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U.S. MISSION TO MOZAMBIQUE

IN FEBRUARY WE CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

"During National African American History Month, we recognize the extraordinary achievements of African Americans and their essential role in shaping the story of America. In honor of their courage and contributions, let us resolve to carry forward together the promise of America for our children."

President Barack Obama



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Mozambique Now Has a Tuberculosis National Reference Laboratory

It comes as no surprise to those suffering from the effects of TB in Mozambique that it represents a significant health burden. Mozambique has the highest TB burden and the third-highest estimated mortality rate among 22 countries classified as high-risk. TB occurs in approximately 431 per 100,000 inhabitants per year, with almost twice as many cases in women than in men, which adds up to about 92,000 new cases per year. Currently slightly

less than half of the cases are effectively detected. However, through cooperation and financing between the U.S. government, through USAID and the Mozambican Ministry of Health, on January 26, 2011, a Tuberculosis National Reference Laboratory was inaugurated by the Mozambican Health Minister, Alexander Manguela, and the Director of USAID, Todd Amani.

Speaking at the event, the Minister of Health said that the opening of the Laboratory "represents a further decisive step for the country's health policies to be increasingly based on evidence generated at the national level." Todd Amani, in turn, said that "the Laboratory will contribute to improving prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis ..."



Minister of Health and USAID Mission Director during the inauguration of the TB National Reference Laboratory

The Minister of Health outlined key priorities for the laboratory, including:

specialized diagnosis of micro bacteria, professional continuing education for laboratory technicians, guaranteeing high quality standards for microscopic diagnosis, evaluating new technologies relative to TB, surveilling multi-drug resistant strains of TB, and other scientific research.

(continues on page 3)

Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

As we move from Black History Month to Women's History Month in the United States, which we have actively celebrated here in Mozambique, I would like to take the chance to publicly recognize and thank women across Mozambique for the tremendous work and sacrifices that they make every day. Women are often the instigators of important social change, key supporters of civil and human rights, proponents of sound fiscal and social policy, and drivers of economic growth for every country that recognizes and utilizes their talents. In a recent Newsweek article, our Secretary of State Hilary Clinton declared her belief that "the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century," and I fully agree with her. It has often been said that how a country treats those who are least empowered is a great measure of their civilization and development. I believe that as Secretary Clinton is a great example for me of the kind of

leadership women can provide, leading Mozambican women can inspire those millions of Mozambican women whose talents and potential are not yet realized. On March 21, I will meet with a group of 11 Mozambican scientists who are working agricultural research as part of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development and Borlaugh Women in Science programs sponsored by USAID and the U.S. Department of Agriculture respectively. In Mozambique, where 72% of women live in rural areas and agriculture employs 90% of the country's female labor force, building the country's agro-scientific capacity is vitally important for the country's future and I would like to congratulate these brilliant young researchers on their accomplishments. As with any complex challenge that we face in the world today, empowering women one is going to require a lot of strength and energy to keep moving forward, but we are proud to be a committed partner to Mozambique and other countries to ensure that we can make the necessary progress.

Leslie Rowe

Pemba Insectary Helps the Fight Against Malaria

As is the case in many warmer climates, insects are very often carriers of diseases, including some of the most deadly, such as malaria. In order to develop effective insecticides and understand how better to control insect population, and disease, scientists breed insects in controlled environments called insectaries, and conduct tests to determine the effectiveness of different insecticides, to detect resistance to insecticides, and other important research. The insects are securely contained in the insectary and cannot escape.



Governor Eliseu Machava inaugurating the insectary in Pemba

Teresa McGhie and the Provincial Governor of Cabo Delgado, Eliseu Machava, handed the new insectary over to the Direcção Provincial de Saúde (DPS) in Pemba. The insectary will serve as a regional entomology laboratory for the three provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa. Its strategic goal is to improve the provision of malaria services in the northern region of Mozambique.

The PMI has been functioning under the auspices of USAID in Mozambique since 2006, as one of the 17 countries across Africa

where it supports National Malaria Control Programs in the scale-up of effective malaria control interventions. Examples of such interventions are the procurement and distribution of LLNS, Intra Residual Spraying and entomology activities, and procuring and distributing life-saving anti-malarial drugs, among other programs.

