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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



**SWISS
COOPERATION
PROGRAMME IN
MOZAMBIQUE**
2026–2029



Background

Switzerland has been engaged in northern Mozambique for more than four decades, with a long-standing focus on the provinces of Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado, where poverty levels are highest. This sustained commitment has yielded tangible results: stronger local partnerships, gradual improvements in service delivery and a reputation as a trusted, locally-grounded partner. These foundations remain a key asset for the programme ahead.

Mozambique marked fifty years of independence in 2025. Its path since independence was uneven, with periods of social improvements and economic growth followed by significant set-backs. Currently, 82% of the population lives in poverty (below USD 3 per day), according to World Bank data. Access to water, energy and social protection remains limited, while women and girls are particularly vulnerable. The young and growing population – 60%

of which is under the age of 25 – represents both a pressure on infrastructure and services and a significant development opportunity, provided that investments in skills, employment and governance keep pace.

The post-election crisis of 2024 slowed economic growth, against a backdrop of already constrained public finances and persistent governance challenges, including corruption and weak rule of law. The conflict in Cabo Delgado, ongoing since 2017, has caused large-scale displacement and destruction across northern Mozambique. At the same time, improved security in some areas has enabled gradual returns of internally displaced people and the restoration of basic services, showing that recovery is possible when conditions allow. Mozambique's exposure to cyclones and droughts adds further complexity, though local adaptation capacities are growing.

In this context, Switzerland's continued engagement through the Cooperation Programme 2026–2029 is well placed to protect past achievements, build on emerging opportunities and support the country's long-term resilience and development.



Results and lessons learnt in 2022–2025

Switzerland's programme focused on three main outcomes: improving access to quality basic services; increasing employment and income opportunities, especially for women and young people; and strengthening civil society empowerment, governance and citizen participation. The programme showed that sustainable results require combining policy reform and stronger capacities at the local level, while ensuring that all groups of the population are included. Implementation faced challenges linked to political instability, insecurity and limited institutional capacity.

Governance

Switzerland supported reforms in land governance, decentralisation and anti-corruption, strengthening transparency and public financial management at national and local levels. In Swiss-supported municipalities, locally-generated revenues increased fourfold, enabling improved budget planning and service delivery. Switzerland also contributed to stronger anti-corruption

institutions and legal reforms, including asset recovery mechanisms. Civil society organisations were supported to promote citizen participation, oversight and accountable public decision-making.

Economic opportunities

Switzerland promoted economic resilience through skills development, job creation and access to finance, with a strong focus on women and youth. More than 5,100 young people completed vocational training, improving their employment prospects. Swiss-supported initiatives helped create or improve around 44,720 jobs. In addition, 23,595 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, 63% women-led, gained access to financial services, while 25,800 micro-entrepreneurs strengthened their financial literacy and business skills.

Basic services and humanitarian support

Access to essential services was expanded.

Almost two million people benefited from improved drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. Humanitarian assistance reached over 650,000 people affected by conflict, climate shocks and disease. In targeted areas, cholera mortality decreased from 4.1% to 0.2%, reflecting improved health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) systems. Experience confirmed that linking humanitarian response with longer-term development increases effectiveness and sustainability.

Peace and social cohesion

Switzerland continued to support the implementation of the 2019 Maputo Peace Accord, including the demobilisation, demilitarisation and reintegration of former combatants. Through dialogue facilitation, confidence building and support to civil society, Switzerland strengthened social cohesion and promoted more peaceful and inclusive participation in public life.

Switzerland's commitment – focus areas for 2026–2029

Switzerland's cooperation programme for 2026–2029 builds on lessons learned and responds to evolving needs in northern Mozambique. It promotes inclusive development led by local actors through three interconnected areas: governance and peace; inclusive and green local economic development; and resilient communities and local authorities. Together, these areas strengthen social cohesion, improve economic opportunities and increase resilience to shocks.

