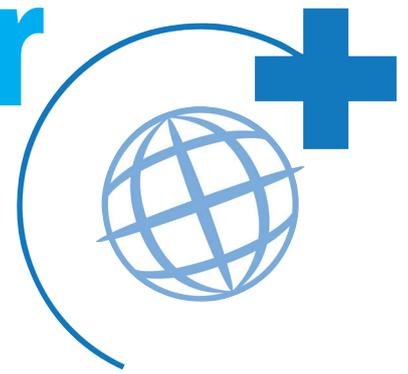


The Messenger

Medical Mission International

Health, Healing & Hope



MMI Mozambique clinic thrives!

Providing a Decade of Vital, life-Saving Care

Medical Mission International's clinic in Závora, Mozambique has treated an estimated 175,000 patients since its inception in 2009. "This clinic has become a beacon of hope in this rural community, one that thousands of people have come to depend on for medical emergencies and assistance," says Johan Claassen, MMI liaison in Mozambique. The clinic provides a wide array of vital, life-saving services including primary health care, pre and post natal care, dentistry, eye surgeries and optometry, trauma and emergency care. These services are provided at no cost. Additionally, since opening, the clinic has provided more than 5400 vaccinations and treated nearly 3000 people with wounds. MMI has also contributed to the safe births of approximately 1743 babies since the official inauguration of the maternity ward. Last year alone, 23,276 patients received care.

"Every one of these numbers represents an individual that came to us in a time of personal crisis. Many of them, faced with life-threatening diseases. Because of MMI's donor generosity, we can assist these needy people with compassion and care," said Claassen.

"The Clinic has become a beacon of hope in this rural community."

Mozambique is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world. It ranks among the lowest in GDP per capita, human development, measures of inequality, and average life expectancy. The adult literacy is estimated at about 56%. Závora is a small coastal town, north east of the capital city of Maputo. The settlement where the clinic is based is called Sihane. Local people survive by subsistence agriculture and farming small crops. On the coast, near the clinic, many make a living from fishing.

MMI assisted financially in the construction of the clinic infrastructure, including the maternity ward and has supported the financial operations of the facility since inception in 2009.

"It has been amazing to be able to create a permanent medical facility in such an impoverished and rural indigent area," said Claassen. According to Claassen, the clinic treated more than 8,000 cases of malaria during the last operating year, making it the most severe malaria season and highest recorded number of malaria cases in a single year.

"I was particularly shocked by the high number of positive malaria tests among babies and children," said Elisa Blechschmidt-Hahn, a medical



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MMI Teams Fight Malaria & More

student from Germany who volunteered at the clinic. She said it was not uncommon to treat very young children who had already contracted malaria multiple times. More than 91% of all malaria deaths in the world occur in Africa, most commonly in children under the age of five, per the Centers for Disease Control.

Claassen says many patients arrive at the clinic on foot, after more than a day of walking. Others use local transport like small buses or taxis called 'chappas' whose name originates from a word used for a coin in local currency, which was the cost of a taxi fare during the country's Portuguese colonization.

Many physicians speak of the courage of the children who come in need of care. Because of the open fires used for cooking, severe, life-threatening burns are common among babies and young children.

"The patients I treated did not have the same reactions from pain as I am used to in Germany where I have worked in clinics. I clearly remember the braveness of children. One possible explanation for their courage is that they understand the treatments they are receiving are indispensable for their survival," said Elisabeth Huber, a German physiotherapist who recently volunteered at the clinic.



Doctors and medical staff often need to be innovative at Závora's remote clinic location. Jason, 21 years-old, is one of many patients who arrived with complex injuries requiring alternative treatment solutions. He had deep burns on his hand, elbow and one side of his torso after suffering from an epileptic seizure and falling into an open fire.

He arrived wrapped only with simple bandages and the wounds on his upper body were not covered at all. Huber said the skin on his elbow was deeply charred, and in an ideal medical situation, Jason would have utilized extensive surgery for recovery. *"To improvise, we established an exercising program, which he faithfully followed. The skin at the elbow gradually loosened and I could cut off and remove additional pieces of skin each time he came in. He is on a path to recovery. The wound is better day by day and although far from fully healed, I am sure it will heal completely,"* she said.

The clinic employs 12 full-time Mozambique locals, including cleaning staff, gardener, cook, translators, a midwife, nurse and a medical assistant. The remaining medical staff consist of full or part-time volunteers from various medical specialties. The farming project around the clinic that helps feed staff and volunteers has been expanded to grow maize, avocado, lettuce, carrots, beans, chilies, peppers, guava, mangos, bananas, papaya and pineapple.

According to Claassen, the Závora clinic location also serves as a jumping off point, a base camp, to allow MMI sponsored medical teams to mobilize and reach other neglected areas, including other regions of Mozambique, as well as South Africa, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Botswana.

MMI's Závora Clinic Services:

- + Primary Health Care
- + Wound Treatment
- + Pre & post-natal care
- + Palliative care
- + Dentistry
- + Mother & Child Vaccinations
- + Optometry
- + Eye Surgery
- + Trauma Care
- + 24 hour emergency

We are grateful to all of our MMI donors who have joined hands with us during the past decade to provide health, healing and hope at our clinic in Závora, Mozambique. Your support is changing lives! +