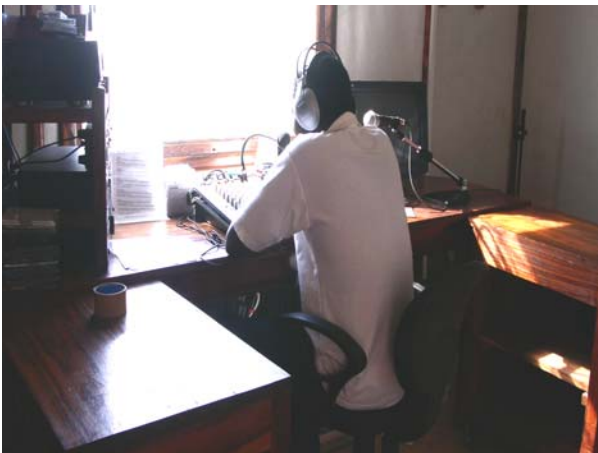


Mozambique Saves Lives Using MIND Power

In 2000, a series of intense cyclones hit Mozambique and caused unprecedented flooding in the Limpopo River Basin, killing approximately 700 people. To strengthen Mozambique's ability to prevent human losses and economic disruptions from natural hazards, the Mozambique Integrated Information Network for Decision-Making (MIND) project, part of USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), was established with funding from USAID/Mozambique. USAID/OFDA has also contributed to the MIND project, providing \$265,000 since Fiscal Year 2004.

In coordination with Mozambican governmental agencies and universities, international and local NGOs, and the U.S. Geological Survey, MIND has strengthened early warning systems for cyclones and flooding and helped improve disaster management and contingency planning. The program combined a range of tools—from high-tech, satellite-derived rainfall estimations to multicolored cyclone warning flags and wind-up radios—to ensure that appropriate disaster warning information reaches decision makers at all levels and vulnerable communities.

The English and Portuguese publications of the *Atlas for Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Limpopo Basin* were a major part of the MIND program. The atlas contains maps, data, original research and analysis, and other information on floods, cyclones, and droughts in Mozambique. The production of the atlas brought together more than 100 people from government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, and community groups, who built relationships and established new local and national institutional networks.



A volunteer at the RANET station transmits information educating communities on floods and cyclones in Govuro District, Mozambique (Alexandra Riboul, USAID).

MIND also expanded local early warning and response networks by educating and involving communities in disaster preparedness and mitigation, training community volunteers in early warning reporting, and educating children in schools. In the process, MIND also fostered networking, created linkages between key institutions, and built long-term human capacity in data gathering and information sharing in Mozambique. MIND activities include the establishment of Radio and Internet for the Communication of Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Related Information stations managed by youth associations in remote locations that are highly vulnerable to floods and cyclones.