



# Diocese do Niassa

A Comunhão Anglicana em Moçambique  
*Program of Life! (HIV and AIDS)*  
*Programa de Vida! (HIV e SIDA)*

## 2005: A Year to Celebrate!

### Equipas da Vida!

2005 was a year of great growth within the Diocese of Niassa.

Many congregations have created their own *Equipas da Vida* "Life Teams." Our goal is to create *Equipas da Vida* in all of the 300 congregations in the Diocese of Niassa. Though they are newly formed, many *Equipas da Vida* are already very active, doing sensitization activities (inside and outside of the congregation), home-based visits to people living with HIV, support for vulnerable children, and income-generation projects for vulnerable children and people living with HIV. The teams are made up of various groups within the congregations: women, men, youth, and children.



"now the youth  
are talking about  
HIV in the  
church!"

The Diocese of Niassa uses the name "*Equipas da Vida*" instead of "*Equipas da SIDA*" ("AIDS Teams"), since our goal is to promote life, not AIDS. We also aim for a situation in which even with HIV, there is life—and the *Equipas da Vida* try to help all living with HIV have abundant life.

### Booklet: "*HIV e SIDA: Os Básicos da Biologia*" "*HIV and AIDS: Biology Basics*"

We wrote a 40-page booklet that talks about HIV basics. There are few words on each page, so people who have difficulties reading can still understand this book well. Drawings help people remember ideas. The booklet facilitates conversations about HIV, because people who aren't experts can still explain the booklet to others.

"our  
shame is  
killing us"

8000 copies are already being used, and the booklet exists in the Portuguese, Nyanja, Chiyao and Makua languages. Many congregations are reading and discussing 2 pages of this booklet each week, after the service. We also have literacy groups that are reading the booklet as a text. We also have posters, each one showing a page of the book.

### Guides for Preaching about HIV

We prepared a small guide to help in the preparation of sermons about HIV. We presented outlines of 4 sermons, to be used in the month before World AIDS Day, from 30 October to 20 November. 300 copies (enough for all the congregations in the Diocese) were distributed to the priests in September. The sermons discuss:

- embracing people within our congregations who are living with HIV
- the responsible use of the wonderful gift of sexuality
- the role of the church in caring for orphaned

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children and widows

-the power of Christ in breaking down the barriers that separate us

As the bishop wrote in the introductory letter, “. . . we in the Church have a word of hope and of love to share with the world about this tragedy. Unfortunately, many times, the reality is different; within our communities there is still stigma towards people infected. Therefore, I ask our communities to use this material to declare our *Word of Life*.”

“I liked everything because it was the first time that I heard such strong talk about HIV within the church.”

## Training

At the level of the central offices, we offered various trainings to help the congregations develop the capacity necessary to implement projects.

“I will speak openly in my congregation about HIV”

This is on top of the training that is happening in individual congregations. Many training and sensitization projects done by the *Equipas da Vida* in the congregations extend beyond Anglican believers and reach many other community members. We have already had information sessions in other congregations, schools, and even municipal councils.

“people entered the seminar with no interest in hearing about HIV, but they left with great interest.”

Trainings that happened in 2005 include:

### -training in the basics about HIV

- 80 evangelists (1 day)
- all priests and church wardens (2 days)
- Diocesan youth conference (1.5 days)
- community priests being trained (1 day)

-Seminar on methods of teaching others (5 days): representatives from each district

-Seminar on project planning (4 days): representatives from each district

-Counseling course (5 days): The Diocese of Libombos invited us to send delegates to a course about pre-testing counseling. This course was offered in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Our three representatives learned much and are teaching others what they learned.

-Workshop about how to respond to vulnerable children (3 days): 18 participants from the Archdeaconry of the Lake. Participatory training that treated: basic management of projects, financial management, reporting, theological reflection.

-Workshop about project management (3 days): 9 participants from the Archdeaconry of Zambezia.

Topics: budgets, financial accounting, monitoring, project evaluation.

--Workshop about project planning (2 days): 12 participants from the Archdeaconry of Lichigna. Topics: identifying problems in our communities (separating problems and their symptoms); defining reasonable solutions; defining steps within solutions; writing budgets.

