UNODC establishes health clinic for juvenile penitentiary centre in Maputo, Mozambique

112 young people in Boane Special Juvenile Recovery Penitentiary Facility now have direct access to health care services that respond to their needs

Maputo, 20th July 2020: In June 2020, UNODC donated to Mozambique National Prisons Service (SERNAP) a clinic, including medical equipment and office furniture, for use at its Boane Special Juvenile Recovery Penitentiary Facility in Maputo. The clinic offers primary health care, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care and HIV services such as counselling and treatment, allowing for privacy during consultations and reducing the need for patients to be transported to outside facilities.

UNODC’s support to Mozambique includes addressing HIV/AIDS, TB prevention and treatment of and SRH for people in prison. As part of its project “Supporting Minimum Standards for HIV, Health and Rights in Prison Populations of Sub-Saharan Africa” funded by the Swedish Government, UNODC procured, equipped and furnished a container clinic to be able to directly and effectively respond to the health needs of incarcerated juveniles in Mozambique.

The new clinic is equipped with a ceramic toilet and lavatory, water deposit, air conditioners, chairs, office desks and fixed blocks, cabinets, electronic blood pressure monitors and Astra scales.

On June 16th, 2020, in an official ceremony, Mr. Cesar Guedes, UNODC Country Representative handed over the clinic to H.E. Dra. Helena Mateus Kida, Minister of Justice and Dr. Jeremias Armando Cumbe, SERNAP Director General.

“This new clinic is a huge improvement over holding HIV/AIDS counselling sessions under a tree for lack of a consultation room”, state medical officers, “It also allows us to store medication under the required conditions”. “The clinic helps reduce the need for outpatient treatment and consequently relieves security concerns”, add prison guards and officials.

Boane Special Juvenile Recovery Penitentiary Facility has a regular school curriculum including workshops for handicrafts, tailoring, and farming facilities. This donated clinic ensures that life skills training is complemented with the necessary health education and care for juveniles to grow into healthy, productive adults.