

MOMENTUM

Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity

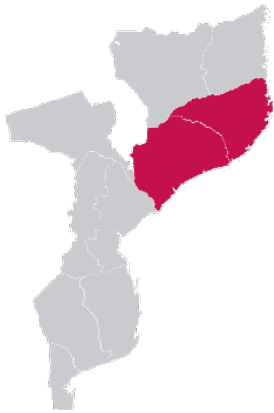


AUGUST 2023

MOZAMBIQUE

Strengthening Routine Immunization and Polio Vaccination

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity in Mozambique

	Where we work Provinces: Nampula and Zambézia Districts: 37 (15 in Nampula and 22 in Zambezia) Facilities/communities: 438 (164 in Nampula and 274 in Zambézia)	Population Country: 33 million ¹ Project-supported areas: 11.7 million
--	---	--

BACKGROUND

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity aims to strengthen routine immunization (RI) programs to overcome the entrenched obstacles that contribute to stagnating and declining immunization rates and to remove barriers to reaching zero-dose and underimmunized children with life saving vaccines and other health services. In Mozambique, the project aims to sustainably strengthen RI programs and provides tailored technical assistance to support the implementation of the country's Reaching Every District/Reaching Every Child (RED/REC) approach at the provincial, district, and operational levels. The project works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen immunization services that have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Nampula and Zambézia Provinces.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

POLICY, PLANNING, AND COORDINATION

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity worked with the MOH, the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), USAID/Mozambique, and other partners to develop an RI recovery plan in response to declining immunization coverage rates. The recovery plan provides strategies to reach children who missed vaccine doses in the recent past and to create a stronger system for long-term high immunization coverage to reach all children in years to come. The project works with the EPI, Gavi, UNICEF,

¹ Population Reference Bureau, 2022. <https://www.prb.org/international/indicator/population/map/country>

the World Health Organization, VillageReach, and other partners to implement the RI recovery plan and reach zero-dose and underimmunized children across Nampula and Zambézia Provinces.

The project also participates in the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group and the Interagency Coordinating Committee to discuss the introduction of the RTS,S malaria vaccine, HPV vaccine, and cholera vaccine. It engages in discussions with the USAID/Mozambique team to inform these groups of developments on malaria vaccine rollout.

SERVICE DELIVERY

To strengthen immunization service delivery, the project provides technical assistance to identify and prioritize zero-dose and under-immunized children with routine immunization services at 58 health facilities in Nampula and Zambézia Provinces. As part of the assistance, the project conducts district and facility supportive supervision and has performed on-the-job training to address gaps identified using the EPI checklist on vaccination and vaccine management. It also reviewed and updated 52 facility RED/REC microplans, distributed 54,000 child immunization/health cards, and implemented the immunization quality and performance standards.

The project reinforces the use and completeness of vaccine stock information in the Electronic Vaccine Logistics System (SELV) to improve stock management. During supervision visits across Nampula and Zambézia Province, the project has trained staff on managing and assessing data, checking cold chain requirements, and reinforcing World Health Organization stock management guidelines. These measures help to improve vaccine availability and reduce stock-outs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity supports the dissemination of evidence-based messages across communities to promote routine immunization. The project establishes partnerships with local organizations such as youth clubs and community radio stations to convey key immunization messages.

The project also revitalized community health committees in three high-priority districts of Nampula and Zambézia Provinces to generate community ownership of routine immunization and increase vaccine uptake. Community health committees include immunization and other health staff who work together with community leaders to plan outreach services at locations and times that can maximize access.

The project uses mobile brigades to bring vaccination services to the community. A mobile brigade refers to a team of health workers that travels from a health facility to one or more locations without a health facility to provide vaccinations and other services. The involvement of community focal points and leaders in the mobilization process in mobile brigade activities is a key factor in reaching children.

POLIO VACCINATION

Between April 2022 and June 2023, the project helped to plan and operationalize eight polio vaccination rounds in Nampula, and Zambézia provinces. The project conducted supportive supervision and training for health facility staff and community focal points on vaccine-preventable disease community surveillance. The project also provided support in areas where there were financial or operational gaps, such as for vehicle fuel and airtime for timely data reporting.