

## Workshop on the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

- On the 2nd of December 2021, a workshop on the nexus between humanitarian, development and peace actions took place in Maputo City, co-organized by the Belgian Diplomatic Bureau and the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD). Since the beginning of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado, CDD has been working on the nexus between humanitarian, development and peace actions in the affected or influenced regions in Northern Mozambique.

CDD believes that a conflict resolution strategy should not be based solely on military means, but must be accompanied by sustainable measures to address the root causes of it, addressing deep-rooted social grievances, socio-economic deprivation and external ideology. Applying the nexus between humanitarian, development and peace actions aims to improve the coherence, efficiency and long-term effectiveness

of programme or project planning to address violent extremism, involving complementary humanitarian and development initiatives to prevent and combat crises.

Encouraging thinking within development partners to rethink support in Mozambique, to ensure long-term coherence and effectiveness guided the objectives of the workshop, highlighting the need for dialogue and conflict sensitivity.

Humanitarian aid, development and peace building programmes are not serial processes, but are all required at the same time to address people's vulnerability before, during and after crises/conflicts in a coherent manner. This implies meeting immediate needs while ensuring long-term investment. These components for conflict resolution in Cabo Delgado exist, but are used independently, unevenly and incoherently.

## A coherent strategy for the humanitarian, development and peace nexus in Cabo Delgado

The ongoing military campaign in Cabo Delgado aims to eradicate violent extremism, but if it is not accompanied by other measures it is unlikely to have positive results. As can be seen on that province, violent extremist groups are able to adapt quickly to new realities, developing better and different operating techniques and moving to other areas.

The development of a comprehensive and broad strategy to reach and address all the roots of the conflict is necessary. So far there is no single strategy for Cabo Delgado. The Northern Integrated Development Agency (ADIN), created in March 2020 by the Council of Ministers, is still in the process of developing a strategy. The Government has a strategy, the World Bank has a strategy, but no strategy is coherent and the result of a dialogue. This proliferation of independent strategies without coordination to guide actions in a harmonious manner may compromise

the resolution of the conflict or lead to a facade resolution.

Resolving a conflict implies first of all and foremost a clear, inclusive and common vision of all the necessary components of peace. Thus, a transformative and community-based approach is a priority for addressing the root causes of conflict, including socio-economic inequalities.

The focus of humanitarian work and action, development and peacebuilding programmes must consistently ensure that people's vulnerability is addressed before, during and after crises, considering all immediate and long-term needs.

Military operations are important to minimize attacks on communities and establish conditions for the implementation of development initiatives. To this end, it is important to analyse the timing and identify the culmination of military operations as the maximum

point of military advantage for implementing other components for conflict resolution.

It is important to bear in mind that actions and measures taken within the scope of humanitarian aid, development programmes and peace building should not be focused on delimiting borders, since geographical responses to the conflict can create new conflicts in other regions, such as Niassa and Nampula provinces, and even in the Republic of Tanzania. A comprehensive approach to addressing grievances and social problems avoids the risk of the conflict expanding to regional and/or transnational levels, hence the importance of a broad approach to the nature of the conflict, and a containment of narratives of Islamic extremism, serious consideration of the implications of weak opportunities and organized crime. The nexus would fail with a singular approach to each of the possible causes of conflict.

## Peace-building and short-term priorities

Peacebuilding is a clear, inclusive and common process. A process that must prioritize a community-based approach to address the root causes of conflict, the causes of social fragility, the promotion of peace, gender and justice. Actions for peace involve creating an environment of trust, whether at the international level with international development and peacebuilding mechanisms, or at the local level with conflict resolution dialogue, or at the community level with community-based dialogue. Without dialogue, no peacebuilding action is possible. Short-term military interventions and objectives play a great role in creating the conditions for the establishment of a safe and trusting environ-

ment conducive to dialogue and peacebuilding. Ending conflict through dialogue and creating an environment of lasting peace implies consideration of certain elements, including:

1. Creating a common basis for dialogue;
2. Developing a common knowledge base;
3. Monitoring by dialogue actions.

In this process, it is important to consider measures to prevent and counter violent extremism, and this involves a range of non-coercive measures to dissuade groups from adhering to extremist narratives through development programmes,

de-radicalization programmes, education and review of responsibilities for police and armed forces, and countering extremist propaganda in social media and communities.

Peace building is a process with incentives and common understanding. Disarmament and demobilization of people should be done by incentives. The nexus of humanitarian action, development programmes and peacebuilding offers development incentives, resolution of social grievances and addressing the roots of conflict. The private sector and ADIN have a key role in creating the incentives, hence the need to be integrated as parts of the dialogue process.

### Role of ADIN

Many economic efforts have been put at the disposal of ADIN. Considering its mandate in youth empowerment and development in the north of the country, ADIN ends up being the entity responsible for the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. However, the lack of strategic capacity and coherent implementation of measures and programmes to address vulnerabilities before, during and after the crisis undermines the process.

### Adaptive crisis management

An adaptive conflict management is key to the nexus. The challenge is to use adaptive management to find the right balance between gaining knowledge to improve management in the future and achieving the best short-term outcome based on existing knowledge. Responses change depending on the context.

### Humanitarian, development and peace actions (+)

The most (+) in humanitarian, development and peace actions in Cabo Delgado will be in the hands of the private sector. Military interventions are the number one priority for conflict resolution. Their actions go beyond the law, as human rights abuses have been reported, coupled with the presence of private security forces and competition between the police and the armed forces. Understanding the dynamics of the conflict, incorporating military operations and involving the local and international private sector will prevent the intractability of the conflict in Cabo Delgado. The local and international private sector has a role to play in local development, however special attention must be paid to human rights abuses committed by security companies engaged in the protection of private investment. A commitment to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights to which some companies are party is critical.

The private sector must understand that the epicenter of investment is Cabo Delgado and thus promote local content.

### Risks to the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus

Some of the risks to the humanitarian, development and peace nexus arise from the principles of humanitarian action. It is true that states are responsible for *accountability* and ensuring that the needs of all their people are met, but not all have the will to do so. The balance between this reality and encouraging the state to ensure its obligations is the tension at the heart of the nexus.

Assessing and reducing the risks of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus in Mozambique involves research, monitoring and contextual analysis of the interests of the population. An approach based on interests, narratives, approaches, and holistic and integrated perception is required, as well as the intervention of various stakeholders. To this end, an inventory of projects, programmes, activities and their synchronicity proves crucial for the construction and implementation of the nexus.

## Next steps: applying the nexus through the donor approach

Building local capacity and accessing local knowledge are two major challenges faced by donors and organizations.

While local organizations involved in humanitarian action have access to community trust and understanding of context dynamics, logistical capacity has been their challenge. Taking the nexus to the local level implies empowering and building capacity in local organizations. It is not about intellectual capacity, it is about logistics. The idea of a chief of staff responsible for local coordination may be an alternative.

The design of any programme for Cabo Delgado must include conflict sensitivity, meaning being aware of and sensitive to the local roots of conflict. This implies research, monitoring and analysis. A programme should contribute to peace, not create more conflict. Understanding the dynamics of conflict sensitivity must follow the entire process of the strategy, from drafting to implementation.

ADIN and the World Bank are working on conflict sensitivity, which is crucial for implementing the nexus between humanitarian action, development and peace.

## Funding strategies

An adaptable funding framework for adaptable programmes is needed to facilitate flexibility for multiple years and define success in multiple approaches.



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