With funding from the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), RTI (Research Triangle Institute) worked in close collaboration with the NMCP (National Malaria Control Program) to refurbish the existing insectary in Pemba, including refitting two 20-foot containers with laboratory furniture, new equipment and supplies. On December 20, 2010 USAID Acting Mission Director,

U.S. Embassy Supported “Dancing for Life” Concert in Mafalala



More than 2,000 Mozambicans enjoyed the series of free concerts, performances by local dance troupes, and other activities. The US Embassy also collaborated with Mr. Arssen in December 2009 for World AIDS Day concerts with American hip-hop artist Keith Murray at Pavilhão Estrela Vermelha and a visit to an orphanage run by Irmãs Franciscanas in Maputo. Autograph cards containing HIV/AIDS prevention messages were distributed at both events, and the Pavilhão Estrela Vermelha concert also offered counseling and testing. The PEPFAR program is currently in its 7th year in Mozambique and is working with partners in multiple sectors to relieve the burden of HIV/AIDS in Mozambique.

The U.S. Embassy sponsored the “Dancing for Life” concert in Bairro Mafalala on December 9, 2010 to commemorate World AIDS Day. The program, organized in collaboration with the non-governmental organization Comunidade Academica para Desenvolvimento Educacional and promoter and hip-hop artist Mr. Arssen, was funded through the U.S. Embassy’s PEPFAR program. During the program, the Embassy’s Public Affairs Section and various hip-hop artists and dancers spoke about the importance of HIV/SIDA prevention and promoted free testing offered on site by PSI, where many adults received counseling and testing services.



Performances by local dance troupes

Boys Circumcised in Nampula



circumcised as this helps reduce the HIV infection.

Speaking in one of the ceremonies, the chefe do Posto Administrativo de Iapala, Somar José, thank the support from the USG and local partner ADAP SF for the initiative. He also criticized those people who did not allow their sons to be circumcised on the ground that their sons would be sold to foreigners. "The Government would never sell his people", stressed Somar José.

The ADAP SF director, Ernesto Lopes, said that despite some initial resistance, the initiative was a success and as the time went by and people saw that it was for real, the Association begun to get many requests from fathers and mothers who wanted to circumcise their sons, including adults themselves. "At the end of the first phase, we got a lot of demand for this service even from people from urban area", he said, adding that in future they will

A total of 470 boys between 5-18 years old were circumcised in Posto Administrativo de Iapala, Ribaué District, in Nampula, under HIV/AIDS prevention and small income generation program implemented by the Associação para o Desenvolvimento Agro-Pecuário para o Sector Familiar (ADAP SF). The initiative was funded by the State Department's Quick Impact Program, under the United States President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The circumcision was free of charge and was done by two local health workers and followed strict medical procedures intended at preventing HIV or other disease infection. The boys also received food and hygienic material.

The circumcision promoted by ADAP-SF was a departure from the old methods practiced locally where one razor would be used to circumcise all the boys and they had to pay 250 meticaís and bring a chicken.

On Jan 15-16, ADAP SF organized three ceremonies to formally handover the last group of circumcised kids to their families. It was a moment of joy and happiness for some of the families. Two theatre groups entertained the participants with shows appealing fathers and mothers to allow their sons to be



Boys at the closing ceremony of a male circumcision initiative in Ribaué district, Nampula province

expand the initiative to other rural areas of Nampula and the focus will still be on vulnerable and orphans boys. Lopes also revealed that at the community elder's women request, ADAP-SF is planning at providing HIV/AIDS education during girls rituals in their second project stage

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Before and after photos of the laboratory

(continued from page 1)

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, other donors, and implementing partners, the U.S. since 2005 has been providing ongoing support to Mozambique's

National Tuberculosis (TB) control program. This includes strengthening treatment programs under observation by medical personnel, increasing detection and treatment success, improving coordination between TB and HIV programs. An-

other important focus of the program is increasing access for rural Mozambicans, particularly women and children, and expanding the programs by training community health workers.

The national laboratory is expected to process more than 6,000 exams over the next 5 years, and to provide training and quality control to more than 207 existing laboratories country-wide.



Minister Manguela and Mission Director Amani posing with MoH and USAID staff members after the inauguration of the laboratory

“Dancing for Life” Concert in Mafalala



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