



MOZAMBIQUE



PHASE II

Country Situation at Baseline

- **Profile of typical fistula survivor:** According to a 2002 needs assessment, women seeking fistula treatment are generally young, and some women in their thirties have lived with the condition for over 15 years. Women of the Lilongwe tribe in northern Mozambique have a high incidence of fistula, most likely due in part to their small stature.
- **Caseload:** In the two hospitals assessed, approximately 150 fistula repairs had been recorded annually, but there was a significant backlog of cases that had not yet been treated. Dr. Aldo Marchesini of Hospital Provincial de Quelimane performs fistula repair surgeries in six different provincial hospitals, where the demand for treatment is high. Dr. Igor Vaz and his nursing staff at Maputo Central Hospital intend to train providers from regional hospitals.
- **Barriers:** Mozambique remains one of the 10 poorest countries in the world, with a strained health care infrastructure and many hard-to-reach rural communities. There are few health care providers trained in fistula repair, as well as constant staffing shortages and a lack of equipment and supplies. Space for fistula patients is limited, forcing many to sleep on the floor. In addition, fistula is not recognised as a priority for many doctors in the area.
- **Cultural context:** In Mozambique, a woman must often conceal her attempts at family planning, as some community members associate it with promiscuity. Women with fistula are stigmatised; a fistula survivor may become the servant of the next woman whom her husband takes as a wife, remaining in this position for as long as she is incontinent. Women who have received fistula repair surgery face strong pressure to become pregnant immediately.

SELECTED INDICATORS	
Total population (millions)	19.2
Total fertility rate (2000-2005)	5.63
MMR (per 100,000 live births)	1,000
% births with skilled birth attendant	44
births among women 15-19 (per 1,000 live births)	105
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	122

Source: UNFPA State of World Population, 2004

Source: Findings from Nine African Countries, EngenderHealth and UNFPA, 2003

Facilities Available to Treat Fistula

1. Hospital Provincial de Quelimane, Quelimane
 - 60 beds in the maternity ward, but fistula clients have been asked to leave due to their smell, and are housed in the surgery ward
 - 11 doctors, three surgery technicians, 16 nurses in the maternity ward
 - Dr. Aldo Marchesini is the primary surgeon who does repairs; there is a backlog of cases
2. Maputo Central Hospital, Maputo
 - 1,200 beds, but only 800 are in use due to staffing shortages
 - The medical team consists of one surgeon, one urologist, one anaesthetist, and one OB/GYN resident

Last updated August 2005



Campaign Achievements

Policy

- Currently in the planning phase, Mozambique is developing a national strategy for fistula advocacy, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Research

- A rapid assessment of Mozambique's needs and capacity for fistula-related services, conducted in August 2002 by EngenderHealth in partnership with UNFPA, was included in the *Findings from Nine African Countries* report.

Partners

1. Ministry of Health
2. Associação Moçambicana para o Desenvolvimento da Família (Mozambique Association for Family Development--AMODEFA)