement of contraceptive methods. Along with the procurement, “MyChoice” provided community outreach services in Tete and Cabo Delgado provinces. In Tete, more than 50,000 adolescents and youth received family planning support (exceeding the target of 39,719), while in Cabo Delgado, four districts affected by the humanitarian crisis, with a total population of 475,000, benefited from the work of “MyChoice”. The programme also trained health care providers on family planning with a focus on long-term acting reversible contraceptive methods (CLARC). Because of the pandemic, this training relied on digital platforms to disseminate its messages.



UNFPA Supplies

In 2020, UNFPA Supplies contributed more than \$3 million for the purchase of contraceptives and also supported the Government in reaching 203,000 new users of modern contraception. This support during the year is estimated to have prevented 73,000 unintended pregnancies, 16,000 unsafe abortions and 200 maternal deaths. In addition to supporting contraceptive procurement, UNFPA Supplies helped to strengthen the Government's electronic logistics management information system (e-LMIS) to support supply chain tracking up to, crucially, the "last mile". In 2020, 70 percent of health facilities in Mozambique were using e-LMIS. Training on integrated adolescent sexual and reproductive health services was also provided for 141 health providers (out of a target of 150).



September 2020

Celebrating Choice and Rights

On the occasion of World Contraception Day, the Minister of Health expressed concern at the low level of contraceptive use, which has resulted in Mozambique having a high fertility rate of 5.2 births for every woman, according to the 2017 population census.



AFTER YEARS OF SUFFERING, A FISTULA SURVIVOR DELIVERS A HEALTHY BABY

Fernanda Florinda Assane, 24, a survivor of obstetric fistula, is from the district of Ancuabe in Cabo Delgado. At the age of 16, Fernanda gave birth to her first daughter, Jennifer, and two years later became pregnant again, but unfortunately, experienced a stillbirth. After this, she experienced several serious health problems and went to healers for various treatments, but nothing was resolved. She experienced faeces coming out from her vagina, the inability to control the release of foul-smelling urine and discrimination by everyone, because no one wanted to be close to her.

Fernanda did not realize she had an obstetric fistula until seeking medical support. Her brother, a health technician, recommended she get medical care where she learned she had fistula. She received repair surgery through a campaign after two long years of suffering.

Caused by prolonged or obstructed labour, without timely and quality medical care, obstetric fistula often leads to chronic medical problems, depression, social isolation and deepening poverty.

Following Fernanda's recovery from repair surgery, her social life gradually reopened, and with a new sense of dignity she began to actively participate in family and community activities. Fernanda found out she could safely get pregnant again. During delivery in June 2020 Fernanda was attended by the same doctor who had operated on her fistula, leaving her more confident that the child would be healthy.

"I feel comfortable talking about fistula, because I have no reason to hide a problem that is a reality and affects many women and adolescents", said Fernanda. She advised all girls and women who have health problems, symptoms and signs of fistula, to immediately seek support at the nearest health facility.





ZERO PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS



320 maternal and child health nurses completed their training in 2020.



One equipped operating theatre and two mobile units were procured and mounted on tracks: one for basic emergency care and one for comprehensive emergency care.



More than 9 health professionals were trained in **obstetric fistula repair**.



685 women with obstetric fistula received **surgical repairs**.

Eliminating death while giving birth is a fundamental development goal – and it is obtainable. The maternal mortality ratio is slowly declining in Mozambique, from 800 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 452 per 100,000 in 2017. The key to reducing the number of mothers who die in childbirth is expanding access to contraception, strengthening health facilities with needed equipment and supplies, increasing the number and capacity of healthcare staff, especially midwives, and ensuring that women have access to services, including emergency obstetric care. UNFPA is supporting the Government in all of these areas as well as addressing a serious issue of maternal morbidity, obstetric fistula. It is estimated that 2,500 new cases of fistula occur in the country, annually.



Midwifery

Funded by the Government of Flanders, the midwifery project worked to enhance the quality of the maternal and child health workforce in Tete province. This capacity building was achieved through a Cuban training team in place in Tete to reinforce teachers and student's capacities and concurrently having three Mozambican nurses in Cuba to be trained as maternal and child health specialists. During 2020, 49 students successfully completed the course and graduated, while 17 new students successfully completed their first semester of theoretical training.

