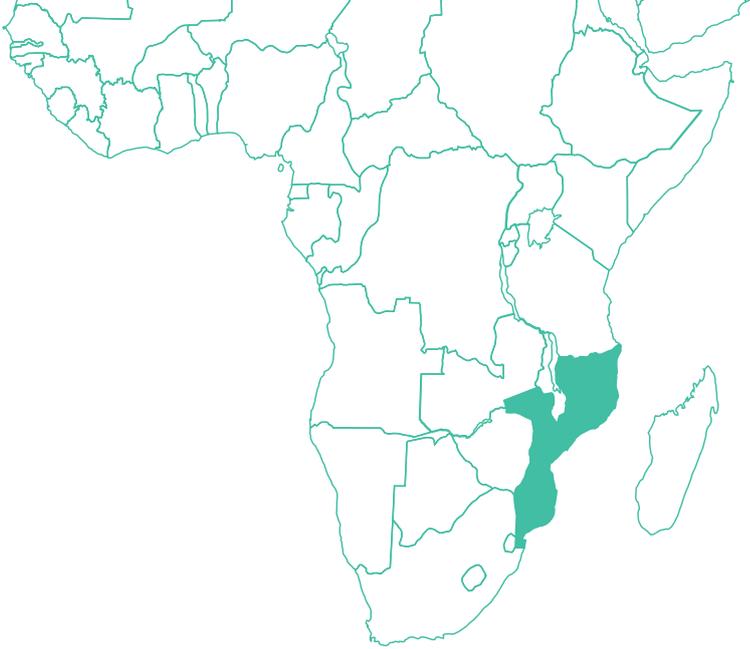


## Ireland's Partner Countries

# Factsheet



# Mozambique

Mozambique is located on the southeast coast of Africa and is bordered by: Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania Zambia and Zimbabwe. On its east Mozambique has around 2,500 km of Indian Ocean coastline, one of the longest coasts in Africa.

It is divided by the Zambezi river, with coastal lowlands to the south, and hills, plateaus and highlands to the north. Its tropical climate consists of a wet and a dry season, with variations depending on altitude.

After almost five centuries, Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975. Between 1976 and 1992, the country experienced a devastating civil war. In addition, Mozambique's development was hampered by economic dependence on South Africa, emigration and severe drought. By the end of 1992 Mozambique was the poorest country in the world, with over one million lives lost, economic development halted, and much of its infrastructure destroyed.

The Government's programme to revive the economy, combined with a UN-negotiated peace agreement in 1992, led to dramatic improvements in growth. Political stability since multiparty elections in 1994 and economic support from international donors has encouraged foreign investment.

## Development in Mozambique

Since its sixteen year civil war ended, Mozambique has continued to achieve high economic growth levels, and the country has made significant progress on a wide range of development objectives. In 2010, Mozambique's economy grew by almost seven per cent and the number of people living below the national poverty line was 54 per cent compared with 69 per cent in 1996.

However, despite progress, Mozambique remains a very poor country. Only a tiny percentage of Mozambicans are employed in the formal sector, with most people

employed on an informal basis. 80 per cent of the population rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Additionally, the country's infrastructure is still poor after years of war, underinvestment, and extreme floods in 2000 and 2001.

The challenges of a high HIV infection rate remain, with 12.5 per cent of the adult population infected by the virus. The Government of Mozambique's *Poverty Action Plan* includes measures to promote economic growth and social development, and fight corruption.

# Irish Aid's poverty reduction work in Mozambique

Mozambique has been an Irish Aid partner country since 1996. In 2010, Irish Aid's support to Mozambique was over €42 million.

A priority for Irish Aid's work in Mozambique is the fight against HIV and AIDS, through its support for the Government's health sector programme, in partnership with the Clinton Foundation. Access to antiretroviral drugs has enabled those living with HIV to lead active lives; by 2010, the number of people receiving treatment reached 218,000, compared with just 10,000 in 2004.

Through its support for improved maternal health, agriculture and governance Ireland contributes to the Mozambican Government's efforts to reduce poverty through broad-based economic growth, equitable social development and improved democratic governance.

## Comparison table

Source: UNDP, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	Ireland	Mozambique
<b>UNDP Human Development Index Rank</b> (of 187 countries)	7	184
<b>Population</b>	4.5 million	23.9 million
<b>GNI (Gross National Income) per capita</b>	US \$29,332	US \$898
<b>Life expectancy from birth</b>	80 years	50 years
<b>Number of doctors per 100,00 people<sup>2</sup></b>	310	< 5
<b>HIV prevalence<sup>3</sup></b> (15-49 years)	0.2%	12.5%

<sup>1</sup>UNDP Human Development Report 2011 (November 2011)

<sup>2</sup>UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

<sup>3</sup>UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

## Facts about Mozambique Did you know...?

<b>Full name:</b>	Republic of Mozambique
<b>Head of State:</b>	President Armando Guebuza
<b>Capital:</b>	Maputo
<b>Area:</b>	799,380 sq km
<b>Major languages:</b>	Portuguese (official), Emakhuwa, Xichangana
<b>Major religions:</b>	Christianity, Islam, traditional beliefs
<b>Monetary unit:</b>	Metical
<b>Main exports:</b>	Aluminium, prawns, cashews, cotton, sugar, citrus, timber

## Find out more

[www.irishaid.ie](http://www.irishaid.ie) - Learn more here about Irish Aid's work in Mozambique

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org) - the United Nations Development Programme in Mozambique

[www.concern.net](http://www.concern.net) and [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) - Both Concern and Trocaire work in Mozambique and have background information about Mozambique on their websites



**Irish Aid**

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Irish Aid is the Government's programme of assistance to developing countries, and is administered through the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

You can visit the

**Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre,  
27 - 31 Upper O'Connell Street,  
Dublin 1.**

**Phone number: 01 854 69 20**

Organised visits to the Centre, including workshops, are available for school and college groups by arrangement.

