Using Natural Resource Wealth to Improve Access to Water and Sanitation in Mozambique

Murdoch University was successful in gaining Australian Government funding through the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme (ADRS) programme to undertake research in Mozambique in partnership with UNICEF, University Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), and African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS). The project seeks to amplify evidence-based advocacy at national and provincial levels by analyzing current efforts to increase access to water and sanitation in Nampula province, including along the major Nampula-Nacala economic corridor. It also seeks to build the business case for long-term investment of mineral resource revenues into the water and sanitation sector.

Project Outcomes:

- Knowledge of implications for infrastructure requirements/pressures on small towns and growth centres with a focus on water and sanitation.
- A stronger evidence-based case for government and private sector expenditures in water and sanitation.
- A greater use of investments in water and sanitation as a vehicle to invest in building human capital.
- A detailed understanding of the type and characteristics of interventions, which can extract maximum infrastructural, economic, environmental, health-related, and socio-cultural benefits in the sector.
- A greater understanding of opportunities for leveraging extractive and other industry sectors for improving livelihoods (particularly in water and sanitation), and the constraints that exist (e.g. vocational skills development).

The Project:

In 2012 Murdoch University was responsible for analysing the baseline survey for a water and sanitation programme being implemented by UNICEF in Nampula province, also funded by the Australian Government. That process informed the current research project, which is set to assess the impact of the UNICEF programme at the mid point (2014), as well as provide a thorough cost – benefit analysis. Given the growing prominence of the extractive industry in Mozambique, and the evolving dialogue regarding long-term investment strategies for the expected revenues, an analysis of the magnitude of the cost-to-benefit of the UNICEF intervention will provide the elements of a business case to leverage increased contributions to water and sanitation systems.

Murdoch will work closely with UEM to build capacity in young researchers, through linkages with networks such as ATPS, in data analysis and advocacy. UNICEF and Murdoch will be involved in developing and disseminating advocacy messages to the various stakeholders involved in the water and sanitation sector in Mozambique, including government, civil society, donors, and industry. The opportunities for disseminating these research results will include workshops at national, provincial and district level, industry platforms, sector conferences, via published research papers, and briefs.

Engagement Opportunities:

- Murdoch University invites contact from governments, industry, and civil society in terms of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as our current initiative.

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