



Status Report COVID-19

Exchange Mozambique

December 2021

[Abstract](#)

Report on the effects of COVID-19 in Mozambique

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1. Executive Summary

This report builds upon the previous Country updates presented. It summarizes the status of COVID virus spread and the measures taken to prevent its dissemination in Mozambique. The document aims at providing an updated overview of the economic situation in Mozambique, with a focus on the impact of the measures and the pandemic on the economy, particularly on private sector activities. Data are sourced from official reports including those of the National Statistical Institute, the Confederation of Economic Activity of Mozambique, The World Bank Group.

The first chapter provides an overview of the disease spread, showing a growing trend in number of tested but also of the identified positive cases.

The fourth Covid-19 wave has started in Mozambique, as consequence of a new variant of the virus, Omicron. The variant is considered highly contagious, even if the symptoms it causes are mild. European countries immediately took severe measure to contain the spread of this variant. Inbound flights from 7 Southern African countries, including Mozambique, were suspended.¹ The news generated controversy among the business community in these countries, where many raised their voice accusing the EU of a neo-colonialist act². Some countries such as Portugal and Spain chartering flights to expatriate it's citizens, while at the same time bringing Mozambicans stuck in Europe back to their home. On the 10th of December, the Portuguese government announced the return of normal commercial flights from Lisbon to Maputo.

The country is however still open to receive international visitors with negative Covid tests. Tourism operators fear another peak season of low business volumes with international tourist being kept away, and South Africans prevented to cross the border.

Mozambique has vaccinated 21.8% of it's population with at least one dose, and 13.2% with two doses.

This document presents a general overview of the economy, as it was captured by official data, which are scarce, and few available recent press releases.

¹ EU Recommends member states to suspend all flights from countries where the new variant was detected <https://news.sky.com/story/eu-recommends-member-states-suspend-all-flights-from-countries-where-new-variant-detected-12479435>

² Further Africa. 2021. Who decided that omicron is African? Published on December 6th, 2021. <https://furtherafrica.com/2021/12/06/opinion-who-decided-that-omicron-is-african-video/>



2. General overview and statistics

2.1. National Statistics

At the time of writing (15th of December 2021), Mozambique reports a total of 154 520 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and a total 1,945 deaths. There are a total of 4,3 Million people fully vaccinated, and 11 Million doses of vaccine have been administered.

The fourth wave has started in Mozambique, in the first days of December, having increased from 3 cases per day in the last days of November, to 260 new cases on the 9th of December and 733 new cases on the 14th of December. As visible from the curve in the official statistics, tested positive cases have not yet raised exponentially as expected. Since the variant causes only mild symptoms to those who are infected, positive tests are increasing only in Maputo, where more facilities for testing are available and more professionals are sent to test by their employers.

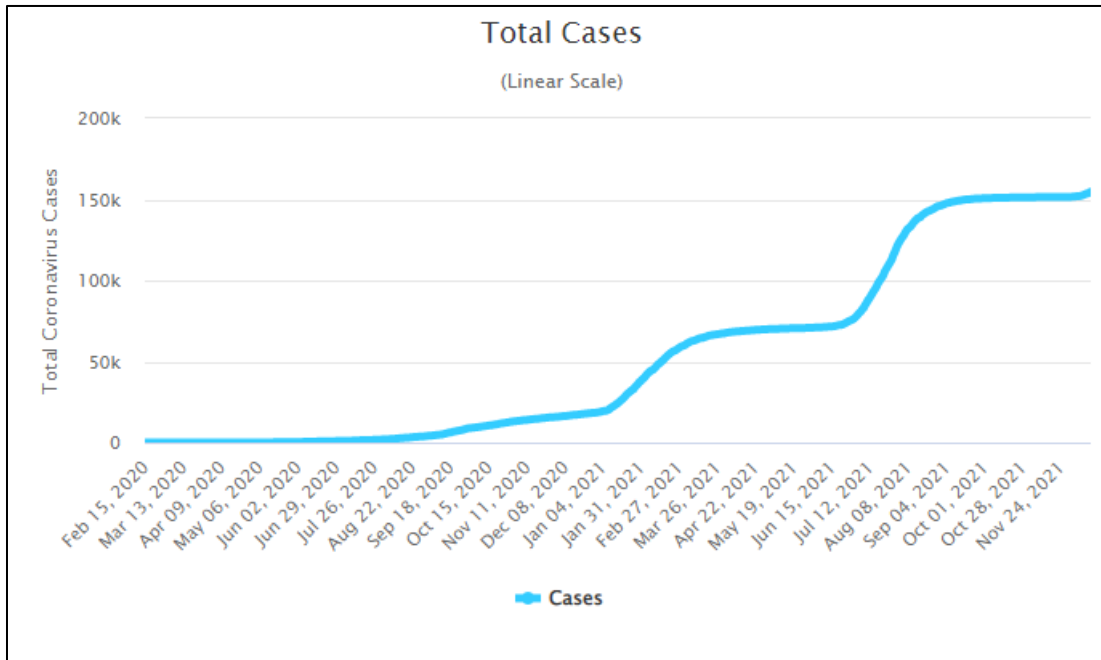


Figure 1: Evolution of COVID-19 **total cases registered** in Mozambique (Source: wordlometers.info, 15 December 2021)

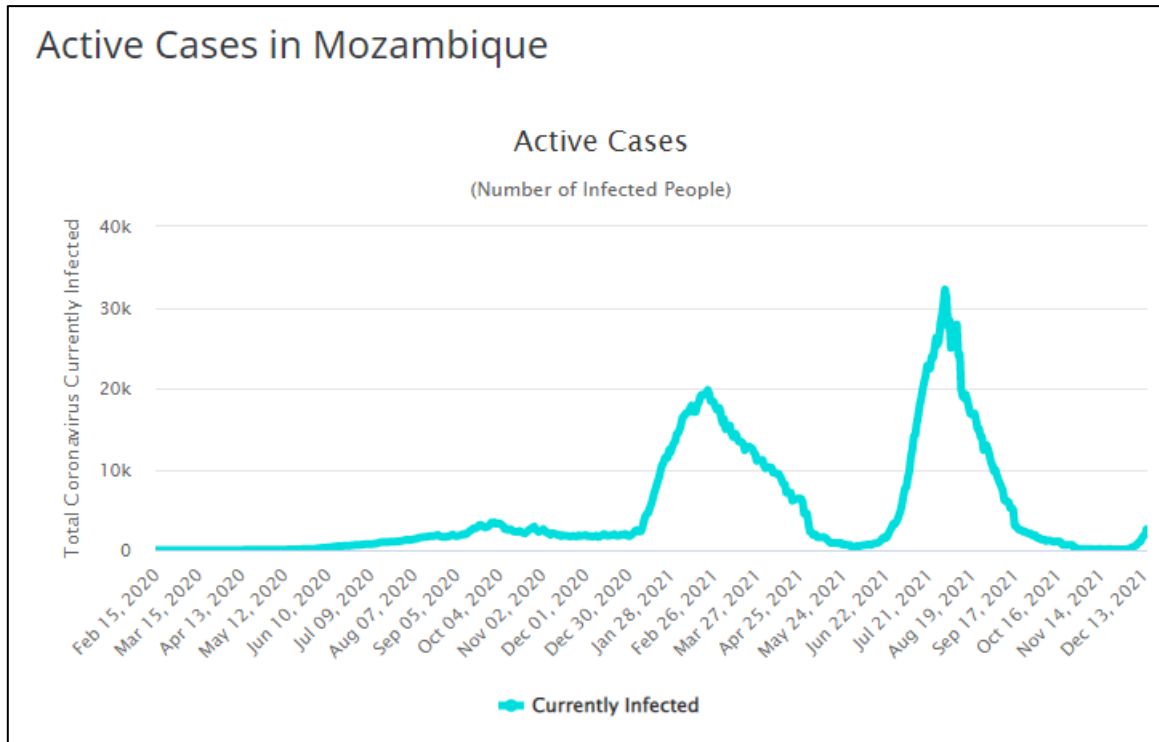


Figure 2: Number of COVI19 Active cases in Mozambique (Source: wordlometers.info, 15 December 2021)

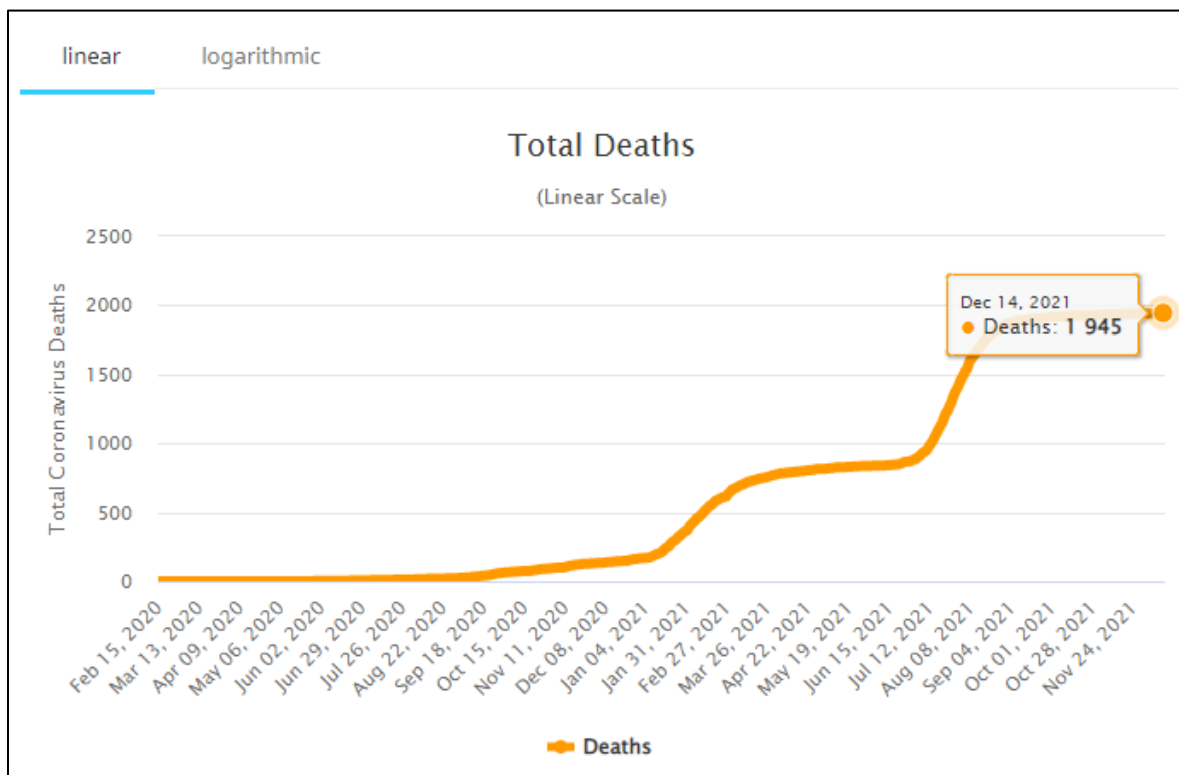


Figure 3: Total COVI19 related deaths in Mozambique (Source: wordlometers.info, 15 December 2021)

