

# Diaspora engagement mapping MOZAMBIQUE

# Facts & figures

**Emigration** 

# 4

# Top countries of destination



% of emigrants in total population	$\rightarrow$	% of which in the EU
<b>3</b> %		<b>8.3</b> % 83,675
<b>O</b> 64.4% <b>Q</b> 35.6%		<b>O</b> 44.9% <b>Q</b> 55.1%

Remittances as a share of GDP: 1.7%

Remittances inflow (USD million): 303

South Africa	716,057
Zimbabwe	121,628
Portugal	71,421
Malawi	58,344
Tanzania	13,138

#### **Political rights**

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Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>

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Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>

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 $\square$ 



Voting from abroad
At embassies/ consulates

# Mozambique does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has recently announced the intent to draft a **National Diaspora Policy** to guide engagement with Mozambican communities abroad, but no further details have been provided to this effect.

<sup>1</sup> The 2004 Constitution allows for dual citizenship with the main restriction being that the President must hold only Mozambican nationality. Available online at: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Mozambique\_2007. However, the recognition of Mozambican citizenship may prove challenging given the confusion surrounding the legal framework in force. The 2004 Constitution does not repeal the 1975 Nationalities act. See, Patricia Jeronimo (2019). *Report on Citizenship Law: Mozambique* (Country Report, European University Institute, Global Citizenship Observatory). P.: 4. Available online at: https://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/62966.

<sup>2</sup> According to the Voter Registration Law and the General Elections Law, Mozambican citizens who reside and have been registered abroad can exercise their right to vote at the Republic of Mozambique embassies and consulates. The sole criterion for the selection of the countries where external registration would take place was demographic – the existence in each country of a minimum of 1,000 legally registered Mozambican citizens. Available online at: https://cconstitucional.org.mz/lei-eleitoral/.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework

2014

The **Strategy for Diaspora Engagement** was developed by an inter-ministerial group led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINEC), with capacity-building support from the IOM.<sup>3</sup>

2017

**Mandatory Social Security Regulation** (Decree Law No. 51/2017) provides a framework for the registration and enrolment of self-employed Mozambicans residing abroad in the Compulsory Social Security System. The registration can be done electronically. Additionally, the recently ratified treaty between Mozambique and Portugal allows Mozambican employees residing in Portugal to contribute to the Mozambican social security system and vice-versa.



#### **Trends**

Apart from allowing the right to vote for nationals residing abroad (in certain countries), Mozambique is one of the few countries currently providing for special representation of emigrants in national legislative elections. The two extra-territorial constituencies (one for Mozambicans residing in Africa, one for those In other countries) are both based in Maputo. Despite an apparent enfranchisement of the Mozambican diaspora regarding voting rights and political representation, past national elections have been fraught and denounced as fraudulent, based on independent observation reports.<sup>4</sup> The voting process abroad has not been documented yet.

In 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs launched a diaspora mapping exercise conducted by the National Institute for Mozambican Communities Abroad (INACE), to develop a knowledge base of its diaspora and inform the elaboration of a diaspora policy. The government nominally expressed its commitment to developing the policy, but there is no publicly available timeline for its adoption. Based on <u>meeting minutes</u> published by INACE, consultations regarding the document are underway and include diaspora stakeholders, through a formal body – the Consultative Council for Mozambicans Living Abroad (CCCM).

Part of a wider public sector reform introduced with the "Estratégia Global de Reforma do Sector Público 2021-2025" (EGRSP), Mozambique made significant headway towards improved accessibility to e-services. Relevant to the diaspora, (certain) diplomatic missions expanded their consular services and have the capacity to issue or renew (biometric) passports, identity cards, driving licenses, military as well as criminal record certificates.

