

Estamos Juntos



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Nov/Dec 2010



**HAPPY
HOLIDAY
SEASON**

Celebrating Mozambican Women

Eleven leading Mozambican women scientists were recognized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in a photo exhibit featuring their work in Maputo on November 16. All eleven women are Fellows of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), a project supported by USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Established in 2008, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is a



project of the Gender & Diversity Program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). As a professional development program that strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, AWARD empowers them to contribute more effectively to poverty alleviation and food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently there are 180 African women working in agricultural research and development

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Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

World AIDS Day was an important moment to remember those affected by the disease. I personally remember two wonderful friends -- Ernie, from the United States and Roberto from Brazil who died in the 1980s, long before there was any life-saving medication. I honor them and also the many everyday HIV-positive heroes who inspire others to fight, rather than give up. In my travels to a number of provinces in Mozambique, I have been privileged to meet exceptional individuals who are HIV-positive or have AIDS, and yet courageously manage their lives. In Cabo Delgado and Gaza I met with HIV-positive mothers who care for their families while battling the disease. In Namputa Province I visited health workers who tirelessly care for patients suffering from the effects of the illness, and spoke with idealistic medical, nursing and pharmaceutical students who have dedicated themselves to saving the lives of fellow

Mozambicans. In Maputo Province I was touched as I visited with HIV-positive children and adults supported by REN-SIDA, and felt proud of the immense contribution that the U.S. government has made through PEPFAR to reduce HIV's impact, increase effective treatment, and fight against discrimination.

Beginning with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25 and ending December 10 with International Human Rights Day, we also take up the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence." These days are intended to engage women, girls, men, and boys in preventing violence and changing gender attitudes, promoting gender equality, and encouraging better healthcare, education, and political and economic participation for women. HIV/AIDS and violence both disproportionately affect women, and I am proud both as an American and a woman that the United States unequivocally stands with Mozambique in our common determination to make these problems issues of the past. *Estamos Juntos!*



SAY NO!



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Golden Basket

During the months of October and November 2010, the U.S. Embassy in Maputo partnered with ProSport to conduct a basketball program called "Cesto de Ouro" (Golden Basket). The intent of the program is to provide both female and male youth from less fortunate backgrounds, who rarely have opportunities to participate in sporting activities, with the chance to participate in a Basketball Clinic, while providing them with a safe and interesting environment in which to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

The PEPFAR funded program hosted so far in the provinces of Tete, Pemba and Nampula has engaged and reached more than 150 secondary school students aged between the ages of 13-17 selected from the communities of Moatize, Cateme, Pemba and Nampula city.

The participants had a unique opportunity to be coached by two professional American basketball players, Kim Adams and Cameron Echols, and renowned local senior Coach of the Mozambican female league Desportivo, Nazir Salé.

After each clinic, information on HIV/AIDS prevention was provided to players, school director, coaches, and other members of the audi-



Cameron Echols encouraging girl player at basketball clinic hosted in Nampula

Rowe, who provided the youth with a personal message thanking them for their participation and encouraging them to stay healthy by engaging



Stretching session with Cameron Echols, Prof. Nazir Salé and participants

in constructive and healthy activities. Activities in all three provinces were covered by local and nationwide radio, as well as some television and print press.

By the end of "Cesto de Ouro" clinics, youth from all three provinces had discussed how to avoid risky behaviors and where to get more information and support to keep themselves and others free from HIV. The clinics gave them an experience to remember and the chance to interact with professional players, and learn new basketball and important life skills at the same time.



Kim Adams during the Pemba clinic teaching participant how to hold a basketball

Using this program as a starting point, ProSport is also exploring ways of making sport programs a more sustainable and substantive part of the school curriculum and community activities.

The Embassy plans to continue organizing upcoming basketball clinics in Maputo Province.

For more information on the project and to view additional pictures please visit the U.S. Embassy's website or watch a short video of the basketball clinic on YouTube link- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH46W25FRME>.



