

# Contents

## PART I - Frame of reference

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem definition, aim and research questions	3
1.3 Delimitations and scope	5
1.4 Relevance and contribution	5
1.5 Methodological framework and sources	6
1.6 Outline of the thesis	7
<b>2. Theoretical framework</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 The impasse in development theory	8
2.2.1 The critique of the Western development paradigm	8
2.2.2 Moving beyond the impasse	12
2.3 Analytical framework	13
2.3.1 A combination of perspectives	13
2.3.2 An actor-oriented approach	14
2.3.3 A gender perspective	17
2.3.4 An interpretative framework of political geography	23
2.3.5 The analytical frame of reference	27
<b>3. Urban livelihoods under changing circumstances</b>	<b>29</b>
3.1 Introduction	29
3.2 Gender bias in mainstream development thinking	29
3.2.1 The conventional notion of household	29
3.2.2 Formal economy and economic analysis	30
3.3 Women's work and livelihood strategies	32
3.3.1 Women's multiple responsibilities	32
3.3.2 Practical needs vs. strategic needs	34
3.3.3 From survival strategies to transformation strategies	34
3.4 Responses by urban households to cope with change	35
3.4.1 Recent studies on urban households under changing circumstances	35
3.4.2 Urban household responses to economic crisis	36
3.4.3 Urban livelihoods, gender and economic reform in Southern Africa	38

<b>4.</b>	<b>Mozambique – between the local and the global</b>	<b>51</b>
4.1	Introduction	51
4.2	The territory and its people	52
	4.2.1 Introducing the territory	52
	4.2.2 The roots of the social organisation	53
	4.2.3 Modernisation of the social organisation	55
4.3	The colonial heritage	56
	4.3.1 Introduction	56
	4.3.2 Early Portuguese colonisation	57
	4.3.3 Establishing the borders and the control over the territory	58
	4.3.4 Establishing the economic structures of colonisation	60
	4.3.5 Establishing the structures of rule	63
4.4	The war of Independence and the liberated areas	65
4.5	Post-colonial Mozambique	66
	4.5.1 The double project of the post-colonial state	66
	4.5.2 The double project of the post-colonial Mozambican state	67
	4.5.3 The women's organisation and the development project	69
4.6	Social and political consequences of the transformation policies	71
	4.6.1 Introduction	71
	4.6.2 Nationally: inclusion vs. exclusion in the development project	72
	4.6.3 Regionally: the strategic position and the political model	75
	4.6.4 Globally: informal imperialism	77
4.7	Local effects of changing circumstances in urban areas	80
<b>5.</b>	<b>Methodological considerations of field work</b>	<b>86</b>
5.1	Introduction	86
5.2	Methodological approach	86
5.3	Doing field work	88
	5.3.1 Introduction	88
	5.3.2 The research process	89
	5.3.3 Defining research areas and local informants	92
	5.3.4 Field work techniques	94
	5.3.5 Analysis and validation	99
5.4	Methodological reflections	100
	5.4.1 Introduction	100
	5.4.2 Communication aspects	101
	5.4.3 Unequal relations and the issue of representation	104

<b>PART II - The empirical study</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>6. The field work locations</b>	<b>109</b>
6.1 Introduction	109
6.2 Maputo – in the southern region	109
6.2.1 A brief historical outline	109
6.2.2 Maputo – the national capital	111
6.2.3 The bairro of Mafalala	114
6.3 Beira – in the central region	118
6.3.1 A brief historical outline	118
6.3.2 Beira – a province capital	119
6.3.3 The bairro of Goto	121
6.4 Montepuez – in the northern region	124
6.4.1 A brief historical outline	124
6.4.2 Montepuez – a district town centre	126
6.4.3 The bairro of Napai	128
<b>7. Managing everyday economy</b>	<b>131</b>
7.1 Introduction	131
7.2 The women of the study	131
7.3 Women's livelihood strategies and the household economy	133
7.3.1 Women's everyday activities in Mafalala	133
7.3.2 Women's everyday activities in Goto	138
7.3.3 Women's everyday activities in Napai	144
7.4 Changes in women's livelihood strategies	149
7.4.1 Introduction	149
7.4.2 The Mafalala experiences	149
7.4.3 The Goto experiences	150
7.4.4 The Napai experiences	151
7.5 Trends in changing livelihood strategies	152
<b>8. Community and social networks</b>	<b>155</b>
8.1 Introduction	155
8.2 Family ties	155
8.3 Religious communities	158
8.4 Good neighbours and friends	162
8.5 Informal savings network – <i>Xitique</i>	165
8.6 Local formal organisations	169
8.7 Differences and similarities	170
<b>9. Urban living under changing circumstances</b>	<b>173</b>
9.1 Introduction	173
9.2 Urbanisation and women's livelihoods	173
9.3 Living in a money economy	182
9.4 Changing gender roles	194
9.4.1 Performing new and multiple activities	194
9.4.2 Supporting the household away from home	197
9.4.3 Domestic conflicts and household transformations	200

9.5	Changing values and norms	204
9.5.1	Socio-economic stratification and individualisation	204
9.5.2	Changing attitudes and the urban way of life	206
9.5.3	Criminality, abuse of alcohol and drugs	209
9.6	Returning to rural life – a way out?	213
<b>10.</b>	<b>Reasons for changing circumstances</b>	<b>217</b>
10.1	Introduction	217
10.2	The war of destabilisation	217
10.3	Economic liberalisation	221
10.4	Independence and modernisation	225
 <b>PART III - Concluding discussion</b>		
<b>11.</b>	<b>Women's livelihood strategies in changing circumstances</b>	<b>230</b>
11.1	Introduction	230
11.2	Reasons for changing circumstances	231
11.3	Women's responses to changing circumstances	233
	11.3.1 Introduction	233
	11.3.2 Changing livelihood strategies	234
	11.3.3 Changing social relations	237
11.4	Transformations of livelihood strategies and social relations	240
 <b>Summary</b>		<b>246</b>
 <b>References</b>		<b>250</b>
 <b>Appendices</b>		<b>260</b>

# **Lists of Figures, Tables & Appendices**

## **Figures:**

- Figure 2.1 The constitution of social practices as everyday politics
- Figure 4.1 Province map of Mozambique
- Figure 5.1 Interviewing in a direct dialogue: two-way communication
- Figure 5.2 Interviewing with an interpreter, an indirect dialogue: four-way communication.
- Figure 6.1 Field work locations
- Figure 6.2 The southern region: Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces
- Figure 6.3 Location of Mafalala
- Figure 6.4 The central region: Sofala and Manica provinces
- Figure 6.5 Location of Goto
- Figure 6.6 Cabo Delgado province
- Figure 6.7 Location of Napai

## **Tables:**

- Table 2.1 Gender and Science Dichotomies
- Table 5.1 Number of interviews made in each study area. The first three phases.
- Table 5.2 Number of follow-up interviews made in each study area, 1997.  
(Phase IV)
- Table 7.1 Age structure of interview groups, main field work October – December 1996.

## **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 Map of linguistic groups in Mozambique
- Appendix 2 Interview guide - Field work, Oct. - Dec. 1996
- Appendix 3 Interview guides (3 A – 3 C) - Follow up study, Oct. - Dec. 1997
- Appendix 4 Maputo - the bairro of George Dimitrov
- Appendix 5 Lists of respondents (5 A – C)
- Appendix 6 Managing the household economy: primary & complementary activities