



COUNTRY PROFILE

FOR INFORMATION

MOZAMBIQUE

Country Information

- Historical Background¹
 - Mozambique was a Portuguese colony for close to five centuries, gaining its independence in 1975. Following independence Mozambique faced a various issues, including emigration, economic dependence on South Africa, a severe drought, and a prolonged civil war that hindered the country's development up until the mid-1990s. The ruling party during this period, the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), formally abandoned Marxism in 1989, introducing a constitution the following year that provided multiparty elections and a free market economy. During this period of transition the United Nations negotiated a peace agreement between FRELIMO and the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO), officially ending the civil war in 1992. In December of 2004 Mozambique underwent a delicate transition as Joaquim Chissano stepped down as president and leader of FRELIMO after 18 years of rule. His elected successor, Armando Emilio Guebuza, promised to continue the economic policies adopted under Chissano and encourage foreign investment, however during the 2009 elections there were reports of voter fraud and questionable political practices surrounding his re-election, leading to the Freedom House removing Mozambique from the list of electoral democracies.
- Geography: Total: 799,380 square km (786,380 Land/ 13,000 Water)
 - Climate type: Tropical to subtropical, with an average temperature of 28 degrees Celsius.
 - Terrain type: Mostly coastal lowlands, uplands in center, high plateaus in northwest, mountains in the west.
 - Resources: Coal, titanium, natural gas, hydropower, tantalum, graphite.
 - Strategic importance: Has a long running coastline along the Indian Ocean. Shares borders with 6 other countries including; Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Provides port access to some of its landlocked neighbors.
- Government: Republic – Parliamentary Democracy (Contested)

¹ "Mozambique," The CIA World Factbook, Updated May 18th, 2015. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mz.html>

- Executive Branch: President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario.
- Legislative Branch: Unicameral Assembly of the Republic or Assembleia da Republica – 250 seats, directly elected in single- and multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote. Members serve 5-year terms.
 - Political Parties and Leaders
 1. Democratic Movement of Mozambique (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique)(MDM): Daviz Simango.
 2. Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique)(FRELIMO): Armando Emilio Guebuza.
 3. Mozambique National Resistance (Resistência Nacional Moçambicana)(RENAMO): Afonso Dhlakama.
- Judicial Branch;
 - Highest Court: Supreme Court (1 court president, 1 vice president, and 5 judges), Constitutional Council (7 judges), and the Higher Council of the Judiciary which is responsible for judiciary management and discipline.
 - Lower Courts: Administrative Court (Only in the capital), provincial courts or Tribunais Judiciais de Provincia, District Courts or Tribunais Judiciais de Distrito, Customs Courts, Maritime Courts, Courts Marshal, Labor Courts, and Community Courts.
- Population: 24,692,144
 - Labour force: 12.25 million (2014 estimate).
 - Unemployment rate: 17% (2007 estimate).
 - Population below the poverty line: 52% (2009 estimate).
- Economy:
 - Despite economic reforms and political stabilization since the 1990's, the vast majority of Mozambique's population is employed in subsistence farming. Over the past decade the economy has grown, with increased foreign investment into natural resource development projects and hydropower, yet the progress in these areas has not been felt by the majority of the population.
- Police Force:²
 - Public security services are provided by the Mozambique Republic Police (MRP), and are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. The mission of the police force is as follows:
 - Prevent, detect, and investigate crime.
 - Maintain public order.
 - Create a safe and secure environment.
- Military:³

² "Mozambique," *Interpol*, Accessed June 2nd, 2015: <http://www.interpol.int/Member-countries/Africa/Mozambique>

³ "Mozambique," *Global Security Firepower*. http://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country_id=mozambique

- The Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (Forças Armadas de Defesa de Moçambique, FADM) is made up of three service branches; The Mozambique Army, the Mozambique Navy (Marinha de Guerra de Moçambique, MGM), and the Mozambique Air Force (Força Aérea de Moçambique, FAM). Military service is mandatory for all males and females at 18 years of age, with selective compulsory military service between 18 and 35 years of age, and voluntary military service at 18 years of age. There is a 2 year service obligation in the armed forces.
 - Active personnel: 11,200. Reserve personnel: 0
 - Land force: 96 tanks, 335 armored fighting vehicles (AFVs), 100 towed-artillery, and 12 Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems.
 - Air force: 8 fighters/interceptors, 8 fixed-wing attack aircraft, 4 transport aircraft, and 1 trainer aircraft.
 - Naval force: 6 coastal defense craft, and 2 miscellaneous craft.
-

