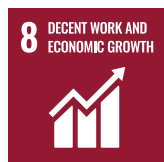


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ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RIGHTS REPORT

MOZAMBIQUE



SUMMARY

How can the European Union (EU) better contribute to building an enabling space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Mozambique? How can the EU support the progressive realization of Economic and Social Rights - that is to say Freedom of Association and the Right to Organise, Decent Work and the Right to Social Protection for all - in connection with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The SOLIDAR Network is active on these themes in Mozambique through its member and partner organisations. During a process led by Solidar Suisse, our Network has held several meetings aimed at discussing the current situation of Economic and Social Rights in Mozambique, as well as define the modalities of a solid partnership between the EU and CSOs in the promotion of these rights.

This publication presents the main results of these exchanges and is structured around two priority axes:

1. Building an Enabling Space for Civil Society Organizations and Human Rights Defenders (SDGs 16 and 17)

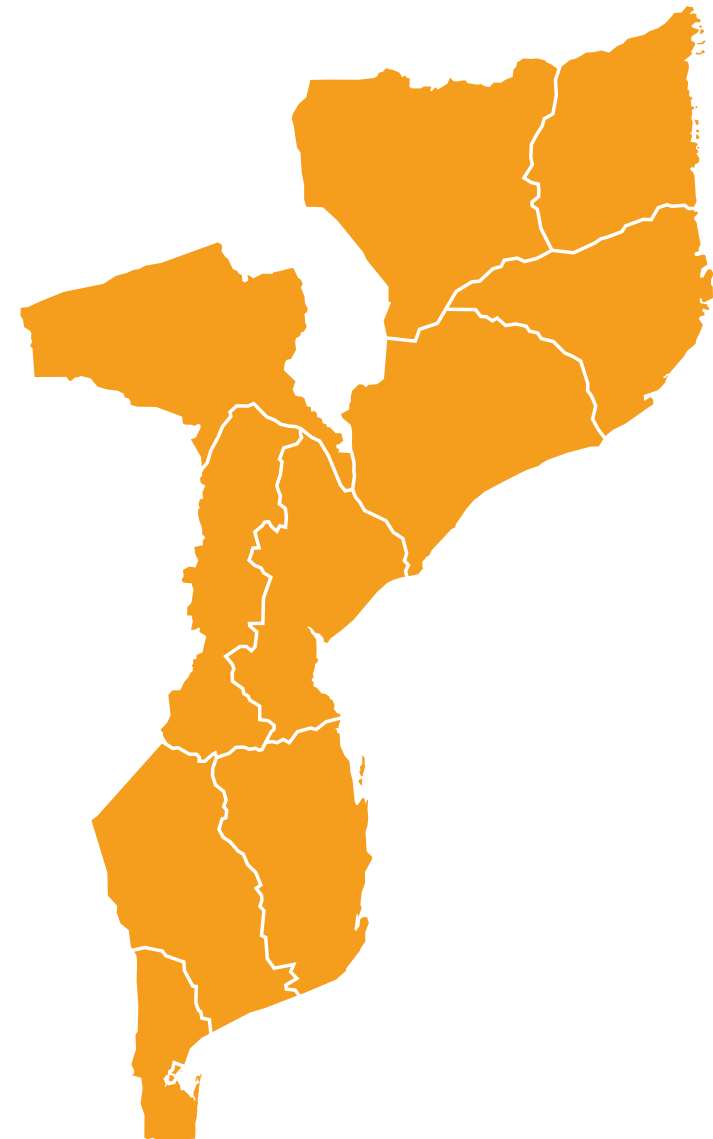


2. Promoting Decent Work and Social Protection for all (SDGs 3, 4 and 8)



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1. ABOUT THE SOLIDAR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS MONITOR

In 2015, all United Nations member states signed up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a global commitment to transform our current model of economic development into one based on respect for human rights and the environment. In 2017 - with the aim of promoting policy coherence for development - the new European Consensus on Development announced the alignment of the development activities of the EU and its member states with the 2030 Agenda.

According to SOLIDAR, the 2030 Agenda constitutes a powerful framework to:

1. Promote a model of sustainable development at the service of the greatest number and not of the few, making the full realization of human and environmental rights its main objective;
2. Ensure the progressive realization of economic and social rights, namely decent work, social protection and freedom of association.

The Economic and Social Rights Monitoring Report (ESRM) is a tool developed by SOLIDAR members and partners within the framework of the EU-funded program “Organizing International Solidarity” (OIS).¹ It aims to collect the views and recommendations of civil society organizations (CSOs) on the contribution of national and European policies and programs to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal, and especially of:



SDG 3: Good health and Wellbeing



SDG 4: Quality Education



SDG 8: Decent Work and economic growth



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

Within this context, the Monitor pays special attention to EU and national contributions to the promotion of (1) an enabling environment for CSOs and Human Rights Defenders and (2) Decent Work and Social Protection for all.

The ESRM thus represents an opportunity for SOLIDAR members and partners to engage in a structured dialogue with the EU over the progressive realization of economic and social rights and the Agenda 3030, and to contribute to the EU Programming for the period 2021-2027.

¹ A presentation of the OIS programme is available at: <https://prezi.com/view/9zuxuivoqUSD3w1pGJSz>



2. MOZAMBIQUE - COUNTRY BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

TABLE 1. MOZAMBIQUE AT A GLANCE

Population ²	30,366,036 (2019)
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ³	€ 13 billion (2019)
Human Development Index (HDI) and rank ⁴	0.446 (180 th out of 189 countries) (2019)
Total public spending on social protection, including health (percentage of GDP) ⁵	4.5% of GDP (2015)
Indicative total budget of the Mozambican NIP ⁶	€ 734 million
Sustainable Development Score (current) ⁷	54.13/100 (140 th out of 193 countries)

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=MZ>

³ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb_results/factsheets/country/overview_mozambique_en.pdf

⁴ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MOZ>

⁵ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_604882.pdf

⁶ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/20151130_uemozambiquenipeng.pdf

⁷ <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/MOZ>



Mozambique is a strategically located country acting as a conduit to global markets for its neighbours. It also has strong ties and shares borders with the economic engine of the Southern African region, South Africa. This context makes Mozambique's economic, political, and social development extremely relevant to the stability and growth of the region as a whole.⁸

After 16-years of civil war, which ended in 1992 with the Rome Peace Agreements, the country established itself as a democracy, holding elections regularly since 1994. The most recent took place in October 2019, and, like for previous polls, the EU, following an invitation from the Mozambican government and the National Electoral Commission (CNE), deployed an Election Observation Mission to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process in accordance with Mozambique's national and international commitments for democratic elections.⁹

