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Three Mozambican Scientists Winners of the 2011 AWARD Fellowships

Felicidade Margarida Macome, Graça Manjate, and Ângela Manuel Manjichi were among the 70 winners of the 2011 AWARD Fellowships. These outstanding researchers were selected from among an impressive cadre of 785 applicants from 11 African countries, bringing the total number of women in the program to 250.

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

is committed to building the capacity of African women scientists who are conducting pro-poor agricultural research.



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New American Peace Corps Volunteers in Mozambique

Twenty-nine new American Peace Corps Volunteers who will work in the health field were sworn in Friday, August 12, 2011 during a ceremony held at the official residence of US Ambassador Leslie Rowe in Maputo. The volunteers will now live and work in 8 provinces throughout Mozambique for a period of two years.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe, congratulated the volunteers and emphasized that their assignments were selected in accordance with the local authorities. "Peace Corps



Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe, the Peace Corps Country Representative, Carl Schwartz, the Peace Corps Volunteers and members of the traditional dance group

Volunteers only serve in countries that request them and go where the host government asks them to go", said Ambassador Rowe. This diverse group of Americans works for peace and development at the local level, living in conditions side-by-side with members of the community.

Peace Corps Country Director, Carl Schwartz,



Peace Corps Volunteers swearing in

hoped that people in the assigned communities as well as partners welcome the volunteers and help them to perform their duties. "Your help and guidance will be crucial for the integration of the volunteers...it will not be easy but I am sure that it will be successful", stressed Schwartz. Community support was vital for the ten week orientation program in Namaacha, where volunteers studied Portuguese and learned about HIV/AIDS and other public health challenges while living with host families.

A traditional dance group performed at the two hour event attended by Embassy staff, representatives from the Ministry of Education, the National AIDS Council and partners. There are currently approximately 160 Peace Corps volunteers serving in Mozambique in the areas of education, environment, and health. More than 200,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps since its creation by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, including nearly 700 in Mozambique.

Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

Greetings from Maputo! Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of visiting the "Terra da Boa Gente" for the first time. After just a few days meeting with the beautiful people of Inhambane, I quickly realized that Vasco da Gama was incredibly accurate with his nickname for this historic city. Inhambane is an area with enormous economic potential, especially in tourism considering the region's pristine beaches and the city's rich historic architecture. However, the people are the area's true gift. During meetings with the mayor, secondary school students, and young women visiting Inhambane for the Southern Mozambique

REDES (Raparigas em Desenvolvimento e Saude) Conference organized by Peace Corps volunteers and local community leaders, I learned of the amazing work being done to combat HIV/AIDS, promote education, and transform the area into an engine of development for Mozambique's future. Truly a Boa Gente.

On August 10, I also participated in an Iftar dinner at the Hamza Institute in Matola with 50 Muslim leaders and community members. As a representative of millions of Muslim Americans, it was truly an honor to share in such a beautiful ceremony and meal during the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan Mubarak!

Leslie Rowe

Ogumaniha Brings Happiness to Families

Rosita Carlos Pente, who is married with four children, was born 32 years ago in Catale and has lived for more than 6 years in Namaria (district of Mopeia, Zambezia province). In a recent visit to Namaria, US Embassy staff learned a lot from Rosita about how much life had changed because of USAID's Ogumaniha project, which has developed the community's access to clean water while building capacity of locals to maintain wells into the future.



Traditional wells (nchela) made by the community

Before the project, Rosita and others in Namaria did not have a latrine or access to treated drinking water. Water was just taken from rivers or traditional wells constructed by the community and used as it came out. There was no place to store clean dishes other than the floor and garbage was placed outside the houses for lack of a landfill. Wells dried up in summer and by winter were already unusable.

She said, "I am delighted with the arrival of the project OGUMANIHA. Before I had a lot of suffering to draw water, sometimes returning from the field tired, hungry, and had to walk far to look for water to cook for my family. Because there was no water nearby we couldn't bathe at home, and had to go to the river or use the well. The water for our consumption was not treated and many people got sick with cholera, diarrhea, malaria and other diseases. We

suffered a lot because of the water. Our husbands were digging nchela (traditional wells), some were destroyed and others did not last long. Our community had no latrines."



Rosita Pente at the new water source in Namaria

Since September 2010, the Ogumaniha project, funded by USAID, built eight wells, equipped with Afridev hand pumps in Mopeia. During this activity, six community members were trained to build wells and another 32 were trained to do the maintenance and

rehabilitation of the pumps and to erect fences around the wells to protect them from the animals. These community members were also trained to educate the people to use the areas near the wells for vegetable gardens, using the wasted water. Since then, community members have contributed to the sustainability of the project by paying a symbolic amount of 5 Meticaís per month for the maintenance and repair of the water pump.

This project, says Rosita, "made a big impact on our lives and taught us great things: how to build and use latrines, how to keep the dishes clean and use landfills for household garbage; now we have a water pump close by so that we don't have to walk long distances looking for water. This project brought happiness to many families in Namaria"

U.S. Embassy Sponsors HIV/AIDS Workshop in Catembe

Last June in Catembe, the PEPFAR Small Grants Program of the Embassy of the United States of America sponsored a workshop to provide capacity building to activists and local leaders on HIV/AIDS prevention and reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children.



