This is an update of VillageReach’s work in Mozambique, following discussions with GiveWell on Feb. 10th. The explanations track the project plan and budget dated Feb. 9, 2011:

* VillageReach is active in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Maputo. The initial start last year in these provinces was slower than had been anticipated, primarily due to concerns about funding and some delays in dialogue with the government , but we now have good progress in all three provinces. Baseline assessments have been completed in both Cabo Delgado and Niassa and distributions are well underway. The assessments cite current vaccine coverage rates and performance indicators – eg. stockouts of certain medical commodities.
* We have shared the Cabo Delgado baseline and 6 month evaluation to show you the type of information we track. VillageReach will publish the assessments as soon as it receives approval from the Mozambique Ministry of Health. We are eager to provide this information to our supporters to document our work.
* The updated project plan shows VillageReach conducting its work in eight provinces, as originally planned and documented in July 2010. Changes to the project plan reflect new information the program team in Mozambique has learned as a result of its engagement in country. The order in which we engage new provinces and the timing of activities is our best estimate, based on our understanding of provincial government resources and interest.
* Our approach to determining which provinces to engage in and when - and what level of activity we should have at any one time - is driven by this basic process:  1) identify VillageReach funding, 2) identify provincial government (DPS) interest in working with VillageReach and available funding for their share of activities 3) identify local VillageReach personnel to work in the provinces.
* Concerning #1, going forward we would like to ensure that we have 9-12 months of funding for current provincial obligations before we make additional commitments.
* In the last six weeks of 2010 VillageReach received funding from individual donors well beyond expectations. Until this time it had not been clear what level of activity would be possible for the Mozambique program in 2011.
* Because of this lack of visibility, we had not pursed any new DPS discussions late least year, except for Gaza, where the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation (EGPAF) had already made it clear that they can provide funding for the Gaza provincial governments activities. Note that it can take some months of discussion with a provincial government before permission to work in the province is received and finances and personnel are allocated by the government.
* We estimate current funding will support VillageReach activities in Mozambique through mid FY2012. This translates to a remaining funding gap of approximately $3.5M for the six-year program.
* As you have advised us, because of GiveWell’s interest in identifying other leading charities, we should not expect to retain our #1 GiveWell rating through this year. We certainly understand and respect this and accordingly assume funding via GiveWell supporters will be much less for 2012 vs. 2011. In response, we are actively trying to raise funds from other sources – including individuals and foundations. We are also looking for funding from development organizations currently working in Mozambique who are interested in our work.
* After Gaza, we will work on Inhambane next, with outreach to the government there expected once we have hired a new program manager; we have identified a strong candidate. We estimate the start of those discussions with Inhambane Province in early summer 2011.
* You asked us for our thinking as to what funding amounts trigger what levels of activity …
  + If VillageReach had raised $500,000 less in late 2010:
* VillageReach would still be active in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Maputo.
* VillageReach would still be planning to pursue expansion in Gaza when the opportunity arises, probably a few months from now.
* VillageReach would not be planning on pursuing expansion beyond Gaza until/unless significant further funding came in.
* If VillageReach had raised $1,000,000 less in late 2010:
* VillageReach would still be active in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Maputo.
* VillageReach would not be planning on any further expansion unless significant further funding came in and the program would have been at serious risk of ending prematurely.
* Going forward, in order to commit to starting work in Inhambane in early FY2012 (ie. Jan-March 2012 time frame), we would like to recognize funding by December 2011 that supports the program for the subsequent 12 months, per the attached budget and project plan. Note we would also expect to start work in Manica Province before the end of FY2012. Sofala and Tete would follow at the beginning of FY2013 (ie. late CY2012/early 2013).
* If we raise up to $500k more than is forecast by the end of CY2011:
* VillageReach will likely still pursue the program as presented in the project plan, although there might be some modest acceleration.
* If we raise $500k - $1M more than is forecast by the end of CY2011:
* VillageReach will likely accelerate planned discussions with the 7th and potentially 8th provinces.
* If we raise any amount beyond $1M more than is forecast by the end of CY2011:
* VillageReach may be able to accelerate discussions with the 8th province.