

MEDIA STATEMENT

Training of Youth Peer Educators on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique

Date: 9th to 20th of March

Venue: Eduardo Mondlane University, Main Campus, Maputo

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) in consortium with the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University (ISS) and the African Governance Institute (AFRIGI) is delivering an intensive Training of Youth Peer Educators on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Mozambique at the main campus of the Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, from the 9th and 20th of March, 2020.

With this training, CDD aims to promote youth leadership in the development of sexual and reproductive health education programmes that will increase access to and improve quality of SRHR services to the youth and ultimately contribute to sustainable demographic and human capital development and inclusive economic growth in Mozambique. Using the opportunity to be provided in the upcoming TMT+, CDD wants to expand and extend its current tailor-made training to address the capacity needs of selected groups of professionals from different organizations that provide a variety of SRHR services (clinical & non-clinical), but with a common training requisite. The four groups include:

- Healthcare professionals from health centres, Ministry of Health and private clinics;
- Government service providers from justice, law, and order sector (JLOS), such as the police academy, prisons, and judicial services;
- Workers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs) working with HIV infected youth, street boys and girls, sex workers, drug addicts, refugees, internally displaced people, and groups of different sexual orientation; and
- Active learning institutions in the field of SRHR capable of facilitating or provide vocational and technical training skills.

The goal is to train 45 youth peer educators from these four groups of organisations in three provincial centres in Nampula, Manica, and Maputo to become the master peer educators in SRHR in their places of work and their communities of practice.

CDD expects to reach out about 5,000 youth in the country on SRHR and livelihood skills. This training targets peer educators from different professional groups in the country, including institutions that provide access to vocational, technical and life-skills training, which will enable CDD to combine SRHR training with livelihoods and life-skill training.

With experts from the Netherlands, Kenya, and Uganda, the training will:

- provide a conceptual understanding from diverse perspectives and experiences on Youth peer education in SRHR, gender equity and inclusiveness, youth leadership for reproductive health, youth leadership for a comprehensive sex education and sexual rights of minorities, gender relations and equity;
- Outreach campaigns against child marriage; prevention of STI, HIV and drug abuse;
- Design and test the youth training modules with Youth peer educators that will cascade the training to 5,000 youth across the country;
- Provide training, mentorship and hands-on coaching to staff and sequentially operationalize the youth leadership platform for sexual and attitude change.

Funded by Nuffic, the Dutch organisation for internationalisation in education, as part of the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP), this project is part of CDD's flagship program: Transformational Youth Leadership Enhancement and Agency Development program (LEAD). This is a five-year program feeding into CDD's aspirational approach to develop a 'new crop' of 'next-generation leaders in Mozambique who are equipped to develop new 'rules of the game' to foster social cohesion and transform the Mozambican society, economy and politics at the national and sub-national levels. LEAD aims to empower young people to become agents of transformation who can translate transformational leadership into action for democratic governance, participation and development at national and sub-national levels.

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