



DEVELOPMENT FAILURE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES: THE COMPLEXITY OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN MOZAMBIQUE

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana kemiskinan multidimensi yang berasal dari masalah multisektor dapat menyebabkan kegagalan pembangunan di Mozambik. Kemiskinan multidimensi di Mozambik berakar dari krisis politik dan keamanan serta ketidakstabilan sosial ekonomi masyarakat yang berakar dari dinamika sejarah, sosial ekonomi, dan politik serta krisis demokrasi, korupsi, dan utang. Masalah ini dikaji melalui pengukuran Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) untuk menjelaskan kondisi kemiskinan di Mozambik secara komprehensif. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode analisis kualitatif dan tinjauan pustaka, yang memberikan pemahaman mendalam tentang hubungan antara kegagalan pembangunan dan kemiskinan multidimensi di Mozambik. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa kemiskinan yang berkepanjangan di Mozambik dipengaruhi oleh berbagai masalah, seperti lemahnya penegakan HAM, korupsi, konflik dan krisis keamanan, ketimpangan pendapatan, infrastruktur publik yang buruk, dan masalah krusial lainnya. Penelitian ini berkontribusi dalam memperkaya literatur tentang kemiskinan multidimensi dan memberikan wawasan tentang keterkaitan antara kemiskinan multidimensi di negara miskin dan kegagalan pembangunan nasional.

Kata Kunci: Kemiskinan Multidimensi, Kegagalan Pembangunan, Krisis Politik, Kesenjangan Sosial, Mozambik

ABSTRACT

This research seeks to analyze how multidimensional poverty, rooted in multisectoral problems, contributes to development failure in Mozambique. This study elucidates that multidimensional poverty in Mozambique is entrenched in political and security crises, as well as the instability of community socio-economic conditions. These issues arise from historical, socio-economic, and political dynamics, alongside a crisis of democracy, corruption, and debt. The study examines these challenges through the lens of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to accurately explain the poverty conditions in Mozambique. Employing qualitative analysis and a comprehensive literature review, this research facilitates an in-depth understanding of the relationship between development failure and multidimensional poverty in Mozambique. The findings reveal that prolonged poverty in Mozambique is influenced by a multitude of factors, including weak enforcement of human rights, corruption, conflict and security crisis, income inequality, inadequate public infrastructure, and other critical challenges. This research contributes to enriching literature about multidimensional poverty, highlighting the correlation between this kind of poverty in poor countries and their national development failures.

Keywords: Multidimensional Poverty, Development Failure, Political Crisis, Social Inequality, Mozambique

BACKGROUND

The global upheaval caused by the pandemic, which led to a food crisis, rising inflation, and a weakened global economy, represents a critical juncture for nations to address various challenges, particularly those faced by low-income countries. For these nations, it is crucial to implement policies that promote macroeconomic stability, encourage sustainable growth, and create pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This endeavor becomes increasingly complicated when a country grapples with persistent poverty, political and security instability, and economic volatility (International Monetary Fund, 2024).

Many individuals are still living amid violent conflicts and poverty, a situation that not only hinders the fulfillment of basic human needs but also limits the future opportunities of those affected, especially children and young people. The number of violent conflicts has been increasing, with more occurring in 2023. As a result, many people and communities have been forced to flee their homes due to either conflict or natural disasters. The 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report highlights that areas impacted by conflict often experience higher levels of multidimensional poverty, with countries facing ongoing conflicts also reporting setbacks in efforts to reduce poverty.

The 2023 MPI report reveals that over 18 percent of the global population, or about 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people, live in extreme multidimensional poverty across 110 countries. The majority of these individuals are in Sub-Saharan Africa, with around 534 million people. Next is South Asia, where about 389 million people live in poverty. Furthermore, approximately 730 million people in poverty reside in middle-income countries, while 387 million are in low-income countries. Data from recent surveys by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) indicate that at least 25 countries

have managed to reduce their MPI scores by half within 15 years. A higher MPI score signifies more severe multidimensional poverty in a given region or country.

