



ANNUAL REPORT

AICS MAPUTO OFFICE

25





Published by:

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Maputo Office
Rua Damião de Góis 381,
Maputo, Mozambique

Tel. +258 84 86 05 343

E-mail: maputo@aics.gov.it

Editorial and concept: Miguel Almeida

Supervision: Paolo Enrico Sertoli and Maria Cristina Pescante

Graphic design: MNB – Maningue Nice Brand

Interviews conducted by: Fernando Arão, Dona Júlia, Hipólito, Assucena, Jaqueline Lichucha, Marcos Augusto

Cover photo:

Women: Chimoio – Women dancing during the mango harvest.

Copyright: Andrea Borgarello

Baobab: Iconic tree of the African savannah, symbol of the landscapes and communities of Southern Africa.

Image source: Photo archive

Colosseum of Rome: Monument symbolising Italian history and cultural identity.

Image source: Photo archive



INDEX

cap	pag.
01 - Message from the Head of AICS Maputo Office – Dr. Paolo Enrico Sertoli	4
02 - AICS in Southern Africa Map with the 5 countries under the competence of AICS Maputo office and focus on our offices	5
03 - Organigram	6
04 - AICS Maputo in numbers Some data about the office: Pie chart of funding by sectors and countries Number of staff	7
05 - AICS 10 years: the best moments of the decade For each year, highlight of a relevant event	8
06 - 2030 Agenda	10
07 - Presentation of the countries of competence Mozambique Zimbabwe Malawi Zambia Angola	12 12 14 16 18 20
08 - The 5 Ps	22
P for Planet Environment sector Story with a museum researcher	23
P for People Health, agriculture, gender and inclusion Story about diabetes	29
P for Prosperity Infrastructure and job creation Story of inclusive internships	39
P for Partnerships Events Story of a young student in the Master's programme in Trieste	45
P for Peace DELPАЗ and emergencies Story of a DELPAZ farmer	50
09 - Perspectives for 2026	55
10 - Group photo of the Office	56



Message from the Head

Dear readers,

This edition of the Annual Report celebrates the ten years of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), while also marking the tenth anniversary of the Maputo Office.

The Report traces the evolution of our presence in the region, presents the main results achieved, and offers an overview of the countries under the responsibility of the Maputo Office: Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Angola.

It is therefore a regional mandate covering the central - eastern area of Southern Africa, with Maputo as the main hub and, from 2025, strengthened coordination through the new Programme Office in Lusaka, responsible for Zambia and Malawi.

The Report is structured around the five strategic priorities - Planet, People, Prosperity, Partnerships and Peace - in line with the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also highlighting the testimonies of those who are direct protagonists of development processes.

Over these ten years, the Maputo Office, among the most relevant on the African continent, has supported sustainable development in the region. Among the most significant results of the decade, the support to the Biotechnology Centre of Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) undoubtedly stands out,

which, in the biennium 2020-2022, contributed decisively to the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening diagnostic capacities.

Likewise, initiatives such as DELPAZ (funded by the European Union but implemented by AICS) have supported the country in strengthening peace and social cohesion in the central-northern provinces.

We have worked alongside communities, progressively expanding our presence. The opening of the Chimoio Office in 2023 strengthened intervention in Manica Province and the Beira Corridor, particularly in the rural development sector. More recently, in 2025, the opening of the Programme Office in Lusaka improved the coordination of initiatives being implemented in Zambia and Malawi, confirming the commitment of Italian Cooperation across Southern Africa.

Southern Africa has always represented a strategic priority for Italy, as demonstrated by the missions of the Italian Development Cooperation System carried out in 2024 and 2025, as well as high - level institutional visits to Maputo, such as the visit of the President of the Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, in July 2022, within the framework of an official State Visit to the Republic of Mozambique. During that visit, a Multiannual Development Cooperation Agreement between Italy and Mozambique (Multiannual Indicative Plan - PIP - 2022-2026) was signed, with the participation of Italian and Mozambican institutional representatives.

The year 2025 marked my final year as Head of the AICS Maputo Office. It was a significant year: from the opening of the Programme Office in Lusaka to the reopening of the Maputo Natural History Museum after major rehabilitation works, and the launch of a strategic initiative on the blue economy in Cabo Delgado, in partnership with ENI. I conclude this mandate with pride and confidence in the future, after four years of institutional growth and concrete results.

A special thanks to all the staff of the AICS Maputo Office for their dedication and professionalism, to the relevant Diplomatic Representations (Embassies in Maputo, Lusaka, Harare and Luanda), to partner institutions, to Italian and local civil society organisations, to United Nations agencies, and to all those who contributed to this shared journey.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

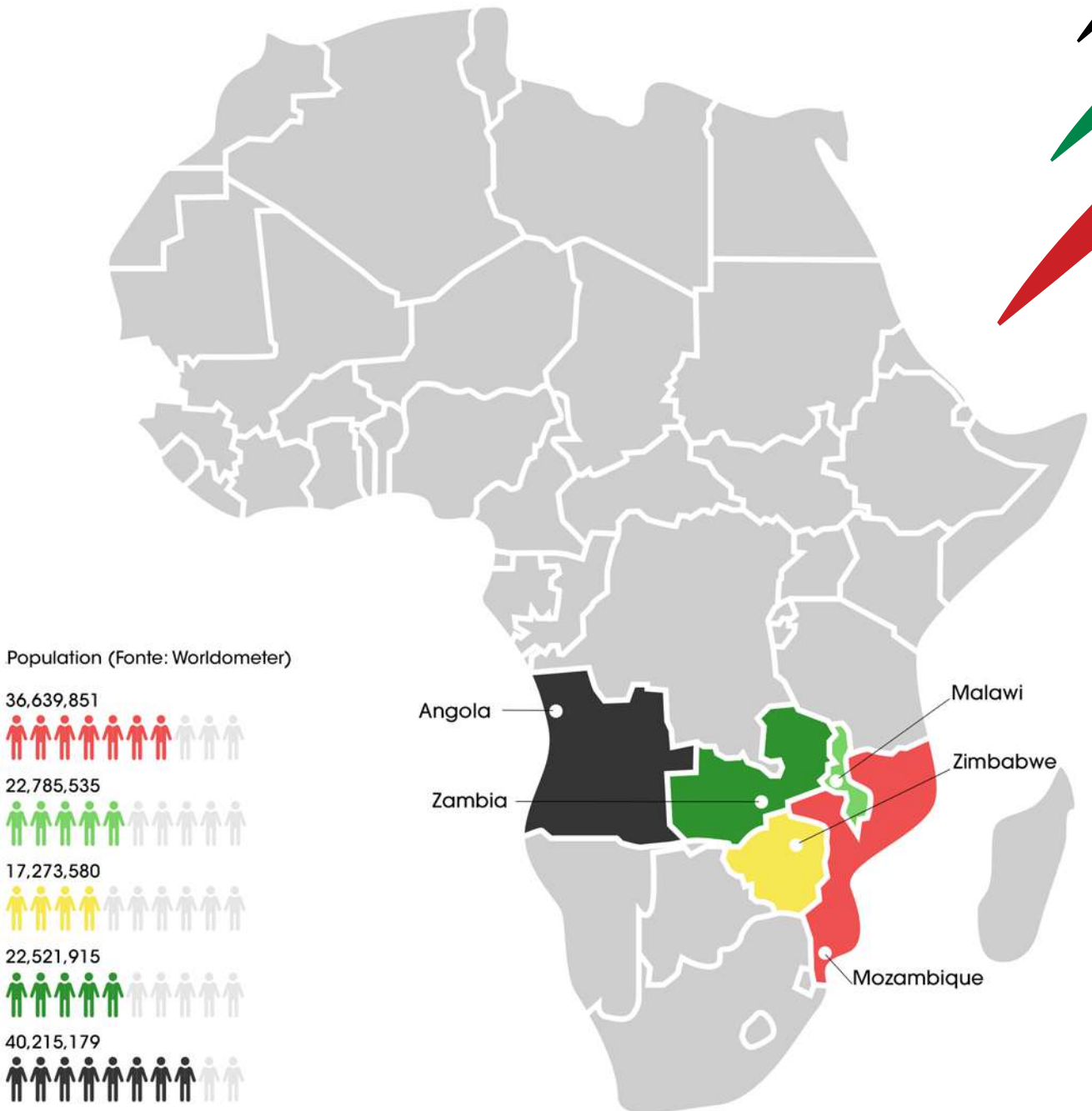
Yours sincerely,

Head of AICS Maputo Office
Paolo Enrico Sertoli

AICS Maputo Office - (Map of the 5 countries - offices)

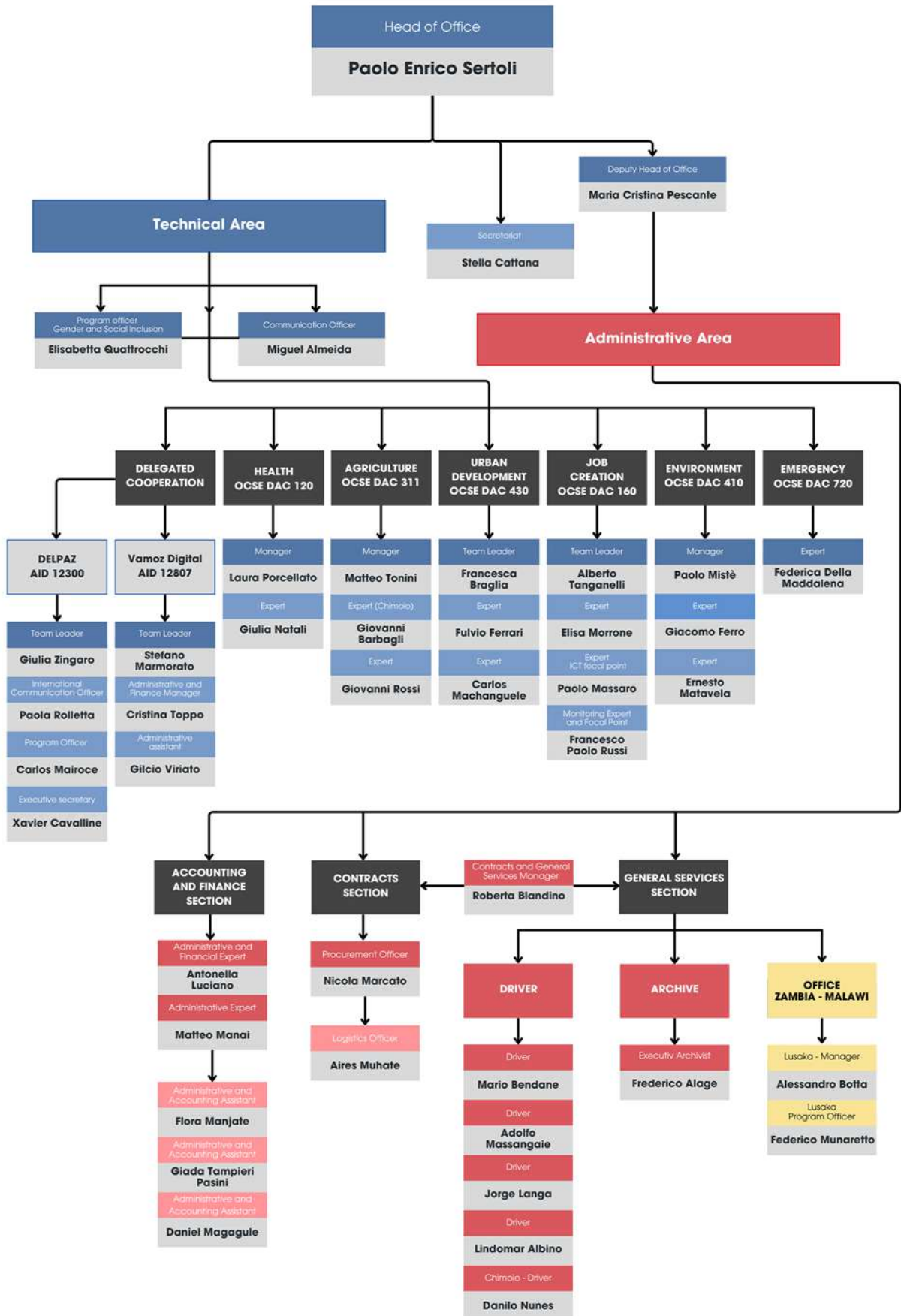
The AICS Office in Maputo has competence over five countries in Southern Africa: two Portuguese-speaking, Angola and Mozambique, and three English-speaking. Among these five countries, three are considered priorities for Italian Cooperation: Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia.

