

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Mozambique

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Mozambique has over one million people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS (1.3 million as of the end of 2003).^{1,2} Although Mozambique's prevalence rate (the percent of people living with the disease) is lower than some of the hardest hit countries in the region, it is higher than the sub-Saharan African region overall and recent estimates suggest that the prevalence rate may be on the rise.^{1,3} The epidemic poses significant development challenges to this low-income country.^{2,4,5,6} The Government of Mozambique formed a National AIDS Council (NAC) in 2000, and is currently operating its National Strategic Plan to Combat HIV/AIDS for 2005-2009.^{2,4,7}

Figure 1: Percent of Adults Estimated to be Living with HIV/AIDS, 2003

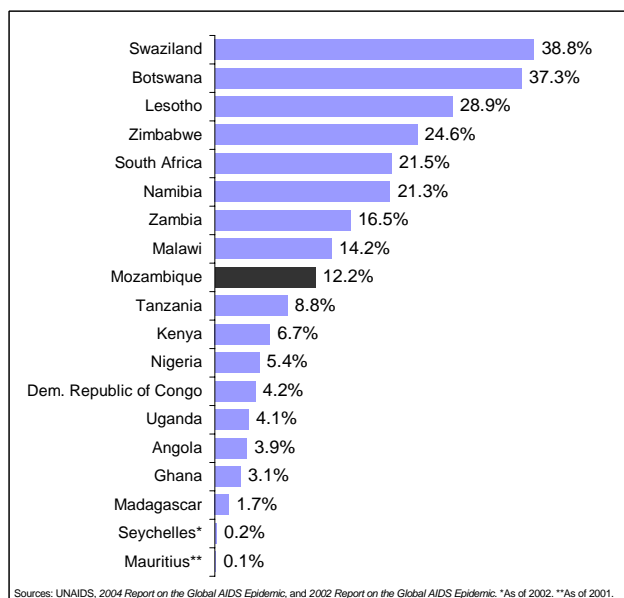
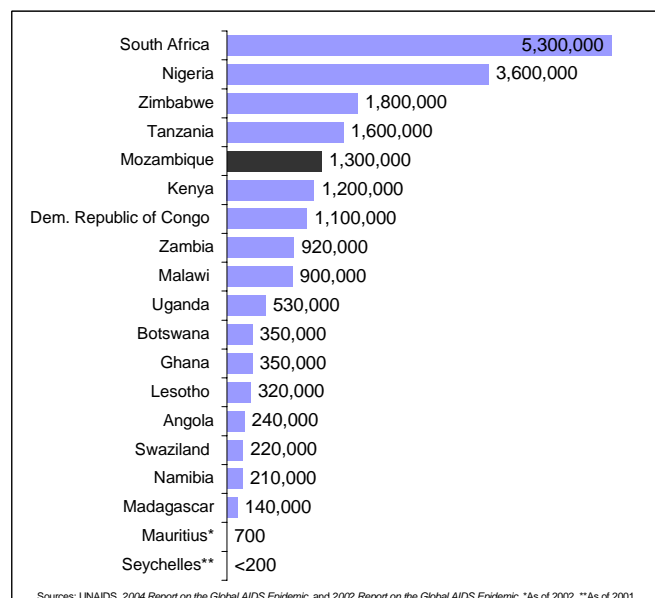


Figure 2: Number of People Estimated to be Living with HIV/AIDS, 2003



Overview

- The first case of HIV/AIDS in Mozambique was reported in 1986.^{8,9}
- Mozambique had an estimated 1.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS as of the end of 2003.¹
- The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate¹⁰ in Mozambique is 12.2%, significantly higher than the prevalence rate of the sub-Saharan African region (7.5%) and the global rate (1.1%).¹
- In 2003, an estimated 110,000 Mozambicans died of HIV/AIDS, and life expectancy at birth in Mozambique has fallen below 40 years in large part due to HIV/AIDS.^{1,11}
- HIV is spread primarily through heterosexual sex in Mozambique.^{9,12}

Populations and Regions Affected

- Women account for more than half (56%) of adults estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Mozambique.¹
- The majority of new HIV infections in Mozambique occur among people under the age of 29.⁴ Young women have been particularly affected; among young people ages 15-24, the estimated number of young women living with HIV/AIDS in Mozambique was more than twice that of young men.¹³
- In 2003, 99,000 children¹⁴ in Mozambique were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS and there were an estimated 470,000 AIDS orphans.^{1,15}
- There is significant variation in HIV prevalence rates across the country with the highest rates in the Central (16.7%) and Southern (14.8%) regions, and the lowest in the North (8.4%).⁴ At the provincial level, the highest HIV prevalence rates are in Sofala, followed by Manica and Maputo; the lowest rates were found in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces.³

