

# CHILD PROTECTION

The main objectives of the programme are to ensure that children are better protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, and the most vulnerable children have improved access to basic services and social protection. At national level, the programme aims to support the creation of a protective environment through policy, legal and regulatory frameworks. At sub-national level, it aims to support the capacities of the provincial authorities, civil society organisations and communities to find local solutions for the care and protection of orphaned and vulnerable children. The programme is fully aligned with the UNDAF objectives, the PARPA II (2006-2009), and the targets of the National Plan of Action on Children (including the Action Plan for OVC). It contributes directly to the achievement of the MDG target relating to HIV and AIDS and the objectives set out in Protecting the Vulnerable Chapter 6 of the Millennium Declaration.

The programme consists of three complementary components: (1) Policy Development and Legal Reform; (2) Prevention of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation; and (3) Care and Protection of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children.

The main implementing partners are the Ministry for Women and Social Action (MMAS) and its provincial directorates, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour, the National Directorate of Registries and Notaries and its provincial directorates, the Technical Unit for Legal Reform, the Minor Court, the Supreme Court, the General Attorney Office.

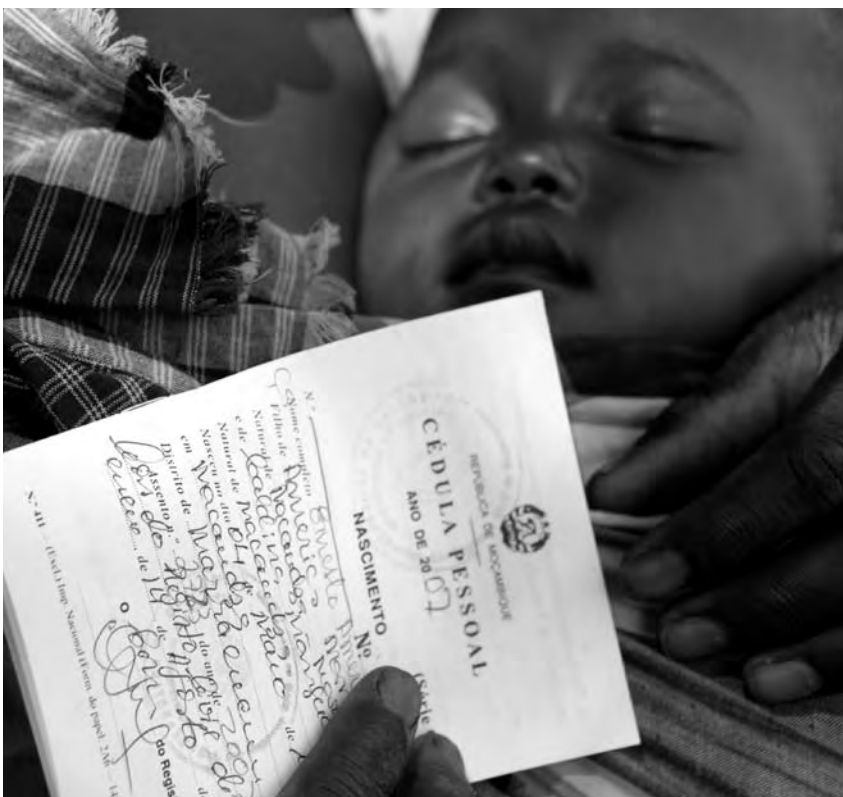
The programme also works closely with the Lawyers Bar Association, the Associação dos Defensores dos Direitos da Criança, Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade, Terre des Hommes, Rede da Criança, Grupo de Teatro de Oprimido, Associação Moçambicana das Mulheres de Carreira Jurídica, International HIV Alliance, HelpAge International, Douleurs Sans Frontieres, Africare, Handicap International, Action Aid, Liga Moçambicana dos Direitos Humanos, HACI, RENSIDA and its associations, and 380 community-based organisations through the afore-mentioned umbrella partners.

In addition, in the Child Protection programme, UNICEF works in close collaboration with WFP, UNFPA, UNAIDS and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

## Key Results in 2007

Partners in the programme helped achieved the following results:

- 160,000 orphaned and vulnerable children gained access to basic social services.
- Over 800,000 children received birth certificates.
- 184 specialised police centres (compared to 140 in 2006) assisted 9,600 women and children victims of violence.
- Children's Act approved by the Council of Ministers.





