



# HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / **MOZAMBIQUE**

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance



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**RAPID App:** Helping decisionmakers visualize future problems, today! Available now at virtual stores everywhere.

## Overview

The Health Policy Project (HPP) supported government and civil society partners to strengthen Mozambique's HIV response, combat gender-based violence (GBV), mobilize political support for family planning (FP), and estimate resource needs. Since its inception in August 2011, HPP/Mozambique has

- Strengthened the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to prevent and respond to GBV
- Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and other government partners to estimate the costs of key health sector policies and plans
- Provided technical assistance to government partners to support data collection and analysis for FP advocacy and policy planning

## Family Planning Advocacy: Population Modeling and Innovation

Investments in healthcare have begun to show a positive impact on maternal and child health in Mozambique, with a gradual decrease in child mortality from 178 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 97 in 2011.<sup>1</sup> However, the total population continues to grow rapidly, contributing to significant challenges in improving or even sustaining service coverage and quality. To help overcome these challenges, HPP, with the government of Mozambique (GOM), recently created population projection scenarios to illustrate how various FP initiatives could alleviate population growth pressures across several sectors. The project

- Provided technical assistance to government partners to support data collection and analysis for FP advocacy and policy planning
- Worked with the GOM to apply the RAPID<sup>2</sup> model to demonstrate the potential benefits of investing in FP programs and services
- Developed a RAPID App to facilitate decisionmakers' analyses of population projection data

## Capacity Building: Preventing Gender-based Violence and Promoting Gender Equality

HIV prevalence remains high in Mozambique, with women being disproportionately affected by the epidemic (13% prevalence among women vs. 9% among men).<sup>3</sup> GBV continues to hamper the country's HIV response and diminish the overall health and well-being of individuals. To show its commitment to combating GBV, the GOM established a policy framework to reduce gender inequality and other negative gender-related factors. To help ensure the framework's effective implementation, HPP

- Helped foster a sustainable and supportive environment at the grassroots level for GBV and HIV prevention programs

“We see men helping women with some household chores. Men who before were resistant to talking about change are willing to listen now. They understand and they hear what we are saying. Some of them are exhibiting positive changes; some are still in thinking about this. They have behavior that is with them since they are children.”

—*Conselho Cristão de Moçambique, Activista*

## Select Publications

*Estimated Resource Needs and Impact of Mozambique's Plano Estratégico do Sector Saúde, 2014–2019*

*Preventing Gender-based Violence: A Training Manual*

*Mozambique RAPID: Population and Development*

*Increasing Capacity in GBV Programming: From Program Integration to Community Perceptions: A Case Study Assessment of the HPP Gender-Based Violence Program in Mozambique*

- Strengthened the capacity of host-country stakeholders—including 12 civil society organizations—to incorporate GBV and gender strategies into their programs
- Provided technical assistance to 12 grassroots organizations to mainstream gender into organizational policies and procedures

## Health Financing: Resource Needs Estimation

To maintain gains from previous years and address new challenges, the GOM recognizes the importance of estimating resource needs to achieve the country's health goals. HPP, working closely with the government, used the OneHealth<sup>4</sup> Tool to estimate the investments required to improve health financing and budgeting. While enhancing the government's capabilities in this area, HPP

- Generated costing data and gap analyses to inform key strategies, such as the HIV/AIDS Acceleration Plan and the Health Sector Strategic Plan
- Helped the MOH use the data generated for the HIV/AIDS Acceleration Plan to identify cost barriers and efficiencies and negotiate internally and externally for additional funding
- Strengthened the MOH to prioritize interventions and effectively align resources within its health programs

## The Way Forward

The GOM's hard work and commitment in the areas of gender, family planning, HIV, financial forecasting, and costed strategy development have resulted in an increased understanding of what is required to meet the country's outlined goals and objectives. To build on the momentum achieved and fully integrate gains throughout Mozambique's health systems, the following are still needed:

- Further investment (time and resources) in advocacy by nongovernmental organizations and in political structures that will create more robust and lasting impact
- Additional FP investment and the creation of multisectoral strategies to improve the quality and availability of services, thus enabling the GOM to mitigate the impacts of population growth
- Improvement in the quality and availability of data and their continuous refinement to enhance future costing and financial forecasting

<sup>1</sup> Directorate of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Health (MISAU). 2013. *Plano Estratégico do Sector da Saúde, PESS 2014–2019*.

<sup>2</sup> The Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development (RAPID) model projects the social and economic consequences of high fertility and rapid population growth for such sectors as labor, education, health, urbanization, and agriculture. Learn more about the model on HPP's website at <http://www.healthpolicyproject.com/index.cfm?id=software&get=Spectrum>.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Health (MISAU), National Institute of Health (INS), National Institute of Statistics (INE), and ICF Macro. 2010. *Mozambique AIDS Indicator Survey 2009*.

<sup>4</sup> OneHealth is designed to strengthen the development of national strategic health plans by facilitating health system analysis, costing, and financing scenarios at the country level. For more information, visit <http://www.avenirhealth.org/software-onehealth.php>.

## Contact Us

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