In 2022, remittance inflows into the country dropped to 1.8% of the GDP.<sup>5</sup> However, similar to regional dynamics across the South African Development Community (SADC), the vast use of informal channels for remittance transfers impedes a more accurate estimate. Moreover, the regulatory framework of Mozambique also imposes restrictions on independent money transfer operators (MTOs), which may constrain remittance flows. As such, there is no formal scheme in place, and the reporting requirements remain bureaucratically burdensome and often disproportionate to the value of remittances being sent and received. In effect, banks are mandated to process remittance transactions either on their own or in partnership with MTOs under specific licensing agreements.<sup>6</sup>

6 In 2011, state owned mCel (the main network operator) established a new company Carteira Movel (mKesh) which started offering mobile money services in partnership with the Central Bank of Mozambique. An analysis shows that outreach and adoption in rural areas has been significant, Catia Batisat, Pedro C. Vincente (June, 2017). Introducing Mobile Money in Rural Mozambique (GLM/LIC Working Paper 30). Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fbd3eb5e90e077edee807d3/glmlic-wp030.pdf.

<sup>3</sup> The document cannot be accessed on either government or ministerial online portals.

<sup>4</sup> Freedom House (2022). Mozambique (Country Report). Available online at: https://freedomhouse.org/country/mozambique/freedom-world/2023.

<sup>5</sup> Comparatively, in 2021 remittance inflows amounted to 2.8% of the GDP. Based on World bank and IMF balance of payments data, available online at: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=MZ.

The investment milieu has been particularly affected by the volatile security context and exposure to natural disasters. Mozambique's Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with INACE, for the creation of a platform publicising investment opportunities for Mozambicans residing abroad, but its implementation is not yet certain. Diaspora members and associations also participated in webinars and investment forums organised by APIEX.

In effect, the government appears intent on harnessing diaspora contributions more firmly, showing openness to dialogue despite overall low institutional coordination and a generally unstable climate.



#### **Achievements**

The expansion of consular services permitting the issuance of criminal records (in certain countries) will facilitate the regularisation of work and residence for Mozambicans living abroad, most being dependent on such documents for the renewal of residence permits, job search or acquiring other nationalities. Pending the adoption of a Diaspora Policy, such initiatives indicate that Mozambique has made progress in facilitating dialogue and addressing, to some extent, salient issues for the diaspora.

#### Obstacles



- Lack of trust: With an uninterrupted incumbency since (but also before) the first multiparty elections in 1994, the ruling party Frelimo has significant control over state institutions and electoral processes, undermining public trust. Widespread corruption and entrenched patronage networks could also deter members of the Mozambican diaspora and community representatives (those opposing the government) from engaging or participating in formal consultation bodies.
- **Regional instability:** In Cabo Delgado province, where significant resources and extraction infrastructures are concentrated, an ongoing insurgency has uprooted hundreds of thousands, resulting in a devastating humanitarian crisis. The conflict has impacted the country's economic potential, rendering the investment milieu unpredictable, which may also limit the capacity to channel diaspora contributions into development projects or productive use.
- Lack of data: Although the diaspora mapping exercise was launched in 2020, institutions do not
  publicise survey results, nor report progress on data collection efforts. Some diaspora organisations
  also contribute by disseminating registration forms and links to the official portal, but the levels of
  community outreach and uptake cannot be gauged.

# **SPOTLIGHT:** effective practices



# Diaspora Mapping (2020)



The National Institute for Mozambican Communities Abroad (INACE) has launched a diaspora mapping initiative on behalf of the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation (MINEC). Paired with consultations, the exercise covers Africa, Europe and Asia and aims to inform the elaboration of a National Diaspora Policy.

CRISIS, PARTNERSHIP

# Together for Mozambique (2019)

The New York Portuguese American Leadership Conference (NYPALC), an association of 68 Portuguese organisations in New York State, and the Association of Mozambicans and Friends of Mozambique in France - AMAMOZ - launched a campaign to collect donations for the victims of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique.

#### Annex:

# **List of Actors**

### **Diaspora related institutions**

- National institutions
  - At ministerial level

#### Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, MINEC, 1994

The Ministry provides overall coordination for Mozambique's foreign policy and manages the relationship with the diaspora abroad through the network of embassies, consulates and honorary consuls. According to the latest statements, the Ministry will also spearhead the elaboration and implementation of a National Diaspora Policy, in coordination with other national ministries and agencies.

