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2014 in review

The flower which opens to life

Breastmilk, the universal fruit of life

Grandma Elisa and Tip-Tap, Meow!

Vitória, heroine of the village

Vitória on the radio
I have a dream which is not impossible

Aurora, the right to be a child

Advice of Grandma Elisa before sleeping

The things we should all know about the emergency

2014 in numbers
a. Funds used per programme area
b. Source of the funds used
c. Bilateral funds
d. Funds of the UNICEF National Committees

Letter from Vitória to UNICEF
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Mozambique has one of the most critical and sensitive mandates, which is that of caring for our children in a holistic way. So that they may have the love they deserve, the health and the development opportunities which we owe them, or even the voice to which they are entitled, we need to further unite and act with greater urgency, especially to achieve the vision presented through the fictional tales told by our main character, Vitória!

For us, Vitória symbolises the best in Mozambican communities. She represents solidarity, commitment and the desire to have a country that meets the needs of its citizens, be they children or adults, men or women, living in towns or in the countryside. Through her stories, we live the common problems which motivate us to give the best of ourselves, as people and as institutions. While we recognise that the solutions presented in the stories are rather simplistic and sometimes poetic, they make us understand that the main ingredients for improving the lives of our children are vision, initiative and the belief in positive change.

Modestly, in this annual report, which we also want to be aimed at our children, we provide information about the main results achieved by UNICEF in 2014, in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, civil society organisations, community and religious leaders, groups of children increasingly active in the media, and other partners and donors.

Despite the challenges, the results are varied and encouraging! Such as the appropriation and financing of the strategy of the Community Health Workers (APEs) by the Government, which includes plans to increase the number of APEs from the current figure of 2,799 to 7,600 by 2017. The inclusion of adolescents, from 10 to 14 years old, as a target group in the strategic plan for controlling HIV/AIDS, in connection with the national strategy for the elimination of child marriage and the promotion of girls’ education, is a positive result of our advocacy efforts.

With the support of UNICEF, Mozambique has implemented the African Strategy of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, including launching a database and an electronic registration system. We believe that these advances have been driven by the Report on the Situation of Children in Mozambique (SITAN), complemented by analysis of the fiscal space of the social sectors that are critical for children, for improving the budget for children, and crucial in advocacy with the new Government, which took office in 2015.

The partnership between UNICEF, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Swedish International Development Agency, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) and the governments of Holland and Ireland continues to have a strategic impact on the implementation and financing of Social Protection by the Government. The number of beneficiaries had not only increased by 20 per cent, but the levels of transfer practically doubled.

UNICEF took the leadership of the Education Common Fund in 2014, coordinating 10 donors and 168 million dollars, and supporting the development of the request for funds from the Global Partnership for Education. While this fund covers only 13 per cent of the total budget of the sector, it helps to lever key actions in the Government’s annual work plans. In the area of communication for development, UNICEF, in partnership with the Council of Religions of Mozambique (COREM), developed a Guide for Religious Leaders for promoting behavioural changes in the areas of health, education, and child protection, with references to passages in the Bible and the Koran.

It is certain that children in Mozambique are living better today than they did in the past. However, according to current indicators, we still have a long way to go to achieve more victories for our children. The lack of access to basic, good quality social services, as well as inadequate social norms and behaviour,
are among the main challenges for improving the situation of children in the country. The high poverty indices, the low level of education of mothers, and the inequalities in distributing the results of economic progress are fundamental factors to be considered in investments in favour of children. Fortunately, the evolution of the situation allows us to remain hopeful because substantial, although slow, changes are taking place.

Once again we are renewing our commitment to do more and better for our children in Mozambique. In 2015, UNICEF intends to continue supporting the Government and other partners in increasing the number of APEs, particularly in the most remote areas of the country, as well as in essential interventions for the survival of new-born infants. Since malnutrition is one of the most serious problems that the country faces, the strategy of promoting infant nutritional practices and the nutritional rehabilitation programme will continue to be a priority, as well as the rural sanitation strategy. The management of quality in education and the development of teachers will be implemented in the framework of the educational reform strategy. There will also be continuity in supporting implementation of social protection strategies and of integrated management in the community of cases of vulnerable children. Likewise, HIV/AIDS prevention actions will take adolescents as their crucial focus. To contribute towards achieving the priorities mentioned above, actions will also be implemented, in a cross-cutting manner, which seek positive change in social norms, the involvement of children, and advocacy to ensure adequate fiscal space for children.

We hope you enjoy reading this, and that this mixture of fiction through the stories of Vitória and of reality through the results of 2014, will motivate you to invest more in the well-being of our children.

Koenraad Vanormelingen
Representative
UNICEF Mozambique
Once upon a time there was a young woman named Josefina that lived with her husband in a village near a river and they had a farm with vegetables. The woman was very strong and energetic, but her husband was a selfish man and he would not let the woman go out.

However, one day, the woman began to feel different and a week later she learned that she was pregnant. One afternoon, she waited for her husband to come home from the farm and when he arrived, she said:

– I have a surprise for you…
– Uh? What are you going to bother me with now?
– Congratulations… You’re going to be a dad.
– What? Are you insane? We’re not ready to have children. No!
– But I’m already pregnant, I have to go to a health center.
– Xii… I do not trust those centers and I am not sure I want to have children yet.

The young Josefina became very sad and worried for the health of her baby. Days passed and she secretly wrote a letter that she then gave to her neighbor who was going to the village where her sister Sophia, a traditional midwife, lived. When she received the message she worried
for her sister and got ready to go search for her.

The village was a few hours away on foot, and Aunt Sophia became more and more worried. Her instincts told her something was wrong, and she wasn’t fooled. Josefina was sick, she thought the headaches and the vomiting were symptoms of her pregnancy. She was lucky when her sister Sofia arrived, because she had a threat of miscarriage. Her husband became scared and had gone to get help, but it was past noon and he had not returned.

Aunt Sophia had come with her eldest son and between the two of them they carried the woman to the health center that was in a district many hours away from the village. It was a long journey but they got help from a truck driver they found on the road that took them there.

When they there arrived, Josefina rapidly received attention, they took all the tests and exams diagnosing malaria, having been treated with urgency.

Because of the malaria she was anemic and was advised to improve her nutrition. She remained in the health center for three days until the doctors were sure that her baby would be alright and that he would not be born with problems of low weight.
Aunt Sophia, who had stayed with her all this time, took a deep breath and hugged her sister. The doctors discharged her and together they travelled to the village where they had been born. Grandma Elisa was waiting for them there. Grandma Elisa was happy to receive her pregnant daughter and she committed to taking care of her and the soon coming baby.

Josefina’s husband came to look for her. When he arrived at Grandma Elisa’s house, patient and wise as she was, she authorized him to visit her daughter twice a week. The days the husband would come to visit, Grandma Elisa would take the opportunity to tell him the same story over and over again.

“A man was in a village very angry with his son and was looking for a proper punishment when in that moment a wise man passed and asked the man.

– What is your heart feeling right now?

– I feel like I have two hyenas fighting in my heart. One is very upset and the other is full of love and forgiveness. Who do you think will win the fight?

The wise man answered: The one you feed the most.”
Months passed and the woman’s husband began to slowly change the way he thought. The woman slept under a mosquito net that served as a shield for her and the baby. She ate well and never missed a doctor’s appointment. She got preventive treatment against malaria and vaccines that turned her into a fortress, difficult to take down by any disease.

In the house for expectant mothers “Casa mãe espera” of the health center, the doctor and nurses would joke about her super baby, because she was so healthy. Aunt Sophia liked going with her to learn more about being a midwife.

When the day to give birth arrived, the husband was there in the “Casa mãe espera” and in that clean and safe place, a healthy baby girl was
born, with tiny chubby hands. Her first cry was loud, a representation of life and hope. Her dad could not believe how much joy he felt, he was so excited that he began to cry.

Aunt Sofia helped during childbirth, as a traditional midwife assistant and it was her who gave the baby to her mother. The young woman reached her arms towards her baby girl and hugged her with all the tenderness and infinite love only a mother can have. The second she felt her mother’s heat, the little one calmed down, she moved around searching for comfort and then by instinct placed her tiny head on her mother’s left breast to feel the drums of her heart. Only then could she satisfy her monumental hunger with the yellowish and transparent liquid that came from the fountain that was that young woman’s breast. The little girl’s face lightened with the food we call colostrum that was a blessing from the gods, the first elixir of life, full of nutritional magic.

The girl received the vaccines she needed on her first days and was registered to guarantee her right to Health and Social Protection. The parents named the girl Vitória.

That was me. My mother told me I was very aware of everything that happened around me. She also told me that, like all babies, I could communicate with my cries and happy or sad faces, both worked with everybody. My parents stayed together and we went to live in the village.
They were always close, taking care of me. My mother only fed me with breastmilk during my first six months of life. She tells me she would argue with my father because he wanted me to eat yucca, but it’s not very nutritious.

They would always go together to my health checks and never forgot a single vaccine I needed. The village grew and now we are a large community. I have my friends and since school started a while back, I will begin to study and I think I’m going to like learning new things.

Anyway, the weekend before school started we went to visit Grandma Elisa. That afternoon she told me what she would always tell my father when she would finish her story.

“Father is not who gives life that is easy, father is he who is capable of giving love.”
RESULTS

Child Survival
with the support of UNICEF

- With the technical support of UNICEF there was an expansion in the number of Community Health Workers (APEs) from 2,225 in 2013 to 2,747 at the end of 2014, and their abilities to deal with neo-natal and infant health and other nutrition questions in the community were strengthened. The data from 2014 show that APEs made home visits to about 2.4 million people, of whom about a million were children under five years of age, and about 817,000 people benefited from treatment for malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia.

- In 2014, UNICEF provided technical and financial support for the organisation of two National Health Weeks (SNS), which benefitted more than 4 million children under the age of five in each of the rounds. This guaranteed an increase in the national coverage of provision of Vitamin A, deworming and vaccinations, as well as the number of children registered. These two SNS were also an opportunity to strengthen the coverage of new users of Family Planning.

- The UNICEF contribution to interventions concerned with universal access to malaria control in 2014 was through the distribution of mosquito nets treated with long lasting insecticide in Zambézia and Gaza provinces. This contribution benefitted almost 1,600,000 people, of whom 268,000 were children. UNICEF also supported Tete and Zambézia provinces in the purchase and distribution of medicines for at least two doses of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) of malaria for pregnant women. This represents a coverage of 51% (Tete) and 57% (Zambézia) of pregnant women with at least two doses of IPT, compared with 44% nationally.

- In 2014 UNICEF supported the vaccination programmes technically, financially and with cold chain equipment, contributing so that 97% of children under one year old were vaccinated with three doses of the pentavalent vaccine. Ninety-one (91) percent of children under one year old were also vaccinated against measles.

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MISAU) in updating the Cold Chain Plan to attend to the needs and capacities for introducing three new vaccines in 2015 (Rotavirus, IPV, and the second dose of the measles vaccine). This support included the acquisition of 75% of the equipment necessary for the cold chain.
"Do you know what the relationship is between the stars and breastmilk?"

Grandma Elisa asked when I got home from school that afternoon. I answered no, so to motivate her into telling me the story.

Sit here my dear Vitória, I will tell you. You know... everything started with a single drop of milk, everything. When there was nothing around, the only thing that existed was that drop of milk that the sacred spirit, in its maternal essence, had generously dropped from her breast and for millions of years, the drop of milk manufactured everything it needed to feed itself.

First it produced colostrum, a substance of yellowish color full of antibodies that gave it protection against virus and bacteria. Then it added more nutrients as vitamins and minerals that gave it a lot of energy.

And they say that that small drop grew and grew until one day... Boom!

It exploded!... and the millions of drops, full of that energy, scattered throughout the universe filling it with light in the most distant places.

The sacred spirit started organizing the drops of milk into groups that we call galaxies, and gave each one of them its own breast
in the form of a sun that would feed them. The drops of milk grouped into galaxies stayed suspended in the universe and started to develop into comets, meteors, asteroids and planets.

When the sacred spirit arrived in the last galaxy, it wanted to do something special to honor the first drop of milk, so it created the Milky Way. The sacred spirit placed a small drop of milk close to one of the hot chests that we called sun and then, it filled it with oxygen and that drop of milk changed its color to blue. That perfect synchronization made the nutrients of the sacred milk to continue creating other life forms and that is how trees with fruits, green fields with vegetables and vegetation and even clean water started. The sacred spirit was so happy that it began modeling the earth with the milk and giving life to men and women of all races. It then took on the task of creating animals that would feed the beings it just made, and that’s how fish, birds, cows, sheep, rams and other animals appeared.

The sacred spirit named the beings that it had created humans, and so that they would never forget their origin, it gave its blessing to the women, so they could have the ability to procreate and as a universal gift it left its breasts, so they could themselves feed their children with the nutrients necessary to live.

