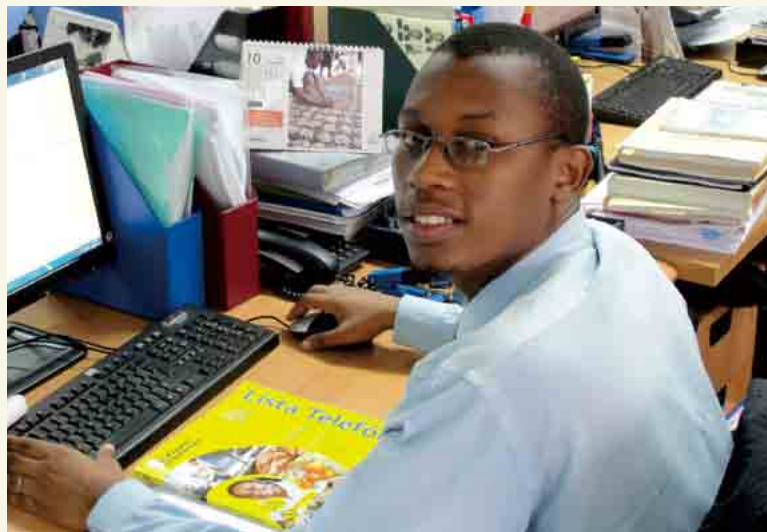


Voices

from the Field



Elisio Chiunze

Program Officer, JICA Mozambique Office

Elisio Chiunze, 40 years old and native of Mozambique's capital city Maputo, currently serves as a Program Officer for Energy and Transport sector projects including ODA Loan projects in the JICA Mozambique office. Attracted by the opportunity to act as a bridge of cooperation between two countries, he joined JICA in 2011, and still feels the excitement of having the rare privilege of directly contributing toward the development of his country.

Mozambique, like all countries in Southern Africa, faces a constant struggle for development, a challenge being tackled by the Mozambican National Development Strategy. This strategy outlines an integrated approach by the Government, which consists of creating special economic zones according to the potential of each region, and establishing industrial parks along the development corridors. To complement this strategy, JICA has also introduced the concept of Regional Development to magnify poverty reduction efforts, and is focusing its energies on the Nacala Corridor area to the north of Mozambique.

In his role as a JICA officer, Chiunze's work involves initial drafting, negotiation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of key projects for the dynamic and inclusive development of Mozambique and the Nacala Corridor. In particular, the construction and improvement of important roads and bridges, rehabilitation and improvement of a port's management, as well as generation of energy and improvement of its quality. Additionally, his role extends to smoothing disbursements for JICA ODA Loan projects and assisting the

Mozambican side with procedures for the repayment of ODA Loans.

Chiunze is optimistic that the cooperation schemes underway in Mozambique and Southern Africa will reach a stage of self-sufficiency in the near future. Moreover, he thinks that at the local level, and where information is available, JICA's efforts at development cooperation are very well received because they contribute positively, directly and indirectly, toward the improvement of the living conditions of a great number of people in Mozambique. However, there is still a great challenge remaining to promote JICA's work in rural areas due to limited access to a variety of media sources.

Of all the JICA work he has been involved with, Chinuze is proudest of the current harmonization of development strategies for the regional development of corridors, which creates integrated projects that generate multiplier effects that benefit a large number of people in various layers of society. JICA's successful implementation of its projects in the Nacala Corridor is attracting both domestic and foreign interest and investment, and is viewed as a successful case of economic development in line with Mozambican poverty reduction strategies.

Chiunze is highly motivated through knowing that doing his job effectively has a positive effect on Mozambique and neighboring inland countries. The fact that his work contributes to the harmonization of cooperation strategies and strengthens the friendly relations between Japan and Mozambique also gives him great pleasure.