At sub-ministerial level

#### National Institute for Mozambican Communities Abroad, INACE, 2004

According to the official website, INACE (under the remit of MINEC) aims to promote and support Mozambican communities in the diaspora, individual emigrants as well as diaspora associations. INACE also conducts the diaspora mapping exercise and is tasked with institutionalising concepts, strategies and best practices for diaspora engagement.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



Associação All Mozambi (Cultural Association of Mozambicans and Friends of Mozambique) 2013
Portugal

#### Integration activities

The association recently established its headquarters in Portimão, providing support to the Mozambican community, and assisting with the legalisation of documents and permits.

#### Associação de Naturais e Amigos de Moçambique, AANAM 2022 Portugal

#### ☑ Integration activities

Supports the social integration of Mozambicans in Portugal, and in cases of death also assists with funeral costs and the transfer of urns.

#### Associação dos Estudantes Moçambicanos em Portugal, AEMOP Portugal

#### Integration activities

Provides recreational/leisure activities and assists Mozambican students with social integration into Portuguese society. The organization has chapters in several locations across Portugal.

#### Associação Centro Cultural Luso Mocambicano 2006 Portugal

#### Integration activities

The centre functions in areas of culture, international cooperation, social solidarity and education, and has as its main objective the integration of Mozambicans in Portugal "in defence of the practice of citizenship." To support Qualimane Hospital in Mozambique, the association donated three ambulances. One of its main contributions focuses on organising annual exhibitions of Mozambican artists at the *Livio de Morais House of Culture* (Sintra borough of Lisbon), the latter named after a Mozambican artist.

#### Association des Mozambicains et Amis du Mozambique en France AMAMoz France

**☑** Development activities

Integration activities

The association aims to develop cultural exchanges and partnerships between France and Mozambique and to promote Mozambican culture in France. In partnership with Portuguese language umbrella organisations in the United States, the association successfully launched a transnational humanitarian campaign in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai.

Casa de Moçambique 1988 Portugal (various locations, including Lisbon)

☑ Development activities

Integration activities

The organisation promotes socio-cultural and economic ties between Portugal and Mozambique, assisting Mozambicans with integration into Portuguese society. The association also offered scholarships to Mozambican students in coordination with municipalities in Zambezia and Inhambane provinces.

#### Casa de Mozambique in the UK United Kingdom

Development activities

Integration activities

Based on a local community information directory for Camden Borough, the association provides social opportunities, advice and support for Mozambicans living in the UK, as well as fundraising activities for causes in Mozambique.

#### Casa Xima Portugal

Development activities

Integration activities

The association promotes the personal and social development of Mozambican women, and their active participation in society through training and social solidarity initiatives. In Mozambique, it supported the rebuilding of two primary schools in Zambezia and Inhambane provinces. The organisation also collaborates with the Portuguese Ministry of Justice in the social reintegration of prisoners.

#### Círculo de Escritores Moçambicanos na Diáspora, CEMD Portugal

#### ☑ Integration activities

The organisation promotes and publishes studies, and disseminates Mozambican literature.

#### Friends of Vamizi Trust 2012 United Kingdom

#### Development activities

Established by a group of families of both European and Mozambican origin, the initiative targets communities, marine conservation, and development in the coastal areas of the Indian Ocean (the Quirimbas Archipelago, Vamizi Island).

#### Índico - Associação Cívica Moçambicana 2004 Portugal

#### ☑ Integration activities

Promotes cultural values, awareness, and carries out activities that help connect the Mozambican diaspora with its country of origin, whilst safeguarding their rights abroad. The organisation operates in Porto and serves Mozambican communities across northern Portugal.

**Organização da Diáspora Moçambicana** 2019 Portugal (with a presence in 35 countries)

#### Development activities

The organisation carries out activities around the world, but mainly in Mozambique, where it leads sponsorship programmes for orphanages, funds scholarships for disadvantaged students enrolled in universities, and conducts humanitarian campaigns in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Tete and Maputo, among other forms of support for the Mozambicans residing abroad.

Organização da Mulher Moçambicana, OMM 1973 Portugal (chapters in multiple countries)

#### Development activities

A political movement affiliated with the ruling party Frelimo, the organisation mobilises women around issues of interest and has a significant presence on social networks.

Pastos Verdes 2005 United Kingdom, Mozambique

#### **☑** Development activities

Founded by Lisa and Orlando Muerasse, of British and Mozambican origin respectively, the organisation provides pastoral support to local communities in Mozambique through faith-based education.

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