That is the reason Vitória, why the mothers breastfeed their children on their chest.
RESULTS

Nutrition
with the support of UNICEF

– UNICEF supported finalisation of the new Community Counselling Package for Infant Feeding, including the Multiple Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) component. The National Strategy for home food fortification with MNP was finalised, and is awaiting internal approval by MISAU. UNICEF will also support the introduction of MNPs, in the public sector in four or more districts in Zambézia province.

– With UNICEF support, the management and data reporting of the nutrition rehabilitation programme (PRN) was improved. The proportion of health units reporting data on acute undernutrition in outpatient and inpatient treatment has improved from 27% in 2013 to 67% (511 health units) at the end of 2014, reflecting an expansion of the PRN services to more health units. This improvement included the inclusion of relevant indicators in the Health Information System (SIS – Basic Module). In 2014, the recovery rate of cases of serious acute malnutrition (SAM) in the nutrition rehabilitation programme was 61% in both treatment services (which is still below the target of 80%).
– Xiii... but what is this, they have no shame...?

– What is it Grandma, what are you talking about...?

– I don´t know my child, it is horrible to go for a walk and find peoples “pee” and “poop” on the road, in the fields and close to the rivers where people come to bathe and wash the clothes, or simply to enjoy the view. People should know that is very unpleasant besides being dangerous.

– You are right Grandma, it is true, I don´t like it either, at school the teacher says that it brings a lot of contamination.

– That is true, people have to learn to avoid these things but let´s start by sharing a story that will teach us to be cleaner. Go call your friends to tell you all a story...

I ran out to look for my friends and did not take long to come back because we all loved grandma Elisa´s stories.

– Are you ready kids, I am going to tell you a story that talks about the good cleaning habits of the cat, if we could all be like him we would never have infections or epidemics in our village. Everybody repeat with me...
Tip-tap, tip-tap,
Meow! I’m the painted kitty,
The shameless are the ones I do not like to see,
Everywhere they go, they poop and pee.

Tip-tap, tip-tap,
Meow! They walk around with combed furs,
And next to them go their exalted owners,
They wag their tails and like jumping and barking,
Running and sniffing,
Poo and pee is all I see.
Meow! They are proud of their blood,
And yet they don’t know how to live.

Tip-tap, tip-tap,
Meow! How embarrassed they should be,
Digging a hole in the ground is fairly easy,
And it’s a better way to hide your poo and pee.
I wonder why they do it.
They risk their lives and the lives of their cubs,
If either of them were to be contaminated.
Meow! I think it is better to take care,
Of the order, cleanliness and purity,
Of our own lairs.
Tip-tap, tip-tap,
Meow! And this tip-tap,
Is my biggest joy,
Because I’m still a cat,
That likes drinking clean water and taking a bath.
I love the tip-tap, because it helps prevent me,
From being sick or contaminated.
Tip-tap with soap and water,
Ashes can be a good alternative.

Tip-tap, tip-tap,
Meow! I’m the painted kitty,
I don’t like trash or anything smelly,
Or poo in the streets nor in the fields.
Meow! I prefer order and tidiness,
And being a good cat citizen.
RESULTS

Water, Hygiene e Sanitation with support from UNICEF

– The first National Sanitation Conference, of a multi-sector nature, was held in May 2014, under the leadership of the Government of Mozambique (five Ministries involved in the organisation), where it was agreed to eliminate open defecation by 2025, and guarantee universal access to water and to safe sanitation by 2030.

– Under the leadership of the National Directorate of Water, UNICEF supported a national evaluation of open defecation free (ODF) communities. In 2014, a total of 872 communities were certified as open defecation free, of which 396 are communities with 100% improved family latrines. With this result, the country now has about 2,500 ODF communities – that is, about 10% of all existing communities are open defecation free.

– Building the capacity of the Government’s partners for the provision of good quality water, hygiene and sanitation services, through support in training, recruitment of new staff, and district planning in 12 districts in Zambézia, 5 districts in Sofala, 4 districts in Tete, 4 districts in Manica, and 1 district and 1 municipality in Nampula. In 2014, 131 government staff and implementing partners were trained, at the decentralised level, in the promotion of sanitation, hygiene and sustainability; 10 artisans were trained in producing components of improved latrines and 11 government staff in managing financial resources.

– From 2012 to 2014, with the support of UNICEF, were developed Sanitation Master Plans in five villages (Ribáuè, Rapale, Mecuburi, Monapo and Namialo) which provided the local government guidelines and recommendations on the organization of water services and sanitation in the villages, in the promotion and regulation of family and institutional sanitation, waste management and identified key activities to be implemented in the short, medium and long term as well as the human resources and the budget needed to improve the sanitation situation in each district by 2025.

– Since 2012, UNICEF has provided support so that 80,000 primary school children enjoy access to improved water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 20 districts in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Tete, Manica, Sofala and Gaza. The 2014 achievements include water supply infrastructure in 50 primary schools in the districts of Tete, Manica, Sofala and Gaza, reaching 19,000 students. Sanitation facilities in 82 primary schools in 13 districts (Angoche, Monapo, Namialo, Rapale, Angónia, Macanga, Changara, Guro, Manica, Gondola, Sussendenga, Buzi and Chibuto), reaching 59,063 pupils; 109 schools free of open defecation in 15 districts, benefitting 67,156 pupils (in Angónia, Macanga, Chiuta, Changara, Guro, Macossa, Manica, Gondola, Sussendenga, Machaze, Buzi, Nhamatanda, Gorongosa and Caia).
– In 2014, a further 74,100 people living in rural areas in Tete, Manica and Sofala had improved access to water through the construction of 109 water supply sources.

– A total of 246,200 people, 96% of whom live in rural areas, had access to improved sanitation in 2014 with the direct support of UNICEF. Cumulatively (2012-2014), 826 communities in 15 districts of Sofala (Cheringoma, Nhamatanda, Caia, Buzi, Gorongosa), Tete (Changara, Chiuta, Macanga, Angónia), Manica (Guro, Macossa, Gondola, Manica) and Zambézia (Gilé, Gurué), representing an estimated 22% of all communities in these districts were certified as having reached the stage of being open defecation free status.

– In the Nampula province, in Ribáuè district, as part of the partnership with the Government to accelerate the implementation of the management model delegated to the villages, with the support and technical assistance from UNICEF, the water supply system was inaugurated, capable of supplying up to 27,000 people, and access to improved sanitation was provided to 15,730 residents of Ribáuè Rapale and villages. An agreement worth 10 million Euros was signed between the European Union (9 million) and UNICEF (1 million) for a similar intervention in water supply in Inhambane province.
Vitória, heroine of the village

Well, well, it was quite a surprise my parents had prepared for my 12 birthday. I feel strong, enjoy living in my village and am doing very well in school. Now I even have a program in the community radio and soon I will be going to Maputo with my friend Aurora to participate in a Child to Child training about Radio communications.