The Office adopts a regional perspective, working in close coordination with the relevant Embassies and with the Governments of partner countries to address various common challenges, such as the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, the sustainable management of Miombo forests, and support for the development of regional value chains, such as coffee.



¹ MAECI Programming and Policy Document.

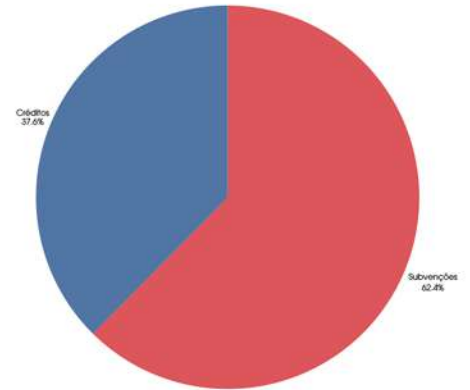
Organigram:



Some figures from the Office:

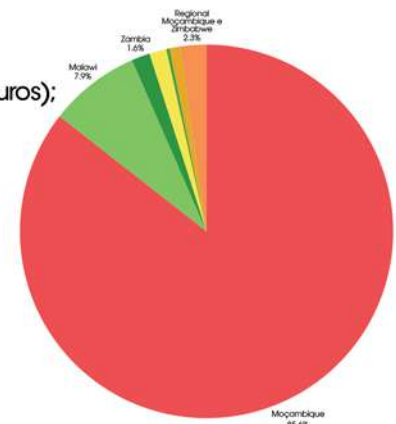
69 initiatives (including the two Fondo Unico with a total value of 8,365,370 euros), for an overall amount of 377,279,589 euros, of which 227,279,589 euros in grants and 150 million euros in concessional loans. 2 Delegated Cooperation projects in Mozambique (DELPAZ and VAMAZ Digital).

- Loans
- Grants



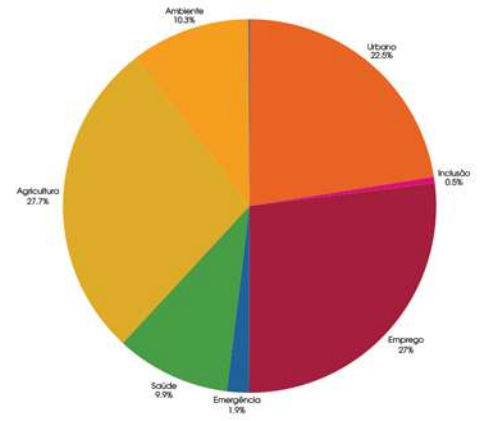
Funding by country:

- Mozambique: 322.829.436 euros (including the Fondo Unico of 7.300.370 euros);
- Malawi: 29.785.153 euros;
- Zambia: 6.000.000 euros;
- Zimbabwe: 5.600.000 euros;
- Malawi e Zambia (Fondo Unico): 1.065.000 euros;
- Region Mozambique, Zambia e Malawi: 3.500.000 euros;
- Region Mozambique e Zimbabwe: 8.500.000 euros.



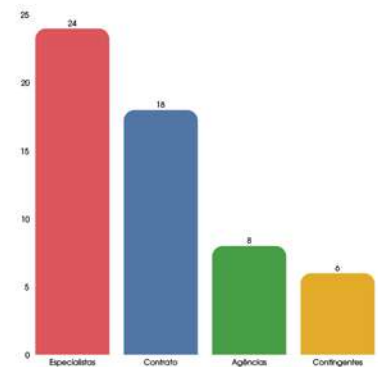
Distribution of funding by sectors:

- Emergency
- Inclusion
- Job creation
- Rural development and agriculture
- Urban development and infrastructure
- Environment and access to energy
- Health
- Peace and good governance



Our staff in 2025 consists of 56 employees, distributed as follows:

- 24 Specialists or Team Leaders
- 18 Employees under Mozambican labour law contracts
- 08 Employees hired through temporary agencies
- 06 Contingent staff



10-YEAR TIMELINE:

Creation of the AICS Maputo Office, with a regional mandate covering Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe

2016



2017

Cooperation continued actively through scholarships, academic mobility and exchange of lecturers and researchers between Italian institutions and UEM (Eduardo Mondlane University).

Cinema Arena brings cinema and health awareness activities to 24 remote communities in the provinces of Zambézia and Nampula.

2018



2019

Emergency response to Cyclone Idai, with the delivery of humanitarian aid and the installation of a field hospital in Sofala Province.

The Biotechnology Centre of Eduardo Mondlane University, supported by Italian Cooperation, plays a key role in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020



Official visit of the AICS Director, Luca Maestripietri, strengthening the strategic partnership between Italy and Mozambique.

2021



2022

Visit to Mozambique by the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, during which the Multiannual Indicative Plan (PIP) between Italy and Mozambique for the period 2022-2026 was signed.

Inauguration of the AICS Programme Office in Chimoio, strengthening operational presence in Manica Province and the Beira Corridor.

2023



2024

Mission of the Italian Cooperation System in Mozambique and signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement related to the CAAM project - Centro Agroalimentar de Manica, a strategic initiative for agricultural development and part of the Mattei Plan for Africa.

Opening of the Programme Office in Lusaka, expanding the presence of Italian Cooperation in Southern Africa and strengthening coverage in Zambia and Malawi.

2025



In 2025, the official reopening ceremony of the Maputo Natural History Museum was also held, after more than two years of extensive rehabilitation works.





2030

AGENDA



Adopted by the United Nations in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a global reference framework aimed at promoting balanced and inclusive development. Through its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it addresses key challenges such as the fight against poverty, environmental protection, the promotion of health, education, gender equality and sustainable economic growth.

To facilitate the understanding and implementation of these objectives, the 2030 Agenda is structured around five key dimensions, known as the 5 Ps: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships, which represent the fundamental pillars of a sustainable and shared development model.

In line with this approach, this Annual Report of the AICS Maputo Office is organised according to these five dimensions, with the aim of illustrating the main initiatives promoted and the results achieved across the different areas of intervention.

The AICS Maputo Office works towards the achievement of the SDGs, with particular attention to:



At a cross-cutting level, it aims to promote initiatives that contribute to:





MZ

Mozambique

Population: 36,639,851

Capital: Maputo

Human Development Index ranking: 183/193

Human Development Index: 0,493

Gender Development Index: 0,934

Administrative division: 11 Provinces

Funding in the country: 322.829.436€

Regional programme:

Mozambique – Zimbabwe: 8.500.000€

Mozambique – Zambia – Malawi: 3.500.000€

Source: Worldometer, UNDP, Human Development Report 2025.

Italian Cooperation in Mozambique

Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, gained independence in 1975. In the following years, the country went through a long and dramatic civil conflict, lasting more than sixteen years, which ended in 1992 with the signing of the Rome Peace Accords, mediated by Italy.

Since 1982, Italy has provided Mozambique with grant funding amounting to approximately 890 million euros. Over the years, Italian Cooperation support has mainly focused on the sectors of agriculture and rural development, education and technical, vocational and higher education, as well as health.

In 1996, the General Agreement on Development Cooperation was signed, which continues to serve as the reference framework for cooperation relations between the two countries. More recently, in 2022, the Multiannual Indicative Plan 2022-2026 was adopted, signed on the occasion of the visit to Mozambique by the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, further strengthening the bilateral partnership.

In recent years, relations between Italy and Mozambique have continued to strengthen and consolidate. In 2024, Mozambique was included among the priority countries of the Mattei Plan for Africa.

Subsequently, from 9 to 11 December 2025, the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Daniel Chapo, paid an official visit to Italy. During the meeting, among other topics, the Manica Agro-Food Centre (CAAM) project was discussed, considered a strategic initiative within the framework of the Mattei Plan.

Mozambique: A priority country for Italian Cooperation

Mozambique continues to represent one of the priority countries for Italian Cooperation, as demonstrated by a portfolio of interventions exceeding 320 million euros, structured across initiatives in the sectors of infrastructure, environment, job creation, agriculture and health, in addition to actions in the areas of emergency, good governance, gender equality and social inclusion.

Some of the most relevant projects include, for example, PRETEP PLUS, which aims to strengthen the employability of 27,000 Mozambican youth, as well as the rehabilitation of the Maputo Natural History Museum and the construction of an agro-food centre in Manica Province (CAAM), designed as a regional hub for the processing and distribution of agricultural products.





ZWL

Zimbabwe

Population: 17,273,580

Capital: Harare

Human Development Index ranking: 153/ 193

Human Development Index: 0.598

Gender Development Index: 0,925

Administrative division: 10 Provinces

Funding in the country: 5,600.000€

Regional programme

Mozambique – Zimbabwe: 8.500.000€

Source:: Worldometer, UNDP, Human Development Report 2025.



