


EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

CDD and Plan Moçambique publicize the “SOU JOVEM” project in Cabo Delgado and exchange experiences with local organizations

- Within the scope of the “SOU JOVEM” project implemented by CDD in partnership with Plan International Mozambique, and co-funded by the European Union and Plan International Finland, activities were carried out to publicize the initiative and disseminate the competition for the selection of youth associations and organizations. These activities took place on the 1st and 2nd of June, in the city of Pemba, to establish partnerships and involve different local institutions, as well as young representatives of youth organizations and associations in Cabo Delgado.



The background of the page features a vertical orange band with white text. On either side of this band are vertical panels showing the silhouettes of people against a sunset sky. The silhouettes are dark against the bright orange and yellow light of the setting sun. The overall mood is one of hope and community.

The *workshop* to publicize the “SOU JOVEM” project was attended by 55 people, with emphasis on the representative of the Provincial Directorate for Youth and Sports, Gilda Pedro Mpwido, the representative of the Integrated Development Agency of the North (ADIN), Arão Fumo, and the representative of the Fundação AZUL, Suzana Muiuane. The guests shared their experiences in engaging and empowering youth and young leaders representing youth organizations and associations in Cabo Delgado.

Speaking on behalf of ADIN, Arão Fumo expressed the agency’s openness to collaborating with all initiatives aimed at promoting the development of youth in Cabo Delgado and northern Mozambique. The actions of “SOU JOVEM” are aligned with ADIN’s mission focused on facilitating the flow of all necessary means and resources, as well as providing information to boost the integrated and multifaceted socio-economic development of the northern region. One of the ways to achieve this objective is to strengthen inter-institutional coordination between government parties, the private sector, international cooperation partners, civil society and local communities. nacional, a sociedade civil e as comunidades locais.

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Arão Fumo, ADIN Representative

Representing the Provincial Directorate for Youth and Sports, Gilda Pedro Mpwido spoke about the importance of youth associations for development, highlighting the role of youth organizations and associations in working with communities on various topics, but above all their intervention in the context of support to the displaced. Meanwhile, Gilda Pedro Mpwido said that many youth associations and organizations are not registered, which compromises their legitimacy concerning the State. In this way, he appealed to youth organizations and associations to organize all the necessary formalities for their registration.



Gilda Pedro Mpwido, representative of the Provincial Directorate for Youth and Sports

In turn, the representative of the Fundação AZUL Suzana Muiuane, expressed her enthusiasm at seeing yet another project implemented with a focus on youth. In his words, "SOU JOVEM" will contribute to solving some of the biggest challenges that Mozambique faces: unemployment, lack of socio-economic opportunities for young people, poor participation in decision-making processes, and the growing frustration of young people. Fundação AZUL was open to collaborating and sharing its experience in matters of designing educational programs, methods of coaching and curriculum development for the promotion of peace and socio-economic empowerment, according to the priority needs of young people.

As Suzana highlighted, with the projects implemented, AZUL has already reached more than 100,000 beneficiaries, trained more than 1,000 young people, helped create more than 300 small businesses, involved and trained around 200 community members in 10 peace committees, and created and strengthened more than 30 grassroots community organizations.



Suzana Muiuane, Specialist for the Integration of Young People into the Labor Market, Fundação AZUL.

The presentation of the project “SOU JOVEM” was made by Glédice Biza, Program Assistant at CDD, who began by highlighting the objectives, taking into account the four outputs (Ops) or results of the project:

OP1 - One *Youth Sounding Board* (YSB) working towards youth empowerment and democratic participation;

OP2 - Motivated and empowered youth champions become agents of change;

OP3 - Lessons learned and best practices from youth-led project interventions are disseminated;

OP4 - Youth-led research on best institutional advocacy and civic engagement techniques is improved.



Glédice Biza, Program Assistant at CDD

Of the four results of the project, *output 2* stood out, which falls within the scope of engagement of youth associations/organizations of the “SOU JOVEM” project. This *output* foresees the training of *youth champions* and members of youth organizations/associations so that they become agents of change and develop their initiatives, supported with small funds. This capacity building will be carried out through a methodology based on approaches that, having been previously tested by CDD, develop cognitive capacities and intrapersonal skills for the development of agency and influencing capacities of young people. To this end, 45 organizations/associations led by young people in the south, center and north of the country will be selected. Thus, the selected organizations will benefit from training in modules on Youth Leadership and Change Management, Negotiation and Conflict, Civic Engagement, Youth Rights and Participation.



Support with small funds will be provided during the second year of the project for youth organizations/associations to implement 12 initiatives that promote meaningful youth participation. Therefore, the 12 organizations with the best proposals will be selected (out of a total of 45 targeted youth organizations/associations).

After the presentation of the project, a session of questions and answers was opened, which consisted of an interactive discussion and clarification of doubts concerning the project. One of the main questions raised has to do with the requirement for the formal registration of organizations since there are many youth organizations/associations that are operating informally but in an even more impactful way than those that are registered. Another relevant question was about the inclusion of people with disabilities in the project, considering that several other youth projects have restricted their interventions to people with disabilities. These questions were promptly answered by the Project Manager, Luís Cuambe, and by Américo Maluana, CDD Program Coordinator.