According to measurements across 112 countries, at least 1.1 billion people are living in poverty. Of these, 553 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa, 402 million in South Asia, 104 million in East Asia and the Pacific, 53 million in Arab countries, 34 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and two million in Europe and Central Asia. Most of the people living in poverty are in countries with a low Human Development Index (HDI), while others are in countries with a medium HDI. Around 400 million poor people live in low-income countries, and 749 million live in middle-income countries (United Nations Development Program & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiatives, 2024). According to Adeyeye in Faluyi and Olutola (2024), poverty in Africa is strongly tied to the lack of basic human needs, which is a key factor in causing hunger and malnutrition. Governments are often neglectful and fail to fully implement efforts to address the disparities within society.

The African region continues to face poverty and social vulnerability. The complex nature of these challenges underscores the importance of exploring the underlying causes of chronic poverty in this area. When compared to poverty in South Asia and Latin America, Africa stands out as a region that warrants further analysis, as its poverty is closely tied to other significant issues such as persistent conflicts, security crises, ineffective leadership, and economic instability, all exacerbated by widespread corruption.

Many experts highlight the significance of examining the root causes of poverty in Africa. Gouws in Faluyi and Olutola (2024) outlines three perspectives on poverty: individualistic, structural, and fatalistic. The individualistic perspective attributes poverty to the actions and decisions of individuals, while the structural perspective links it to larger societal and economic factors outside the individual's control. The

fatalistic perspective views poverty as a result of uncontrollable factors, such as destiny or health problems.

Other causes of poverty include low or stagnant economic growth, declining productivity, and labor market shortages that result in limited job opportunities. Other contributing factors may be worsened living conditions that act as drivers of poverty, such as rising crime rates, environmental degradation, workforce reduction, shifts in family composition, and similar issues. Changes in family composition refer to situations where a family loses its primary breadwinner, which can lead to poverty. In the context of Africa, the factors contributing to poverty often involve a range of issues such as corruption, ineffective governance, limited job prospects, inadequate infrastructure, inefficient resource management, ongoing conflicts and wars, and unfavorable policies from institutions like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other international organizations (Faluyi & Olutola, 2024).

One of the countries with a high MPI value is Mozambique. This country previously experienced a civil war that lasted for 16 years from 1976 to 1992. Initially, the political and economic situation improved, but in recent years, the country has faced severe crises and expanding challenges. The situation worsened with attacks by Islamist militias, the impact of the global pandemic, as well as corruption and high debt. Mozambique holds the status of one of the world's least developed countries, ranking among the ten countries with the lowest HDI in the world (German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, 2022).

Mozambique presents an intriguing case for further study, as it experienced the largest increase in HDI percentage during the 1990s. However, by 2022, the country ranked 183rd out of 193 countries, with one of the lowest HDI scores in the world. This decline can be attributed to the long-standing dominance of the Frelimo Party from 1975 into the 21st century, which has been marked by systemic corruption and a focus on benefiting political elites rather than promoting national welfare. Despite having

access to resources that could support the development of its maritime economy, Mozambique has not been able to fully capitalize on these opportunities. This has left the country struggling to manage key sectors independently and effectively, preventing the growth of national income that could be invested in improving human development and overall quality of life.

Mozambique is rich in resources, including fertile land, plentiful water sources, energy, mineral deposits, and offshore natural gas reserves. The country also boasts three ports and a fairly large workforce. Strategically located, Mozambique serves as a crucial gateway to global markets for its landlocked neighboring countries (World Bank, 2024). Mozambique's close ties to the economic landscape of the Southern African region emphasize the significance of economic, political, and social development for the overall stability and growth of the region. It is essential to further explore the development challenges in Mozambique and recognize the extent to which poverty has stripped individuals and citizens of their right to a dignified life.

Based on the elaboration of the issues above, this study formulates the main problem, which is "How does multidimensional poverty caused by multisectoral issues contribute to the failure of development in Mozambique?" The objective of this research is to analyze the poverty situation in Mozambique, including political instability and economic vulnerability that affect the failure of development in the country, alongside the government's inability to eradicate violent conflicts, address hunger and malnutrition, boost national economic growth, and achieve economic and political stability.

