

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Mobile health structures in Mozambique. Non conventional method for prevention and survey of HIV/AIDS spreading

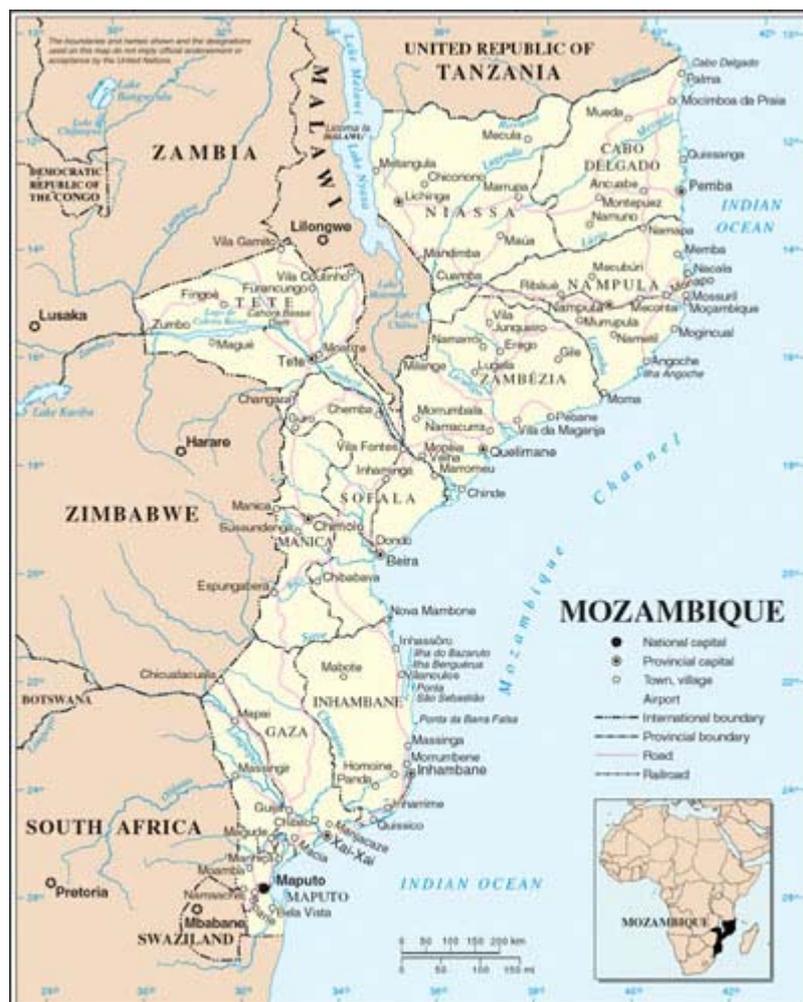
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The title describes - in a quite precise way – the topic of this graduation thesis. The attention has been focused on Africa because it's the continent that most suffers of HIV/AIDS and also because it's the part of the world where AIDS has the strongest impact on the development.

To study the manner in a more precise way, it has been taken as a test field Mozambique.



There's no particular reason for this choice: it was wanted to take into consideration, obviously, one of the poorest Countries in which the incidence of the disease is high, and the choice has fallen on this country.

AIDS problem in Mozambique is actual more than ever, several sources affirm that with the actual work's methods it will never be possible to defeat the virus.

It was then tried – by analysing the National Health System (NHS) and by trying to trace information on its functioning, to find out about its weak points.

Amongst these have been clearly detected those of a greater negative impact, afterwards solutions have been studied and proposed.

The interaction of the biggest problems create a vicious circle; the lack of doctors determines the impossibility to look after all the Hospital structures in a continuative manner. Such structures, in the rural field, are already faraway from villages and towns; that's why most of the local population does not have access to the conventional health. This leads to a strong disparity on the distribution of services and funds.

Once these problems were considered, it seemed useless to venture into the project of a common Health structure as – for instant – a *rural hospital* or a *health post*; it was then tried to think about some non-conventional solutions.

It came out the possibility to use mobile health structures, in order to obviate the lack of doctors and the distance problems, almost imaging a delivery service at the resident places, with big spaces for self-managing.



This graduation thesis is not the first document in which appears the concept of the mobile health structures. It is of a comfort the fact that several organizations have required the development of a mobile clinics net, in order to furnish health basics, and to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS; amongst these: *Medicines sans frontieres*, *the harward AIDS Institute*, *UNAIDS* and *WHO*.

The thought system consists of a conventional health structures net, which are called fulcrum hospitals, and of a certain number of mobile clinics which rotates around them.



This system has been programmed for the control and the prevention of HIV/AIDS spreading; the system contains many activities, from taking quick HIV tests to educate on health prevention. Benefits of the mobile clinics service will have to be extended to the whole population; this will represent a great advantage because, by analysing the different health situation of the country, the settling of the funds to fight AIDS could be re-allocated.

In future, such net could also act as a vital role on the distribution of medicines and vaccines, where necessary.

The graduation thesis is structured in six chapters: the first one gives a brief description of the general aspects of the country; the second analyses the health situation, by highlighting the problems that most affect the country; the third one studies the national and international policies to fight AIDS and the actual situation of Mozambique Health System; the fourth chapter analyses the "Testing and Counselling" service, wished by the Word Health Organization; the fifth one applies the WHO indication in such a manner to create some guidelines to be used for future projects in this field; the sixth and last chapter precisely defines the mobile units movement inside their competence zones.

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