

United Church of Christ in Mozambique

Update October 2020

God is with us in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The church continues to reconstruct chapels, and students are continuing their theological training, and church members are promoting peace, unity, and love of neighbor, in defense of the marginalized people.

Some churches have resumed services in August 2020, but only churches with adequate conditions for the prevention of the virus. These conditions are established by the government and indicate a church may reopen at 50% of the chapel's capacity and must not exceed 150 members for each service. Currently, approximately 80% of UCCM parishes are holding worship services within these guidelines. The remaining churches are making preparations in accordance with government requirements.

During the highlighted period, we held two meetings of the Church Board, to discuss the daily life of the church was and to evaluate recent activities in the community.

--A windstorm and heavy rains plagued the community in Chimoio Manica, on October 10, 2020. The roof of the Chapel of Bairro 4, was blown off by the force of nature, and the storm affected five families residing nearby. The UCCM is working to provide goods for families affected by the storm and to replace the roof on the Chapel.

We are reassuring the community to remain calm and resolving the situation peacefully. Because the removal of the chapel's roof was not due to its own will, but to the force of nature. We have now pleaded with everyone of good will to show solidarity for this cause.



Chapel of Bairro 4



Handing out masks

--Aware of the Church's task in bringing spiritual comfort, we recently visited the communities in the north of the Zambezi River. In addition to greeting the community, we provided masks, facial visors, and thermometers to brothers and sisters. Some of which are resuming religious services.



Pastor receiving mask



Testing thermometer

It was a moment of so much emotion, joy, and spiritual comfort. The main focus was to demonstrate our solidarity with brothers and sisters, minors, adults, and the elderly, who are plagued by military political tensions in Cabo Delgado. These political tensions have caused many deaths, damage to infrastructure, displaced persons, social insecurities, and hunger. We always pray for these communities.

-- Masks were made and distributed in October for 19 communities, and this project is still in process. Those who have already benefited are deeply grateful to Global Ministries for supporting the UCCM's work in preventing COVID-19.

-- The UCCM school has been opened for in-person classes in October with adherence to the Government's guidance. Despite the uncertainty, classes are proceeding normally.

-- The two UCCM seminaries - United Seminary of Ricatla and the Cambine Seminary are in process of concluding courses for the 2020 year. New students will begin their studies in 2021.



Rev. Admo in Chiure Parish



Chiure Congregation

-- The calendar of activities was modified in light of COVID-19 precautions. The Finance committee met on October 17, and the Synod is set to take place on November 13-15, 2020 at Esturro Parish. We were unsure whether or not to proceed with hosting the Synod, due to the situation and government guidelines. However, with the resumption of church services, we thought it convenient to hold this event as a way to outline operating guidelines in response to the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

-- The UCCM together with EFIMO (Fraternal Meeting of Churches in Mozambique) had a moment of prayer for the country - praying for the unity of

believers, for pastors, for peace, freedom, and healing and other items.

-- Concerning COVID-19, the country has progressively registered new positive cases, leaving government structures shaken and the start of reevaluating measures as a way to reduce cases of infection. As of October 31, the country had cumulatively 12,988 positive cases registered, 10,439 recovered, and 93 deaths.



Visor demonstration



*Handing out masks
Nhamiji parish*



Chiure C. Delgado



Muilota - Cabo. Delgado

-- Best regards to our Brothers and Sisters, in the blessed Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

That all may be one,
Reverend Admó Matere Atanásio
President of the Synodal Council