Professional basketball player Kim Adams showing participant how to dribble the ball at the Tete Clinic in Moatize

ence. The professional basketball players also provided prevention messages to the youth, emphasizing on the importance of education, discipline, teamwork and keeping healthy in order to reach their dreams.

In addition, each player received a uniform, an autographed poster with a picture of the two American athletes, which included HIV prevention messages, and a certificate of participation. Information sheets on the history of Basketball and Magic Johnson's activism against HIV/AIDS, American flag bracelets, U.S. team cards, and other cultural items were distributed to thank the community for their participation in this basketball program, and to encourage them in their efforts to keep their community, especially their youth, healthy and involved.

Participants in Pemba also benefited from the presence of Ambassador



Group picture with participants and ProSport team at the Basketball Clinic in Tete

Conto Contigo

In September 2010, 10 children who were infected with or affected by HIV, from two neighborhoods in Maputo – Polana Caniço ‘A’ and Matola ‘H’ - were selected to take part in a project called *Conto Contigo* (I Count on You). The project was designed to help them, through workshops, to recognize their potential and think about their goals and aspirations. The children, aged 10 to 16, were assisted by local and international organizations, such as Kindlimuka, Save the Children, the Hope for African Children Initiative, and other partners with support from the U.S President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID. As part of a broader effort to document the program, the children were asked to capture aspects of their everyday lives through drawings and photographs.



Over the course of two months, the children attended a total of 6 workshops where they learned how to use a digital camera, work with images and colors, and were introduced to the work of Mozambican artists. Between each workshop, the children drew pictures and took photos at home and in their neighborhoods – sometimes on their own and sometimes on joint outings, accompanied by members of the project team. Finally, the children themselves selected those photos and drawings that they wanted to be included in the exhibition.

Through the images and words of the children, we catch a glimpse of their lives and the things that are important to them: going to school and learning new skills; playing with other children; the mothers, grandparents and aunts, who take care of them; food; things of beauty: colors, plants, the beach, houses, and others. Beneath these images are also stories of loss: a red jacket given to a daughter by her mother shortly before she died; and stories of sickness: the streets of the neighborhood being reclaimed as ‘my space’ again when poor health conditions previously prevented the child from playing outside.

In the space of just two months, these children have undergone a remarkable transformation. As their self-esteem has increased, they have opened up to new friendships and challenges, showing how eager they are to learn and how much potential they have when given the right opportunities. Being part of *Conto Contigo* has meant acquiring knowledge and experience to create art; gaining recognition and respect for their skills from their peers, elders and neighbors; being part of a team with other children and adults who show interest in their ideas and achievements; having new hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future: to become a doctor, a photographer, an artist.... Their lives will be forever changed because of their participation in this project.

American Jazz Pianist Visits Maputo



Jeff Gardner during his performance at the U.S. Ambassador's residence

American jazz pianist and music educator Jeff Gardner entertained diverse audiences throughout Maputo city and province during the first leg of his Africa tour November 16 – 20. As a fluent speaker of Portuguese and a master of multiple music styles including samba, bossa nova, jazz, and blues, Jeff interacted with media, musicians, civil society, and other Mozambicans about life as a musician in the United States and in his current home of Brazil, the inspirations of his music, and the African roots of American and Brazilian styles of music. To date, he has 17 albums, 6 published music education books, and an extensive catalog of songs including “Save the Earth” recorded by Gilberto Gil.

The program started November 16 with a performance at the official residence of Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe that also marked the official closing of the “The Vitality of Mozambican Art” exhibit. Famous Mozambican musicians such as Mingas and Stewart Sukuma as well as former Prime Minister Luisa Diogo attended the concert after viewing works by 35 Mozambican painters and sculptors including Malangatana, Samate, and Tinga.

