



## SOCIAL COHESION PROGRAM IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

# **CDD, MASC and IESE hold the first meeting of the Provincial Coordination Group in Cabo Delgado and Niassa**

- On Tuesday 08 March the first meeting of the Provincial Coordination Group in Nampula will take place. The Provincial Coordination Groups are composed not only of the implementing organizations, but also of all the relevant institutional and social actors operating in the social and economic sphere in the northern provinces of Mozambique.





The “Voices from Northern Mozambique” will be a space where the actions developed by CDD and other actors engaged in the protection of Human Rights and the promotion of the right to development based on the transformative capacity of the youth of Northern Mozambique will be shared.

The Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) publishes today, Sunday, March 05, 2022, the first issue of “Voices from Northern Mozambique”, a weekly rubric of a programmatic nature. The publication will be made from the north of Mozambique and will report all the actions developed by CDD in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula provinces and their districts.

The actions to be reported in “Voices from Northern Mozambique” include those developed by CDD under programs that focus on the northern region, starting with the Program “**Civil Society Action for the Social Cohesion in Northern Mozambique**”, implemented in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC). The objective of the program is to catalyze and empower youth and women towards a transformational agenda for inclusive and sustainable development;

The “**Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights**” program, an initiative that seeks, through the cooperation of various stakeholders, to promote and facilitate the effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles in order to minimize the risk of human rights abuses and security-related incidents in communities where industrial exploitation of natural resources occurs. The program is supported by the UK High Commission and SDC, and has as programmatic partner the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF);

The “**Citizen Consultation and Dialogue for Promoting an Inclusive Energy Transition in Pemba**” is an initiative supported by the British High Commission in Mozambique, and aims to promote a more inclusive energy transition and sustainable urban development for the city of Pemba by leading a citizen consultation process that encourages greater involvement and participation of civil society.

The “**Dialogue Platform for Conflict Resolution**” is a program that proposes the strategic use of multisectoral dialogue as a tool for conflict resolution. The platform assumes that the use of military force alone will not solve the problem of violent extremism in Northern Mozambique. It therefore advocates a comprehensive strategy that recognizes the value and importance of local knowledge and community perceptions and aspirations.

The “**Leadership Enhancement and Agency Development Project**” (LEAD) program is another initiative led by CDD and implemented with support from SDC and OSISA. LEAD seeks to enhance

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the capacities of young people for political participation in order to influence policies on issues that affect their lives and aspirations. In the context of the conflict in Cabo Delgado, LEAD has reoriented its approach within a broader objective of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). Thus, Youth Hubs (youth agencies) became mechanisms for building youth resilience to violent extremism in Northern Mozambique.

**“Promoting Accountability and Citizen Engagement in Natural Resource Governance in Mozambique”** is a program supported by the Ford Foundation. Through accountability and effective citizen engagement in natural resource governance, the program aims to leverage the extractive industry as a catalyst for an inclusive, diversified, sustainable, and renewable energy-based economy in Mozambique.

**“Protecting Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mozambique”** is a program implemented in partnership with MISA - Mozambique, with support from OSISA. The objective is to protect the civic space in Mozambique and provide security to Human Rights Defenders and Journalists who are at risk due to their work.

As can be noted, the “Voices from Northern Mozambique” will be a space where the actions developed by CDD and other actors engaged in the protection of Human Rights and the promotion of the right to development based on the transformative capacity of the youth of Northern Mozambique will be shared.

The “Voices of Northern Mozambique” will be a space to promote the interaction and engagement of stakeholders for their participation in the different CDD initiatives with a view to an integrated development of Northern Mozambique, from a northern perspective and starting from Northern Mozambique.



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First Meeting of the Provincial Coordination Group, Pemba city



Courtesy meeting with the Secretary of State of Niassa province, Dr. Dinis Vilanculos

The Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), the MASC Foundation (Civil Society Support Mechanism) and the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE) launched the Program “Civil Society Action for Social Cohesion in Northern Mozambique” in Maputo City in October 2021. After the launch of the Program at central level, the launch events were replicated

at provincial level, in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa.

Implemented with support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, the initiative aims to contribute to strengthening social cohesion in Northern Mozambique by encouraging civic engagement of young people and women in social, political and economic



Courtesy meeting with the Governor of Niassa Province, Dr. Elina Judite Massengele

spaces, and thus contribute to improving local governance.

This program foresees, during its implementation, the creation of provincial coordination groups that will be constituted not only by the implementing organizations, but also by all the relevant institutional and social actors that act in the social and economic fields in the provinces of Northern Mozambique.

The objectives of the Provincial Coordination Group are (1) Ensuring knowledge of the program at the provincial level; (2) Coordinating the intervention with relevant stakeholders to maximize efforts/complementarity; (3) Ensuring communication flow between organizations at the provincial level, identifying where activities need to be coordinated or carefully sequenced (annual plan), and ensuring risk management; (4) Sharing results of the CSASC Survey - including Social Cohesion Barometer and Lessons Learned.

In Cabo Delgado the Provincial Coordination

Group meeting was attended by government representatives at provincial, district and municipal level, as well as by local civil society organizations and political parties. In addition to the presentation of the work plans of the implementing organizations, the participants had the opportunity to share ideas, comments and suggestions.

The meeting of the Provincial Co-ordination Group, in Niassa took place on the 4th of February. On the sidelines of the event, a delegation consisting of representatives of the Swiss Cooperation, CDD, MASC and IESE held courtesy meetings with the Secretary of State of Niassa province and the Governor of Niassa province.

The Secretary of State, Dr. Dinis Vilanculos, stressed the importance of the initiative, especially in the context of the conflict that has been devastating the province of Cabo Delgado since 2017, with tendencies to spread to other provinces, having Niassa already registered the first attacks. This phenomenon reinforces the need



First Meeting of the Provincial Coordination Group, Niassa.

for the existence of initiatives that promote youth development, through training, entrepreneurship and civic engagement so that they are less prone to recruitment to violent extremism. In the same vein, the Governor of Niassa province, Dr. Elina Judite Massengele, expressed the openness of the provincial government to collaborate in the implementation of the Social Cohesion Program. In addition, the Governor recommended the creation of mechanisms to make the initiative more comprehensive, since

many projects have been implemented near the city, neglecting the interior districts, such as Mecula and Marrupa. As he made known, violent extremists have entered Niassa from the district of Mecula, which is mostly made up of young people. Therefore, there is a need to expand initiatives that ensure economic opportunities for these young people through entrepreneurship.

In addition to the meeting with government authorities, the delegation had meetings with the representation of the Irish Embassy in Nias-



First Meeting of the Provincial Coordination Group, Niassa.

sa, the German Cooperation office in Niassa, and the We Effect. These meetings aimed to identify the lines of intersection between the Social Cohesion Program and other initiatives implemented locally.

In general, with the implementation of the Programme, it is expected to strengthen the social cohesion in the three provinces of Northern Mozambique, encouraging civic engagement of youth and women in more inclusive social, political and economic spaces to promote responsible governance.

CDD's approach focuses on youth, and within this scope it is developing a set of activities aimed at developing the capacity of the provincial government and the Provincial Assembly for effective engagement with citizens at various levels; multisectoral dialogue and joint action spaces for local governments and community to promote the common good; improving youth participation in decision-making processes and social development at local/community level; training youth leaders in leadership, civic engagement and 21st century skills.



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