Mozambique faces major health challenges that demand combined and intensive interventions at different levels. Malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continue to have serious impacts on the health of the country. Chronic malnutrition rates hover around 43%, concentrated primarily in the northern and central provinces. The maternal mortality ratio is currently at 408 per 100,000 live births, with only 13% of women with obstetric complications having access to emergency obstetric care. Addressing these challenges not only requires a strengthened health system, but also an increase in access to and demand for health services at the individual and community level.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PIRCOM is a faith-based non-profit organization composed of leaders from different religions committed to tackling pressing public health problems in their communities. PIRCOM’s approach includes dissemination of key health messages, using sermons, community radio, and other interpersonal communication strategies. Through these trusted sources of information, the project promotes positive behaviors related to nutrition, malaria, maternal and child health, family planning, and HIV/AIDS while also encouraging the use of health services. Examples of activities include training religious leaders how to include health messages into their sermons, developing family planning and anti-gender-based violence messaging campaigns targeting youth, and creating a linked referral system between religious leaders and health facilities to reach under-served populations such as women and young children with health services related to HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, nutrition and malaria prevention.

COVID-19 work- PIRCOM pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic to include messaging related to prevention and vaccination promotion. Using respected religious leaders the campaign involved electronic billboards, social media, radio spots, and community dialogues in Maputo, Inhambane, Sofala, Zambezia, Nampula and Cabo Delgado.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

Using an established network of approximately 500 faith leader throughout the 24 target districts in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Sofala and Zambezia, PIRCOM SBCC will accomplish the following results:

- At least 18,144 adolescent/youth (girls and boys) in the pre-pregnancy and pre-paternity stage reached with positive health messaging through community dialogues, teen church meetings and after school clubs
- At least 70,200 pregnant women and their partners will receive positive health messaging through focus group discussions/debates (women and men) and ongoing
SBCC interventions post-delivery will result in benefits for lactating women, newborn and children under 5.

- At least 194,400 family members, such as siblings, mothers and fathers, mothers-in-law, reached through sermons and community dialogues.
- At least 77,760 community members, such as service providers, traditional healers, faith leaders, community leaders and government authorities, community champions and other relevant organizations reached through community dialogues, community debates and lectures, and religious meetings and sermons in worship places.
- **COVID-19 messaging**: At least 515,667 people were reached with the billboards and 35,000 through the mass media.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life of Activity:</th>
<th>Goal:</th>
<th>Geographic Focus:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2019 - November 2024</td>
<td>Improve health outcomes in priority populations through behavior change.</td>
<td>Sofala, Nampula, Zambézia and Cabo Delgado</td>
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<tr>
<th>USAID Contact:</th>
<th>Implementing Partner:</th>
<th>USAID Funding:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eunice Chichava</td>
<td>PIRC</td>
<td>$5.99 million</td>
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</tbody>
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**Covid-19**

Vacinar contra COVID-19…? Nós, como comunidades de fé, devemos ver a vacina como um sinal de esperança, para podermos rapidamente voltar à rotina de vida normal.

Escrínta Sagrada: Números 21:8-9

A decisão está nas suas mãos.
Vacinat Sim, Prevenir Sempre!

Pastora Orlanda Gulamba
Igreja Metodista Unida
Inhambane