## Achievements

### Policy Development and Legal Reform

At the policy level, a key achievement in 2007 was the increase in funding for social protection schemes for the most vulnerable children through the commitment of the Government to expand the national cash transfer programme in 2008 to benefit a total of 120,000 vulnerable households with a doubling of the cash amount. This was achieved through technical assistance and evidence-based advocacy in collaboration with MMAS, DFID and the Government of the Netherlands. Progress was also made in terms of legal reform with the approval by the Council of Ministers of the Children's Act, which harmonises the national legal framework with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the approval of a new legislation on Juvenile Justice, which harmonises the national law with the CRC.

# FOCUS ON

## Unconditional Cash Transfer Programme

Mozambique has an existing portfolio of state-funded social assistance programmes primarily implemented through the social welfare sector via MMAS and the National Institute of Social Action (INAS). The Unconditional Cash Transfer Programme (PSA) is the longest standing State assistance scheme, and the only one whose existence and regulations are set out in legislation. Funds for the programme have been allocated exclusively from the State Budget since the creation of the programme in the 1990s. It is an unconditional cash transfer programme which was designed to target the elderly, disabled and chronically ill and their dependants.

PSA has the highest coverage among existing schemes; however, its current coverage is still woefully inadequate, covering 107,000 direct beneficiaries (within a national population of just under 20 million, more than half of whom live below the poverty line). Furthermore, the absence of periodic increases in the level of monthly disbursements has meant that the current level of benefit (maximum of US\$ 6) represents less than 10 per cent of the minimum wage. Yet, despite the current limitations, the PSA has significant potential to reach increasing numbers of highly vulnerable households and children. In the context of the implementation of the PARPA, DFID, the Government of the Netherlands, UNICEF and other partners joined together to support the Government to expand the programme both in coverage and in terms of the amounts disbursed.

In close collaboration with partners, a rapid analysis of PSA beneficiaries was carried out in two sample provinces, concluding that if the programme were to expand and provide additional funds, it would have a significant positive impact on poverty rates of children. Children were found in more than half of all households currently benefiting from the PSA. However, it was found that a majority of dependant children were not benefiting from the amount that should normally be allocated to dependants under the programme, mainly due to insufficient documentation or low levels of awareness of the eligibility criteria.

This analysis provided the evidence for INAS and partners to successfully advocate for consolidating the support provided to families currently enrolled in the scheme. At the same time, through assistance provided from UNICEF's East and Southern Africa Regional Office, the costs and benefits of alternative proposals to scale up the PSA programme were modelled and analysed confirming the affordability of the MMAS proposal to increase the benefit and also outlining the likely impact on poverty reduction.

These two elements of analysis were instrumental in enabling MMAS to demonstrate the potential impact of the PSA on children to the Ministry of Finance (MoF). In addition, in order to address MoF and MMAS concerns regarding sustainability, DFID made a 10 year commitment to provide additional funding for the programme. Through these efforts, new PSA scales were established and set out in the Council of Minister's decree to take effect in 2008. State funding for PSA (US\$ 7.5 million) will be topped up by an additional US\$ 3 million annually in external resources. The new amount will result in doubling the benefit for single beneficiaries, and most importantly, the allocations for dependants the majority being children will increase significantly.

Furthermore, continued improvement was noted in the coordination mechanisms spearheaded by MMAS and supported by UNICEF at the national and provincial levels with the participation of bi-lateral donors and key line ministries. Lastly, notable progress was made in standardising reporting on OVC access to three of six basic services as defined by the Plan of Action for OVC.

## **Prevention of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation**

In 2007, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, 184 police centres for victims of violence received support to assist more than 9,600 people, including 2,749 children – 56 per cent of the children supported were girls. Six model assistance centres started rehabilitation works and 125 staff from these centres received training. The standardisation of police procedures and training with the inclusion of a new training module on child rights and child protection in the Police Training Institution curriculum constitutes a major achievement in 2007. In close collaboration with non-governmental partners and district school authorities, 9,500 community members in the two child-friendly districts of Buzi and Mossurize received training on the prevention of violence against children and child rights.

## **Care and Protection of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children**

MMAS and civil society partners received continuous support to enable 160,000 orphaned and vulnerable children to access basic services including health, education, psycho-social support, water and sanitation, nutritional support, legal protection and financial subsidies. In addition, MMAS was supported to provide a basic package of materials to 6,000 of the most vulnerable children. Through the work of MMAS and non-governmental partners, an additional 10,000 children were identified in need of the basic package and will receive it in the first quarter of 2008.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Government of the Netherlands resulted in the roll-out of a community-based routine system for birth registration in eight districts

with the involvement of the Ministries of Health, Education and State Administration, and the National Institute for Social Communication. As a result, over 800,000 children were provided with a birth certificate during the year (eight per cent of all children in Mozambique). The birth registration campaign built on the successful campaign of 2006 when 1.2 million children were registered.

