



# Mozambique

## Republic of Mozambique

Africa

### Geography

**Area** 799,380 sq km. The Zambezi and 24 other rivers divide the 2,800 km-long land and make north-south travel difficult.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	23,405,670	2.35%
2020	28,545,405	1.92%
2030	33,893,821	1.68%

Civil war and natural disasters have rendered demographic research nearly impossible, with millions displaced in the 1990s and well over a million dying from war, famine, floods and AIDS between 1990 and 2010.

**Capital** Maputo 1,654,700. **Other major cities** Matola 793,000; Beira 787,000; Nampula 601,000. **Urbanites** 38.4%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 44%. **Life expectancy** 47.8 yrs.

### Peoples

**Bantu peoples** 97.6%.

**Northern peoples** 63.0%. Makhuwa(5) 37.8%; Lomwe 7.4%; Chuwabo 5.7%; Nyanja 2.2%; Marenje 2.1%; Makonde(2) 1.8%; Yao 1.4%; Lolo 1.0%.

**Central peoples** 15.5%. Sena 8.3%; Shona (Zezuru, Ndaui, Tewe, Manyika, Tawara) 4.8%; Nyungwe 1.4%.

**Southern peoples** 19.1%. Tsonga(2) 10.2%; Tswa 3.7%; Chopi 2.9%; Ronga 2.2%.

**Other** 2.4%. Portuguese Mestizo 1.6%.

**Literacy** 46.5% (official); 20% (functional).

**Official language** Portuguese, understood by less than 30%. **All languages** 53. **Indigenous languages** 43. **Languages with Scriptures** 11Bi 8NT 13por 14w.i.p.

### Economy

One of the world's poorest countries – the result of centuries of colonial predation, the disastrous results of Marxist economic theories and 30 years of intense guerrilla warfare.

Climatic extremes of flooding and drought further impoverish the population, of whom up to 80% are subsistence farmers. Fertile agricultural land and large mineral wealth are under-utilized. Travel infrastructure is very poor, but improving. Heavily dependent on foreign aid and crippled by foreign debt. Since peace in 1995, there have been notable improvements, offset by further natural disasters. **HDI Rank** 172<sup>nd</sup>/182. **Public debt** 21.4% of GDP. **Income/person** \$477 (1% of USA).

### Politics

A Portuguese colony for 470 years. Independent in 1975 as a Marxist-Leninist state, after a long and bitter war for independence. The Renamo resistance movement opposed the Marxist Frelimo and an exceptionally brutal war ensued, devastating the countryside. The war and international pressure encouraged the Frelimo government to renounce Marxism in 1988 and to institute a multiparty democracy and a market economy in 1990. A peace accord in 1992 was fully implemented in 1995. The formerly warring entities of Frelimo and Renamo now dominate parliamentary seats.

### Religion

Government policy between 1975 and 1982 was the exclusive propagation of Marxism and relentless attempts to root out Christianity. Since 1994, there has been religious freedom.

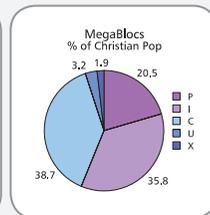
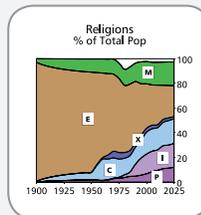
Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	46.48	10,878,955	2.6%
Ethnoreligionist	32.08	7,508,539	2.0%
Muslim	18.60	4,353,455	2.6%
Non-religious	2.80	655,359	2.4%
Hindu	0.04	9,362	2.4%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	50	10.90	2,550,000	5.1%
Independent	508	19.03	4,453,000	2.4%
Anglican	1	0.52	122,000	2.1%
Catholic	1	20.59	4,820,000	2.2%
Orthodox	1	<0.01	1,000	-1.7%
Marginal	1	0.51	119,000	1.2%
Unaffiliated		1.68	393,000	-5.5%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-6.75	-1,580,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	350	2,939,024	4,820,000
Zion/AICs	I	5,583	1,675,000	3,350,000
Evang AoG	P	1,444	345,000	900,000
Other Independent	I	576	230,435	530,000
Assemblies of God, Afr	I	490	122,378	350,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	1,000	200,000	334,000
United Baptist Church	P	1,700	135,000	330,000
Presbyterian Church	P	805	53,648	125,000
Anglican Church	A	251	42,657	122,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	1,150	35,207	119,000
Ch of the Nazarene	P	1,300	92,000	115,000
Ref Ch in Moz	P	450	48,000	105,000

