

# IMPACT REPORT



Stories and Statistics from the CARE Learning Tour to Mozambique, May 26-June 1, 2019

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## OVERVIEW:

A bipartisan group of Congressional staffers traveled to Mozambique with CARE to see how vital U.S. investments in agricultural research and development (R&D) and food security help build the capacity and resiliency of farmers. The delegation included staffers from Kansas, Maine, New York, Wisconsin and from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This group was also joined by representatives from the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Farm Journal Foundation and a media representative from Devex.

Currently the second-largest formal exporter of food in the southern Africa region, Mozambique is situated between a vast coastline and four landlocked countries, bordering six countries total in Southern and East Africa. The agriculture sector serves as the backbone of the country's economy, with 80 percent of the population in Mozambique depending on agriculture for their livelihoods. The agricultural potential of Mozambique is great, with 36 million hectares of fertile land and 10 different agroecological zones, facilitating an array of research and development opportunities. Yet only about 16 percent of this land is currently used for productive agricultural purposes and the land is largely located in flood- and drought-prone areas. As a result, disruptions in crop production are common and directly result in undernutrition. National poverty rates remain staggeringly high. Nearly 70 percent of the population lives on less than \$2 a day and 80 percent of the population cannot afford an adequate diet. The country also struggles with chronic food insecurity and the life expectancy is alarmingly low at 58 years – one of the lowest in the world.

On this five-day trip, the delegation traveled from the agriculture R&D lab to the field where R&D is applied, to local and global agricultural markets. They witnessed how U.S. investments can empower farmers to withstand shocks and climate variability, sustainably produce enough nutritious food to feed their families and lift their communities out of poverty.

## → DAY 1

### Setting the Scene – Why Mozambique?

Upon arrival in Mozambique, the delegation began their first day in country receiving an introductory briefing from local technical experts. The group heard from representatives from CARE, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Potato Center on the development, gender, food and nutrition security context in Mozambique.

## → DAY 2

### A Look at Agriculture Research and Development (R&D)

On their second day in country, the delegation explored the role that U.S. investments play in creating R&D opportunities. R&D aims to strengthen agricultural inputs and develop improved seed varieties for small-scale farmers to combat malnutrition and issues related to drought and climate variability. The group toured the labs of the International Potato Center in the morning. In the afternoon, they visited the Umbeluzzi center where seed varieties are tested and multiplied. The delegation proceeded to the plot of Julieta Cavale, a small-scale female farmer participating in farm trials to test the viability of orange-fleshed sweet potato varieties.

That afternoon, the group also had lunch with representatives of the U.S. Mission to discuss the priorities and U.S. investments in supporting the Mozambique people, through programs such as Feed the Future and investments in responding to Cyclones Kenneth and Iдай.

Below are some of the program highlights from the day:

#### International Potato Center (CIP) and Umbeluzzi Center Farm Trials

**LOCATION:** Nationwide

**BACKGROUND:** Through the support of USAID and the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) funding, CIP and the Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM) developed and released new drought-tolerant, orange- and purple-fleshed sweet potato varieties. **continued on next page ▶**

**BACKGROUND continued:** This initiative brought the total number of resilient and nutritious varieties available for dissemination and cultivation to 22. This latest intervention has coordinated the mass distribution of disease-free planting material sourced from established orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP) vine multipliers and from new, decentralized multiplication plots. The project trained local multipliers in techniques for selecting, cutting, handling and packaging planting material. The team also supported multipliers to undertake marketing activities for their planting materials and sweet potato roots—using radio and mobile phone advertisements—to create demand in local markets. As part of CIP’s interventions, local farmers received training on protecting their vines from disease using rapid multiplication and harvesting techniques. Targeting vulnerable households with children under five, CIP worked closely with local health centers and community health agents to raise awareness and understanding of the nutritional benefits of OFSP.

**IMPACT:** The project aimed to increase food security and improve the diets of 24,000 poor households (120,000 people) in drought-affected communities through improving production and consumption of OFSP in 20 target districts of Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo provinces of Mozambique

**DONORS:** U.S. Agency for International Development; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation; UK Department for International Development (DFID); Irish Aid

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** CGIAR, International Potato Center; Mozambican Agrarian Research Institute (IIAM); the Provincial and District Directorates of Agriculture and Extension Services

The group closed the day with a reception hosted by CARE and the U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique Dennis Walter Hearne. At the event, the delegation spoke with NGO and local academia representatives, private sector partners and representatives from the U.S. Mission. The discussions explored the current development challenges in Mozambique and how the U.S. government, in partnership with the Mozambican government and other key stakeholders, is working to improve opportunities for small-scale farmers, particularly women farmers, throughout the country.

