

PRESENTATION

The Annual Poverty Report (RAP 2005) is an initiative of the G20 - a platform of Mozambican civil society organizations - for participation in the Poverty/Development Observatories, both centrally and in the provinces and districts where the G20 has representatives.

It should be recalled that, following implementation of the Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty - PARPA 2001-2005 - some civil society organizations took part in the Opinion Council of the First (April 2003) and Second (May 2004) Poverty Observatories. In the First Poverty Observatory, civil society was limited to commenting on and reacting to the documents presented by the Government. At the Second Observatory, civil society was organized: it drafted and presented an Annual Poverty Report (RAP 2004) on the theme: "Fighting the causes of poverty".

In August 2004, in the National Meeting drawing up a balance sheet of RAP 2004, representatives of several Mozambican civil society organizations agreed that an RAP would be drawn up every year as a form of communication or interaction with the Government and international partners. To this end, it was recommended that the dynamic begun be continued - above all that the structure and working methods that guided the G20 in 2003/4, during the drafting of RAP 2004, be continued, driving this movement to the provincial and district levels. In this context, for its participation in the 2005 Poverty Observatory, the G20 decided to draw up a RAP which took as its central theme "Participation in fighting the causes of poverty in Mozambique".

Thus, RAP 2005 has, among others, the following objectives:

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- To identify and disseminate concrete actions in fighting the causes of poverty in Mozambique;
- To evaluate the degree of intervention by the state, civil society and the international cooperation partners, throughout the country, in promoting economic and social development as a contribution to fighting the causes of poverty.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To check on the evolution of increased participation by citizens/civil society in decision making processes nationally and in each province, district and municipality;
- To gather experiences of intervention by citizens/civil society, as active subjects, to fight against the causes of poverty in Mozambique;
- To identify actions undertaken and/or under way arising from the proposals made by RAP 2004;
- Propose strategies and concrete actions as part of preparations for PARPA II.

The present report, without prejudice to creativity, deals with the aspects grouped under the following chapters:



The first chapter indicates the methodology used and the actions undertaken by civil society organizations to draw up the present Annual Poverty Report. This intensive exercise covered the country's 11 provinces and 124 districts, and involved 87 organizations. The selection of who should form the panel of organizations who have seats in these observatories, both at central and at provincial and district levels, fell to civil society itself to decide through the G20, respecting the compositional structure of this movement, namely:

- Religious bodies;
- Trade unions;
- Private business;
- NGO networks;
- Specialist NGOs;
- Technical and professional organizations;
- Academic and research institutions;
- Peasant farmers organizations.

In context, this composition sought to attain a representation reflecting the reality of each province and of the district in question.

Organization and facilitation were undertaken by the organizations themselves, in accordance with the instructions guide drawn up for this purpose. Each of the questions on the guide resulted from reflections made by the G20, and imprecisions were corrected during the work (see appendix 1).

Chapter 2 deals with the current situation of the 7 proposals from the 2004 RAP, assessing the steps taken with regard to the definition of poverty, the creation of consultative councils at the various levels of the local state bodies and their main attributes, in the context of a sustainable struggle against the causes of poverty, with a stress on maintaining and generating employment and self-employment, through stimulating the national business sector by means of a package of incentives, under a system of mutual accountability between civil society and the Government. This chapter presents civil society's contribution to removing red tape, to the fight against corruption and the identification of operational forms of coordination between the formal and informal legal and judicial systems.

Chapter 3 follows, which presents the provincial and district dynamics in fighting the causes of poverty. This chapter stresses the contribution of civil society in fighting the causes of poverty that it had identified and presented at RAP 2004, showing the facilities and difficulties faced in this exercise. Likewise the civil society organizations identified the actions, both of the Government and of the cooperation partners, that have also helped to undermine the causes of poverty. It is useful to stress that no quantification was made of the contributions of the stakeholders, merely noting the qualitative value of the actions carried out across the country. Thus the facilities and difficulties for the mid-term national programme, PARPA II now under preparation. The G20 believes that Mozambique is a great cultural mosaic: culture here is as defined in the report of the Commission for Africa, as "shared standards of identity such as social values are transmitted and how individuals are made to form part of a society, thus culture is also how the past interacts with the future". In this perspective, this chapter presents small summaries of the immense mass work undertaken down to district level, which is found in the provincial RAPs.

Chapter 4 presents the proposals from civil society for objectives and priorities to be included in the plan of action for PARPA II. For this, civil society takes as its reference point the situation with the previous proposals and takes up again those which did not enjoy a respective response in the period. Likewise, civil society contributes by taking into consideration the five pillars defined by the Government.

Thus, the present RAP 2005 intends to be a holistic exercise, as an instrument for greater participation by citizens and by civil society institutions in poverty reduction, promoting the development of Mozambique.