Italian Cooperation in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980 and, for many years, was considered one of the most productive countries in Southern Africa, often referred to as the “breadbasket of Africa” due to its strong agricultural production. However, in recent decades, the country has faced significant economic and political challenges that have affected growth and the stability of its productive system.

In this context, Italy continues to support the country as one of the main donors, contributing through programmes of the European Union and major United Nations organisations, as well as through development cooperation initiatives.

In 2025, the closing ceremony of the “Seeds for the Future” project took place in Masvingo, funded by Italian Cooperation and implemented by a consortium of NGOs led by COSPE. Over three years of activity, the project reached 5,920 direct beneficiaries (63% women), contributing to food security through school gardens, community irrigation systems and initiatives aimed at improving access to markets for smallholder farmers.

The initiatives promoted include two projects in the agricultural sector: E.C.O. T.E.R.R.A.: Empowerment of communities and organisations for the transformation of rural economies oriented towards environmental restoration, and Food security and agroecological vocational training in Zimbabwe (SAFAZ).

Cross-border cooperation between Mozambique and Zimbabwe

On 14 May 2025, Italian Cooperation launched two cross-border projects between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with a total budget of 8.5 million euros, implemented in the border areas shared between the two countries. The initiatives aim to improve ecosystem health, strengthen agricultural value chains and promote greater integration of local communities into national, regional and international markets.



MWK

Malawi

Population: 22,785,535

Capital: Lilongwe

Human Development Index ranking: 172/ 193

Human Development Index: 0.517

Gender Development Index: 0.925

Administrative division: 3 regions - 28 districts

Funding in the country: 29.785.153€

Joint / regional programme:

Malawi - Zambia (Fondo unico): 1.065.000€

Mozambique - Zambia - Malawi: 3.500.000€

Source: Worldometer, UNDP, Human Development Report 2025.



Italian Cooperation in Malawi

Malawi has been part of the area of competence of the AICS Maputo office since its establishment in 2016. Over the years, the Agency has developed a diversified portfolio of initiatives in the country, in line with the priorities of the Government of Malawi and with the broader strategy of Italian Cooperation in Southern Africa. The Italian Embassy in Lusaka is also responsible for Malawi and, in 2025, Italian Cooperation further strengthened its presence in the region with the opening of an AICS office in Lusaka, responsible for overseeing initiatives also in the country.

Health as a priority of Italian Cooperation in Malawi

The portfolio of interventions is concentrated in several priority sectors. Health continues to be one of the main areas of intervention for Italian Cooperation in Malawi, with three active funding initiatives focused on the fight against HIV and the growing challenge posed by non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Among these, particular attention is also given to the prevention and early diagnosis of female cancers, especially cervical and breast cancer, recognised as a national health priority.

A clear sign of the strengthening of Italy's commitment is represented by the two high-level missions carried out in 2024 and 2025, within the framework of the missions of the Italian Cooperation System, led by Stefano Gatti, Director General for Development Cooperation of MAECI, which contributed to consolidating institutional dialogue and strengthening the prospects for bilateral collaboration.

In the agriculture and rural development sector, Italian Cooperation promotes climate-smart and resilient agricultural practices. In collaboration with the World Food Programme, it also supports school feeding programmes, contributing to the improvement of food security and children's nutrition.

At the same time, it supports the efforts of the Government of Malawi in the development of the coffee value chain, including through support to the Malawi National Coffee Strategy, launched in 2025.

In parallel, emergency interventions are implemented to mitigate the effects of the El Niño phenomenon and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

Among the projects promoted, five initiatives stand out in the health and agriculture sectors, including interventions for female cancer prevention and women's health in Malawi, climate-smart agriculture initiatives, actions to support sugarcane producers, and initiatives to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market.



ZMW

Zambia

Population: 22,785,535

Capital: Lusaka

Human Development Index ranking: 154/ 193

Human Development Index: 0.595

Gender Development Index: 0.946

Administrative division: 10 Provinces

Funding in the country: 6.000.000€

Joint / regional programme:

Malawi – Zambia (Fondo Unico): 1.065.000€

Mozambique – Zambia – Malawi: 3.500.000€

Source: Worldometer, UNDP, Human Development Report 2025.



Italian Cooperation in Zambia

Zambia, located in Southern Africa, was a British colony known as Northern Rhodesia. After decades of colonial rule, the country gained independence in 1964.

The presence of Italian companies in the decades following independence left an important mark on the country's development, contributing to the construction of strategic infrastructure and generating widespread recognition that still exists today at the national level. Among the most significant works are the Kariba Dam, the INDENI oil refinery, and the role played by Alitalia in the creation of Zambian Airways.

In recent years, development cooperation between Italy and Zambia has been further strengthened. In 2024, Zambia was classified as a priority country for Italian Cooperation, with responsibility assigned to the AICS Maputo office. The year 2025 represented an additional milestone with the opening of an Italian Cooperation Office within the Embassy of Italy in Lusaka.

The inauguration, held on 12 September 2025 within the framework of the Global Gateway Fact-Finding Mission: African Climate Summit & Lobito Corridor, highlighted Italy's strong commitment to sustainable development in Southern Africa.

The ceremony was attended by H.E. Enrico De Agostini, Ambassador of Italy to Zambia; Marco Riccardo Rusconi, Director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS); and Paolo Enrico Sertoli, Head of the AICS Maputo office, among other institutional representatives.

Strategic investments of Italian Cooperation in Zambia

The interventions of Italian Cooperation in Zambia focus on several strategic initiatives. Among these, a €6 million funding stands out in the Northwestern and Copperbelt provinces, within the Lobito Corridor area, aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening the value chains of honey, legumes and mushrooms, and promoting inclusive business models, in partnership with the Alliance Bioversity.

In parallel, the AIM Zambia project - Integrated Action to Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change on the Most Vulnerable Communities in Zambia, funded as an initiative within a broader regional programme worth €3.5 million, aims to strengthen climate resilience and mitigate the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon in Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi.





AOA

Angola

Population: 40,215,179

Capital: Luanda

Human Development Index ranking: 148/ 193

Human Development Index: 0.616

Gender Development Index: 0.939

Administrative division: 18 Provinces

Source: Worldometer, UNDP, Human Development Report 2025.

Italian Cooperation in Angola

Angola, located in Southwest Africa, was a Portuguese colony until 1975, the year in which the country gained independence. The following period was marked by internal tensions and a long civil conflict, which ended in 2002 with the achievement of peace.

Today, Angola is the second-largest oil producer in Africa and has vast natural resources. Italy and Angola maintain strong political relations, based on well-established historical ties.

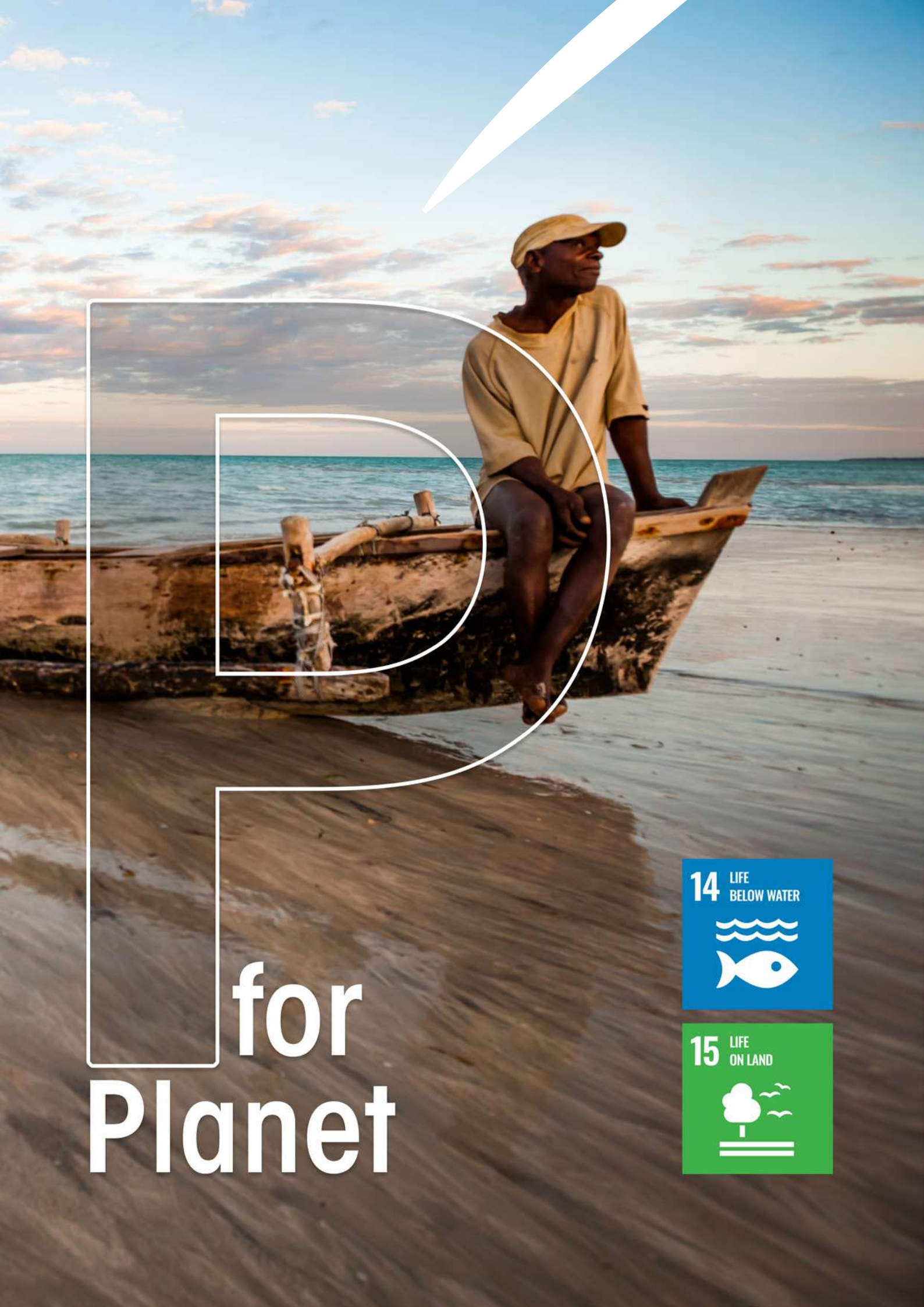
Italy supported the Angolan independence movements and played a significant role in cooperation during the years of civil conflict. In 1976, Italy was the first Western European country to recognise Angola's independence and, in the same year, diplomatic relations between the two countries were established.

Angola among the priority countries of Italian Cooperation

In 2024, Angola became part of the countries under the responsibility of the AICS Maputo Office and, in 2025, it was recognised as a priority country within the framework of the Mattei Plan for Africa. In the coming years, several development cooperation initiatives are planned, with a particular focus on the sectors of agriculture, environmental management and sustainable tourism, aimed at strengthening the partnership between Italy and Angola and supporting the country's sustainable development.







