

SOCIAL COHESION IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

CDD inaugurates facilities of the Youth Hub of Angoche and organizes the first Distrital Policy Dialogue

- The Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) held, on the 27th of October, the opening event of the Angoche Youth Hub, established within the scope of the Social Cohesion Program in Northern Mozambique. This Program is implemented with the support of Swiss Cooperation, and aims to contribute to strengthening social cohesion in the provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa, as well as to catalyze the civic engagement of young people and women in social, political, and economic spaces and, in this way, to contribute to the improvement of local governance, seen in a perspective of the realization of citizens' rights.



Youth Hubs are formal and/or informal spaces for youth empowerment and offer a wide range of programs in a network of safe spaces where members are free to socialize and learn new skills, helping to develop identities and unlock their potential. With a district focus, the Youth Hubs approach includes capacity building, resources, networking, and engagement with state and non-state authorities.

It fell to the Administrator of Angoche, Dr. Bernardo Alide, to proceed with the inauguration of the facilities, in an event that, in addition to the government authorities at the district level, also had the participation of community leaders, leaders of youth associations, representatives of the district civil society platform and about 60 young people members of the Youth Hub of Angoche.

Given the growing threat of violent extremism, the Administrator of Angoche addressed a message to young people, urging them to be vigilant

and use the Youth Hub as a learning space to promote peace and development in the district.

In addition to the inauguration ceremony, the moment served to hold the first Angoche District Policy Dialogue, under the theme “The Role of Youth in the Development of Angoche District in the Context of the Growing Threat of Violent Extremism”. The Policy Dialogues aim to put empowered young people in the Youth Hubs to lead, design, and catalyze public dialogues at district, provincial, and northern regional level, in favor of governance oriented towards inclusive development based on the transformational potential of young people.

Policy Dialogue’s approach is based on the notion of invented spaces that differ from the usual invited spaces. By invented spaces we mean a new paradigm of youth intervention, autonomously and independently, in public decision-making processes. The objectives of the Policy Dialogue are:

- Stimulate young people’s autonomous and



Angoche District Administrator, Dr. Bernardo Alide



Américo Maluana, Coordinator of the Social Cohesion Program, and Dr. Bernardo Alide, District Administrator of Angoche

independent participation in public decision-making processes;

- Build a forum for transparent interaction between young people and public decision-makers, the productive sector, and civil society in favor of policies and development strategies centered on the potential and perspective of youth;
- Expose youth capabilities, skills, and resources relevant to the socio-economic transformation agenda in northern Mozambique;
- Consolidate the vision and collective agenda of youth at the district, provincial and

regional level in the north of Mozambique;

- Catalyze the culture of accountability around the materialization of the vision and collective agenda of youth at the district, provincial and regional level in the north of Mozambique.

The choice of topics for the Policy Dialogue is anchored to the Youth Hubs through the network of Youth Hubs in the northern region of Mozambique. Each year, there is a specific theme linked to the social cohesion agenda in northern Mozambique.

Throughout the dialogue, young people were unanimous in pointing out unemployment and lack of opportunities as factors that increase youth vulnerability to recruitment into extremist groups. One of the challenges pointed out is the lack of technical and professional education institutions, leaving young people with no alternatives when they finish general secondary education. At the same time, when young people finish professional training courses, they do not find spaces to apply the knowledge acquired, through, for example, internships or employment.

Young people are clamoring for initiatives that allow them to maximize their talents and skills. As Abílio Ussene, Leader of the Youth Hub in Angoche, said, “young people know what to do, but they don’t have an incubator that welcomes and supports their ideas”. He also referred that the few existing initiatives are not widespread, and the opportunities do not reach the target group, young people. Thus, the installation of the Youth Hub in Angoche responds to these challenges and constitutes a platform for sharing information.



Community Leader and representative of civil society in Angoche



Youth from the Youth Hub of Angoche

The leader of the community chiefs of Angoche, Manuel Jamal, urged the young people to position themselves in the different decision-making forums at the level of their communities and at the level of the district and municipal government. According to community chief Jamal, young people become leaders from the moment they inspire others to be like them, through their good deeds in the communities.

The Social Cohesion Program is implemented



President of the District Youth Council of Angoche, Dauda Ali

with the support of Swiss Cooperation. It is an initiative led by civil society (CDD, IESE, and MASC Foundation) to strengthen social cohesion in Northern Mozambique. Target groups are young people and women, seen as “agents of change” both individually and collectively. Collective change agents also include public institutions that have an interest, capacity, and ideas to contribute to economic, political and social inclusion, and improve state responsiveness and service delivery.



Jovens do Youth Hub de Angoche



Abilio Ussene, Leader of the Youth Hub of Angoche





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