

# International Journal of Advanced Research

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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56559

Title: A Influência da Cooperação Multilateral no Projecto Transformar Nutrição em Rapale (2020-2023) – Moçambique ,

### Recommendation:

**Accept after minor revision**

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓,		
Techn. Quality		✓,		
Clarity	✓,			
Significance	✓,			

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article "The Influence of Multilateral Cooperation on the Transform Nutrition Project in Rapale (2020-2023) – Mozambique" provides a critical and timely analysis of the effectiveness of international aid consortia in addressing chronic malnutrition. By focusing on the Rapale district in Nampula, the author evaluates the "Transformar Nutrição" project, a USAID-funded initiative led by ADPP-Mozambique. The study is particularly relevant given that Nampula remains one of the provinces most affected by food insecurity in Mozambique, making this a vital case study for understanding how multilateral cooperation translates into local health outcomes. The central thesis—that the success of such projects depends on a "hybrid governance" model that bridges international funding with local community mobilization—is well-supported and offers important lessons for the global development community.

The methodology is robust, utilizing a qualitative approach based on semi-structured interviews with a diverse array of stakeholders, including ADPP consortium managers, cooperation partners, district government officials, and direct beneficiaries (pregnant women and caregivers). This multi-level perspective allows the author to capture the "regime complex" of nutrition governance, moving beyond mere administrative metrics to understand the social dynamics of aid. The author correctly identifies that the project's strength lies in its multisectoral nature, integrating health, agriculture, and education. By targeting the "first 1,000 days" of life, the project aligns with the most current scientific consensus on nutritional intervention.

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One of the most compelling aspects of the article is the analysis of "Consortium Governance." The author argues that the interaction between international assistance and local implementation is not a simple top-down transfer of resources but a complex negotiation. The role of "Community Leaders" and "Nutrition Champions" (Model Mothers) is highlighted as the essential link that ensures the sustainability of behavioral changes. The finding that multilateral cooperation provides not only financial capital but also "technical legitimacy" and standardized monitoring frameworks is a significant contribution to the study of international relations and public health.

However, the manuscript would benefit from minor refinements to further enhance its academic rigor. While the qualitative data provides excellent depth, the inclusion of a summary table or infographic detailing the specific "Nutritional Indicators" (e.g., reduction in stunting rates or increase in dietary diversity scores) achieved during the 2020-2023 period would provide a clearer quantitative baseline for the success described by the interviewees. Furthermore, the paper mentions the challenges of "dependence" on international funding; a more critical discussion on how the Rapale district government plans to sustain these interventions after the USAID funding cycle concludes would add a necessary layer of realism to the analysis.

Additionally, the author should consider elaborating on the "Agricultural" component of the project. While mentioned as a sector, providing more detail on how the introduction of biofortified crops (like orange-fleshed sweet potato) or home gardens directly influenced the beneficiaries' habits would strengthen the multisectoral argument. From a structural perspective, the language is professional and the theoretical grounding in the works of Sachs, Sen, and Keohane is excellent. The author's ability to link the Rapale case to the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), makes the article highly relevant for an international audience.

The conclusion effectively synthesizes the findings, reiterating that while multilateral cooperation is the "engine" of the project, community trust is its "fuel." The paper is well-organized, though the author should ensure that all acronyms (like SETSAN or ADPP) are consistently defined upon first use. By addressing the minor points regarding post-project sustainability and specific agricultural outputs, the author will further solidify this paper as a definitive evaluation of nutritional cooperation in Southern Africa.

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Recommendation: Recommend for publication with minor revision.