

Mozambique

General information on Mozambique

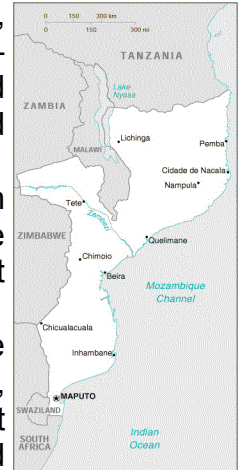
The first inhabitants of Mozambique are thought to be the southern African Khoisan, followed by the Bantu. Bantu culture had a strong social structure, which was centred around the chief and family ties. They had sophisticated farming methods and developed techniques that allowed them to exploit natural resources such as gold and iron.

The first Europeans arrived with Vasco da Gama in 1498, and established their own outposts for trading purposes between Europe and India. Ivory and slaves were the main commodities, estimates place the number of Mozambicans sold into slavery at 1 million.

The Portuguese remained on the coast until the 17th Century, when they were threatened by other colonial powers during the 'Scramble for Africa' in the 1880s, and began to move inland. The Portuguese did little to develop the country, but rather used it as a resource, supplying the South African mines with labour, and trading with Rhodesia (modern day Zimbabwe).

During the 1920s cash crops were introduced, and all men over the age of 15 were obliged to work on the plantations for half of the year in conditions that amounted to slave labour. This resulted in a shortage of food and subsistence farming, famines were common and during the 1940s and 1950s starvation killed many Mozambicans. After much fighting and an organised independence movement by the Mozambicans, in 1975, the 'Independent People's Republic' of Mozambique was declared, but within a few years the country was engulfed in civil war. Peace was reached in 1992 and in 1994 Mozambique was ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world. Since then, Mozambique has undertaken a series of economic reforms and the country is beginning to improve.

Oasis Mozambique's vision is to see people rich in faith, hope and love working together to transform



The Vision

society. Working in Beira with churches, schools, non-governmental organisations and government, we seek to impact children, young people and communities through many activities such as educational children's clubs, community based courses and clean-up events, community water points, youth leadership training, moral education in schools and facilitating cultural exchanges. Teams from overseas are placed in churches to strengthen and encourage the local Mozambican church whilst giving team participants the opportunity to put their faith into practice.

Through courses focusing on health, skills training and micro-enterprise, people are empowered to

Community development



transform their difficult lives. Partnerships are also developed within communities between churches and other agencies to facilitate adult literacy classes, clean up days and improved access to clean water.

Oasis Mozambique

Child Development

Children in Mozambique are given much responsibility from an early age, they are often seen as adults in training. In Education Alive children aged 7-12 are taught about different themes which focus on health, hygiene, personal safety and self esteem to help them live, rather than survive. The children learn these skills through art, music, drama and games, as they are not taught these skills in primary school. We also work in primary schools and child care centres and in local communities to empower people to take action to prevent child abuse.



Just Education

The major objectives of Just Education are; that teachers are able to teach with integrity and transparency, that young people are equipped with skills to live and work with integrity, and that schools provide a positive learning environment providing equal opportunity to vacancies and just and fair treatment in class and exams. Just Education aims to reach its goals through Activities in the three key areas of Capacity Building, Advocacy and Anti-Corruption.

You will be living with Mozambican families in your pairs or triplet; you are unlikely to live with families

Accommodation

from your church as the churches are in areas where the accommodation is very basic and people can't generally spare a bedroom. We will place you with Christian families that we know and who live closer to the centre of Beira (and therefore closer to each other, the beach, internet cafés, supermarket, Oasis offices etc.)

The accommodation will be secure and we will make sure that there are water filters and mosquito netting in the windows etc. The flats or houses where you live will be quite basic by English standards but pretty nice by Mozambican standards. You will have electricity and running water (although in some parts of town the water only runs in the mornings in the evenings) and a room between the two of you. Bring a torch as power cuts are quite common. Living with a family can be quite an intense situation and will need patience at times, with the communication difficulties, with the lack of personal space and with everything being so different. But teams tend to agree that overall it's a great experience, for the relationships that are formed and because spending with your family helps massively with learning Portuguese and gives teams a good introduction to the culture and the way that Mozambicans live.

Capital: Maputo

Fast Facts

Currency:	Metical (MTn) (100 centavos = 1 metical)
Population:	16,099,246 (July 2004 est.), indigenous tribal groups 99.66%
Language:	Portuguese (official language – widely spoken in Beira alongside Sena and Ndau)
Religion:	indigenous beliefs 50%, Christian 30%, Muslim 20%
Life Expectancy:	Male: 37.83 years Female: 36.34 years (2004 est.)
Infant mortality:	137.08 deaths/1,000 live births (2004 est.)
Living with HIV/AIDS:	13,000 (2001 estimate)
Literacy:	Male: 53.9%, female: 31.8%

www.oasismz.org

For more info: