



# Mozambique



**Background** In the first half of the second millennium A.D., northern Mozambican port towns were frequented by traders from Somalia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Arabia, Persia, and India. The Portuguese were able to wrest much of the coastal trade from Arab Muslims in the centuries after 1500, and they set up their own colonies. Portugal did not relinquish Mozambique until 1975. Large-scale emigration, economic dependence on South Africa, a severe drought, and a prolonged civil war hindered the country's development until the mid-1990s.

The ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) party formally abandoned Marxism in 1989, and a new constitution the following year provided for multiparty elections and a free-market economy. A UN-negotiated peace agreement between FRELIMO and rebel Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) forces ended the fighting in 1992. In 2004, Mozambique underwent a delicate transition as Joaquim CHISSANO stepped down after 18 years in office. His elected successor, Armando GUEBUZA, served two terms and then passed executive power to Filipe NYUSI in 2015. RENAMO's residual armed forces intermittently engaged in a low-level insurgency after 2012, but a 2016 cease-fire eventually led to the two sides signing a comprehensive peace deal in 2019.

Since 2017, violent extremists -- who an official ISIS media outlet recognized as ISIS's network in Mozambique for the first time in 2019 -- have been conducting attacks against civilians and security services in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. In 2021, Rwanda and the Southern African Development Community deployed forces to support Mozambique's efforts to counter the extremist group.

<b>Capital</b>	name: Maputo
<b>Government type</b>	presidential republic
<b>Area</b>	total : 799,380 sq km land: 786,380 sq km water: 13,000 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	tropical to subtropical
<b>Natural resources</b>	coal, titanium, natural gas, hydropower, tantalum, graphite
<b>Population</b>	total: 33,350,954 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	2.54% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	African 99% (Makhuwa, Tsonga, Lomwe, Sena, and others), Mestizo 0.8%, other (includes European, Indian, Pakistani, Chinese) 0.2% (2017 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 27.2%, Muslim 18.9%, Zionist Christian 15.6%, Evangelical/Pentecostal 15.3%, Anglican 1.7%, other 4.8%, none 13.9%, unspecified 2.5% (2017 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Makhuwa 26.1%, Portuguese (official) 16.6%, Tsonga 8.6%, Nyanja 8.1%, Sena 7.1%, Lomwe 7.1%, Chuwabo 4.7%, Ndau 3.8%, Tswa 3.8%, other Mozambican languages 11.8%, other 0.5%, unspecified 1.8% (2017 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Daniel Francisco CHAPO (since 15 January 2025) head of government: Prime Minister Maria Benvinda Delfina LEVI (since 17 January 2025)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Assembly of the Republic (Assembleia da Republica)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Alfredo Fabião NUVUNGA (since 19 April 2023)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Abigail L. DRESSEL (since 11 August 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	low-income East African economy; subsistence farming dominates labor force; return to growth led by agriculture and extractive industries; Islamist insurgency threatens natural gas projects in north; ongoing foreign debt restructuring and resolution under IMF Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$51.786 billion (2024 est.) \$50.844 billion (2023 est.) \$48.222 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$1,500 (2024 est.) \$1,500 (2023 est.) \$1,500 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$9.358 billion (2024 est.) \$9.405 billion (2023 est.) \$9.409 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	India 18%, China 13%, South Africa 9%, UAE 6%, Thailand 4% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	coal, natural gas, aluminum, gold, precious stones (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$10.488 billion (2024 est.) \$11.18 billion (2023 est.) \$15.932 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	South Africa 34%, China 14%, India 13%, UAE 6%, Singapore 3% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, chromium ore, iron alloys, iron ore, palm oil (2023)

Population Pyramid

