

DIALOGUE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CABO DELGADO

Social cohesion, economic stability and inclusion of local youth in employment opportunities are essential in the fight against violent extremism

- The workshop discussing conflict resolution initiatives in Cabo Delgado enters its second day today, focusing on the accountability of national and regional military forces fighting violent extremists in the province.



Held by CDD as part of the Platform for Dialogue for Conflict Resolution in Cabo Delgado, the workshop aims to provide a multi-sectorial platform for an open and inclusive dialogue for conflict resolution, and which encourages “local solutions for local problems” to promote stability and reduce the risk of vio-

lence in communities

Yesterday, the first day of the event, the Deputy National Director of Defense Policy at the Ministry of National Defense, Maria Isabel Francisco, argued that a conflict resolution must be based on the inclusion of all living forces in society. In addition, this assumption reflects, according to her,

the need to deepen the knowledge of the causes of the conflict affecting the northern districts of Cabo Delgado since late 2017. Maria Isabel Francisco was speaking on behalf of the Ministry of National Defense, one of the key partners of CDD in the Platform of Dialogue for Conflict Resolution in Cabo Delgado

The Deputy National Director of Defense Policy stressed that the Ministry of National Defense is mindful of its responsibilities in the defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, through the implementation of the national defense policy. "It is true that everyone may have their perspective on peace and conflict, but it is certain and I believe that peace and security are an urgency. One cannot postpone life. Postponing life is postponing development," Maria Isabel Francisco said in opening of the workshop

CDD Director, Adriano Nuvunga, contextualized the event held in the framework of the Platform of Dialogue for Conflict Resolution in Cabo Delgado. "Development, peace and security nexus requires that after stabilization, there follows a fundamental question: how to explore local initiatives and the potential for local actors participation in addressing violent extremism", he asked provocatively.

CDD expert Richard Rands argued that military forces are fundamental in creating conditions for security, but there comes a time when their presence no longer makes sense. This is the time when it is necessary to activate alternatives for resolving the conflict. "In Cabo Delgado we will reach a point where the presence of foreign military forces



will no longer make sense, so it is important that we start exploring the alternatives for resolving the conflict now. Inclusive dialogue is an important tool. We can work on a coordination platform that responds to the various challenges in Cabo Delgado".

With the progresses by the joint forces operating in Cabo Delgado, the conflict

may enter a phase of stagnation. Richard Rands warned that one thing that we should learn from countries where extreme violence is a reality is that it has time on its side. "Time is a key element. With time, violent extremists can create conditions to regroup and reorganize themselves, as long as there is no effective response."

"Extreme violence cannot be treated as a disease, rather as a consequence of lack of alternatives and economic opportunities", Brian Kagolo, Open Society Foundation

"When we are in a peace building process we must see local violence manifestations as manifestations of the State fragility to solve the problem of lack of opportunities. There will be no peace, development or stability if there are no alternatives for people's way of life. Extreme violence cannot be treated as a disease, but rather as a consequence of lack of alternatives and economic opportunities. Money flows and socio-economic investments are more important than military approaches and solutions. No country has been able to solve the problem of extreme violence without addressing the problems of economic instability and it is impossible to address issues of extreme violence without questioning the legitimacy of policymakers. In many countries, extreme violence happens in places where extractive industry is based. The most successful solutions have been those that do not attack the extractive industry, but discuss how it can contribute to local development. An approach to problems that give rise to extreme violence must be holistic. Social cohesion cannot be addressed only at local level, because the solution goes far beyond local. It has to be regional, national, international and at the level of multilateral organizations. But no strategy will succeed if it does not include people who are suffering from the problems of extreme violence."



BRIAN KAGOLO

“Only locally thought out solutions can help solve the problems of violent extremism”, Lilla Schumicky - Logan, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)

“GCERF is an independent organization based in Switzerland that works with national and local organizations in preventing violence and strengthening community resilience against violent extremism. We are in many African countries and we are working with national and local actors. GCERF believes that only locally designed solutions can help solve violent extremism problems. Cabo Delgado communities want to be heard by the authorities, they want access to economic development opportunities, because they feel excluded. In areas where the conflict is still active, it is practically impossible to carry out such opportunities, but it is important to start working in the peripheral areas where the problem may spread, such as Nampula and Niassa. Civil engagement does not work without economic opportunities and this is where private sector is called upon to intervene. We have to mobilize and work with young people who are most vulnerable to recruitment. Vulnerability criteria are defined by local leaders themselves, because they know the factors of vulnerability to recruitment. It is therefore important to work with institutions and agencies that are established locally. It is important to regain trust through forums where people can speak openly and freely and discuss local problems. Working with individuals and existing structures, creating and engaging platforms at various levels - national, provincial and local - where all actors are involved is the best way to tackle the problems.”



“We work on strengthening social cohesion to build community resilience to violent extremism,” Aga Khan Foundation

“The Aga Khan Foundation is a social society actor working on development and strengthening community. We started our activities in Cabo Delgado in 2001, so we are an actor with a lot of experience in the province. We create a model that starts in the communities, because they know their problems and the solutions to them. Sometimes what is missing, is a strategy or resources, so we are there to support them. Our model is called the Village Development Committee, where we include the issue of community leadership, women’s empowerment, youth involvement, and local governance. It’s a model we’ve been developing since 2007 and we work on strengthening social cohesion to create community resilience to violent extremism. In seven districts we have been able to help in the creation of 212 community-based organizations, but some districts have been affected by violent extremism. In Metuge District, for example, of the 33 Village Development Committees, 13 are not active because of the conflict. However, the 20 that are active have organized themselves to receive and welcome displaced families. That’s a total of 23,203 people who have been hosted in 20 villages. We work with the Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado and with the Integrated Development Agency of the North (ADIN).”



“It is important to have a humanitarian assistance strategy for each district affected by violent extremism,” Joana Martins, Voluntários Anónimos de Moçambique (VAMOZ)

“At the end of last April people had nothing to eat, they were living on cassava. We had children and mothers dying of anemia and malnutrition. Every day we are distributing porridge to more than 800 vulnerable people and by now we have distributed more than 31,000 meals. Since we started with the program we haven’t registered any deaths from malnutrition. We are supporting fishermen to start up in business. It is essential that the markets function again in Palma to avoid the perpetuation of food aid, we need to assist the formal and informal sectors to create job opportunities. It is important to have a humanitarian assistance strategy for each district affected by violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. In addition, this strategy must be known by all actors in the humanitarian assistance chain. It is important that all actors recognize the role of Mozambican organizations in the humanitarian response. Many times the Mozambican organizations appear as subcontractors of the large international organizations. All the military forces that are in Cabo Delgado, all the humanitarian agencies and organizations must have mastery of and respect for human rights.”



“Humanitarian aid must include psychosocial assistance,” Julia Wachave, Association for the Protection of Women and Girls (PROMURA)

“We work with women and girls before and during the conflict. Their vulnerability in Cabo Delgado is a problem that existed long before the conflict started, but now it has increased because of the forced displacement of communities. Moreover, in this process women and girls are the most vulnerable group. From the work that we have been doing we have seen that displaced women are discriminated against in the host communities. For example, they are the last to draw water from the public water fountains, usually after 2pm. In some host communities we have come across cases of families that have had to give up a baby girl to get a space to set up residence, and we have also noticed many limitations in access to basic health services. The improvised houses for displaced families do not offer privacy conditions especially for women. We have created a civil society group that monitors the donations that arrive in the province, but it is not easy to have a database. Humanitarian aid must include psychosocial assistance. In the visits we made to the centers for displaced people we identified more than 100 people who had traumas.”



”Lack of information creates opportunism and bias narratives about the Muslim community,” Erick Kabendera, Tanzanian researcher

“The Tanzanian Armed Forces accuse the communities living in the areas near the border with Mozambique of collaborating with the insurgents, of being informants. Nevertheless, the communities say that the Armed Forces only show up one or two weeks after the attacks, they don’t feel protected, and they deny being informants for the violent extremists. Another issue of concern is that the military operations against the insurgents show that there is a focus against young Muslim suspects. This has contributed to the communities’ increased distrust of the armed forces and creates dissatisfaction. There has also been a discourse from the authorities that youth and children are radicalized in Muslim schools, the madrasahs. The madrasahs are looked upon as vehicles for instructing and recruiting young people to join extremist groups. This perception by the authorities is seen as an attack by the Muslim community. The lack of information creates opportunism and biased narratives about the Muslim community.”



“Relationship between the joint force and communities has improved, as well as respect for human rights,” Delphine Fauque, Total oil representative

“We are working on engaging the joint force highlights in Afungi to observe and respect rights principles in their operations, as well as their relationship with communities. Total continues to engage the communities and the joint force in creating a good relationship and an environment of mutual trust. In addition, we have been seeing improvements in the relationship between the joint force and communities and in respect for human rights. Our commitment is to continue working with and support all actors involved in restoring security and stability in these areas. We also continue to support local communities in a variety of ways.”





EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Author: Emídio Beula
Team: Emídio Beula, Julião Matsinhe, Dimas Sinoa, Américo Maluana e Betuel Chau
Layout: CDD

Address:
 Rua de 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>

PROGRAMMATIC PARTNER



FINANCING PARTNERS