– Hi, Vitória. Can I tell you something?

Rosita came running to meet me, a 13 year old girl from another class.

– Sure Rosita, tell me.
– Vitória, everyone in our class thinks that you can help us. We are not happy with our new teacher. He is always late, he is almost never in the classroom and when he is, he falls asleep. When he teaches us he says things that are wrong and sometimes he is even corrected by João, who has never been good in class, yet he does not seem to mind. He just smiles, goes on with the classwork and later sits again and closes his eyes.

– Xiii... is this true? Is he new?
– Yes, he just recently and now everyone wants him replaced.
– Xiii... I do not know what to do now, but I will think of something. Let us talk tomorrow.
– Excuse me, are you Vitória?
– Yes, that is me. Who are you? What’s up?
– My name is Zé.
– What can I do for you, Zé? Are you in school? I have not seen you before.
– No, I am not in school, but I would like to study.
– And why don’t you come?
– Because I do not have a birth certificate.

I was surprised and intrigued to hear the story of Zé and his family. They had arrived at the village because his father had travelled to the mines in South Africa to look for a job. It had been a long time since he had last written or called. Many people said that he was living with a woman in that country. That is why Zé’s mother had to leave the bush abandoning the hut where they lived to look for a job and assistance. However, no one registered Zé’s birth or the birth of his younger brothers, and now they are not able to study.

— It’s all right, Zé. I’ll see what I can do.

Before our lesson started, I spoke with Zacarias, the teacher, and explained the two cases of Rosita and Zé. He committed to finding a solution with help from the Headmaster of the school and APE, called Feliciano. That day I went to bed very worried and it was difficult to fall asleep.
The next day, Zacarias the teacher told me Feliciano would come by in the afternoon. Then he asked me to go get Rosita and her classmates. When they came, they confirmed that the new teacher hadn’t arrived yet. Then Zacarias the teacher began explaining to them what they should do to motivate their new teacher into changing his behavior. They quickly began to do what he had suggested, writing messages on posters of all sizes and colors for the new teacher.

The first message was placed in the entrance of the classroom and when the teacher arrived he read:

“Welcome teacher, we are eagerly waiting for your brilliant lesson.”

Perfectly written on the board in front of the room, was another message:

“We hope you slept well so you can share your wisdom and knowledge.”

He looked at the students seriously and sat in his desk, where there was yet another message:

“We are flowers thirsty for knowledge, do not let us dry up.”

During that morning, every time the teacher would leave or fall asleep, when he returned or woke up he would see a new message. He began
feeling so uncomfortable by that situation that he was motivated into giving his first complete lesson.

When it was time for the break, I saw Zé at school staring at me. I went to meet him and we started talking. He told me how he was disappointed he did not have a birth certificate and how ashamed he felt to say that his father had abandoned his family.

– I am still young, and there are many things I do not know. I did not know that a birth certificate was that important.

– Well, Zé. Zacarias, the teacher, says that everyone, children and adults must have a birth certificate.

– Xiii... I thought moms pulled their babies out of their tummies with a paper signed by Father God and he was the one that gave the names of each person in that paper, said Zé.

I smiled, it was a good idea, but then I explained to him that it was most likely that his parents forgot to get the certificate.

– Well, yes... My father never registered us because he was always traveling. That is why I think Father God could send the babies with their registrations. Think about it, Vitória. That is the only way no father would ever forget to document their children, and since God is so smart he would give his children
Zé and I laughed. Then I asked him if they had tried getting him registered.

– We went to the district’s administration office, but the man in the balcony told my mom that my dad had to be with her. She tried to explain our situation but the man would not listen. He insisted we had to solve our problem before getting the registration. That man said that if my father had “fled” we should file a lawsuit; my mom told him we did not have any money and that I needed to be registered urgently so I would not miss my school year. But the man replied that was not his problem. Vitória, do you think it is possible to study without a certificate?

I remained silent but Zé asked another question:

– Vitória, what does the word “fled” mean?

I returned to my classroom and told Mr. Zacarias about my conversation with Zé.
– You know, Julia, don’t you? Do you know who she is? – asked the teacher.

– Yes, she is the girl who broadcasts on the radio.

– Well, yesterday she was talking about a project of the government with support from UNICEF that helps people with similar problems to get a certificate.

– Xiii... Seriously? Let’s contact them?

– Feliciano will come with a team at 2 pm and Julia from the radio will be there too to cover the story. Let Zé and his mother know so they can be here at that hour.

I was very happy, I was finally going to meet my heroine, the one who inspired me to collaborate with my school’s community radio, but most importantly, we were going to solve Zé’s problem.

Before 2 pm Zé and his mom arrived and it was a big surprise for them to find APE Feliciano, the school headmaster, Mr. Zacarias and the personnel there to make the certificate. Julia was there too, she was in a wheelchair. I hadn’t imagined her like that and my admiration for her grew even more, because, in spite of the distance and her disability, she had become an important person to our villages. She explained to me that she did not receive her vaccines when she was a baby and had caught an infection that left her without any movement in her legs.
I was so excited I even shed tears of joy when they finally gave the document to Zé and his mom. Since that day I have begun enjoying my work in the community radio more and my wish is to be like Julia.

When we left the classroom toward the school entrance, we saw Rosita and her classmates running after the new teacher. We had to slow down our step because the students would send more and more encouraging messages through paper planes as the teacher left.

In that moment, Mr. Zacarias asked Zé’s mom if she knew where her husband was. She did not reply. He walked up to Zé and asked what he thought of his father. Zé thought for a moment and said:

– I like my dad. I know that wherever he is, I’m still important to him.

Zé’s mom could not take it anymore and began to cry, he went over to her side and began tickling her and saying:

– Don’t cry, mommy…. We have my certificate, I can now go to school.
We said goodbye and watched Zé and his mother walk away happily, crossing paper planes from some students who continued to throw them merrily.

“All of us make a school, learning is a universal right.”
RESULTS

Education
with support from UNICEF

- A proposal for the Global Partnership for Education for 57.9 million USD was developed. The prioritisation of quality and learning was leveraged (Primary Education Plan 2015-18).

- Built capacities of 6,000 teachers in 7 districts in “Child Friendly Schools” districts as well as of the teacher training institutions at national level.

- Six hundred (600) primary schools implemented quality standards and guidelines on the quality of education and shared lessons learnt for nationwide roll-out of standards, their monitoring and supervision.

- Twenty-two (22) teacher training institutions in 11 provinces integrate cross-cutting issues on school health, HIV/AIDS prevention, life skills, gender, prevention of abuses and practice of sport.

