

# WEI/BANTWANA MOZAMBIQUE

## USAID/MOZAMBIQUE FORÇA À COMUNIDADE E CRIANÇAS (FCC)

### ABOUT FORÇA À COMUNIDADE E CRIANÇAS :

USAID FCC is an initiative aimed at improving and expanding evidenced-based models of integrated support for OVC and their households. WEI/Bantwana implements USAID FCC in collaboration with the Government of Mozambique and a range of local implementing partners to reach over 100,000 vulnerable children and adolescents with integrated services to help them thrive and grow into productive and healthy adults.

*“I attended cooking sessions in which I learned how to prepare nutritious food. In other sessions, I learnt the importance of sports activities in the health and rights of children. I have also learned that communication between parents and children is very important for family harmony. I have already started talking with my daughters about sexuality and plans for future life.”*  
- Isabel

### ISABEL GETS THE TOOLS SHE NEEDS TO NOURISH HER FAMILY

Isabel Luis is a 42-year-old widow who lives with her 8 children, 7 girls and 1 boy, and 3 grandchildren in the Munhonha Community, Dondo District, Sofala Province. Looking after 8 children singlehandedly has not been easy: Isabel's only way of supporting her family is through subsistence farming, and without a regular income, she struggles to feed, dress, and send her children to school. To supplement the family income, her children sell fruits, vegetables, and peanuts at the local market, while her oldest daughters do household chores and take care of their younger siblings.

Two of Isabel's daughters, aged 19 and 17, are unmarried, single, teen mothers. They both are DREAMS beneficiaries. Isabel confesses that she did not have the time nor the 'know-how' to talk with her children about such sensitive topics as sexuality. She recognizes that they gained their knowledge from their peers and the media, and she is not sure of what they learned! Isabel noted that her children were not taking heed of the little advice she had given them, she resorted to prayer.

Feeling a sense of isolation while facing these difficult circumstances, Isabel accepted her neighbor's invitation to join a local cultural group that performs at commemorative events and traditional and religious ceremonies. It was at one of these events where Isabel first learned of the USAID-funded Força à Comunidade e Crianças (FCC) project, and this led to staff from Comussanas, a local community-based organization implementing FCC in Dondo district, enrolling Isabel as an FCC project beneficiary after conducting an assessment of her family situation.

Isabel was counseled on the importance of knowing her HIV status. In turn, she encouraged her children to get HIV tested and the whole family now knows their HIV status. In addition, Isabel was introduced to the nutritional rehabilitation program, which equips community members with nutrition knowledge and skills and teaches them how to prepare locally available food products for their children, some of whom suffer from malnutrition. Isabel learned how to make enriched porridge for her children and grandchildren, and after the recommended 12 consecutive sessions, she observed improvement in their general health. Currently, Isabel is actively mobilizing



Isabel with 2 of her grandchildren.

### ABOUT WEI/BANTWANA :

The Bantwana Initiative of World Education, Inc. is a non-profit organization with the mission to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families affected by HIV and AIDS and poverty. WEI/Bantwana harnesses the talents, creativity, and commitment of communities to develop innovative community models of care that can be scaled up regionally and nationally. WEI/Bantwana works with government, civil society and private sector partners to design, implement, and sustain evidence-based interventions in 5 high-HIV prevalence countries.

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**Learn more:**  
[www.bantwana.org](http://www.bantwana.org)

other mothers to participate in the preparation and distribution of porridge to orphans and vulnerable children in the community.



Mothers stirring porridge for eagerly awaiting children.



Isabel in action washing dishes at the culinary session.

Isabel also joined a VSLA+ group, where she and her fellow members were sensitized on how to economically empower their households through savings and loans. Isabel received knowledge not only on savings, but also on HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, family planning, parenting skills, and other health topics.

In Donda district, where Isabel lives, the FCC project trained 22 caregivers along with Isabel, on the preparation and administration of nutritional porridge. This one activity has contributed towards improving the nutritional status of **63 malnourished children**.

Isabel reflected on how the FCC project has enabled her to change her family's life for the better: ***"FCC is different from other projects I have seen before because the focus is not on giving handouts, but empowering us through knowledge and skills that enable us to sustain our own families and stand on our feet. I will continue to attend all sessions because I have realized that knowledge is power!"***