



# Anthropological assessment of Cholera Vaccine acceptability and uptake in Nampula City, Mozambique

Rachel Démolis  
Carlos Botão  
Léonard Heyerdahl  
Elise Guillermet



# Background

## Nampula – High Vulnerability to Cholera

- September 2015-July 2016: 2,536 cases of cholera in Mozambique
- 50.9% of all cases in Nampula City
- A cholera outbreak every year (with the exception of 2012) in Nampula City
- Political turmoil especially during cholera outbreak



# VaxiChol Project

- **VaxiChol project (BMGF-funded)**
  - Implemented in Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana and Zambia
  - Support for implementation of demonstration activities related to Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) deployment



# Overview of AMP's Medical Anthropology Projects

## ➤ **Acceptability studies**

- Novel approaches for immunization
- Vaccine acceptability

## ➤ **Anthropological studies on vaccine-preventable disease**

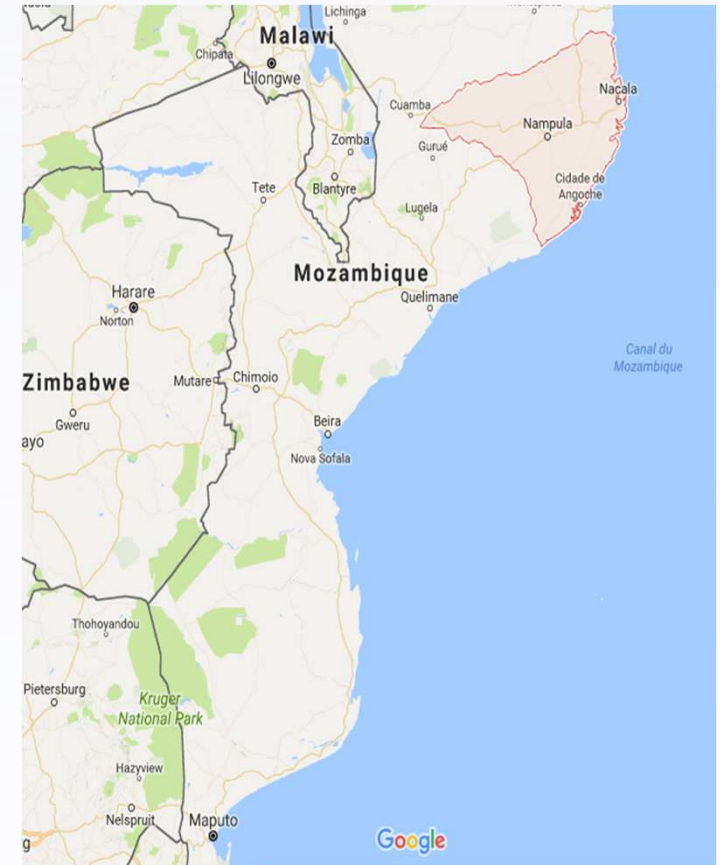
- To improve health interventions through a better understanding of cultural barriers and health care seeking behaviors
  - To provide information to decision-makers
- Assessing
    - Knowledge and beliefs
    - Behavior and practices
    - Impacts

# OCV anthropological assessments in Nampula City

- **June 2016, anthropological assessment**
  - Three neighborhoods in Nampula city most affected by cholera cases and targeted by the upcoming OCV campaign (expected to start Oct. 3)
- **Assessments in two phases**
  - Conducted before and during the campaign
  - Focus on the pre-campaign assessment: preliminary results

## Main objectives of the pre-campaign assessment

- Support MoH: provide key insights (potential barriers and levers for OCV uptake)
  - for vaccine delivery strategies
  - for social mobilization campaign



# Methods

## Tools

- Questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus groups, field diaries, field observation:
- 6 interviewers for 10 days;
- 130 interviews; 100 selected for analysis; 145 questionnaires

## Participants

- Central and district level informants
- Community leaders and representatives
- Community members with cholera experience
- Health professionals and “activists”

# Methods, Constraints and Approaches

## Data collection and analysis

- Transcription and collaborative analysis using Nvivo©
- Questionnaires collected via ODK and analyzed using SPSS©

## Constraints

- Cholera in Nampula: highly sensitive issue; political susceptibility
- Not putting the team at risk

## Specific approaches

- Sharing data collection and analysis' responsibilities with partners
- Working with two languages on the field and throughout the analytic process

# Issues Assessed

---

- Wash Practices
- Causes and origins of cholera
- Experiences of conflict associated with cholera interventions
- Attitudes towards vaccines
- Attitudes towards potential delivery strategies of OCV
- Treatment-seeking behaviors
- Relevant communication tools and key credible leaders



# Anthropological Assessment, to what end?

- **Supporting the OCV request**
- **Selection of the best strategies for social mobilization and vaccine administration**
  - **OCV request**
    - If the request is denied: the assessment documents the plea
    - If the request is approved: first elements used by the MoH to plan the campaign
  - **Information shared with**  
Provincial and District Health Directorate, WHO and UNICEF to
    - design vaccine delivery strategy
    - design the mobilization and sensitization campaign (elaboration of key messages)

# Conclusion

## **How to build a context-tailored strategy to promote vaccine acceptability and uptake within a limited timeframe?**

- ✓ Not creating a behavior change intervention
- ✓ Not aiming to modify long-lasting perceptions rooted in deeply engrained experiences

### **To build on**

- ✓ Existing representations: cholera is a “real”, “serious”, “deadly” disease
- ✓ Mindfulness of past trauma: oral vaccine - no serious adverse event has ever been reported
- ✓ Successful local strategies used in recent interventions
  - Engage with local leaders entrusted by the communities
  - Identify context-relevant modes of communication
  - Use proven efficient trust-building initiatives
  - Work with partners at central level (MoH) and local level

# Acknowledgements

---

## **AMP HEMA program and VaxiChol project**

Léonard Heyerdahl, Elise Guillermet, Jean-Bernard Le Gargasson, Philippe Cavaller, Federica Joele, Martin Mengel, Brad Gessner.

## **MoH Mozambique, Institute National de Saude**

Carlos Botão, Jose-Paolo Langa, Celestino Sinai, Amilcar Magaço.

This work was supported by BMGF