Since 1992, the country has also gone through a period of sustained economic growth. Since 2016, Mozambique's track record for high growth has however been disrupted, due to the country's hidden debt crisis coming to light as well as due to the devastating effects brought about by cyclones Idai and Kenneth in 2019.¹⁰

⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique/overview>

⁹ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mozambique/1558/mozambique-and-eu_en; https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eueom_moz2019_final_report_en.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique/overview>

¹¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mozambique/1558/mozambique-and-eu_en

¹² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique/overview>

¹³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/03_01/pdf/mn3012634_en.pdf

¹⁴ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mozambique/1558/mozambique-and-eu_en

COUNTRY CONTEXT HIGHLIGHT - ZOOM ON INTERNAL CONFLICTS

Claims by the main opposition party Renamo (Mozambican National Resistance) about the ill implementation of the 1992 peace agreement have recently resulted in new conflicts mostly in Central Mozambique involving the government forces and Renamo's militarized arm.¹¹ In August 2019, thanks to the support of the EU, a new Definite Peace Agreement was signed, aimed at achieving greater pacification of the country by integrating Renamo residual fighters into the national army, and dismantling Renamo military bases splattered around the national territory. Nonetheless, the Agreement was already repeatedly violated by a Renamo breakaway military faction known as Military Junta. In addition, the Mozambican government is also currently grappling with an Islamist insurgency in parts of the gas-rich province of Cabo-Delgado, which, while initially circumscribed to one locality, is now spreading to other districts and towns in the province. Recent estimates show the conflict killed more than 1,000 people and forced 100,000 from their homes. The risk that violence can continue to spread to other areas of the country is thus high.¹²

When it comes to EU-Mozambican relations, these are mainly bilateral, and are maintained through the legal framework provided by the 2000 Cotonou Agreement,¹³ covering a period of 20 years. The most recent political dialogue between the EU and Mozambique took place in June 2019, and work is currently underway in preparation of the post-Cotonou era, when their partnership will be centered on the wider objective of fighting poverty.¹⁴

The EU and its member states are the largest donors in Mozambique and contribute approximately two thirds of the country’s international aid, estimated at some 20% of the national budget. The most recent development cooperation agreement between the EU and Mozambique is the 2014-2020 National Indicative Plan (NIP), which is in line with the priorities and objectives of the country’s Five-Year Government Program (PQG) 2015-2019.¹⁵

The 2015-2019 PQG is the first of a series of incoming PQGs, and represents the operational instrument through which Mozambique’s long term development strategy (ENDE)¹⁶ for the period 2015-2035 –

whose final objective is to achieve “the improvement of the livelihoods of the population through the structural transformation of the economy, and the expansion and diversification of national production” - is implemented. The yearly implementation of the PQG is carried through the Economic and Social Plan (PES), consisting of a yearly planning tool that represents the main social objectives and goals to be achieved during the next economic year.¹⁷

Based on the vision of the current ENDE and the goals of the 2015-2019 PQG, the NIP¹⁸ establishes the following priorities and related objectives for EU-Mozambican cooperation between 2014 and 2020:

COOPERATION SECTOR	OBJECTIVE	BUDGET (€734 million total)
1. Good Governance and Development	Contribute to poverty eradication, sustainable and inclusive growth and consolidation of democracy, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving cross-cutting service delivery aspects; • addressing constraints on sustainable and inclusive growth; • strengthen core government systems and supporting broader reforms; • fostering domestic accountability and strengthen national control mechanisms to improve governance, including environmental governance; 	367 million (50%)
2. Rural Development	Foster sustainable, inclusive and broad-based economic growth and reduce poverty in targeted rural areas of Mozambique and vulnerability against climate change impacts by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving food security and nutrition status; • enhancing rural competitiveness. 	325 million (44%)

¹⁵ Ibidem

¹⁶ <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/moz147210.pdf>

¹⁷ https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Boards-Documents/MOZAMBIQUE_-_CSP_2018-2022__Final_.pd

¹⁸ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/20151130_uemozambiquenipeng.pdf

In addition, the NIP also allocates 22 million (3%) out of the total budget for the support of civil society organisations, an intervention that is seen as complementary to interventions in Sector 1 (Good Governance) and which aims to strengthen Mozambican domestic accountability mechanisms and transparency in all realms.

In 2020, the Mozambican government approved a new PQG for the 2020-2024 period, presenting 3 priorities: (1) **developing human capital and social justice**; (2) **boosting economic growth, productivity and job creation**; and (3) **ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment**. The interventions in each priority area will be based on the results of actions taken within the three support pillars, namely: i) reinforce democracy and preserve national unity; ii) promote good governance and decentralization; and iii) strengthen international cooperation.

The EU partners are currently in the process of reviewing their cooperation priorities with Mozambique. In light of the context described so far and of the new development objectives defined by the country, and based on the consultations carried out by SOLIDAR's members and partners in the field, this report highlights the following themes to be addressed by the EU in its next Programming priorities (2021-2027) and within the context of its work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mozambique:

- Building an Enabling Space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)
- Promoting Decent Work and ensuring Social Protection for all



3. BUILDING AN ENABLING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (HRDs)

An 'enabling space for CSOs' is the set of conditions that allows civil society and individuals to organize, participate and communicate freely and without discrimination, and in so doing, influence the political and social structures around them (CIVICUS).¹⁹ The rights essential to civic space - the rights to freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression - must be respected both in the context of the values, norms and attitudes of society, as well as in the legal framework, regulatory environment, access to finance and meaningful participation in decision-making of states and other relevant entities.

The 2012 EU Communication entitled 'The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development: Europe's Engagement with Civil Society in External Relations'²⁰ confirmed the EU's desire to establish a stronger and more strategic dialogue with civil society organizations and to involve EU delegations in determining the path for CSOs' participation in policy-making processes.

Moreover, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) as individuals must also be able to accomplish their mission safely and with integrity. Repression, censorship, threats or defamation against HRDs, whether

¹⁹ <https://monitor.civicus.org/FAQs/>

²⁰ https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/burundi/5969/roots-democracy-and-sustainable-development-europes-engagement-civil-society-external-relations_en



they come from states or private actors, must be abolished.²¹ Support for HRDs is thus also an integral part of the European Union's external human rights policy. In situations where the state cannot guarantee the protection of HRDs, or when the state is the oppressor, the international community must intervene through powerful mechanisms of protection for HRDs.

The existence of an environment conducive to CSOs and HRDs is, finally, also a necessary condition for the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Goal 16 - 'Promote the advent of peaceful and inclusive societies for the purposes of sustainable development' - and 17 - 'Partnerships for the achievement of the goals.'