Baptist Convention	P	539	38,288	85,000
United Methodist Ch	P	289	56,429	79,000
Ch of God (Anderson)	P	500	37,500	75,000
New Alliance (Brethren)	I	120	18,500	46,250
Int Assemblies of God	P	262	21,000	42,000
Apostolic Faith Mission	P	158	19,000	38,000
Free Methodist Ch	P	240	20,000	27,000
Full Gospel Ch of God	P	74	9,000	25,740
Other denominations[43]		3,581	202,243	447,325
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				<i>-1,580,000</i>
<b>Total Christians[562]</b>		<b>20,862</b>	<b>6,340,309</b>	<b>10,485,315</b>

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
<b>Evangelicals</b>			
Evangelicals	11.1	2,606,512	5.4%
<b>Renewalists</b>			
Charismatics	11.7	2,748,905	4.8%
Pentecostals	6.1	1,423,260	6.6%



## Answers to Prayer

- 1** The country has enjoyed peace since 1992 after 30 years of war, and the politicians have genuinely endeavoured to maintain and build on this peace. The government has performed admirably in advancing the nation's democratic, economic and religious freedom status.
- 2** Amazing growth in the Church between 1990 and 2010. After harsh persecution under the Marxist-oriented regime, the Christian faith spread rapidly, tripling from 1985 to 2010. After being highly unevangelized, Mozambique now sees many from all faiths and regions beginning to follow Christ.

## Challenges for Prayer

- 1** Mozambique's brokenness continues. After being shattered by colonialism and civil war, natural disasters and debt burdens, Mozambique remains one of the world's poorest nations. Personal brokenness also persists as many have been traumatized by the violence and deprivation. Turn these major challenges into prayer:
  - a) Continuing natural disasters.** The cyclones, floods and earthquakes disrupt development and destroy infrastructure, not to mention take many lives.
  - b) Dependency.** Heavy reliance on aid and a high public debt combine with existing poverty to make economic growth a challenge. Many struggle from day to day just to survive, but progress is being made.
  - c) Disease.** Life expectancy averages only 48 years, to a large degree because of disease and extremely basic medical facilities for most. Pray for effective, practical programmes that assist those who need it most.
    - i* AIDS is a major challenge, with 16% of the adult population HIV-positive. The faith communities and government have united with a national action plan. Pray that a reversal, as in some other African countries, might occur.
    - ii* Malaria is an even greater bane, with a much higher prevalence – over 5 million cases a year – taking many lives and sapping the health of those who survive.
    - iii* Other medical issues such as diarrhoea and tuberculosis become even more lethal amidst intense poverty and especially when combined with the above two diseases.
- 2** Mozambique enjoys religious freedom for the first time in its history. Catholicism dominated under the Portuguese. Then, under Marxism, all Christians suffered. Missionaries were expelled, Christian leaders intimidated and imprisoned. Many churches were destroyed during this period. Many people died for their faith, but growth came as a

result of their sacrifice. Pray that this freedom might continue and that true Christian faith and love might be expressed throughout society.

**3 Spiritual responsiveness** is one result of the suffering and deprivation endured. Congregations of indigenous Christians mushroomed all across the country. Evangelicals were 3.5% of the population in 1975 and grew to 12% by 2005. Natural disasters in 2000/01 and 2006/07 stimulated much Christian assistance, and churches were planted in refugee camps. Isolation, due to past anti-Christian governments and poverty, means that much of Mozambican church practice is genuinely indigenous. But massive growth also presents proportionally huge challenges: ignorance of biblical teaching and standards, syncretism and legalism. Fortunately, the church is also characterized by an eagerness to learn. Pray for growth in maturity and truth that matches growth in numbers – without forsaking cultural authenticity.

**4 Training church leadership** is an urgent priority, probably the most strategic spiritual issue in the country. As many as 80% of pastors/church leaders have little or no formal training, with a large number, possibly even the majority, functionally illiterate. Funds and facilities for formal theological education are lacking. Pray that the effective formation of biblically literate, godly leaders would match the ever-increasing needs of the church. Pray for:

- a) **Literacy and orality.** Degree programmes and biblical resources are worthless if they cannot be utilized. Pray for literacy projects to have a great impact across the nation in order to unlock the resources in print. Pray also for the development of projects that build biblical knowledge among oral learners, who constitute the majority of the population.
- b) **Seminaries and Bible colleges** are increasing in number. Evangelical institutions number 20 and counting. In addition to several interdenominational groups (**AIM, OMS**), the Baptists, Reformed Church, Nazarenes and Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada also operate schools. Most of these are concentrated in the south; pray for more opportunities in the neglected north. PROFORTE is an umbrella network of theological institutions in the north, founded in 2004, and it now has five member colleges.
- c) **Non-formal training** – shorter discipleship-oriented training with **OM, YWAM**, World Outreach, *Afrika Wa Yesu* and others – has proven effective. Bible Training Centre for Pastors has 350 students in its two-year course in Mozambique.
- d) **Theological Education by Extension** is absolutely crucial when travel is difficult, money tight and existing schools already stretched. TEE, mobile training and correspondence courses are spreading throughout the country (**PAoC, AIM, SIM**, Baptist, Nazarenes, Emmaus Bible School of the Brethren). Radio is a natural medium for this concept and **TWR** is building on its already substantial work in this area.

**5 Unreached peoples** are still more concentrated in Mozambique than anywhere else in southern Africa. But this is rapidly changing, since many are responding to outreach. Most existing outreach is through Mozambican missionaries and pastors. Challenges for prayer include:

- a) **The Makuwa.** Mostly Catholic-animistic (interior), Muslim (coastal) or a mix thereof, these six northern peoples represent nearly 40% of Mozambique's population. There is a remarkable ingathering of Makuwa into the Kingdom as a result of preaching, aid and miracles. Iris Ministries, Churches of Christ/Christian Churches, **AIM, IMB, NTM** and others work among them. Pray for the many thousands of new believers to become solid disciples in biblical churches.
- b) **The Yao** of Niassa Province, along the shores of Lake Malawi, are 96% Muslim. Only about 2% are Christian of any kind (mainly Anglican, Catholic and Assemblies of God, African). Many Christian resources are available (**GRN**, the JESUS film, radio, literature) and several groups work among them.
- c) **Other northern/coastal Muslim peoples**, Islamized centuries ago by Swahili traders (Mwani, Koti, Makwe, Swahili, Ngoni, Makua-Mwinika). These may be the least responsive of Mozambique's peoples. Bible translation is in progress for Mwani, Koti, Ngoni and Makwe. **NTM** started work among Makua-Mwinika in Zambezia province.
  - i) *Mwani* believers are very few, despite **AIM** ministry, Scripture portions, oral chronological stories, the JESUS film and **GRN** recordings being available.

- ii *The Koti* are staunchly Muslim, but there is a very encouraging breakthrough among them, with perhaps 20 churches and 1,200 believers. The True Way movement remains focused on this group, despite greater responsiveness from neighbouring groups.
  - iii *The Muslim Ngoni* expelled all priests after independence, and have had no exposure to the gospel since. The few remaining believers left the area due to social pressure.
  - iv *The Makwe* live in the extreme north of Mozambique and are one of the forgotten peoples in remote places.
- d) **The animistic peoples** of the Zambezi valley, especially the Sena, Tawara, Nyungwe, Lolo, Kokola, Manyawa, Marenje and Takwane. The Church among the Sena people is growing quickly in most areas.

**6** **Expatriate missionaries** have a vital but sensitive role to play, particularly among the unevangelized. There is a great need for missionaries in this open and spiritually responsive country. Pray especially for these issues:

- a) **Hard conditions** such as travel difficulties, widespread disease, hot and humid weather, poor infrastructure, very active spiritual powers. A real calling is necessary in order to persevere. Workers must be willing to sacrifice and suffer as the national Church has done for decades.
- b) **Relationships between missions and churches** are often very fragile. Foreigners must learn to serve and truly partner with the national church where it exists; the spectre of colonialism must be avoided. Tribal languages must be learned, since only a minority understand Portuguese.
- c) **Churches too often see foreign agencies** as a cash cow to finance their every need. Money, being so scarce, can be a hugely divisive and destructive issue that needs to be handled with wisdom.

The greatest needs are for all levels of leadership training, initiating youth and children's work, aid/relief, medical programmes and grassroots business development. Major mission agencies: *Nederduitse Gereformeerde*, **NTM**, **SIM**, **YWAM**, **CCCC**, **IMB**, *Convenção Das Igrejas*.

**7** **Bible translation and distribution.** The Bible Society has a bookshop and depots, but ministry is limited by a lack of Bibles, funds, distribution means and low literacy. Audio Scriptures (Faith Comes By Hearing) are increasingly available. Bible Society translation projects are underway in Ronga, Bitonga, Chopi, Lomwe, Mozambique Shangana and Makhuwa of Nampula. SIL projects in progress are Sena, Nyungwe, Takwane, Koti, Mwani, Makhuwa of Cabo Delgado, Makonde and Ngoni. Chuwabo translation started in 2009 as a joint SIL-Bible Society project. **NTM** started Bible translation in Lolo. Further work in Bible translation and use is possibly needed in Ndaue and Tawara. Pray for the 17 translation projects in progress.

**8** **Christian help ministries** for prayer:

- a) **Literature** ministry is hampered by the same problems that hamper Bible distribution, plus, there is a lack of materials in most languages. Those who can read are desperate for literature, which is very hard to obtain. **CLC** has a bookstore in Maputo. **FIEL** (Faithful Publishers) has one in Nampula. There is significant potential to import second-hand Christian books from Brazil. Agencies outside the country have done much to send in good evangelistic literature but need to branch out beyond Portuguese.
- b) **Radio** is used of God in church planting and teaching. Both **TWR** and **FEBA** have studios in Mozambique, and there are more than 10 Christian stations around the country. Several hours per day, programmes in Portuguese and nine other indigenous languages are broadcast on FM, medium and shortwave.
- c) **The JESUS film** is widely used among refugees and in some areas in Mozambique. The film is translated into nineteen languages in Mozambique; pray for these translations to be fully utilized to reach many.
- d) **Audio Scripture** is a highly effective means of propagating the gospel. **GRN** has Christian audio materials in 27 languages and dialects. SIL produces audio Scriptures from translated portions.
- e) **Development programmes** by Christian agencies are welcomed by the government; these are great in scope of blessing, but the needs are enormous and great discernment is required.

In addition to the relief efforts that traditional missions and denominations are engaged in, more specialist groups such as WVI, World Relief, Food for the Hungry, Mennonite Central Committee and others supply basic needs to many. **MAF** (based in Nampula) and others have several planes involved in these programmes, but flying conditions are tricky. Pray that the love of Christ will be evident in all of this and that it will serve to strengthen and extend the church.