

# Mayors Dialogue on Growth and Solidarity

## City profile: Maputo, Mozambique



**Population:** 1,122,607 (2019)

**GDP per capita:** \$1,928 (2019)

**Major industries:** services, commerce and finance

**Percentage of migrants:** 2% (2017)

**Mayor's name:** Eneas Comiche | **Next election date:** 2023

### Socioeconomic profile

Maputo is Mozambique's capital and its largest city. It is situated on the Indian Ocean close to the border with South Africa and Eswatini. The city has a population of around 1,122,607 (Instituto Nacional de Estatísticas, 2019a). However, the metropolitan area of Maputo-Matola-Marracuene has an estimated population of between 2.5 and 3 million (UN-Habitat, n.d.a). The city is fairly densely populated, with 3,245 people/km<sup>2</sup>, although this rises to over 16,000 in the districts of Nlhamankulu and KaMaxoqueni (Instituto Nacional de Estatísticas, 2019a). Maputo is made up of a formal, well-developed zone (historically known as the *cidade de cimento*), alongside unplanned peripheral neighbourhoods (the *cidade de canico*), where the majority of the city's inhabitants live. These informal settlements have the poorest living conditions, lacking basic amenities such as garbage collection, drainage and safe sanitation (UN-Habitat, 2010). Maputo is particularly vulnerable to climate change and hazards such as floods, droughts, rising sea levels and cyclones. Under projected global warming scenarios, the impact of sea level rise and coastal erosion would have a major impact on the city (UN-Habitat, n.d.a).

Maputo city is at the heart of the Mozambican economy and a hub for economic investment. As the largest port in the country, much of the economic activity centres around the harbour. Maputo is responsible for around 20% of the GDP of the country (UN-Habitat, n.d.b), implying a GDP per capita for the city of around \$1,928 in 2019.<sup>1</sup> The majority of those living in the city work in services (28.5%), commerce and finance (25.4%), and important numbers are also employed in construction (5.7%) and manufacturing (5.6%) (Instituto Nacional de Estatísticas, 2019b). According to the latest census, 41% of Maputo's population are under 20, and

21% are aged 20–29, illustrating the importance of young people for the city (ibid.). The main challenges facing the city's government include the lack of space for new housing for young adults and the lack of job opportunities for young people. Mozambique's poverty rate has been falling, with progress accelerating across the country since 2008/9. Maputo city has seen its poverty rate fall from 29.9% living under the national poverty line in 2008/9 to 11.6% in 2014/15, compared with 46% nationally (Ministry of Economics and Finance, 2016).

### Migration profile

For decades, internal migration from the countryside has led to a population growth rate in Maputo of about 3.5% per year, compared with a national rate of 2% annually in the period between 1990 and 2010. (UN Habitat, 2010). Maputo is also home to migrants from neighbouring countries. In the 2017 census, 2% of the city's population were recorded as foreign nationals (Instituto Nacional de Estatísticas, 2019a). South Africans were the most common nationality, with a large number of young immigrants coming to Mozambique in search of work in mines, plantations or entrepreneurial activities (ODI and CESC, 2011). A similar number of Portuguese immigrants was also recorded. Mozambique's location, linking landlocked countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi to major seaports and to South Africa, makes it a significant transit country. Maputo has two high-traffic transport corridors, connecting the city with Johannesburg in South Africa and Mbabane in Eswatini. As of August 2020, Mozambique was hosting 4,742 registered refugees and 21,673 asylum-seekers, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, Rwanda and Somalia (UNHCR, 2020a). These populations are concentrated in Nampula city (11%) and Maratane settlement (36%),

<sup>1</sup> Based on author's own calculations. GDP figures are taken from the World Bank database ([www.data.worldbank.org](http://www.data.worldbank.org)). The GDP figure for 2019 (\$14.934 billion) is used. The per capita figure for the city is calculated using the 20% benchmark contribution. Two per capita figures are calculated for the city and the wider metropolitan area, given the large differences in population. An average of the city and metropolitan per capita GDP is then calculated.

with the remaining 53% living in the Maputo area or in other provinces around the country (UNHCR, 2020b).

## Governance structure

The Municipality of Maputo is run by Maputo Municipal Council. The Council is led by the Mayor, who is elected every five years, with the last municipal elections taking place in 2018. The Mayor works alongside a Municipal Councillor and 12 Municipal

Directorates. The Council is currently implementing the Municipal Development Plan for 2019–2023 and has recently received additional support from the World Bank for an urban transformation project. This will support the main priorities of the city's development plan, in particular addressing informal settlements and promoting sustainable urban development. Given the demographic profile of the city, the Mayor has a particular interest in young people, including affordable housing and vocational training, skills and employment.

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