

## Northern Resilience and Integrated Development Strategy to cost USD 2.5 billion

- The action plan of the Northern Resilience and Integrated Development Strategy (ERDIN) is budgeted at about 2.5 billion dollars, an amount that will be provided by the Government of Mozambique and multilateral partners, namely the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union, and the United Nations. The information about the budget is contained in the annexes of ERDIN, a document commissioned by the Integrated Development Agency of the North (ADIN) and which has been awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers since November 2021.

The delay in its approval is explained by the fact that the ERDIN recognizes that violent extremism in Cabo Delgado has internal causes, a position that contradicts the government's narrative that the conflict has exclusively external causes. It points to widespread poverty, political and socio-economic exclusion, social inequalities, land expropriation and the frustration of social expectations regarding the exploitation of natural resources as the main causes of the conflict. ERDIN also speaks of the closing of the civic space in Cabo Delgado, resulting from restrictions in access to information, obstacles to freedom of expression and press, and the increased level of risk for human rights defenders<sup>1</sup>.

In fact, the provinces of Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Nampula, which together constitute the region where the strategy will be implemented, have a population of over 13 million people, equivalent to 43% of the population of Mozambique. These provinces have a higher level of poverty when compared to the central and southern region of the country. Niassa and Nampula have poverty prevalence rates around 67% and 65%, respectively, and Cabo Delgado 50%, according to data from the 2014/2015 Household Budget Survey.

The approximately USD 2.5 billion will be applied in three pillars, namely "Support for peace building, security and social cohesion"; "Reconstruction of the social contract



### Estratégia de Resiliência e Desenvolvimento Integrado do Norte de Moçambique



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<sup>1</sup> <https://cddmoz.org/governo-arquivou-a-estrategia-de-resiliencia-e-desenvolvimento-do-norte-2/>

		Ano 1	Ano 2	Anos 3-5	Total por Componente	TOTAL	TOTAL
		(USD)	(USD)	(USD)	(USD)	USD	MZN <sup>43</sup>
Pilar 1	Políticas	1.748	5.196	12.036	18.980	151.771	<b>9.591.927</b>
	Reforço Institucional						
	Organização	3.386	4.100	10.240	17.726		
	Investimento e Operações	12.175	22.850	80.040	115.065		
Pilar 2	Políticas	38.083	39.960	112.302	190.346	1.015.188	<b>63.144.694</b>
	Reforço Institucional						
	Organização	61.980	57.035	82.134	201.149		
	Investimento e Operações	129.760	181.027	312.960	623.693		
Pilar 3	Políticas	2.492	4.890	8.813	16.195	1.324.521	<b>83.709.740</b>
	Reforço Institucional						
	Organização	6.723	13.295	26.100	46.118		
	Investimento e Operações	219.622	388.890	653.697	1.262.209		
<b>TOTAL USD</b>		<b>475.969</b>	<b>717.243</b>	<b>1.298.268</b>		<b>2.491.480</b>	
<b>TOTAL MZN</b>		<b>29.895.053</b>	<b>45.329.758</b>	<b>82.050.538</b>			<b>157,461,536</b>

Indicative budget of the ERDIN action plan  
Source: ERDIN

between the state and the population"; and "Economic recovery and resilience". Peacebuilding is considered the main priority. Therefore, the creation of the National Body for Peace and Reconciliation is both a priority to be implemented under ERDIN and a preliminary action to its operationalization.

The National Body for Peace and Reconciliation is described as a national-level instrument fundamental to addressing some of the underlying causes of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado, and for conflict prevention throughout the country. The composition of the body is to include "suitable people who enjoy great respectability in society," young people and women. The creation of the National Body for Peace and Reconciliation is expected to cost USD 2,150,000 during the five years of ERDIN's implementation, with USD 900,000 in the first year, USD 250,000 in the second year, and USD 1 million in the third, fourth and fifth years.

Actions under the first pillar - Supporting peace building, security and social cohesion - are budgeted at USD 157 million, of which USD 18.9 million will go to policy design and legal reform; USD 17.7 million will go to institutional strengthening; and USD 115 million will go to investments and operations. Under the policy and legal reform component, the focus will be on revising the legal framework regarding access to legal aid, the court fees code, and the criteria for exemption from

court fees.

The focus of the first pillar is on strengthening the resilience of conflict-affected communities, especially the most vulnerable populations of displaced and host communities. "This requires a focus on promoting capacities for peace, promoting reconciliation and social cohesion, ensuring access to justice, respecting human rights, strengthening community security and resilience, and developing cross-border communities."

In the second pillar - Rebuilding the social contract between the state and the population - actions and activities budgeted at one billion dollars are planned. Of this amount, 190.3 million dollars will be allocated to the policy and legal reform component, with emphasis on the clarification of the attributions of ADIN in the institutional matrix of the organs of decentralized governance and the municipalities; clarification on the financial and patrimonial autonomy of ADIN in light of SISTAFE; and clarification of the attributions and competencies of the Secretary of State and the Governor of the Province in the scope of the implementation of ERDIN.

In the institutional strengthening and organization component 201 million dollars will be allocated, and 623.6 million dollars will go to investments and operations. Basically, the second pillar aims to rebuild the social contract by promoting inclusive governance and access to basic services, while provi-

ding support for housing development and land and natural resource management, in recognition of the impact that inefficient public service provision has on state legitimacy and perceptions of exclusion and marginalization, which are underlying drivers of conflict. "Activities in this pillar will contribute to strengthening the capacity and legitimacy of government at central and local levels, strengthening structures and mechanisms for governance, transparency, accountability and citizen participation, as well as contributing to more equitable service provision and better housing planning."

In the third pillar - Economic Recovery and Resilience - USD 1.3 billion will be allocated, divided into USD 16 million for policy and legal reform; USD 46 million for institutional strengthening and organization; and USD 1.2 billion for investments and operations. Under the policy and legal reform component, the highlight is the revision of the mining legislation to allow first right of land use to take precedence over mining activity. The current mining legislation gives precedence to the holder of the mining license over other stakeholders for the right to use and benefit from the land.

In a country where the majority of the population survives based on agriculture and the Constitution of the Republic itself defines agriculture as the basis for development, it does not make sense to establish that land

use for mineral operations has priority over other land uses when the relative economic and social benefit of mining operations is superior. In fact, the prevalence of mining operations over other forms of land use and exploitation has contributed to the expropriation of land from millions of peasants, resulting in conflict.

The economic recovery and resilience pillar aims to enhance economic activity and productive capacity, especially of the most excluded populations affected by violent extremism, as an engine for recovery and growth, recognizing that economic growth is essential to development and that economic exclusion is one of the underlying drivers of conflict. This pillar recognizes the importance of the extractive sector, both as a resilience factor and as one of the factors that contributed to the conflict in Cabo Delgado.

Socio-economic recovery in communities affected by violent extremism is strongly linked to livelihood creation and economic restoration. "Economic recovery requires that the private sector, trade and financial activities be restored and requires interventions in both the formal and informal sectors to support value chain development, youth entrepreneurship, employment promotion schemes with a focus on women and youth."

Although the consultants who produced the strategy have argued that it should be implemented in a "swift manner," the fact is that the government has yet to approve the Northern Resilience and Integrated Development Strategy. In addition to speed, the consultants argue that the operationalization of ERDIN should follow "conflict sensitive methodologies", focusing on youth, gender,



Credits: ERDIN

inclusion and empowerment of the local population. The strategy advocates that 50% of the beneficiaries of each intervention should be women (and girls, when applicable), and that they should be properly represented in the different supervision and coordination

infrastructures.

ERDIN has a five-year implementation period



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