



## UN invests in women to face the economic downturn

On 11th July the world will celebrate, for the 20th time, the Population Day with a reflection on the impact of the global economic downturn in the most vulnerable groups, in particular women - the majority of the worlds poor.

This year's theme is "Responding to the Economic Crisis: Investing in Women is a Smart Choice". For the United Nations in Mozambique this is an opportunity to take stock, scale up ongoing joint efforts and protect the gains already made.



At the moment, no one knows what the full scale of the current global economic crisis will look like. What is known is that vulnerable people, in particular women, in developing countries will be seriously affected. Mozambique is no exception.

Globally, the crisis is threatening to wipe out hard-won progress in improving health and reducing poverty. Cuts in funding for social programmes can immediately curtail life-saving services, and cause a loss of momentum in improving health and reducing poverty that will take decades to regain.

In Mozambique, estimates indicate that the country's economic growth will slow down. Thus, the country will continue to rely heavily on its development partners, including the United Nations to be able to meet all its social and economic commitments.

Therefore, it's important to focus our efforts, even more specifically, on groups that are becoming more vulnerable as a result of the economic crisis - people living in urban areas, adolescent girls, young women and female headed households All mitigation

strategies should focus on safeguarding the gains made in the past, maintain momentum and prevent any losses.

For the UN in Mozambique, now is the time to keep the promise to ensure that internationally agreed targets are met by 2015. The UN is using its competitive advantage to improve social investment to influence the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

To face the challenges of the global crisis the UN in Mozambique has been intensifying the Delivering as One initiative, accelerating the implementation of the One Programme and strengthening the harmonization of business practices as a way to reduce transaction costs and maximize impact of development results. The UN is actively engaged in building and strengthening partnerships with Government, development partners and the civil society, and seeks to contribute strategically to the key development efforts of the country.

One example of a specific support towards women empowerment is through a Joint Programme with nine participating UN agencies. This programme aims at supporting gender sensitive legislation, economic empowerment of women and elimination of gender-based violence.

This programme has supported advocacy activities related to the Law against Domestic Violence approved by the parliament last month. Over the past two years, it has also made visible progress in developing capacities and strengthening partnerships.

By focusing on the improvement of women's economic life, the programme highlights women's roles as economic agents and capable of mitigating the effects of the crisis, especially because more than men, women invest their earnings in the health and education of their children.

**Patricia Guzman**  
UNFPA Representative

economic crisis and long-term effects of climate change on human development in Africa in general and Mozambique in particular.

Organized by the UNDP Tokyo Liaison Office, in cooperation with UN agencies operating in Japan, this initiative seeks to ensure that gains made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are not lost, and that progress is realized by ensuring that donors honour previous commitments and new resources are mobilized from the international community. The press tour will attract Japanese public attention to the current status of implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan in Africa and facilitate additional resources mobilization for the UN activities.

The press tour consisted of journalists from a Japanese daily newspaper "Asahi Shimbun", a financial newspaper "Nikkei", Mozambican journalists from a daily newspaper "Noticias", from Radio Mozambique and Mozambican Television.



The journalists stated that they were impressed by the hard work done by the local people to improve their living conditions with UN and partners support, noting however that more needs to be done. "In the Millennium Village of Chibuto I saw apparent progress of United Nations delivering as one, though the progress seems to be quite modest in its speed. Only decent evaluation will show the long term achievements in reducing poverty in a sustainable manner", one of the journalists said.

The Japanese Government this year funded the Millennium Village (MV) Project in →

## Japanese and Mozambican Journalists in joint mission to support UN intervention

Japanese and Mozambican journalists participated in a joint visited to UN projects in Mozambique in mid June. The visit is a follow-up of the 4th Tokyo International

Conference for African Development (TICAD IV) held May 2008 in Yokohama, Japan. This initiative is born out of a growing concern about the impact of the ongoing global



→ Mozambique with a total of US\$ 6.8 million. The MVs are based on a principle that people living in poverty can transform themselves and meet the MDGs if opportunities are availed with proven, powerful and practical technologies. By investing in health, food production, education, access to clean water, and essential infrastructure, these community-led interventions will enable people to escape extreme poverty, which currently confines about half of the Mozambican population. By working together in a MV initiative UN agencies can improve their results delivery and also provide basis for broader learning at national level.