## → DAY 3

### Transferring Research and Innovation to Small-Scale Farmers

On the third day of the trip, the delegation followed research to the field, where they traveled to Nampula province to meet with women farmers who are adopting improved crop management techniques and integrating improved, more drought resistant seed varieties into their production. The group also met with mothers who have received training through cooking demonstrations on ways to process important staple crops such as orange-fleshed sweet potatoes to address stunting and chronic malnutrition in their community. Below are some of the program highlights from the day:

#### Mozambique Improved Seeds for Better Agriculture (SEMEAR) Project

**LOCATION:** Nampula, Zambézia, Manica and Tete provinces of Mozambique

**BACKGROUND:** Feed the Future Mozambique Improved Seeds for Better Agriculture (SEMEAR) is a five-year project funded by USAID under the Feed the Future program. The project uses a win-win public-private partnership approach to disseminate improved legume seeds and complementary crop management practices. Through the Platform for Agricultural Research and Technology Innovation project (PARTI) partnerships, more than 27 varieties of common bean, cowpea, groundnut, pigeon pea and soybean have been developed and released in Mozambique in the past few years. Most of the varieties are drought tolerant, resistant to endemic pests and diseases, have end-user preferred traits and show significant increases in yields on farmers’ fields.

**IMPACT:** The overall goal of the project is to increase the adoption of improved technologies, income and food security of smallholder farmers. The project aims to reach 100,000 small-scale farmer households through partnerships and collaborations with community-based seed producers and public institutions. To date, the project has helped facilitate the production of more than 3,400 megatons of certified seeds produced by farmers on more than 170,000 hectares of land, benefiting nearly 68,000 households, including 35 percent women. Households obtained an estimated \$498 return on investment per hectare and improved food security. Grain sales generated nearly \$88 million dollars.

**DONOR:** U.S. Agency for International Development – Feed the Future programming

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), SEMEAR is a consortium involving two other CGIAR centers, CIAT and ICRISAT, all working together with Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM).



The group tours the International Potato Center’s research labs where improved and drought-resistant orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) varieties are being developed and tested. These OFSP varieties are later multiplied and transferred to small-scale farmers through farm trials.



Helen Beaudreau, Legislative Director for Rep. Grace Meng, thanks Ambassador Hearne on behalf of the Learning Tours delegation for his and the U.S. Mission’s leadership in Mozambique.



The delegation learns about sesame seed production and hears from community members about some of the improved harvesting techniques they have learned through the SEMEAR project to prevent post-harvest loss and have more seeds available for household consumption.

The group closed the day with a dinner with CARE's Country Director to Mozambique, Marc Nosbach and Southern Africa Regional Advocacy Advisor, Vitumbiko Chimoko. They discussed the impact of the two recent cyclones, Idai and Kenneth, on Mozambique – particularly on the agricultural sector – and provided an overview of the ongoing response efforts.

## → DAY 4

### EMPOWERING FARMING COMMUNITIES AND GROWING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

On the third day of the trip, the group explored interventions that help promote income generating activities for vulnerable farming communities and link local producers to larger markets through the support of public-private partnerships. Below are some of the program highlights from the day:

### Viable Sweet Potato for Africa (VISTA) Program

**LOCATION:** Nationwide

**BACKGROUND:** Funded by USAID, the Feed the Future Viable Sweet potato Technologies in Africa–Mozambique (VISTA) project is a technology dissemination project that aims to improve the food security, nutrition and incomes of smallholder farmers through OFSP. The project builds and strengthens sweet potato seed systems to enable farmer access to quality OFSP planting material, improves the nutrition and knowledge of caregivers and promotes the household consumption, processing and commercialization of OFSP. VISTA aims to scale up the use of drought-tolerant, pro-vitamin A OFSP varieties developed by the International Potato Center and partners. The VISTA project was rolled out in collaboration with government partners, including IIAM, NGOs, community-based organizations and local education and research institutions. Investments in R&D over the last few years have generated improved technologies for sweet potato varieties, which have in turn greatly improved nutrition, incomes and food security among vulnerable households across Africa and Asia.

**IMPACT:** The project was started in 2014 with the goal of getting OFSPs directly into the hands of 65,100 Mozambican households with another 260,000 households indirectly benefitting from improved OFSP varieties and technologies. The project was designed to expand the production and utilization of nutritious OFSP in 11 districts of Nampula Province and five districts of Zambézia Province. It helped integrate production of the improved OFSP varieties in nearly 14,400 acres of farmland in the country. Between 2014-2019, the VISTA project has worked closely with local government health extension officers in Mozambique's Nampula and Zambezia provinces and has reached approximately 74,000 families with children under five years of age. The families received trainings on sweet potato production and nutrition. Furthermore, pregnant and lactating women received continuous training on the importance of postnatal and antenatal health care, breastfeeding and eating a balanced diet. As a result, 94,400 children under five (25,700 of whom were under two years of age) were impacted.

