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Making a Difference in Mozambique

A SPECIAL REPORT
For Our Saviour’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE

World Vision is grateful to Our Saviour’s Evangelical Lutheran Church for its faithful partnership in our work in Mozambique. Your congregation is making it possible for World Vision to care for the Derre community through your sponsorship of 148 children and support of the Derre School Sanitation and Education on Hygiene Project. In addition, your congregation has been an encouragement to us through your father-daughter dance fundraisers and your work in Slovakia. Your church also has demonstrated a commitment to sharing with other churches and communities about the role they can play in caring for people in Africa. Your congregation truly is living out its vision to reflect the light of Christ in your lives, community, and world, with the heart of a servant.

Please join us in celebrating the following accomplishments, made possible by child sponsors like you and other donors who supported the Derre School Sanitation and Education on Hygiene Project in fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 through September 2009). Thank you for the positive impact you are making in communities close to home and around the world—not just through your financial support, but also through your prayers.

Background on Derre, Mozambique

The country of Mozambique has not had an easy past. Mozambique’s status as a Portuguese colony ended in 1975, and a 16-year civil war followed shortly thereafter. Millions of people died during the war, and millions more fled abroad or to other parts of the country. After the war ended, the country made great attempts to recover and stabilize the economy and government. Progress was made, but the country encountered serious setbacks when floods and droughts hit in the early 2000s. These natural disasters contributed to food shortages in a country that already was suffering from widespread poverty. In 2006, at least 800,000 people needed emergency aid due to weak harvests and erratic rainfall.

According to the United Nations Human Development Program’s 2009 Human Development Index, Mozambique was ranked 172nd of 192 countries. The list ranks countries based on life expectancy, education, and standard of living. The life expectancy of Mozambicans is 48, and only 44 percent of people older than 15 are literate. To put that in perspective, the life expectancy of Americans is 79, and 99 percent of people older than 15 are literate.

The Derre community is located in the Morrumbala district in the central coastal Zambezia province. World Vision has been working in Derre since March 2000, when World Vision began phasing out its emergency response to the civil war and focused more on development activities in Mozambique. World Vision’s initial phase of development work in Derre included constructing schools, health centers, and access roads, and rehabilitating water supply systems. Today, 10 years after our partnership in Derre began, we are focusing more on equipping people with the knowledge and resources needed so the community can be self-sustaining once World Vision leaves Derre.
Child sponsorship in Derre

In most community development areas, child sponsorship funds are pooled to make improvements that will help the entire community. World Vision often helps dig wells to improve access to clean water, provides agricultural assistance to improve health and food security, builds new schools, and provides training so communities can sustain and build on these improvements. We offer help in such ways—according to the needs of the community—because, in the long run, we have not really helped a child unless we also have strengthened the family and community to provide for their own care.

The following sections highlight the areas in which World Vision worked during fiscal 2009. We hope you are encouraged by the following accomplishments that your sponsorship enabled us to achieve.

**Education**

- Completed a three-room classroom block and a house for the school headmaster in Muerrungo Village. As a result, school enrollment increased, as the school now offers classes for sixth and seventh graders. Previously, students in these grades had to walk long distances to other schools that offered these grade levels.
- Built a three-room classroom block and began building a house for the headmaster in Majua Village.
- Conducted 10 events for 2,000 people emphasizing the importance of education, as one of the greatest challenges in Derre is keeping children—especially girls—in school. World Vision hopes that as more parents value education, they will be less likely to force their daughters into early marriage or require them to stay home to do chores.
- Trained 130 teachers on topics such as basic teaching methods, issues contributing to drop-out rates, and challenges related to HIV and AIDS. As a result, World Vision is seeing increased competence in teaching, which has improved students’ abilities and enthusiasm in school. In the current fiscal year, the training may be extended to other schools so more teachers and students can benefit.
- Bought sports equipment and soccer balls for 27 schools to encourage children to practice sports and improve their physical health.
- Provided school supplies and uniforms to 100 orphans (children who have lost one or both parents) and vulnerable children from extremely impoverished districts.
- Supported 30 adults to receive literary instruction.

