

## Conversation between USAID Mozambique and GiveWell on April 12, 2012

**Background:** VillageReach conducted a pilot vaccination logistics project in the Mozambique province of Cabo Delgado in 2002-2007. Over this period, vaccination rates increased substantially in the province, as they did in the neighboring province of Niassa. We spoke with USAID's office in Mozambique to ask their view on what caused the rise in immunization rates in Cabo Delgado and Niassa during this period and the extent to which this increase should be attributed to VillageReach or other actors. This is what they told us:

- Starting in the early 2000s, the overall level of funding for vaccination increased in Niassa and Cabo Delgado.
  - Each province has access to unrestricted government funds from the "Common Fund." Provinces may choose how to spend these funds. During this period, Cabo Delgado and Niassa might have chosen to focus more of their resources on vaccination than other provinces in Mozambique, and spent more of their Common Fund money on improving immunization rates. Niassa and Cabo Delgado were starting with lower vaccination rates than most other provinces because they had more dispersed and more geographically isolated populations and therefore might have used Common Fund money on items like improved transportation for health workers to reach people in more remote areas.
  - In addition to VillageReach's project, in the early 2000s, the Norwegian Government funded a project through FDC, a local organization in Cabo Delgado. In Niassa, Irish Aid and the World Bank provided additional financial support for immunization programs there.
- USAID's understanding is that FDC was primarily responsible for replacing the cold chain in Cabo Delgado between 2002 and 2006. FDC received funding from the Norwegian Government for this project. FDC also received funding to conduct community mobilization activities aimed at increasing immunization rates.
- USAID was familiar with VillageReach's pilot project in Cabo Delgado, which ran from 2004-2007, and generally had a positive view on it, but did not fund any support to it. The representatives we spoke with felt that its program, along with the other factors described above led to the increases in immunization rates in the Cabo Delgado during the early 2000s.

GiveWell also asked whether USAID Mozambique might fund VillageReach's scale up of the pilot project in Mozambique. USAID told us that it has a focus on HIV/AIDS projects, and would be unlikely to fund the VillageReach vaccination logistics program because it doesn't fit with its current priorities. VillageReach has not approached USAID for funding for this project. It is considering funding a proposed VillageReach project to improve supply delivery to community health workers, as

part of a larger package of maternal and child health interventions.