



Diaspora engagement mapping MOZAMBIQUE

Facts & figures

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad

At embassies/ consulates



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.17%**

Remittances inflow (USD million): **266.91**

Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2024).

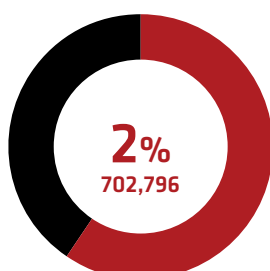
Emigration



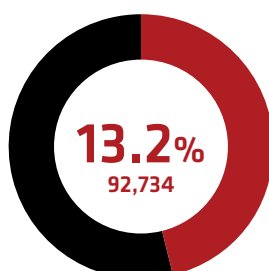
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 59.7%
♀ 40.3%



♂ 46.3%
♀ 53.7%

Top countries of destination



South Africa	412,058
Zimbabwe	126,753
Portugal	90,640
Malawi	39,156
United Republic of Tanzania	14,166

¹ 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>.

² 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.³
- 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.
- 2023** ● The **2023 Mozambican Diaspora Policy and Its Implementation Strategy**.⁴ Developed through multi-stakeholder consultation across ministries, the private sector, civil society, as well as members of the diaspora, with technical support from IOM, MINEC drafted the 2023 Mozambican Diaspora Policy and its Implementation Strategy, which is still pending approval by the Council of Ministers as of May 2024.

The policy incorporates the 2014 Strategy for Diaspora Engagement and outlines several measures to attract the diaspora to participate in national economic development. Such measures include sharing job opportunities, supporting diaspora entrepreneurship, promoting the diaspora's financial inclusion through education, creating tax exemptions for diaspora's pensions, as well as fostering reintegration of returnees and their families. It also underscores the vital role of the private and banking sector in facilitating the policy implementation.
- 2025** ● The **National Development Strategy 2025-2044** makes an explicit reference to the importance of Mozambique's diaspora. It aims to promote their active participation in political, economic, social and cultural development through inclusive policies and engagement mechanisms.

Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



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.

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 - AMAMOF - launched a campaign to collect donations for the victims of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique.

³ The document cannot be accessed on either government or ministerial online portals.

⁴ According to the 2024 Migration Governance Indicators Profile of Mozambique, the Policy is not yet available online. See more: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-indicators-profile-2024-republic-mozambique>

Inclusive National Dialogue Process with the Diaspora

In 2025, approximately 7,000 members of the Mozambique diaspora participated in the Inclusive National Dialogue Process. The consultation discussed relevant topics, such as the need for frequent dissemination activities regarding the Constitution to ensure that diaspora members are aware of their rights and duties; dual nationality and the processing of documents for children born abroad; the improvement of the quality of local education, health services and infrastructure; the need for greater transparency in the dissemination of election results; issues related to the living conditions of Mozambicans living abroad; and the improvement of migration services for the diaspora.

>> Observations

The “Observations” and “Obstacles” sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

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.⁵ The voting process abroad has not been documented yet.

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 and military and criminal record certificates. This initiative 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.

In 2022, remittance inflows into the country dropped to 1.8% of the GDP.⁶ 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.⁷

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

6 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>.

7 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>.

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. Also, in 2024, the Bank of Mozambique announced the removal of barriers to foreign investment, including those from the diaspora, by increasing the annual limit from the previous USD 250,000 to USD 1 million, aiming to facilitate more robust investment flows.⁸

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.

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.

⁸ <https://trendsnafrica.com/mozambique-relaxes-fdi-investment-by-residents-abroad-rules-to-open-up-economy/>

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)

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.

The Advisory Council of Mozambican Communities Abroad

The Advisory Council of Mozambican Communities Abroad is a consultative body within INACE responsible for developing, maintaining and deepening the existing ties between the diaspora and the country, as well as actively promoting their participation in defining and monitoring policies related to emigration. The Council comprises elected representatives of the Mozambican communities abroad, members of the Board of Directors and members of the Technical Council.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Read more about diaspora organisations in ["Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation"](#)

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

It provides recreational/leisure activities and assists Mozambican students with social integration into Portuguese society. The organization has chapters in several locations across Portugal, including Lisbon, Coimbra and Porto.

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 Moraes 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.

Original research:
Andra-Lucia Martinescu
Editing & update:
EUDiF (2026)

Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union

