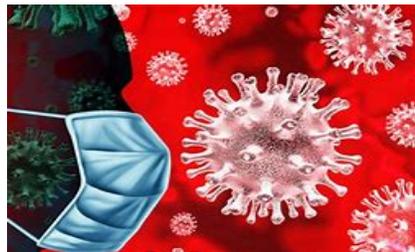


AFRICA FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

COVID-19 Chemicals and Waste - Mozambique

FACT SHEET



**What we Do**

**We are guided by the 17 SGDs**

**Partnerships**

Strategic Consultation

Project Execution

Sustainable Impact



**SGP** The GEF Small Grants Programme

**COUNTRY OVERVIEW**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by infection with the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) strain, which has infected millions of people worldwide and has killed hundreds of thousands. The pandemic has galvanized the global scientific and medical communities, resulting in over 21,000 scientific publications in just the first 6 months of 2020. An important early conclusion is that the severity of COVID-19 is dependent upon the pre-existing health condition of the patient, which compromises the ability to fight the disease. The COVID-19 pandemic is placing the country under unprecedented strain. Mozambique is still struggling to recover from the devastation brought by Cyclones IDAI and Kenneth in 2019, and violence in Cabo Delgado has displaced thousands of people. The situation aggravated the spread of the virus; therefore there is a need for urgent action to contain the virus and the consequences.



## IMPACT OF COVID-19

### HEALTH IMPACTS ON THE PEOPLE AND SYSTEMS

COVID-19 was first reported in Mozambique on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. As of 26 May 2020, Mozambique had 194 cases, of which 168 were locally transmitted. The country capital Maputo and Matola Province are currently the epicenters of the outbreak and the sites of our research. Prior to the COVID-19, multiple disease outbreaks such cholera, malaria, HIV and TB were already stretching Maputo city and Matola's weak health systems. Health centers, including main hospitals (Mavalane, Central and Provincial), are facing significant operational challenges in this pandemic, as there are shortage of staff, equipment and medications for critical services.

### CHALLENGES AND IMPACT TO OPERATIONS

The main challenges Mozambique is facing are related to regulatory and institutional arrangements, citizen feedback mechanisms, and resources for the sound disposal of COVID-19 chemicals and waste. Despite the effort to control the pandemic, chemicals used and waste generated pose risks to human health and the environment. For example, surgical masks were found dumped directly in open spaces in the field, and are sometimes burnt in the open, which can cause cross-contamination among the family members and waste collectors. This is due to lack of awareness on the ill-effects of open dumping and burning of waste.

## LESSON LEARNED

The interventions by AFSD's project, which was carried out with extensive support from IPEN, Valor and the Volunteer Team, ensured that all stakeholders involved in the project (waste collectors, farmers, communities, Health Department, Municipality) gained new knowledge and increased understanding about the health risks and impacts of the COVID-19. Additional information offered by the Health Department included best practices and demonstration of use of the masks, and how to treat surgical mask and gloves, as well as:

- How to adequately wash the hands,
- How to wash and treat the homemade masks,
- How to handle the hand sanitizer, and
- How to separate the garbage (gloves and masks and empty gel hand sanitizer) into different containers.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

AFSD is committed to continue with engagement with all health care professional organizations, waste collectors, Municipal Councils, and governmental institutions, as well as other stakeholders, to address the critical public challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the important role stakeholders play in health care delivery and management, and we value the insights shared through engagement. Given the urgent and rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic, AFSD is interested in hearing directly from impacted stakeholder groups to better understand the evolving landscape.

OUR MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME AND VOLUNTEER TEAM



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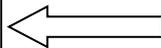
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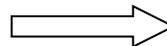


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