P for Planet

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND





The environmental sector of the AICS Maputo Office plays a central role in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the "Planet" pillar of the 2030 Agenda, promoting the sustainable management of natural resources (water, soil and biodiversity), biodiversity conservation and the strengthening of scientific research, recognising the blue economy as one of the strategic pillars for sustainable development in Southern Africa.

In 2025, the sector reached an important milestone with the reopening of the Maputo Natural History Museum on 29 September 2025, after more than two years of intensive rehabilitation works. The reopening was attended, among others, by the Minister of Education and Culture, the Ambassador of Italy to Maputo and the Director of AICS. The Museum's collections stand out for their extraordinary scientific value and include more than 200 mammals, 10,137 birds, 176,527 insects, 1,250 invertebrates and 150 taxidermied reptiles.



The reopening of the Museum falls within the framework of the RINO programme (AID-12042)

The reopening of the Museum falls within the framework of the RINO programme - Resources, Innovation and Development for Conservation Areas (AID 12042), launched with the aim of equipping the country with the necessary tools to define effective environmental policies, while ensuring the proper functioning of institutions and entities in the sector and contributing to strengthening social awareness on biodiversity conservation.

As another significant milestone, it is worth highlighting that, in 2025, Maputo National Park was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, becoming the first natural site in Mozambique to receive this prestigious recognition.



In this context, the RINO programme played a fundamental role in strengthening the technical capacities of the Park's staff, through training activities aimed at technicians and students, as well as through the provision and application of GPS collars within the monitoring protocols of the Conservation Centre. These activities enable the tracking of wildlife and contribute concretely to the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity.

In 2025, two important projects were also launched:

Sustainable and integrated transboundary management of Miombo forests
(AID-12981)

The project, launched on 14 May in Harare, aims to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of Miombo forests, a key ecosystem shared between Mozambique and Zimbabwe and vital for millions of people in rural areas, as it provides essential resources such as firewood, food and water. The initiative will directly support 5,000 families, while also promoting gender equality and youth participation.

The project also falls within the framework of the regional commitment undertaken in August 2022 with the Maputo Declaration on the Miombo Forest, signed by eleven SADC countries, with the aim of strengthening the sustainable management and governance of this ecosystem.



In 2025, the sector also managed the following programmes:

 **ManGrowth - Ecosystem preservation for sustainable development**
(AID-12432)

The programme aims to promote mangrove reforestation through research and reforestation activities, the promotion of alternative community-based income-generating activities, and the sustainable use of natural resources, with the involvement of the Inhaca Marine Biology Station and other entities committed to the conservation of mangrove habitats.

The programme also carried out the rehabilitation of infrastructure at the Inhaca Marine Biology Station, namely the dormitories with accommodation capacity for 54 people,

as well as the construction of a wet laboratory and a dry laboratory.

It also organised three editions of the Summer School, contributing to the strengthening of scientific capacity, research and training in the field of coastal ecosystem conservation.



ECOBLU - Sustainable and integrated development of marine and coastal resources in Cabo Delgado Province:
(AID-13179)

The project, launched on 10 November in Pemba, aims to promote the economic and social empowerment of coastal communities through the development of alternative and sustainable livelihoods linked to the blue economy. On the same occasion, a blue economy project funded by ENI was also launched, strengthening synergies between public cooperation and the private sector in support of sustainable development and the protection of Mozambique's marine and coastal ecosystems.





A-GEO - Environment, Green/Blue Economy and Employment
(AID - 12550)

The programme aims to promote the sustainable and integrated management of coastal natural resources in the Macaneta Peninsula, in the district of Marracuene (Maputo Province), through strengthening the capacities of local entities in integrated coastal zone management, the promotion of the blue economy and circular economy, as well as environmental education.

Among the main results achieved, the development of aquaculture activities stands out, with the distribution of 19,750 fingerlings to the local Hobjana association, the construction of four lifeguard towers, and the installation of public sanitation facilities, waste collection containers and informational signage, contributing to improved beach management for the benefit of the local community and tourists.

The project also enabled the training of 20 lifeguards, strengthening beach safety, and the provision of transport means and equipment, including tractors, motorcycles and jet skis, to support coastal management activities. A new fish conservation unit was also inaugurated, equipped with an ice production unit, contributing to strengthening the cold chain and enhancing local fishing activities.

2025 also marked the approval of an important initiative in Zambia, which will be launched in 2026 in Lusaka.

BILOB - Restoring biodiversity of degraded ecosystems in the Northwestern and Copperbelt along the Lobito Corridor, from a sustainable development perspective
AID. 13387

This initiative aims to create an enabling environment for the dissemination of sustainable land-use practices and diversified, gender - sensitive livelihood options that address the direct and underlying causes of deforestation, restore degraded Miombo forest landscapes, and promote the sustainable management of natural resources, while also ensuring co - benefits in terms of sustainable development, such as food and nutritional security in the Northwestern provinces of Zambia.



Summer Schools



The Mangrowth programme, funded by Italian Development Cooperation, supports scientific research and intercultural exchange between Mozambican and Italian youth through the organisation of Summer Schools, promoting studies on mangroves and coastal ecosystems, as well as knowledge sharing among academic institutions, lecturers and students from both countries.

Over the three editions, the programme involved a total of 39 students, 21 Mozambican and 18 Italian, as well as lecturers and international researchers from twelve countries, contributing to strengthening the role of Inhaca Island as a reference ecosystem for scientific research in this field.



Giving a new life to animals: the story of Fernando Arão

Fernando Arão is a taxidermist, a rare profession in Mozambique that he himself did not know before embarking on this path.

"I came to this profession by chance. I have a degree in Visual Arts and saw an internship opportunity at the Natural History Museum," he explains. It was there that he discovered a new vocation. *"At the Museum I fell in love with the profession, with the possibility of giving a new life to dead animals."*

Among the works he remembers most is a shark received from some fishermen in Inhambane. *"I had to carefully remove the skin and then mount it on an artificial body, reconstructed using different materials,"* he explains. The process requires technical precision and anatomical knowledge to recreate the animal's original form and allow its display for scientific and educational purposes.

Within the framework of the RINO programme, Fernando and a colleague from the Museum had the opportunity to receive training from technicians of Sapienza University of Rome, particularly from the specialist Maurizio Gattabria. *"I learned new techniques, such as the use of polyurethane, a material that allows structures to be lighter and more resistant,"* he says.

Fernando also explains that he prefers working with mammals. *"With mammals I can better model and reconstruct the body. With birds, the technique is different, as it mainly involves a stuffing technique."*

Throughout his career, one of the most significant moments was his contribution to the rehabilitation works of the Natural History Museum, which reopened last year. *"When I walk past the Museum and see the animals on display, I feel a great sense of pride,"* he admits.

Looking to the future, Fernando aims to become a reference in taxidermy in Mozambique. He believes that the recent rehabilitation of the Museum can also attract young people to this still little-known profession, but essential in a country with such rich biodiversity.

"It is still a little-known profession, but very important to value and preserve the biodiversity of my country," he says. Finally, he expresses the desire to continue learning. *"I would like to receive more training and, who knows, obtain a scholarship to go to Italy and continue learning with Maurizio."*





for People

2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER EQUALITY





The AICS Maputo Office is strongly committed to contributing to the “People” dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, placing communities at the centre of its actions through a broad portfolio of interventions in Southern Africa.

In the agricultural sector, AICS supports more resilient and sustainable production systems in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with particular attention to high value-added value chains, such as coffee.

In the health sector, AICS contributes to strengthening national health systems, supporting the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases and promoting access to quality health services.

AICS also promotes gender equality and social inclusion, in line with the principle of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind.

Health

The public health systems of Mozambique and Malawi still face significant structural challenges, including shortages of equipment and essential medicines, as well as an insufficient number of healthcare professionals, often without specialised training.

The main causes of mortality remain infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS and malaria; however, at the same time, there has been a significant increase in deaths associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular diseases and cancers.



In this context, AICS also contributes to strengthening the health response in the fight against major infectious diseases through its support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Within the framework of the replenishment for the 2027–2029 cycle, Italy allocated a contribution of 150 million euros, of which 5% is reserved for technical assistance interventions promoted by Italy in support of the three main infectious diseases, under the Global Fund’s 5% Initiative.

AICS priorities therefore focus on the overall strengthening of health systems, improving access to prevention and control services for communicable and non-communicable diseases, promoting the training of health personnel, the development of telemedicine, and ensuring more equitable access to health services for persons with disabilities.

Within this framework, interventions aim to improve the health conditions of populations and expand access to quality health services, contributing to greater inclusion and equity, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3, dedicated to health and well-being for all.

FEMALE CANCERS

Italy is strongly committed to the fight against female cancers, particularly cervical cancer. In Malawi, the mortality rate exceeds 50 deaths per 100,000 women per year, while in Mozambique it is around 40 per 100,000, figures significantly higher than the global average. In both countries, cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among women, particularly affecting those of reproductive age.

For this reason, strengthening primary prevention (HPV vaccination), regular screening, and diagnostic and treatment capacities is essential to reduce the impact of the disease and save women's lives in Mozambique and Malawi.

In 2025, the following programmes were ongoing:

Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (AID 12672)

It aims to strengthen prevention, diagnosis and treatment, as well as the surveillance of non-communicable diseases, expanding geographical coverage to a total of 20 health centres across the provinces of Maputo, Sofala and Zambézia, in continuity with the previous intervention (AID 11375).

Thanks to the project, 7,380 new cases of hypertension (HTN), 721 new cases of diabetes mellitus (DM), 618 new cases of HTN/DM comorbidity and 12,085 cervical cancer lesions were identified. In addition, 234,816 people were made aware of risk factors and the importance of screening.

Common donor fund to support the Mozambican national health system - PROSAUDE III (AID 12757)

Together with other donors, Italy finances this Fund, whose objective is to reduce inequalities in access to health services by supporting the decentralisation process in the country. In fact, 85% of the available resources are transferred to districts, which not only have a precise understanding of the needs of their territory but are also in a position to respond to them effectively and appropriately.

Strengthening the system of health personnel training institutes and support for the development of telemedicine (AID 12524)

The programme aims to improve the quality of public health services in Mozambique, particularly through strengthening the training system for health technical personnel. This is achieved by reinforcing the relevant National Directorate and the Training Institutes in the provinces of Maputo and Sofala, improving both the technical skills of teaching and management staff, as well as teaching methodologies, equipment and technologies. The programme also foresees the development of telemedicine.

