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APRIL 2010

**25 April is a day of unified commemoration of the global effort to provide effective control of malaria around the world.**



**25 April 2010**  
Counting Malaria Out



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### Changing the Course of a Life to Transform Others

**M**aria Munacuela, 41 years old, returned from a community meeting dressed in a traditional long dress, a blue scarf in her left hand. Her dress is a sign of respect for the communities with which she works. Her face lights up as she tells the story about how her life changed one day leading her to the work she does today training community volunteers, leaders and colleagues in health and nutrition and working as the Logistic, Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, and the Nutrition and Health Coordinator for USAID partner Africare in five districts in Nampula province.



Maria during a working visit to a community in Nampula province

When Maria was a little girl she helped her mother in the field while her friends passed by on their way to school. At the time, girls were not supposed to go to school. One day, when Maria was ten, she laid down her

spade and walked off with the other children to school. The teacher welcomed her, one student gave her a plate to write on, and her new life began. Maria has been so effective in her work, first with Save the Children and now with Africare, because of her deep understanding of the communities with which she works. She knows the culture and practices of the people; she skillfully navigates difficult conversations at all levels of society, from the poor mother to the district administrator. When Maria talks in her low voice, everyone listens. Her philosophy is to not give things away but rather to show people what they can do with what they already have. Maria is a serious, silent, shining star bringing improved health to Nampula communities, one family at a time.

### Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

*March is Women's History Month in the United States, and as Mozambicans celebrate and honor women on April 7, I would like to commend Mozambique for its commitment to women's rights. Advancing women's equality is at the heart of U.S. foreign policy, and we believe women are critical to solving virtually every challenge the world faces. Mozambique has been an example to many of its neighbors in passing laws that protect women from violence, encourage gender equality, and protect women from being trafficked. Women hold more than a third of the Parliamentary seats and 9 of 51 Ministers and Deputy Ministers are women, as*

*are the Speaker of Parliament and the Ambassador to the United States. Women are at the head of a number of businesses and not-for-profit organizations. All these steps add up, and as we continue to keep women's issues as a key priority in our relationship, we look forward to working with Mozambique to ensure that these important measures are fully implemented so that Mozambican women and girls are free to develop their talents and contribute fully to their communities. We honor Mozambican women across the country for the critical role you play, many of you in very difficult circumstances, to raise and educate your children, to provide for families, to support Mozambican cultural and moral values, and to ensure a brighter future for your country.*

*Leslie Rowe*

# Universal Bed Net Distribution in Sofala



the Carr Foundation, offered its voluntary support to the campaign. The communities in the four targeted districts were eagerly awaiting the bed nets as the rainy season, which is when most of the malaria transmission occurs, was upon them.

The distribution went ahead despite heavy rain and overflowing rivers.

crossed rivers and waited in the rain to receive their bed nets.

The campaign is now finished. 140,000 bed nets were distributed to approximately 46,500 households with a population of around 220,000. The program was considered a success by the local public health authorities as well as the communities. This campaign will serve as a pilot from which a distribution model will be developed so that other provinces in Mozambique can follow in the near future.



*The bed net distribution went on despite heavy rains and muddy roads*



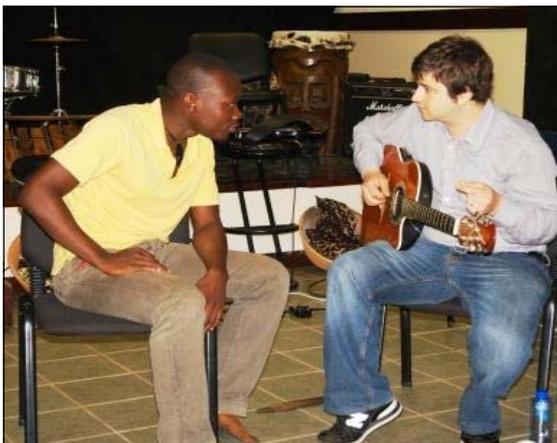
In collaboration with the Sofala provincial Directorate of Health (DPS), the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and strong logistic support from USAID partner Population Services International (PSI) the first large scale universal coverage bed net distribution campaign took place in Muanza, Gorongosa, Cheringoma and parts of Nhamatanda districts in Sofala Province during March 2010.

These districts border on the Gorongosa National Park and The Gorongosa Restoration Project, funded mainly through

Vehicles transporting the bed nets regularly spent hours mired in the sticky mud to reach rural communities. But it was all worth it: nearly every member of each of the communities designated to receive a bed net did so. Families

*Photos: Courtesy of PSI*

## U.S. Embassy Supports Afro-Jazz Concerts in Maputo



*American Jazz Guitarist Jesse Lewis works with a Mozambican guitarist during a workshop with Politecnica students*

Chiwoniso, an American-born singer with Zimbabwean roots, who has spent her life between the two countries, and Jesse Lewis, a sought-after American jazz guitarist, graced Maputo with vibrant afro-jazz from May 31-April 2, including public and private concerts, as well as workshops with Mozambican musicians and music students.

The Embassy was pleased to support the visit of the band, which also included a German saxophonist, Max Wild, and a Danish bass player, among others. The group's music has a strong international flavor, as was especially noticeable in the dynamic collaborations with Mozambican musicians in the concerts and jam sessions.