Security and Social Issues

Given the continuous flow of migration through the region and the rebuilding efforts being undertaken to strengthen the Mozambique economy there are a variety of security related issues that the country faces. It should be noted that Mozambique is not considered safe, and has a critical security rating from OSAC. Below are the major issue areas of concern;

1. Criminal Activity

- The number of violent crimes is comparable with most other African countries, with assailants willing to use physical harm to coerce others, especially expatriates. While there are cases of violent crimes, the majority are non-violent and include; pickpocketing, theft of unattended possessions, and bag snatching. There are also reports of increasing incidents of financial fraud and identity theft occurring, and visitors are encouraged to keep their identification documents secure when travelling.
- There are also issues with organized crime in the country with activities such as the trafficking in narcotics, human smuggling, and endangered animal poaching increasing in frequency. Narcotics is a major issue for the country because of its location along much of the eastern African coast, making the country a major transit country for African narcotics.
- Piracy is not a major issue for Mozambique, however it should be monitored as the region develops.

2. Political Instability

- During the 2014 national presidential campaigns and related government elections there were reported clashes between various party supporters, leading to violence on several occasions. During these political gatherings the police used heavy handed tactics against demonstrators, with a few instances of death. During these political clashes business and transportation was disrupted, limiting travel in

certain regions. While a cease-fire was agreed upon by both sides near election time, the loss of the RENAMO party and their claims of fraud and refusal to accept the election results have led to speculation of a return to violence.

- Considering that Mozambique shares borders with multiple other states it experiences a large amount of movement across its borders. Political instability in a neighboring country can lead to security issues for the Mozambican government, and its infrastructure may not be able to handle a large migration from adjacent states. For example, there have already been issues with migrant workers and their effects on the domestic workforce's ability to find employment in some areas.

3. Corruption

- There are reports that both the government and public security forces in Mozambique suffer from systemic corruption, making it difficult to operate in the area without coming into contact with some form of corruption. Although there have been efforts by government officials and private citizen groups to combat corruption, they have been largely ineffective due to how widespread corruption is, and more importantly how weak the judiciary is to enforce corruption penalties. There are also reports that the judiciary is largely influenced by the government, and that they can be pressured to overlook certain cases if it is in the government's interest.

4. Civil Unrest

- There have not been many major reports of civil unrest, and the Mozambican government has made significant efforts to limit the possibility of potential unrest, however political protest does remain a concern. For instance in 2010 there was significant unrest in Maputo over the lifting of government subsidies on various necessities, including the price of bread, gas, and other essentials. Police responses were violent, and there have been reports of protestors being killed.

5. Terrorism

- Terrorism is not a major issue in Mozambique, and there are no known terrorist organizations operating in the country. Visitors are still cautioned to avoid large crowds, public demonstrations, or demonstrations, since they have the potential to become unruly, and given the recent political instability could be the site of a politically motivated attack.

6. Mines

- There have been considerable efforts by the Mozambican government as well as humanitarian organizations to remove mines from the area. While they have been largely successful, the threat of injury from a mine is still a security concern and individuals should be careful, especially in areas where conflict existed before.

7. Disease

- HIV/AIDS: Mozambique is ranked as one of the top ten most HIV affected countries in the world, with certain areas having a more than one-quarter infection rate among adults. It is estimated that nearly 1.5 million Mozambicans are infected with HIV, with around 800 million being women and 200 thousand being

children. Each year there is an estimated 120 thousand new infections, mainly among sero-discordant couples, commercial sex workers, as well as relationships with multiple partners.⁴

- Ebola: While there were reports of cases of Ebola in Mozambique, the Ministry of Health has officially denied that there has been any cases of Ebola within the country. The country is at risk of the spread of the disease, however is currently classified as mainly at risk for the spread through animals and not humans. Due to government interference in the media precise information on the status of Ebola in Mozambique is unreliable, and should be closely monitored for those travelling in the country.⁵
- Malaria: The Mozambican government has invested heavily into curbing the spread and impact of Malaria on the population, however the disease is still an endemic issue throughout the country and poses a risk to the majority of the population, especially children, mainly in rural areas but also being reported in urban areas. Malaria is one of the major health issues for the government, and a large portion of the health care budget is allocated to its control.⁶

