

CDD launches a Youth Hub and the Project for Building Youth Resilience to Drugs Trade in Montepuez



The Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) established a Youth Hub in Montepuez to empower and engage youth in the search for solutions to their challenges. “We want young people to bet on their intellect, on their energies and on their collective action to overcome their challenges,” Julião Matsinhe, the coordinator of the initiative, explained.

CDD also launched the Project for Building

Youth Resilience to Drugs Trade in Montepuez, an initiative funded by the Resilience Fund of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. Working with local sectors of Health, Education, Justice, Law and Order and the civil society, this project has three objectives, namely (1) to train and empower youth, with a focus on adolescents, as peer educators against all types of drugs, including alcoholic beverages; (2) to raise awareness in communities about the evils



ERMELINDO AUGUSTO
Secretário Permanente de Montepuez



JOÃO PAULO, Director dos Serviços
de Saúde em Montepuez



JOAQUINA JOSÉ
Vereadora no Município de Montepuez



USSENE BASQUETE
Presidente do CDJ de Montepuez

caused by drugs; (3) to create mechanisms to combat and denounce activities related to the production, trafficking and consumption of drugs, including the use of minors in the sale or purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Speaking at the event, João Paulo, Director of the District Health, Women and Social Services of Montepuez, said that the district registered 82 cases of drug addiction in 2019, and 27 cases in the last nine (9) months of 2020. "We cannot be satisfied with the apparent reduction of drug addiction, because we cannot register all cases, especially those that do not reach hospitals," he warned, while welcoming CDD for the initiative to launch a project to build resilience against drugs in Montepuez.

The President of the District Youth Council (CDJ) of Montepuez, Ussene Basquete, called on young people to be more creative and daring to overcome the challenges related to the lack of employment. "I would like to advise young people to give up drugs. That is not the solution to our problems. We have the capacity to design and implement projects. We have the capacity to be innovative and to create our own jobs. I myself am an example of this. I started with what little I had and today I can feed my family," Ussene Basketball.

The Permanent Secretary of Montepuez District, Ermelindo Augusto, called on young people to be creative and innovative. "There are many ways to overcome life's difficulties such as the lack



of jobs. And one of them is entrepreneurship. We don't need to have much to start a project, we need to have innovative ideas and be daring".

Speaking on behalf of the District Administrator of Montepuez, the Permanent Secretary made a point of reminding young people that the solution to unemployment is not drugs. "And when I talk about drugs I am also talking about the excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages. We have to pay a lot of attention to drugs. In Nairobi we discovered a farm full of marijuana. We all experience critical situations in life, we been through difficulties, but the solution shouldn't be the consumption of drugs. We can't lose hope, we have to stay strong and resilient," Emerlindo Augusto exhorted the youth.

Joaquina José, a high school teacher and Councillor for Administration and Finances in the Municipality of Montepuez, resorted to her own story made up of struggles and a lot of sacrifice to show young people that, with dedication, it is possible to go far. "Young people like

to hide their reality and this is not going to get us anywhere. I am the daughter of peasants and I finished my bachelor's degree but I really can't tell you how it all happened. I see many young people who, after graduating, get ashamed of their parents' home. I came to Montepuez to do voter registration work, but there are people who asked me: but you, a college graduate, are here registering people?"

The Councillor for Administration and Finance in the Municipality of Montepuez said that it was with "great pride, dedication and humility" that she fulfilled each stage of her life. "Today I am a teacher and municipal councilwoman. I arrived where I am with a lot of sacrifice and humility. Opportunities will never come to us, it is we who must go after opportunities. We all have to go to the fight, we cannot hide what we are. If you have 50 meticaís, do a business the size of that amount. Don't be ashamed of your reality," Joaquina José, who attended the event on behalf of the Mayor of Montepuez, said.



CEBOLA ARFANI



JOSÉ INÁCIO



STEFAN

Young people ready to work in building resilience to drugs

In the discussion that followed the State and Municipal Council representatives' interventions, youth exchanged ideas, concerns and asked for clarification on how the Montepuez Youth Hub will work and how they can contribute to the success of the Project for Building Youth Resilience to Drugs.

"We thank CDD for this project here in Montepuez. In fact, the excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages here in Montepuez is a serious problem. I live in a neighborhood where there are many producers of traditional beverages. When I ask the producers why they would rather sell alcoholic beverages than do other food business, for example, they say that there are more people buying alcohol. This shows that we have a lot of work ahead of us," Cebola Arfani.

"I believe that young people have the capacity to overcome any obstacle, including drugs. But the big problem is the lack of opportunities for them. Young people do not have occupation and end up falling into drugs. Young people have innovative ideas, they have the capacity to design projects, but they lack funding. You need funds to start any project," Stefan.

"I would like to know why CDD chose Montepuez to implement this project. But I would also like to say that there are a lot of young people

involved in excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages here in Montepuez. So I would like to thank DDC very much for choosing this district to implement the project", José Inácio.

The launch of the Youth Center and the Project to Build Youth Resilience against Drugs in Montepuez comes at a time when the district is experiencing a massive influx of displaced peoples fleeing the terrorist attacks in Muidumbe. Since early November, about 50,000 people have arrived in Montepuez and most need all kinds of support, from material to psychosocial. Therefore, with the establishment of the Youth Center, CDD activists and other youths from Montepuez will work to assist people who have left their homes due to the terrorist attacks in central and northern Cabo Delgado.

Therefore, with the establishment of the Youth Hub, youth in Montepuez, under the leadership of CDD activists Celiano Rage and Anabela Talatibo, will be involved in humanitarian activities in support of internal displaced people who have left their homes due to terrorist attacks in the center and north of Cabo Delgado. Celiano Rage and Anabela Talatibo are experienced young leaders and they played a key role in organizing the launch of the Youth Hub and the Project for Building Youth Resilience Against Drugs.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: CDD – Centro para a Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Author: Emídio Beula
Team: Emídio Beula , Agostinho Machava, Ilídio Nhantumbo, Isabel Macamo, Julião Matsinhe, Janato Jr. and Ligia Nkavando
Layout: CDD

Address:
 Rua 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>

Partners



Financial Partners

