

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS for Adults - GCI Mozambique project

1 Name Ed Durnford

2 Age 40

3 Birthplace Burgeo, Newfoundland, Canada

4 Current Home St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada

5 Occupation Technical Project Lead for international development projects and

Organization The Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MI)

6 Education B.S. and M.S. in Food Science, Dip. in Food Technology. Bachelor's degree in Education
Ed Durnford, whose background includes a Diploma of Food Technology from the Marine Institute, and a B. Sc. and M. Sc. in Food Science from Memorial University of Newfoundland, joined the Marine Institute as a researcher in 1989. He has been teaching at the institute since 1996. Among a number of food technology and food science courses, he teaches introductory chemistry to Primary Technology students.



7 What is a day like from the time they get up to the time they go to bed?

I usually wake up before 6:00AM. During the day I meet with people in the community who are very friendly and interested to talk to me (and I am very interested to talk to them, too.) Part of my job is to learn how they grow, fish, or prepare their food so I can find ways to help them have more food. Other things I do during the day is visit hospitals, orphanages, and people's homes. I go to bed at 9 or 10PM. There isn't much to do at night since there is very little electricity.

8 Describe their home and community

In the capital Maputo: I stayed in a hotel that was comfortable and had internet, electricity, running water, nice beds.

In the rural areas: I stay in a very simple room at a guest house. We only have electricity from about 6:30pm to 9:30pm since that was the time that the generator was turned on. There is no running water, and sometimes it's really hot weather and there is no air conditioning. My bed is surrounded by a mosquito net that I spray with repellent every night. I do this to avoid the mosquitos that carry malaria. Other people in this village sometimes will get a mosquito net donated from other countries. But since they are quite poor, they use the mosquito net to catch little fish for food instead. In the north of Mozambique, many communities are Muslim such as the ones I visited: Ulo and Pangane. The nearest city, Pembe, is to the south, spray with repellent, malaria, mosquito nets used for fishing. Two of the rural coastal communities that Ed visited in northern Moz had a more Muslim influence: Ulo and Pangane. The nearest big city is Pemba (population: 141,316) which is more than 200 km to the south of Ulo.

9 Some challenges they face?

One major challenge is the language barrier. Sometimes it's difficult to communicate because my language is English, and their language is #####. In rural Mozambique there are a variety of languages which can change from one village to the next. In the cities many people speak Portuguese since Mozambique was a colony of Portugal for many years. Everyone is very friendly and interested in learning about our work, so the language barrier can be overcome. I met a man who was deaf and mute, but we were able to communicate even better since he was used to talking with his hands and expressions. Another interesting thing happened when I visited a remote island that had a fishing village. Some of the kids there had never seen a person with pale skin and blue eyes. Everyone in the village came out to meet me and thought I looked very unusual! These experiences are life-changing for myself and other field workers from Canada.

10 What do they eat?

In the city, get quite a variety of things. Super jumbo Shrimp large! Two shrimp for one dinner. Fish is very popular. Rice and nsima, cornmeal bland tasting. Tiny bit of fish for protein and flavour. Eating out you get lots of french fries. Cassava boiled, food is in short supply, flavour is not as key. Vegetables include tomato, sweet potato, irish potato, corn (number 1), white corn is there, not yellow

11 How much fish or shellfish do they eat?

Most people in the village ate only a little bit of fish per meal. Sometimes someone could catch some tiny little shrimp that is ground up and mixed with **nsima**. Nsima is boiled cornmeal that is made into a thick paste as a main part of a meal. Rice is also eaten. In the cities you can find really big jumbo shrimp, fish, and lobster to eat in restaurants. Sometimes the shrimp are so big that you can only eat two for your whole dinner! I really enjoyed eating the fish and the shrimp. Most people in mozambique can't afford to eat at a restaurant unfortunately. I also had chicken and goat once, but it was tough to chew and not very common. If someone in the village caught a big fish or lobster, they might try to sell it to a market or a restaurant in a tourist town if it was close enough. It might take 5 - 10 hours, depending on how muddy the road is, to get to Pemba from Ulo.

12 Where does the food come from?

Farming, fishing, buying from a market. At the seashore, mostly men do the beach seine fishing, and some women will collect small molluscs and fish.

13 Other Challenge

There are serious health issues for many people including HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Lots of adults have died and sometimes it is uncomfortable for someone to talk about diseases. Sometimes children have to move to a relative's home because of a death in the family. In this case there might be lots of kids in one home.

14 Did you meet any kids?

I talked to lots of boys, maybe aged 4 - 11, who were playing outside. I didn't see very many girls playing because they had to help work at home and taking care of their baby brothers and sisters. Boys older than 12 I think were working with the family farming and fishing.

15 What about dreams for the future?

My dream is to continue seeing more of the world and helping people in need. My dream for the people of Mozambique is that one day they could have more of the resources of the country. The ocean, rivers, and lakes have a lot to offer!

Project website for Ed's work with Memorial University:

http://www.mi.mun.ca/mi_international/sub_saharan_africa.htm