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Mozambique, Conflict

Mozambique

Most countries don't have to worry about war arising in their countries. Most countries have the resources to stop a war. Also these countries have the ability to deliver food and resources to reach the people who have been displaced by the war. Unlike these many countries, Mozambique doesn't have those resources. They have been fighting a war for 11 years. They don't have the military power to fight the Islam extremists and they don't possess adequate resources to provide food and basic necessities for those who have been displaced.

Mozambique is similar in geography and natural resources to many of the other countries located in Africa. Mozambique is roughly 309,496 square miles. Mozambique borders Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Eswathini. Mozambique's population is approximately 31.26 million (World Bank 2022). Mozambique's government is a Presidential Republic, in the executive branch the president runs as the head of government and head of state. The prime minister advises the president and looks over the other ministers. The judicial branch is the highest court in the country and reviews laws to make sure they are constitutional. The legislative branch is a unicameral body. Mozambique has 10 provinces and one capital region.

There is a wide array of religions practiced in Mozambique. 56.1% of people in Mozambique practice Christianity. About 18 percent practice Islam. The remaining 26% practice other religions or are atheists (World Population Review 2022). The different religions are spread out throughout the country. Christianity is mostly in the southern region and Muslim in the northern region. Most of the population is from Bantu descent with the rest being from Portugese descent.

Mozambique ranks 32nd out of 47 African countries in economic prosperity (Economic Freedom 2022). The exchange rate of Mozambique currency is not very strong. One Mozambique metical is worth 16 cents in the United States (Currency Converter). Mozambique has a lot of natural resources; its top five natural resources are coal, graphite, iron ore, titanium, and marble. They trade with India, South Africa, Netherlands, Italy, and China.

The country's main exports are aluminum, electric energy, tobacco, natural gas, sugar and prawns. The top imports are mineral fuels, oils, and distillation products, on which Mozambique spends about \$1.57 billion. Machinery, nuclear reactors and boilers, Mozambique spends about 981.74 million. Vehicles, other than railroad, tramway, Mozambique spends \$592.41 million. In exports(Trade Economics).

Mozambique's infrastructure in some parts of the country is very good while other parts are not. One factor in infrastructure is that there are millions of landmines that are unknown. Having these landmines that no one knows about can be hurtful because you can't build buildings or you don't know if a landmine is going to be there. Many outside countries do not want to invest in the economy because of the unknowns related to the conflict. Mozambique's east-west

transportation is good because they travel east and west to get exports from one side of the country to the other. Mozambique's power grid and sanitation system are in good condition. However, the north and south roads do need some work. Along with the water maintenance and expanding hydroelectric power, as having consistent availability of electricity is not common at all. This complicates and compounds many of the relief efforts.

Mozambique's war has been on-going amid other problems like COVID-19 and a tornado that ran through Cabo Delgado in 2019. The number of people displaced is about 735,000, and of the 735,000, 59% are displaced children (OCHA, 2022). These people have been escaping to Tanzania. Thousands more people have been discovered around Palma, locked away from humanitarian access. About 2,000 kids don't know where their parents are, let alone if their parents are alive. The Cabo Delgado region has been plagued by food insecurity since 2017. Militant extremists have come through causing chaos and murdering dozens while displacing thousands, while others came to Cabo Delgado to escape violence (Thomas, 2021.) This is a very dire situation and one that cannot easily be fixed. Some of the factors that have led to this war are displacement of local communities, local corruption, and the region's economic and political marginalization (Burrier 2022). From the original war in 1975, problems didn't get solved. The Calbo Diego region is among the poorest regions in the country, corruption has run wild, and this region is known to be one of the biggest global drug trafficking areas (Burrier 2022).

Due to the fragile state of the country, national security interests and the US military assistance will be impactful. In April, Mozambique was one of five countries that were named to the Global Fragility Act (GFA). GFA helps these countries with financial and military aid. Over the 10 year commitment, the country gets 1 million dollars within the first 5 years.

One of the first steps I would take to help solve this problem would be to gather up enough food and resources to be able to help the displaced families outside of Cabo Delgado. I would reach out to the government of Tanzania and get convince them to reach out and see how many people from Mozambique have escaped to that area and are refugees and find them for Mozambique.

I would insert the military dressed up as people the best way to fight it. I would also bring in food and water to help those most in need. I would help remove the most vulnerable people and establish a full military to fight these people or try to make peace with them. To fight them I would use the country's military and try to get some of the natives, and those who have been displaced to help us. I would try to make peace first, avoiding warfare at all costs, I would take on the approach of the UN Preventative Discernment. This approach has helped in countries such as El Salvador and Liberia, This approach would mean that demobilizing combat forces and taking part is destroying weapons as a peace agreement(UN.)

There are many obstacles in the way of solving this problem. One problem is getting the people to trust the government. With many of these people being displaced and out of sorts they are not going to trust the government officials as much as they have previously. People have been living on the edge of life and death for so long they will not have a rational view on life or be willing to cooperate with the government. Building trust could potentially take a couple of months.

Another issue would be having enough supplies to take to these high risk areas. The country is short on supplies anyway and taking away resources from other parts of the country may create more of a shortage. One way we can solve this problem is to partner with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to bring humanitarian aid to help the displaced people. Another humanitarian organization would be the World Food Programme which can provide support to people in need. This will not be settled in the short term and will require a lengthy recovery process.

The steps I would take to ensure that this problem would not come back would be to hold open and honest communication with citizens of the country and ask them what they need or what the government can improve upon. I would do this because if the government seems interested in the people and their needs then the desire to revolt would be less.

One step I would take to work on the food insecurity problem would be to implement hydroponics into communities. This would take awhile to become permanent because of the cost to implement hydroponics. Also you would have to teach the community members how to use and care for the systems. The benefits of having this system would be that produce healthier and faster for the community members to eat.

In July of 2022 the United States sent 16 million dollars toward humanitarian aid. This is on top of the \$592 million the USAID sent to help others around Kampala. Waiting congressional approval, 10 million dollars will be sent to Mozambique to help with infrastructure, while sending USAID out to small farmers to teach them climate-safe farming practices (USAID, 2022).

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