

Sida's Support to Niassa Province

Niassa is situated in the north-western part of Mozambique, bordering Lake Niassa and Tanzania. It is the same size as Nicaragua and has a population of less than 800'000 inhabitants.

Sweden and Mozambique have agreed to prepare a long-term – 10 to 20 years – multi-sectoral programme for Niassa.

The overall objective of the programme, which has been named Proani (Programa Avante Niassa), is to create conditions for poverty reduction. It is based on a concept whereby mechanisms are to be developed to stimulate the emerging private sector, the public sector and the embryonic civil society. Two major infrastructure projects have been launched. These are the rehabilitation of the EN 242 road from Litunde to Ruaça on the Cabo Delgado border and the construction of an electric power transmission line from Gurúe-Cuamba-Lichinga. Norway will be the lead agency and main funder of the powerline.

Since 1998 a number of activities are being implemented:

- A *gender profile and bibliography* for Niassa have been produced as well as a *baseline study, a plan and guidelines for monitoring and evaluating the programme*.
- A three-year specific agreement on the *support to the provincial public administration* amounting to US\$5.3m has been in effect since

2001. This includes support to the *provincial budget, a scholarship programme, a programme for building staff houses* and measures to strengthen selected provincial directorates and targeted districts (Lago, Majune, Marrupa, Nipepe, Mecanhelas). Through *Africa Groups of Sweden* and the *EKURU* programme participatory methods are being developed in the Marrupa, Mecula and Maúa districts.

- The *rehabilitation of the EN 242 road and bridge over the Luambala River* was started in late 2002.
- The *extension of the national high tension grid Gurúe-Cuamba-Lichinga* and a medium-voltage extension with distribution networks in Lichinga and rural areas were started in late 2002.
- A programme in support of the *civil society* through community-based organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations will commence in 2003.
- A three-year agreement involving US\$8.8m for the *Malonda pro-*

gramme was signed recently. The programme aims at creating an enabling environment for the *private sector* including family farmers in Niassa, through sub-contracting to Amoder (*marketing agricultural products*), World Relief (*micro-credits*) and JCA Attorneys and Consultants (*Nakosso business centre*).

- Programme components including *education, HIV/AIDS and information technology* are being discussed and/or prepared.

The provincial government and Sida are permanently engaged in a dialogue on the development, content and approach of the programme and on how to co-ordinate it with other bilateral (particularly *Ireland*) and NGO endeavours.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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