Participants taking notes during the HIV/AIDS workshop

According to Augusto Langa, Co-ordinator of Associação Tsemba Esperança e Vida, which organized the workshop: "The particular purpose of this workshop (...) was to build capacities among a local group of activists who will disseminate information about the prevention of new infections and reduce the stigma in the community against people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children".

About 25 people participated in the workshop, which according to one of the facilitators, Paula Sabino, 31 years old, had a positive balance. "The balance is positive because when the participants first introduced themselves, they indicated they had never participated in such a training program on HIV/AIDS. It was a big challenge for me to restart

from scratch...but they are now equipped to disseminate the knowledge acquired to other members of the community", stressed Paula.

Zuleca Gabriel Moiane, 23 years old, unemployed, was one of the participants. She claimed she learned a lot and that her dream was to help others who are not aware of HIV/AIDS. "The workshop taught us a lot that we didn't know...we learned so much about the definition of HIV/AIDS, its different stages, the rights of people living with the disease and also not to discriminate against them", Zuleca said. "It is the first time I participated in a workshop like this...before the workshop, I was



Participants doing simulation of home based care of an HIV/AIDS patient

aware of the existence of this disease and took preventive measures, but I learned a lot here and I intend to teach my brothers who don't know or don't want to know...my dream is to help those people", Zuleca stressed.

Besides HIV/AIDS awareness activities, the Associação Tsemba Esperança e Vida is also implementing an income-generating farming and cattle

raising project directly involving 40 women, including widows and single mothers, and which will indirectly benefit around 200 people.

US Embassy Delivers Bed Nets and Sports Gear to the Ministry of Defense and Clube Matchedje



US Department of Defense Representative N. Gregoire and Teófilo João, Permanent Secretary of Mozambique Ministry of Defense during the event

The US Embassy in Maputo, through the Department of Defense (DoD), handed over 5,000 bed nets to the Ministry of Defense of Mozambique and sports gear to Clube Matchedje at a ceremony held Friday, August 10, at the Ministry of Defense.

The bed nets were purchased with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). The sport gears were funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Speaking at the ceremony, the DoD representative, Nicholas Gregoire, said that the donation reflects the "good diplomatic relationship between the governments of the United States of America and Mozambique, and in particular between the DoD and the Mozambican Army."

He said that the sports gear donation is part of a campaign designed to utilize the sport to disseminate HIV/AIDS prevention messages, the correct use of condoms and the need for testing and counseling. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Teófilo João, said that the donation shows the scope of the relationship between the two countries in the defense field, with concrete results and promising perspectives. He promised that the Army and the Clube Matchedje would make good use of the materials donated.

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REDES Groups Take Charge of Their Health and Future

For the young participants of the REDES Project, dreams of being rich are well within reach. From June 24-26, 2011, 24 REDES members from Chimoio and Gorongosa, three local REDES facilitators, and two U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers met in Vila da Gorongosa to exchange ideas about how to be "rich in health" – preparing nutritious and locally-grown foods, celebrating their personal worth, and discussing topics like HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health.



PCV Jordan Mills helps prepare fresh vegetables for pickling for a nutrition workshop led by facilitator Graça.

During the inter-group exchange, facilitators engaged the 14- to 19-year-old participants in a nutrition workshop, taught them how to pickle and sterilize fresh produce, presented a highly interactive theater piece about sexual assault in schools, and encouraged them to highlight their best qualities through a self-esteem-building exercise. The weekend's activities empowered REDES members not only to recognize the links between healthy lifestyles, HIV prevention, and personal well-being, but also to take charge of their own health and future.

REDES, a project supported by PEPFAR funds and carried out with the help of Peace Corps Volunteers and their Mozambican counterparts, was founded to reduce HIV transmission in Mozambican youth through the empowerment of young women. Through conferences, community projects, and inter-group exchanges,

REDES participants learn about themes ranging from business skills and leadership to HIV/AIDS and women's rights. The weekend-long inter-group exchange in Gorongosa was an opportunity for REDES' young women to shine as they participated actively in group discussions and acquired new skills and knowledge related to nutrition and other aspects of personal health. By the weekend's end, members had formed durable friendships, learned tools to lead healthy lives, and embodied the spirit of REDES by teaching one another about positive behaviors. They also played an active role in achieving the shared goals of girls' empowerment and HIV/AIDS prevention in Mozambique. Along with the enthusiastic contributions of REDES' young members, the Mozambican counterparts' impressive facilitating



Members present an Informative theater piece about how to confront the problem of sexual assault in schools.

Facilitator Judite leads members in a self-esteem-building exercise



skills – honed during a REDES facilitators training led by Peace Corps Volunteers and financed by the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section PEPFAR funds – helped to make the inter-group exchange a highly engaging and worthwhile event for all participants.