Other Key Data

- *Knowledge of HIV/AIDS:* Although a recent study among young people ages 15-24 in Mozambique found that over two thirds of young men (71%) and 62% of young women knew that a healthy looking person could be infected with HIV, these levels of awareness are not as high as those in many other African countries.¹
- *Access to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):* Access to ART is limited in Mozambique. With over 200,000 people in need of ART, Mozambique is among the 20 countries identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as having the highest unmet need for ART. As of June 2005, an estimated 11,000–13,000 people were receiving ART (5-6% of those in need).¹⁶

International Support/Major Donors

- A number of donor governments provide funding and other support to address Mozambique's HIV/AIDS epidemic, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, France, Belgium, Canada and Ireland.^{4,12} Mozambique is one of the 15 focus countries of the United States Government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).¹⁷ U.S. bilateral aid for Mozambique was \$37.5 million in FY2004; this amount is expected to increase to \$60.2 million in FY2005.¹⁸ The U.S. also provides support for HIV/AIDS efforts around the world through its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund).
- The Global Fund has approved one HIV/AIDS grant in Mozambique.¹⁹
- UNAIDS and the UN Family support a variety of HIV/AIDS activities in Mozambique.^{2,4} The World Bank has approved \$55 million in funding to support the HIV/AIDS Response Project. As part of its regional HIV/AIDS Treatment Acceleration Project, the World Bank has also approved \$60 million in funding to expand access to ART in Mozambique, Ghana and Burkina Faso.^{6,20}

Table 1: HIV/AIDS in Mozambique^{1,13,16}

Indicator	Mozambique	Sub-Saharan Africa	Global
Estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	1.3 million	25 million	37.8 million
Percent of adult population estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	12.2%	7.5%	1.1%
Estimated number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS, 2003	110,000	2.2 million	2.9 million
Women as percent of adults estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	56%	57%	48%
Percent of young women, ages 15-24, estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2001	10.6 – 18.8%	8.9%	1.4%
Percent of young men, ages 15-24, estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2001	4.4 – 7.8%	4.4%	0.8%
Estimated number of AIDS orphans, 2003	470,000	12.1 million	15 million
Number of people estimated to be receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), June 2005	11,000 – 13,000	500,000	970,000
Number of people estimated to be in need of ART, June 2005	204,000	4.7 million	6.5 million

Key Sources/Websites

- Government of Mozambique: www.govnet.gov.mz/
- Republic of Mozambique, National AIDS Council: www.cncs.org.mz/
- UNAIDS Mozambique Country Page www.unaids.org/en/geographical+area/by+country/mozambique.asp
- World Health Organization, Mozambique Country Page: www.who.int/countries/moz/en/

References

- ¹ UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, July 2004.
- ² UNAIDS Mozambique Country Page: <http://www.unaids.org/en/geographical+area/by+country/mozambique.asp>.
- ³ Republic of Mozambique, National AIDS Council, *National Strategic Plan to Combat HIV/AIDS*, November 2004.
- ⁴ UNAIDS, *UNAIDS at Country Level: Progress Report*, 2004.
- ⁵ World Bank, "Country Classification: Country Groups": http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_income.
- ⁶ World Bank, "Country Brief: Mozambique", April 2005.
- ⁷ Republic of Mozambique, National AIDS Council: <http://www.cncs.org.mz/>.
- ⁸ UNAIDS/WHO, "Mozambique: Epidemiological Fact Sheet on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections – 2004 Update", http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/publications/factsheets01/Mozambique_en_pdf.pdf.
- ⁹ World Bank, "Mozambique HIV/AIDS Response Project", Report No. PID11473, March 2003.
- ¹⁰ Among adults ages 15-49.
- ¹¹ UNAIDS, "Africa Fact Sheet", March 2005.
- ¹² WHO, "Mozambique: Summary Country Profile for HIV/AIDS Treatment Scale-Up", June 2005.
- ¹³ UNAIDS, *Youth and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis*, 2002.
- ¹⁴ Under age 15.
- ¹⁵ Ages 0-17, living in 2003.
- ¹⁶ WHO, *Progress on Global Access to HIV Antiretroviral Therapy*, June 2005.
- ¹⁷ United States Government, State Department, Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, "PEPFAR Country Profile – Mozambique", August 2005.
- ¹⁸ US Department of State, Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, Personal Communication, August 24, 2005.
- ¹⁹ The Global Fund: www.theglobalfund.org.
- ²⁰ World Bank Portfolio for Mozambique, as of August 2005.

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