



# Diocese of Niassa

Anglican Church in Mozambique  
*Programa de Vida!/Life! (Integral Mission)*

The Diocese of Niassa is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion and a member of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA). The vast Diocese of Niassa includes the 350 Anglican congregations in the northern half of Mozambique. 95% of these congregations are in rural areas, and lifestyles and economies revolve around agriculture. Despite their extreme isolation, poverty and HIV have come to these communities. So the church must respond.



*our diocesan vision:*  
*to become a communion of communities in Christ Jesus*

In practice, working toward this vision means working to promote God's abundant life. We work through local *Equipas de Vida*, or "Teams of Life," who help lead community efforts to achieve community objectives. These *Equipas de Vida* work completely voluntarily, realizing their vocation to help God's kingdom come on earth.

Though the Diocese's 160 existing *Equipas* originally focused on problems related to HIV and AIDS, it quickly became apparent that HIV is deeply intertwined with poverty. A hungry person gets sick with AIDS more quickly. An orphaned child in an overcrowded classroom cannot get the support she needs to learn well. Any comprehensive response to HIV must include a broader response to poverty.

Therefore, in April 2009, the Diocese launched an ambitious initiative to help each of the 160 communities with *Equipas* develop a community action plan. In this process, a diocesan staff member

works with the local Equipa de Vida to facilitate a series of community meetings with a wide range of community representatives including the local chief, head teachers, and nurses; members of the church Mother's Union, youth group, and men's guild; and orphaned children and people living with HIV. Each community identifies its own resources, prioritizes its problems (analyzing their root causes), and makes action plans to solve their problems.

The Diocesan technical team then provides technical training to help the community mount a more effective response.

**The cost of these facilitation and mentoring processes, as well as basic supplies to help the community achieve their objectives, is \$3000 USD/community/year.**

Our dedicated fieldworkers travel from community to community—often by bicycle or in the back of an overcrowded pick-up truck—to encourage Equipas de Vida and community members at large.



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*A sampling of previous Equipa de Vida activities:*

The *Equipas* teach HIV prevention knowledge and skills, using football as a way to engage youth:



Our *Equipas* support orphaned and vulnerable children—recreationally, socially, and academically:



They encourage HIV counseling and testing:



They help sick people grow food to eat:





# Together, we celebrate life!



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