- UNICEF supported the inclusion of school-based emergency preparedness plans in curriculum.
RESULTS

Child Protection
with the support of UNICEF

– In 2014, 319,871 children were registered during the National Health Weeks. It is estimated that 60% of all children under 5 years old have been registered.

– The National Operational Plan for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics was designed by the Government with the support of UNICEF and partners.

– Technical and financial support from UNICEF contributed to an increase in the commitment of the Government and of other partners to child sensitive social protection and to revising the Social Security Strategy.

– The Case Management manual was endorsed by the Government, and 1,400 Community Committees were trained in Zambézia, Inhambane and Gaza provinces, which could then identify protection cases involving 141,000 vulnerable children that require intervention. Evidence of the role and function of these committees which counted on support from UNICEF is being documented.

– By court decision, 2,000 children were reunited with a foster family, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF.

– National Campaign against Child Marriage launched by the Prime Minister, with the contribution of development partners, including UNICEF, through advocacy, and technical and financial assistance.
Goood daaay...Dear listeners of “The voice of the Children” program, conducted by Aurora and Vitória, brought to you from the Community Radio in our school.

Dear Vitória, today we will discuss a very important subject that should be everyone’s responsibility and concern to know.

Well, of course Aurora, today we will talk about HIV and AIDS, and how it affects children and pregnant women.

That’s right, Vitória. This talk is meant for children and their families. I think they will have a better understanding about this disease and how we can achieve a long, healthy life in spite of it being an illness with no cure.

Alright then, let’s begin with today’s program.

The HIV virus is the one that causes AIDS. It can be transmitted from one person to another.

As I said before, the cure for this disease hasn’t been discovered yet, but it can be treated so people can live a long life.

HIV is transmitted in the following ways: Unprotected sex, mother to child transmission during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding, blood transfusion, unsterilized syringes, needles, knives or sharp objects repeatedly used by people infected with the virus.

The HIV virus is not transmitted by mosquito bites, hugging or kissing, or by sharing the same cutlery, plates or cups.
A person infected with the HIV virus can live many years without knowing he or she is infected, and can unknowingly infect other people, even the ones they love most.

It is important that the husband and wife get tested for HIV voluntarily. If you love yourself and your family, getting tested is a sign of responsibility and love. If you are HIV positive it is better to go to a health center where you can receive the counseling and treatments necessary to fight the disease.

It is also important that people that are HIV positive are supported by their families and community.

That is how the program that I share with Aurora develops. We were both invited to collaborate in the Community Radio. We took a chance to share the ideas and opinions and we shared with our classmates, our community members, and project them towards thousands of children and young people all over our country. It was Julia who gave us our first chance at this, even though we didn’t know her personally. She has been our adviser in order to produce our programs in high quality. Julia herself, is a girl who is not afraid to say what she thinks, but always in a respectful manner, and I like that.

In the beginning, we would send ten-minute cuts for Julia’s program, but the audience began liking our participation and now we have our own program which is transmitted twice a week through our Community
Radio in Portuguese and our local language.

We talk about all sorts of things, but especially children’s rights, nutrition, health and community sanitation. We are becoming more and more popular. I get nervous, but we both like that the community knows who we are. We love helping people and being their voice.

My parents and my neighbours are very proud and happy with us. Two weeks ago we did an interview to the District Administrator over the phone and he told us that he listened to our program and encouraged us to continue. Our “Bradas Club” in the radio is also growing and I take this chance to invite all boys and girls to come and participate in the club.

Aurora and I have many dreams, we were invited to participate in a training at the headquarters of Radio Mozambique in Maputo, on techniques in developing Child to Child radio programs. We are very happy and nervous at the same time for the chance of knowing the big city. I think we will learn a lot from the experience.

To finish this story I will leave you with some poetry that talks about children’s health, I hope you enjoy.
I have a dream that is not impossible,
Of children free of diseases that are transmissible,
I think my dream is quite plausible,
With decisions that are right and of good level.

There’s a perfect world with responsible adults,
Who aren’t exposed to incurable diseases,
It is not enough being attractive,
You have to be smart to remain alive.

I wish to give adults some healthy advice,
It is better to get tested early than to later on cry.
I have a dream that is a possible dream,
Of children free of HIV and AIDS,
Capable of living long and healthy lives.
I have a dream we all can share,
To avoid treatments it is better to take care.
- In 2014, UNICEF supported the Government in expanding the services of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), including Option B+ (simplified treatment protocols which improve retention and reduce the mother-to-child transmission rate), in Tete, Maputo, Niassa, Sofala and Zambézia provinces, through training sessions, supervision and monitoring of anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment for the nurses of the Mother and Child Health services (SMI). This contributed to significant progress in the country with a view to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV are available in 82% (1,213) of the 1,485 health units, offering ante-natal consultations throughout the country. Ninety-seven (97) percent of HIV-positive pregnant women are receiving prophylaxis for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Eighty-seven (87) percent of them have received ARV for PMTCT (Option B).

- UNICEF, in partnership with the Clinton Foundation (CHAI), is continuing to contribute to the expansion and improvement of early diagnosis through technological innovation, by means of a national network of SMS printers which allows the immediate delivery of the results of early infant diagnosis in the peripheral units. The rapid return of the results guarantee that children infected with HIV begin treatment as quickly as possible, thus helping to save more lives. This contributed to ensuring that, by the end of 2014, 60,768 children under the age of 15 had access to anti-retroviral treatment, which corresponds to a 50% coverage of all eligible children. Ninety-five (95) of all the PCR results were sent by SMS printers. However, the rate of coverage of children remains below the anti-retroviral coverage for adults (79%).

- UNICEF also contributed to the inclusion of adolescents (10-14 years of age), as a priority population for HIV prevention in the new HIV National Strategic Plan for the Response 2015-2019.

- In Beira, UNICEF supported community involvement and the involvement of groups of adolescent peer educators in HIV prevention, counselling and testing, access to anti-retroviral treatment, as well as adolescent and youth friendly health services (SAAJ).
One Thursday morning I arrived to school very early and the first person I looked for was my friend Aurora. She hadn’t come to class the last few days and I was beginning to worry.
I asked the other students if they had seen her but no one gave me a positive answer, not even my teacher, who asked me to visit her and see if she wasn’t doing well or needed any help.
Aurora is my friend. She was my neighbour but her family moved to the other side of the village, close to the river. She is 13 years old, one year older than me.

