



**Patience and her sister Inasio** live in the village of Caronga near the hydroelectric dam of Cahora Bassa. During the dam's construction the colonial Portuguese army laid a mine belt around both the dam and town of Songo. Although some of this belt has been cleared, 19km remains. HALO has just started training deminers recruited from the local



community to work on this mine belt in the villages of Nancole and Nham'Tchensje. Due to our new presence in the area the village chief was able to contact the HALO survey supervisor. The community survey team was called in and destroyed five mines within this village.

A community meeting was organised for the last week of November. When the HALO team arrived for the meeting, a sixth mine had been found, only 5m from Patience and Inasio's house, when their father was digging the foundations for a new hut. Dona Elisa (pictured right) stood up and explained the burden her community has been living with for over 30 years. "We are living in fear and cannot move freely. Mines are still being found in this village. We are not free to build houses or farm our land....."

HALO is currently seeking funds in order to start mineclearance work in this village as soon as possible.