This study provides a factual and up-to-date analysis of the socio-economic conditions in Mozambique, where since 2023, the number of violent conflicts has been increasing, leading to the vulnerability of communities/societies. In the present and future, alternative policies that are more pro-people, especially for those living in rural areas and near armed conflict zones, are needed. Currently, the support of institutions,

organizations, and community strength is essential to drive comprehensive governance reforms in Mozambique to dismantle the dominance of the ruling elite, combat corruption, and open up opportunities for trade cooperation that leverage Mozambique's strategic position as a connector for neighboring countries and the economic dynamics of the Southern African region.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue. In this regard, Chambers in Sumargo and Simanjuntak (2017) explained that there are five dimensions of poverty as a comprehensive concept, namely: (1) proper, (2) powerless, (3) state of emergency, (4) dependency, and (5) isolation. There has been a shift or redefinition of the concept of poverty from a unidimensional measurement to a multidimensional one, focusing on four main issues: low skills, limited economic opportunities, uncertainty of sustainable living, and powerlessness.

In 2010, UNDP and the OPHI introduced a new approach to measuring poverty through the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), featured in the Human Development Report (HDR). This approach expands the understanding of poverty beyond income or consumption, incorporating multiple factors such as access to education, healthcare, and overall quality of life. These three key dimensions offer a more comprehensive and equitable way to assess poverty. UNDP recognizes poverty as a multifaceted issue, with its dimensions evolving in response to global shifts in development patterns (Budiantoro et al., 2013).

OPHI identifies three key dimensions of poverty: health, education, and living standards. Health is evaluated based on nutrition and child mortality rates, while education is measured by years of schooling and student attendance. Living standards are assessed through factors like cooking fuel, sanitation, access to clean water,

electricity, housing, and asset ownership. OPHI also developed the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI Global), an international measure of severe multidimensional poverty that includes over 100 developing countries. This index enhances traditional monetary poverty measures by incorporating overlapping factors related to health, education, and living conditions experienced by those in poverty (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 2024).

Economic Transformation for Development in Low-Income Countries

Economic development refers to a wide-ranging concept that involves alterations to the overall economic structure of society. It is a transformative process characterized by structural changes, including shifts in the foundation of economic activities and the framework of societal economic organization (Putri et al., 2024). The primary objective of development should be backed by a clear and appropriate development strategy. In developing nations, it is essential to carefully assess and prioritize improvements in strategic sectors, determining whether the focus should be on the economy, political stability, or security.

A key strategic policy that a country can implement in its development efforts is economic transformation, which can be carried out either gradually or in a more extensive manner. McMillan et al. (2017) explain that economic transformation is understood as the process of moving labor and other resources from low-productivity activities to high-productivity ones. This includes the transfer of resources between sectors to higher-value activities, such as from agriculture to manufacturing, or equivalent changes within the same sector, such as from low-productivity traditional agriculture to more advanced agriculture. At the national economic level, economic transformation involves diversification, the creation of new subsectors, and an increase in the added value of domestic trade.

In the context of Africa, development is often hindered by the lack of economic transformation, which can be traced to low investment levels and the lack of transformation activities, particularly in the processing industry. This is due to the high investment and business costs in the Sub-Saharan African region. This fact reflects a deficit in three dimensions of infrastructure development: quality, quantity, and accessibility. Infrastructure development is crucial because it can influence higher economic growth and address socio-economic inequalities. The contribution of infrastructure improvements has proven successful in reducing inequalities in East Asia and South Asia, but the Sub-Saharan African region has not achieved similar success due to its poor infrastructure quality (Ajakaiye & Ncube, 2010).

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative analysis approach because the researcher deems it suitable for examining the issue of development failure in Mozambique, one of the world's poorest nations, which is the focus of this paper. The approach has effectively captured the phenomena and realities related to the topic at hand. Data was gathered through a review of secondary sources, including journal articles, books, official websites from MPI, UNDP, and the World Bank, annual reports from the World Bank, as well as Mozambique's poverty reduction and humanitarian aid program reports by OPHI, and UNDP policy briefs on Mozambique. These sources were selected to offer a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic crisis, multidimensional poverty, and quality of life index that play a role in the development failure in Mozambique.

The research stages begin with the preparation phase, which includes formulating the research problem and developing the conceptual framework. The second stage involves data collection from various relevant sources. Next, the data is organized, and a comprehensive analysis is conducted to ensure data accuracy. The

final stage is interpretation and drawing conclusions, where the analysis results are used to answer the research questions, allowing the study to contribute to understanding the various factors underlying the political economic crisis, multidimensional poverty, and development failure faced by Mozambique.

