

PROJECT FINAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2018





**"ENHANCING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
IN PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
TOWARDS SOCIAL COHESION IN
MOZAMBIQUE"**

June 2017 – August 2018



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Executive Summary

The project 'enhancing women's participation in peace and reconciliation towards social cohesion' is an initiative developed and implemented by a consortium led by FDC with participation of the Institute for Multiparty Democracy and African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). Supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the initiative was conceived in response to the socio-political context of Mozambique, then characterized by the intensification of violence and deterioration of security situation across the country following the 2014 elections.

It was particularly built from the analysis according to which, women's potential to contribute to peacebuilding, conflict resolution and reconciliation in Mozambique is still undermined, although experiences and evidences from elsewhere show otherwise. In addition to this, the project was developed within the framework of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the newly approved National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of that important global resolution.

While acknowledging the role being played by other actors such as the joint UN Women and the Government of Mozambique Program 'promoting participation of women and girls in peace, security and recuperation' and other initiatives by the President of the Republic and the late Leader of Ranamo, FDC and its partners felt the need to come up with an alternative, bottom-up and creative approach to enhancing women's participation and influence in peacebuilding and national reconciliation in Mozambique. The program was developed to address constraints that hinder women's active participation in mediation, peacebuilding and national reconciliation, specifically focusing on the following problems:

- The lack of systematic engagement, space and influence of women in peace and reconciliation process at local and national levels;
- Weak awareness and skills of women's participation and influence in peace and reconciliation processes.

Stemming from this background, the program set itself to pursue two key objectives, namely (i) to increase the space and systematically engagement of women and girls to peace and reconciliation process in a transparent way in Mozambique, and (ii) to raise awareness and capacities of women leaders to effectively engage in peace and reconciliation processes in Mozambique.

Following this program set-up and the institutional arrangements agreed among partners, the program was launched in July 2017 with a round-table involving key informants and influential women held in Nampula with a view to explore with these women the gaps, constraints and opportunities for women's engagement in peace, mediation and reconciliation processes in Mozambique.

The round-table was also in preparation for the baseline study which was carried out in Niassa, Nampula, Zambezia, Tete, Sofala, Manica, Inhambane and Gaza involving over 600 women whose majority indicated that gender issues, such as low schooling, gender-based violence, socio-cultural barriers were on top of the main barriers impeding women's participation and influence in peace and reconciliation in Mozambique. In order to confirm these assertions as well as beginning to build a platform for women's participation and a respective roadmap for peace, reconciliation towards social cohesion, the program undertook three consultation meetings at regional level, involving women 230 women from 53 districts representing 125,000 women in Mozambique.

While key messages were being developed, these consultation meetings created a foundation for the consolidation of the women's movement, reinforcing ownership and bonding amongst women from different political parties, religious beliefs, socio-economic status and geographical locations. The process mirrored the project aim and impact, namely the social cohesion through dialogue, peaceful handling of conflicts, tolerance, reconciliation towards social cohesion. By August 2018, nearly a year after its inception, the program managed to facilitate and mediate the birth and affirmation of the women's movement congregating 162,000 women, as well as the public announcement of its Declaration and Agenda towards Women's participation and influence in peacebuilding and national reconciliation.

Although the project is in its infancy considering the challenges and the opportunities ahead, it is worth to note that significant changes attributable to project implementation occurred in the last twelve months. As a result of the project implementation, church and mosque-based nuclei on peace and reconciliation were established and are functioning on weekly or monthly basis; there is an increasing interest and coverage of movement's activities by both private and public media; round-tables are being held in all provinces, particularly in Cabo Delgado, Sofala and Inhambane, apart from savings and credit schemes involving members of the movement belonging to different parties and religious denominations.

Gradually, the movement is filling the institutional gap that women felt existed which was hindering women's participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation. In a short space and time of its existence, the women's movement has already established links and networks with other of keen movements within and beyond the country, and it was immensely encouraged by the

symbolism of the meeting with the President of the Republic who reaffirmed his political commitment and support to national initiatives such as the one with the Women's Movement for Peace.

Citing one of the most outspoken message from the process, 'the woman, as progenitor, promoter and life protector has a great responsibility for the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the family and society at large'. This message encapsulates the 'raison d'être' of this initiative which is only the beginning of a long process. The present phase of the project has ended, but with its end, a new beginning has come which is about consolidating the movement and ensuring that its agenda is turned into actionable initiatives.

The institutionalization of spaces for permanent dialogue, training of women activists for peace-building and national reconciliation, as well as rolling out of initiatives towards women's economic and social empowerment, will be crucial. It is therefore important that parties involved in the consortium reflect on lessons learned and build from these lessons that which will be the follow-up program towards national reconciliation and social cohesion.