**Food security**

- Provided agricultural supplies such as seeds and tools to 2,000 households for the 2008-2009 season.
- Checked in with households and discovered that many had strong crops of sesame, corn, peanuts, and beans, which contributed to the improvement of food security and incomes.
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• Designed and implemented an animal restocking program that encourages animal traction (using animals to power vehicles or machinery), diversifies income sources, and improves diets. More than 200 households received 90 cows and 150 goats. Farmers were trained on animal traction, and the training currently is being conducted among additional groups. Veterinary assistance is provided for the first year, but will be the responsibility of the program participants in subsequent years to encourage sustainability.

• Provided technical assistance to 12 groups that are participating in local savings and credit associations. This initiative is generating income in the community, creating credit and savings sources, and encouraging the development of small projects and businesses.

Health

• Participated in community disinfection and immunization campaigns. As a result, approximately 5,000 children were immunized, and more than 30,000 houses were chemically disinfected, which led to the reduction of malaria and other illnesses in the communities.

• Conducted workshops on nutrition and the preparation of enriched foods, as a way to improve the nutritional status of children younger than 5, pregnant and breastfeeding women, the chronically ill, and elderly. We have seen an 80 percent reduction in malnutrition and mortality of children younger than 5.

• Trained water source management groups, which are composed of people living next to water points. They are responsible for maintaining water points in case of damage, and also in charge of organizing beneficiaries to keep the water points clean and safe. The communities are now drinking clean water and are carefully preparing their food.

HIV and AIDS

• Conducted training and campaigns about HIV prevention for 200 World Vision staff, traditional leaders, teachers, and other community members to reduce the impact of the disease. The training was conducted in collaboration with leaders from 20 churches to equip them with knowledge about home-based care.

• Built three homes for orphans and vulnerable children.

• Trained 13 Community Care Coalitions on psychosocial support so they could help reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on affected and infected people.

• Formed 16 child rights advocacy councils and conducted campaigns on human rights with a special focus on children’s rights. Issues related to discrimination and stigmatization of the infected also were discussed.

Women in Derre are learning how to better care for their own health and the health of their babies.
Derre School Sanitation and Education on Hygiene Project

One major area that continues to need improvement is water and sanitation. In the Derre community, many children and adults die of water-related diseases because of unsafe water and a lack of awareness about proper sanitation and hygiene. During the dry season (May through November), women and girls usually walk more than four miles in search of water, meaning girls don’t have time for school because they’re out getting water or watching younger siblings while their mother is out. During the rainy season, rainfall tends to wash debris and excrement into unprotected wells, contaminating the water.

Without education about hygiene and sanitation, community members are unaware of the dangers of drinking from unprotected water sources or how their behavior puts their health at risk. With your partnership in the Derre School Sanitation and Education in Hygiene project, World Vision aims to promote hygiene and make safe water available to the Derre area. As a result, water-related diseases will be reduced, children will have more time to go to school, and women who have to travel to get water will have time for other responsibilities in the house or to participate in community activities.

Fiscal year 2009 accomplishments

During fiscal 2009 (October 2008 to September 2009), the following accomplishments took place:

- Trained beneficiaries to convey basic knowledge about the care, treatment, and consumption of clean water. When community members are trained, there is a greater likelihood of sustainability and an increased sense of ownership of the project.
- Conducted trainings about hygiene in communities and schools. As many as 40 people attended each presentation, with a total of 3,280 people being impacted. After the trainings were held, participants who were interviewed reported that they were practicing good hygiene habits, such as using latrines, boiling water for drinking, and accessing clean water sources.
- Drilled two boreholes, increasing access to clean water for about 2,000 households in Derre.
- Began construction on four latrines, with completion scheduled for March 2010.
- Worked with 40 community members (leaders and the general population) to evaluate future activities. The participants shared that the project was greatly improving their lives, and that the project should continue. The assessment also showed the positive results of the project to date, and that more people still need technical assistance in the management, treatment, and care of water.
With deep appreciation

World Vision is mindful that we are but a bridge between people in need and those who are able and willing to help. We are honored to serve as your hands, feet, and voices, ministering in Christ’s name to children and families in the Derre community. Our Saviour’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank you again for your partnership in our child sponsorship program and the Derre School Sanitation and Education on Hygiene Project.

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

— Psalm 65:9 (NIV)