UNCDF
development interventions in Mozambique
Within the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS) framework, the UNCDF component, to be implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Development, nowadays Ministry of Economy & Finance (MEF), through the Provincial Directorate of Economy and Finance (PDEF) under the technical oversight of the Technical Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition SETSAN – and in collaboration with WFP, FAO, FOS and DISOP- will seek to enhance local strategic and operational planning and public expenditure management in the six selected districts in Gaza province. This will be achieved through the use of a local development fund for investments specifically designed to strengthen food security investments identified and prioritised through a participatory and inclusive approach to the formulation of local development plans by the selected districts. Established government public financial management systems will be used for making grant allocations, the effectiveness and accountability of which will be strengthened through the use of instruments including approved allocation formula and annual performance assessments.

The LoCAL initiative came to reinforce the BFFS partnership framework through the support to the FSN component executed by the PDEF in Gaza province. LoCAL is designed to support and finance climate resilient infrastructure to reinforce the long-term development objective of enhancing food security in the selected Gaza districts. However, the LoCAL initiative has its own programmatic methodology and its programme design is addressed to reinforce the nationally designed systems, i.e. e-Sistafe, which comes to complement the FSN programme scope and development objectives.

The supogovernment decentralized participatory planning and budgeting process was carried out in Q2 of 2015 under the leadership of the Provincial Directorate of Planning and Finance and the District Governments in consultation with District Consultative Councils, in close collaboration with the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and SETSAN. In this context, the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy-ESAN II- and the Decentralization Policy and its associated implementation strategy provided the strategic framework to shape the policy debate. The locally driven planning process identified social and economic food security infrastructure-projects to be financed via the Local Development Fund in 2015 and 2016.

The participatory approach to food security local development carried out by the district authorities and the Provincial Directorate of Economy and Finances came up with food security and climate change adaptive development interventions in each of the six BFFS districts -four districts to be financed via LoCAL-; the following projects-development interventions were identified in Q2 2015 and are currently being executed by the district authorities.

**BACKGROUND OF UNCDF INTERVENTION IN MOZAMBIQUE**

Enhancing governance for sustainable food security and nutrition through local governance
Improving rural livelihoods of vulnerable households
Improving effective food security coordination

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will partner with the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS) in the implementation of a Food Security and Nutrition Programme in Mozambique in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP), two Belgian NGO’s (FOS and DISOP), and in close collaboration with the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC).

**INTRODUCTION**

Twelve infrastructural investment projects are currently underway in the six districts targeted by the two PDEF/UNCDF development interventions.

All the interventions are designed to increase food and nutritional security and increase climate change resilience.

The selection and final prioritization of the socio-economic public infrastructure financed via the Ministry of Economy and Finances through the Provincial Directorate of Economy and Finances –with UNCDF support- duly took into account existing government structures, locally driven development strategies and decentralized decision making processes, i.e. consultation with consultative councils (community platforms).

**6 DISTRICTS OF GAMA:**

- Mabalane
- Guija
- Chigubo
- Massinger
- Chicualacuala
- Massangena

UNCDF has a unique mandate to finance development in the LDCs through microfinance systems and through the provision of grants for a broad category of project and capital investments for local development. Within the framework of the BFFS programme, UNCDF shall promote the financing of food security driven local development by local authorities, taking advantage of the governance structures, systems and processes at central, provincial and district level.
ADVENTURE JOURNEY

NOTABLE STORIES

UNCDF will build on the lessons learned and the programmatic experience gained through its several interventions in 6 districts of Gaza province.

OSTA CHITCHANGO

Osta Chitchango is about 70 years old and lives with her husband in a rural setting close to Nongote village. Every day, she and her three daughters-in-law walk 7 kms to fetch water at the nearest well in Chifelu village. A round trip takes six hours and each woman returns carrying a plastic container of 20 litres of water on her head. Osta says that she and her husband use 80 litres per day and they have to pay a local merchant to supply the additional water.

She says that many women in Chigubo district make this daily journey to collect water for their families. The borehole that UNCDF is opening has better quality water than the Chifelu well. It is only half an hour walk from Osta’s house to the borehole. She says that the time and money saved in collecting water will allow her to spend more time on her small farm where she and her husband grow millet, cow peas and peanuts.

FRANCISCO CHAUQUE

Francisco Chauque has lived in Nongote all his life. He said that the lack of water in the village has always been the biggest single development constraint. In addition to the residents of Nongote village, Francisco said that families from surrounding settlements will also benefit from the POF-E/UNCDF supported water supply system.