Chiwoniso's music has been

strongly shaped by both American and African cultural and musical influences, and blends ancient, African soul, with modern spirit. Jesse effectively combines different genres and pushes musical boundaries, and has collaborated with some of New York City's finest musicians over the years.

All the musicians participated actively in outreach to the Mozambican music scene and cultural community, and began friendships and collaboration that will continue for years to come.



*Saxophonist Max Wild and Jesse Lewis jam with students at UEM's School of Communication and Arts*

## PEPFAR Supports Survey on the Causes of Death (INCAM)

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) provided \$2.5 million dollars to support Mozambique's National Survey on the Causes of Deaths (INCAM), whose results were officially released on March 24, in Maputo.

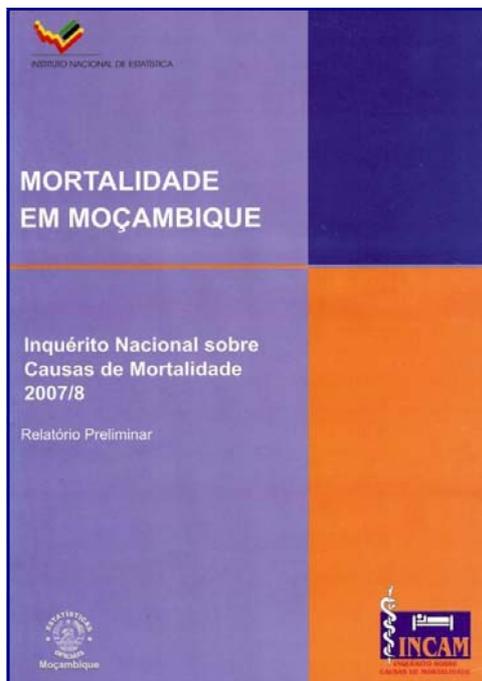
The financial support was channeled through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S. Census Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and MEASURE Evaluation, also provided technical support to the survey, conducted in October 2007 by Mozambique's Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE).

The survey has identified malaria as the leading cause of death for children under five and HIV/AIDS for adults age 15 and above.

"With the INCAM, the government of Mozambique took advantage of an excellent opportunity with the 2007 population census to study a problem of great public health concern in Mozambique," said Peter Young, a strategic information specialist with CDC Mozambique. "...it shows Mozambique's willingness to try novel approaches to solving difficult health challenges," he added.

The INCAM used census data collected in August 2007 to identify households in a representative sample of areas reporting at least one death in the past 12 months. It then interviewed family members from more

than 10,000 households across Mozambique, gathering information which were analyzed by the Ministry of Health doctors in determining the probable cause of death for each death reported in the survey. UNICEF has provided an additional \$350,000 to support the INCAM.



## Mozambique Basketball Coaches Travel to the U.S.



The 12 Mozambican basketball coaches that travelled to the US

12 basketball coaches from across Mozambique traveled to the U.S. for a 10-day visit financed and organized by the U.S. Embassy in Maputo. Their program included visits to basketball programs at U.S. high schools, universities, professional teams, community sports programs, youth leadership, and to see projects that utilize sports as a means to help youth stay in school, away from drugs and violence, and chart a positive course for their lives.

The coaches returned energized with many new ideas on how to improve not only basketball among their players, teams, and schools, but also how to incorporate youth leadership and healthy life into their training. Aspects of American basketball, such as sports for individuals with disabilities, conflict resolution through sports, and athletes as role models were also key components of the visit. The coaches had many opportunities

to see American life and culture, visiting museums, experiencing home hospitality, as well as playing and participating in clinics with NBA and WNBA players, attending a professional game in Washington, D.C., and seeing basketball programs in inner-city communities.

Teresa Edwards, a four-time gold medalist on the U.S. Olympic Team, who was in Mozambique in September 2009, also participated in the program in the U.S.

The Embassy looks forward to continuing collaboration, and organizing follow-on activities with the group to incorporate what they learned into their contact with Mozambican youth players.



Teresa Edwards interacting with the visitors

# Lessons in Leadership for Young Mozambican Women



Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe and Berta Macamo from the Autoridade Tributária share their views on leadership

Throughout March, the U.S. Mission in Mozambique celebrated Women’s History Month with films, talks, and an exposition on women in American culture. Every March the United States honors the achievements and struggles of women throughout history and today.

One of the highlights was a series of roundtables organized for female university students from Mozambican universities. The sessions were designed as an opportunity for the young women to discuss leadership issues with successful Mozambican and American women. During the series the students heard from women working in a variety of sectors including government, diplomacy, not-for-profit and the private sector. The panelists shared their personal experiences, both

the challenges and triumphs, and their views on leadership, while openly and candidly responding to the young women’s questions on matters such as balancing their careers and family lives, succeeding in fields in which there are few women, and the educational and professional choices they have made.

The twelve enthusiastic and intelligent young women who participated were so energized by the roundtables and what they learned, they announced that they planned to continue the discussion on leadership among themselves and seek out more female role models for advice and inspiration.

All of us Inside the Net, Every Night - Universal Coverage Campaign Distribution, was the slogan for the pilot program that took place in March in 5 districts of Sofala Province; see below more images of this activity. (Photos: courtesy of PSI)



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