The mission also visited a site in Maputo's Costa do Sol suburb, where WFP provides food assistance and various activities to orphans and vulnerable children, and a demining project funded by HALO Trust in Chimoio province. They also visited the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mozambique's Electoral Management Secretariat (STAE), the National Demining Institute, and the National Assembly of the Republic.

In a briefing with the UN Country Team, the journalists learnt of concrete results of the implementation of the accelerated UN Reform,



the Delivering as One initiative, which Mozambique is piloting. These results are evident in joint programmes and programming and response to natural disasters and humanitarian assistance.

## UN assesses its capacity in response to challenges in the Health Sector and HIV/AIDS



The United Nations in Mozambique is assessing its capacities to support the national response to the challenges of the health sector and HIV and AIDS in a "Delivering as One" spirit. Taking into consideration the comparative advantages of the UN in the country, the assessment will develop a strategic framework for capacity reform of the UN to address gaps and maximise available capacities, and assess the expected impact of the capacity reform against the current status of the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their achievability by 2015.

The assessment which will run from June to September 2009, is being facilitated by Global Development consultancy firm (Dalberg) and it is expected to achieve the following:

- Summary of the major challenges in the health sector and in HIV and AIDS as reflected in the main national policy and strategic documents, including the UNDAF.

- Overview of current capacities addressing the national health sector and HIV and AIDS challenges.
- Strategic framework for capacity reform of UN agencies in Health.
- Recommendations on effective UN contribution to achieve the goals of the health related MDGs.
- Country focused plan for division of labour between UN agencies supporting the Health Sector.

The national health policy is based on principles of primary health care, equity and better quality of care. It includes the challenges set by the health related MDGs and the cross sectoral response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic. New global health initiatives and the increase of vertical funding from partners emphasize the need for better donor harmonization and alignment. The challenges in health and HIV and AIDS coupled with the rapidly changing aid environment require a review of the UN's contribution and existing capacity in order to adapt adequately and timely.

Additionally, the introduction of the "Delivering as One" concept in Mozambique led to a commitment of the UN agencies to harmonize programme delivery at the country level and a strategic re-orientation of the UN through a prioritization of areas of comparative advantages.

The assessment will cover the UN agencies supporting the Ministry of Health and other partners working in the health sector. The assessment will also develop a division of labour plan among these agencies. Each agency contributes within the scope of its mandate and cooperation agreement with the government under the umbrella of the UN accelerated reform, the "Delivering as One" initiative.

## UNCT holds staff town hall meeting

Keeping to the "Delivering as One" spirit, the UNCT held a Town Hall meeting with UN staff in last month. Staff and management interacted in on issues such as the results of the first year of implementation of the accelerated UN Reform in Mozambique highlighted in the Stocktaking Report 2008. There was also a detailed presentation on the Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) and recommendations on what staff need to know to prevent the spread as well as the appropriate response should one be infected. The other topics covered at the meeting were the ongoing UN Contractual Reform, the membership and electoral process of the UN Staff Associations and the UN system-wide workplace programme on HIV (UN Cares).



### Up-coming events in July

- JULY 3 - Seminar on road safety with the aim of improving awareness and understanding that road safety is an essential component in reducing the level of traffic related injuries and deaths. Specific thematic areas will include: seat belts, traveling with children, drink driving, speed and the road rules (road users and pedestrians). Road traffic injuries are a national public health and development issue and the UN supports the national campaigns and on road safety implemented by the Mozambican Government and other partners.



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Note: Last month's issue should have indicated Number 19 for May 2009. We sincerely apologize for the error.