

Impact of Land Conflicts in Mozambique

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SUMMARY

Objectives

The main objective of this study is to identify the main causes and typology of land conflicts in Mozambique, and mitigation measures to reduce land tenure insecurity. Mozambique, like other African countries and the world in general, has land as one of the main natural resources for economic and social development. The weakness of institutions responsible for land management and administration can be one of the factors or reason of land conflicts.

Results

The main causes of land conflicts are: i) Overlapping land tenure; ii) Land invasion by communities; iii) Unclear boundaries; iv) Lack of land demarcation; v) Failure to comply with the land use plan; vi) Weak of knowledge the Land Law.

The typology of conflicts includes the following: i) Intra-family: Family members vary according to the degree of kinship; ii) Inter-family (intra-community): Different families, but within the same community; iii) Family-Investor: Community member and economic agents (investor); iv) Investor-community: Economic agent, involving the community in general; and; v) Inter-community: Between neighboring communities.

The resolution of land conflicts is based on customary norms and practices. Depending on the consensus reached, they may be referred to judicial institutions.

The resolution of land conflicts varies according to type and scale. For example, intra-family and

inter-family disputes are resolved at the community level by community leaders (chiefs and neighborhood secretaries), with the involvement of the community's oldest residents and/or the family's elders.

Intercommunity conflicts are generally resolved by involving community leaders and other elders in the area.

Dialogue involving the parties to the conflict, as well as community leaders, is one of the main mechanisms for resolving land conflicts.

Judicial resolution is used to resolve land conflicts in cases of disagreement at the local level. Hierarchically, judicial resolution can begin in community courts and progress to district or even provincial courts, depending on the outcome of the case.

The impacts of land conflicts can be analyzed in three dimensions: i) economic; ii) social; iii) political; and iv) cultural. Cultural impacts are related to customary norms and practices. Social impacts affect the social life of families and the community at large.

This work is extremely important, as it will contribute to mitigating land conflicts in Mozambique and supporting institutions in mitigating land conflicts. Considering that the causes and types of land conflicts are similar to those in other african and global countries, Mozambique's experiences can be replicated in other countries.