



# Government must decentralize the reconstruction of Cabo Delgado and hand over management to the provincial Governor



In September 2021, the Government approved the Reconstruction Plan for Cabo Delgado, with the objective of guaranteeing the humanitarian, social and economic conditions to ensure the safe return of displaced populations to their areas of origin. Violent extremism in Cabo Delgado affects about one million people, of

which nearly 800,000 are displaced. In addition to the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, violent extremism has left a trace of destruction of public and private infrastructure in the districts of Mocímboa da Praia, Palma, Muidumbe, Ibo, Quissanga, Nangade, Macomia, Meluco and Mueda.

## 5.1 Organograma da Estrutura de Coordenação de Implementação do PRCD



Budgeted at 300 million dollars, the Reconstruction Plan for Cabo Delgado presents a set of short, medium and long term strategic actions, which should be implemented until 2024. The Government guarantees that the Plan is in line with international standards and practices on post-conflict reconstruction, with emphasis on the need to assist the displaced and their return to their areas of origin in an environment of respect for human

dignity and security.

The focus of the Plan is the areas recovered by the joint forces of Mozambique, Rwanda, and SADC, and which require investment in infrastructure to reestablish basic services in health, education, water and sanitation, access roads, telecommunications, energy, as well as public administration (district secretariats of local state bodies, police stations, courts, prosecutors' offic-





es, registry offices). The document also focuses on the resumption of economic activities that will provide income and subsistence for the definite return of the displaced population to their areas of origin.

Indeed, the literature on post-conflict reconstruction indicates that the process includes, among other things: Restoring internal security, including the reintegration of displaced populations; Building administrative and governance capacity; Building infrastructure such as houses, schools, markets, hospitals, roads and bridges; Restoring water and electricity supplies; Economic restructuring and creating an enabling environment for the generation of new sources of income and economic growth; Ensuring social welfare.

Instead of decentralizing the management of resources and the implementation of the Reconstruction Plan to the Cabo Delgado authorities, the Government has centralized the entire reconstruction process, placing the Ministry of Agri-

culture and Rural Development in charge of the process through the National Fund for Sustainable Development (FNDS). The Council of Ministers coordinates the implementation of the Plan through existing mechanisms, with each sector ensuring the implementation on the ground of the Plan's actions in their respective area.

Also at the central level, the coordination and articulation with partners (read as the Plan's financiers) will be done by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in relation to matters of the financial area, and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for matters related to bilateral and multilateral cooperation. "The Ministry of National Defense, through its focal point, will liaise with bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners on security aspects for humanitarian assistance and reconstruction.

At the provincial level, the coordination of the Plan's implementation is ensured through a forum headed by the Secretary of State, in articu-

lation with the Governor. The coordinating forum for the implementation of the Plan includes the Provincial Directors and the Heads of the State Representation Services relevant for the process of reconstruction and humanitarian assistance; the President of the Northern Integrated Development Agency (ADIN); the Delegate of the National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (INGD); the representative of the Ministry of National Defense; the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and the Administrators of the affected districts.

The appointment of the Secretary of State in the province to head the Forum for the coordination and implementation of the Reconstruction Plan is part of the strategy to centralize the management of the Plan and the resources to be injected by donors. The explanation is simple: the Secretary of State in the province reports to the President of the Republic, the figure who nominated and empowered him. Therefore, the Secretary of State in the province is a kind of extension of the central government.

The Governor of the province plays no relevant role in the implementation of the Reconstruction Plan. In other words, the figure elected by the people of Cabo Delgado in 2019 is not playing any relevant role in the reconstruction of the province. The strategy falls within the Frelimo Government's logic of simulating a decentralization of power, when, in fact, it is centralizing the

power of decision and management of funds. It is not in the interest of the central government that the Reconstruction Plan is implemented by the local authorities of Cabo Delgado, as they appear only in the background.

The Reconstruction Plan for Cabo Delgado aims to address specific issues of the province that have to do with the reconstruction of infrastructures and the socio-economic tissue deeply affected by violent extremism. And this work must be done by entities that are sensitive to the environment in Cabo Delgado. For this reason, the CDD defends that the responsibility and leadership of the implementation of the Cabo Delgado Reconstruction Plan should be entrusted to the provincial Governor.

The Government's tendency to centralize the execution of governance initiatives and plans, including the respective resources that should be allocated to the provinces, is one of the factors contributing to conflict in Mozambique. By keeping the implementation of the Reconstruction Plan and the management of the respective funds centralized, the government may be trying to solve a problem by creating or perpetuating those problems that have led Cabo Delgado to the situation in which it finds itself today. The decentralization of financial resources to the provinces contributes to the creation of a local elite, providing goods and services to the state and creating employment opportunities for young people.



## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

**Property:** CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento  
**Director:** Prof. Adriano Nuvunga  
**Program Coordinator:** Prof. Domingos do Rosário  
**Deputy Program Coordinator:** Américo Maluana  
**Editor:** Emídio Beula  
**Author:** Emídio Beula  
**Technical team:** Emídio Beúla; Leonel Sapite (Nampula); Abdul Gafur Monteiro Tavares (Cabo Delgado); Evaristo Lucas (Niassa)  
**Layout:** CDD

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

 CDD\_moz  
**E-mail:** [info@cddmoz.org](mailto:info@cddmoz.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.cddmoz.org>

## Partners:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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