3.1 Building a favourable environment for CSOs and Human Rights Defenders (HDRs) in Mozambique: an overview of the existing provisions

Mozambique is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and it is a signatory to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Civil and political rights are also guaranteed by the Constitution,²² including freedom of expression, thought, assembly as well as press and information. The Mozambican national institutional framework for human rights promotion and protection has two main actors which complement each other: the National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), an independent body which became operational in 2012, and the Ombudsman Office, whose objective is "to ensure the citizens' rights, the protection of

²¹ The Declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution A / RES / 53/144 recognizes the "valuable work of individuals, groups and associations in contributing to the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals", without discriminating between paid or voluntary work, or between professional and non-professional activity. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/53/144>

²² https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Mozambique_2007?lang=en



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



legality and justice in the action of Public Administration.”²³ However, these institutions encounter practical difficulties in carrying out their activities, due to lack of resources and personnel on the one hand, and a gap in the legal provisions for the protection of human rights on the other. As highlighted by the President of the NCHR²⁴ and echoed by the SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique, in fact, the country is still lacking specific national legislation for the protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Reports of human rights violations in Mozambique have escalated in the past five years, as a result of the country’s authorities’ crackdown on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

During the political campaign ahead of the October 2019 elections, opposition members and their supporters were often victims of violence, and several politicians and activists were killed. Among these, Anastácio Matavel, a respected independent election observer, whose murder was attributed to members of an elite police unit. A number of opposition rallies and demonstrations led by civil society groups were also prevented by authorities or violently repressed, as reported by the SOLIDAR Network, and members of civil society, religious bodies and the media have been facing harassment, intimidation and death threats for monitoring, documenting and reporting of irregularities during this and previous elections, as well as when denouncing violations in relations to various other political processes and elite figures.²⁵

On 18 January 2019, Fátima Mimbire, human rights defender and researcher at Centre for Public Integrity (CIP), received intimidating messages and death threats on social media. Later, on 3 May 2019, her attackers also wished her “to be raped by 10 strong and energetic men to teach her a lesson.” Amnesty International reports that “the attacks began on the same day CIP launched a campaign denouncing a move by the Mozambican government seeking to repay over US\$2 billion in loans many people said were secretly and illegally acquired to set up three state-owned companies.”²⁶

In March 2018, human rights defender Ericino de Salema, who was also a political commentator on one of Mozambique’s leading TV programs, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in the country’s capital city and severely beaten, due to his repeated denunciation of abuse of power and embezzlement by the ruling political party FRELIMO (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique). Previously, in May 2016, Jose Jaime Macuane, a professor of political science and fellow commentator of da Salema on the same TV program, was abducted and shot four times in the legs by gunmen who identified themselves as police officers.²⁷

23 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/281/24/PDF/G1528124.pdf?OpenElement>

24 <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/human-rights-defenders-are-a-vulnerable-group-in-mozambique-149046/>

25 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/AMR4110192019ENGLISH.PDF>

26 Ibidem

27 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/13/mozambique-growing-fear-among-activists>





Most recently, on 7 April 2020, Ibraimo Mbaruco, a community radio journalist and newscaster in Cabo Delgado’s Palma district, was forcibly disappeared by the army for his coverage of fighting between government forces and the Al-Shabab Islamist armed group.²⁸ A few days later, police officers also detained Hizidine Acha, a journalist for SOICO, the largest Mozambican private media group, for two hours, and forced him to delete images on his phone and camera, which allegedly showed officers beating people.²⁹

These attacks on journalists and reporters come as part of a broader attempt by the government to dismantle independent media outlets in Mozambique: already in July 2018, in fact, the Council of Ministers had issued a decree (40/2018) “requiring journalists and media organizations to pay prohibitive accreditation and licensing fees for both local and foreign press wanting to report on the country.”³⁰

28 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/mozambique-unprecedented-arson-attack-on-canal-media/>

29 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/17/mozambique-journalist-feared-disappeared>

30 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/AMR4110192019ENGLISH.PDF>

31 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/mozambique-unprecedented-arson-attack-on-canal-media/>

32 <https://www.refworld.org/docid/58ec89f52b.html>

The most symbolic attack on the media to date, nonetheless, took place in August 2020, when the office of the Canal de Moçambique, an independent weekly newspaper, was broken into by an unidentified group. The group poured fuel on the floor, furniture and equipment, and threw a Molotov cocktail, causing an explosion, in an attack that “came four days after the newspaper published an investigative story alleging unethical procurement by politically connected individuals and senior government officials at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy.”³¹

Although the government took steps to investigate this attack, as well as other acts of violence and abuses perpetrated by authorities and the police in recent years, impunity in Mozambique stays high.³²



Legislative and regulatory framework for CSOs

When it comes to civil society organisations, the terms for their formation and operation in Mozambique are dictated by the Law of Associations 8/91 of 18 July (1991). This has not gone through major changes in recent years, the last modification having occurred in 2006, when the government introduced, through Decree-Law 2/2006 of 3 May, an innovation in the process of the recognition of associations that consisted of the decentralisation of powers for their authorization.³³

According to the Law of Associations, foreign NGOs are not permitted to register in Mozambique if their objectives and/or mandate are deemed contrary to national public order. Such restrictions contravene international best practices as set forth by the UN Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.³⁴

Mozambican CSOs, including members and partners of the SOLIDAR Network, have highlighted that, despite the right of association being guaranteed by the constitution and by existing legislation, some CSOs find it hard to go through the process of obtaining legal recognition, due to the excessive and burdensome requirements for their registration. For instance, existing provisions obligating associations to have minimum 10 founding members are onerous, and the documentation required to register, such as certified copies of identity documents and criminal records of each founding member, place an additional burden on CSOs, considering the challenges to securing these documents, especially in rural areas. The costs incurred during the registration process are also excessively high: although a precise fee does not exist, the cost of publishing associations' documents - such as minutes and statutes - in the national Gazette (Bulletin of the Republic - BR), can be prohibitive, corresponding on average to \$440 USD (as of 2015).³⁵

³³ https://www.joint.org.mz/public/assets/documentos/EENA_MOZ_2015_English.pdf

³⁴ <http://www.civicus.org/images/UPR.NGOSubmissionOnMozambique.pdf>

³⁵ https://www.joint.org.mz/public/assets/documentos/EENA_MOZ_2015_English.pdf

In addition, although the registration of organisations should not take more than 45 days, several organisations are experiencing difficulties obtaining their legal recognition. The Mozambican Association for Defense of Sexual Minorities (LAMBADA) is still awaiting registration after 12 years of having presented its request, which confirms the persistence of stigma against LGBT+ individuals and activists in Mozambique, despite the country having been one of the first African countries to have decriminalised homosexuality in 2015.³⁶

Through a process which started in 2008, CSOs have proposed updates to simplify and modernise the existing Law of Associations, including proposing the minimum number of founders to be lowered to 5 and that only an extract of the statutes, containing key information such as names, location, purpose and organs, be required to be published in the Bulletin of the Republic. No news are however available regarding the current state of that proposal.³⁷

3.2 Capacity Building Opportunities for Mozambican CSOs

The right of CSOs to seek out and secure all types of resources is a necessary condition for the full exercise of freedom of association. This primarily involves access to funding, public and private, from national or international sources, in a way that ensures the sustainability of the organization; moreover, it requires the existence of tax legislation adapted to the constraints of CSOs and access to adequate training for CSO staff. Combined, these elements allow CSOs to fully fulfill their role as independent agents of progress.