When I got to her home, I was surprised to hear drums and a big celebration going on. I spied through the open door and saw Aurora, covered in a white blanket. Her family would throw coins and bills on her. It seemed Aurora was ready to do the initiation ritual into becoming a woman but she seemed so scared I decided to go in and support her.

Her family did not mind me being there and they happily invited me to dance with them. Once it was over, they left us alone and it was then that Aurora told me with tears in her eyes that she was afraid to do the ritual, she was not interested in knowing what men wanted and above all she wanted to return to school. The worst part was that she was engaged to be married with an older man who would come one month after the
ritual. That's when I became scared too, I could not imagine my friend with a husband, let alone with kids.

That's when I remember Feliciano, the APE, who visited our village to counsel the community. His job was to help families and give children their vaccines, but sometimes he would give advice to the community. One day I heard him talk about the importance of respecting tradition but he also said that traditions should respect children’s rights. Feliciano was a special person and everyone trusted him.

In the meantime I quickly went to my teacher’s house. I told him everything and he became worried, he told me he did not like the idea of losing one of his best students.

He went to see Aurora’s family. Her parents were not very happy when the teacher began talking about Aurora’s rights.

– Xiii... What rights are you talking about? She is our daughter and we get to decide what is best for her. The ritual is a necessity in our culture. It is our tradition, do you understand? 

– I agree with the ritual, what I am worried is what Aurora told Vitória about getting married to a man from another village. She is still a child and even though she may be ready for the ritual that does not mean she is ready to wed.

– You know nothing, nothing at all. We already made the
agreement with the other family and they will arrive on the day we set. Above all, this matter is our own, not yours. Now please, let us be, we have things to do.

My teacher and I left Aurora’s home feeling disappointed. He told me he would talk with Feliciano, the APE, to know what could be done to help her. Aurora was not the only girl in our school facing this problem, there were three more girls who had stopped coming to school in the past weeks.

He went looking for APE Feliciano, and together they planned a meeting on the weekend in school. The headmaster, my family, some other people and I helped by calling all the members of the community. Feliciano and my teacher were happy to see that even the Head of the Administration - who was casually visiting a nearby village - had come. According to her, the government was more and more concerned with this matter.

Feliciano and the teacher sat in the center and asked everyone to listen quietly to later on discuss things in order. Then they told them they would discuss the initiation rituals and underage marriage.

Everyone began murmuring. Then came the community healer who sat near the teacher and greeted everyone. Not long after arrived the Community Chief followed by a religious leader who sat in front of Feliciano. He greeted him by slightly vowing his head respectfully. Everyone remained silent and Feliciano took the chance to speak.
Dear community members, we are gathered here today with this teacher and Vitória, who urgently asked for this meeting because she is concerned for her friend Aurora. The teacher here says that a group of girls have stopped coming to school because apparently they are being prepared for their initiation ritual. That is very important in our village, isn’t it? But I would like to ask you something. Don’t you think that there are things that are said and done in the ritual that aren’t appropriate for young girls? Do you really think it is more important for our girls to know how to satisfy a man before studying to prepare themselves to be important people for our community in the future? I think we can improve our rituals if we respect everyone’s rights, and...girls and women have rights.

That’s when an argument began, a man said:

- Let’s see...our tradition is like that, it’s always been like that... Why do we have to change it now?

- Because times change, and it is always good to distinguish between what is good and what is bad. Let us think of our daughters not just as women who deserve respect, but as human beings who have rights. Pregnancy in underage girls brings enormous health risks, birth giving can be long, complicated and they may die. A young girl who is still a child
It was then that a woman raised her hand to speak.

– *I am going to be the godmother of one of these young girls, and honestly I do not feel very comfortable talking about sex with someone who is still so young, but that is the way I learned, what can I do.*

– *That is a good question, thank you for your participation.*

The religious leader then intervened and very wisely said:

– *This is a good discussion and it is also necessary. I too have been thinking on how to change some aspects of our rituals that seemed good in our times, but today we see they are not. I think it is important to think about the future and not limit ourselves with the past.*

Suddenly the Head of Administration said:

– *I think the godmother should give advice on the importance of family, talk about love and how to understand the changes in their bodies, and their rights and duties first as a girl and*
then as a woman.

The teacher then added:

– *It is also important that she understands the importance of studying to have opportunities in her adult life.*

– *It would also be good to be able to choose freely who to love and marry – said Aurora with conviction – I don’t want to be a mother yet, I am afraid to. I want to live my adolescent life without assuming the obligations of an adult, because I am not an adult.*

Everyone remained silent and then I said:

– *Our families should not negotiate our destiny. We are girls and women. We deserve respect and the same opportunities such as boys and men.*

At that moment part of the community began applauding. Everyone began talking and making comments, it seemed the discussion was going well. Then a young man asked:

– *But what happens if my family and me already made the payment for one of these girls, what should we do?*
Then everyone began murmuring until Feliciano intervened again:

– *Let’s see, here are many parents with their daughters on their laps listening to this discussion. Could you imagine your girls getting ready to leave with a man just as old as you? Men... let’s look at this clearly. I think it is impossible to believe that a girl who still plays with dolls, just because she made a ritual, should be seen as a woman. It all comes down to conscience, as developed as a girl’s body maybe, her spirit and world is still that of a child’s. The ritual should prepare them for life, not for men.*

And again, the comments began, other people intervened, even the community’s healer was willing to accept these changes and what he said meant a great deal to everyone.

– *Personally, I don’t like that small girls do the ritual. I think it would be better if they finished their studies first and be grownups to do it. I have a daughter and my dream is that she becomes a doctor...*

Everyone was in awe when they heard him speak that way. Nobody had thought of those things, simply because they thought traditions should be respected as they were. The discussion continued and after three
hours, everyone agreed on making small changes to the ritual. The Head of Administration also became committed to keeping close watch of these situations and to try and motivate colleagues to support a behavioral change in families, to respect the rights of these young girls’ education and health while they were still children.

In the end, everything turned out well and the three girls were able to go back to school. Their parents agreed to postpone the ritual so they could finish studying. I think everyone feels better now. Aurora and I are closer friends than we ever were and we were both invited by Julia to collaborate in the Community Radio of the village. Julia is the broadcaster of a Children Program of Radio Mozambique in Maputo. She said we could use the radio to denounce any problem and fight together so no one forgets our rights.
Communication, Advocacy, Participation and Partnerships
in support of the Government

- A desk review on child marriage and sexual initiation rites completed and research begun on children’s perceptions around their participation in sexual initiation rites, analysing their expectations and the correlation between “rites and child marriage”. Research begun into social norms in rural sanitation and social norms and social marketing in the sanitation area in small towns, with the data collection completed in Tete and Inhambane provinces.