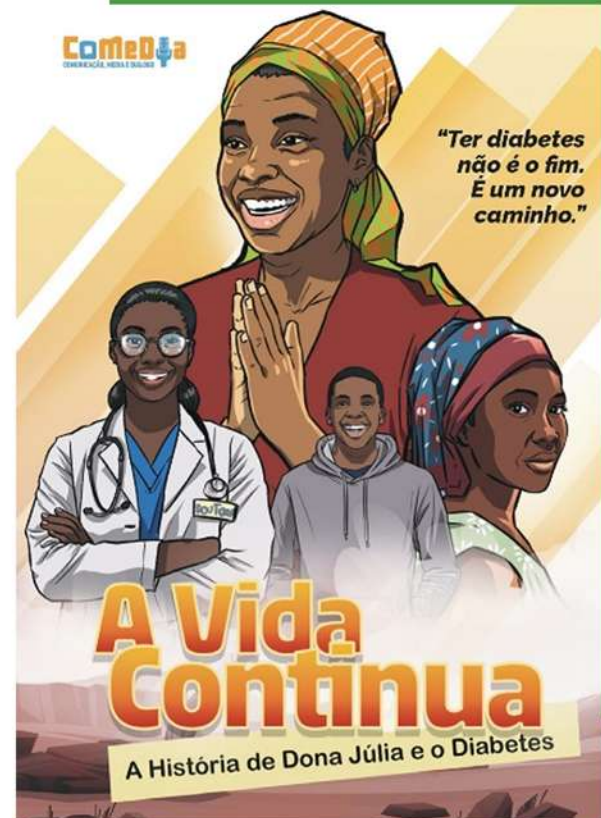
Throughout 2025, the Beira Training Institute benefited from the renovation and proper equipping of the neonatology simulation room, where a neonatology course was conducted based on an updated curriculum aligned with the most recent standards.

At the same time, the Infulene Training Institute benefited from the rehabilitation of the Intensive Care laboratory, where lecturers from the dedicated course participated in training in clinical simulation using state - of - the - art equipment, skills that will later be transferred to their students through a cascade approach. The year 2025 also marked the launch of two new projects, one in Malawi and the other in Mozambique.

IN.FOR.MO. - Training and evidence to inform sustainable health policies and evaluate quality health services (AID 13249)

It aims to strengthen the health system in five districts of Mozambique by improving the prevention, diagnosis and management of HIV, cervical cancer, hypertension and diabetes, contributing to the development of more effective, integrated and evidence-based health services.





Dona Júlia, a champion in the fight against diabetes

Dona Júlia, 42 years old, recalls that about two years ago she began to feel the first symptoms. *"I couldn't do anything, I was always lying down. I drank a lot. I ate a lot, but I never felt full."* Concerned, she decided to go to the Matola II Health Centre, where health staff carried out tests that led to a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Upon receiving the diagnosis, Júlia was overcome by great fear and discouragement, fuelled by many myths and misconceptions circulating about diabetes in her community. *"People said that those with diabetes lose their legs, that wounds don't heal."* However, with the start of treatment and medical follow-up, Dona Júlia began to feel better and was able to adopt important changes in her diet and lifestyle, which allowed her to keep her blood sugar under control.

She also highlights the support received from the health staff at the centre, who helped her take proper care of herself. *"Here we are treated very well, with attention and respect. They explain everything to us and follow us throughout the treatment, providing emotional support and guidance. When the sugar level is under control, they also provide us with medication for three months."*

The Matola II Health Centre is one of the facilities involved in the Programme for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, funded by Italian Cooperation, which has made screening, treatment and follow-up services for non-communicable diseases accessible, particularly diabetes mellitus, hypertension and cervical cancer, in 20 health centres across three provinces of the country.

Today, Dona Júlia has become a source of inspiration for other patients. When she meets people who are frightened by the diagnosis, she approaches them and shares words of comfort and hope: *"It is possible to live well for many years. You just need to follow the treatment and take care of your diet."*

Her story also inspired the creation of an awareness comic on the prevention and treatment of diabetes, developed by Comédia with the technical support of AICS and the Ministry of Health (MISAU). This initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of early diagnosis and, at the same time, support and encourage patients already undergoing treatment, showing that it is possible to live with the disease while maintaining quality of life and hope for the future.

INTER-LINKED – Integration of health services for the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, non - communicable diseases and female cancers (AID 13253),

It aims to strengthen Malawi’s health system through an integrated approach to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious and non-communicable diseases, with particular attention to female cancers and the most vulnerable populations, promoting more equitable and inclusive access to quality health services.

Agriculture and rural development

The AICS Maputo office is strongly committed to contributing to the “People” dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, placing communities at the centre of its actions through a broad portfolio of interventions in Southern Africa.

In the agricultural sector, this commitment translates into support for farmers in the Beira Corridor and other strategic areas, with the aim of strengthening productivity, increasing resilience to climate shocks, particularly the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, and promoting more sustainable agricultural systems in Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Special attention is also given to the development of high value-added agricultural value chains, such as coffee, through an integrated approach that also involves the Italian private sector, including Illycaffè, contributing to improving the



quality of production, market access and income opportunities for smallholder farmers.

In Malawi, Italian Cooperation also supports a school feeding programme in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), contributing to strengthening food security, improving children’s nutrition and promoting school attendance.

BEIRA CORRIDOR

The Beira Corridor is a strategic infrastructure that connects the port of Beira, in Mozambique, to inland countries in Southern Africa, enabling the transport of goods between the Indian Ocean and the interior of the continent. It is particularly important for landlocked countries such as Zimbabwe and Zambia, allowing them to export and import goods through the port of Beira more quickly and efficiently.

The corridor contributes to strengthening Mozambique’s role as a regional maritime gateway, promoting trade, economic integration and the development of countries in the region.

The initiatives funded by the sector include:

CAAM
(AID 12542)

The project aims to support the transition of the horticultural sector in Manica Province towards an inclusive, competitive and resilient agro - industry, through the development of an innovative Agro-Food Centre (CAAM) for the aggregation, certification, processing and distribution of local products, as well as the creation of a territorial governance system to ensure its operational functionality.

The project is currently in the operational phase of defining infrastructure and services for businesses, laying the foundations for the start of processing and structured marketing of horticultural products in the province.





MAIS VALOR 2
(AID 12378)

This project aims to promote sustainable and inclusive agricultural value chains in the provinces of Manica and Cabo Delgado, through the dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices, facilitation of access to microcredit, and support for the processing and value addition of agricultural production. In particular, it focuses on the development of coffee (more information in the partnerships section). Among the results achieved are the establishment of the headquarters of the Frutas de Barué Cooperative, the equipment of the coffee processing unit at Caffè Vumba, the development of the National Coffee Strategy, and several technical training sessions for producers in the provinces of Manica and Cabo Delgado.

Rural Development Programme - PADR
(AID 9021)

It aims to support commercial agriculture and local economic development, strengthening public services and community organisations, as well as agricultural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. This is achieved through financial and technical assistance services, with the aim of improving productive capacities and facilitating market access.

Women in Sustenta
(AID 12542)

The programme aims to contribute to peace and sustainable development in Manica Province, promoting women's participation in the rural economy and strengthening local institutions. The impact will be felt in the districts of Barué, Macossa, Guro and Tambara, while also influencing national agricultural policies, with particular attention to gender issues. Among the successfully implemented actions are the microcredit programme, training in financial management, awareness-raising cycles on the rights of women and girls and the fight against gender-based violence, training in agroecology and beekeeping, as well as support for agricultural production and small-scale livestock farming.

PRODAI
(AID 123737)

The initiative aims to develop an inclusive, dynamic and competitive value chain for smallholder farmers who, in the near future, will supply products to the Manica Agro-Food Centre (CAAM, AID 12542), thereby strengthening the horticultural and agro-industrial sectors in the Beira Corridor. Among the actions carried out are the implementation of agroforestry systems (AFS), the establishment of community nurseries, and the strengthening of food and nutritional security through support to agricultural production.

Strengthening the capacities of smallholder farmers to address food and nutritional insecurity caused by climate change in Tete Province

(AID 12867)

It aims to increase the income of smallholder farmers through resilient agricultural production. The project implemented 33 productive demonstration plots that produced more than one tonne of vegetables; several training sessions on food processing were conducted for small producers; and a specific PICSA training (Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture) was delivered to the agricultural technicians involved in the project.

In 2025, two important projects were also launched:

Agricultural Value Chain Development and Trade Project ZIM-MOZA

(AID 12983)

Designed to strengthen agricultural value chains and promote trade between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with a focus on strategic value chains such as citrus, pineapple, banana, coffee, macadamia nuts, maize and various vegetables. The initiative was launched in Harare on 14 May 2025, simultaneously with the project dedicated to the sustainable management of Miombo forests.

Support to school feeding with local products in Chikwawa District

(AID 13242)

It aims to strengthen community resilience and food security through the implementation of the Home-Grown School Feeding programme, while promoting the use of local products and supporting smallholder farmers. The programme was launched on 17 June in Lilongwe, within the framework of the high-level mission of the Italian Cooperation System in Southern Africa.

In 2025, three additional projects were approved:

AGREE MALAWI - Agroforestry for Resilient Management and Ecosystem Balance in Malawi

(AID 13240)

It aims to increase the productivity and income of smallholder farmers through sustainable agroforestry practices, promoting resilient socio-ecological systems to improve food security and climate adaptation.

CAAM Production

(AID 13377)

It aims to promote the agronomic and economic sustainability of the productive system in the Manica region.

MAZDI

(AID 13403)

It aims to promote the resilience and sustainability of agri-food production systems in the districts of Mwanza, Chikwawa and Thyolo, in southern Malawi.





Gender and Social Inclusion

Italian Cooperation has implemented strategies aimed at promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

These actions are carried out through support for the implementation of existing national policies, the promotion of awareness-raising campaigns and the creation of concrete opportunities for the exercise of the rights of women and persons with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring greater access to education, employment and health services.

AICS also adopts a "twin-track" approach, which combines initiatives specifically targeted at women with the systematic integration of the gender dimension into sectoral programmes. Among the most relevant examples is the "Mulheres no Sustenta" programme, which promotes sustainable agricultural development by enhancing the role of women in rural communities.

ORANGE RUN

On 8 March 2025, Maputo turned orange to celebrate International Women's Day. The Orange Run, a symbolic event that brought together more than 1,000 participants of all ages, featured 5 km, 10 km and 15 km routes, under this year's theme: "For ALL women and girls: rights, equality and empowerment."

The initiative, inclusive and open to all, aimed to raise awareness on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and to promote equal opportunities.

The Orange Run was organised through a partnership between several embassies, cooperation agencies and civil society organisations, including AICS.

