

## **GEOSCIENCE-BASED MICRO-ENTERPRISES AS INSTRUMENTS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN MOZAMBIQUE**

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Geoscience-based micro-enterprises have been developed in Mozambique to generate employment, alleviate poverty, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life of the poor. They are custom- designed on the basis of the biophysical and socioeconomic situation, and preferences and perceptions of the stake-holder families. The implementation of the micro-enterprises involves, (1) imparting of appropriate technical and managerial skills to the stake-holders, (2) provision of micro-credit, and (3) putting in place a suitable policy and administrative frame-work which would facilitate the success of the micro-enterprise.

Mozambican case studies are presented in regard to the application of the following geoscience-based, decentralized, low-cost, people- participatory, economically-viable technologies: (1) Drinking water - rainwater harvesting from rooftops, harvesting of surface runoff and storing it in clay-lined ponds, and construction of spring-based wells, (2) Sanitation - design of ventilated, dry pit latrines, depending upon the soil and water-table conditions, (3) Habitation - reinforced soil blocks for the construction of wells, coir-cement corrugated sheets for roofing, and non-erodible plastering of mudhuts, (4) Domestic energy - fuel-efficient cook stoves with ceramic lining, and manual briquetting of fuel pellets from coal and charcoal fines, etc.