- One thousand and twenty (1,020) health workers and APEs were trained in inter-personal communication skills with the support of UNICEF.

- UNICEF finalised the Information, Education and Communication package about birth registration to help the registration officials of the Ministry of Justice improve inter-personal communication with the beneficiaries. Two thousand (2,000) copies were printed and distributed in all the country’s provinces.

- UNICEF has developed and implemented the strategy of social influencers’ engagement at community level in Tete and Zambézia provinces. Forty thousand (40,000) copies of the booklet for Religious Leaders for the Promotion of Children’s Rights were printed and distributed. In June 2014, the alliance with religious denominations was launched in coordination with the Council of Religions of Mozambique.

- With UNICEF support, more than 1.2 million people were reached in the rural areas of Zambézia, Tete, Cabo Delgado and Nampula with participatory sessions of communication for development using cinema and community theatre organised by the Institute of Social Communication (ICS) and the CTK and GTR theatre groups. More than 2.5 million people were made aware of the rights of children with disability through the multi-media campaign.

- Approximately 1,500 child journalists and producers were trained and were given space on the radios and on TVM to express their opinions about their rights.

- Through public and private advocacy, Civil Society Organisations, with the support of UNICEF and partners, ensured that during the revision of the Penal Code the interests of children were safeguarded. The celebration of the Day of the African Child was marked by the launch of the CD “Música é Vida” (“Music is Life”), produced by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, with the support of 14 Mozambican singers, under the
leadership of the musician Stewart Sukuma. More than 600 children, youths and adults took part in the concert, which was transmitted to millions of people throughout the country. In the framework of the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a photographic exhibition was organised portraying the 25 years of the Convention in Mozambique. Opinion editorials signed by the UNICEF Representative and by the renowned Mozambican writers Mia Couto and Paulina Chiziane were published in the main newspapers. Also during the celebrations, the singer Neyma was appointed the new UNICEF Ambassador for Mozambique.

– In 2014, the activities on the UNICEF Mozambique digital platforms for public advocacy reached 17.4 million people on the Facebook social network, 19.7 million on Twitter, 165,000 on Google Plus, 103,000 on Pinterest, 113,200 on the website, and 16,700 on the various UNICEF micro-sites.
Xiii, how good it is to see this... It has been long since I read an article this good in the paper. Seems like the lives of the children of our country have improved lately. There’s a lot that needs to be done of course, but we’re beginning to see some progress.

What are you talking about, Grandma Elisa? What are you reading?

My child, in this newspaper there is a summary of a study on the situation of children in the country. It is good because it talks about what is alright but also about what needs to be done.

That’s great Grandma! Tell me what the article says to see if it’s true.

Well, for example, some things that are good are that many children are studying, also that there are more teachers and many children now sleeping under mosquito nets for protection, which is why there are less children dying from malaria. Another positive thing is that more children are receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS and also vaccines to prevent many diseases. It’s all in the paper.

Is that true, Grandma? How great! And what does it say about the things that are wrong?

In the article they call them challenges, because there are still many children that do not complete their education or that do not learn much in school. Many health centers lack nurses and doctors and there are many young girls who get married before they are 18 years old. I felt a little ashamed to know there are
many Mozambicans who still use the bushes as bathrooms.

Xiii... and some of those things are happening in our community!

Well, it’s true Vitória, and it is necessary to have this information in order to know what to do. To solve these many of these problems money is needed, or how do they call it...investment. That is why it is important that our leaders and authorities make good use of the public’s money, what they call budget.

Then...it is the government the one in charge of doing that?

Yes, it is their responsibility. They are elected by the people to represent everyone, from the eldest to the youngest, from the richest to the most poor. The government has to work so that there is progress and everyone’s lives improve.

Progress... like many buildings and new roads?

Yes, but true progress cannot be measured by buildings, but by the quality of the lives of people living there. My child, do you think people are healthy? That they have education? Or are protected from violence? Have clean water to drink? Can speak up their minds? It is important that we all know these things. We must know how our people are doing, especially our children, who are the majority in our country.

But what does budget have to do with that?

Listen child, it is important to know these things, to know how the government decides to spend the money it has to develop
our communities. This is how it has to be, child. Mozambique is a large nation and sometimes people have to live in difficult areas where life is very hard.

Xiii like Ze’s family!

Exactly...like Zé. Many children die before turning 5 years old because of diseases and lack of care. They are the ones our leaders have to reach out to. Children, women and adults in general have to walk miles to get to school or a health center, and often when they arrive, there is a lack of materials, electricity or personnel.

Hold on, grandma. How do we know all these things? About the state of our country’s children and how the government spends money to solve their problems?

I don’t know! But I think the government sometimes reaches out to families to find out how they are doing. Remember when we were visited by a person in a uniform and with papers, who asked us many questions about our family, our health, if we had studied and more? I know the government researches about these things, so it can gather information about our lifestyle and our situation. For example, if you had to take care of our community but didn’t know how the people are doing and their main issues, you wouldn’t even know where to start.

It is true, Grandma. I am beginning to understand. It would be hard to guess who needs what... I think I wouldn’t even know
how to spend the money.

That is why the government has to look at all of this information, see where the main problems are for Mozambicans and what those issues are about, to later on decide how to act. The government makes plans for this and needs the budget to make them happen. It is important that we also know these problems and talk to the government about them to make sure our money is well spent.

So more important than improving buildings and roads is to use the money to improve the education and health of people and children?

Well, girl, to develop a country you need both. It is also good to improve our infrastructure.

Excuse me, grandma...what is infra...truc...excuse me, l n f r a s t r u c t u r e?

Well done! Infrastructure is the construction that is made to improve our country, because beyond the buildings we see, there are also hospitals and schools being build, that are important to everyone. But you are right, our country needs more doctors and nurses, teachers and students and more specialists who can help our children. All that cannot be done by just anyone, it has to be developed by people qualified for the job, or else the investment will hold no benefit.
Xiii... You mean it is not enough to have the money. You have to have the wisdom to spend it in a way that improves our lives today, tomorrow and long after...

Yes, my child, you are beginning to understand and I like the way you are thinking. It is not just for today and we should not wait to invest in our children.

Xiii... True Mozambican pride! You know, Grandma? I should have recorded our conversation to later on transmit it through the Community Radio.

Oh, child! Me? On the radio? I don’t think so. I am too old for that... It is better that you know about the things that are important to think about and discuss them with your friends. If you want to, you can go to the radio, but I will stay here!

