

Committee: African Union

Country: Mozambique

Topic 1: Access to Education for Women and Girls

Access to education is a fundamental human right. In African countries in particular, women and girls are often deprived of this right. As education is key to success in later life, the improved education and thus success of what makes up half of the population will ultimately only lead to progression in the country itself, something that especially third world countries such as our own strive for. Mozambique believes that in terms of advancement of education in Africa, the focuses should be of improving the access to education for women and girls, and the quality over quantity of the education.

In Mozambique, the enrollment rate, literacy rate, and school completion rate is significantly lower in females than males (1). Mozambique is one of the many countries in Africa, including (but not limited to) Niger, Sudan, Congo, Somalia, Zambia, Zimbabwe wherein the difference between the male and female education levels is over 20%. While Mozambique has made efforts to lessen this disparity - girls' enrollment increased from 3 million in 2002 to 4.1 million in 2006, and the school completion rate increased from 31,000 to 90,000 - the quality of the education has not improved with it. A study on school effectiveness found that due to teacher absenteeism, limited instructional time, and other factors negatively affecting educational quality, Mozambican schools were limited to, on average, 30 days of actual instructional time per 193-day school year in 2010. Furthermore, the study found that 59% of third-grade students in the 49 schools studied could not read a single word per minute nor recognize letters, and those students who could read only read, on average, five words per minute. The Ministry of Education reports that less than half of the population finishes primary school, and of those who do finish, only 8% transition to secondary school. Mozambique's overall literacy rate is 47%; female literacy (28%) lags far behind that of males (60%) (3).

Mozambique believes that in order to counter these issues, the quality of the education received by the students must be improved. While there are yet not enough schools, setting up less schools that are more effective at teaching may prove to be more effective than setting up a larger number of schools that are less effective at teaching - the strategy in place at the present moment. Within these improved schools, This strategy will ultimately work well for the long term, as youth will become better educated, and when entering the workforce, may contribute more positively to society. People will be more likely to find better employment, be able to support their families better, eliminating the perceived necessity for females to stay at home to tend for the house and family instead of attending school. With less schools, more money can be spent on each individual school, and better resources can be afforded - better teachers, books, facilities. Gender equality can

be endorsed at these schools, teaching people while they are still young - especially girls - that both genders are capable of learning and contributing more to society than simply a few additional children. The delegation of Mozambique urges the committee to consider this “long-term” strategy.

References:

1. Mozambique. (2014). Retrieved November 10, 2016, from epdc.org, http://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP_Mozambique.pdf
2. File: Map3.7education discrepancy compressed.jpg - Wikimedia commons. (2011, May 12). Retrieved November 10, 2016, from commons.wikimedia.org, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map3.7Education_Discrepancy_compressed.jpg
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Topic 2: Foreign Direct Investment in Africa

African countries are currently experiencing a lack of foreign investment, which, if improved, can lead to a boosted economy, better foreign relations, an integration of the country into the global economy, increases in employment generation and growth, enhancement in production efficiency, a raise in the skills of local manpower, and supplementation in domestic savings (1). Mozambique has much stabilized its economy since the end of the Mozambican Civil war in 1977 to 1992 through government-implemented economic reforms, has maintained sound economic policies, and put in place a privatisation programme for public companies, which offer great opportunities for foreign investors. With these improvements, Mozambique hopes to improve its FDI (2).

To stabilize its economy, Mozambique’s government has embarked on a series of macroeconomic reforms. A substantial trade imbalance persists, although the opening of the MOZAL aluminium smelter, the country's largest foreign investment project to date, has increased export earnings. Additional investment projects in titanium extraction and processing and garment manufacturing should further close the import/export gap. Mozambique's once substantial foreign debt has been reduced through forgiveness and rescheduling under the International Monetary Fund's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and Enhanced HIPC initiatives, and is now at a manageable level (2). However, Mozambique remains still one of the world’s poorest and underdeveloped countries. In

2015 its FDI decreased significantly, reaching only USD 1.3 billion and has been declining since due to financial difficulties in the nation's principal investing countries.

In order to increase its FDI, Mozambique intends to utilize its geographical location to its advantage - as it is by the sea, transportation is much easier. It intends to utilize to its advantage its mining, hydrocarbon, energy, agro-industry, fishing, financial, and tourism sectors, as foreign investors appear to be most interested in these. It will maintain positive relations with South Africa, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands as they are its leading foreign investors. Vale, a Brazilian mining group, Rio Tinto (mining group) and ENI (gas extraction) are also among the country's primary investors and are its greatest foreign economic interests. To further push increases in FDI (with these investors), Mozambique will attempt to improve the quality of its infrastructure, lower taxes for foreign firms, and subsidize firms to invest. Mozambique encourages other countries to adopt a similar strategy if they wish to increase foreign investment as well.

References:

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2. Economy of Mozambique. (2016, October 16). Retrieved November 10, 2016, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Mozambique
3. Mozambique: Foreign investment. (2016, October). Retrieved November 10, 2016, from https://en.portal.santandertrade.com/establish-overseas/mozambique/investing-3?actualiser_id_banque=oui

Topic 3: Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Government

Countries in Africa are presently riddled with cases of corruption, commonly of instances of bribery. Mozambique believes that not only is this outrageously unfair, it allows a country to function on the basis that anything and everything can be accomplished with cash - including crimes, which can go uncondemned (with bribery). Mozambique believes that any form of corruption in the government is most unacceptable, as it is the government that establishes the nature of society as its leaders.

Ranking at 120 out of 182 countries assessed worldwide in terms of corruption, and performing below average with a score of 2.7 on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the most corrupt), the prevalence of corruption remains an area of concern in Mozambique. The various forms of corruption include petty and bureaucratic corruption, as well as favouritism and patronage - the latter two of which are not considered corruption in

Mozambique. Party loyalty has influenced appointments of executives, as the political elite have strong ties with the economic/business community. In order to counter these issues, the government has prioritized reduction of poverty. The country has also since democratisation created both enabling legislation and institutional mechanisms to combat corruption. However, implementation is slow as is enforcement of the laws in place. There are still many loopholes allowing members of the government and the elite to continue extracting rents from the state. Mozambique's government has also implemented the Public Sector Reform Strategy - a ten year strategy that includes the adoption of measures to improve the management of public finances and to reduce corruption opportunities, such as a new public financial management system (SISTAFE), and the National Poverty Reduction Plan (PARPA I and II).

To stop corruption, Mozambique will continue to condemn all forms of the act, and plans to implement better surveillance on political figures, and considers a reward strategy for rewarding individuals if evidence of corruption is found in important figures. Stricter punishments may be put in place for the corrupted individual, and record keeping will be improved.

References:

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