Facebook Live Concert to Mark Fistula Day

In recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula, UNFPA co-hosted a concert series, *Estamos Juntos em Casa*, led by artist and social activist Stewart Sukuma along with well-known Mozambican singers Selma Uamusse and Cheny Wa Gune to raise awareness on the preventable childbirth injury.



May 2020



Obstetric Fistula

When the COVID-19 emergency was declared at the beginning of April 2020, elective surgeries were halted, and fistula repairs through treatment mission campaigns did not resume until July. Even so, under the obstetric fistula programme, 685 women were treated through routine and mission campaigns by the end of the year. While the surgeries were suspended, the main fistula surgeons at the provincial level provided on-the-job training for nine professionals on competencies needed to repair simple obstetric fistulas. At a time when face-to-face interactions were limited, community radios were an effective communication channel for reaching target populations on obstetric fistula awareness and visibility.



May 2020

Midwives Provide Life-saving Support

On the occasion of the International Day of the Midwife, the Government and its partners joined in celebrating the work midwives, such as Laurinda Namacala, head of a team of five midwives in Paquitequete District in Cabo Delgado that supports an average of 100 births a month.



RMNCAH (Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health)

The United Kingdom-funded RMNCAH programme contributed to strengthening health workforce capacity by providing the initial training of 22 maternal and child health nurses in 2020. Through this fund, 55 traditional birth attendants and 12 community health workers were trained on post-partum haemorrhage prevention, and 348 traditional birth attendants were trained in safe delivery. In addition, a boat ambulance was procured to serve as a referral vehicle from Ibo island (located 72 kilometres from Pemba city, Cabo Delgado) for pregnant women requiring emergency obstetric and neonatal care and more complex health services. The remoteness of the location meant that women faced enormous difficulties accessing health facilities, which often resulted in complications for both the mother and newborn, including death.



Support for Those Affected by Cyclone Idai

When cyclone Idai struck Mozambique in March 2019, 93 health facilities in the central part of the country were damaged or destroyed. With funding provided by China, the Government, with UNFPA support, is working to prevent excess maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in areas affected by the cyclone by strengthening comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care services in 32 health facilities in Sofala and Manica provinces. During 2020, implementation was slowed because of COVID-19, but the project was able to implement 87 per cent of the budget allocated for procurement of needed supplies: surgical disinfectants, consumables and equipment for delivery rooms so they could provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care, including Caesarean-sections and hysterectomies. Support was also provided to equip health centres to carry out pre- and post-natal exams.



LINHA VERDE EMERGENCY HOTLINE OPERATORS HELP SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

"Linha Verde 1458 offers a fast and safe response to women who suffer violence during COVID-19. It is a source of pride for me, as well as for my co-workers, to know that we are helping those who do not know where to go, especially during this period of COVID-19," said telephone operator, Maria Helena Cesário Rafael.

Receiving between 4,000 and 15,000 calls a month, the operators - half of whom are women, and speak 15 local languages - provided information related to food security, health, sexual exploitation and abuse, corruption, fraud, protection issues, aid questions, and more. In response to the pandemic, in 2020 the hotline was expanded to include information and support on gender-based violence outside of humanitarian settings.

This expansion recognized the increased risk of domestic violence faced by women and girls around the world because of COVID-19 as a result of heightened tensions in the household, movement restrictions, and disruptions in services. Following a Government-led training, 18 Linha Verde phone line operators were helping survivors, family or community members to access first line psychosocial support, to inform callers about existing services, to refer cases to focal points for case follow-up and mandatory reporting, and to inform women and girls about practical protection measures.





ZERO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES



Reached the target of having **four** integrated one-stop services (**CAIs**) in place to support gender-based violence survivors and women and girls at risk



20,000 people were supported with outreach interventions on gender-based violence services through mobile clinics



“We Decide” programme collaborated with TV Surdo Moçambique to produce and disseminate short videos on issues related to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence

Gender-based violence takes many forms. Domestic violence has been shown to increase during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the displacement of people in northern Mozambique. The most prevalent form of gender-based violence is child marriage (defined as a marriage when one or both of the partners is below age 18) and one with deleterious consequences throughout lifetimes and throughout societies. Mozambique has one of the highest prevalence rates of child marriage in Africa and in the world. In the context of Mozambique, the largest impact of child marriage is on school attendance in that many girls do not complete their education because of marrying before 18. This in turn curtails many of their opportunities in life and puts them at greater risk of maternal death and morbidity and of having large numbers of children.



“We Decide”

The “We Decide” programme aims at promoting access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for young people living with disabilities, including preventing and addressing gender-based violence. In 2020, a comprehensive quality study was commissioned on how the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls and young women with disabilities under two flagship programmes, Rapariga Biz and Spotlight Initiative, were being addressed with the aim of strengthening their engagement with girls and young women with disabilities.

The “We Decide” programme collaborated in 2020 on a communications project with TV Surdo Moçambique (*Deaf TV Mozambique*), a Mozambican non-governmental organization, to produce and disseminate short videos, broadcast on television and disseminated on social media, with text and sign language on COVID-19 prevention for pregnant women and youth as well as training videos for health providers on addressing COVID-19 with disabled youth.



July 2020

Roundtable - Devising Solutions to End Child Marriage

Focusing on practices that harm girls and women, including child marriage, the 2020 edition of UNFPA’s flagship publication, *the State of World Population*, had particular resonance in Mozambique, where the practice is prevalent. A virtual roundtable including television personalities and political figures, including activist Graça Machel, led to a vigorous discussion on the fight against child marriage, concluding “these are not marriages, they are forced unions”.



Spotlight Initiative

With the inauguration of the one-stop centre for gender-based violence (Integrated Assistance Centres or CAIs) in Nampula and the equipping of two other offices, it was possible to reach the target of four operating CAIs in Nampula and Gaza. Each of these centres adopted the single file system for case management called the “ficha única”. This single file is used to register medical, psycho-social, police, legal support for gender-based violence cases. As part of the digital platform, InfoViolencia, the goal for end 2020 was to have 90 per cent of such cases to be reported by the police via the ficha única. Because of difficulties caused by COVID-19, only 77 per cent of cases were reported using the single file.

The Spotlight Initiative sponsored the rehabilitation and equipping of 16 youth-friendly health services in Manica, Gaza and Nampula provinces. In addition, six fully equipped mobile clinics were procured, reaching almost 20,000 people with outreach interventions on gender-based violence (including community mobilization, screening, case identification) in the most remote areas of the Spotlight provinces.

Spotlight supported the training of youth associations to serve as mentors on human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and gender-based violence. In 2020, 200 mentors were trained in Nampula province and 30 mentors in Manica province, resulting in the establishment of 37 safe spaces, which enrolled and supported 300 adolescent girls and young women. A national seminar was conducted to improve the coordination on youth issues at provincial and district levels with different government bodies and civil society organizations, including all 11 provinces.

The Spotlight Initiative developed communication materials, including video spots, radio spots and a radio show about ending gender-based violence and promoting services, including how to file complaints, with materials suited for persons with disabilities. One communication tool was the adaptation and expansion of Linha Verde 1458 (LV1458), a toll-free hotline set up in the aftermath of the 2019 cyclones. In the absence of a national gender-based violence hotline, 317 health and social service professionals, including operators for Linha Verde and the COVID-19 hotline, were trained on gender-based violence response.

The translation of guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence into Portuguese for persons with disabilities will allow for a better understanding and provision of quality services for all.

TEMA: COMUN
TOMADA

YOUTH

UNFPA has focused its programme in Mozambique on young people, understanding that the long-term development of the country depends on realizing the demographic dividend, in which a population “bulge” of people in their most productive years can quickly grow the country’s human, physical and financial assets. However, the dividend can only be realized if today’s large cohort of young people have the quality health and education services they need and are given the opportunity of self-fulfillment.





Adolescent and youth friendly services assisted **131,320 adolescents and young people** at health facilities.



Psychosocial support was provided to **3,455 mentors** via phone.



A total of **586 community-led dialogues** reached **10,915 influential people**.



Relying on **5,600 mentors**, **153,664 girls** were reached with sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence communication messages in the first quarter of 2020.

In order to better harness the potential of young people and ensure that they are front and centre in national development efforts, in 2020 UNFPA served as the convener of a national Youth Partners Group designed to serve as a strategic advisory and multi-sectoral coordination mechanism to realize the demographic dividend and maximize investments in the “youth agenda” in Mozambique. The Youth Partners Group includes the Government, United Nations entities, donor representatives, development partners and the World Bank.



July 2020

Celebrating Youth on World Population Day

On World Population Day, the UNFPA Assistant Representative joined the Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance, the Deputy Director of Public Health and a youth activist in a live debate on the national theme: empowerment of youth and protection of vulnerable populations in humanitarian situations.

Raising Awareness of Key Issues

As part of Mozambique's Youth Week, a live event took place to debate the issues of child marriage, early pregnancy, domestic violence and the opportunities available to counter these challenges.



August 2020

UNFPA commissioned a comprehensive national mapping on youth interventions nationwide, which resulted in a database divided by provinces and districts that contains disaggregated information by type of intervention and target group by sex and age. The database was presented at a national seminar in Inhambane in 2020 with representatives from all provinces. This database serves to inform youth projects by a wide variety of organizations.

Rapariga Biz

Rapariga Biz, a joint United Nations programme operating in the provinces of Nampula and Zambezia since 2016, worked during the year to mitigate the secondary effects of COVID-19, including strengthening gender-based violence services; involving female mentors in community surveillance efforts under the Ministry of Health; providing psychosocial support to adolescent girls and young women; and improving a virtual learning platform for adolescents and youth.

Following the restrictions put in place to combat COVID-19, Rapariga Biz adapted to the situation by turning some of its mentorship sessions into thematic 20-minute community radio sessions co-led by the mentors. Using this and one-on-one sessions, either by phone or face-to-face, approximately 600 Rapariga Biz mentors provided information on COVID-19 prevention, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence to thousands of girls and young women. COVID-19 prevention messages were also shared through digital channels to a wide audience.





Rapariga Biz provided psychosocial support via telephone through more than 3,100 consultations with some 1,200 girls and young women to support them in dealing with the additional stress and challenges caused by the pandemic. A phone-based training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) was provided to 1,200 mentors under Rapariga Biz. Additionally, 1,900 mentors were reached with messages via phone on gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, child marriage and themes related to psychosocial well-being and resilience. In Nampula province, the mentorship programme also conducted sessions to address the needs of displaced girls and young women from Cabo Delgado.

Global Programme to End Child Marriage

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage, carried out in partnership with UNICEF, supported the Government and other actors to implement the National Child Marriage Strategy at the central level and in two provinces with high rates of child marriage, Nampula and Zambezia. As part of its support to the programme, psychosocial support was provided via phone to more than 1,200 girls and young women (working through Rapariga Biz) who were faced with questions or challenges related to child marriage. Meanwhile, a series of mini radio dramas on child marriage reached 2 million listeners, and 3.5 million young people were reached via a social media campaign that included COVID-19 prevention information.

Understanding that new technologies and ways of thinking can help solve age-old problems, the “Child Marriage Hackathon” was launched nationally with the aim of sourcing new solutions to address child marriage from the tech, innovation and entrepreneurship communities. This hackathon was created to engage youth in developing innovative solutions in the areas of male engagement, community awareness on the law to prevent child marriage, and on the tracking of child marriage cases. A high-level panel chose the winner of the contest – a community-based initiative led by young people in Cabo Delgado.

With support from both the Rapariga Biz programme and the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, a mentorship manual and implementation guide targeting boys and young men on sexual and reproductive health, HIV, gender-based violence, life skills, gender equality, and positive masculinities was developed and piloted in two districts. The pilot included training of six mentors who reached 100 boys and young men.

USE OF DATA

UNFPA programmes are data-based, and helping the country to develop and maintain accurate and up-to-date demographic and social statistics is a key element of support. To benefit from these statistics means integrating demographic data and population and development issues into the updated National Development Strategy for 2020-2040, which is an ongoing engagement of the UNFPA country programme. The availability of the recent census data was instrumental in helping the Government and all development and humanitarian partners address the COVID-19 pandemic and the humanitarian crisis in the north.



September 2020

Impact of Census Geo-Referenced Maps

Geo-referenced maps based on the results of the 2017 census were launched in Maputo and then supplied to every district in the country. The maps show the distribution and the exact location of available services, vital information for future planning.



Dissemination of subnational population data, projections and microdata was a **key milestone** in the use of census data for development planning and humanitarian action.



The Mozambique Government adopted the census results in the planning of the **new five-year planning cycle**.