³⁶ <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/location/mozambique>

³⁷ https://www.joint.org.mz/public/assets/documentos/EENA_MOZ_2015_English.pdf

³⁸ *Ibidem*

³⁹ *Ibidem*



The SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique reports that there is no established mechanism to channel public funds to CSOs in the country. Occasionally, organisations can benefit from public funds coming from the state for the realisation of activities that are of public interest and that the government finances either through its own internal resources or through its development partners. This is the case, for example, for CSOs that implement services in the area of HIV and AIDS, who can access the funds of the National Council to Combat AIDS (CNCS) and the District Development Fund (FDD).³⁸

Most of the funding for NGOs and CSOs comes from international donors, including foreign governments (Development Partners), multilateral and international organisations. In order for local CSOs to become eligible to access these funds, however, the basic requirement is that they are legally registered with the state. This has been one of the main barriers hindering the access of CSOs to funding, especially for community-based CSOs.³⁹

The EU and its member states, which remain the largest development donors in Mozambique, have identified, through the 2016-2019 EU & Partners' Country Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in

Mozambique,⁴⁰ 3 priorities which will inform their work to support civil society in the country, namely: (1) building an enabling environment conducive for the development of a strong, diversified and sustainable civil society in Mozambique; (2) encouraging civil society participation in dialogue on governance systems and development policies becomes more effective; and (3) ensuring that civil society participates more effectively in policy monitoring and service delivery at local level. Funding to achieve these objectives and finance civil society organisations has been made available mainly through the EU Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), contracts that are directly managed by the EU Delegation on the ground.⁴¹ During the 2013-2018 period, the Non-State Actors Support Programme (PAANE) was also funded by the EU (10th EDF) and implemented by the Mozambican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, with the aim of supporting projects in the area of civic education for youth and dialogue between CSOs and public authorities.⁴²

The SOLIDAR Network confirms that the EU has been periodically launching several calls for proposals to allocate funding to CSOs. However, access to these funds remains difficult, due to the prohibitive requirements of the application process, which demands the elaboration of comprehensive and convincing project proposals (concept notes) that are often above CSOs' institutional capacity. Moreover, most funding does not cover administrative costs, hindering CSOs ability to operate and file applications.

As for training and capacity building opportunities, our Network reports that while these are not provided by the government, they are however available via other NGOs, as well as via the EU, for example through



the Action Programme for an Inclusive and Accountable Governance (AGIR),⁴³ and the EU Delegation, which often carries out training on how to access EU funds. The SOLIDAR Network however signals that, even when trainings are available, access to learning facilities remains a challenge especially to the rural population, as most skill training centres and secondary schools are located over 20km away from most communities. Also, trainings for organisations working with and for vulnerable groups are rarely made available.

⁴⁰ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-governance-civilsociety/documents/mozambique-eu-country-roadmap-engagement-civil-society>

⁴¹ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/where-we-work/mozambique_en

⁴² https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/20151020_mappingstudy_onlineversion.pdf

⁴³ *ibidem*

3.3 Promoting an enabling environment and a strong civil society in Mozambique: SOLIDAR Network's recommendations

Meaningful citizen participation in decision-making, whether it be domestic, international or in EU programming, is an essential component of democracy. The involvement of civil society is necessary to ensure that development cooperation promotes the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that no one is left behind. Meaningful participation in political decision-making can only be achieved through the establishment of a mechanism for systematic dialogue between the government, stakeholders and CSOs, as well as through the existence of follow-up activity requiring the authorities to report back to citizens.

The SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique reports that some improvements have been achieved in the last few years in regards to CSOs engagement in the political process, with CSOs being more involved in policy-making both through advocacy, lobbying and participation in hearing sessions. For example, in the last few years CSOs have been able to influence the drafting of the Right to Information Law (2014) and the revision of the Family Law (2018) - obtaining the withdrawal of provisions allowing underage marriage.

Nonetheless, as highlighted by our Network, Mozambican CSOs' commitment and desire to participate in the country's governance and development process is still hampered by their limited capacity and knowledge base. Moreover, there are still very few opportunities which allow CSO members to come together to discuss, exchange and reflect on the challenges they face and on possible common actions. In addition, the government is yet to put in place a **systematic mechanism for public consultations on policy proposals and decisions, as well as to guarantee transparency on why and how civil society recommendations and inputs are welcomed or rejected.**



Looking at the EU, given the multiplicity of CSOs existent, there is no doubt that it is difficult for the European Union Delegations (EUD) to ensure a truly inclusive and participatory political consultation process. The SOLIDAR Network is committed to supporting the European Union and the EUDs reach a wider audience and develop a more horizontal approach in working with CSOs (for example, by agreeing to define criteria and methods for working together so as to ensure a truly inclusive and participatory consultation process), as well as identify areas of interest for collaboration between the EU and its partner countries, based on the expertise and insight of our network's field-based organisations.

Drawing on the elements reviewed so far in regard to Mozambique's provisions on the protection and promotion of an enabling environment for HRDs and CSOs and citizens' participation to public decision making, and in view of the Von der Leyen's Commission geopolitical priorities⁴⁴ - especially its commitment to supporting civil society around the world by guaranteeing its involvement in decision-making processes, as well as its commitment to safeguarding fundamental rights - SOLIDAR recommends the EU to dedicate special efforts to the following issues within the context of its development cooperation work in Mozambique:

- Putting pressure on the Mozambican government to guarantee respect of individuals' fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, thought and information, as well as supporting the government in ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violence against Human Rights Defenders, including members of law enforcement units;
- Advising the Mozambican government to adopt new legislation targeted specifically at the protection of Human Rights Defenders, as well as to allocate more resources to guarantee the effective

- and efficient activities of the Ombudsman Office and the National Commission on Human Rights; the EU should moreover encourage the government to improve the dissemination of existing national and international legal, management and monitoring instruments and documents, such as national strategy plans, international conventions and the Sustainable Development Agenda, that most people currently have no access to or knowledge of;
- Supporting the government in:
 - creating a public funding mechanisms for CSOs and providing more training opportunities to strengthen Mozambican civil society;
 - establishing a systematic political consultation system to guarantee civil society participation in the policy-making process;
 - reforming the Laws on Association based on CSOs suggestions, including simplifying the process of publication of documents on the government's Gazette and ensuring the lowering of procedural costs, so as to not discriminate against smaller and community-based organisations in the registration process.
- Simplifying EU process and requirements to access funding for CSOs, providing accessible and thematic training opportunities (including training and funding specifically targeted at people working with vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, and for CSOs outside the capital of Maputo) to allow organisations to grow capacity in drafting project proposals. Moreover, EU funding should cover administrative costs incurred by CSOs in their funding application process and project execution.

