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MWANASANA PROJECT



BACKGROUND

Mozambique’s HIV/AIDS epidemic has resulted in an estimated 920,000 children orphaned by AIDS and approximately 2.2 million people living with HIV. Sofala Province has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the country at 16.3% and the highest early sexual debut (< 15 years old) rate in Africa at 28%. Sofala is also home to Beira, Mozambique’s second largest city, which is densely populated with vulnerable youth moving to it for education and employment opportunities. Buzi, Dondo, Nhamatanda and Caia districts all have high population, poverty and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) rates, with at least one-fifth of residents classified as OVC.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

USAID Mwanasana, which means Healthy Child in the local language Chisena, will identify, link and retain vulnerable children, at-risk adolescents, and their families in care. Activities are designed to provide OVC and adolescents with strategies to stay healthy and develop life skills, support families to become more resilient, and engage and mobilize communities to take action against harmful social norms and practices. It also works to improve coordination among health and social protection institutions and systems. The project is aligned with the Government of Mozambique’s strategic responses to the HIV epidemic and OVC crisis and will introduce innovative strategies and enhance collaboration with existing government structures to improve child protection and response readiness.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

This activity will build the resilience of families caring for more than 70,000 HIV-affected children annually and enroll over 25,000 HIV+ children and adolescents in care and treatment. A comprehensive package of evidence based, OVC interventions that lead to positive changes at the individual, family, community, and system levels will be implemented, resulting specifically in:

- Youth participating in age-appropriate GBV & HIV prevention activities promoting life skills and strategies to improve their understanding of ART treatment and the importance of staying on it.
- Families linked to socio-economic services to improve their resilience and capacity to build productive and healthy families
- Community members are engaged to understand the impact of GBV and to take action against harmful and discriminatory social norms, attitudes and practices.
- Community institutions strengthened to respond to violence and shift gender norms; deliver GBV services and support community cadres.

<p>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Associação COMUSANAS</p>	<p>GOALS: Reduce HIV incidence and mortality among children and adolescents in Sofala by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing vulnerability of children and adolescents to HIV and GBV. • Improving viral suppression for HIV+ families. • Improving resilience to cope with the effects of HIV. • Strengthening child protection systems. 	<p>LIFE OF ACTIVITY: April 2020 – April 2025</p>
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<p>USAID/PEPFAR FUNDING: \$ 8.85 million</p>		