Francisco points out that Nongote is semi-arid and doesn’t get much rain even in a good year. Cattle and goat production is thus an integral part of livelihood strategies, providing income and food in times when agriculture is unable to satisfy basic dietary needs. Due to the scarcity of water, village herds have to walk many kilometres to the nearest water source which means that they never have sufficient time to graze. As a result, many of the animals are thin and weak. Francisco says that the livestock drinking trough which is part of the UNCDF water supply system will eliminate the long walk and allow the animals more time to feed and grow fat.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

The borehole has been opened. The quantity and quality of water have been tested and found to be satisfactory. The other components of the system, i.e. storage tanks, tank support tower, solar pumping system and livestock drinking trough will be completed shortly.

Borehole tube which runs vertically for 120 metres beneath the surface into the aquifer below.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

LOCATION: CHIGUBO DISTRICT, NONGOTE VILLAGE

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 800 APPROXIMATIVE

BUDGET: 110 000 USD

Borehole tube which runs vertically for 120 metres beneath the surface into the aquifer below.

Ms. Osta Chitchango

Mr. Francisco Chauque, Village leader, and other members of the community

Ms. Rosta Chitchango

Mr. Francisco Chauque

*Nongote substitutes the planned water supply system at Ndlove. The Ndlove system is being installed by the Institute for the Management of Natural Disasters (INGC).*
Chigubo town does not have a recognised local market. Buying and selling takes place in an informal setting with food and other products displayed on the ground or on rickety tables in the shade of some trees close to the town centre. There is no sanitation and the site is strewn with rubbish. The new, formal market is currently under construction. It occupies an area of 0.73 hectares and when completed will comprise a wholesale section, a retail section, a row of shops, a toilet block and an office.

The new market will encourage the wholesale supply of fresh food products from Chokwe to supplement local agricultural production which is mainly rain-fed and therefore seasonal. It is expected that around 2000 persons will directly benefit from the market facility.

The quality of the work is controlled by an independent supervisor, contracted by UNCDF to ensure that the construction company adheres to the quality standards stipulated in the project design documents. The perimeter wall is almost complete and construction of the various market buildings will begin shortly.

Nhatimamba Administrative Post is situated 40 kms south east of Mabalane town in a remote rural setting. The project was prioritised by the District Government because Nhatimamba has no water points and residents have to walk long distances to collect water for drinking and domestic use.

The Head of the Administrative Post, Mr. Reuben, revealed that 260 families living in the vicinity of the borehole will be the direct beneficiaries of the project. Currently these families collect water form a salty well 5 kms from Nhatimamba. The conclusion of the work will thus greatly reduce the time spend by women to fetch water, thereby leaving them more time for other productive and domestic tasks.

Nhatimamba is a semi-arid area and, as in Chigubo, the residents rely on their livestock to help them through the long dry season when crop production is not possible. The nearest water point for cattle and goats is a pond close to the village. However, this source dries up in the dry season and the animals are forced to walk a long distance to drink from hand dug wells in a dry river bed where the quantity of water is inadequate to satisfy demand. Mr. Reuben said that the livestock drinking trough which will be part of the water supply system will overcome this problem allowing the animals more time for grazing and thereby improving their health and production.

**LOCAL MARKET**

LOCATION: CHIGUBO TOWN
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 2000 APPROX.
BUDGET: 150 000 USD APPROX.

**WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

LOCATION: MABALANE DISTRICT, NHATIMAMBA VILLAGE
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 1500 APPROXIMATIVE
BUDGET: 80 000 USD

**CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:**

The borehole opening equipment is on site and has drilled to a depth of 80 metres. According to the geo-physical study conducted prior to the drilling, good quality water is expected to be found at about 120 metres. On completion of the borehole, the other components of the system will be added.
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

LOCATION: MASSINGIR DISTRICT, CHIBUTANE LOCALITY, MACHUEL VILLAGE
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 650 APPROXIMATIVE
BUDGET: 80 000 USD

The non-climate-resilient design of the roof of the school classrooms which is liable to be ripped off by strong winds; a common occurrence in Mozambique.

The village of Machuel is situated 20 kms north east of Massingir town. The village has a borehole fitted with a hand pump but the water is so salty that not even the cattle can drink it. Villagers fetch water from hand dug depressions in a branch of the nearby Elephants River (3 kms), where their animals also drink. But the water is not fit for human consumption because the river carries the contaminants from agriculture and industry upstream in South Africa. The water supply system will also provide drinking water for the village cattle and goats which currently consume contaminated water from the river.