Another important contribution in the field of social inclusion is the project



INCLU.DE - Inclusion for Development
(AID 12759),

It aims to improve the living conditions of men and women with disabilities in Mozambique by promoting the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Among the most significant results is the development of the Manual for Monitoring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, produced within the framework of the programme. This tool will provide operational guidelines to the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) and other institutions and civil society organisations to monitor the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the country.

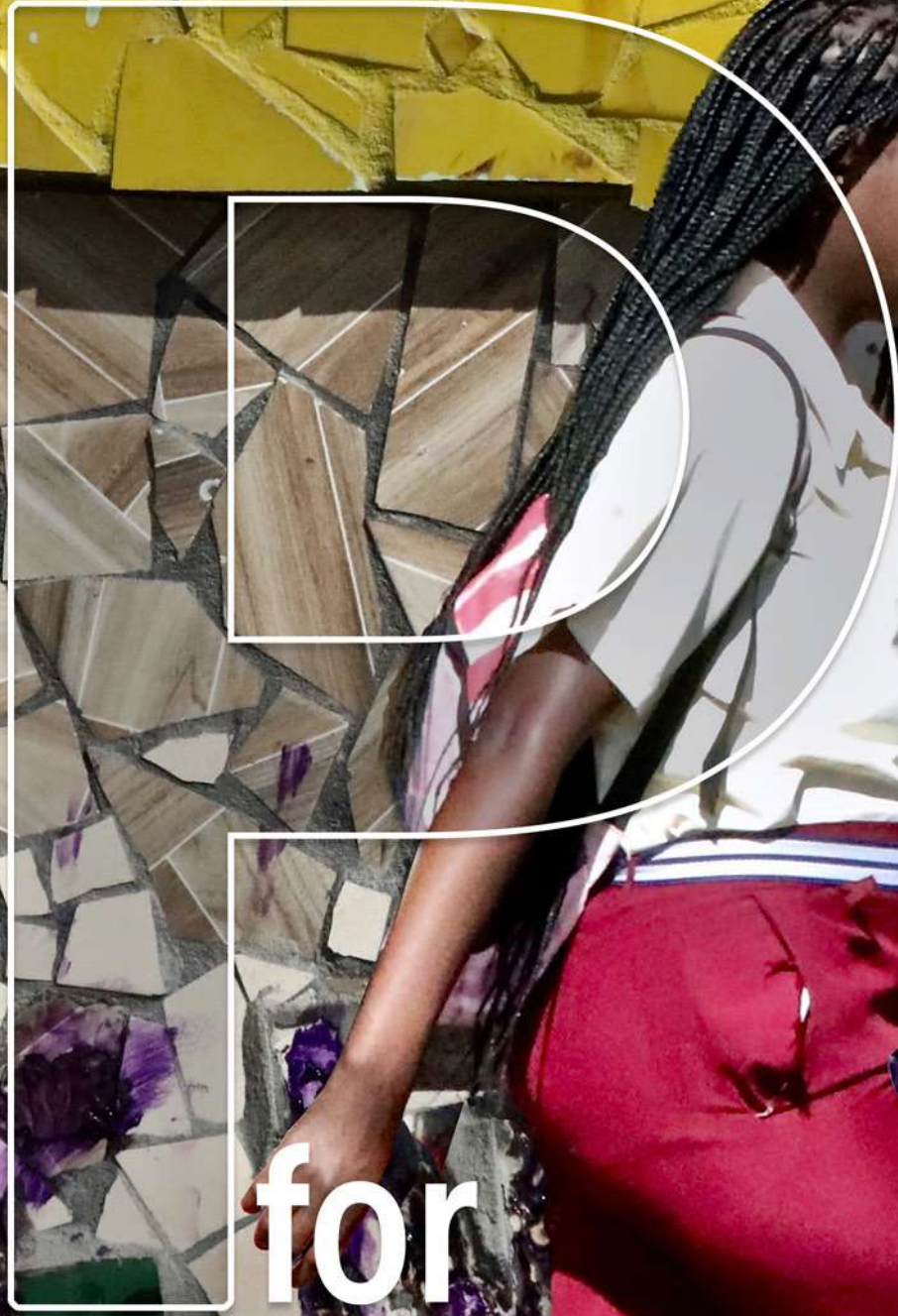


Maria Pescante, Deputy Head of AICS Maputo, presents the award to one of the winners of the Orange Run.



AGÊNCIA ITALIANA
DE COOPERAÇÃO
PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO





for Prosperity

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



One of the main challenges in Southern Africa is the rapid proliferation of informal settlements in large urban areas, with structural consequences such as the expansion of the informal economy, increased inequalities and growing pressure on infrastructure and essential public services, while at the same time hindering prospects for sustainable prosperity.

In many cases, the lack of territorial planning and formal access to land, including in relation to the DUAT system (Right of Use and Benefit of Land), which regulates land use rights in Mozambique, limits investment in adequate infrastructure and safe housing.

In Maputo, where informal settlements represent a significant part of the urban fabric (around 900,000), the inadequacy of drainage systems, sanitation networks and water supply infrastructure increases vulnerability during the rainy season (November–March).

In one of the countries most exposed to climate change, these fragilities contribute to recurring flooding and the spread of waterborne diseases, such as cholera, highlighting the need to strengthen resilient urban infrastructure and inclusive planning as fundamental prerequisites for long-term stability, public health and prosperity.

To address these challenges, the infrastructure and urban development sector of AICS Maputo collaborates with the Government of Mozambique, particularly with the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, to improve stormwater drainage in several neighbourhoods of Maputo.

In addition, the sector is developing the construction of the first decentralised composting centre in the metropolitan area of Maputo, intended to become a model for the development of future infrastructure.

In the Chamanculo C neighbourhood (Maputo), interventions are underway for the construction of new infrastructure, with the aim of improving the quality of life of the local population.



POLANA CANIÇO & MAXAQUENE

The city of Maputo is periodically affected by floods that mainly impact informal neighbourhoods, where urban vulnerability is more pronounced. The municipal district of KaMaxaquene is no exception.

With just over 205,000 inhabitants, according to the National Institute of Statistics (INE), and characterised by informal settlements that have developed over decades, the district faces significant challenges related to urban flooding, aggravated by limited access to basic infrastructure, particularly paved roads connecting neighbourhoods and adequate stormwater drainage systems.

In this context, under the Environmental Sanitation Programme – AID 8420, funded by Italian Cooperation, construction works for stormwater drainage systems have been underway since September 2025 in the neighbourhoods of Maxaquene and Polana Caniço.

These interventions represent a fundamental step towards improving urban conditions, contributing to the reduction of flood risk and the prevention of waterborne diseases, with a direct impact on the quality of life of the beneficiary communities.

Stormwater drainage in Maputo neighbourhoods (AID 8420)

The programme foresees the implementation of hydraulic works for stormwater drainage, the paving of urban roads and the urban rehabilitation of the city of Maputo, with the aim of reducing the risk of flooding that periodically affects, in particular, the neighbourhoods of Maxaquene and Polana Caniço. Drainage works and road paving are currently underway in the neighbourhoods of Polana Caniço and Maxaquene, as well as urban reorganisation works that include the complete reconstruction of at least 5 houses, in addition to façade improvements and the fencing of around 23 houses.

Green and resilient urban infrastructure in the city of Maputo (AID 12551)

The proposed action aims to create conditions for the Maputo municipal administration to improve the management of the physical urban environment through the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices. In particular, the project foresees the optimisation of the management cycle of solid waste

generated in urban areas, through the valorisation of the organic fraction of this waste and its subsequent reuse, after treatment, in urban agriculture initiatives. The initiative includes the construction of the first decentralised composting centre in the metropolitan area of Maputo, with the capacity to convert 15,000 tonnes per year of organic waste into compost.

Integrated upgrading of Chamanculo C neighbourhood, Maputo (AID 11649)

The programme aims to improve the living conditions of the population of Chamanculo C neighbourhood in Maputo, through the integrated upgrading of informal settlements.

In particular, it foresees the upgrading of public spaces, the construction of 4 km of drainage systems, 2 km of paved roads and housing for around 35 families.





Job creation

Mozambique has high youth unemployment rates, estimated at around 30%. To address this challenge, the employment creation sector of Italian Cooperation has focused on promoting inclusive and quality training, which includes university cooperation and the strengthening of technical and vocational education and training, a field that has historically been one of the main areas of intervention of Italian Cooperation in the country.

From the perspective of promoting decent work, with particular attention to young people living in fragile contexts, AICS continues to operate in the sectors of Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training. At the same time, it promotes applied scientific research and technological innovation, with a particular focus on information and communication technologies (ICT), considered strategic tools for sustainable growth based on human capital and socio-economic development.

The sector also supports the country's digitalisation efforts, encouraging start-ups through business incubators, such as that of the University (UEM), and promoting innovation initiatives, including hackathon programmes aimed at fostering youth entrepreneurship and the development of innovative technological solutions.

Support to Eduardo Mondlane University for academic reform, technological innovation and scientific research - RAITIC

(AID 9426)

The RAITIC Programme aims to align the educational offer and the quality of scientific research at UEM with international standards and Mozambique's development priorities.

In 2025, several activities were carried out with the support of the External Technical Assistance of the consortium University of Genoa (UNIGE) and Rina Consulting S.p.A., including workshops, thematic

webinars and a training programme for a delegation from UEM at UNIGE.

The 2026 Activity Plan was also approved, aimed at achieving the results envisaged by the Programme.

IN4JOB



Undersecretary Silli with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Maria de Fátima Simão Manso, during the signing of IN4JOB

The specific objective of the initiative is to strengthen entrepreneurship and employability among final-year students and recent graduates, equipping them with the skills needed to successfully integrate into the modern labour market.

To achieve this objective, the initiative is based on an innovative approach focused on the creation, incubation and acceleration of start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with a strong emphasis on technological innovation and the development of digital skills.

The IN4JOB initiative, with a total budget of 26.4 million euros, represents a strategic investment aimed at promoting youth employment.

Training of students, teachers and researchers in the Technology sector - ICT4DEV
(AID 12086)

The objective of the initiative is to increase scientific research, strengthen the technological capacities of the industrial sector and promote innovation. The programme enhanced professional opportunities for ICT students, researchers and lecturers at University (UEM), exceeding the expected results. Twenty advanced short courses were delivered, training more than 1,250 participants, while the academic staff benefited from 27 technical and scientific capacity - building pathways in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Milan, including mobility, research activities and the completion of a PhD. In terms of innovation, the Innovation Space and the UEM Incubator were rehabilitated.