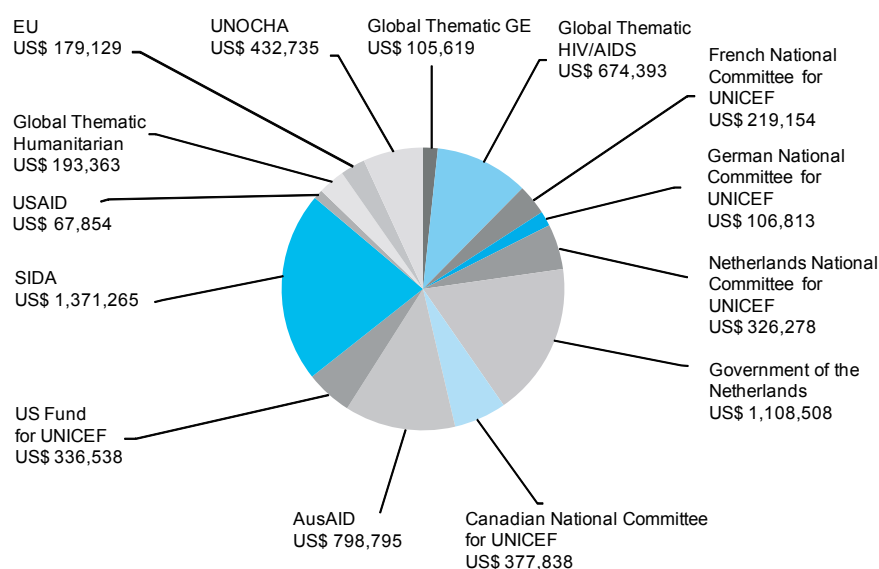
During the 2007 flood emergency, the Protection Cluster – including partners such as Save the Children Alliance, World Vision, Concern, Terre des Hommes and UNFPA – in close collaboration with MMAS at national and sub-national level supported 6,000 vulnerable families, or approximately 30,000 people, in accommodation centres with emergency household kits.

## Funding in 2007

### Breakdown of funds by source, 2007

Regular Resources	US\$ 706,272
Other Resources	US\$ 5,689,915
Other Resources - Emergency	US\$ 830,784
Total Amount Utilised	US\$ 7,226,971

### Breakdown of funds by donor: Other Resources (including Emergency)





# The Way Forward

In 2008, in the area of policy development and legal reform, activities will focus on supporting the dissemination of the Children's Act and the establishment of mechanisms for its implementation and monitoring in order to improve the protection of children's rights. In close coordination with partners, support will be provided to the implementation of the new curriculum in the National Judicial Training Institute and the training of judges and judicial staff to ensure the implementation of the new legislation on juvenile justice. In order to improve the situation of children in conflict with the law, support will be given to the functioning of special Children's Court Sections in six provinces to develop model standards of service for children in conflict with the law for eventual application at national level.

In the Prevention of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation component of the programme, advocacy efforts by all partners will primarily aim at the development and implementation of policy and legislation relating to prevention of violence against children in line with global and regional initiatives and international instruments such as the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. Support will be provided to the establishment of six model specialised police centres in four provincial capitals and two districts in which the CFS initiative is being implemented. In these two districts, community-based surveillance systems will be replicated, ensuring that 20,000 members of school councils, community leaders, and other community members have increased awareness of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Support will also be provided to the Ministry of Interior to develop monitoring and reporting systems on violence against children at national and provincial levels, such as child abuse, child trafficking and child labour in order to strengthen capacities for monitoring and evaluation in these areas.

In close collaboration with MMAS, non-governmental partners and UN partners such as WFP and ILO, UNICEF will support the implementation of the PSA social protection schemes in order to improve the level of care and protection for orphaned and vulnerable children. Technical support will continue for the seven Provincial Technical Working Groups of MMAS and the operationalisation of an additional four to improve coordination and care of OVC. MMAS and civil society partners will continue to receive support for the implementation of the Plan of Action for OVC to ensure that at least 120,000 OVC access basic social services.

Birth registration will remain a key focus area in 2008 with support provided to the implementation of the National Action Plan for Birth Registration through accelerated community-based birth registration in 22 new districts and the expansion of routine registration services in 36 districts in order to provide at least 1.2 million children with the right to an identity.

