



Case study

Investing in healthcare infrastructure in Mozambique

Tongaat Hulett's Mozambican operations in Mafambisse and Xinavane are based in rural communities. We look to contribute towards meeting the basic needs of these communities through our SED initiatives, particularly in the areas of healthcare and education. In 2018, the construction of the Nkolele Health Centre in Xinavane and the upgrading of health infrastructure at the Mafambisse Hospital were in accordance with SDG 3, which states that ensuring healthy lives and promoting the wellbeing for all, at all ages, is essential to sustainable development.

In January 2019, the company in partnership with the Government of Mozambique launched the Nkolele health centre in Xinavane, which specifically caters to primary healthcare services, infant care and antenatal care services. This partnership agreement stipulates that the company would build and provide all necessary facilities and that the Government would provide qualified healthcare professionals and overall management including the provision of medication. The centre also includes two houses to serve as nurse's homes and a complex for expecting mothers. In addition, Tongaat Hulett also provided all the necessary furniture and equipment as well as a potable water system.

The centre will service seven communities with more than 2 000 families and is much closer than other health facilities, reducing child mortality rates, deaths caused by child birth, and several other diseases such as malaria. Soon, the centre will introduce a HIV/AIDS treatment programme, including the provision of ARV drugs.

At the Mafambisse Hospital, in partnership with the Government of Mozambique, the company invested in the construction of a mortuary with the capacity to conserve up to nine bodies. This infrastructure responds to the rapid population growth in the area. Over the past 10 years the hospital has increased from serving 53 000 to 75 555 patients. Before this project, the capacity in the mortuary was limited to only two bodies at a time, meaning that funerals had to be performed on the same day of death. If families wanted to carry out funerals later than this, they had to move the bodies to the mortuary at Dondo Hospital, which is approximately 20km from Mafambisse.

Tongaat Hulett also donated an incinerator to assist with waste treatment and hence control the proliferation of contagious diseases. Prior to this project, the hospital waste was disposed of at a landfill where stray dogs fed, which precipitated the spread of diseases.

In addition to the mortuary infrastructure and waste treatment, there was an urgent need for a perimeter fence which we constructed. The hospital was previously in an open area which community members used as a thoroughfare, potentially exposing passers-by to the risk of contracting airborne diseases and infections such as tuberculosis.