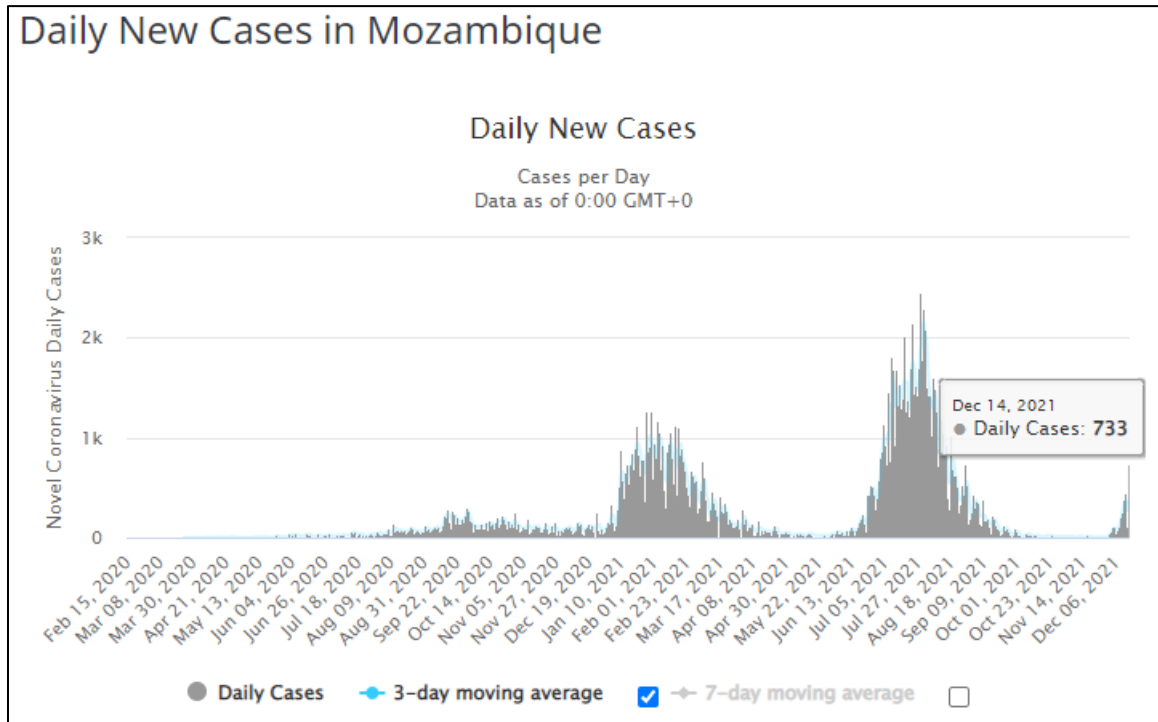


Figure 4: Average number of new daily cases daily (Source: wordlometers. info 10 December 2021)

General Overview

TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	154,520
TOTAL RECOVERED	149,622
TOTAL DEATHS	1,945
PEOPLE TOTALLY VACCINATED	4,297,826
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED	11,099,540

Table 1: COVID-19 Statistics for Mozambique, 15th of December 2021 (Source: MISAU)



2.2. Statistics in the Neighbouring Countries

The table below illustrates the statistics for countries surrounding Mozambique.

Country	Total cases	Fully Vaccinated	% of population	Total Deaths
South Africa	3,093,450	15,182,986	25,8%	90,060
Zimbabwe	155,817	2,926,134	19,3%	4,723
Zambia	210,562	788,134	4.4%	3,668
Malawi	62,088	622,676	3,3%	2,307
Eswatini (Swaziland)	50,337	260,763	23,9%	1,248
Tanzania*	1,367*	885,579	1,6%	50*

Table 2: COVID-19 reported cases in Mozambique Neighbouring countries (Source: <https://news.google.com/covid19/>) – 10 December 2021



It is important to mention that the low data in neighbouring countries (except South Africa) could be due to the low testing capacity of those countries.

Figure 12: Map of Southern African counties and COVID19 cases

The most affected country in the region, by large, is South Africa, which has a spillover effect into Mozambique due to the close relationship and multitude of borders between these two countries. The graph below show the relationship between new cases of both countries, in the past 30 days, with the 7 day average line.



Figure 13: Graph comparison of new cases in South Africa and Mozambique

3. Current Measures

3.1 Restrictions in place

Mozambique did not react with new measures to the news of the Omicron variant.

On September 7, 2020 Mozambique transitioned from a State of Emergency (SOE) to a State of Public Calamity (SOPC). The SOPC will continue indefinitely at the red alert level while the risk of spreading COVID-19 exists in Mozambique.

On October 24, President Filipe Nyusi announced new measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (Decree 86/2021). These apply to all persons residing in Mozambique.

