

SUPPORTED BY THE SWISS AGENCY FOR COOPERATION

CDD, IESE and MASC Foundation launch the social cohesion programme in Northern Mozambique to respond to the challenges of violent extremism

- In response to the challenges imposed by the violent extremism affecting Cabo Delgado province since October 2017, the Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), in partnership with the Civil Society Support Mechanism (MASC Foundation) and the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE), launched on Tuesday 5 October a civic action programme called “Civil Society Action for Social Cohesion in Northern Mozambique”.



The programme is supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation (SDC) and focuses on strengthening the response capacity of formal and informal decision making institutions to initiatives led by youth and women, improving access to public services and the protection of human rights; transforming

youth and women into agents of change, contributing to inclusive local economic development and building a sense of trust, belonging and reconciliation.

Speaking at the event, Leila Sheikh, Head of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy, explained that the programme “Civil Society Action for Social Cohesion in Nor-

thern Mozambique” follows on the studies conducted by CDD, IESE and MASC Foundation to understand the roots of the conflict in Cabo Delgado. The roots are connected to the strong sense of social, economic and political exclusion, inequalities in the distribution of national income, extreme poverty, bad governance and so-



Leila Sheikh, Head of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy



cial injustice. "The results and conclusions of the three studies helped us to build the Civil Society Action Programme for Social Cohesion in Northern Mozambique."

The Head of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy explained that this programme aims to promote the civic engagement of youth and women in social, political and economic public spaces, making them more inclusive, and to consolidate inclusive and responsible governance processes. "This objective is aligned with the Five Year Programme of the Government

of Mozambique (2020 - 2014), which focuses on matters related to the peace maintenance, democracy and national unity, inclusive and sustainable growth, social and economic stability. These elements are determinant for the construction of a society based on multi- and inter-institutional dialogue with a strong sense of belonging, social justice and quality," Leila Sheikh argued.

Because it is aligned with the Five-Year Programme of the Government of Mozambique (2020 - 2014), the success of the

programme will depend on greater interaction, coordination and synergies between implementing organizations, local communities and formal State institutions. "We hope that in 2023, when we evaluate this project, we will achieve positive results with direct impact on the lives of local communities in the Northern provinces."

Leila Sheikh stated that the launch of this programme was a milestone in the historic relations between the Swiss and Mozambican peoples. "Over the years, our relations have always been based on trust

and neutrality. That is why in 2016, the two governments, together with Renamo, sought the path to peace and political stability. Consequently, in 2019 the final peace agreements were signed in Maputo.”

Currently, the Swiss Embassy focuses its support in the decentralization areas through public finance management, provision of public goods and services in the area of health, water and sanitation,

support to civil society and economic development. “The consolidation of the Final Peace Agreement will depend on decentralization reforms,” explained Leila Sheikh.

Government recognizes the importance of social cohesion in the fight against violent extremism

“Humanitarian assistance is undoubtedly a great responsibility of the Government, but there is also no doubt that only social cohesion, which is perfectly framed in the Government’s multifaceted strategy for fighting against terrorism, can tackle this scourge that is plaguing Cabo Delgado province.”

The launch of the programme “Civil Society Action for Social Cohesion in Northern Mozambique” was witnessed by the Government of Mozambique, through the Ministry of State Administration and Public Service. Speaking on behalf of Minister Ana Comoane, the Director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of State Administration and Public Service, Zauria Amisse Abdula, highlighted the importance of the engagement of various public, private and civil society entities in assisting displaced persons and stabilizing the social life of communities in Cabo Delgado.

“Humanitarian assistance is undoubtedly a great responsibility of the Government, but there is also no doubt that only social cohesion, which is perfectly framed in the Government’s multifaceted strategy for fighting against terrorism, can tackle this scourge that is plaguing Cabo Delgado province. It is the Government’s expectation to see the engagement of all the living forces of society, namely the humanitarian agencies and internal organizations, cooperation partners, the



Zauria Abdula, Ministry of State Administration and Public Service

public and private business sector and local community organizations”, explained Zauria Amisse Abdula.