**DONOR:** U.S. Agency for International Development – Feed the Future

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** International Potato Center, Mozambique Agrarian Research Institute (IIAM)

### Village Savings and Loan Association Project

**LOCATION:** District of Ilha de Mozambique

**BACKGROUND:** CARE's Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model seeks to reduce poverty by empowering vulnerable communities to be financially self-sufficient through savings-led approaches. A key aspect of the VSLA program is its focus on creating economic self-reliance, empowering and enabling women to become more involved in the decision-making processes at all levels. The program strives to increase the community's capacity in business skills and productivity. This is achieved by supporting different village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) with knowledge, materials and skills that will ensure increased engagement in viable economic activities. In the savings groups, participants also contribute to a social fund, which supports community members who need economic resources in times of crisis – for instance for group members whose homes were destroyed and livelihoods devastated following Cyclone Kenneth in April 2019.

**IMPACT:** As of 2016, globally there were 200,000 CARE VSLAs in 35 countries mobilizing five million members, 70 percent of whom are women. Together, these savings groups have generated more than 350 million financial transactions a year and create millions of dollars in annual savings. Their loan repayment rate is 99 percent. Although CARE's direct support and involvement in this VSLA project in Mozambique officially ended in fall 2018, the local Mozambican organization OPHAVELA still provides support to the savings groups in the area and savings activities continue throughout the country.

**FORMER DONORS:** CARE

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** CARE; OPHAVELA (local organization)



Pictured here is Anna Knight, Policy Analyst with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The growing banana bunch pictured is a product of the disease-tolerant varieties that have been introduced in Mozambique from Asia as a means to combat the spread of Panama disease in the banana industry.

## → DAY 5

### Expanding Market Access for Small-Scale Farmers – Taking Action Back Home

On the last day of the trip, the group learned about interventions that are helping to link small-scale farmers to local, regional and international markets. This linkage is made possible through improved and more inclusive supply chains and interventions supported by U.S. investments that help tackle vulnerabilities small-scale farmers often face, such as aflatoxin, which can hinder production and yields and stifle economic potential.

#### Condor Cashew Processing Factory

**LOCATION:** Anchilo, Mozambique

**BACKGROUND:** Feed the Future Mozambique Agricultural Innovations (FtF Inova) is a five-year, \$21 million project that aims to promote equitable growth in Mozambique's agriculture sector and increase incomes of small-scale farmers. FtF Inova does this by helping Mozambican companies expand their business outreach and offer more and better products and services to small-scale farmers, while at the same time sourcing more agricultural products from these local farmers for processing, domestic sales and exports. To ensure sustainability, FtF Inova aims to develop key agriculture service functions to boost growth of Mozambique's agriculture sector so it becomes more competitive. The improvement areas include transportation, logistics, marketing, IT, finance services and developing dedicated media information outlets. FtF Inova also supports the development of new technologies, providing cost-effective adaptations of existing solutions to deliver higher-value goods and services, including adjusting companies' business strategies to better serve small-scale farmers and more meaningfully include them in the market and supply chain.

**IMPACT:** Condor Nuts is an agro-processing factory in Anchilo, Nampula that employs approximately 1,500 employees, including full-time and seasonal workers. Condor Nuts partners with FtF Inova to acquire British Retail Consortium Global Standard for Food Safety Certification, which allows for access to niche markets, including the United States, Middle East, parts of Europe and the local market. This access leads to increased incomes and incentives for small-scale farmers to improve quality of cashew.

**DONOR:** U.S. Agency for International Development – Feed the Future Inova programming

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:** Condor Cashew Factory

#### Banana Industry Grants Facility

**LOCATION:** Monapo, Mozambique

**BACKGROUND:** The banana industry in Mozambique has been facing a severe disease outbreak, ravaging banana plantations for the past several years. TechnoServe, in partnership with the Government of Mozambique's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is providing financial support to affected communities through a grant facility to contain the outbreaks and support prevention measures. By testing and licensing resistant varieties, building fences around farms and establishing monitoring systems, the Banana Industry Grants Facility is enabling the Mozambican banana farmers to fight the current Panama Disease (TR4) and Banana Bungy Top Virus (BBTV) outbreaks and prevent further contamination. The grant facility is also funding research on banana production and disease prevention and is playing a central role in convening important stakeholders in the industry. In addition to decreasing the impact of the current disease outbreaks in Mozambique's banana sector, the program will also help to make the banana industry more sustainable and competitive by equipping the sector to detect and avoid these diseases in the future.

**IMPACT:** Jacaranda currently employs approximately 1,000 local people and in 5 years, when the facility reaches its full capacity, will have approximately 3,000 employees from the surrounding community. Since taking over the banana facility, Jacaranda has been working to expand production of the plant variety GCTCV 218 (Formosana) that is between 70 to 95 percent resistant to the Panama disease depending on local soil, climatic and management conditions. The facility is currently developing a completely resilient variety and is working to share information and research with the Mozambican government, academia, local, regional and international researchers on how best to mitigate and contain the Panama disease.

