**Gender Dimensions in Mozambique**

**Population in 2017 (millions)**

- **Men:** 14.6
- **Women:** 14.0

**Life Expectancy at Birth**

- **Gaza province** has the lowest life expectancy amongst men (45.4), while **Cabo Delgado** has the lowest life expectancy among women (52.8).
- **Maputo City** has the highest life expectancy for both sexes: 64.2 for women and 59.0 for men.

**Average age at first union**

- **Women** start their marital life, on average, about 4.5 years earlier than men.
- The average age of the first marital union for women was 19 years.

**Note:** Unions that occur after the age of 18 are not considered early, but if they occur before the age of 20, they are unions in adolescence.
Literacy rate

There are more men attending school than women. In 2017, 51% of women read and write, compared to 73% of men.

Compared to 24% of women in 1997, 51% of women read and write in 2017. Conversely, while 76% of men could not read and write in 1997, only 49% of men were unable to do so in 2017.

Workforce

AN ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION IN 2017

Among women, the chances of work are higher in rural areas than in urban areas, which is in line with the large female participation in agricultural activities.

Access to resources

In urban areas, 33% of men had at least one cell phone, versus 24% of women. In rural areas, 68% of rural women with a mobile account did not have a traditional bank account, compared to 54% of men in the same areas.

In rural areas, 31% of single men aged 18-59 live in a rented home, versus 27% of single women of the same age.

Recommendations:

1. Policies aimed at valuing female education, as 50% of women aged 15 and over were illiterate in 2017. It is necessary for girls who are mothers to continue their studies by offering care for their children while their mothers are at school.
2. Emphasis on job creation for women in rural areas and acknowledge the informal commerce sector as this is an important source of income for women in both urban and rural settings.
3. Women empowerment programs and initiatives should take into account the importance of mobile technology for women's participation in public life (including access to information, income, and financial services like mobile banking).