



Diocese of Niassa

Mission Department

Annual report 2015



Mobilising change agents

Actively working to show the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Our motivation

The church is strategically placed to work for community development. It has an extensive network of people in even very remote communities. It is a trusted institution at the community level. These factors help the work go well.

But these are not the primary reasons we facilitate community development. We do so because this is who God created us to be: alive, in community, serving. In living out and working towards what is good and life-giving for our neighbours and ourselves, we come to life.

We have identified 9572 active volunteers—church members and some friends (anyone the spirit moves!). Most of them call themselves “members of Equipas de Vida,” but others call themselves “community health workers,” “animators,” or “counsellors.” But they all work voluntarily to help their communities.

In 2015, they have

- taught and mobilized their communities about HIV, health, agriculture, and more

- supported sick and elderly people and vulnerable children

- tended gardens to support their own work

- built or rehabilitated houses for people in need and churches

- advocated for the things they believe in

- encouraged dignity-enhancing changes through the construction of improved stoves and latrines

Community change agents are supported by their fans



These change agents are supported by staff who spent a combined 9000 days in the field this year, working to champion, build up, and support the volunteer change agents.

Most of these community facilitators are known as “*adeptos*”—a Portuguese word that means “supporter” or “fan.” Using a sports analogy, it is not the fans who wins the game, but the team itself. In the same way, the change agents or *Equipas de Vida* have a critical role in winning the game.

The *adeptos* have a vocation to this work, having started out as volunteers in their own communities.

The most common prevailing model of leadership in this region of the country is that of a boss who sends rather than a colleague who accompanies. This model lingers as a constant temptation—but *adeptos* strive to follow Jesus as servants, serving the dedicated volunteer change agents by helping them build their capacity to more effectively work towards their vision.

‘*Equipa de Vida*’ = life team
‘*adepito*’ = supporter/fan

Successes of 2015

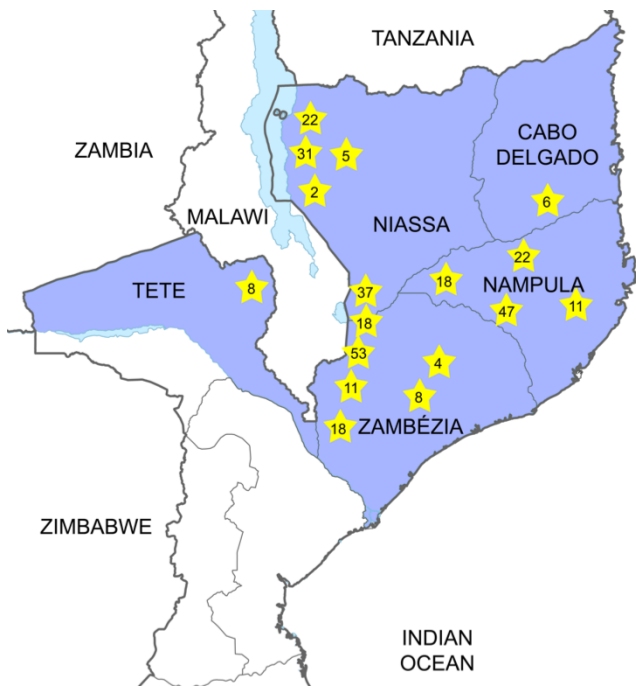


Agriculture and sustainable livelihoods

1. 25 savings and loan groups were formed and trained, with 435 members
2. 7560 families started growing vitamin-rich orange-fleshed sweet potatoes
3. 2307 people received teaching on improved conservation agricultural techniques
4. 2254 farmers are now trialing new techniques such as green manure, careful spacing, mulching and improved seeds

Community Health

1. 784 prenatal visits were conducted by trained traditional birth attendants, who assisted 344 births; 19 new traditional birth attendants were trained
2. A network of 575 counselors (one for every 10 households) received training in 8 health themes
4. Health facilitators collectively walked approximately 18,000km on foot to reach remote communities, many of which are not accessible by road
5. Community health work expanded into 23 new communities, at the request of the Provincial Health Department
6. 18 active health committees facilitated community-led monitoring of health outcomes and available health services
7. 160 epilepsy patients and 31 patients with psychosis received treatment



This map shows the general location of active *Equipas e Vida*. The number in each star represents the number of *Equipas*.

Disaster preparation and response

Several emergency situations within the Diocese— in particular, **floods** and **cholera**—complicated other work.

The floods and cholera affected even our staff, some of whom lost their homes and fell sick. Despite all this, our planned work continued.

The Diocese of Niassa believes that handouts sometimes get in the way of long term development. However, in the case of emergency scenarios it is sometimes necessary to give donations to save lives, and we do this with the utmost care and caution.

1. 35 trained community committees are actively implementing Disaster Risk Reduction. Every religion in a community is represented on these committees as well as community leaders.
2. 10,154 households received teaching on the prevention of cholera
3. 2750 families, of which 1430 lost their houses, received support donations. The supported families had 9518 people (including 1303 orphaned children, 3150 children and youth and 680 elderly people).
4. The support given was of 137,500kg of maize, 2700 bars of soap, 2700 mosquito nets, 2700 hoes, 7200 bottles of chlorine, 4500kg of maize seeds, 54kg of vegetable seeds, 3600kg of cassava cuttings and 900kg of peanut seeds.

