

## MOMA YOUTH HUB TRAINING

# Empowering young people to promote peace and local development

- Between the 7th and 11th of November, the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) carried out training for 30 young people from the Youth Hub in Moma, within the scope of the Social Cohesion Program in Northern Mozambique. Young people were trained in five competencies, namely (i) Civic Engagement, (ii) Conflict Resolution and Negotiation, (iii) Leadership, (iv) 21st Century Skills, and (v) Entrepreneurship and Community Development Projects.



The official opening of the training was led by the Permanent Secretary of the Moma district, João Bento Zampula, and was attended by representatives of the District Services for Education, Youth and Technology and the District Services for Economic Activities. In his speech, the Permanent Secretary emphasized the importance of training and empowering young people and encouraged associativism as a mechanism for

participation in local governance. In the context of the challenges posed by violent extremism that has plagued the province of Cabo Delgado since October 2017, the leader warned that young people should distance themselves from movements that are not concerned with the well-being of youth. These movements take advantage of young people's weaknesses, especially the lack of employment and unemployment.



Permanent Secretary of Moma District, João Bento Zampula

For Judity Romola, from the District Services for Economic Activities in Moma, Mozambique's development must be based on the strength of young people. Young people receiving training must be able to pass on the acquired knowledge to other young people.





Assma Alvido, a trainee at Youth Hub

Assma attends Grade 11 at Moma, Secondary School. For her, the training was very important because she learned a lot about the rights of young people. She was very impressed with the content as it conveyed the many ways to make positive changes in her community. Although Assma is a poet, with a penchant for social intervention, she did not feel capable, before her training, of influencing positive change in her community. But after training, she changed her perspective. Assma identifies herself as an environmental activist and intends to fight harder for the preservation of the environment. As for the challenges to the participation of young people in decision-making processes, she notes that freedom of expression has been a limited right, mainly because the "older" tend to neglect the voice of young people.



Luísa Brás, Youth Hub trainee

Luísa Brás is 21 years old and finished high school at Moma High School. She says she learned a lot about the training, particularly about leadership. Luísa hopes to replicate this knowledge to other young people. "The idea that leadership skills can be acquired made me more and more motivated, as I thought that only people with innate leadership talents could lead change processes".

The Social Cohesion Program is implemented with the support of Swiss Cooperation. This is an initiative led by civil society (CDD, IESE, and MASC Foundation) to strengthen social cohesion in Northern Mozambique. The main 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.





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