DIGIT - Support to the Strategic Plan for the Information Society of Mozambique through digital excellence technology hubs
(AID 12525)

The initiative, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Transformation (MCTD), aims to support the Strategic Plan for the Information Society of Mozambique (2019-2028) through innovation and digital transformation for inclusive growth. In 2025, construction works on the CIUEM building were nearly completed. More than 810 students were reached through STEM campaigns and over 170 completed digital skills courses. In addition, 12 start-ups entered the incubation phase and mappings of the digital ecosystem are underway, to be validated with the MCTD.

Job creation through ICT
(AID 12454)

The programme supports the implementation of the Quadrennial Employment Policy Execution Plan (PAPE) in the components related to vocational training in the ICT sector. Under the initiative, six IFPELAC Vocational Training Centres in the provinces of Maputo, Manica and Tete were rehabilitated and made accessible to persons with disabilities. Four courses were also updated and three new ICT courses were introduced, including Advanced IT, Advanced Excel and Cybersecurity.

The initiative also included the creation of the IFPELAC Virtual Library, support for two Job Fairs and the incubation of six start-ups at the IT Hub of INEP in Machava. More than 100 professional internships were also financed, including two interns with disabilities at AICS Maputo, strengthening inclusion and employability (see story p. 54).

Support to the Reform of Technical and Vocational Education - PRETEP PLUS
(AID 10395)

The Programme supports and upgrades the public

offer of upper secondary vocational education, improving the professional skills of 27,000 Mozambican youth to facilitate their integration into the labour market. In 2025, the programme continued to provide support and technical assistance to the government entity responsible for the Professional Education Subsystem, currently the National Directorate for Professional Education.

A "turnkey" contract was also awarded for the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the equipping of laboratories in 9 public upper secondary technical institutes, of which 4 are intended to be accredited as Provincial Reference Institutes according to national standards. Three provincial employment centres were also inaugurated in Angoche (Nampula), Mocuba (Zambézia) and Manhiça (Maputo), in the presence of the Minister of Youth and Sports, Caifadine Manasse.

VAMoz Digital! - Digital skills, entrepreneurship, services and opportunities for youth growth in Mozambique
(AID 12807)

It is a delegated cooperation initiative funded by the European Union, with a total investment of 10 million euros, of which 7.5 million are managed by AICS and 2 million by the ITU agency. The initiative promotes the digital transition in Mozambique, strengthening human capital and youth employment opportunities.

The programme established two technology hubs (tech hubs) in Quelimane and Nampula, where, in 2025, training activities in digital skills, centre management and entrepreneurship were launched, involving more than 100 young people and promoting hackathons and the creation of micro-enterprises. In addition, 5 community ICT and media centres were rehabilitated (7 equipped) in the districts of Nampula, and 10 secondary schools are participating in a campaign to promote the creative use of digital tools, involving more than 250 students.

In 2025, the Coding Girls project was Completed - Reducing gender and geographical disparities in the ICT sector in Mozambique
(AID 12227)

Over two and a half years, the programme trained more than 1,300 girls in ICT technologies, as well as 18 tutors and 18 trainers, who continue to replicate the knowledge in their communities with the support of INAGE's provincial structures.

The year 2025 also marked the signing of an important agreement. During the mission to Mozambique of the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Giorgio Silli, on 24 July 2025, the Executive Agreement of the IN4JOB programme (see box, page 50) was signed, together with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Mozambican Communities Abroad, Maria de Fátima Simão Manso.

Hipólito e Assucena: two paths of inclusion and professional growth

Hipólito and Assucena were the first interns to be hosted at AICS Maputo under the Italian Cooperation Programme Job Creation through ICT, which aims to promote professional opportunities for young people with disabilities and strengthen their inclusion in the labour market.

Assucena, 26 years old, with a degree in Public Administration, was looking for a professional opportunity when she participated in a job fair. ***"I went to the Humanity & Inclusion stand, where they were collecting CVs from people with disabilities. Without hesitation, I submitted mine,"*** she recalls. A few days later, she received a call with the opportunity to undertake an internship at AICS, marking the beginning of a new phase in her professional journey.

During the internship, Assucena carried out several tasks, including warehouse entry and exit control and logistical support, including negotiations with suppliers. Among all activities, she highlights one in particular: ***"The part I enjoy most is document registration, which also helps me learn Italian,"*** she says, emphasising how this experience contributed not only to her professional growth but also to her personal development.

Hipólito, a human rights activist for persons with disabilities and a sports commentator on Rádio Miramar, also learned about the opportunity through Humanity & Inclusion. At AICS, he performed internal support functions, participated in meetings, contributed to the logistical management of drivers and used tools such as Excel. With pride, he shares the impact of this experience: ***"The internship gave me new momentum, a new vision and a new way of positioning myself, allowing me to enrich my knowledge."***

For both, the internship represented a transformative opportunity. Assucena highlights as her main lesson the importance of self-confidence: ***"Not being afraid to make mistakes is the most important thing."*** She also leaves a message to other persons with disabilities: ***"Do not limit yourselves, do not say you are not capable. If we close our minds, we will not be able to explore many opportunities."***

Hipólito, in turn, emphasises the fundamental role of organisations in promoting inclusion: ***"Before offering internship opportunities to persons with disabilities, it is essential to create accessible and inclusive work environments."***

When asked to summarise this experience in a single word, their answers clearly reflect the impact of the internship: for Hipólito it was "fantastic"; for Assucena it was above all "growth."

This initiative demonstrates how the creation of inclusive work environments not only promotes equal opportunities, but also helps to value talent, strengthen institutions and build a more just and inclusive society.





DIALOGUE
in Africa

CEO MANIFESTO
ON THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN BUSINESS



CEO
Com

Gates Foundation



STAR ALLIANCE

for Partners

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Paolo Enrico Sertoli, Head of the AICS Maputo Office, with the 11 companies from the 5 countries under the Delegation's responsibility, during the CEO Dialogue Southern Africa

The AICS Maputo Office is strongly committed to developing strategic partnerships to support the implementation of its initiatives, actively collaborating with the four competent Italian Diplomatic Representations, the 5 EU Delegations present in the countries under its responsibility, the private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), Italian universities, Ministries and government agencies, as well as with the entire Italy System.

Throughout 2025, AICS participated in two missions of the Italy System led by the Ambassador of Italy to Mozambique, H.E. Gabriele Annis, involving the main Italian stakeholders present in the country, including the Italy-Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and the ICE Agency – the Agency for the promotion abroad and internationalisation of Italian companies.

The First Mission

took place from 26 to 28 June in Manica Province, where several Italian Cooperation projects were visited, dialogue with local authorities was initiated, and the site designated for the future construction of the Manica Agro-Food Centre (CAAM), a flagship initiative of the Mattei Plan for Africa, was identified.

The Second mission

took place from 10 to 15 November in Cabo Delgado Province and included the launch of the ECOBLU Programme (for more information, see the "P for Planet" section), as well as a visit to ENI facilities.

It is also worth highlighting the mission of the Italian Cooperation System carried out in June 2025, aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Mattei Plan and Italian Cooperation initiatives in Mozambique and Malawi.

The mission was attended by the Secretary - General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ambassador Riccardo Guariglia, the Director-General for Development Cooperation, Stefano Gatti, the Director of AICS, Marco Rusconi, as well as the Special Envoy of the Farnesina for the Mattei Plan, Massimo Riccardo.

During the mission, meetings were held with Civil Society Organisations active in Mozambique and Malawi, working sessions with various partner Ministries, events for the launch of new initiatives, and a "deep dive" session with the AICS Maputo Office, aimed at analysing the implementation status of ongoing programmes.



On 20 June 2025, under the auspices of the Ambassador of Italy to Mozambique, H.E. Gabriele Annis, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation signed a Letter of Intent with ENI Rovuma. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration in strategic sectors such as agriculture, health, environment and the blue economy, among others.

On the occasion of the signing, the Head of the AICS Maputo Office, Paolo Enrico Sertoli, stated: "AICS has intensified collaboration with the private sector, recognising its fundamental role in promoting innovative and sustainable solutions, as well as in enhancing Italian business know-how and Made in Italy."

In November 2025, in Cabo Delgado Province, two projects in the blue economy sector were also jointly launched, one funded by Italian Cooperation and the other by ENI.

AICS Maputo also participated in several events, strengthening partnerships with the private sector, including:



The AICS Maputo Office took part in the 12th edition of the CEO Dialogue on Southern Africa, organised by The European House - Ambrosetti (TEHA) and held in Johannesburg in November. Within this initiative, AICS also supported the participation of 11 companies from the five countries under its responsibility, promoting the creation of synergies and new opportunities for collaboration with potential international investors.



On the occasion of the 42nd edition of Macfrut, the international trade fair in Rimini and a global reference for the fruit and vegetable sector, with more than 1,400 exhibitors, the AICS Maputo Office, within the framework of its projects, brought a delegation of Mozambican companies. It also organised a panel entitled "Opportunities of the Beira Corridor and the Manica Agro-Food Centre (CAAM): Sustainability and Innovation for Local Development", with a particular focus on the Beira Corridor and the Manica Agro-Food Centre (CAAM), part of the Mattei Plan for Africa.



Signing ceremony of the Letter of Intent (LoI) between Eni Rovuma Basin and AICS Maputo, signed by the Managing Director of Eni Rovuma Basin, Marica Calabrese, and the Head of the AICS Maputo Office, Paolo Enrico Sertoli, under the auspices of the Ambassador of Italy to Mozambique, Gabriele Annis.

2025 ExpoCafé MOCAMBIQUE

Italian Cooperation also supported the organisation of Expo Café, held from 12 to 14 June at the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries, with the participation of experts from Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Brazil, promoting knowledge exchange and the strengthening of technical capacities in the sector. At the same time, Italian Cooperation also supported the official launch of the Malawi National Coffee Strategy (2025–2040), which took place in November.



Ambassador Gabriele Annis visiting the AICS stand at FACIM.



AICS also participated in FACIM, the largest private sector fair in Mozambique. On this occasion, the Agency organised a dedicated cultural agenda and was present with its own stand in the Italy Pavilion, coordinated by the ICE Agency, together with 17 other Italian companies, contributing to promoting the Italy System and strengthening relations with the local and international private sector.



Televisão de Moçambique, E.P.

It is also worth highlighting the partnership with Televisão Nacional de Moçambique (TVM), aimed at giving visibility to the activities of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Embassy of Italy in Mozambique, initiated on 24 February 2024 and renewed on 19 February 2025.

This collaboration made it possible to showcase Italian Cooperation initiatives to the Mozambican public across the country's eleven provinces, as well as to the diaspora in Portugal and South Africa, thanks to the broadcaster's network of international correspondents.



Jaqueline: when coffee becomes an opportunity for women

"Before, I didn't know that Mozambique had so many varieties of coffee. I didn't even know it was a producing country." It was during the 2024 Coffee Festival that Jaqueline Lichucha, a young Mozambican economist, discovered the potential of this sector. *"I am a product of the Coffee Festival,"* she says.