Municipalities and their surrounding areas are central to Switzerland's approach across all three areas. As urbanisation accelerates, these towns face increasing demands for jobs, services and risk management while remaining the level of elected government most directly accountable to citizens. Switzerland will deepen cooperation with municipalities and continue dialogue

with provincial and national authorities to strengthen policies and frameworks that support effective local governance.

Governance and peace

Switzerland works with municipalities to improve resource mobilisation, planning, transparent use of public funds and basic services (e.g., rehabilitation of schools, health centres, water infrastructure). It fosters collaboration between local authorities, civil society and the private sector to strengthen participation in decision-making and hold the government to account. In Cabo Delgado, Switzerland supports dialogue and peacebuilding efforts to build trust, address tensions and reduce the impact of violence on civilians.

Inclusive and green local economic development

With a focus on women and young people, Switzerland continues to strengthen market systems and promote environmentally-friendly value chains, for instance by using organic fertiliser, promoting drought-resistant crops, or providing training in the renewable energy sector. It supports local businesses, vocational training and access to finance while fostering economic opportunities. Cooperation with the private sector and local authorities aims to improve the environment for jobs and investment.

Building resilience of communities and local authorities

Climate change, health risks and insecurity continue to affect lives and livelihoods. Switzerland supports local authorities to better anticipate, reduce and manage risks through disaster preparedness, prevention and local adaptation initiatives. Communities, especially women, youth and vulnerable groups, are encouraged to participate actively in resilience planning and implementation. During crises, Switzerland contributes to providing affected communities with access to food, shelter, protection and essential services.

Geographic focus

Swiss international cooperation remains concentrated in the northern provinces of Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado, where poverty and vulnerability are most pronounced. Activities will increasingly focus on selected municipalities along the economic corridor leading through Nampula and Niassa to reinforce synergies between governance, economic development and resilience. In Cabo Delgado, Switzerland continues its humanitarian and peace engagement, particularly in areas affected by displacement and insecurity.

Transversal Themes

Across all programme areas, Switzerland promotes gender equality, climate and environmental sustainability and good governance. Particular attention is given to women's participation in economic and public life, climate-resilient solutions and transparent, accountable institutions.

Inclusive and Green Local Economic Development



Governance and Peace



Resilient Communities and Local Authorities





Approach and partners

Switzerland combines political dialogue at national level with locally-anchored interventions to achieve lasting impact. All interventions apply conflict-sensitive management principles and respond to local needs.

Projects are implemented through partnerships with government institutions, municipal authorities, civil society and private sector actors. Switzerland also cooperates with bilateral donors and multilateral institutions to improve coordination and increase the effectiveness of interventions. In response to rapid population growth and persistent inequalities, women and young people remain a focus across all programme areas, both as beneficiaries and agents of inclusive development.

The cooperation programme is reviewed annually and adjusted based on contextual developments and results. Switzerland applies a flexible approach, selecting partners and modalities according to capacities, credibility and risk profiles. In contexts affected by conflict and displacement, Switzerland strengthens links between humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peacebuilding.

Cooperation Programme Mozambique

Budget 2026–2029

CHF 87 Mio * (incl. CHF 6.7 million humanitarian support)

Intervention zones

Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado

Priority areas

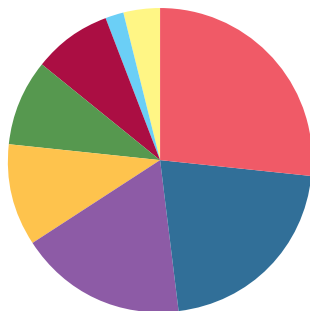
Governance and Peace
Inclusive and Green Local Economic Development
Resilient Communities and Local Authorities

Transversal themes

Gender equality, climate and environmental sustainability, good governance

* The financial envelope is indicative and serves as a basis for the provisional expenditure plans, which are reviewed annually by the Federal Council and the Swiss Parliament.

Breakdown per partners



- State Institutions
- Local NGOs
- Private Sector
- Swiss NGOs
- International NGOs
- United Nations Organisations
- Swiss Academic & Research Institutions
- Other





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