

**Title:**

**The pilot experience of the Malawi Development Assessment Tool (MDAT) of Doctors with Africa CUAMM in Mozambique.**

G. Putoto<sup>1</sup>, G.Gelfi, E. Occa, L.Ramirez, V.Tani, E. Tualo, F. Tognon, B.Soaes (Unicef)

- **Key objectives:** assess the MDAT tool's effectiveness, piloted by Mozambique's Ministry of Health and used in an ECD-based project by CUAMM and UNICEF.
- **Methodology.** From May to October 2023 we conducted screenings on children aged 6 months to 3 years, assessing cognitive delays in four domains (major motor, fine motor, linguistic, socio-emotional) framing the tool.
- **Results:** Among 1107 children, 76.1% showed no delays, 13.1% reported delays in one domain, 6.2% in two domains, while 4.6% reported delays in more than two domains. A multivariate analysis will be carried out to highlight possible correlations between score results to the admission criteria.
- **Implications of findings for policy and action;** This work represents the first pilot experience and structured data collection on the cognitive development of children in Mozambique with a validated tool. The results will be shared and analysed with MISAU and UNICEF to evaluate the scalability of the intervention