--Workshop about project planning (2 days): 14 participants from the Archdeaconry of Nampula. Topics: identifying problems in our communities (separating problems and their symptoms); defining reasonable solutions; defining steps within solutions; writing budgets.



## World AIDS Day

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Activities celebrating World AIDS Day happened in at least 15 sites in the north of the country. The estimate is that 3540 people participated (1030 men, 1030 women, and 1480 youth). We celebrated with great enthusiasm! For logistical reasons, we concentrated this year in the urban centers.

Our largest celebration took place in Cobue, in the Lake District. People walked from various communities to participate in the festivities. (Some people walked 2 days just to arrive at the party.) A large Malawian delegation came by boat from the island of Likoma. This delegation included all the members of the local chapter of the National HIV Council.



## Channels of Hope Curriculum and Mobilization Process

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The "Channels of Hope" curriculum is already being used in the majority of African countries (and in some countries outside of Africa). The extensive materials already exist in English, French, Spanish, Swahili, Afrikaans, and some other languages. Until now they do not exist in Portuguese. In partnership with World Vision, the Anglican Church is translating the materials to Portuguese to use in Mozambique and Angola. The curriculum has hundreds of pages of resources, so the translation process is large. We hope to begin to use the materials early in 2006.

## Initiative for vulnerable children to enter into school

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We spoke with the government's Social Action Department to clarify the rights of vulnerable children. We publicized these rights in a pamphlet, and we are teaching these rights to people in the churches. In many communities the Diocese of Niassa is playing an active role in the registration of children. In 2006 we hope to help some of these children with school materials (principally notebooks and pencils, with uniforms where possible).

## Microprojects

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We have created a fund and a process for *Equipas da Vida* to conduct small projects. Any *Equipa da Vida* can present a project and a request for the funds necessary. They are for any congregation—not just the parochial centers, which have priests. This project is possible because of funds of Christian Aid that come from DIFD.

## Archdeaconry of Nampula

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—**Nacala**—The *Equipa da Vida* is showing films and giving speeches about HIV in the Anglican church, in other churches, and in the neighborhoods. They also speak about HIV in the literacy groups, and are supporting vulnerable children who study in the primary school that has a strong relationship with the church.

—**Monapo**—The *Equipa da Vida* is praying with sick people, studying what the Bible says about HIV weekly, and is speaking about HIV each week in the church.

—**Murrupula**—The *Equipa da Vida* is starting to cultivate a garden for vulnerable children.

—**Malema**—Malema is starting a small animal program to help vulnerable children.





- Mecuburi** -Mecuburi has a new *Equipa da Vida*, which is helping vulnerable children.
- Pemba**—The new *Equipa da Vida* in Pemba is working with vulnerable children and is making plans to support people who are sick because of AIDS.
- Nampula**—The São Bernardo Mizeki group (men’s group) organized a campaign for blood donation in the parish of São João Ap. Evangelista. It began in August 2005 and 8 units were received. In November there was another donation, where 10 units of blood were collected.

In all the zones in the district of Nampula, people are helping vulnerable children register for school.



### Archdeaconry of Lichinga

-**Mandimba**—The *Equipa da Vida* is having bible studies about HIV and is presenting the Biology Basics booklet to the congregation. It is also preparing for a preschool for vulnerable children. The process of legalizing a preschool is very complicated, and requires approval from various branches of the government.

-**Chiundo**—The new *Equipa da Vida* in Chiundo is hosting recreational activities and basic education about HIV for vulnerable children. They want to expand the program to include many activities with vulnerable children.

-**Nzinje**—The community of Nzinje coordinated a Christmas party for vulnerable children.

-**Metonha**—On Saturdays, children in Metonha are participating in a variety of recreational and educational activities. This children’s club is principally for vulnerable children, but the club also has children who are not vulnerable. In this way, the congregation of Metonha is encouraging children that are not vulnerable to play with children who are vulnerable. Within the club, there is also HIV and AIDS education. Many children participating are Muslims.

-**Massenger**—The *Equipa* in Massenger cultivated a large garden with many vegetables. The products go to vulnerable children.



