**Committee:** General Assembly

**Country:** Mozambique

Topic #1: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness

The Republic of Mozambique’s population is comprised of a variety of indigenous groups. There have been very few immigrants to the Republic of Mozambique resulting in a population demographic comprised of almost entirely of indigenous people. Both malaria and tuberculosis greatly affect the citizens of the Republic of Mozambique, and due to lack of sex education and contraceptive use throughout the Republic of Mozambique, HIV percentages are high. Tuberculosis is prevalent in individuals who also suffer from HPV, creating an increased risk of tuberculosis among Mozambicans (CIA , n.d.). Mozambique has made an effort to improve mental health in the past few years: there is a budget allocated to mental health facilities and professionals, but it could be improved. For every 100 000 Mozambicans, there is less than one psychiatrist to treat them (Mozambique Mental Health Profile , 2013).

The government lacks health care professionals and would greatly benefit from a training program aimed at increasing knowledge and expertise in the field. Increased access to safe, affordable and accessible health care would also greatly benefit the people of Mozambique. Currently, our sanitation industry needs improvements to limit the effects and spread of infectious diseases. The Republic of Mozambique’s degree of risk for infectious diseases, such as malaria, Hepatitis A, and Typhoid Fever, is extremely high (CIA , n.d.). The Republic of Mozambique recognizes that improvements to our health care system needs to occur in every area, but requires low cost solutions that can easily be implemented throughout the Republic of Mozambique’s various regions. Seven percent of our GDP already goes towards healthcare, however it is not sufficient and little more is available to be invested (CIA , n.d.). In past years, the Republic of Mozambique has worked to improve its healthcare: decreasing it’s infant mortality and working to increase the life expectancies of Mozambicans (J. Ribeiro, 2011). Infectious diseases such as malaria have negative effects on the lives of the citizens of the Republic of Mozambique and Mozambique is attempting to improve its health care by decentralizing health services and making them more accessible, as well as investing more money into the health of Mozambicans (J. Ribeiro, 2011).

The Republic of Mozambique is open and willing to support solutions working towards increased accessibility of health services while maintaining similar budgets. A plan to train professionals to work in the industry would also be looked on favourably by the Republic of Mozambique as there is a shortage of healthcare professionals resulting in many patients going untreated.

Topic 2: Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

The location of Mozambique, on the southeastern point of Africa, makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change. Mozambique’s population is almost entirely comprised of indigenous people, making issues affecting them prevalent to the entire country. Due to its geographical location, a large portion of the population is located along the coast where food is readily available. However, this particular location is also severely affected by climate change. Droughts, tropical cyclones and floods frequent the areas and make stable living difficult (Moosa, 2011).

In response to these disasters affecting coastal residents of Mozambique, the Republic of Mozambique created a climate change strategy to combat these disasters, prevent future climate change related issues and create more stability for the people of Mozambique (Moosa, 2011). Many NGOs have worked with the government of Mozambique in order to have this strategic plan become feasible. The *Climate Change and Development Knowledge Network* has agreed to work with Mozambique on three of its plans. These plans aim to assess the health, climate and other risks in order to create a better understanding of the overall issues associated with climate change to better mitigate these affects. Additionally, Mozambique is working on an adaptation project that will allow the citizens of Mozambique to thrive under these changing circumstances caused by climate change, and create an actionable plan that outlines Mozambique’s ideas to relieve the country of the burden that enhanced climate change has placed on it (Moosa, 2011).

Mozambique is hoping to work with its allies and stakeholders in order to combat climate change as it affects its people, specifically those who value tradition and culture to a such a high degree that they are unwilling to change their ways or relocate even as the land is changing. Mozambique looks favorably on plans that would support countering climate change however it has few sources of income other than minerals and natural resources and wishes for a plan that can decrease the effects of climate change in ways that do not impede the use of these resources. (Mozambique Economy and Industry, n.d.).

Topic 3: Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development

Mozambique’s high import and low export numbers result in its status as one of the poorest countries (Mozambique Economy and Industry, n.d.). Almost 90% of our population works in industrial or agricultural positions yet these generate just over 45% of the nation’s GDP (CIA , n.d.). However, Mozambique is growing and exceeding growth expected based on its neighbouring countries (CIA , n.d.). Much of its growth can be attributed to the mining industry which plays a key role in the future of Mozambique (Mozambique Economy and Industry, n.d.). Due to inflation world-wide, and competition for resources, the unfortunate truth is that while Mozambique is growing and thriving, the industries many work in are not producing the incomes necessary to bring much of Mozambique’s population out of poverty.

This growth represents a bright future for Mozambique, however, there is still much work to be done: more than half of Mozambique’s citizens live under the poverty line, and while the GDP per capita is increasing by about $100/year it is still at a measly $1200 USD (CIA , n.d.). Mozambique currently looks to its future and works to improve itself at a more competitive rate. It needs foreign investment to aid its industries so that they may have a chance to thrive. It is a tax friendly country, which makes foreign investments easier. Additionally, Mozambique is shifting its focus to domestic agriculture and production in an effort to lower the amount of exports necessary and become more self-sufficient (Mozambique Economy and Industry, n.d.).

Mozambique would welcome programs that aim to improve wealth and income amongst struggling countries. It would also look favourably on global requirements that allow less fortunate countries to become more competitive choices for goods and products.

# Works Cited

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