



# JUNTOS

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Delivering as One in Mozambique  
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## Editorial

### Crossing the high waters of the Zambezi together

March 2010, was a challenging but rewarding month for the Government, the Humanitarian Community and indeed the UN agencies in Mozambique. Following the occurrence of drought and localized flooding, Mozambique's early warning, preparedness and response system were tested in real time operation.

With the onset of the emergency looming, there was excellent coordination as partners sprang into action. The populations were warned of the discharges of the Cabora Bassa with enough time to relocate, and the Government National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) and the humanitarian clusters partners mobilized themselves for Caia, in the vicinity of the disaster prone Zambezi River, where one of the major hubs of the INGC's operations arm (CENOE) is located, with the aim of ensuring adequate preparedness and an effective response.

This determination to respond effectively to any disaster was even more evident when the Government declared an institutional Red Alert on 9 March 2010, following a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The declaration of this Red Alert served as a preparedness measure, in order to mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall and related outflows from several dams and rivers in the sub-region, and was meant to activate all institutions represented at the national level.

Given the already fragile situation faced by 460,000 people in the central and southern regions of Mozambique, who were suffering the effects of the drought and reported a 30% loss of crops, this timely, coordinated response between the Government and its partners meant less human suffering. Even as the floods affected a total of one hundred thousand people in the Zambezi valley, minimal rescues were required. Moreover, the UN and partners worked to meet the most pressing needs by responding with transport, water and food interventions for several affected groups, health interventions against malaria and diarrhea, and telecommunications support for overcoming extensive road damage and transit restrictions that made it difficult to access some critically affected areas.

After two weeks, the red alert was downgraded to orange, even as heavy rains continued to fall. As we have seen before, therefore, it is evident that a good early warning and preparedness plan can make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. Contributing to this success, activities to monitor rainfall and river levels were upgraded in 2009, and some communities now have their own early warning systems in place. Additionally, the ongoing yearly simulation exercises, organized by the Government and supported by Humanitarian actors and donors, helped to capitalize on the strengths of current operations, as well as to identify the gaps, which many stakeholders are working to bridge with the Government.

Further, the elaboration of national contingency plans and the allocation of budget to support assessments, search and rescue, and limited response interventions, have streamlined our capacity to respond immediately to a shock. At the same time, partners are working with the Government to strengthen the national capacity to identify the risk areas, inform the populations and assess future needs related to water and food.

Once again, joint work between the Government and the Humanitarian Country Team Clusters has overcome the challenges posed by recurrent natural disasters in Mozambique. In future, we will continue to face these obstacles with unity of purpose, in order to cross the high waters of the Zambezi together!



**Lola Castro**  
Representative and Country Director  
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### Combating Climate Change jointly in Chicualacuala

Building rehabilitation, irrigation systems, livestock corridors, are some of the concrete results beginning to emerge in the UN Joint Programme on Environmental Mainstreaming and Adaptation to Climate Change, financed from the MDG Achievement Fund and funded by the Government of Spain.

In mid April a mission consisting of the Spanish Ambassador to Mozambique, Eduardo Lopez Busquets, two UN heads of agencies and UN technical staff, visited the programme site in Chicualacuala District in Gaza Province in Mozambique, some 400 km north of the Capital City Maputo. In its mid-stage of the three year

vast and sparsely populated area of shrub forest cut through by the Limpopo River. Semi-arid conditions and poor communication and transport lines have impinged on the district's development for decades. Chicualacuala is synonymous with hardship and isolation in Mozambique.

The Chicualacuala situation risks getting worse. Today climate change, which is leading to prolonged droughts that, when they break, usually result in extensive flooding, has become another threat to the district.

The 45,000 inhabitants of Chicualacuala are highly dependent on subsistence agriculture and



duration, the Programme is funded with USD \$7 million from a mechanism designated the Millennium Development Fund (MDG-F) established by the Spanish Government.

Ambassador Eduardo Lopez Busquets, noted his satisfaction with the progress so far. "The programme is formulated well and is beginning to show results, both at the field level among the communities in Chicualacuala and at the institutional level among UN agencies," he observed.

In the small town of Mapai, in Chicualacuala District there is a bar named "O fim do mundo" (the end of the world). Over five hundred kilometres and ten hours drive from Maputo lies a

livestock production. Both these livelihoods are very vulnerable to climate variability, such as irregular and unpredictable rainfall patterns; more frequent, severe and persistent droughts; desertification and strong winds causing soil erosion and evaporation. Increased temperatures are creating the conditions for the emergence of new crop and animal pests and worsening the problem of water scarcity for irrigation, livestock watering and domestic use.



