



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: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript examines the influence of multilateral cooperation on the implementation of the Transform Nutrition Project in the Rapale district of Mozambique between 2020 and 2023. The study focuses on how international assistance, particularly through the consortium led by ADPP Mozambique and supported by USAID, interacts with local governance structures and community actors to address chronic malnutrition among vulnerable populations.

The research explores the role of collaborative governance involving international partners, national institutions, and community stakeholders in promoting nutritional awareness, improving dietary practices, and strengthening local institutional capacity. By analyzing the experiences of project managers, government officials, community leaders, and beneficiaries, the study provides insights into the dynamics of development cooperation and its practical implications for food and nutritional security in rural contexts.

The topic is timely and relevant within broader debates on international development, public health interventions, and multilateral cooperation in low-income countries. The study contributes to the

REVIEWER'S REPORT

literature on development partnerships by examining how global development initiatives translate into local behavioral changes and institutional strengthening at the district level.

Scientific Contribution and Empirical Strength

The manuscript presents several empirical insights into the relationship between multilateral cooperation and local development initiatives aimed at improving nutrition outcomes. The study highlights the importance of coordinated action among international donors, non-governmental organizations, and local institutions in addressing complex development challenges such as chronic malnutrition.

The findings indicate that the Transform Nutrition Project adopted a multisectoral approach combining interventions in health, agriculture, and community education. According to the results presented in the study, the project contributed to improved infant diets through the promotion of enriched porridge prepared with locally available food products. Additionally, the intervention appears to have contributed to improved hygiene practices and a reduction in open defecation in several communities.

Another important contribution of the study lies in its analysis of institutional coordination. The evidence presented in the interviews suggests that the project operated through a consortium model that included multiple organizations with distinct technical responsibilities. This structure enabled the integration of expertise from universities, NGOs, and international development partners, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the intervention.

The study also highlights how multilateral cooperation can strengthen state capacity at the district level. Interview responses indicate that local government institutions were actively involved in planning and monitoring project activities, which helped ensure alignment with district development plans and strengthened collaboration between external donors and public institutions.

However, while the manuscript presents valuable empirical observations, the interpretation of the findings could be further expanded. In some sections, the analysis focuses primarily on describing interview responses rather than critically engaging with broader theoretical debates related to development cooperation, institutional sustainability, and aid dependency. Expanding the analytical discussion would enhance the scholarly contribution of the study.

REVIEWER'S REPORT**Methodology and Analytical Approach**

The study adopts a qualitative research design based on semi-structured interviews with multiple stakeholders involved in the project, including consortium managers, cooperation partners, government representatives, community leaders, and direct beneficiaries. This approach is appropriate for exploring the perceptions and experiences of actors involved in complex development interventions.

The use of thematic content analysis allows the author to identify key patterns related to cooperation mechanisms, institutional coordination, and community-level outcomes. The inclusion of different categories of respondents strengthens the credibility of the findings by allowing for triangulation between perspectives from institutions and beneficiaries.

Nevertheless, several methodological aspects could be clarified to strengthen the rigor of the research. The manuscript would benefit from providing more detailed information regarding the number of interview participants, the sampling criteria used to select respondents, and the procedures applied to ensure reliability in the analysis process. Additionally, a brief explanation of ethical considerations and the timeframe of data collection would further improve the transparency of the research design.

Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript follows a clear academic structure that includes an introduction, theoretical discussion, methodological section, presentation of results, and conclusions. The literature review demonstrates familiarity with important theoretical contributions in development studies, including perspectives on multilateral cooperation, food security, and local development.

The results section is particularly informative because it incorporates quotations from interview participants, which effectively illustrate the perceptions of stakeholders involved in the project. This approach strengthens the qualitative dimension of the study and helps connect theoretical discussions with practical experiences at the community level.

However, the manuscript contains several language and formatting issues that should be addressed during revision. Some sentences are excessively long and occasionally repetitive, and there are minor grammatical inconsistencies throughout the text. Improving the clarity of expression and ensuring consistent formatting of paragraphs would significantly enhance the readability of the manuscript.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Final Recommendation

Overall, the manuscript addresses an important topic concerning the role of multilateral cooperation in addressing food insecurity and chronic malnutrition in developing countries. The study provides useful qualitative insights into how international development partnerships operate in practice and how they influence local governance structures and community-level outcomes.

With minor revisions focusing on language refinement, clearer methodological explanation, and deeper analytical engagement with the theoretical framework, the manuscript would make a valuable contribution to the literature on development cooperation and food security.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.