The Director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of State Administration and Public Service recalled that Cabo Delgado has around 800,000 people coming from the districts of Palma, Macomia, Mocímboa da Praia, Muidumbe, Quissanga and Nangade in need of humanitarian assistance. “The Government has outlined strategies for administrating displaced persons in order to cover and monitor all cycles of management of the internally displaced persons, such as their reception, recovery, until the cessation of their condition of displaced persons and the promotion of local development. It is for these specific

situations that we call upon the society for a massive collaboration to ensure stability of those affected, as soon as possible,” Zauria Abdula said.

In addition to the representatives from the Swiss Embassy, the Government and the three implementing organizations (CDD, IESE and MASC Foundation), this launch ceremony was attended by young people from across the country and various personalities from civil society and academics, in particular Professor Severino Ngoenha, Rector of Technical University of Mozambique (UDM) and Professor Brazão Mazula, former Rector of Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) and first President of the National Elections Commission (CNE).

“Today all Mozambicans agree that we live in an unfair society”, Full Professor Severino Ngoenha

“We need to restore Mozambique with common values. We should bring back the concept of tolerance. We have stopped being tolerant with each other. We need material cohesion. We are a poor country, but we have some wealth”.

“For a society to be a community, to be cohesive, it needs to have commonly shared values. If this does not happen, it becomes fragmented and enters into conflict. Thinking a little about the history of Mozambique over the last 60 years, I could say that we had three levels of consensus. In the 1960s, we had the consensus that united boys and girls from different backgrounds in terms of race, culture, belief and religion around a common need, to put an end to colonialism. Behind this desire, Frelimo was born, which fought for 10 years and brought us Independence in 1975. Of course, behind this consensus there were differences of opinion regarding the kind of pacts that we had to have with those who helped us, regarding the ideology that should guide the country, the kind of the Republic, the kind of common coexistence that should be characteristic of the post-independence Mozambique. This created problems and discomforts that manifested themselves, among other things, in the creation of movements that led to the beginning of what was considered the first great decline in Mozambique after its Independence. After this great difference



Full Professor Severino Ngoenha

of opinions we returned to a consensus. The consensus of the 1990s was that, in view of the war, it was necessary to create rules for living together. We wanted to have a liberal Country, in political sense of the word, freedom of expression for citizens, freedom to create political movements, economic freedom and so on. But here too we have stumbled. Today all Mozambicans agree that we live in an unfair society. This means that the issue of

justice is once again at the center of social fragmentation. We have no common values. The first action we should do is to bring back to the surface common values that identify us as Mozambicans. We need to restore Mozambique with common values. We should bring back the concept of tolerance. We have stopped being tolerant with each other. We need material cohesion. We are a poor country, but we have some wealth”.

“There is no social cohesion if there is no human dignity”, Full Professor Brazão

“Mozambique has values and defects and we all know them. However, the great value is that we assess the present and look to a better future. For a better future, we need social cohesion. For there to be social cohesion, the society needs to know itself. Working together, sharing. We must build up a culture of being a united Country. When I talk about cohesion, I am talking about society and the State, I am talking about the Government, the legislative power and the judiciary.”



Full Professor Brazão

“Mozambique has values and defects and we all know them. However, the great value is that we assess the present and look to a better future. For a better future, we need social cohesion. For there to be social cohesion, the society needs to know itself. Working together, sharing. We must build up a culture of being a united Coun-

try. When I talk about cohesion, I am talking about society and the State, I am talking about the Government, the legislative power and the judiciary. Sometimes I have the impression that the society does not know what the State is and the State in turn does not know what the society is. One is far from the other. What is needed is complementarity between the government, the legislative and the judiciary powers, and cohesion between each of these powers and the society. When I talk about cohesion, I am talking above all about respect for human dignity. There is no social cohesion without human dignity. How is it possible to have someone who decrees a date

for another human being? Human dignity is cooperation between us Mozambicans. Cohesion and cooperation between the economy, companies and society. Regarding what is happening in Cabo Delgado, which is sad, it shows the weaknesses of the whole Country in terms of cohesion. In Gaza there is poverty, in Maputo it is the same... This is a good opportunity for us to reflect on what is happening in the North and not make the same mistakes of Cabo Delgado to the rest of the country. This event is a unique opportunity for us to analyze with courage, without labels, as Mozambicans. I call for this initiative not to die in three or four years”.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

PROGRAMMATIC PARTNER



FINANCING PARTNERS