DISCUSSION

Political Instability and Economic Vulnerability in Mozambique

Mozambique has a population of 31 million, with an HDI score of 0.461 in 2024, ranking 183rd out of 193 countries based on its HDI value. Although Mozambique has experienced relatively strong economic growth in recent years, access to nutritious food, clean water, sanitation, electricity, and employment remains low, particularly for those living in rural areas (Action on Poverty Organization, 2023). High social inequality makes Mozambique a country that is still lagging, with its population living in vulnerable conditions, especially when compared to other countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region such as Seychelles (ranked 67th), Mauritius (ranked 72nd), South Africa (ranked 110th), and Botswana (ranked 114th) (Fidalgo, 2024). Much of Mozambique's territory lacks adequate basic infrastructure, such as poor road conditions, bridges, electricity, and mobile phone networks (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2024).

The systemic economic issues are caused by mismanagement of finances, bribery, and corruption related to the debt problem that plunged Mozambique into a financial disaster. In 2016, Mozambique faced a debt of approximately US\$ 2 billion, which led the IMF to withdraw fiscal aid, triggering a national debt payment failure and causing the currency to collapse. Mozambique experienced losses due to the slowdown and economic devastation, which led 1.9 million people to fall into the cycle of poverty (Institute for Security Studies, 2024).

Jatula and Conshello (2021) explain that the liberal system claimed by Mozambique is merely a form of political monopoly that undermines the main pillars of democracy. The monopoly carried out by a group of ruling elites erodes the principle of separation of powers and oversight between government institutions. This creates opportunities for corruption, political monopoly, and authoritarian practices, becoming a systemic gap that continues to root itself in Mozambique.

In addition to economic issues, Mozambique has also been experiencing political instability and internal security challenges for decades since gaining independence from Portugal in 1975 (ACAPS, 2024). The threat of terrorism remains high in Mozambique, with the main threat coming from Islamic State Mozambique (IS-M), a terrorist group linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which is primarily active in the Cabo Delgado Province and has been carrying out widespread attacks that have resulted in civilian and security personnel deaths. This terrorist group conducts attacks such as road blockades, military base assaults, and attacks on urban and rural areas, as well as islands and coastal regions. Mozambique faces the threat of extremist groups involved in kidnappings, assaults on communities, and election-related unrest (Government UK, 2024).

According to Aisen and Veiga (2010), political instability is seen by economists as a serious issue that harms economic performance. Political instability tends to lead policymakers to adopt less optimal macroeconomic policies. Meanwhile, Rashid and Rashid (2024) state that political instability is a major issue in underdeveloped and less developed countries. These countries fail to realize that political stability is crucial for progress and prosperity due to its significance for economic expansion. This aligns with the situation in Mozambique, where economic marginalization, poverty, and limited access to basic services are the main drivers of violent extremism. The conflict issue exacerbates the national economic condition, which is also burdened by debt problems. Reduced resource allocation and limited access to basic necessities erode

public trust in the government. The interaction between economic instability and extremist conflict worsens the economic decline and drives inflation. This vicious cycle makes political instability and economic vulnerability systemic problems in Mozambique (Institute for Security Studies, 2024).

Multidimensional Poverty and Development Failure in Mozambique

Referring to Chambers in Sumargo and Simanjuntak (2017) on the five dimensions of multidimensional poverty, in the context of Mozambique, all five dimensions are occurring and truly reflect the dire conditions being faced. The first dimension is poverty, where the poverty situation in Mozambique remains a serious, unresolved issue. The number of poor people increased from 13.1 million to 18.9 million. Furthermore, the condition of multidimensional poverty has worsened, with the percentage of households experiencing deprivation (a state of shortage) rising from 71 percent to 78.3 percent between 2014/2015 and 2019/2020. Other data released by UNDP (2024) shows the results of a recent survey conducted in 2022/2023, revealing that Mozambique has a multidimensional poverty rate of 60.7 percent (approximately 19.813 million people), while another 16.9 percent are considered vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (approximately 5.504 million people).

The level of multidimensional poverty in Mozambique can be indicated by the MPI score, where the deprivation intensity is 55.1 percent, representing the average deprivation among those living in multidimensional poverty, with an MPI value of 0.334. This places Mozambique with a higher level of multidimensional poverty compared to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has an MPI of 0.331, Côte d'Ivoire with 0.210, and the average MPI for the Sub-Saharan Africa region, which stands at 0.254. For a clearer view, see Table 1 below.