Grandma and I started laughing.
RESULTS

Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation
with the support of UNICEF

– In close collaboration with government partners, an updated and comprehensive Situation Analysis on Children in Mozambique (SITAN) was developed. The report contains up-to-date information about the life of children in the country, and is being used as an important tool in advocacy for prioritising children. Exhaustive work of calculating the costs of interventions in the social sector and the fiscal space for investments in the areas of health, education and social protection was developed as a basis for advocacy with the partners to channel larger and better investments focused on children.

– UNICEF contributed to the debate on investment in children through the production of Social Sectors Budget Briefs, which are concise and simplified. These summaries analyse the evolution of the budget for health, education and social protection (the latter done in collaboration with the ILO).

– Support has been provided at central and decentralised levels to the Ministry of Economy and Finance (National Budget Directorate and National Planning Directorate), to strengthen capacities to elaborate the budget and in Results-Based Management (RBM) principles. Government staff at central, provincial and district levels were trained, with a special focus on the provinces of Tete and Zambézia.

– In the area of promoting Evidence-Based Public Policy, support was provided to the National Institute of Statistics and the National School of Statistics for the update and national dissemination of Territorial Statistics, which is a decentralised data analysis system intended to serve as the main data base at national level, which includes disaggregated statistics at district level, updated every six months. Targeted support has been given in Zambézia and Tete provinces, with the provision of on-the-job training for statistics technicians at the district level, to improve the quality of data collection and consequent analysis.
the things we should all know about the emergency

There are things we must all know,
Important things, so that
together we can all defend.
Simple things,
Easy things,
Even for the people,
Who know very little.
Let us all go together and learn
It is our duty and our right,
With Mother Nature
It is always better to avert.

Rain and flood,
Hurricanes and typhoons,
It is very important to know,
The areas that are safe so as,
To avoid getting caught by surprise.
It is also important to have at home,
A safety kit in case of emergency,
For whatever emergency.

In some occasions, Mother Nature,
Can be cruel and severe,
But we already know her,
She warns us and yet we choose not to hear.
As part of its emergency preparedness actions, UNICEF provided support for the strengthening of the rapid multi-sectoral assessment system in Zambézia, in developing, drafting and making operational the National Contingency Plan for 2014-2015 through the pre-positioning of emergency supplements for 25,000 people, and technical and institutional support for the relevant line ministries. Support was also given to the preparation of the National Plan for Ebola Preparedness and Response, and in training and building the capacity of the Local Disaster Management Committees.

In the flood and cholera emergency response, UNICEF intervened actively in water and sanitation, education and child protection, health and nutrition, as well as in the area of communication for development, through activities of social awareness and mobilisation. As a result, more than 126,000 people affected by the floods in Zambézia, and about 8,400 people affected by cholera throughout the country benefitted from basic humanitarian assistance, with the support of UNICEF and other partners.
In 2014, UNICEF Mozambique had total expenditures of USD 41 million, down from USD 57 million in 2013. This decrease is due on one hand by the demand in 2014 on donor support for an increasing number of international emergencies, but also by the decreased spending in the Child Health and Nutrition programme, 26% of the total, at USD 10.6 million, when last year it represented USD 23.6 million. This also shows a shift in expenditures away from supplies and financing operational costs towards more value added cooperation, although incentives for community health workers, immunizations and National Health weeks still represent a large share of spending. The WASH programme spent USD 10 million, or 24% of total, to improve water and sanitation services in rural communities, small towns and schools. 15% of total expenditures were spent on community based child protection interventions and supporting the scale up of social protection, while 12% were used by the education programme to deliver upstream policy work and consolidate the transition from Child Friendly Schools. These programme areas were supported by additional value-added work provided through technical assistance, communication for development, social policy engagement and advocacy, representing jointly 15% of expenditures.

At 44%, regular resources now represents the most important source of funding, up from 29% last year. Bilateral donors provided approximately 34% of all funds utilized, or a bit more than USD 14 million, down from USD 26 million last year. The UK’s Department for International Development continues to represent the most significant donor providing 41% of all bilateral funds utilized, of which approximately 60% of which supported water and sanitation programming. USAID provided 19% of bilateral funds, largely to health and nutrition programmes, while the European Union and Australia each provided around 8% of funds utilised financing protection and WASH programmes, respectively. The Netherlands support – 7% of funds utilized – focused on water and sanitation while Belgium’s support (6%) was critical to supporting disaster risk reduction and mitigation efforts. Canada provided 4% of funds utilized, while Sweden and Ireland both contributed 2% of funds used by the Country Office in 2014.

Eleven UNICEF National Committees provided $3.2 million, down from USD 5 million last year, due to the increasing number of emergencies crowding our resources for Mozambique. 60% of this funding was used to support education.
programming, including WASH in schools. The US Fund remained the largest contributor, providing 36% of all NatCom funding. The Dutch National Committee provided 14%, while the Finnish Natcom, 6%. The Japanese, German and Spanish Natcoms each provided 4% of Natcom funds utilized. In addition, a number of National Committees provided contributions of under $100,000 including the Spanish, Danish, Portuguese and Norwegian.

A number of donors also provide funds for joint UN programmes, accounting for almost USD3.4 million, down from almost USD 7 million last year, of which over 40% was funded by Canada to support health and nutrition programming. In addition, 33% supported social protection programmes. These activities were delivered jointly with other UN agencies under the Delivering as One framework. Other sources of funding include the Micronutrient Initiative, UNITAID, GAVI and UNICEF’s thematic funding allocated to the Country Office.
letter from Vitória to UNICEF

Dear UNICEF, my name is Vitória and I want to thank you for the beautiful surprise of receiving your support to practice at Radio Mozambique. I would also like to thank teacher Zacarias and APE Feliciano, who are now helping me to participate in the next Children’s Parliament session. I have never done anything expecting recognition, but I am happy to have support, such as that from UNICEF, which implies for me a great deal of commitment and responsibility. Thank you for the acknowledgement that motivates me to keep helping those who live in my village and other places where my voice can be heard. I love to help out just like you do. Thank you for protecting me and the children of my country.

I carefully read everything that is said about the work UNICEF does here in Mozambique in an article my grandmother shared with me. I learned of your commitment to promoting child survival, vaccination, education and protection. That is why I am writing this letter to thank you, but also to tell you that there are many children in danger around the world, children who are exposed to conflict or disaster zones, suffering violence and different diseases.

This cannot go on, it is always important to remember that all the children in the world deserve protection and a family, they have the right to have health and education in order to be stronger and better. I learned many things in school and helped the development of our village through debates.

I am now committed to continuing help as a broadcaster in my community radio and also in the next Children’s Parliament, talking about our rights and doing what UNICEF does in the world: Fight for a better world for children, without distinction.
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