



IOM International Organization for Migration



# MOZAMBIQUE

MAPPING EXERCISE  
LONDON, JANUARY 2006



The aim of this Mapping Report is to guide IOM's outreach activities and communications strategies. The report does not purport to be exhaustive. The mapping consultant who conducted the exercise and wrote the report on behalf of IOM has taken every effort to ensure accuracy in his/her reporting and the views expressed in this report are his/hers. IOM cannot be held responsible for any omissions or inaccuracies.



## AIM OF THE MAPPING EXERCISE

The aim of this mapping exercise, carried out by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), was to identify the location of potential beneficiaries of IOM's voluntary return programmes, which are open to asylum seekers and irregular migrants, as well as identify the main channels of information used by them. The ultimate goal of the mapping exercise is to help IOM improve its communications with diaspora communities in the United Kingdom through media articles, advertisements and presentations to community groups. The mapping exercise is a resource which will enable the Information team at IOM to improve and expand its outreach activities. It is very likely that this process will, itself, further increase the range of IOM's contacts.

After consultation with the Home Office, it was decided to carry out a mapping exercise targeting the Mozambican community in the UK, alongside the Brazilian and the Angolan mapping exercises. The field work for these three mapping exercises was carried out by the same mapping consultant, whose mother tongue is Portuguese.

In the course of trying to identify multipliers<sup>1</sup> for the Mozambican community in the UK, the lack of a well established Mozambican network soon became clear.

IOM received only three completed mapping exercise questionnaires

## SIZE OF THE MOZAMBICAN COMMUNITY IN THE UK

During the field work, which took place between November 2005 and January 2006, the consultant had two meetings at the High Commission for Mozambique in the UK.

According to the High Commissioner, there are only between 400 and 500 Mozambicans in the UK. Some are students staying in the UK on a temporary basis (usually between one and three years) and the rest are people who were granted asylum and are therefore legal residents in Britain.

The Mozambican High Commissioner, Mr Antonio Gumende, said that there are not many cases of Mozambican asylum seekers because the political situation in Mozambique is now stable. People who decide to leave Mozambique prefer migrating to Portuguese language countries. The Home Office confirmed the low number of Mozambican asylum seekers and the lack of statistics on the Mozambican diaspora group in Britain.


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<sup>1</sup> This term is used to indicate individuals or organisations, that are well known amongst diaspora groups and could therefore play a key role in delivering information.



## MOZAMBICAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UK

During the field work, it emerged that, at present, there is no established Mozambican association in Britain. In the past, there used to be a Mozambican association called The British Mozambican Society. It was wound up for lack of members.



The consultant met a Mozambican national who has been living in Britain for the last twenty years and has been trying unsuccessfully to establish a Mozambican community centre in the UK for the last two years, called Mozambican House. The project would bring together Mozambicans from all the different regions in Britain. This individual confirmed that the majority of Mozambicans in the UK are either students staying on a temporary basis, or people who were granted asylum and are therefore legal residents in Britain.

Mozambicans in the UK seem to maintain contacts amongst themselves via personal e-mails and social gatherings.

## LANGUAGE AND MEDIA

From the contacts established with Mozambicans in the UK, it appears that Mozambicans have a good knowledge of the English language and use the English media confidently. They watch English TV channels and read English newspapers. Some Mozambicans watch the Brazilian channel *TV Record* and consult websites in Portuguese, such as *publico.pt* (from Portugal) and *zambeze.co.mz* (from Mozambique).



## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mozambican Mapping Exercise confirmed that the population of Mozambicans in the UK is small. The number of asylum seekers or irregular migrants coming to the UK is limited.

The few Mozambican contacts identified by IOM have been included in a contact list. Periodically, IOM should send information on the voluntary return programmes to these people. But, a large-scale information campaign targeting Mozambicans in the UK would not be practical. There is a lack of multipliers and a very small number of potential voluntary return beneficiaries.



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