Table 1.
MPI Value of Mozambique and Comparison with Countries in the Same Region

	Survey year	MPI value	Head-count (%)	Intensity of deprivations (%)	Population share (%)			Contribution of deprivation in dimension to overall multidimensional poverty (%)		
					Vulnerable to multidimensional poverty	In severe multidimensional poverty	Below income poverty line	Health	Education	Standard of living
Mozambique	2022/2023	0.334	60.7	55.1	16.9	38.8	74.5	17.3	33.2	49.5
Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	2017/2018	0.331	64.5	51.3	17.4	36.8	78.9	23.1	19.9	57.0
Côte d'Ivoire	2021	0.210	42.8	49.1	19.6	19.7	9.7	21.3	42.1	36.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	-	0.254	48.4	52.5	18.2	26.9	38.6	20.2	30.4	49.3

Source: UNDP MPI Report (2024)

The second dimension is powerlessness. In Mozambique, this can be seen in rural areas, where more than 95 percent of households fall into multidimensional poverty. Urban households also face a significant increase in multidimensional poverty, rising from 32 percent to 46 percent in the same period (World Bank, 2024). This situation forces people into a state of powerlessness, with limited access to better employment opportunities, as well as insufficient healthcare and education. The third dimension is vulnerability to emergencies. In Mozambique, people experience vulnerability, whether socially, economically, or in terms of security. The high levels of violent conflict caused by domestic extremist groups in certain regions have led people to live in constant fear and face significant limitations.

The fourth dimension is dependency, which remains unsolved from a socio-economic perspective. Economically, people still rely on working in the agricultural industry with limited tools. Dependency on low-productivity jobs is also due to the high illiteracy rate among adults. According to the Integral Human Development (2022), about 45 percent of the population in Mozambique is illiterate. The limited capabilities of the population hinder the working-age group from obtaining better jobs. This, in turn, creates conditions of intergenerational poverty and slows long-term economic growth. On a national scale, despite Mozambique being a country with potential in agriculture, it still depends on imports of staple foods such as maize and

wheat. The government prioritizes food production over the production of export goods (Hofmann, 2013).

The fifth dimension is isolation, which can be understood as the condition of the population in Mozambique being seemingly detached or separated from their environment, work, and tangible results of their labor. There is a sense of powerlessness that leads to feelings of alienation from established values, low self-confidence, social isolation, and exclusion in social relationships. All of these conditions should be a focus for the government to address by having the courage and capability to dismantle the schemes of the elite groups who continue to profit from extreme poverty alongside rising inequality and insecurity.

Based on the explanation above, Mozambique can be categorized as a failed state in terms of development, in line with what Mosse in Venugopal (2018) stated that development failure cannot be viewed solely in terms of outcomes but must also consider the performance and representation that should be produced. The success of development is not just about measuring performance and the projects that have been carried out but also about how those development projects impact and who benefits from them. Meanwhile, based on existing data, the government of Mozambique has yet to demonstrate the realization of strategic development projects that have a genuinely positive impact and bring prosperity, not just for the ruling elite but for all citizens without exception.

Economic Transformation as a Solution for Equity and Prosperity

The series of socio-economic vulnerability issues faced by the population of Mozambique due to long-standing poverty requires corrective action at all levels, primarily through innovations in economic policy. Ajakaiye and Ncube (2010) explain the opportunities for economic transformation in African countries, noting that ideally, low-income countries in this region should consider initiatives such as trade

expansion policies and regional integration within a single area. By linking trade, infrastructure, and the expansion of trade areas, regional and intra-regional integration will be promoted. The provision of adequate infrastructure is a key prerequisite for trade liberalization to achieve efficient resource reallocation and export growth. The infrastructure in question includes transportation, telecommunications, water and sanitation, electricity and gas, as well as accessibility for all parties to existing facilities (a balance between the quantity and quality of infrastructure).

In the context of Mozambique, building connectivity, according to the concept proposed by Ajakaiye and Ncube, is a rational opportunity that can be realized. In terms of location, Mozambique is quite strategic, as its surrounding countries are landlocked and therefore depend on Mozambique as a gateway to the global market (World Bank, 2024). Mozambique is integrated into global trade through the Indian Ocean, and its coastal areas form the southern extension of the Africa-Arab trade network (Hofmann, 2013). Mozambique's strong ties with the economic dynamics of the Southern Africa region highlight the importance of economic, political, and social development in the country to achieve stability and growth for South Africa as a whole.

