

“Opitanha” Social Relations of Rural Poverty in Northern Mozambique

Inge Tvedten
Margarida Paulo
Carmeliza Rosário

R 2006: 16

"Opitanha"
Social Relations of Rural Poverty
in Northern Mozambique

Inge Tvedten
Margarida Paulo
Carmeliza Rosário

R 2006:16

CMI Reports

This series can be ordered from:

Chr. Michelsen Institute
P.O. Box 6033 Postterminalen,
N-5892 Bergen, Norway
Tel: + 47 55 57 40 00
Fax: + 47 55 57 41 66
E-mail: cmi@cmi.no
www.cmi.no

Price: NOK 125

ISSN 0805-505X

ISBN 82-8062-172-5

This report is also available at:

www.cmi.no/publications

This report is commissioned by the Department for International Development, DfID, in Mozambique. The views and interpretations expressed are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of DfID.

The report is also available in Portuguese.

Indexing terms

Poverty
Mozambique

Project number

25163

Project title

Social Relations of Poverty in Mozambique

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 STUDY RATIONALE.....	1
1.2 KEY FINDINGS	3
1.3 METHODOLOGY.....	5
1.4 REPORT OUTLINE	9
2. QUANTITATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF POVERTY.....	11
2.1 POVERTY IN MOZAMBIQUE	11
2.2. POVERTY IN NAMPULA.....	13
3. BACKGROUND TO STUDY AREA.....	17
3.1 BRIEF HISTORY	18
3.2 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	21
3.3 THE DISTRICT ECONOMY	25
4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF POVERTY	30
4.1 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND DEPENDENCIES	30
4.2 AGRICULTURE, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.....	35
4.3 EDUCATION AND HEALTH	39
4.4 RURAL PLACE AND SOCIAL SPACE	43
4.5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY	46
5. PERCEPTIONS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS OF POVERTY.....	47
5.1 PERCEPTIONS OF POVERTY AND WELL-BEING	48
<i>Characteristics of poor communities</i>	48
<i>Characteristics of poor households</i>	49
<i>Categories of poor and better off</i>	51
5.2 RELATIONS OF POVERTY AND WELL-BEING.....	55
<i>Intra-household relations</i>	58
<i>The Extended Family and Nihimo</i>	59
<i>Traditional Institutions</i>	60
<i>The State</i>	61
5.3 PROCESSES OF MARGINALISATION AND EXCLUSION	62
6. CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS	63
6.1 POLICY IMPLICATIONS.....	64
6.2 FURTHER RESEARCH	65
ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	66
ANNEX 2: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE.....	69
ANNEX 3: ILLUSTRATIONS OF QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGIES	85
LIST OF REFERENCES	92

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Department for International Development (DfID) in Maputo for funding this study, and Alicia Herbert of DfID for her professional and positive support. Thanks are also due to the Murrupula District Administrator Mr. Afonso Ussene, the Permanent Secretary Mr. Barão Camilo, the Head of Administration Mr. Alexandre Tesoura, and other staff who showed a keen interest in our study and gave us invaluable support. In the field, thanks are due to the Head of the Nhessiue Administrative Post Mr. Olindo Ibraimo and the Chinga Administrative Post Mr. Montinho Daniel, as well as to Régulo Lepa (Nhessiue) and Régulo Namacorra (Chinga). The four *cabos*, Mr. Americo da Silva Gabriel (Merica), Mr. Leonardo Baptista (Chakalua), Mr. Napaia Nihessiue (Cômua) and Mr. Alberto Mocala (Muquela), not only showed an interest in our study, but also gave invaluable support in calling meetings and organising guides to take us safely around their areas. Our two drivers Mr. Janu Raivoso and Mr. Carlitos Jantar drove us securely around the Murrupula District, and our six enumerators, Helena Paulino, Fumo Chauro, Ernesto Milissão, Linold Jossai, Leonel Sabonete and Nando Omar, helped us with the questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews. Last but not least, we would like to thank the populations of Nhessiue and Chinga for their interest and patience during long meetings and interviews.

A draft version of this study was presented at the Ministry of Planning and Development in Maputo in June 2006. Staff at the Ministry gave us positive feedback and insightful comments. We hope the study in its current written form will have positive implications for the monitoring and evaluation of Mozambique's important Poverty Reduction Strategy (PARPA II).

Inge Tvedten, Chr. Michelsen Institute

Margarida Paulo, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane

Carmeliza Rosário, Austral Consultoria & Projectos

SUMMARY

Research-based information is recognised as crucial for Mozambique's endeavours to reduce its poverty. This first report in a series of three qualitative studies on poverty in Mozambique focuses on the district of Murrupula in Nampula province. In Chapter 1 we argue that qualitative studies are important for the monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction policies. They inform quantitative data and correlations by testing causal hypotheses on the ground. They discover processes and interdependencies related to non-tangible dimensions of poverty such as vulnerability and powerlessness. They test and reassess central concepts and units of poverty analysis. Finally, they involve the poor themselves in the analysis of their own situation in ways that are difficult with formal questionnaire surveys.

In Chapter 2 we present central quantitative expressions of poverty in Mozambique as points of reference. We start by outlining some of the broad development trends, including urbanisation, feminisation of poverty and HIV/AIDS, and then analyse data on Mozambique and Nampula to highlight similarities and differences. Chapter 3 provides a background profile of the area under study, predicated on the assumption that the political, economic and sociocultural context is important for understanding social relations of poverty. A brief history emphasising how Murrupula was constrained in its development through the late colonial era, the Frelimo socialist experiment and the war leads into an outline of the responsibilities of the District Administration, the role of traditional authorities, and the overall social and economic situation in the district.

Chapter 4 is built around the survey undertaken for this study, and outlines socioeconomic conditions and determinants of poverty with a focus on employment and income, education and health. It also looks at the implications of geographical space, especially distance from the main economic and population centres, for poverty and poverty alleviation. Chapter 5 focuses on the issue of social relations of poverty, and processes of impoverishment, marginalisation and social exclusion. Its point of departure is people's own emic perceptions of poverty, examining relationships between different categories of the poor within the household and the extended family, traditional institutions and the state. Chapter 6 concludes, drawing some preliminary policy implications and outlining the planned follow-up of the current study in urban Maputo and coastal Sofala respectively.

ISSN 0805-505X
ISBN 82-8062-172-5

Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) is an independent, non-profit research institution and a major international centre in policy-oriented and applied development research. Focus is on development and human rights issues and on international conditions that affect such issues. The geographical focus is Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern and Central Asia, the Middle East, the Balkans and South America.

CMI combines applied and theoretical research. CMI research intends to assist policy formulation, improve the basis for decision-making and promote public debate on international development issues.