



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MOZAMBIQUE

FIRST PERSON

Mobile Bank Improves Farmer Life

Farmer is able to help his community by having a safe place to keep his earnings and access to life-changing loans.



Credit: Opportunity Mozambique

“My life has changed so dramatically because of financial services. I started with so little and the loans have allowed me to make a profit and provide more food for my family and my community.”

— Lucas Chingore, farmer, said.

The rural poor have always been the hardest to reach and the most in need of empowering financial services. Without access to banks, it is common practice to simply bury one's savings in the ground and plant crops over it as a marker.

USAID has supported a program to address this challenge by funding a local bank to expand their outreach to the rural poor. The high cost of satellite branches and long travel distances for potential clients has made mobile banking a cost-effective and efficient alternative for reaching even the most rural areas. With USAID support, the Banco Oportunidade de Mozambique is now using a large truck as a mobile office to drive out to rural communities and bolster micro and small enterprise sectors one farmer at a time.

Every Friday, the mobile bank stops at Sussundenga, Mozambique, one kilometer from Lucas Chingore's farm. For the first time in his life, Lucas has a safe place to keep his earnings and access to life-changing loans. Lucas has increased his profit by using his loans to invest in quantity and quality of his crop and used his savings to purchase a small pump to make irrigation easier and more consistent. Lucas and his wife have also expanded their business into chickens and turkey breeding.

Four neighbors now work for Lucas, bringing income to their families. Lucas can also afford quality food, health care and tuition for his five children and his two brothers at university. “My life has changed so dramatically because of financial services. I started with so little and the loans have allowed me to make a profit and provide more food for my family and my community,” Lucas says.