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One of the main coping strategies in the district is charcoal production, exploiting the extensive but rapidly declining forests, and leading to desertification, soil erosion and exacerbating the effects of climate change.

However, there are reasons for hope: the railway, joining the Mozambican capital Maputo to Zimbabwe, provides a link to markets; the Limpopo river whose banks are lined by plains with rich soils which, when properly irrigated and drained, could provide generous harvests of fruit and vegetables as well as feed for high value animals such as rabbits and pigs; and a growing awareness among communities and local policy makers of the dangers and answers to climate change.

Today, the most persistent image in Chicualacuala are the sacks of charcoal piled high along the railway line, representing at once both hope and warning - it is the aim of the Joint Programme to turn the hope represented by the rich soils and the railway into reality while enabling communities to heed the warning of deforestation and of the threats posed by climate change.

The Government of Mozambique has targeted the UN Joint Programme on Chicualacuala district for its interventions as it is both among the neediest districts in the country as well as the one most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Strengthening government's capacities to prevent, respond and recover from extreme climate events and enhancing food security through increased production and improved access to food and

diversified sources of income are crucial to bounce back climate change.

In addition, supporting community-based initiatives to build more sustainable and more climate-resilient livelihoods would help to lessen the impacts. This is the formula adopted by the Mozambican Government and six UN Agencies within the Joint Programme.

In its first 20 months of implementation, the programme has achieved some encouraging results. These include raising awareness of the implications of climate change within the communities and the progressive mainstreaming of climate change adaptation measures into district development plans.

For each bag of charcoal waiting to be delivered to Maputo by train or truck, ten times its weight in wood would need to be cut and at least 350 tons of wood is being converted into charcoal every day in Chicualacuala and neighbouring Massangane districts. The evidence for deforestation is becoming clear.

Aware of this situation, the community is implementing public awareness plans to reverse the situation. The members of the District Technical Team, responsible for the new District Economic Development Plan just approved, explained how they had benefited from training on mainstreaming environment and climate change into local development plans: A detailed analysis of the risks in each part of the district has provided a much stronger basis of factual information to inform district level policy making. The Joint Programme is financing the



rehabilitation of the building belonging to the meteorological institute and purchasing meteorological equipment for the district, in a partnership with the National Meteorological Institute, as well as new community radio equipment and training, in partnership with the National Disaster Management Institute. This will serve both to provide early warning of potential disasters such as floods, droughts and bush fires and to provide weather forecasts for farmers.

Further efforts in coming years will include introducing renewable energies and water harvesting techniques to further expand small farmer production and make it less vulnerable, as well as a new slaughterhouse to reduce health risks from unsanitary slaughter and poor meat handling.

This Adaptation to Climate Change Joint Programme is part of the Delivering as One UN reform that Mozambique is one among eight countries in the world to pilot. The aim is to develop and put into practice new approaches that will allow the UN agencies to jointly deliver better and more efficiently.

## Ministry of Women and Social Action to Coordinates Programme with the entire UN

The cooperation between the Government of Mozambique through its various sector ministries has existed for over three decades. However, this cooperation has always been coordinated with UN Agencies individually according to their respective mandates, administrative procedures and reporting mechanisms. Much time was invested by the Government Ministries in servicing the partners.

In a clear new way of doing business, the Ministry of Women and Social Action (MIMAS) held the first coordination meeting with all UN agencies that it partners with or those that intend to.

"As the Five Year Government Plan has just been approved, and as our ministry starts its specific strategic plan, we thought it wise to have the UN partners all together so we could share with you the Government development priorities for this mandate and together have a cohesive plan", said the Minister for Women and Social Action, Yolanda Cintura addressing the meeting that was attended by the most senior staff in her ministry and UN Senior Officials representing over 15 resident and non-resident agencies.

"We need to eradicate poverty in general and specifically deal with the growing problem of street begging by women and children, ensure gender equality in sectors of life, combat domestic violence, ensure that the most vulnerable members of our society have access



**Better coordination will ensure equal opportunities for Mozambican children**

to shelter, food, education and work opportunities by strengthening social safety nets, among others. Better coordination with our partners is one of highest priorities to be able to achieve these goals", the Minister emphasized.

The Government vision for poverty eradication and the mandate of the United Nations makes our strategic partnership a natural imperative, observed the UN Resident Coordinator Ndolamb Ngokwey. He also noted that MMAS approach was a vivid example of what the UN intends to achieve with the accelerated reforms, the Delivering as One initiative. "By having all the agencies discuss with MMAS in one room and for one plan, we can be better coordinated, avoid time wastage, avoid duplication and maximize resource application in pursuit of concrete development results for the Mozambican people", he said.

MMAS will cooperate with the various UN agencies in thematic areas such as: Gender equality and equity, social protection, HIV-AIDS and gender interventions, policies that create an environment to foster the wellbeing of the most vulnerable, combat domestic violence, support policy on provision of affordable decent shelter, protection of refugees particularly women and girls, support programmes that cater for people living with disabilities, promote job creation, support programmes that prevent people trafficking and exploitation, among others.

## Mozambique Roll out Roadmap of the UN Assistance Framework

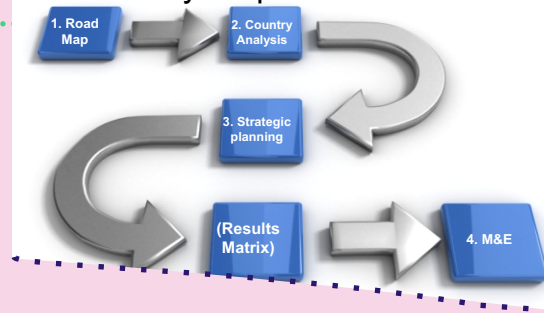
The United Nations System in Mozambique has initiated the design of the next development assistance framework (UNDAF) to start implementation in 2012. This follows the UNDAF/One Programme (2007-2009) extended for 2 years through 2011 to be aligned with the Government Development Plan (PARPA II, 2007-2009) also extended to 2010 in terms of the programme content.

This will be the fourth generation of the UNDAF in Mozambique following the initial cycle in the period 2002-2006. The third UNDAF, is currently under implementation in the context of the UN reform. Mozambique is one of the 8 pilot countries of this accelerated reform programme also known as the Delivering as One (DaO) initiative. As the designation of Mozambique as a DaO UN pilot country came after the development and signature of the 2007-9 UNDAF, **2007 to 2009 been viewed as a transition period** towards the development of One Country Programme for the next programming cycle.

The approval of the Government new Five Year Plan (5YP) for the 2010-2014 period in April this year, kicked off the UNDAF roll out process in Mozambique. To facilitate the alignment with the two main Government plans (G5YP and its operational component still to be launched), the UNCT decided to develop the UNDAF programme in two stages: The strategic UNDAF in 2010 in line with the new G5YP and the UNDAF Action Plan in 2011 when the Government's operational plan is finalized.

In order to simplify the common programming process, the UNDAF Action Plan will replace the agency specific country programme operational plans. In addition, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) decided to develop a Common Country Programme Document (CCPD), as opposed to the agencies specific CPDs as done in the past, for approval by respective Governing Boards, with an annex on how each agency will contribute to the CCPD.

### Mandatory Steps



The UNCT also decided not to conduct a Common Country Assessment, but to develop the UNDAF based on the existing assessments, evaluations and studies. This includes the PARPA review conducted in 2009, the UNDAF Mid Term Review (MTR) also conducted in 2009, the UNDAF annual review just ended 2010, the DaO country-led evaluation, the 2010 UNDAF evaluation, the position paper on key development issues prepared by the UNCT in 2009 among others. The new strategic UNDAF document is expected to be completed by November 2010.

## Gender equity in the media discussed as part of International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the United Nations in Mozambique organized a public discussion on women and the media in Mozambique to encourage greater participation of women in media organizations and the inclusion of the gender perspective in editorial content. The event was hosted at the National Journalists' Union (SNJ) in Maputo on March 11th as part of the "Women Make the News 2010" initiative, which UNESCO launches internationally every year to promote gender equity in newsrooms.

This year's event was held under the theme "Towards Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media: Best practices for gender perspective in media and in media content." Some

30 people from media organizations, higher education institutions, government bodies, bilateral partners, the UN system and civil society attended the discussion, which was organized in association with SNJ, the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA), the Association of Women in the Media (AMCS) and the Women's Forum (Forum Mulher). According to a study on gender balance in the media in Mozambique presented during the event, only 27% of jobs at media organizations in Mozambique are held by women compared to 41% in the Southern Africa region. The participants urged the sector to create more opportunities for women, particularly in top management positions.



The media in Mozambique needs to more female practitioners to ensure gender balance

### Commemorative Dates

#### May

- 3 World Press Freedom Day
- 8-9 Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during WWII
- 15 International Day of Families
- 17 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity
- 25-31 Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
- 29 International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 31 World No-Tobacco Day (WHO)

### Up-coming Events

- 11 First meeting of the CS advisory Board
- 31 UN comparative advantage workshop
- 31 The Preliminary prioritization workshop with the Government

