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EMPOWERING YOUTH:

Transformational Leadership and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) in Northern Mozambique



The methodological approach of Asset-Based Community-Led Development (ABCD) focuses on empowering communities to identify, mobilize, and maximize their resources and skills to foster sustainable development. Applying this pers-

pective to the work of the Transformational Leadership Academy (ALT), we can observe that the extension activities carried out by Alumni in the districts of Nampula province are directly aligned with the fundamental principles of this methodology.

ALT alumni as part of the extension of the Transformational Leadership Academy activities in the districts of Nampula province, July 2024

Instead of dwelling on the challenges or deficits within communities, ALT highlights the untapped potential already present in these regions, particularly the role of young people as drivers of change. In every community visited—whether in Corrane, Carimela, Nahopa, or others—local youth and resi-

dents are not seen as passive recipients of external aid but as key actors with valuable assets, such as local knowledge, cultural traditions, and social networks. These resources can be harnessed to promote transformational leadership and drive socio-economic development.



SOURCE: ALT. The photo was taken in Rapale District, Nampula, as part of the extension of ALT activities.



Expanding the Principles of ABCD through ALT:

I. Focus on Local Assets: The ABCD methodology is based on the belief that every community has valuable assets that can drive development. Through its outreach efforts, ALT identified young leaders and fostered direct engagement with local communities, tapping into their experiences and aspirations. Youth, seen as the community's most vital asset, are empowered to become agents of change, using their local knowledge and social connections to create meaningful impact.

II. Community Leadership: ALT champions local leadership as a cornerstone of transformation. By equipping leaders with principles of ethical, inclusive, and transformational leadership, ALT is fostering a new generation of leaders who rely less on external interventions and more on mobilizing their communities for self-driven development. With a deep understanding of local needs, these leaders are guiding their communities in addressing challenges like economic growth and social cohesion through locally crafted solutions.



SOURCE: ALT. The Photo was taken in Larde District, Nampula Province, within the scope of the ALT 2024 extension

III. Partnership and Collaboration: Another core principle of ABCD is collaboration between different community actors. By engaging local governments, NGOs, and the communities themselves, ALT facilitates dialogue among various stakeholders, promoting joint efforts to build sustainable solutions. This partnership is crucial in ensuring that actions are sustainable in the long run and that developed solutions reflect the needs and aspirations of all involved.

IV. Capacity Building: ABCD seeks to build local capacities, enabling communities to take control of their own development. The youth empowered by ALT are developing their skills in governance and leadership, becoming role models within their communities. This process not only strengthens local governance but also creates a support network where these young leaders can continue to promote development long after ALT activities have concluded.



SOURCE: ALT. The Photo was taken in Moma District, Nampula Province, within the scope of the ALT 2024 extension

Transformative and Sustainable Impact: Guided by the principles of ABCD, ALT amplifies its impact by building solutions around the existing assets within local communities. This approach shifts the community mindset, recognizing young people not as a vulnerable group on the periphery of development, but as key drivers of transformative change. By empowering youth to lead, ALT strengthens community resilience and fosters community-led development, ensuring that the changes are

both sustainable and enduring.

In summary, ALT's operational model, grounded in the principles of Asset-Based Community-Led Development, demonstrates that sustainable, transformational change is achievable by leveraging the existing resources and capacities within communities. By actively engaging and empowering youth, ALT not only drives immediate impact but also lays a strong foundation for future development across Northern Mozambique.



SOURCE: ALT: The Photo was taken in Muecate District, Nampula Province, within the scope of ALT extension, 2024



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