Driven by curiosity, she began to deepen her knowledge about the potential of the coffee value chain in Mozambique. It was then that she discovered the MAIS VALOR programme, funded by Italian Cooperation, through which she obtained a scholarship from the illycaffè Foundation to attend, in Trieste, the Master's in Coffee Economics and Science.

In Trieste, she studied alongside students from several coffee-producing countries, including Mozambique, Cameroon, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bolivia, Brazil, India and Colombia. *"We explored various aspects of the value chain: coffee processing, roasting, quality control, packaging, marketing and coffee economics, including how the international market works,"* she explains.

The programme also had a strong practical component. *"We worked in the laboratory, where we were able to carry out DNA analyses to better understand the coffee plant and its characteristics,"* she adds.

This experience also allowed her to rediscover the potential of her country. *"I gained a better understanding of the opportunities Mozambique has in the coffee sector, especially in the production of what we call specialty coffee."*

Despite this potential, several challenges remain. *"Mozambique is still mainly a tea-consuming country. Domestic coffee consumption is still limited, but it can represent a great opportunity."* Another challenge relates to the competitiveness of local brands: *"We have Mozambican coffee brands, but unfortunately they are not yet able to fully compete with the international brands present in the country."*

Thanks to coffee, Jaqueline has already had the opportunity to participate in international events in Dubai and Switzerland, including the World of Coffee Festival, where she was able to observe global dynamics in the sector. One of the issues that struck her most was the still undervalued role of women in the coffee world.

Today, Jaqueline is a consultant for AMOCAFÉ (Mozambique Coffee Producers Association) and works to strengthen women's participation in the sector. *"My goal is to help women become more involved, gain greater visibility in their activities and, above all, have stronger representation."* One of her main objectives is for Mozambique to join the international network International Women's Coffee Alliance, thereby strengthening women's empowerment throughout the entire coffee value chain.



for
Peace

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS





The AICS Maputo office continues to support initiatives aimed at promoting peace, stability and resilience in the Southern Africa region. Within this framework, the delegated cooperation programme DELPAZ – Local Development for Peace Consolidation in Mozambique is implemented in the central provinces of Manica, Tete and Sofala, contributing to peace consolidation and strengthening social cohesion in the provinces most affected by the civil conflict, through actions focused on institutional strengthening and local governance.

The region is also highly exposed to the effects of climate change, which represent a risk factor for stability and security. Phenomena such as El Niño and the increasing frequency of extreme events undermine livelihoods and increase socio-economic vulnerabilities, contributing to the creation of conditions of instability. In response, AICS promotes interventions aimed at strengthening climate resilience and crisis prevention capacity, contributing to the building of sustainable peace.

In particular, Mozambique is one of the countries most affected by tropical cyclones, which cause severe damage to infrastructure and communities. Through the Ready2ACT programme, implemented in partnership with the Italian Civil Protection Department and the CIMA Foundation, AICS supports the strengthening of the capacities of the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD), with a focus on early warning systems and risk management, contributing to reducing community vulnerability and strengthening the country's stability.



Desenvolvimento Local
para a Consolidação da
Paz em Moçambique

DELPAZ Program (AID 12300)

Since 2021, the AICS Maputo office has participated, together with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and UNCDF, in the DELPAZ programme, funded by the European Union, with the aim of promoting peace and local economic development in rural areas of Mozambique affected by conflict.

The Italian component, dedicated to local economic development, with a budget of 13.4 million euros, covers eight districts in the provinces of Manica (5) and Tete (3), contributing to improving the living conditions of local communities most affected by the conflict, with particular attention to women, vulnerable groups, including DDR beneficiaries, and their families.

The programme integrates participatory governance with infrastructure interventions, vocational training and economic promotion, involving more than 80,000 beneficiaries, including ex-combatants and their families.

Throughout 2025, the main planned infrastructure investments were completed, including three community schools, three "Women's Houses" to strengthen the role of women in the rural economy, investments in water supply for rural communities, the inauguration of three large-scale irrigation systems and the commissioning of community warehouses for the storage, processing and marketing of local agricultural products.

In addition, a second edition of the "Solidarity Camp" enabled more than 300 women and men from the three provinces to engage in dialogue on progress and challenges for development and peace. The agricultural hubs promoted by the programme, aimed at encouraging the use of "green" technologies, the "Green Points", have become a model for aggregation, training and service provision for the territory.

The strategic partnership with other European initiatives, such as PROPAZ, was also strengthened, of which the mural "United for Peace", created at the Agrarian Institute of Chimioio and inaugurated in 2025, represents a concrete outcome.

Finally, the participation of community representatives in the National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, held in Maputo, is also a result of the inclusion efforts promoted by the programme.



PARTICIPATORY VIDEOS

In the heart of rural communities in Macossa and Gondola (Manica) and Moatize (Tete), DELPAZ, together with the NGO AGAPE, promoted a participatory video pathway involving 15 students from three public secondary schools.

Through the project "Participatory Video Production with Community Engagement in Rural Development Settings", the young participants shared their experiences, challenges and aspirations, developing technical skills and strengthening dialogue with the community.

The initiative promoted participation, inclusion and a sense of belonging, transforming young people into storytellers of their own context. The process resulted in the production of three videos - Ilha do Mato, Distance and emptiness, and Everyday challenges, dreams and reality of Bairro 4 - reflecting the transformations and perspectives of new generations in their territories.

Ready2ACT
(AID 012910/01/0)

The Ready2ACT initiative contributes to strengthening coordination mechanisms and disaster preparedness and response capacities in Mozambique, one of the priority countries of the United Nations Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

The country is frequently affected by extreme events, particularly cyclones, floods and droughts, with severe impacts on communities and territorial stability. Within the framework of the project, on 29 September, the new Situation Room of the National Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE) was inaugurated, a strategic facility to strengthen coordination and response capacities to climate and humanitarian emergencies in the country.

During the inauguration ceremony, the Director of AICS, Marco Rusconi, stated: *“With this operational room, Mozambique now has a modern and effective tool to coordinate interventions in situations of climate and humanitarian emergencies. This is a result that confirms the centrality of resilience in Italian Cooperation strategies and our commitment alongside institutions and local communities.”*



Ambassador Gabriele Annis, together with Director Marco Rusconi and Luísa Celma Meque, President of the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction, during the inauguration of the new Situation Room of the National Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE).

Initiative to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable communities in the provinces of Zambézia, Manica and Tete (Mozambique)
(AID 12852)

Aimed at supporting populations most exposed to the effects of extreme climate events, through integrated actions focused on improving adaptive capacity, food security and socio-economic resilience, from a long - term sustainability perspective.

The intervention synergistically strengthened food security, health services and disaster risk management, supporting families in increasing agricultural productivity and adopting climate-smart solutions, including solar irrigation systems. At the same time, the capacities of health professionals and community committees were strengthened, as well as the early warning system, in collaboration with INAM and INGD.



In 2025, an important regional emergency initiative was launched:

Initiative to mitigate the negative effects on food security caused by climate change in Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia
(AID 13154)

It aims to address the crisis caused by prolonged drought associated with the El Niño phenomenon, through targeted multi-sectoral interventions, with particular attention to the most vulnerable populations in the three countries, contributing to the protection of livelihoods and the strengthening of the resilience of affected communities.

Giovani and opportunities: the story of Marcos and the DELPAZ programme



Marcos Augusto experienced a story similar to that of many young people in his community, in Mudima, in the district of Gondola, Manica Province. After completing Grade 10, he spent several years waiting for a job opportunity in the public sector, hoping to still meet the age requirements for entering the civil service.

At the beginning of the year, he decided to apply for a carpentry training course under the DELPAZ initiative - a programme of the Government of Mozambique funded by the European Union and implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, with the support of a consortium led by Save the Children in Tete Province and the NGO Helpcode in Manica Province.

DELPAZ was designed and implemented by working directly with young people, women, ex-combatants and vulnerable families in regions particularly affected by conflict.

After successfully passing the selection process, Marcos began the training and soon after had the opportunity to undertake an internship. The carpentry training represents for him a new opportunity to build an independent future and contribute to the development of his community. The village where he lives is located 18 kilometres from Gondola, which makes everything more expensive, including wood products such as coffins, doors and windows. For this reason, Marcos dreams of becoming a local carpenter: he will certainly have many clients.

His goal is to create his own profession and, as soon as possible, employ other young people from his area, offering alternatives to unemployment, crime and drug use. According to him, the training accelerated a path he had already begun thanks to experience with his uncle, who is a carpenter.

Marcos has also recently received manual and electric tools, which allow for faster production, providing strong support for his activity and also for the creation of more job opportunities in his community.



PERSPECTIVES 2026

01.

Strengthen the “regional” dimension of the office by intensifying its presence in newly accredited countries, such as Angola and Zambia, through greater alignment with the relevant Embassies and European Union Delegations, in line with the Global Gateway strategy and the pillars of the Mattei Plan for Africa.

02.

Promote and consolidate initiatives such as the Manica Agro-Food Centre (CAAM) and major projects under the Mattei Plan (notably in the digital and Green Cities sectors), as well as support for the development of the coffee value chain, with the aim of strengthening agricultural value chains and creating local economic development opportunities.

03.

Operate within an “Italy System” approach, strengthening alignment with Italian Diplomatic Representations, ICE offices and other institutional actors, enhancing the involvement of the private sector and Italian know-how in development cooperation initiatives.

04.

Support regional integration processes by promoting trade between countries in the region and the joint management of natural resources, such as in the case of the sustainable management of the Miombo Forest.



MUSEO DE HISTORIA NATURAL



UNIVERSIDADE EDUARDO MNIKANGI
MUSEU DE HISTORIA NATURAL

THANK YOU
ANNUAL REPORT 2025 10



PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Cover

Archive image and Andrea Borgarello

Page 13: Andrea Borgarello

Pages 22 and 23: Giampiero Gandolfo / Istituto Oikos

P for Peace

Page 24: Enrico Nicosia

Page 25: Enrico Nicosia and Giampiero Gandolfo / Istituto Oikos

P for People

Page 26: Enrico Nicosia

Pages 28 and 29: Amocafé

Page 30: María Legaristi Royo / FAO (agriculture) and AIFO MOZ (health)

Page 31: AIFO MOZ

Page 33: Amocafé

Page 34: Legaristi Royo / FAO

Page 35: Legaristi Royo / FAO

P for Prosperity

Pages 38 and 39: Marco Palombi

Page 40: Renco

Page 41: Marco Palombi

P for Partnerships

Page 50: André Catueira

Page 51: André Catueira

Page 52: Aghi



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO