



## **International Year of Volunteers 2001**

### **Mid Term Report September 2001**

### **Background**

Mozambique, one of the poorest least developed countries in the world, faces many difficulties and challenges, the most recent being the catastrophic floods of 2000 and 2001. Despite the natural disasters of drought and floods, civil war and extreme poverty, Mozambique has a history of community volunteering at every level of society, and with this background, the Government of Mozambique embraced the opportunity of International Year of the Volunteer to give recognition to volunteering.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport was nominated the focal point for IYV 2001 and mobilized various community groups to form an IYV national committee (IYVNC), under the presidency of Dra. Fernanda Teixeira. Dra. Teixeira is also the Secretary-General of Mozambique Red Cross, an organization with large numbers of volunteers.

UNDP provided funding for an IYV UNV to be recruited to support the IYVNC during 2001. UNV has provided funding and logistical support for the IYV UNV and many of the IYV activities.

### **Activities Undertaken:**

- **5 December 2000 – Official opening of IYV, rehabilitation of Rua dos Voluntários in Maputo. Cultural events.**

His Excellency Minister Joel Libombo, Sra Fernanda Teixeira and Sra Stella Pinto from UNDP gave fitting accolades to the contribution of volunteers to at every level of society, from the smallest village to national and international organizations.

After the launch, around 300 volunteers from a multitude of organizations got to work on the rehabilitation of Rua dos Voluntários, painting, cleaning and repairing the road, joined by the residents. Various enterprises donated the material for the rehabilitation, including food and drink for the volunteers. The day finished with a brief cultural programme of spontaneous entertainment, primarily from the scouts and general public, and a contribution from a group of young musicians who have just returned from playing at the Hanover Expo in Germany. A theatre group also gave a performance of a play with HIV/AIDS awareness message.

- **7 APRIL: – Walk for Health, for the Mozambican Women and Against HIV/AIDS.**

IYVNC volunteers from UNV, Red Cross, Mozambican Scouts, University Nucleus of Students, VSO, Youth Organizations, NGO's Forum, Ministries, joined a walk for Health and Mozambican Women against HIV/AIDS, through the streets of Maputo, finishing at the Parque dos Continuadores. The Athletics Association conducted a competition of local athletes to reinforce the health against HIV/AIDS message and the Companhia Nacional de Canto e Dança (National Company of Song and Dance) performed Amatodos (Love All), a play with strikingly dramatic HIV/AIDS messages.

The Dra. Fernanda Teixeira and the manager of Companhia Nacional de Canto e Dança, David Abilio, closed the events with reinforcing messages on HIV/AIDS.

- **5 May : Workshop to plan the IYV Activities**

IYVNC volunteers met to plan the remainder of the year's activities, lead by President Teixeira and the Minister of Youth and Sport, HE Joel Libombo. The group made the decision to have HIV/AIDS as the core of its activities, given that Mozambique has one of the fastest growing rates of the epidemic, and, to date, a very limited knowledge of the disease amongst the general population.

Other activities were planned, and each organization indicated individual activities they would undertake, in addition to joint activities through IYVNC.

- **28 MAY : International Day for Action on Women Rights for Wealth**

The IYVNC assisted in the preparation of media events and media releases in Portuguese and English to celebrate the event, in conjunction with Dra. Ximena, from the African Studies Centre in Maputo.

- **1 JUNE : International Day of the Children**

The IYVNC joined the Government of Mozambique in Moamba District, southern Mozambique, to celebrate the International Day of Children. Moamba is a very poor district that was heavily damaged during the civil war, and is still littered with landmines, making even basic agriculture a hazardous occupation.

The IYVNC volunteers collected donations of school material, clothing and toys through schools in Maputo and prepared individual kits for the school children of Moamba (with some to be used later for African Childrens' Day). During the formal ceremony to mark the International Day of Children, 2 IYVNC volunteers from the University Student Volunteers read a message from the IYVNC President, highlighting children's role in the future of Mozambique. To feature IYV through the influential Government and International Agency guests, and in the local media present at the event, the volunteers also presented the President and official guests with IYV 2001 T shirts. The President was extremely interested in the IYVNC members and their activities, and gave strong recognition to the spontaneous gesture from IYVNC to the children of Moamba.

The IYVNC school kits, clothing and toy donations were formally presented to President Chissano and were later distributed by the volunteers to the school children, joined by the local representative of the Ministry of Social Action and Gender. IYVNC volunteers also provided food towards the luncheon for the children, joined by the President and official guests.

The local music group Timbila Muzimba volunteered to perform traditional music and dances during the official ceremony and were well received by the President and all guests. This group is dedicated to keeping alive traditional dance and music and has been generous, targeting both the children and the spirit of Volunteering.

Donations for the children came from:

International School, Verney School, French School, ARVORE Tempos Livres, Red Cross, UNV.

### **- 16 June – Africans Children's Day at Catembe – Maputo Province**

The IYVNC selected a small school in Catembe, Maputo Province, to join for African Childrens' Day. The remaining school kits, clothes and toys from the joint collection were for the students at the Saul Tembe primary/secondary school.

IYVNC organized the Mozambican theatre group Motumbela Gogo and the Mozambican musician Lemon Pinto to join with the school children and volunteers to celebrate the day. Motumbela Gogo performed for a nominal fee and Lemon Pinto for free.

The Scouts arranged games activities for the children and all joined to explain the technical and safety aspects of the eclipse of the sun due the following week.

UNV contributed the cost of transport and lunch for the children.

### **24 August – International Day to Remember Slavery Abolition**

The day was recognized by the IYVNC through

- Press conference with IYV focal point, Minster of Youth and Sport, His Excellency Joel Libombo, the President of IYVNC Dra. Fernanda Teixeira and UN Resident Coordinator Emanuel Dierckx de Casterlé on Slavery.
- A debate on "Slavery, Racism, Culture" with the famous Mozambican painter Malangatana, History Professor from University Eduardo Mondlane, Dr. Luis Pereira and Mozambican author Calane de Silva.
- IYVNC photography exhibition on activities.
- Distribution of Award Diplomas to Best Volunteers for IYVNC activities.

### **On going Projects : HIV/AIDS Awareness and Education – Target Group – 10/14 yrs old**

IYVNC, in line with its priority to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Mozambique, is preparing a training programme for HIV/AIDS volunteer activists, in partnership with other organizations working with HIV/AIDS; Ministry of Health, SAIDAS (Exit to Aids) Churches, UNAIDS, UNICEF and Kindlimuka (association of people living with HIV/AIDS).

Material has been compiled on: what has been done already; what is ongoing; who is active and where, and what message and group is best for IYVNC to focus on.

One group of IYVNC volunteers has had training in preparation to take the message to communities where they were conducting a work camp.

### **Flood Reconstruction Work Camps**

- 15 IYVNC volunteers (students, Mozambican Scouts, Youth Association AJUDE, Red Cross and NUNV) assisted a flood-affected community in Kalanga, Manhiça District, to reconstruct a 2-room school for the 200 students following the 2001 floods. The students worked with the community and the activity was a resounding success. The volunteers also spent time discussing HIV/AIDS with the community and distribution condoms to improve awareness and understanding of the virus.
- The school reconstruction activity was such a success and so appreciated by the community that the volunteers returned some weeks later to build a first aid center with the community.
- IYVNC and UNV's assisted SASVO (Southern Africa Student Volunteer Organization) to prepare for flood reconstruction work camps in Tete Province.
- IYVNC AND UNV's assisted SASVO to send 8 student volunteers to South Africa to join with other students and take part in a SASVO work camp in South Africa, facilitating both assistance to the recipient communities and exchange between student volunteers from countries in the region.

Donations for the school and First aid center construction were received from:

- Portuguese Commercial Bank gave funds to Mozambique Red Cross for the school building material.
- Mozambique Red Cross provided transport, tents, cooking utensils, blankets and water.
- UNV/UNDP provided food, transport and condoms.
- UNICEF provided mosquito nets.
- UNAIDS provided booklets to assist the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign during the work camp.
- SASVO provided food.
- Ministry of Youth and Sport provided 3 balls for the volunteers and community sports activities.

Note: during the work camp twin babies were born to a family and the volunteers gave a financial donation to the parents. The parents named the babies after 2 of the volunteers, Isabel and Inocência, now godparents for the twins.

### **Projects to take place September-December 2001.**

Through UNV Headquarters, IYVNC received \$10,000 from the Italian Government to support a flood reconstruction project. IYVNC has joined with a local NGO Terre des Hommes to undertake support to an HIV/AIDS campaign with a displaced community and their host community. The HIV/AIDS virus is known to spread more quickly among communities that have been disrupted and displaced from their normal daily life.

A National UNV Field Worker is continuing HIV/AIDS awareness raising in the Kalanga community, including distributing brochures, condoms, and will start a sub group of IYVNC in the district. He will also prepare, along with local Red Cross volunteers, for the Terre des Hommes activities.

Under preparation a Book Fair and Volunteers promotional material Sales for the 21<sup>st</sup> October – Race Against Poverty Day, the Maputo Half Marathon.

A Book Fair will take place at the Mozambican Writers Association in order to raise funds for the Volunteers Library. All promotional material focusing on IYV NC activities will also be on sale.

IYV promotion through distribution of shopping bag in local material with the IYVNC logo is being prepared. IYVNC is talking with potential sponsors and the bag will be distributed to local retail and hotels for sale.

Proceeds from the sale of the bags will be used to provide a scholarship for the most active volunteer/s during 2001.

Recognition of volunteering through IYV in a formal manner in being prepared in the form of a proposal to be submitted to the Parliamentary Commission for Social Issues. The proposal is for a pre-law to cover volunteer services.

A national volunteer logo pin to be distributed to volunteers throughout the country is under consideration.

#### Strengths of IYV in Mozambique

- The committed, motivated and passionate of the youth of the IYVNC
- The strength of the above volunteers to continue with enthusiasm and a strong belief in the future of Mozambique, in the face of the poverty and associated difficulties Mozambique is experiencing.
- The unstinting support of IYVNC sponsors.

#### Constraints of IYV in Mozambique

- Difficulty in attracting media interest in IYV activities.
- Lack of interest from Government nominated members of IYVNC.
- Difficulty in fund-raising for IYV activities apart from a core of sponsors.
- Difficulty in gaining high level promotion of IYV in the face of competing priorities such as floods and reconstruction.

And finally, from Mozambique languages, words that relate to volunteering

Changane/Xitsua -: **Cutinhiquela**

Bitonga: **Gudzininguela**

Sena: **Kudzipereka**

Djaua: **Chawiche**

Macúa: **Ocupali quasitiraute melumencuhi mahala** (I agree on providing works for others all over the world without getting paid)

Macúa: **Mekhawe**