⁴⁴ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/policy-forum-development/wiki/virtual-regional-meetings-july>



4. PROMOTING DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL

According to the definition of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Decent Work consists of the combination of four elements: the free choice of work, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue. Decent Work is an integral part of Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As for the right to social protection, this is a necessary precondition not only for the achievement of Decent Work but also for development more generally. Indeed, social protection is an essential tool to reduce and prevent poverty, social inequality, exclusion and insecurity, to

promote equality of opportunity, as well as to support the transition from informal to formal employment. By adopting Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors (2012),⁴⁵ the member states of the ILO have committed to guaranteeing every human being's access to:

- The security of an income throughout life, in the form of various social transfers (in cash or in kind);
- The availability, affordability and quality of a set of essential services, including health care and education.

⁴⁵ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_165750.pdf





By virtue of their membership in the Organization, all ILO members also have an obligation to respect, promote and fulfill the following fundamental rights:

- freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining (Conventions Nos. 87 and 98);
- the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor (Conventions Nos. 29 and 105);
- the effective abolition of child labor (Conventions Nos. 138 and 182);
- the elimination of discrimination in respect to employment and occupation (Conventions Nos. 100 and 111).

All these commitments have been upheld by the UN SDGs agenda, and namely by SDG 3 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages', SDG 4 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' and SDG 8 'Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all'.

4

QUALITY
EDUCATION



3

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



8

DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



4.1 Rights at work in Mozambique

Mozambique has ratified 19 ILO Conventions and two Protocols, including the 8 fundamental ones and 3 of the 4 Priority Conventions. The most recent ratification dates back to 2018, when the country signed C176 on Safety and Health in Mines.⁴⁶

The 2007 Labour Law⁴⁷ is, after the Constitution, the main legal instrument that defines the general principles and rights at work in Mozambique, governing individual and collective labour relations, and it applies to both national and foreign employers and employees operating in the country. Further complementary legislation also exists which is applicable to employment relationships, such as social insurance and protection provisions.

In particular, the Social Protection Law No. 4/2007 defines social security as a right for all citizens, and establishes 3 pillars:

- the Mandatory Social Security subsystem (SSO), reformed in 2017 by Decree No. 51/2017, registration to which is compulsory for formal sectors employees, and whose objective is to provide income security to those who face a reduction in their physical capacity, including due to aging. For private sector workers, this is financed through shared contributions between employer and employee, who contribute 4% and 3% of the worker's salary respectively;
- The Complementary Social Security subsystem (SSC), designed to regulate the private insurance market;

- The Basic Social Security subsystem (SSB), regulated by Decree 47/2018, which provides social transfers to the labor-constrained and vulnerable, who live in a situation of absolute poverty, and which is financed primarily by the State.⁴⁸

In 2010, Mozambique also approved the first National Basic Social Security Strategy (ENSSB I) for the period 2010–2014, including a set of old (e.g. SSB) and new (e.g. the Productive Social Action Programme - PASP, a public work scheme) non-contributory social protection programmes. Between 2010 and 2014 there were significant advances, including an increase in the number of beneficiary households of these programmes which passed from 254,000 to 427,000. In 2016, the Government of Mozambique approved ENSSB II for 2016–2024, whose objective is to reach 3.4 million direct beneficiaries by 2024, or approximately 10% of the population, with the most significant increase in coverage expected to be for the child grant, followed by the old-age grant.⁴⁹

Despite the expansion of social security and protection schemes for households and workers in recent years, several challenges still remain for Mozambique, especially when it comes to the institutional capacity to effectively implement these programs, as well as their coverage. So far, in fact, contribution-based social insurance mechanisms only cover about 6% of the labour force, one of the reasons being that the vast majority (estimated between 68% and 95%) is not in formal employment, but rather works in the informal economy, and especially in low-pay, low-productivity jobs in agriculture, often being paid daily and on a task-based system. In general, 80% of the working population still earns less than \$2 a day.⁵⁰

46 https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11200:0::NO::P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102964

47 <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/75998/79683/F1485749728/MOZ75998En.pdf>

48 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abicjan/---ilo-lusaka/documents/publication/wcms_723742.pdf

49 https://ipcig.org/pub/eng/OP339_Social_protection_reform_in_Mozambique.pdf

50 https://set.odi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Economic-transformation-and-job-creation-in-Mozambique-Full-Synthesis-Paper_Oct-2017.pdf



Together with a lack of social protection, the SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique reports that many workers also lack employment security and a decent salary, receiving wages below the national minimum fixed by law - which trade unions have also pointed out is not sufficient in itself to cover for the basket of basic goods and services for an average family -⁵¹ as well as being employed based on temporary contracts which allow employers to easily lay them off. In addition, many companies work on the fringes of the law, with no internal regulations and only a nominal relationship with trade unions. Some employers even prohibit the establishment of trade union committees or a basic representative body of trade unions in the company. The process of wage negotiation above the minimum salary is moreover almost non-existent in many businesses, and there is a widespread lack of employers' compliance with occupational health and safety measures at work.

Gender discrimination in employment also persists: there is a large gender gap in terms of the quality and intensity of employment in Mozambique, with women being less likely than men to work in the emerging non-subsistence sector, as well as in the public sector or as employers, while being more likely to work as self-employed or as unpaid family workers,⁵² which often translates into them receiving very low wages and lacking any form of social security. Moreover, the SOLIDAR Network also highlights that although maternity leave allowance was increased to 90 days for women, men remain entitled only to 7 days of paternity leave, reflecting an entrenched and systematic gender bias when it comes to care and housework.

Child Labour

Mozambique has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor as well as it has adopted national legislation to combat this practice, which was further strengthened in recent years: in November

⁵¹ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202003200527.html>

⁵² <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/saje.12220>



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2018, the government amended the Law on the National System of Education, raising the minimum compulsory education age to 15, as well as it proposed and then passed a revision of the Labour Code establishing 15 as the minimum age for light work, eliminating previous provisions that allowed such work since age 12.⁵³ The minimum working age without restrictions is instead set at 18,⁵⁴ but this only applies to children working in formal employment.