All measures noted in Decree 80/2021 from October 6 and Decree 76/2021 from September 24 are maintained. The following are new measures which began at midnight October 25, 2021, regulations will be in effect until December 20:

Despite the 4th wave starting in Mozambique, there have been no real new additional restrictions implemented as of the writing of this report:

- The following Beaches are closed to bathers:
 - Costa do Sol and KaTembe, in Maputo City;
 - Ponta do Ouro and Macaneta, in Maputo Province;
 - Bilene and Xai-Xai, in Gaza Province;
 - Tofo, Barra and Guinjata, in Inhambane Province;
 - Estoril, Macúti and Ponta Gêa, in the city of Beira;
 - Zalala, in the City of Quelimane;
 - Fernão Veloso and Chocas-Mar, in Nampula Province;
 - Wimbe Maringanha, Sagal and Inos, in the city of Pemba;
 - Chuanga-Metangula Beaches, Niassa Province.
- Mandatory curfew in Maputo, provincial capitals, municipalities and towns throughout Mozambique is from midnight to 4:00 am.
- Pre-school classes are authorized throughout the country.
- Hospital visits are extended to two visitors per patient per day.
- Opening of public swimming pools is authorized, not exceeding 50% of maximum capacity.
- Opening of theaters, cinemas, game rooms, cultural centers, auditoriums and similar institutions, not exceeding 40% of maximum capacity.
- The number of participants in private social events must not exceed 50 in closed spaces and 100 people in open spaces and must not exceed 30% of the site's maximum capacity.
- Multipurpose and large gyms must not exceed 50% of maximum capacity and medium-sized gyms must not exceed 30% of capacity.
- The number of participants in places of worship must not exceed 100 closed spaces and 250 people in open places, not exceeding 50% of maximum capacity.
- Increase in the number of attendees permitted at meetings in public and private institutions with a maximum of 100 in closed spaces and 250 people in open spaces, not exceeding 50% of the site capacity.



- In accordance with certain Ministry authorizations, some government events with up to 400 people may be authorized.
- Increase from 20 to 50 participants in funerals, with the exception of deaths by COVID-19, which remains at a maximum of 10.
- Extension of visits to prisons to 4 per month, for each prisoner.
- Normal operation of public institutions and private companies is authorized with strict observance of the COVID-19 protocols.
- Elite team trainings and provincial competitions are authorized.
- Opening of the Giriondo and Pafúri border crossing points into South Africa, in Gaza province.
- Opening of stalls selling food products, with the sale of alcoholic beverages prohibited.
- Visiting of museums and galleries at 100% capacity.
- Shopping centers open from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday to Saturday, and 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on Sundays and holidays.
- Other commercial establishments open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, remaining closed on Sundays and holidays.
- Bakeries open from 5:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- Wholesale establishments open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Saturday, remaining closed on Sundays and holidays.
- Bottle stores are open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm from Monday to Saturday, remaining closed on Sundays and holidays. Onsite consumption of alcohol and home delivery service of alcohol are prohibited.
- Distribution and sale of alcoholic products by official distributors from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday to Saturday, and from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on Sundays and holidays.
- In restaurants, the maximum capacity must not exceed the limit of 4 persons per table indoors and 6 persons per table, outdoors.
- Bars are allowed to open, as long as they have properly ventilated areas, operating from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, not exceeding 20% of its maximum capacity indoors and 50% outdoors.
- Restaurants, take-aways and home delivery services are open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Walking and other physical activities while maintaining social distance are permitted.

Additional measures for incoming and departing travellers.

- All incoming travelers must present a negative test for COVID-19, taken <72 hours prior to arrival at airport. No additional test is conducted on these arriving passenger, prior to leaving the airport premises
- Proof of (double) vaccination is not yet compulsory in Mozambique, for travellers or in country travel. Status 15DEC21. There are indications this may change soon
- All persons displaying respiratory symptoms or fever must stay home.
- Teleworking is recommended, in particular for people at higher risk.
- The visa-on-arrival facility is still offered at the airport
- That PCR-testing <72 hrs before leaving MZ is not required by Mozambican emigration, but might be required by some airline companies at check-in, at time of writing this is the case for TP (TAP Air Portugal). Qatar Airways and South African Airways have suspended their flights to Maputo for the time being

4. COVI19 Testing facilities in Mozambique

COVID-19 tests are available at the following clinics in Maputo, paid for by the patient at the time of testing. Please call ahead to ensure availability of testing.

Hospital Privado

Address: Rua do Rio Inhamiara, Maputo

Contact: sharon.silvester@lenmedmaputo.co.mz

PRO.MPL@lenmedmaputo.co.mz

Phone: +258 84 5855290/+258 84 5837970

Working hours: 24 hours

PCR Test Cost: 4,000.20 MZN

Antigen Rapid Test Cost: approved for travel to the EU 1,800 MZN

To book contact: PRO.MPL@lenmedmaputo.co.mz or call +258 845855290/+258 845837970

Reports can be solicited via email the same email and they can deliver at home too.

