

## **Committee: Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization**

### **Country: Mozambique**

#### **Topic 1: Governance and its effect on Education**

Education in the Republic of Mozambique has been a prevalent problem for centuries due to the country's history of corruption and Political instability. In the year 1498, Portuguese explorers found the Mozambique republic, and in the early 1500's started to colonize. This event marked the "Portuguese Mozambique" era for the Republic of Mozambique up until they gained independence in 1975. From the years 1700 to around the mid 1800s, the Mozambique republic was turned into a major slave trading centre till the year 1842, when slave trade was deemed illegal. Within those years of hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans being displaced from their homes, this also mean that access to education was far out of reach for them Despite this law, many Europeans had still continued the activity in secret for decades.<sup>1</sup> This heinous act left the overall quality of life in the Republic of Mozambique in shambles because of the cycle of poverty it left behind, causing much unrest in the country. In the late 20th century, after the independence from Portugal lead by the FRELIMO, the Republic of Mozambique was dubbed the most impoverished nation in the world, with over half the population under the poverty line<sup>2</sup>. With this problem in place, because lack of funds, many children who had the privilege of getting primary education would have to drop out before they could get to secondary education. This meant that because they were not educated they could not acquire a well paying job, causing their children to have to follow in their steps and also drop out of school, falling into the cycle of poverty. Following the war for independence, a civil war broke out in the country<sup>3</sup>, leading it far deeper into poverty and economic mismanagement.

Since independence, the Republic of Mozambique has had quite a history of economic mismanagement and debt, more reasons for why there are millions of children without access to

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<sup>1</sup> "Mozambique Profile - Timeline" Last modified 15 January 2015  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13890720>

<sup>2</sup> "CIA World Factbook" Accessed November 6 2016  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mz.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Mozambican Civil War" Accessed November 6 2016  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozambican\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozambican_Civil_War)

education in the republic. Recent reports have shown that the Republic of Mozambique has over 1.4 billion dollars in debt to various investors, after which the World Bank, and others, cut off any aid to the country<sup>4</sup>. Many cases like this have been traced back to the Republic of Mozambique in the past, dwindling the trust that investors, and banks have towards the Mozambique Republic. This gets in the way of education because without any outside funding, or sponsorships, Mozambique Republic has no way of prioritizing the education of their people.

## **Topic 2: Preservations of World Heritage Sites**

Located 4km away from the coast of the Mozambique republic is the Island of Mozambique. It is the Republic's only world heritage site, and is connected to the mainland by a bridge that was built in 1960. In the past it was used as a Portuguese trading post on the route to India. Currently the island is inhabited by 14,000 people and is an ever growing tourist area for the country.<sup>5</sup>

From the years after the civil war to current day, the world heritage site is currently in danger because of the increasing amount of collapsing buildings, and extremely dilapidated ones.<sup>6</sup> It is also at risk because if the sea levels rise, due to immense climate change, the island risks disappearing under the Indian Ocean in a worst case scenario. The civil war that lasted from 1997 to 1992 also affected the island because it became somewhat of a safe haven for people displaced from their homes. The population on the island rose from 7000 to 17,000 in the 15 years of war, but the deterioration of buildings was also starting to become prevalent, as a result of people pillaging the buildings.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "Mozambique tries to explain the \$1.4 billion hidden debt that has the IMF quite upset" Last modified April 27 2016  
<http://mgafrica.com/article/2016-04-27-mozambique-tries-to-explain-the-14-billion-hidden-debt-that-has-upset-the-imf>

<sup>5</sup> "Island of Mozambique" Accessed November 8 2016  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599>

<sup>6</sup> "State of Conservation" 2016 Accessed November 8 2016  
[http://whc.unesco.org/?cid=171&l=en&id\\_search\\_state=110&&action=list&id\\_threats=8&&mode=table](http://whc.unesco.org/?cid=171&l=en&id_search_state=110&&action=list&id_threats=8&&mode=table)

<sup>7</sup> "Ilha de Mocambique–Mozambique Island–Muihipiti: A Personal Account" Last modified April 20 2014  
<https://www.wmf.org/blog/ilha-de-mocambique%E2%80%93mozambique-island%E2%80%93muihipiti-personal-account>

The republic of Mozambique is making great efforts to better their response to climate change. They have partnered up with various organizations to help support and implement measures such as health, climate change, and disaster risk assessments, registration of FUNAB, the Republic of Mozambique's environmental fund as a national Implementing Entity, and capacity building, and awareness raising of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategy being funded. Ultimately, these three actions will help further better understanding of health impacts of climate change to combine the public health policy and the Republic of Mozambique's disaster risk reduction strategy, to help fund and support the growth of these programs, and to help raise awareness, and emphasize its importance.<sup>8</sup>

### **Topic 3: Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030**

As stated before, a pressing issue in the Republic of Mozambique right now is the struggle for education. Many past actions have been taken to help this problem like abolition of school fees in 2003, free textbooks, and investment in classrooms and teachers. These actions resulted in a great increase of enrolment of primary and secondary school enrolment from 3.6 million in 2003 to roughly 6.7 million by 2014. In addition, the gender gap was also greatly reduced with more girls receiving education. Though even with these actions have greatly increased the amount of children getting an education, the primary school completion rate is around 47%, with many children having to repeat grades, or drop out completely. A report from UNESCO showed that in 2012, approximately 1.2 million children, primary and secondary aged, were out of school, furthermore about 775,000 were primary aged children, and around 55% were girls. To add on, only 4% of children under the age of 6 have the ability to go to a state-funded early learning program, meaning that most children who do not attend them are not prepared for school, thus contributing to low learning and high dropout rates before the end of primary education. Moreover, the Mozambique republic is one of the most "at risk" countries in the African Union, due to the fact that it is on a coast line. In 2000 alone, the Mozambique

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<sup>8</sup> "Supporting the Mozambique Climate Change and Development country programme" Accessed November 9 2016  
[http://cdkn.org/project/accelerating-climate-change-response-in-mozambique/?loclang=en\\_gb](http://cdkn.org/project/accelerating-climate-change-response-in-mozambique/?loclang=en_gb)

Republic was hit by 4 major cyclones, responsible for extreme property damage and many casualties.

In response to the low percent of primary education graduates, UNICEF started an initiative called Child Friendly Education. The goal of this initiative was to provide free, accessible, and good quality education with individualization, to ensure every child's needs were being met no matter their abilities. It was also there to ensure that children were in a healthy, hygienic, and safe learning environment, that provided positive experiences for children and safety from abuse and harm. The schools were also gender sensitive, meaning that they promoted gender equality, eliminated gender stereotypes, and taught respect for each others' rights, dignity, and equality. An evaluation conducted in 2012 showed that there was a decrease in the drop-out rates, concluding that the system was working, but the evaluation also showed that there needed to be more Child Friendly Schools implemented. The realization was that UNICEF needed to get a broader approach on Child-Friendly education in the Mozambique Republic.

UNICEF is now working on having Child-Friendly education system reach all children throughout Mozambique mainly by ensuring that teaching and learning is the main goal at every school. This means that UNICEF would like more attention being paid to numeracy and literacy in primary school, as most children do not learn how to learn until after third grade, even then, learning is very difficult for them as it was taught in Portuguese at non Child-Friendly schools. To achieve this goals, more attention will be paid towards the development of teachers, and overall quality.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> "Current Situation" Accessed November 7 2016  
<http://www.unicef.org.mz/en/our-work/what-we-do/education/>

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