

Country Profile: Mozambique

Mozambique struggled through colonial rule, civil war and famine. But since a peace deal ended 16 years of civil conflict the country has become a magnet for foreign investment.

HISTORY

After independence in 1975 Mozambique was drawn into the struggle against white rule in Rhodesia and South Africa. The rebel movement Renamo was created by Rhodesia to counter black nationalist guerrillas fighting for Rhodesian independence. When Rhodesia became independent as Zimbabwe in 1980, the rebels were used by South Africa's military intelligence to coerce Mozambique into expelling exiled South African dissidents and to show the world that black rule did not necessarily mean stability. Between 1977 and 1992 up to a million Mozambicans died from fighting and famine in a war that ruined the economy and much of the countryside. The country has been left with a legacy of landmines and amputees.

RECENT SITUATION

A political settlement in 1992 was followed by stability and rapid economic growth for one of the world's poorest countries. However, it suffered serious setbacks when in 2000 and 2001 it was hit by floods which affected about a quarter of the population and destroyed much of its infrastructure. In 2002, a severe drought hit many central and southern parts of the country, including previously flood-stricken areas. Poverty remains widespread, with more than 50% of Mozambicans living on less than \$1 a day. Ruling Frelimo party's Armando Guebuza won presidential elections in 2004. Former rebel group Renamo holds 92 parliamentary seats to Frelimo's 158. The economy has grown at an average 8% in the last 10 years and poverty has continued to fall. The biggest contributor to this growth has been the agriculture sector, followed by mega-projects in manufacturing, and then commerce, construction and transport and communications. It is clear that poor people have contributed to and benefited from this growth. Observers fear Mozambique is being forced to pursue capital-intensive, showpiece mega-projects which generate little social benefit; natural disasters have slowed post-civil war reconstruction.

The Mozambican Government has placed a strong emphasis on nation-building, on the need to address corruption - having approved an anti corruption policy- administrative apathy and poverty.

FACTS

- **Full name:** The Republic of Mozambique
- **Population:** 21.4 Million (UN 2007)
- **Capital:** Maputo
- **Area:** 812,379 sq km (313,661 sq miles)
- **Internet domain:** .mz
- **International dialling code:** +258
- **Major religion:** Indigenous beliefs, Christianity, Islam
- **Major languages:** Portuguese (official), Makua-Lomwe, Tsonga, Shona, Swahili

- **HDI value*¹:** 172. Mozambique (0.384) [1. Iceland (0.968)] (2005)
- **Human Poverty Index (HPI-1)*²:** 8. Mozambique (50.6) [1. Chad (56.9)] (2005)

- **Life expectancy at birth (years) :** 42.8
- **Probability of not surviving past 40 (%):** 45
- **Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births):** 145 (2005)
- **HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49):** 12.5 (2007)



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Education

- **Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%):**
 - 172. Mozambique (82.9%) [1. Australia (113.0)] (2005)
- **Adult Literacy Rate: (% ages 15 and older):**
 - 148. Mozambique (45.5%) [1. Georgia (100.0)] (2005)

Economy and Trade

- **GDP per capita:** No. of people lived below the national poverty line. (PPP US\$):
 - 154. Mozambique (1,242) [1. Luxembourg (60,228)] (2005)
- **GNI Per Capita:** US \$310 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Gini Coefficient** *³: 31. Mozambique (47.3) [126. Denmark (24.7)] (2007)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 metical (plural meticais) = 100 centavos
- **Main exports:** Seafood, cotton
- **CO₂ emissions share of world total (%):** n/a (2004) [n/a (1990)]

Water, sanitation and nutritional status

- **Population without access to an improved water source (%):** 57
- **Population using improved sanitation (%):** 32 (2004) [20 (1990)]
- **Population Undernourished (% of total population):** 44 (2002-2004) [66 (1990-1992)]

Politics

- **Government:** Frelimo party
- **President:** Armando Guebuza
 - Armando Guebuza, succeeded Mozambique's long-time leader Joaquim Chissano in February 2005. The opposition party disputed the outcome of the presidential poll and alleged that the election had been rigged.
- **Year Women received right to vote:** 1975
- **Internally displaced people (thousands, 2006):** n/a



*¹ The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income).

*² The Human Poverty Index for developing countries (HPI-1), focuses on the proportion of people below a threshold level in the same dimensions of human development as the HDI.

*³ The **Gini coefficient** is most prominently used as a measure of inequality of wealth distribution. A value of 0 represents absolute equality, and a value of 100 absolute inequality.

*⁴ Rankings are out of a total of 177.