Weekend testing: Yes

Specials: swab at home option within Maputo at no cost

ICOR/Ampath

Address: 111 Kenneth Kaunda Ave, Maputo

Phone: +258 21 411 000/+258 84 123 4118/+258 82 028 0545

Working hours: 24 hours

PCR Test Cost: 5,250 MZN, Time for Results – 24-48 hours (always ask)

Rapid Antigen Test Cost: 1,200 MZN, results 30 minutes-1 hours

Weekend testing: Yes

Lancet Lab

Address: Sommershield Clinic, Rua Da Frelimo nr 52, Maputo

Phone: +258 21 483 90015/ +258 84 323 1375

Process: Obtain lab requisition – no appt needed, presence required at lab for sample collection

Mon-Friday 0700-1600

PCR Test Cost: 5,000 MZN

Time for Results: 48 hours (always ask)

Rapid Antigen Test: not available

An additional cost of 1,597 MZN for swab at home option – coordinate with reception

Weekend testing: No

Oceanpath

Address: Rua Kibiriti Diwane nr 106, Sommershield, Maputo

Process: No appt, walk in

Phone: +258 21 494 278

PCR Test Cost: 5,000 MZN

Mon-Friday 0730-1100; 1430-1930

Sat-Sunday 0730-1000

Turnaround: 24 -48 hours (always ask)

MED EVAC

Contact: Anka +258 86 655 5911

Process: A sample is collected at your residency by one of their physicians, their team completes and provides all required paperwork from the Oceanpath lab.



Required for appointment scheduling: passport copy, physical address, contact number, and travel dates

Mon-Friday 0730-1000

PCR Test Cost: 7,000 MZN

Turnaround: 24-36hrs (always ask)

Weekend testing: No

Ayamed

Address: Rua Tomás Ribeiro Nr 2

Phone: +258 84 9988000/+258 84 9988001

Mon-Friday 0800-1800

Saturday 0800-1400

PCR Test Cost: swab at clinic, turnaround:

24 hours-4,900 MZN

6 hours- 6,500 MZN

2 hours 10,000 MZN

Rapid Antigen Test Cost: 700 MZN results 30 minutes

Rapid Test Cost for Travel to Portugal (TAP only): 1,150 MZN

An additional cost of 3,000 MZN for swab at home option

Biolife

Address: 1138 Kim Il Sung

Phone: +258 82 989 8986/+258 82 9898987

Mon-Saturday 0700-1800

Sunday 0700-1700

PCR Test Cost: swab at clinic, turnaround:

24 hours-4,500 MZN

5-6 hours- 5,500 MZN

2 hours 10,000 MZN

Rapid Antigen Test Cost: 1,000 MZN results 30 minutes

An additional cost of 1,000 MZN for swab at home option

Clinic Clidis

Address: Rua Dr. Nkutumula 511, Matola A

Phone: +258 84 958 1057

PCR Test Cost:

Turnaround: 24 hours –3,800 MZN (0800-1100)

6 hours –5,500 MZN (0800-1100)

Rapid Antigen Test Cost: 1,000 MZN, results in 1 hour

Mon–Friday 0800-1800

Saturday 0800-1600

No testing on Sundays

An additional cost of 200 MZN for swab at home option

Note: although in Matola, this clinic will do at-home testing. Results are provided through the lab at Oceanpath.

Aeromed

Address: 788 Kenneth Kaunda

Phone: +258 84 555 5911

Process – Call for appt



PCR Test Cost: 6,900 MZN swab at clinic
Turnaround: 24 -48 hours (always ask)
Rapid Antigen Test Cost: 2,500 MZN results 30 minutes- 1 hour
An additional cost of 700 MZN for swab at home option
Mon–Sunday 0730-1600
Weekend testing- Saturday until 1200
An additional cost of 2,500 MZN for afterhours requests

3. Impact of COVID-19 on the economy

The Government of Mozambique did not issue new restrictive measures, neither any new incentive was ruled to support private sector recovering from the COVID shock.

The economy has shown shy signs of increased confidence in Quarter 3 2021.

The Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CTA) has been closely monitoring the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the performance of the business sector and the economy in general. At the margin of this monitoring exercise, CTA has developed several initiatives, among which stands out the creation of the Private Sector Commission to respond to COVID-19 which aims to support the Government in the process of immunization of the population and ensure that, as soon as possible, normality is resumed. In the light of this purpose, this Commission has carried out several activities, with emphasis on:

1. Preparation of a COVID-19 Health Protocol for SMEs, framed in efforts to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the businesses, to inform micro, small and medium-sized Mozambican companies about the posture of employees and tertiary workers within the work spaces, the movement within the company's facilities and the movement or transport of these between their homes and the workplace.
2. Design of a project for certification of companies in ISO standards associated with COVID-19, ISO 45005:2020, that will benefit 60 national SMEs;
3. Support the UNIVAX initiative, namely in the dissemination and mobilization of the business to join the project, and as a result of this effort about 286 companies joined the initiative and contributed to the acquisition of 500,000 doses of vaccines for their employees and dependents.

At present, the situation of COVID-19 in the country has been relatively stable, with a daily average of 20 fewer positive cases, although group immunity has not yet been reached. Therefore, in view of this framework, the Government has been gradually easing the restrictions imposed in the context of containment to the spread of COVID-19, which has contributed significantly to the improvement of the performance of the business sector and has driven the recovery of economic activity. However, with the recent outbreak of the new variant of COVID-19 called "Ômicron", countries such as Brazil, United States of America, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, European Union, among others, recently announced the imposition of immediate restrictions on flights from seven (7) countries in the SADC region that includes Mozambique. This stance has even been adopted by some African countries, especially Angola, Seychelles and Rwanda.



It is clear that the restrictions imposed by these countries will have significant economic impacts. In the particular case of Mozambique, in the tourism sector that is in its high period, this situation may affect the recovery process of the sector in the face of cancellation of reservations and postponement of travel of tourists and businessmen to the country. Also, since much of the foreign investment comes from the European Union, in addition to this being one of the main destinations of national exports, these restrictions could contribute to the shrinking of investments and contraction of the flow of economic activity in the country, at a time when the economy is seeking ways to recover and establish bases for the full recovery of economic activity.

The flow of travel, both tourism and business, is recovering well by the third quarter of 2021, where it grew 14% compared to the same period in 2020, with clear signs that 2021 would exceed the 2020 travel flow that had been exceeded by US\$180 million. However, with this situation the scenario could be contradicted, and the flow of travel is expected to be below US\$180 million if these ban measures continue for a long period.

Therefore, this scenario will mean loss of business for the tourism sector, particularly catering, travel and hospitality, including other associates such as transport and commerce.

4. Recommendations

According to MISAU data, currently, the vaccinated population in the country amounts to about 5 million, corresponding to 17% of the total population and about 29% of the target for achieving group immunity. This low level of vaccination is due, in addition to the poor availability of vaccines, the poor support of the population to the vaccination process. Therefore, to deal with this new variant of COVID-19, on the one hand, it is necessary to focus on **strengthening the vaccine mobilization process**, guided by greater involvement of the private sector in assisting the government's efforts in the acquisition of the vaccine. On the other hand, as a way to stimulate vaccination by citizens, awareness should be raised among the private sector to implement an **incentive model based on the allocation of benefits or preference for those who present the vaccination card**. For example, in transport services, supermarkets, among others, we will promote the allocation of benefits and/ or prioritization modalities to vaccinated citizens, aiming to encourage the population to join massive vaccination campaign.

The **current framework of measures should be maintained**. Similar to the stance adopted by South Africa, the country's largest trading partner, which recently announced that in the short term it will not change the restrictions, we recommend that the Government of Mozambique follow the same approach as the pandemic situation remains stable in the country and, as the World Health Organization said, there is still no certainty about the real nature of this new variant. Therefore, for the benefit of the national economy, the private sector advocates the non-worsening of the current framework of restrictions, while monitoring the development of the situation in the world in general and in the country in particular, following the implementation of the vaccination programme and the implementation of private sector initiatives to stimulate vaccination by citizens.