Mozambique and the U.S. Conduct Hydrographic Survey of Maputo Bay

The U.S. Navy scientific survey ship USNS Bruce Heezen, named after a world-famous American oceanographic surveyor, pulled into the Port of Maputo on June 20, 2011, after a 30-day period in which her crew, in partnership with the Mozambique military, conducted hydrographic surveys of Maputo Bay.

The ship and her complement of two Hydrographic Survey Launch boats scanned 5,276 nautical miles of the ocean floor.

The team is conducting what is called a first order survey, which requires that the entire area of the survey be scanned with a multi-beam sonar array, said the ship's Senior Naval Oceanographic Office Representative, Kenzie Delaine. The survey data will be shared with the Mozambique government's Ministry of Transportation and Communication and Ministry of Defense, providing usable, current navigational data to increase safety of navigation, which will benefit commerce, tourism, and future ship visits to Maputo Bay. Commercial activities in shallow water ports, such as Maputo's, are made significantly safer and more attractive with more detailed information about depths, safest transit areas, leading to greater trade opportunities, as well as facilitating anti-piracy exercises involving larger ships.

Two Mozambique Navy officers were on the ship during the period at sea, serving as liaisons aboard the survey boats during survey operations, and participating in the data collection and processing on board the HEEZEN. "They were great team players; they were in the launches everyday, working with the surveyors and the boat crews. Without

them approximately 60% of our mission wouldn't happen," said Ship Master Ryan White.

The Mozambique Navy has also been providing security escorts for the HSLs during the surveys, utilizing two of the twelve 7 meter rigid hull boats recently supplied to them by the U.S. government as part of an AFRICOM maritime security program. The two embarked officers and their counterparts on the security boats ensure that any vessels in the area maintain a safe distance from the survey vessels while operating. The Mozambique Navy officers speak both English and Portuguese, helping to communicate orders from the survey launches to the security teams and communicating with other vessels in the area that could have interfered with their surveys.



The USNS Bruce Heezen

Mozambique Fuzileiros, similar to U.S. Marines, are also providing physical security on the pier

24 hours a day while the ship is in port.

This is the second 30-day survey mission conducted by the USNS Bruce Heezen and the Mozambique government. Two more are scheduled to take place in the coming months.

On the previous mission, two Mozambique oceanographers from the Ministry of Transportation and Communication were on board the ship and worked side by side with U.S. Naval Oceanographic Service scientists. Future missions will map more of Maputo Bay and will continue to feature a partnership between the U.S. and Mozambique governments.

National Public Radio Visit to Macia



NPR Journalist interviewing mothers in Macia

Melita Manuel Timane, 33 years old, first learned she was HIV-positive in 2005 when she became pregnant. Feeling weak and suffering from severe headaches, she went to a medical appointment where the nurse advised her to take the HIV test, which came back positive.

Melita, who lives in the District of Macia, Gaza province, immediately thought she would die, since she had little information about the disease. However, after the counseling sessions with the nurse, she realized she would not die if she followed treatment and that the baby she was carrying could be born free from the virus. "I was very happy and relieved to know that there was medication for this disease and that I could go on living and taking care of my children", she said.

Her husband left as soon as he found out her status, returning to South Africa, where he was already employed, but this time he did not come back. Melita's story is not different from those of many other women in the Gaza Province of Mozambique, and other places in the world, and this was one of the stories that the NPR Radio (National Public Radio) heard in the Macia Health Center, when they visited to report on mother and child health, and heard success stories of HIV-positive mothers who give birth to

HIV-negative children in the country.

The NPR team included two journalists, Mellissa Block, presenter of the program "All Things Considered", and Andrea Hsu, producer of that program. They arrived in Macia on May 20, 2011 and on that same day, accompanied by representatives of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), visited the Macia Health Center to witness the activities of the Mother and Child Health department and understand the flow of patients.

The interviews were very successful. The women interviewed were not ashamed to share their HIV-status and to tell their story and were very thankful for the visit and the support that EGPAF, through funding provided by the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), has been providing the Center, ensuring they have access to medication and other health services.

"Thank you very much to EGPAF for the support, don't stop helping us, we live in a poor country that requires assistance, and that assistance means we can hope to live, with this medicine", Melita said. Besides being a patient at the health center, Melita is also an activist at the grassroots level association (OCB) OCSIDA, supported by EGPAF. Melita's 6 year old son is HIV-negative because she completed the treatment, but eight-year-old Alberto Francisco Novela, is HIV-positive. He is undergoing treatment but enjoys good health, attends school, plays and runs with the other kids. Melita has faith and hope that her son will understand and accept his status and live for many years, bringing her much joy in life; he's a good student and wants to grow up to be a doctor so he can take care of his brother and mother, as well as the sick people in his community.

On July 28 the back garden of the JAT Building hosted a very unusual event that came to be known as the as the ORANGE DAY @ USAID. Well-wishers, including Ambassador Leslie Rowe and USAID Deputy Mission Director Teresa McGhie got together to bid farewell to Irene de Souza on her retirement, planted Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato vines and sported their best orange-colored outfits. Great fun was had by all!



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