Despite the existence of these provisions, child labour remains widespread in the country: 22.5% of children age 5-14 work and 22.4% of those aged 7-14 combine both work and school. Children engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in forced domestic work, as well as they perform dangerous tasks in the production of tobacco and are subjected to forced domestic work,

agriculture, street vending and commercial sexual exploitation in urban areas in Mozambique and South Africa. Some reports also indicate cases of children in situations of debt bondage in the artisanal mining sector. Several accidents, including some that resulted in deaths, have been documented by local authorities in this sector.⁵⁵

Recently, the government of Mozambique launched the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2017-2022), “aiming to map 70% of occurrences of worst forms of child labor by province and activity, and withdraw 20,000 children from the worst forms of child labor, in order to enroll them in the Basic Social Subsidy program”, that is a government and donor-funded program providing financial help to orphaned children, and aiming to improve their secondary school attendance.⁵⁶

⁵³ https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2018/Mozambique.pdf; <https://www.humanium.org/en/mozambique/>

⁵⁴ <https://mz.usembassy.gov/mozambique-2018-human-rights-report/>

⁵⁵ https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2018/Mozambique.pdf

⁵⁶ <https://www.humanium.org/en/mozambique/>

4.1.1 Promoting Decent Work in Mozambique: SOLIDAR Network's recommendations

The guarantee of Decent Work and the protection of workers rights is a sine qua non for the realization of Economic and Social Rights, and is integral part of Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For this reason, and based on the evidence provided in regard to Mozambique's protection of rights at work and the challenges still faced by the country in this realm, the SOLIDAR network calls for the EU to:

- Support the Mozambican government through financing and technical advice in eradicating informal employment and to support workers, especially those more vulnerable such as women in unpaid work, through the transition to formal employment. This requires employers to pay contributory benefits also for daily and casual workers;
- Offer capacity building and training opportunities on collective bargaining to trade unions so as to strengthen and empower Mozambican workers and trade union networks, and provide funding and/or opportunities for education on the value and role of trade unions in economic development and collective bargaining to employers;
- Fight child labour by setting up control mechanisms such as multi-partner observatories (institutions, CSOs, cooperation agencies) to monitor and report of cases of violation of children, human and labour rights and keep institutions and employers accountable.

⁵⁷ <https://www.globalpartnership.org/where-we-work/mozambique>

⁵⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/en/education>

⁵⁹ <https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/en/education>

4.2 Universal Access to Education

Education - including lifelong learning - reduces inequalities and promotes gender equality. Everyone should have the right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, in order to maintain and acquire the skills necessary to participate fully in society and successfully manage transitions in the labor market.

In Mozambique primary education (divided in lower and upper primary) is free and compulsory. Its duration has been lengthened from seven to nine years through the 2018 reform to the Law on the National System of Education.⁵⁷ The education sector receives the highest share of the state budget, over 15 per cent, which has translated into a significant rise in primary school enrolment over the past decade.⁵⁸

Despite these improvements, however, about 1.2 million children remain out of school, more girls than boys, with enrollment stagnating especially in upper primary and secondary school.⁵⁹ Discrimination also persists against children with disabilities, including children with albinism, which experience rejection from school, the community, and sometimes their own families, putting them at risk of being kidnapped and trafficked, due to superstitious beliefs linked to their body parts, which supposedly bring wealth and good luck.

Quality of education and improvement in learning are also problematic: according to a 2017 study assessing, based on a representative sample, Sub-Saharan African children's basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, 79% of Mozambican children cannot read a simple word in Portuguese, only 18% can add double digits, and even less can perform other basic arithmetic calculations. The reason for this are varied, one of them being the low level of education of teachers: for example, the same study found that less than 60 percent of math

teachers in Mozambique are able to perform multiplications with double digits, while no teacher resulted able to confidently correct (that is, scored 80% or more in the test given to assess this skill within the study) children’s work in such aspects as literacy, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and formal correctness.⁶⁰ Furthermore, the levels of absenteeism of teachers from schools is also extremely high, almost 1 in 2 being absent from the classroom during school hours,⁶¹ which contributes to the outcome of children effectively having only 74 out of the 190 expected school days in the year.⁶²

Finally, as underlined by the SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique, another major obstacle to education remains accessibility, especially for children in rural areas, who are forced to travel long distances to reach their schools, which also often lack adequate infrastructure. Other factors of discrimination in the rural setting include scarce access to water and sanitation, lack of information and communication devices, lack of electricity as well as child labor and malnutrition.⁶³

In general, schools are also not always safe spaces for children in Mozambique, and especially for girls, as physical and sexual abuse is widespread, with reports pointing to male teachers demanding sex from female students.⁶⁴

In order to meet the challenges of the education sector, the government of Mozambique recently launched a new Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2020-2029 which presents 3 priorities:

1. **“Ensure inclusion and equity in access, participation, and retention** by securing all children, youth, and adults’ access to a full cycle of school readiness, primary and lower secondary education”;

60 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25964/WPS7956.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
61 *Ibidem*
62 <https://www.globalpartnership.org/where-we-work/mozambique>
63 <https://www.humanium.org/en/mozambique/>
64 https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2018/Mozambique.pdf



A green triangular graphic containing three white icons representing Sustainable Development Goals: a book and pencil for Quality Education (SDG 4), a heart with a pulse line for Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), and a bar chart with an upward arrow for Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8).

2. “Ensure the quality of learning by making sure that children, youth, and adults acquire basic literacy, numeracy, and life skills”;
3. “Ensure transparent, participatory, efficient, and effective governance by enhancing the capacities of ministry of education’s staff to enable education sector planners and managers to practice evidence-based policy and strategy.”⁶⁵

Moreover, the plan also takes into account natural disasters, which affected the implementation of the previous plan, and includes a stronger gender focus across all priorities.⁶⁶



⁶⁵ <https://www.globalpartnership.org/where-we-work/mozambique>

⁶⁶ *Ibidem*

⁶⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/our-work_en

4.2.1 Ensuring quality education in Mozambique: SOLIDAR Network’s recommendations

The achievement of an inclusive and equitable quality education is an integral part of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Agenda. There are many challenges in Mozambique which still require attention in this sector in order for the country to achieve this Goal.

Especially, the SOLIDAR Network highlights the following areas of improvement, which should receive special attention by the EU in its cooperation with Mozambique in the context of the 2021-2027 EU Programming, and which would contribute to the achievement of the Commission’s priorities of increasing human capital through the promotion of education and skills, as well as of safeguarding fundamental rights, gender equality and women empowerment.⁶⁷ The EU should:

- Support the Mozambican government, through financing and technical advice, in improving the management and resources of public education services, directing special attention to
 - improving education quality through teacher training;
 - establishing control mechanisms to fight absenteeism in schools, together with guaranteeing teacher appropriate housing, the lack of which remains one of the main factors causing absenteeism in rural schools;
 - providing adequate school equipment and new transport and school infrastructures to ensure education accessibility to children in remote rural areas;

- Promote campaigns and programs to fight sexual harassment and discrimination in schools, in favour of girls empowerment, gender equality, and the social integration of vulnerable children, such as children with disabilities.