8. Resource Issues

- Mining: The main issues facing the mining sector in Mozambique revolve around inadequate infrastructure to meet the industry's production requirements. The biggest issue is the lack of proper transportation channels, electricity supplies, and export infrastructure, especially from interior areas to the seaboard. Furthermore Mozambique is almost entirely focused on the production of coal for its economy, meaning that it is highly susceptible to fluctuations in the price of coal. Despite these issues the mining sector in Mozambique is favourable for foreign investment given the low mining taxes as well as the general lack of political interference. The Mozambican government understands the importance of the mining sector for the economic growth of the country and has introduced reforms that benefit foreign direct investment, such as faster mine license processing and the reduction in administrative investment costs.
- Energy: Mozambique has been developing a viable renewable energy sector and has built an infrastructure to export energy to neighboring countries. The Mozambican government has been improving its energy providing capabilities, however certain infrastructural issues have slowed the process in certain areas, especially rural areas.
- Food: Mozambique is faced with a variety of food related issues. One third of the population is chronically food-insecure, with half a million children aged from 6-

⁴ "Global AIDS Response Progress Report: GARPR: Country Progress Report: Mozambique," United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), March 18th, 2014. Available from:

http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/MOZ_narrative_report_2014.pdf

⁵ "Risk of Ebola emergence mapped," University of Oxford, September 8th, 2014. Available from:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2014-09-08-risk-ebola-emergence-mapped>

⁶ "World Malaria Report 2014," World Health Organization, 2014, 125. Available from:

http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/world_malaria_report_2014/wmr-2014-profiles.pdf.

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/mozambique/country-programmes/disease-prevention-and-control/malaria.html>

23 being undernourished. Malnutrition for children under five is estimated to be at 43 percent. There are various causes for the food related issues in Mozambique, including inadequate nutritional intake due to poor diet diversity, low meal frequency, poor breastfeeding practices, and high levels of disease and teenage pregnancy. Considering that much of the Mozambican population is engaged in subsistence farming, it makes the food situation in the country prone to fluctuations in food security.⁷

- Forestry: Mozambique faces serious forestry issues including illegal logging and trade, mainly fueled by an expanding Chinese market, which have a significant impact on the sustainability of its forested areas and the industry as a whole. The illegal forestry industry constitutes a considerable loss of revenue for the Mozambican population, with much of the profits helping to fuel corruption and a select few individuals. Considering the extent of the industry and the lack of remediation following illegal logging practices there are developing environmental issues facing the practice, including but not limited to deforestation, runoff into waterbeds, and desertification.⁸

9. Human Trafficking

- Mozambique is mainly a source and transit country for human trafficking, with it being a destination country to a lesser extent. Forced labour of children is common in agriculture and market vending, often at the behest of their families. Young women from rural areas are enticed to travel to the urban centres or border towns with job prospects, usually finding themselves coerced into the sex trade when they arrive. Child prostitution is a major industry in Mozambique, with the practice increasing in urban centres that have highly mobile populations. The increase in migrant workers has increased the demand for sexual services, and some women who migrate from surrounding countries are subsequently subjected to trafficking or servitude. Mozambican men are also subject to trafficking, mainly being subjected to forced labour within Mozambique or in surrounding countries. The Mozambican government has made significant efforts to curb human trafficking, yet has been unable to fully comply with the international minimum standards for its elimination. The government has continued to persecute those involved in the practice, as well as increasing investigations and security in traffic-heavy areas.⁹

10. Human Rights

- The main human rights abuses that occur within Mozambique include the failure of the government to protect political rights and freedom of assembly, unlawful killings and abuses by government and opposition-party security forces, and

⁷ “Mozambique,” World Food Programme, 2014. Available from:

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/mozambique/overview>

⁸ “First Class Crisis: China’s Criminal and Unsustainable Intervention in Mozambique’s Miombo Forests,”

Environmental Investigation Agency UK (July 2014). Available from: <http://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/First-Class-Crisis-English-FINAL.pdf>

⁹ “Trafficking in Persons Report 2014,” U.S. Department of State, 2014, 283-285. Available from:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226847.pdf>

domestic violence. Mozambique is also faced with various other human rights abuses including lengthy pretrial detention, government influence on the judiciary, harsh prison conditions, political and media constraints. The problems with government corruption exacerbated these issues, making it difficult to combat them without large-scale political and social reform. Mozambique also faced social issues including discrimination against women; exploitation, abuse, and forced labor of children, trafficking in women and children, and discrimination of LGBT individuals and those suffering from HIV/AIDS.¹⁰

For more information please contact;

David Walsh-Pickering

Researcher | Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP)

Queen's University

138 Union Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6

Tel: (514) 980-0999

Email: d.walsh-pickering@queensu.ca

Website: www.queensu.ca/cidp

¹⁰ Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona, "Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona," *United Nations Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* (July 2014). Available from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/MZIndex.aspx>. "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013: Mozambique," *U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor*, 2014. Available from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/#wrapper>