Luís Cuambe, Gestor do Projecto SOU JOVEM



Américo Maluana, Coordenador de Programas do CDD

Before the “SOU JOVEM” dissemination *workshop*, on the 1st of June, the CDD and Plan Moçambique teams had an audience with the Provincial Directorate for Youth and Sports. In addition to highlighting the importance of the

project for Cabo Delgado, the Provincial Directorate for Youth showed openness to support its implementation, pledging to support the dissemination and mobilization of young people to participate in the proposed activities.

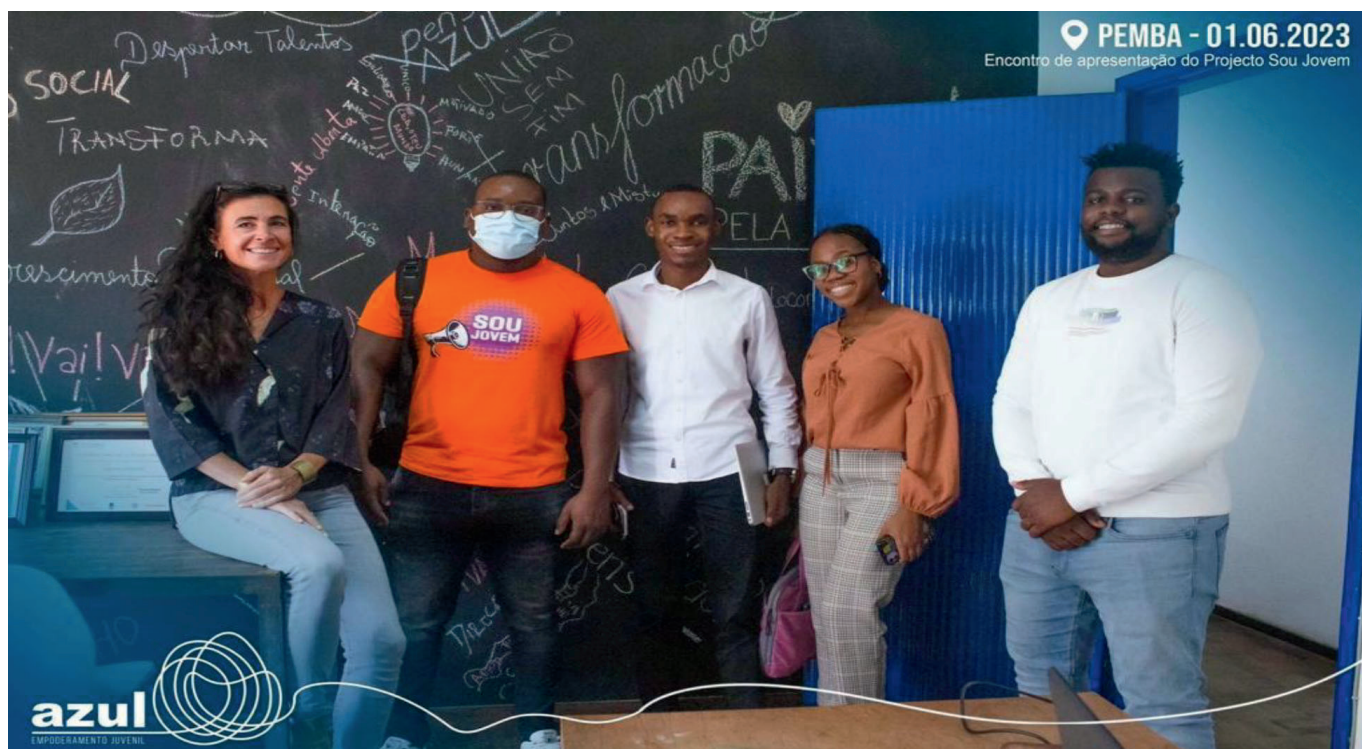


Directorate for Youth and Sports, Cabo Delgado

In addition to interaction with government authorities, courtesy visits were made to civil society organizations in Cabo Delgado that work for youth empowerment and youth-led organizations and associations. These visits allowed for the exchange of experiences and the identification of opportunities for potential collaboration. The organizations visited are Fundação AZUL, Associação

H2N and Associação Kwendeleya.

Fundação AZUL is a civil society organization that for over 10 years has been dedicated to the design and implementation of social change projects in Cabo Delgado. Its purpose is to help, support and transform young people into active citizens, capable of transforming problems and challenges into sustainable solutions for communities.



Visit to the Fundação AZUL



Visit to the H2N Association



Visit to Kwendeleya Association




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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Authors: Américo Maluana & Glédice Biza
Layout: CDD

Address:
 Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.
 Telephone: +258 21 085 797

 CDD_moz
E-mail: info@cddmoz.org
Website: <http://www.cddmoz.org>

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