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GOVERNANÇA ECONÓMICA

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CDD Youth Centers in Gaza province reflect on the importance of tax justice in the realization of human rights

- “Tax justice is also a Human Rights issue.” This is one of the key messages that was highlighted in the series of trainings for young people from the Youth Hubs as new Human Rights Defenders and Social Justice Leaders. The series of training took place in the districts of Chibuto, Manjacaze and Massingir, in the province of Gaza, between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of November.



Youth Hub of Massingir, Gaza province



Throughout the sessions, it was established that young people play a crucial role as guardians of tax justice. By raising awareness and educating their communities, they expand their understanding of fiscal challenges. The ability of young people to disseminate information and promote discussions about taxation and public spending was emphasized as an effective way to raise awareness and encourage civic participation.



What are economic and social rights? What is tax justice and how does it contribute to the realization of our economic and social rights? What are illicit financial flows and why do they represent a source of tax injustice? How can we make the national tax system fairer and in favor of the most disadvantaged? These are some of the questions that guided the reflections of part of the training series that benefited more than 90 young people from *Youth Hubs* in three districts of Gaza province.

Starting in Chibuto, passing through Manjacaze and, finally, the district of Massingir, the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD), in partnership with the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) and the Tax Justice

Network Africa (TJNA) brought together young people in meetings witnessed by local authorities, to lay the foundations and equip them with knowledge as the new generation of Human Rights Defenders and Social Justice Leaders.

The training series had as its thematic focus the promotion, respect and defense of human rights. However, diverging from traditional approaches to the topic, which have given greater attention only to civil and political rights, the series of training promoted reflections on the role of young people in influencing governance processes and their relationship with the State within the scope of “social contract” existing to ensure the realization of their economic and social rights as a primary condition for improving their living conditions.



Youth Hub of Chibuto, Gaza province

More specifically, the capacities of young people were strengthened with knowledge that will allow them not only to make policy demands for the different problems that constrain the realization of their economic and social rights, such as lack of employment, lack of education and social services¹ but also to present proposals of concrete policies and actions that make it possible to mobilize the necessary resources for its financing.

During the training, particular emphasis was pla-

ced on the concept of tax justice and the characteristics of a fair tax system, including gender responsiveness, sufficient revenue collection, elimination of tax exemptions for the elite and addressing the causes of illicit financial flows. The connections between tax justice and fundamental economic and social rights were also explored, highlighting the importance of fair and efficient taxation to finance public policies and improve citizens’ living conditions.

¹ https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/moz_r8_sor_in_english_17nov21.pdf



Youth Hub of Manjacaze, Gaza province



Avelino Muchanga – Youth Hub of Manjacaze

“Thanks to the training, I was able to understand that it is important to have a fair tax system to avoid insufficient funds to solve the country’s problems and also to guarantee quality education, good housing and that the people can take advantage of the resources we have”



Lacercia Cuco – Youth Hub of Manjacaze

“Only with tax justice can we reduce economic inequalities. Fiscal justice is the fair distribution of taxes and social benefits.”



Fazilia Mulhanga – Youth Hub of Chibuto

“Thanks to the training, I acquired information that I will share with other people.”



Anastácio Gatse – Youth Hub of Massingir

“As young people we must be able to demand that the Government provide basic services so as not to violate our economic and social rights”



Manuel Campos – Youth Hub of Massingir

I really liked the topics presented in the training. I believe that if more people had the knowledge that was shared here, we would solve many things that are not right.

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public spending was emphasized as an effective way to raise awareness and encourage civic participation.

The series of trainings was carried out within the scope of the “Capacity Strengthening and Promotion of Youth Participation for the Democratic and Socio-Economic Development of Gaza” project, implemen-

ted with support from the German organization Bread For The World. The initiative also had support, in the form of contributions, from the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH), through the IGUAL program, and the Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA), through the Scaling Up Tax Justice (SCUT) project.



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Building a democratic society that promotes, protects, respect human rights & transform people's lives.



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