According to McMillan et al. (2017), economic transformation policies adopted by a country can lead to three key advantages: (1) a broader distribution of income through the expansion of labor-intensive industries, (2) greater resilience of the national economy to price fluctuations thanks to diversification, and (3) enhanced prospects for future economic growth driven by interconnectedness and synergies. In Mozambique, achieving these benefits is not out of reach if the government, with the backing of donor institutions and other organizations, is fully committed to implementing a large-scale transformation. This potential is supported by the fact that while Mozambique already has investment and a business climate in place, it still faces

various challenges. The government can attract substantial investment through economic reform policies by engaging foreign investors who are open to these initiatives. Simultaneously, the government must improve the business environment to make it more favorable and enhance the skills of the population to integrate them into emerging industries.

International Institutional Support for Multidimensional Poverty in Mozambique

Efforts to alleviate poverty in Mozambique have received support from various international donor institutions. One of which is assistance from the German Government. This support focuses on sustainable economic development for all citizens. The German Government is committed to providing access to education and job training for young people. This cooperation is centered around core objectives, including creating a peaceful and inclusive society, promoting sustainable economic development, and ensuring energy and climate sustainability (German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, 2022).

Other development assistance has also been received from the World Bank, with involvement in the development process in Mozambique being outlined in the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2023-2027. Funding support has also been provided to Mozambique by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). According to official reports, USAID has provided support in strengthening several sectors, including agriculture and food security; improvements in democracy, human rights, and governance; economic growth and trade; education sector; environment; and global health (U.S. Agency for International Development, 2024).

The numerous funding aids and projects received have not been successful in alleviating chronic poverty in Mozambique. Dennis Jett (2020), in his capacity as the former United States Ambassador to Mozambique, explains that aid from donor countries and international organizations has instead supported a corrupt

government, leading millions of citizens to fall deeper into poverty. Mozambique has become a failed state with a false democracy, and its energy wealth cannot guarantee that its security or governance will improve in the future. The projection that Mozambique will struggle to become a country that successfully eradicates poverty is largely due to the corruption carried out by the government, where the administration has been led by the same group of politicians since post-independence in 1975. This group has abused power due to the lack of balancing forces such as an independent legislative and judicial body, a free press, and a strong civil society (Jett, 2020).

As a result, Mozambique can be regarded as a failed state in terms of development, having been unable to meet the basic rights of its people, provide security for all its citizens, or establish a national economy that fosters prosperity for everyone. The GIS Report (2025) categorizes Mozambique as a nation affected by rebellion, debt crises, geopolitical instability, and persistent structural challenges. Hence, a significant shift in economic transformation policies is necessary, alongside reforms in governance and institutions. Ultimately, if corruption and the dominance of a single elitist group are not resolved, the country's development efforts will not lead to meaningful success.

CONCLUSION

The commitment to addressing multidimensional poverty in Mozambique has not been optimally realized because the government has yet to resolve crucial issues such as systemic corruption, poor democracy and governance, and weak enforcement of human rights. The crisis and multidimensional poverty faced by Mozambique are caused by a difficult economic situation, political and security instability, lack of economic opportunities, low labor skills, and a range of interconnected problems rooted in historical, socio-economic, and political dynamics. The government tends to neglect inclusive and accountable governance, as well as equitable infrastructure

development, resulting in regional disparities in the use of public facilities and resources, as well as structural imbalances.

Economic transformation policies could be a concrete option for the government of Mozambique to begin shifting the economy from one based on commodities to one based on investment, production, and high-value-added activities. Economic transformation policies in Mozambique can focus on expanding trade and regional integration by positioning Mozambique as a connector between neighboring countries and a key point for the economic circulation of the Southern Africa region. By linking trade and infrastructure and expanding trade areas, regional and intra-regional integration will be encouraged. Thus, the issue of development failure in Mozambique can be addressed. Alternative policies could also focus on institutional development and improvements across all sectors, reducing socio-economic disparities, resolving the high debt scandals, and decreasing reliance on extractive industries while starting new economic transformation initiatives to achieve national prosperity and development.

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