



Success Story

Mozambique: USAID | DELIVER PROJECT Helps Provide Warehouse Space after Devastating Explosion



The newly constructed warehouse in Maputo was devastated by explosions on March 22, 2007.

Since renting the Adil warehouse space, the MOH has been able to avoid country-wide interruptions in the supply of commodities.

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For six hours on March 22, 2007, explosions reverberated from a Soviet-era weapons depot near Maputo's International Airport. Fireballs flew hundreds of feet into the air; blasts destroyed nearby homes and showered downtown Maputo with debris. The depot held the largest weapons cache in the country, estimated at thousands of tons of weaponry and ammunition. More than 90 people were reported killed by the explosion and hundreds more were injured. A heat wave, blamed for the accident, set off the aging munitions stored without temperature control.

The explosion severely damaged a warehouse being built by the Ministry of Health (MOH). The new warehouse at Zimpeto was to provide modern storage facilities for medicines and medical supplies, consolidating some of the 10 smaller warehouses in locations throughout Maputo. Central de Medicamentos e Artigos Médicos (CMAM), the MOH unit responsible for the central-level logistics functions, previously subcontracted certain functions to a private company—procurement, importation, central warehousing, and transport to the 10 provinces and key hospitals throughout the country.

Most of the old central warehouses managed by the private company had limited capacity. In addition, the MOH's contract with the private company was to expire in December 2007. However, because of the explosion, the new central warehouse, eagerly awaited and critical to improving the current warehousing situation, would not be operational until early in 2008, as initially planned.

At a request from the MOH and USAID/Mozambique, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, with assistance from the Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) project, identified and rented an appropriate space large enough (8,100 cubic meters) to be used as a temporary central warehouse. To ease the logistics management of medicines and medical supplies and to improve

the quality of storage at the central warehouse, the project rented one large space rather than reverting to smaller scattered warehouses around Maputo. To meet minimum warehousing standards, the project cleaned out and refurbished two adjoining warehouses and part of a third at the Adil warehouse, just outside Maputo. To upgrade the storage conditions for the medicines, the project installed industrial-quality lighting and insulation; this significantly improved the ambient temperature and working conditions for MOH staff.

The refurbishment started in October 2007 and was completed in June 2008. With SCMS, the project assisted the MOH in transferring all medicines from the 10 different locations in Maputo to the rented and refurbished warehouse at Adil.

The refurbished warehouse is one of two central-level warehouses in Mozambique. It provides storage space for all essential medicines—including contraceptives and condoms, and malaria and HIV/AIDS commodities—procured and distributed by the MOH and donations from USAID and other donors. The two central-level warehouses in Maputo and Beira serve 10 provinces and the city of Maputo. Since renting the Adil warehouse space, the MOH has been able to procure and store a sufficient stock of medicines in-country and can manage its distribution, avoiding country-wide interruptions in the supply of commodities through the public sector supply chain.

The Zimpeto warehouse is being rebuilt; the expected completion date is late 2009. The SCMS project is providing technical guidance to the MOH to assist in successful completion and functionality of the new and modern warehouse.

Considering the volume of medicines currently stored at the rented warehouse (Adil), the capacity of the Zimpeto warehouse may not be sufficient to consolidate all the medicines currently stored there. Therefore, the SCMS project plans to fund an extension to the Zimpeto warehouse. Meanwhile, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT will continue to rent the temporary warehouse (Adil) until the Zimpeto warehouse extension is built; this will support the MOH's (CMAM's) efforts to ensure the proper storage of all medicines, including contraceptives, condoms, and malaria commodities.



USAID | DELIVER PROJECT 2009

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT completed a large cleanup, quickly preparing temporary warehouse space to house essential drugs.



USAID | DELIVER PROJECT 2009

The refurbished warehouse provides critical storage space necessary to avoid interruptions in the supply of commodities.

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 1, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and implemented by John Snow, Inc. The project improves essential health commodity supply chains by strengthening logistics management information systems, streamlining distribution systems, identifying financial resources for procurement and supply chain operations, and enhancing forecasting and procurement planning. The project also encourages policymakers and donors to support logistics as a critical factor in the overall success of their health care mandates.

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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