Background

The Republic of Mozambique is a LIC with a relatively small population of 32 million, with a median age of 17.6 years. GDP per capita is US$ 491 and 7.8% of that is spent on health.

Key points

- With a population of 32 million, Mozambique is making steady progress in reducing HIV and TB mortality and is close to achieving the 95-95-95 goals for HIV.
- Mozambique has been certified free of Guinea worm, an important neglected tropical disease.
- Major challenges in the country include the high risk of malaria across the entire country and declining immunization coverage, both of which are likely the cause of high under-5 and neonatal mortality.
- Key actions suggested by WHO include investing in immunization catch up programmes; investing in strengthening primary health care; and improving sub-national data systems and monitoring to keep closer track of health indicators.
**Indicators**

Under-5 years mortality is 70.6/1000 live births (SDG3 target 25/1000) and neonatal mortality is 28.3/1000 (target 12/1000).

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**Broad disease outlook**

**Malaria**

The entire population is at risk of malaria, which causes 22,000 deaths annually, with a burden of >10 million cases. This is high relative to GTS targets and WHO supports a high burden, high impact approach to malaria control.

A malaria RTS,S vaccine introduction application was submitted to GAVI in January 2023 for Zambezie and Nampula provinces, with a total of 1.5 million vaccines requested for introduction in 2024.

**HIV/TB**

Since 2015 both HIV and TB mortality has been steadily dropping, although TB mortality has shown a slight rise since 2020.

Mozambique is making progress against the 95-95-95 goals:

- 88% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment
- 88% of people living with HIV and on treatment are virally suppressed
- 81% of people living with HIV know their status

**Neglected tropical diseases**

Mozambique has endemic NTDs requiring preventative chemotherapy (mass drug administration – MDA) – lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma and onchocerciasis. Out of 1.7 million targeted for MDA, 1.4 million have been successfully treated.

The country has been certified free of Guinea worm.

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**Non-communicable diseases**

**Cancer prevention and control**

- Investment case for cancer prevention and control:
  - UCN working with Mozambique in collaboration with WHO HQ and NCI, making Mozambique the first country that WHO has supported to develop and investment case for cancer.
  - Final draft handed over to Ministry of Health in the week beginning 6 February 2023.
  - Feedback from the Ministry of Health and launch of the investment case:
  - Prostate cancer: support for development of guidelines, training-of-trainers training and reference, with WHO support
  - Rollout of HPV testing planned for February 2023; launch of roadmap by first lady and the WHO Country Office is working with the Ministry of Health.

**Mental health**

- WHO/UNICEF Joint Programme of Work: Mozambique to receive US$ 400,000 from UNICEF, and both organizations will work jointly with the ministries of health and education to develop an annual work plan.
- King Bedouin Fund USA: Mozambique on of three countries included in the early childhood development and nurturing care framework. Project includes validation of global scales for early childhood development.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Cabo Delgado: WHO country office provides support to Cabo Delgado response, but requires assistance.
- Suicide: Mozambique has a high suicide rate (9th globally) – WHO The African region advised on development of suicide prevention plan, which requires funding to support.
NCD strategic information and surveillance

- STEPS survey planned, in consultation with WHO country office; ongoing discussion with Canada for funding, with The African region supporting the STEPS protocol development, as well as survey tools and budget.
- Updated GSHS survey targeting young adolescents out of date and The African region supporting updated survey.
- Ongoing work on translation of tools and guidance on new WHO framework on facility-based programme and patient monitoring.

Specific challenges

Non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause 36% of deaths in the country, with 31% of premature deaths. The age standardised NCD mortality rate is 779/100,000 population. However, in common with many countries in the region, data are lacking on NCDs indicator targets.

Immunization programme

There are 439,062 under-immunized children in the country, with 371510 zero dose children. These shortfalls are likely due to:

- Conflicting priorities in a country that experiences cyclones and flooding regularly; recurrent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases (polio, cholera and measles); and major insurgency in the northern border regions.
- There are many hard-to-reach localities – exacerbated by natural disasters.
- There is insufficient monitoring capacity at sub-national level.
- Poor data means that target populations are likely underestimated.

Two rounds of mass vaccination in under-5s with OPV were conducted in all provinces and an additional 4 subnational mass vaccination campaigns in 7 provinces with circulating Wild polio and vaccine-derived polio were conducted during 2022. Further polio campaigns are planned in 2023.
Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa

**Statistics at a glance**

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<th>MALARIA</th>
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<td><strong>POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021</strong></td>
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ITN use in children under five years (72.7%) and 57.8% use of ACTs among those for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick.

**Expanded Programme on Immunization in Children**

![Graph showing vaccine coverage over years] 

**MALARIA**

- **Zero dose children**: 3.7 million
- **Under-immunized**: 43.9 million

The drop in basic vaccination since 2019 suggests a strong need for catch-up in routine immunization for preventable diseases.

**HIV and Tuberculosis**

- **+ 1.7 million people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021**
- **89% Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases**
- **89% of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment**

**12% Domestic funding for TB**

**4% Domestic funding for HIV**

**HIV and Tuberculosis**

- **Progress on HIV treatment targets related to the 95-95-95 cascade in 2021**
  - Percentage of people living with HIV who are on treatment and are virally suppressed
  - Percentage of people who know their status and are on Antiretroviral Therapy.
  - Percentage of People Living with HIV who know their status.

**Neglected Tropical Diseases**

- **Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
  - Lymphatic filariasis
  - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Schistosomiasis

- **PC-NTDs treatment in 2021**
  - 1.7 million targeted for MDA
  - 1.4 million successfully Treated with MDA

**Other Major NTDs**

- Cystic echinococcosis
- Leprosy
- Foodborne trematodiasis
- Rabies