4.3 Universal Access to Health

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. Good health enhances quality of life, increases capacity for learning, strengthens families and communities and improves workforce productivity. Governments have a responsibility for the health of their people, and guaranteeing them access to quality and affordable healthcare is an expression of social justice.

The Mozambican health system is characterised by a mixture of public and private sector actors, including not-for-profit organisations, although the public sector remains the main healthcare provider, with a network covering about 60% of the population.⁶⁸ Decree 9/1992 regulates the private health sector and establishes the fees that private providers must pay to the State to maintain their license to practice. The fees constitute state revenue and are reimbursed to the Ministry of Health. The public health budget is mainly financed through donor funds (49%), with the government contributing 46% as of 2016.⁶⁹

Thanks to the successful process of socio-economic development that the country has gone through in the last 20 years, Mozambique achieved good progress in terms of improving population-average health. For instance, life expectancy at birth has risen from 45 years in 1995 to 58 years in 2016 and today 97% of pregnant women receive at

⁶⁸ <https://www.uhcpartnership.net/country-profile/mozambique/>

⁶⁹ <https://thinkwell.global/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AID-656-C-17-00002-Private-Sector-Final-Revised-Report.pdf>

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least one antenatal care visit. In general, access to primary healthcare has also improved.⁷⁰

Nonetheless, the country's average health outcomes continue to rank poorly in a global perspective, as Mozambique still registers one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world, and 43% of its under-fives are affected by malnutrition. Moreover, communicable diseases remain widespread, and represent the main cause of death in the country: 29% of all deaths are attributable to malaria, 27% to HIV/AIDS (Mozambique has in fact the eighth highest HIV prevalence in the world),⁷¹ 6% to perinatal conditions and 4% each to both diarrhoeal diseases and lower respiratory infections. Large differences in mortality also exist across urban and rural locations, with malaria being the leading cause of death in rural zones and HIV/AIDS being responsible for most deaths in urban zones.⁷²

As highlighted by the SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique, the rural-urban divide is also relevant when it comes to availability and accessibility of health services, as more than half of Mozambicans, especially those living in rural areas, must walk an hour or more to their nearest health facility. Medicine stockouts are common, and the doctor/patient ratio remains extremely high in the country, as there are only three doctors per 100,000 people - a proportion that is among the lowest in the world -⁷³ and only 7 hospital beds for each 10,000 inhabitants (based on 2011 data).⁷⁴

70 <https://www.usaid.gov/mozambique/global-health>; <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09581596.2020.1769838>

71 https://www.healthpolicyproject.com/pubs/7887/Mozambique_HFP.pdf

72 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09581596.2020.1769838>

73 <https://www.usaid.gov/mozambique/global-health>

74 <https://www.uhcpartnership.net/country-profile/mozambique/>

Moreover, systems for tracking, motivating and retaining staff are weak, and frontline health providers are often poorly trained and have limited management skills,⁷⁵ as well as being poorly paid. Our Network reports in fact that minimum wages for essential workers - with the exception of those working in electricity and water supply services, and financial services - including healthcare workers such as nurses, remain at the bottom of the salary scale in Mozambique, together with agriculture and public administration workers.

In general, then, the Mozambican healthcare sector is still facing many challenges. The government is committed to improving quality and access to healthcare services for the Mozambican population in view of achieving universal health coverage, and in 2013 published its most recent Health Sector Strategic Plan (PESS 2014-2019), comprising 7 strategic objectives, including: (1) increase access and utilization of health services; (2) improve quality of service provision; (3) reduce geographic inequities and between different population groups in accessing and utilization of health services; (4) improve efficiency on service provision and resource utilization; (5) Strengthen partnerships for health; (6) increase transparency and accountability on management of public goods; (7) strengthen Mozambican Health system.⁷⁶

⁷⁵ <https://www.usaid.gov/mozambique/global-health>

⁷⁶ <https://www.uhcpartnership.net/country-profile/mozambique/>

⁷⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/our-work_en

4.3.1 Ensuring quality healthcare in Mozambique: SOLIDAR Network's recommendations

Goal 3 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda consists in ensuring healthy lives and promoting people's well-being at all ages. The achievement of this goal is a fundamental precondition for the achievement of full Economic and Social Rights and of Decent Work. Ensuring the provision of good quality and accessible healthcare is also part of the European Commission's current priorities, being considered as one of the main prerequisites necessary to increase countries' human capital and thus their capacity for development, as well as guarantee the respect of individuals' fundamental rights.⁷⁷

In light of this context, the SOLIDAR Network recommends the EU to support Mozambican citizens' access to healthcare by implementing the following actions:

- Support the Mozambican government, through continued financing and technical advice, to fight the spread and treat communicable diseases in Mozambique through the implementation of ad hoc health programs;
- Support the Mozambican government in bridging the urban-rural gap in terms of health services' provision and quality, by investing in new and accessible health infrastructure, as well as in improved training for medical personnel and in an increase in their national minimum salary as well as staff housing.

5. THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the lives of people in Mozambique. On 30 March 2020, the President of the Republic declared a State of Emergency due to public calamity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which were set out a series of exceptional and temporary measures regarding freedom and guarantees for individuals and related to the economic-financial and industrial sector.⁷⁸

The SOLIDAR Network on the ground reports that the work of civil society organisations and trade unions has been deeply affected by the social distancing measures imposed by the government, as fieldwork and in-person meetings (e.g. of trade unions with workers, and community meetings for people with disabilities) had to be suspended. Meetings with authorities and policy makers have also become more difficult, which affected NGOs' ability to influence policy making and political decisions, and so has the coordination of joint planning, projects and follow-up activities. Many meetings have moved online and, like in most of the world, employees have tended to work from home whenever possible.

In terms of economic and social rights, these have become even more at risk as a result of the pandemic, as the latter has exacerbated existing insecurities, especially for workers. In fact, unemployment is on the rise as a result of the COVID-19 crisis,

with initial government estimates predicting this could increase by as much as 7 to 10 percentage points, from the current 20% rate to 27-30%,⁷⁹ and, as highlighted by our Network, the job loss will affect especially the most vulnerable communities, such as informal workers and people with disabilities, as these groups are the first to be laid off by employers. Work precariousness and irregularity are also predicted to increase, as well as survival activities among workers trying to compensate for demand-induced losses in income. Moreover, although the government has attempted to strengthen social protection and health services in view of the pandemic, existing provisions and infrastructure are not resilient or extensive enough to effectively cover workers and people's needs.

