

Social Sciences Research Centre  
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# Conference on Higher Education, Mobility and Migration in and out of Africa Vienna, 19 – 21 June 2014.



Eduardo Mondlane University  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

By

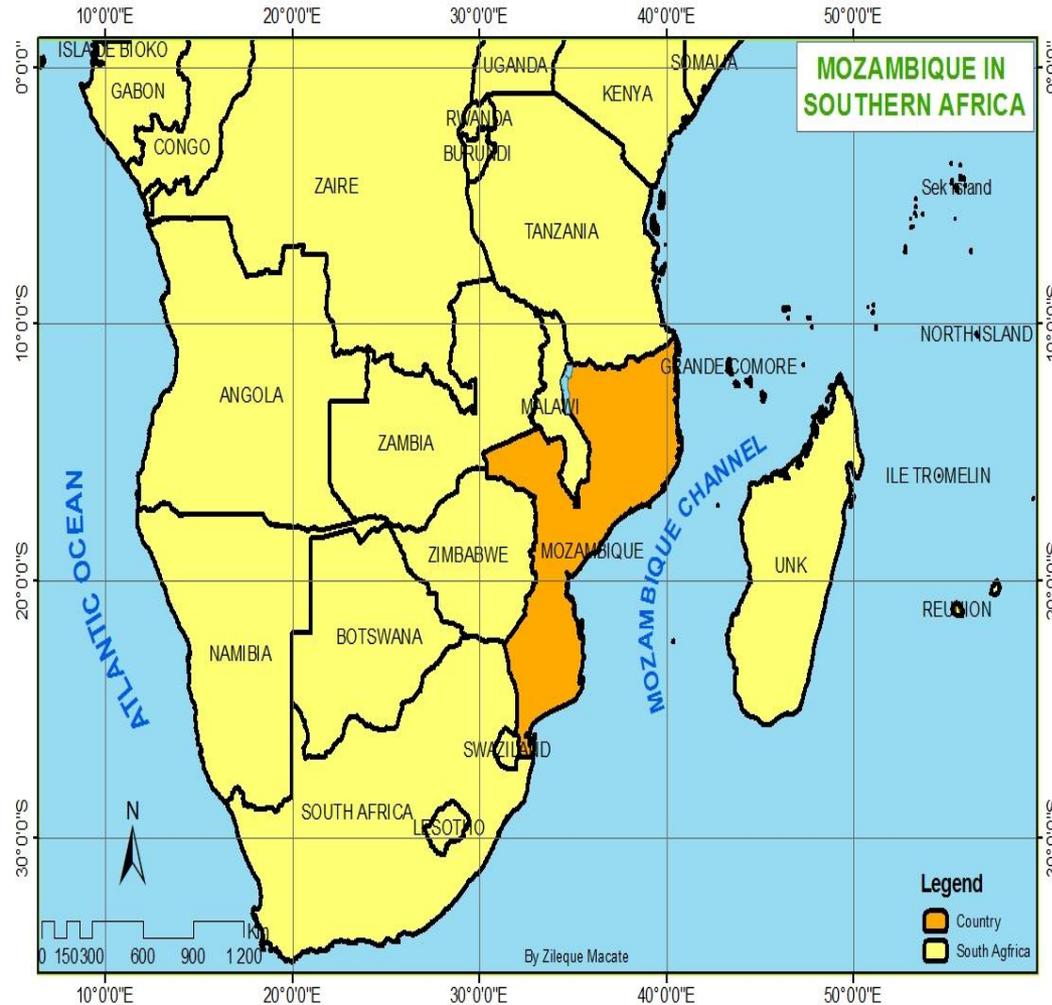
**Inês M. Raimundo**

# Current and prospective brain drain in Mozambique

•“I can go back home if decide to do that. I have a mixture of feelings. I miss home, my food, my bed and my parents”. An interviewed student from northern Mozambique who was studying at Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo (March 2010)

Why has she reached that point?

# Mozambique: a background



Population in 2007		%
Total	20,579,269	100
Males	9,897,116	48.09
Females	10,682,149	51.91

Source: INE 2009

**HDI** Out of 187 countries, Mozambique is scored in the position 185. Only surpasses Niger and DRC  
 Source: UNDO 2013

Mozambique is about 799,380Km<sup>2</sup> and a HDI of

# Current brain drain in Mozambique: what lies beyond?

- Brain drain is generally defined as the exodus of trained people caused by the lack of employment, lack of safety and/or dissatisfaction with political and economic situation. (Oucho 2008)

- How does this situation occur in Mozambique considering its Portuguese legacy, historical position of exporting labour, not to mention its political and economic instabilities?



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# If skilled Mozambicans are living outside the country, where exactly?