Understanding that the gender dimensions of census analysis and dissemination are under recognized, **350 government staff** (60 per cent women) had their capacity in **gender statistics** enhanced.



20,000 people from Government, civil society and academia, were trained in **statistics literacy**.

A large part of the work in 2020 was spreading more widely the census results that had been released in 2019, illustrating to Mozambicans why the data had such an impact on their lives. This included through the generation of additional local-level data, various media releases, including cartoons that graphically presented demographic data in an understandable way, and the use of new road markers that showed the population of every province and district. Particularly important was the dissemination of new geo-referenced maps to be used in planning.

Census

UNFPA, working through a multi-donor trust fund, supported the 2017 population and housing census in Mozambique. The results were launched in 2019, and during 2020, the National Institute of Statistics and other bodies utilized the data from the census to support development programming and planning as well as for COVID-19 response planning. As ongoing follow-up to the census, revised population projections until 2050 were made while further disaggregation of data was used to identify the most vulnerable populations. A 10 per cent microdata sample of the census was released for public use and analysis. The national framework of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators was established and Mozambique's first SDG voluntary national review was submitted in 2020. The framework includes more than 20 population-based and census-drawn indicators.

There was also a massive effort to develop analysis capacity on gender statistics with the training of staff from the National Institute of Statistics at national and provincial levels, as well as staff from other sectors.

Using the 2017 census data, the National Institute of Statistics developed geo-referenced maps and distributed them to all 11 provinces, 168 districts and 748 administrative posts.

The geo-referenced maps showed the distribution of the population and the exact locations of such services as schools, health posts and water posts. The maps detailed, for example, whether a health facility had maternity services or not. All of these data gave national, provincial and district planners a valuable planning tool, including for the response to COVID-19.



ENSURING EVERYONE COUNTS: CENSUS DATA FOR ALL MOZAMBICANS

Veronica, age 25, lives in a small locality in Nampula province. At one point in her life she had to walk 12 kilometres to school. At 16, Veronica became pregnant by a man ten years her senior. He departed during her seventh month of pregnancy, leaving her to become a single mother while trying to finish her studies. While giving birth, Veronica could have suffered complications which, if left untreated, could have been fatal, or like many girls, once becoming pregnant, she could have dropped out of school. Eventually, with the support of her parents, Veronica returned to school and now counsels girls on issues related to child marriage and teenage pregnancy under the Rapariga Biz programme.

Veronica's situation is not uncommon in Mozambique. The 2017 census showed that 79 per cent of the population is younger than 35 and 41 per cent of girls aged 15-17 in Nampula have already been married. It further revealed that 452 women die in childbirth for every 100,000 live births. These data, if properly analysed, disseminated and communicated, can help ensure that girls like Veronica do not travel such long distances to school and can get the reproductive and maternal health services they need, regardless of age or location.

Mozambique's latest population and housing census took place in 2017, with the results released in April 2019. The census is a unique source of information on the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. These data are even more important in the face of a pandemic, when the provision of emergency medical facilities requires data on the affected populations.

However, the census is only of value if the data are analysed and disseminated and used in development planning. As the census analysis digs deeper into the data, girls like Veronica can be better supported by key social services, ensuring that regardless of geography and income level, she is not left behind.

INNOVATION

A photograph of a control room. In the foreground, a person's hands are visible, wearing a blue patterned face mask. The background shows a mixing console with many sliders and buttons, a microphone on a stand, and some papers on a desk. The word 'INNOVATION' is written in large white letters across the top of the image.

During the trajectory of 2020, it became apparent that much programming had to be shifted to digital and telecommunications platforms because of social distancing requirements and the lack of face-to-face contacts. Fortunately, UNFPA had been supporting several initiatives that developed tools for communicating and for collecting and analysing data that made use of such platforms. During 2020 many programmes incorporated new communication tools into their outreach. In addition, the agency nurtured certain projects built specifically around digital innovation.



Chopela Mama

As part of the “2020 Design Sprint”, the Mozambique office introduced “Chopela Mama” in June 2020: a ride-hailing platform that connects expectant mothers in remote communities with formal and informal drivers so that women can obtain obstetric care safely and timely. Chopela Mama also enhances community engagement by identifying local champions willing to join this 24-hour ride-hailing app to save lives of mothers and babies by shortening the distance and time to receive emergency obstetric care. During 2020, Zambezia was chosen as the pilot province, and the project engaged staff and designed the communication and transport models.