Within this context, the SOLIDAR Network in Mozambique urges the EU to support the work of CSOs and trade unions on the ground through the allocation of emergency funding for initiatives such as the provision of food and hygiene kits, especially for the most vulnerable communities, as well as awareness and education activities to prevent the spread of the virus.

⁷⁸ https://www.srslegal.pt/xms/files/Information_Note_-_State_of_Emergency_in_Mozambique_.pdf

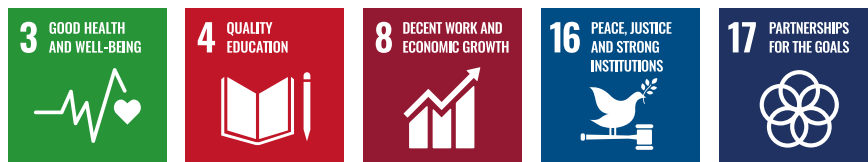
⁷⁹ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/coronavirus/socio-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html>

6. CONCLUSIONS

The promotion of Economic and Social Rights and of a favourable and enabling environment for CSOs and Human Rights Defenders is an essential prerequisite for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its response policies, and the hardship that these have and will continue to cause on people's lives, especially when it comes to their ability to work, to access public services such as health and education, not to mention their ability to exercise fundamental freedoms such as freedom of assembly, make the promotion of economic and social rights and the strengthening of countries' civil society fabric all the more urgent.

The ongoing EU Programming process represents a true opportunity to address these issues and make sure that economic and social rights and the achievement of the SDGs will be the backbone of future EU work with partner countries, a work that SOLIDAR is ready to support. More particularly, and in line with the European Consensus and the 2019 Von der Leyen Commission priorities, the SOLIDAR network makes the following recommendations to the EU, in regard to (1) building of an enabling environment for CSOs and (2) promoting decent work and social protection in Mozambique.



IN REGARDS TO BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOS AND HRDS, THE SOLIDAR NETWORK CALLS FOR THE EU TO:

- Put pressure on the Mozambican government to guarantee respect of individuals' fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, thought and information, as well as support the government in ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violence against Human Rights Defenders, including members of law enforcement units;
- Advise the Mozambican government to adopt new legislation targeted specifically at the protection of Human Rights Defenders, as well as allocate more resources to guarantee the effective and efficient activities of the Ombudsman Office and the National Commission on Human Rights; the EU should moreover encourage the government to improve the dissemination of existing national and international legal, management and monitoring instruments and documents, such as national strategy plans, international conventions and the Sustainable Development Agenda, that most people currently have no access to or knowledge of;
- Support the government in:
 - creating a public funding mechanisms for CSOs and providing more training opportunities to strengthen the Mozambican civil society fabric;
 - establishing a systematic political consultation system to guarantee civil society participation in the policy-making process;



- reforming the Laws on Association based on CSOs suggestions, including simplifying the process of publication of documents on the government’s Gazette and ensuring the lowering of procedural costs, so as to not discriminate against smaller and community-based organisations in the registration process.

- Simplify EU process and requirements to access funding for CSOs, providing accessible and thematic training opportunities (including training and funding specifically targeted at people working with vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, and for CSOs outside the capital of Maputo) to allow organisations to grow capacity in drafting project proposals. Moreover, EU funding should cover administrative costs incurred by CSOs in their funding application process and project execution.

IN REGARDS TO THE PROMOTION OF DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL, THE SOLIDAR NETWORK CALLS FOR THE EU TO:

Decent work

- Support the Mozambican government through financing and technical advice in eradicating informal employment and to support workers, especially those more vulnerable such as women in unpaid work, through the transition to formal employment. This requires employers to pay contributory benefits also for daily and casual workers;
- Offer capacity building and training opportunities on collective bargaining to trade unions so as to strengthen and empower Mozambican workers and trade union networks, and provide funding and/or opportunities for education on the value and role of trade unions in economic development and collective bargaining to employers;
- Fight child labour by setting up control mechanisms such as multi-partner observatories (institutions, CSOs, cooperation agencies) to monitor and report of cases of violation of children, human and labour rights and keep institutions and employers accountable.



**IN REGARDS TO THE PROMOTION OF DECENT WORK
AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL, THE SOLIDAR NETWORK CALLS FOR THE EU TO:**

Access to education

- Support the Mozambican government through financing and technical advice in improving the management and resources of public education services, directing special attention to
 - improving education quality through teacher training;
 - establishing control mechanisms to fight absenteeism in schools, together with guaranteeing teacher appropriate housing, the lack of which remains one of the main factors causing absenteeism in rural schools;
 - providing adequate school equipment and new transport and school infrastructure
 - Promote campaigns and programs to fight sexual harassment and discrimination in schools, in favour of girls empowerment, gender equality, and the social integration of vulnerable children, such as children with disabilities.
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Access to healthcare

- Support the Mozambican government, through continued financing and technical advice, to fight the spread and treat communicable diseases in Mozambique through the implementation of ad hoc health programs;
 - Support the Mozambican government in bridging the urban-rural gap in terms of health services' provision and quality, by investing on new and accessible health infrastructure, as well as in improved training for medical personnel and an increase in their national minimum salary.
-

EU Commission Priorities and SOLIDAR Members Work in Mozambique



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND JOBS

ISCOS and **Solidar Suisse** contribute to the reduction of vulnerable employment and the guarantee of minimal standards in all forms of labour relations. They promote the strong organization of workers, and their self-organization, and strengthen national and regional decent work alliances, campaigns and networks in the Southern Africa region.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY



Plataforma Da Sociedade Civil Para Saúde - PLASOC, **Solidar Suisse** and **Grupo Mozambicano da Divida - GMD** work on strengthening autonomous and democratic civil society organizations and their networks. They promote better access to quality public services and resources (water, health, education) for marginalised populations, by means of participatory and democratic processes of planning and budgeting, as well as they promote participatory, transparent and democratic processes of accountability and decision making in elaborating and implementing Development Plans on district, municipal and provincial level.

Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos - IESE conducts social and economic studies and research, producing evidence and recommendations that contribute to sustainable development policy making in Mozambique.

CONTRIBUTING ORGANISATIONS

Solidar Suisse

Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos - IESE

Plataforma Da Sociedade Civil Para Saúde - PLASOC

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Grupo Mozambicano da Divida - GMD

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Organising International Solidarity (OIS)

*A presentation of the OIS programme can be found at the following link:
<https://prezi.com/view/9zuxuivovqUSD3w1pGJSz/>*