**Selected data of highly skilled Mozambicans living overseas from 1980 to 2010**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>USA</b>
1980	0	115	0	0	0	3,777	176
1985	0	160	30	0	149	8,149	415
1990	166	130	88	0	305	8,386	656
1995	216	380	128	566	475	12,687	361
2000	299	480	134	524	590	19,408	455
2005	356	660	81	524	793	26,413	660
2010	420	916	160	482	1,230	31,757	753

# Students the main root of brain drain

## Scholarship students by degree , 2013

Level	Male	Female	Total
High School	54	43	97
<i>Licenciatura</i> (Degree)	1,412	1,017	2,429
Master	206	216	422
PhD	26	9	35
Total	1,672	1,069	2,983

## Scholarship students by field of study by gender

Field of study	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Natural Sciences	883	498	1,381
Social Sciences and Humanities	815	687	1,502
Total	1,698	1,185	2,883

# International migration: The root for brain drain

- Migration is most typically attached to economic, social, political, environmental and/or social factors.
- In developing countries, where jobs and opportunities for upward progression are scarce, people opt to leave their homelands in search of better opportunities and living conditions
- “Relatives are living overseas because of the stomach

# Causes of brain drain within university environment

## Institutional factors

- Bureaucratic structures of African universities

## Human resources management

- In many universities have not been managed effectively or efficiently, leading to frustration

## Political factors

- Undemocratic and authoritarian political systems, instability and conflict, as well as the lack of academic freedom

**Source: Manuh, Asante and Djangmah (2005)**

# Trends of possible brain drain among university students

<b>Graduate students</b>			<b>Perspectives of leaving the country after studies</b>		
Level of Study	Frequency	%		Total	%
I	32	17.3			
II	72	38.9	Yes	162	87.6
III	51	27.6	No	23	12.4
IV	25	13.5			
V	5	2.7			
Total	185	100	Total	185	100

Source: Raimundo and de Ceita Palolite (2010)

# Why and to Where?

Why?	Frequency	%
Job	37	20.9
Studies	111	62.7
Other	29	16.4
Total	177	100

## **“Other” as a response from Interviewees**

“We want to join relatives who are in Portugal”

To where?	Frequency	%
Australia	10	5.6
SA	13	7.3
Portugal	18	10.2
USA	23	13.0
UK	29	16.4
France	21	11.9
Other	63	35.6
Total	177	100.0

Source: Raimundo and de Ceita Palolite, 2010

# Would you leave permanently or not?

Yes		
Would you leave the country forever?	Frequency	%
Yes	24	13.4
No	126	70.4
Depend	29	16.2
Total	179	100

If you had a chance to work overseas, would you accept?	Frequency	%
Yes	166	89.7
No	19	10.3
Total	185	100.0

Working conditions are poor. “You can’t even find a thermometer in most health centres”.

“Orthopaedics often use their fingers to find a broken bone”

# Why not?

“Home is still home, no matter the circumstances or conditions”

“Mozambique is maningue nice”

“Better days would come.”

“I am not prepared to give up everything I have here. For me, everything is here in Mozambique – studies, training, family and friends”.

“When the ship is sinking, nobody has to run, just plug up the hole

Nothing interesting in the way of work has come from outside the country”.

“There is still employment here for skilled people”

“ Fear of xenophobic attacks as is common to see threatening graffiti written on walls such as: they have learnt that some countries write They are coming in droves and we Portuguese are suffering because of them”.

## Why the so propelled Brain drain?

The former Socialist countries might have skilled Mozambicans as the government sent thousands Socialist countries.

- During the civil war many Mozambicans found refuge in neighbouring countries. The civil war itself forced approximately 2 million people to relocate into neighboring countries
- World Bank report (2005) discloses that **45.1%** of Mozambicans with high level of education were residing in foreign countries.
- Data from the Instituto de Bolsas (2014) about graduated and those who returned, points out that in the year of 2008 were sent oversees **1,108** students and only **254** out returned. This is meaning the country has lost about 78 per cent of skilled.

# Data source: Official statistics



National Directorate of Immigration

Republic of Mozambique	Embark/Disembarkation card				
1. Surname					
2. Name					
3. Passport number	4. Validity	5. Nationality	6. Sex	Male	Female
7. Birth day	8. Country of permanent residence	9. Duration of days	10. Destination	11. Address of stay	
12. Purpose of visit/trip	Business	Official	Tourism	Transit	
	Visiting relatives/friends	Work	Miners	Others	
13. Mean of transport	Registration plate number	Flight number	Train	Ship	
	Foot				

Looking at the form above, it can hardly provide any consistent data about qualified Mozambicans exiting the country

Other sources: Decennial national censuses and birth registration

## How accurate is migration data?

- Data can be from official statistics, researches or international sources data basis
- Measuring people on move is very hard
- Predicting the amount of brain drain in Mozambique is not an easy task. This is because determining factors influencing the decision to relocate are not static

## Conclusion

- Emigration of university-educated people has led to concern about the loss of human capital.
- Movement of human capital from poor to rich countries takes place not only through the “employment gate”, but also through the “academic gate
- There are definite signs of brain drain amongst Mozambican university students.

# Conclusion

- Many respondents still want to stay in Mozambique even though jobs are scarce, because *“There is still employment here for skilled people”*
- There is an assumption that Mozambican university students have a high emigration potential.
- There remains a sense some are still not willing to leave the country even though there is a lack of jobs.

Thank You!



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