

PROGRAMS: MOZAMBIQUE NATIONAL EXPANSION

VillageReach is a non-profit social enterprise. Its mission is to save lives and improve well being in developing countries by increasing last-mile access to healthcare and investing in social businesses that address gaps in community infrastructure.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique represents one of the world’s most challenging healthcare environments. Because of poor health services, lack of infrastructure and high poverty levels, life expectancy ranks near the bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index measuring countries’ overall standard of living. The vast majority of Mozambique’s population lives in rural communities without adequate transportation, communications and energy infrastructure, and with limited access to clean water, reliable food supplies, and healthcare. A major barrier to healthcare access is the overall weakness of the health system and related service infrastructure in remote, rural areas. Here, the health service delivery level – or “last mile” - often functions well below its potential. The result is higher system downtime, lower numbers of children served, poorer health in the community and increased unit costs for delivery. As a consequence, young children suffer the most through needless exposure to life-threatening diseases. The challenge is to provide improvements to the health system that are scalable, sustainable and produce significant impact.

Total Population	21.5m
Rural	17m (80%)
Poverty Rate	54%
Life Expectancy	42
Child Immunizations	66%
Infant Mortality	96/1000
Development Ranking	175/197

PROGRAM APPROACH – STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH SYSTEM WITH A FOCUS ON THE LAST MILE



VillageReach is engaged in a multi-year program to improve the performance of the health system in Mozambique, focusing on rural communities that represent over 60% of the country’s population. The national expansion, started in January 2010, is expected to cover eight of ten provinces over six years. Based on available census data, the program is expected to serve more than 12 million people. The program is dependent on available funding and the successful capacity building of each provincial government. Its purpose is to achieve systemic change in the performance of the Mozambique Ministry of Health through the use of dedicated distribution channels for vaccines and other medical commodities to community health centers.

Measurement is a critical component of the VillageReach methodology and model. An initial baseline survey and a concluding endline survey will be conducted for each provincial deployment. Data from these surveys will be publicly available upon approval from the government of Mozambique. Within the 3-year technical assistance period, a Field Officer employed by VillageReach will be responsible for the technical supervision and capacity building of a single province. As activities transition from the Field Officer to provincial health authorities, VillageReach will provide a semesterly supervision visit and process evaluation to evaluate the success of the dedicated logistics system implementation.

DOCUMENTED RESULTS

VillageReach has worked in Mozambique since the organization was established in 2001. The ad-hoc, collection-based approach, where frontline health workers had to collect vaccines and related supplies from their district office and perform various administrative tasks, was replaced by a dedicated, integrated distribution system, with specialized workers visited each health center regularly to deliver vaccines and supplies, repair equipment, and conduct other duties. An independent evaluation of the initial five-year program and a complementary cost comparison study documented the results:

- vaccine coverage rates increased from 68.9% to 95.4% for children age 24-35 months.
- the reported monthly incidence of stock outs in rural health centers decreased from 80% to 1%.
- up-time of the cold chain increased from approximately 40% before the project to 96% over a year after the conclusion of the project.
- the VillageReach model was 17% more cost-effective, at \$5.03 per child fully vaccinated with compared to \$6.07 per child vaccinated in a control province not utilizing the VillageReach model.

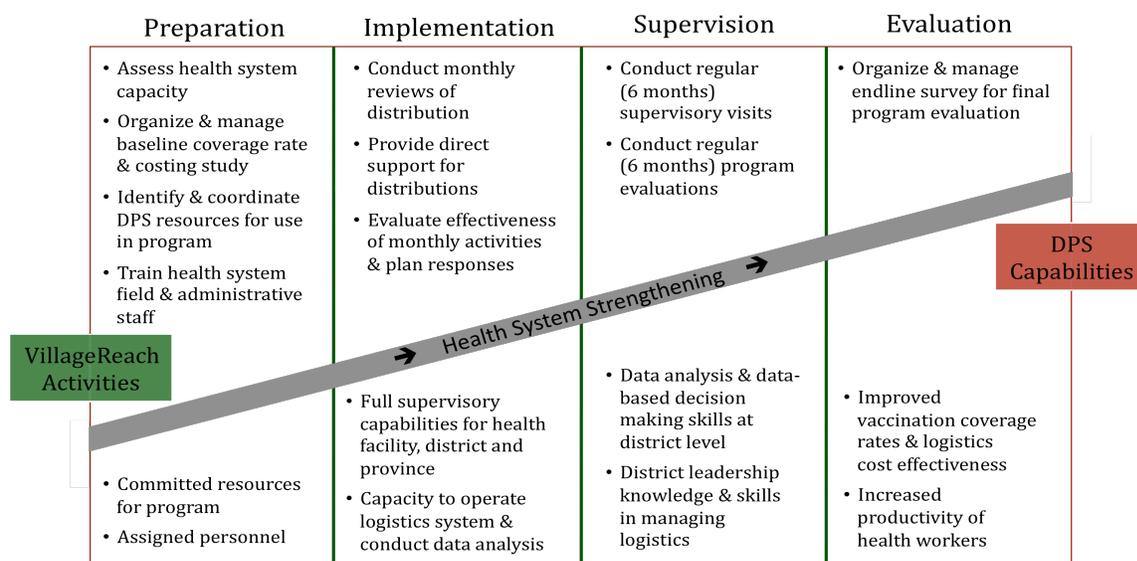
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Based on the documented success of the demonstration project, the Mozambique Ministry of Health (MISAU) has formally directed officials in each of Mozambique's provincial health authorities (DPS) to pursue implementation of the model. Specific program objectives include:

- Improve child health in Mozambique by sustaining high vaccination coverage rates and low vaccination dropout rates. VillageReach forecasts an additional 184,00 children aged less than one year will be fully vaccinated;
- Improve the community's knowledge of, trust in, and use of health services;
- Increase the capacity of DPS to manage and operate the dedicated logistics system in order to ensure sustainability of the new system;
- Increase the cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the logistics systems for vaccines and other related commodities;
- Reduce stock outs of vaccines in all health centers where the system is implemented;
- Reduce interruptions in service delivery due to stock shortages, health worker absence and lack of health worker time;
- Integrate additional key commodities – such as rapid diagnostic tests – into the dedicated logistics system.

STRENGTHENING THE MOZAMBIQUE HEALTH SYSTEM

VillageReach maintains a team of program administrators who provide program management, technical training and evaluation support. The team works with national, provincial, district, and health facility MISAU employees to improve their technical skills in support of the program and to ensure appropriate levels of oversight to monitor the effectiveness of the dedicated logistics system. Detailed below, four phases define the program activity for each province.



After a three-year period in each province, VillageReach will transfer all program elements to MISAU and its partners, which will continue to operate and fund the logistics platform.

FUNDING

The Mozambique Program will be conducted over a six-year period, depending on the availability of funding and demonstrated readiness of each province. The estimated cost for the program is approximately \$5,635,000. To support the Mozambique program, VillageReach is seeking funding for personnel and associated operating costs for technical assistance provision, training to build provincial capacity for system implementation, and program measurement, e.g., baseline and endline surveys

CONTACT US

LEAH HASSELBACK BARRETT, Program Manager, Seattle (206) 925-5033 or leah@villagereach.org
 JOHN BEALE, Strategic Development Director, Seattle (206) 925-5033 or john@villagereach.org

WWW.VILLAGEREACH.ORG

601 NORTH 34TH STREET SEATTLE, WA 98103 USA TEL 1.206.925.5200 FAX 206.925.5201