InfoViolencia

The Ministry of Interior has scaled up a digital platform, InfoViolencia, to register and manage GBV cases. The digital platform is designed to facilitate the referral of gender-based violence survivors to institutions that provide essential services, such as health units, prosecutors and courts, and social services. The tool will serve as an important step in the country’s ability to better manage, analyse and use data on violence cases. A full pilot of the database was conducted during 2020, including three training sessions for 66 police officers from Gaza, Manica and Nampula provinces, in preparation for a national roll-out.

InfoFistula

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to build a real-time monitoring system for obstetric fistula - InfoFistula - with the technical assistance of Operation Fistula, a non-governmental organization. Challenges in data collection and analysis have hindered efforts to provide high quality services throughout the cycle of care for obstetric fistula. InfoFistula is an easily customizable mobile app that supports frontline workers for data collection and service delivery. The app documents and improves interaction between a fistula patient and her care team across the cycle of care. The innovative project started in three provinces in 2019, training 45 health and social action workers on using the app and dashboard. Up to December 2020, the dashboard had registered 389 patients of whom 269 surgeries had been performed. By the end of the year, 112 users, health providers and social workers had been trained on the real-time monitoring system, which had expanded to 25 health facilities and to five out of six target provinces.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2017-2020)

ACHIEVEMENTS

IN 2020

Percentage of achievements of UNFPA targets during 2020:

Green = 100% or more

Yellow = 70% or more

Orange = less than 70%

1. Percentage of health facilities in four selected provinces with the capacity to provide basic emergency obstetric services



2. Number of obstetric fistula repairs supported by UNFPA



3. Percentage of new users in modern contraceptive methods in selected provinces



4. Percentage of pregnant women being tested for HIV during antenatal care visits in selected provinces



5. Percentage of health facilities with no stock-out of contraceptives at any given time



6. Percentage of institutional maternal deaths with causes reported



7. Number of districts with gender-sensitive contingency plans in place



8. Number of adolescent and youth organizations actively engaged in premature marriage and sexual abuse prevention at national level





9. Implementation rate of annual Action Plans for the Universal Periodic Review recommendations on adolescent and reproductive health issues

250%

10. Percentage of young people aged 15-24 (reached by UNFPA-supported youth programs) who have comprehensive knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention

105%

11. Number of Integrated Assistance Centres for gender-based violence with all four functions operational

133%

12. Percentage of reported cases of gender-based violence that are followed through the multisectoral mechanism "ficha única"