An interview with the village leader, André Machuele, revealed that there are 118 families in Machuel (± 652) persons that will be the direct beneficiaries of the water supply system that UNCDF is installing in the village. André stated that the lack of water for people, animals and agriculture is a chronic problem that impedes development in the village. The water tower and storage tanks are being constructed 50 metres from the village primary school which currently has 117 pupils. These children will benefit from a clean and dependable source of water which has been denied to them up to the present. The school Director, Alamão Barreto, said that, in addition to Machuel, six other villages will have access to the new water tower giving a total number of ± 2535 persons of which more than half are female4. He confirmed that the water tower and storage tanks will be raised at least 45 cms above ground level to prevent flooding.

Arazone Cuna is a resident of Zulo. She is around 30 years old and has 3 children, all of which were born in Massingir hospital. Another resident, Maria Ngovene, is about 35 years old and is pregnant with her fifth child. Again, all her children were born in Massingir hospital. The two women explained that, although Massingir hospital has a maternity unit, pregnant women usually cannot accurately calculate their stage of pregnancy and often go to Massingir weeks before they give birth to make sure they are at the hospital when the birth occurs. This incurs costs for their family who must provide food and arrange accommodation for them in Massingir. It is particularly difficult for young women awaiting the birth of their first child who must be accompanied by another family member to look after them in Massingir.

MATERNITY CENTER

LOCATION: MASSINGIR DISTRICT, ZULO ADMINISTRATIVE POST
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 2500 APPROXIMATIVE
BUDGET: 100 000 USD

Zulo Administrative Post is situated 40 kms south west of Massingir town, accessible on a dirt road that often becomes impassable, except by 4x4 vehicles, in the rainy season. Zulo has a health post but no maternity unit. The nearest maternity unit is in Massingir town hospital. Given the difficult access conditions many women from Zulo and surrounding villages either give birth at home or, if they are “lucky”, on the floor of the health post which is not equipped with beds or maternity related equipment. The health post is staffed by a resident nurse, two health advisers and a director who lives in Massingir town and visits when necessary. The two health workers expressed their satisfaction with the construction of the Maternity Centre, saying that it will reduce mother and child mortality and lessen the anxiety and fear which many women experience towards the end of their pregnancy. The Head of the Zulo Administrative Post, Luís Ngovene, said that, in addition to Zulo, six other villages will have access to the Maternity Centre giving a total number of ± 2535 persons of which more than half are female4. He confirmed that the Maternity Centre construction site in background. The floor of the Maternity Centre will be raised at least 45 cms above ground level to prevent flooding.

Images 1 left, Zulo Health Post showing Maternity Centre construction site in background
Images 2, right: Arazone Cuna (left) and Maria Ngovene pictured in Zulo village
Image 3, Construction of the footings of the six bed Maternity Centre. The floor will be raised at least 45 cms above ground level to prevent flooding.

Raulina Ngovene and André Machuele

Raulina Ngovene is a widow of about 70 years old who lives in Machuel with two of her school aged grandchildren. The household uses 100 litres of water per day which she and the children collect 20 litres at a time from the Elephants River. Each round trip to the river takes ½ hour; a total of 7½ hours is thus spent each day collecting water. Raulina said that time saved collecting water which has been denied to them up to the present. The school Director, Alamão Barreto, said that, in addition to Zulo, six other villages will have access to the Maternity Centre giving a total number of ± 2535 persons of which more than half are female4. He confirmed that the Maternity Centre construction site in background. The floor of the Maternity Centre will be raised at least 45 cms above ground level to prevent flooding.

Construction of the Maternity Centre is underway. When finished it will comprise a 6 bed maternity unit and a two-bedroom house for the midwife who will be provided by the Ministry of Health. The floor of the maternity unit and house is raised 45 cms above ground level which the Luís Ngovene said is more than sufficient to ensure that it will never flood. Luís is a member of the District Consultative Council which prioritised this project for PDEF/UNCDF funding last year. He is extremely satisfied that his Administrative Post was chosen to benefit from this investment.

Images 1 left, Zulo Health Post showing Maternity Centre construction site in background
Images 2, right: Arazone Cuna (left) and Maria Ngovene pictured in Zulo village
Image 3, Construction of the footings of the six bed Maternity Centre. The floor will be raised at least 45 cms above ground level to prevent flooding.

Raulina Ngovene and André Machuele