Hygiene, Water, and Sanitation

1. 210 new volunteer hygiene animators reached 42,000 households with a reported reduction in child diarrhea and twice the number of households with latrines.
2. Activity based lessons on hygiene were taught in 49 schools
3. 51 well management committees were formed or trained
4. Hygiene work expanded into new areas of the Diocese, and now takes place in the Districts of Lago, Lichinga, Milange, Morrumbala and Mecanhelas.
5. The construction of 3 rainwater harvesting tanks, 3 improved water supplies and 2 institutional latrines was facilitated
6. Staff were trained in the use of a newly-purchased water quality testing kit

Nutrition

1. A series of modules was developed and is being piloted in 7 communities targeting 21,786 households
2. Teaching on enriched porridge, breastfeeding and weaning food was given in 18,132 households
3. The first nutrition baseline survey was conducted.
4. There is increased community appreciation of local capacity to nourish their children well.

HIV

1. HIV teaching was integrated into all thematic areas within the Diocese
2. Mobile treatment and laboratory services were provided to 158 people monthly
3. There was continued management of a testing laboratory at the health centre in Cobue, Lago district
4. 5344 people representing 250 communities celebrated World Aids Day
5. At least 4504 people went for HIV tests as a result of our facilitation
6. A team of people living openly with HIV shared their stories in Lúrio district
7. Activists facilitated conversations about HIV in 14,692 houses representing 94,843 people.

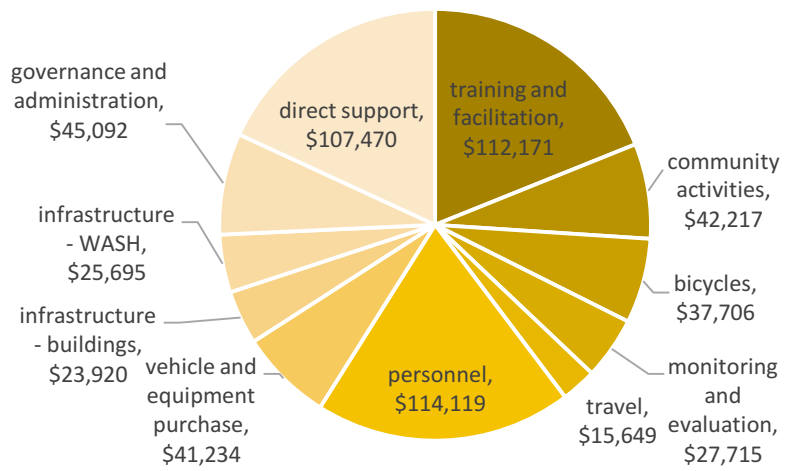
Value for money

The Diocese of Niassa is immensely grateful for the financial support from key partners around the world, including:

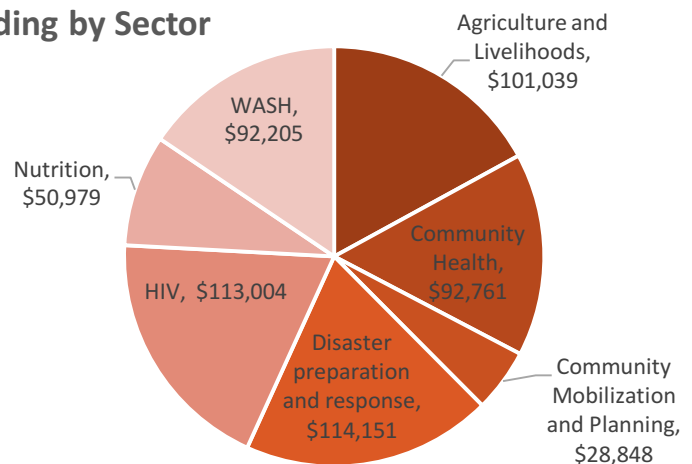


Total expenditures: **22,758,851.53 meticaís (\$592,987 USD)**
 All values converted to USD from Mozambican meticaís using the annual average exchange rate of 1 USD = 38.38 meticaís
 More details are available on request

Spending by Type



Spending by Sector



Our Strategy

Though this work has emerged from the church and is an expression of love by people representative of many bodies within the church (clergy, catechists, Mother’s Union, youth, Bernardo Mzeki Fraternal, and others), it has not been integrated as clearly as we would like. We recognize that Jesus had one unified ministry, and did not separate his “spiritual” and “physical” action.

Our 2016-2020 strategic plan aims to formally integrate the “mission” activities of the church with the “ministry” and “worship” activities of the church. It has identified four driving values:

- Loved to love
- We are together
- Living in God
- A blessed people

It has articulated 4 main goals:

Goal 1: Celebration, Growth, and Revival

Believers, responding to the Holy Spirit, give echo to her presence in vibrant celebration, continuous growth, authentic community, and spontaneous revival.

Goal 2: A Living and Practiced Theology

Believers with sound Biblical and theological understanding applied to their daily lives.

Goal 3: Sozo

Believers with improved, physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being, promoting the same dignity of life in their communities.

Goal 4: Organizational Capacity

Believers and partners who have confidence in the transparent implementation of diocesan work, which is supported by efficient management and governance systems at all levels.