85%

13. Number of gender-sensitive social and economic plans at national ministry level available

105%

14. Percentage of nationally selected SDG indicators that are regularly updated

100%

15. At least 50% of implementation of the National Demographic Dividend Roadmap by 2020

100%

16. Number of thematic analyses that reflect key population dynamics for policy development

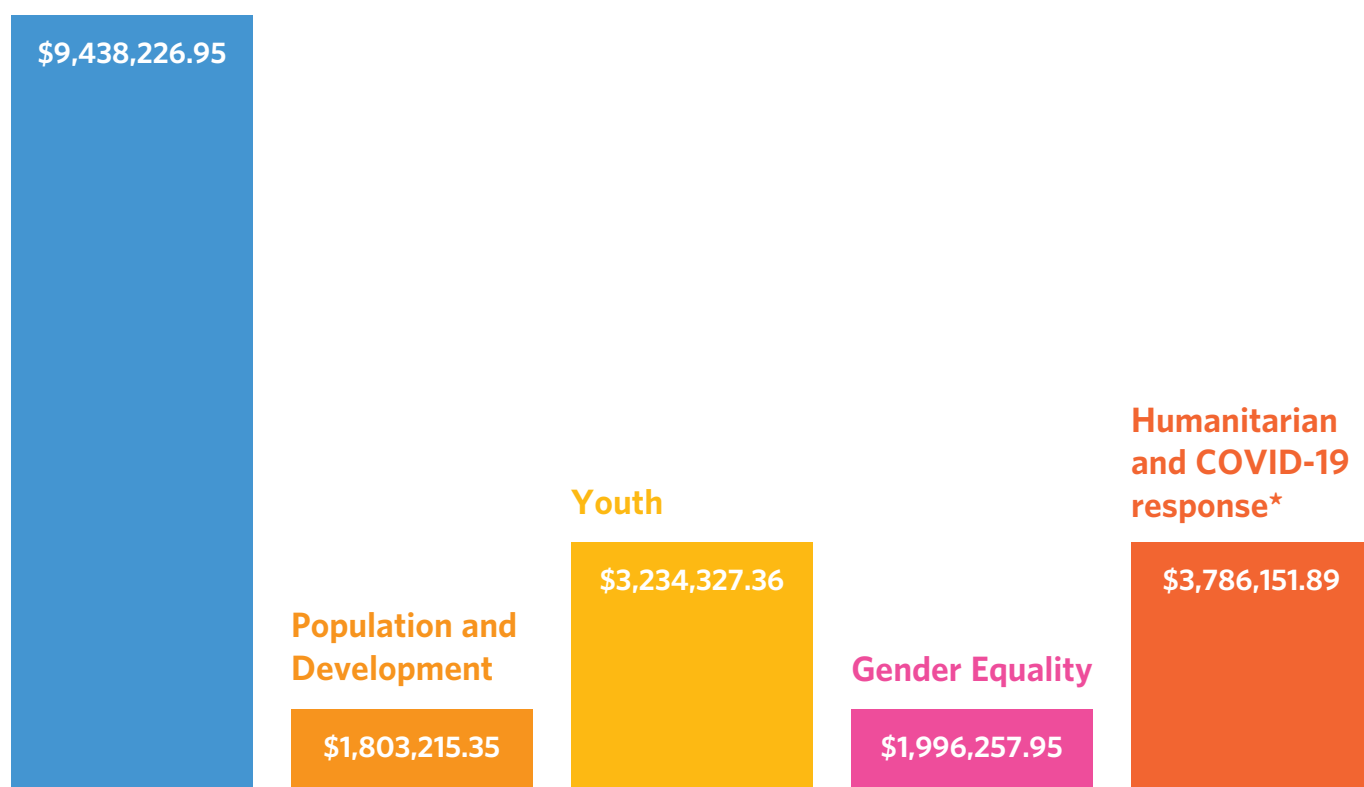
50%

RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

The work of UNFPA in Mozambique and around the world is only possible because of generous donor contributions. During 2020, UNFPA's Mozambique country office received support from the UNFPA core budget and from different donor governments and foundations — making possible the accomplishments outlined in this report.

TOTAL: \$20,258,179.50

Sexual and Reproductive Health



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Donors: Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, UN AIDS, UNFPA Supplies, UNFPA Thematic Trust Fund - Multi-Donor (Maternal Health and Reproductive Health Commodity Security II), United Kingdom

Population and Development

Donors: Canada, United Kingdom, Sweden, UNFPA core funding, Gates Foundation,

Youth

Donors: UN Global Fund to end Child Marriage, UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Canada, Sweden, United Kingdom), UNFPA core funding

Gender Equality

Donors: Spain, European Union (EU), UNFPA core funding

Humanitarian and COVID-19 response*

Donors: Canada, China, Kingdom of Norway, UN OCHA/CERF, World Bank, UNFPA Emergency Response Fund (ERF), UNFPA Trust Fund

*Note that this does not include reprogrammed funding to support the humanitarian or COVID-19 response

OUR PARTNERS

In order to accomplish its work in Mozambique, UNFPA works with a large number of partners that have the expertise and geographical reach needed to achieve programme goals. UNFPA works in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, which provides the policy framework for its work and also implements many of the programmes. Other implementing partners are both international and civil society organizations, including smaller non-governmental and community-based organizations working at the grass roots.

Government of Mozambique partners:

- Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ministry of Education and Human Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Action and related provincial authorities
- Ministry of Health, related provincial directorates, including the National Institute of Health
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs
- National Institute of Statistics
- State Secretary for Youth and Employment

**note this list does not include all government partners at the district or provincial levels.*

Implementing partners from civil society, include: AMODEFA, Coalizão da Juventude, Cooperativa FSD, DKT, Focus Fístula, Fórum Mulher/Muleide, Fundação Wiwanana, Fundo para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC), Help Code Itália, Johns Hopkins University, NAFEZA, Operation Fistula, Plan International, Médicos com África CUAMM and The Population Council.





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