



**Chicamba primary school is 100m from a 2km long minefield.** This mine line was laid by Government troops to protect the dam and hydroelectric infrastructure from sabotage.

Incredibly with a population of more than 6,000, no human accidents have occurred in this minefield however cattle accidents have been reported and explosions are heard by locals when annual bush fires sweep through the area. Despite this, 500 local children walk on a path through this minefield every day to get to the school.



The main water tank for the provincial towns of Chimoio and Manica are inside the boundary of the minefield. HALO started clearance here in April 2009 and has been working closely with the communities, especially to provide Mine Risk Education to the school children. The water tank is now being rehabilitated.

The local population passes the minefield on daily basis to access water. The white post (left) marks the outer limit of the safe area. Clearing safe access to water supply was a priority for HALO.

The village chief of Chicamba has estimated that as well as the direct benefit to his people being able to safely use the land here, thousands will indirectly benefit. The dam



itself is owned by EDM (Mozambique national electricity) which supplies electricity to both Chimoio and Manica – the 2 largest towns in the Province - and brings many local workers to the area. The Mozambique Government is also currently developing the land cleared by HALO by laying pipelines to supply clean, safe water to both Chimoio and Manica.

Additionally the area attracts tourists from the towns and it is expected that tourism will increase following clearance therefore directly benefitting the community as people bring in money. In November 2009 HALO will hand over the land cleared so far to the local community because farmers are keen to expand their cultivation as soon as they can. HALO will complete clearance of the whole minefield in 2010.

*The white stick in foreground marks the site of a mine destroyed by HALO, 1m behind, within un-cleared ground, there is a newly cut tree stump where locals have risked crossing a HALO line of red sticks (marking safe from unsafe ground), demonstrating the urgent requirement for clearance.*