## Archdeaconry of Lago

Almost all the communities to the north of Cobue in the Lake District now have a *Equipa da Vida*. The work in each community is different, but includes:

- home-based visits for sick people
- community education about HIV transmission
- support for people who are caring for vulnerable children
- encouragement for people to go to Malawi (Likoma) to have an HIV test
- cultivating a garden for vulnerable children to have nutritious food



Activists that have already received 2-3 days of training are people from Mataka (16 pessoas), Chigoma (14), Uchessi (19), Ngofi (14), Ntumba (13), Liuchi (12), Lumbaulo (16), Unga and Ngombe (16), Ungui and Wikihi (16), Chiwindi (12).

### Messumba, Chwanga, e Metangula—

We have a pilot project of care for vulnerable children in Messumba, Chwanga, and Metangula. They are supporting 80 families with vulnerable children. They have already identified more than 600 vulnerable children in Messumba, Chwanga, and Metangula. It is well known that there are many vulnerable children, but, in this first phase, it seems best to choose only those who are most needy. The choice is made in coordination with the community leaders, without discrimination. Work that has been done includes:

- \*Selection of neediest children (in consultation with chiefs and religious leaders)
- \*Home visits (at least weekly, by a team, to assess needs and offer support to the substitute family)
- \*Prayers with and for the orphaned children and their substitute families (either in the churches or in the homes)
- \*Assistance in accompanying sick children to hospital or health post, when necessary
- \*Invitations to and inclusion in Sunday schools (many children who never before attended the church are now attending)
- \*Latrine construction and roof repair—while teaching the older orphaned children how to make these repairs

- \*Creation of gardens (for food and for teaching the children)
- \*Accompanying delinquent children to school, and entering in contact with school administrators to together develop systems to ensure that they continue studying
- \*Teachings on how to maintain a clean home and church (many children had been refusing to do household chores, saying that they were orphans and therefore didn't have to help)
- \*Creation and training of football teams of orphaned children
- \*Distribution of basic food and soap
- \*Financial administration of projects

8 children live in this house, and the oldest only is 16. She left school to take care of her siblings. They were sleeping in a house without a roof, but thanks to the *Equipa da Vida*, they were able to recondition the house.



This shows the rehabilitation of the house:





## Archdeaconry of Zambézia

–**Quelimane**– The *Equipa da Vida* here is teaching about how to prevent HIV in the church in Quelimane and also in the congregations in Morrumbala. It is starting to train groups in Mocuba and Milange about home-based visiting (how to support people living with HIV—how, for example, to give a bath).

–**Morrumbala**– Representatives from various communities are learning how to take care of people who are sick, and they are developing a response system for people who need support.

–**Mocuba**– The *Equipa da Vida* is giving speeches and dramas about HIV in the church and in the community (in hospitals, schools, and the prison). They are also taking advantage of the radio. They are helping neighboring villages create *Equipas da Vida*. They also have a club for vulnerable children. In coordination with other projects for vulnerable children in Mocuba, the *Equipa da Vida* received the opportunity take children on a field trip, and the children got to know vulnerable children from other communities. The *Equipa da Vida* is trying to coordinate their activities well with the government (Social Action department). With the leadership of the *Equipa da Vida*, there is a bible study with people living with HIV.

–**Vulalo**–Vulalo is planning a garden with rice and green vegetables for the benefit of vulnerable children.

–**Nadala**–Members of the *Equipa da Vida* from Mocuba conducted a 2-day seminar for interest people in Nadala. It was the first training in the area of HIV and AIDS for the residents of Nadala. They are very animated and ready to do community trainings about HIV and AIDS. They are cultivating a garden for the benefit of vulnerable children.

–**Murracua**–The new *Equipa da Vida* of Murracua is cultivating a garden and is also raising animals for vulnerable children. Nearly all the congregation's members are doing something to help.

–**Milange**–

-The *Equipa da Vida* has 90 youth from various churches (not just the Anglican Church). They meet regularly to discuss AIDS issues, and also travel by bicycle to work with youth in areas that are more rural.

-They also have a large farm with pumpkin, beans, sweet potatoes, and other products for people living with HIV.

-They have football teams with youth, and also have discussions about HIV.

-They have an anti-AIDS club for girls (which also is learning sewing skills).