Jeff’s 5 day program included public concerts at Gil Vicente which featured 3 songs with Stewart Sukuma and at Matola Jazz Bar. Jeff also held a musician’s workshop and jam session at the Musicians Association where he spoke about his work ethic, musical inspirations, and the importance of intellectual property rights for music. In addition to a performance and interview on TVM’s *Tudo às Dez*, Jeff also spoke with O País, STV, Radio Mocambique, RTP Africa, and several other outlets. He also taught young Mozambicans basic rhythms by demonstrating several musical styles at Arco Iris in Zimpeto and the Secondary School of Namaacha. The second leg of Jeff’s Africa tour was São Tome e Príncipe.

The Access Program

One, two, three! Throw your hats in the air! To celebrate the moment of graduation from the two-year English Access Micro scholarship Program, 33 graduates participated in an American cultural tradition by tossing their hats into the air to the cheers of the 80 new and current students, proud families, faculty, and provincial officials at Nampula's Municipal Council building. The Access program, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Mozambique and implemented by Instituto de Linguas, currently operates in Nampula and Pemba and provides secondary school students from underprivileged families the opportunity to learn English and about American life, culture, and history. Earlier in November, 18 students graduated to become Pemba's first Access alumni. During their two years, each graduate of the 2010 class spent two hours per day in English language training and participated in leadership training and American and Mozambican cultural training. With diplomas from the US Embassy and Provincial Ministry of Education in hand, the graduates are well prepared professionally and personally to embark upon new challenges. The English Access Microscholarship Program will celebrate its 6th anniversary in Nampula and its 4th in Pemba in 2011.



The newly graduate students from Nampula joyously display their diplomas

U.S. Embassy Employees Contribute to Maputo Orphanage

In October 23, employees from the U.S. Embassy in Maputo delivered over USD \$1,000.00 worth of donated supplies to the Infantário Primeiro de Maio, a local city orphanage. The donated goods included more than forty large cans (2 kg) of powdered baby formula, 20 bundles of baby diapers and numerous health-related items. The Director of the orphanage gave a hearty "Muito Obrigado" to the Embassy for the donations, saying that the baby formula would provide nourishment to the children for the next 2 months. The money used to purchase these items came from U.S. Embassy employee donations at a charity auction held in July. Infantário Primeiro de Maio is a city-run orphanage located in downtown Maputo. It houses a total of 20 infants (0-2 years) and 36 children (2-6 years), many of which are HIV-positive. U.S. Embassy employee Celestina Santos runs Infantário Primeiro de Maio's website/blog (<http://maputoinfantario.blogspot.com/>) and serves as their point of contact for those who wish to contribute to this worthy cause.



U.S. Embassy staff presenting their donation to Infantário Primeiro de Maio

Celebrating Mozambican Women

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from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia who have completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in selected disciplines.

According to a survey conducted by AWARD and Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) between 2000 and 2008, Mozambican women are well-represented in agricultural research and higher education—at least compared to their counterparts from 125 institutions in 15 sub-Saharan African countries. In Mozambique's four largest agricultural research and higher education agencies, 127 out of 360 professional staff are women.

The U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique, Leslie V. Rowe, attended the event honoring the participants and met five of the AWARD Fellows: scientists Filomena dos Anjos of Eduardo Mondlane University and Esperança Chamba, Marta Celeste Francisco, Paula Pimentel, and Alda Tomo of the Mozambique Agriculture Research Institute (IIAM).

"It was my great pleasure to spend a morning with these remarkable women, who by virtue of their training and hard work, serve as a bridge between the millions of Mozambican women who produce food crops, and the scientific and technological developments that will be key to making Mozambique more self-reliant in their food needs," said the Ambassador Rowe. "I pay tribute to their efforts, sacrifices, and am proud that we as a country could partner with them in that process."

To learn more about these scientists and the AWARD program please click here http://awardfellowships.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117%3Ausaid-recognizes-work-of-mozambican-award-fellows&catid=19%3Arelated-news&Itemid=41

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