**DONOR:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Jacaranda Agricultural Supply Company, TechnoServe; Government of Mozambique's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security



The Condor Nuts factory employs approximately 1,500 employees, including full-time and seasonal workers, and buys raw cashew materials from thousands of local farmers. The Condor cashew nuts are exported to the United States, Europe and Africa.

## Lunch Roundtable on Aflasafe Project

**LOCATION:** Nampula, Mozambique

**BACKGROUND:** In Mozambique, aflatoxins have long been linked to rejection of Mozambican groundnut exports to the European market. When aflatoxins exceed legal limits, they are associated with high prevalence of liver cancer, child stunting and weakened immunity, resulting in more illness. Through a grant from USAID's Feed the Future program, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) showed that aflatoxin contamination was widespread in the groundnut and maize growing areas of Central and Northern Mozambique. Contamination level is highest in groundnut and in low and middle altitudes compared to maize and high-altitude areas. To combat these high levels of aflatoxin, IITA worked to develop two "Aflasafe" products using highly competitive local and non-toxicogenic strains of the fungus that compete with aflatoxin limiting the contamination of treated crops. After almost five years developing and field-testing this innovative but simple way to control aflatoxins in groundnut and maize, Mozambique's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security approved the registration of two Aflasafe products on February 20, 2019.

**IMPACT:** The two products—Aflasafe MWMZ01 and Aflasafe MZ02—were first extensively tested in farmers' fields in four main agro-ecologies in Central and Northern Mozambique, covering five provinces and 22 districts. In all, 468 groundnut farmers (295 men and 173 women) and 558 maize farmers (491 men and 67 women) participated in Aflasafe field evaluation, including 19 groundnut associations (145 men and 151 women) and 8 maize associations (130 men and 52 women). Results showed dramatically high aflatoxin reduction (by between 85 and 99%) for both groundnut and maize, compared to non-treated fields. In addition, 3,643 farmers (2,617 men and 1,026 women) received short-term training on aflatoxin awareness and Aflasafe use.

**DONOR:** U.S. Agency for International Development – Feed the Future programming

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM), USDA's Agricultural Research Service, University of Arizona and Mozambique's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Throughout the trip, the delegation saw firsthand how investments in agriculture R&D and food security help develop the national and global agricultural sector as well as the resiliency of farmers – which allows them to withstand shocks, sustainably produce enough nutritious food to feed their families and lift their communities out of poverty. The trip followed research supported by U.S. investments from the lab to the field to the market, generating improved agricultural inputs, techniques and profits for small-scale farmers, particularly women farmers. The group saw how those inputs and techniques are being applied by local farmers and gained a firsthand understanding of the impact of these investments on improved nutrition outcomes and livelihoods, helping to also strengthen agricultural value chains and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable.

## → POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

CARE advocates for the U.S. government to integrate gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment throughout its foreign assistance programs. Women and girls around the world face deep-rooted inequality where their rights are often not respected and their voices are unheard. This inequality is at the center of the cycle of poverty. By placing an emphasis on empowering women and girls to exercise agency and influence through education, health and economic opportunity, we can support communities attain the tools needed to sustainably lift themselves out of poverty. Strong policies and robust resources to promote women and girls' education and leadership, prevent child marriage, combat gender-based violence and foster food and nutrition security are at the center of sustainable development.

The international affairs budget is the U.S. government's primary funding source for international programs for emergency response and long-term development. Although the International Affairs Budget is roughly one percent of the overall U.S. budget, it is routinely targeted in budget cuts. Proposals to dramatically cut the international affairs budget raise serious concerns about the future of American leadership and how we will achieve the benefits of addressing poverty. CARE advocates for a fiscal year 2020 (FY20) international affairs budget of at least \$59 billion, which is in approximate alignment with the House's FY20 levels.

If the issue of hunger is to be solved in the long-term, policies must focus on enabling vulnerable populations to achieve independence. CARE advocates for U.S. global food and nutrition

security programs, such as Feed the Future, to empower small-scale and women farmers to access markets, sustainably produce enough food to feed their families, and to enhance access to nutritious food. Smart programming must focus on empowering the vulnerable who often bear the brunt of food production while facing hunger. Effective programming must take a community-led approach, improve nutrition – especially for women and children – and build communities' ability to adapt to shocks and stresses such as drought, extreme temperatures and flooding. Building this capacity is a critical step to achieving the goal of zero hunger.

Photos: All Images: Ilan Godfrey/CARE

We are deeply grateful to the many people who generously gave of their time to make this visit to Mozambique a success. CARE specifically thanks the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for its generous financial support of the Learning Tours.

If you are interested in learning more about CARE's Learning Tours program, please contact:



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