I. Introduction

This report discusses and analyses the outcomes and changes resulting from the activities undertaken under the project 'enhancing participation of women in peace and reconciliation processes towards social cohesion in Mozambique'.

Following a thorough analysis in the Country context, and consultations with key stakeholders, FDC has developed in conjunction with ACCORD and IMD the project proposal, with the aim to promote women's capacities to participate in peace and reconciliation processes in Mozambique.

Initially the project concept was designed for three years, but later it was deemed appropriate to locate within a one-year time horizon, focusing on deepening understanding of the challenges and opportunities for women's participation in dialogue, peacebuilding and reconciliation processes. This process entailed two moments, one which was entirely devoted for developing the project baseline, and the other for deepening the outcomes of the baseline through consultative meetings that culminated with the national conference towards the end of the project lifespan.

With the backdrop of the UNSCR 1325 and the relevant National Action Plan (NAP) for Mozambique, the project was developed on the assumption that women's engagement in peace and reconciliation processes is widely acknowledged, although more often than not, gender inequalities including women's space to influence peace and reconciliation processes, leave a lot to be desired. When the project was conceived, both FDC and ACCORD were conscious that, within the context, there were a number of initiatives being undertaken by other actors, such as the UN Women Project on 'promoting women and girls' participation in peace, security and recuperation' as well as other faith based and community-based initiatives towards peacebuilding and reconciliation, not to mention the ongoing peace dialogue and negotiations between the Government of Mozambique and Renamo.

It was therefore within these contextual considerations that project the stakeholders sought funding and support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) with the clearly defined intention of exploring avenues towards which space for women's engagement into peace and reconciliation processes would be increased. After securing funding and support, FDC and stakeholders developed the implementation plan which was rolled out between July 2017 and June 2018, a period that was then extended until December 2018 to accommodate emerging changes in the context, both internally and externally.

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This report is structured in five chapters, including this introduction. Chapter two discusses and analyses the project outcomes as compared with the intended outcomes, while chapter three delve into emerging changes resulting from the project implementation. Following this assessment, chapter four draws key lessons learnt throughout the project, focusing on design, implementation approach, management, partnership and networking. Towards its end, the chapter five lists and argues on the needs for adjustments for the following phase of the project and proposes mitigating actions for potential risks.

As component parts, the final declaration and agenda of the women's movement are attached, together with the video depicting key phases of the project since its inception to the end. Henceforth, these attachments form important working instruments for the movement.



RESULTS

WomanPeace

I. ACHIEVED OUTCOMES COMPARED TO INTENDED OUTCOMES

II. Achieved outcomes compared to intended outcomes

The project was developed to contribute to increased social cohesion in Mozambique through achievement of peace and gender sensitive reconciliation. Specifically, the project aimed to:

- To increase the space and systematically engagement of women and girls to peace and reconciliation process in a transparent way in Mozambique
- To raise awareness and capacities of women leaders to effectively engage in peace and reconciliation processes in Mozambique.

These set of medium to long-term objectives were defined for the initial period of three years, however, they were later prioritised and resized into achievable objectives within a period of one year (July 2017-August 2018), with available resources. In this regard, the project activities were geared towards the following objectives:

i. Provide a platform for women from different sectors and levels of the society to express their concerns about the need to end conflicts by discussing challenges that hinder their engagement in dialogue, social peace and national reconciliation in Mozambique;

ii. Analyze obstacles, gaps and opportunities that enable or hinder women's involvement in peace processes and national reconciliation;

iii. Define a national agenda and road map for the construction of definitive social peace and national reconciliation towards social cohesion in Mozambique.

Consistent with the above objectives, the project outcomes were bound on two critical aspects, namely (i) Mozambican women and other leaders from communities, civil society organizations, provincial assemblies and the parliament, political parties, private sector and religious institutions engage and influence gender sensitive peace and reconciliation processes, and (ii) Women leaders of different sectors have increased knowledge and practice on how effectively to engage into peace and reconciliation processes.

Hence, from July 2017 onwards, the project focused on rolling out five out of fifteen key activities foreseen in the long-term project concept, namely (a) the baseline study; (b) regional consultative meetings; (c) national women's conference; (d) establishment of women's platform for peace and reconciliation and (e) development and adoption of women's declaration and agenda for peace and reconciliation in Mozambique.

As compared to what was initially intended, this report will use these key areas of intervention to assess project outcomes. Given the complexities involved, the project approach adopted was an action-learning, probing into critical aspects that were deemed keys for the project successful achievement of intended outcomes, be they political, economic and social aspects. It was therefore taking this into consideration that the project began with a round-table involving key informants who were used to influence the course and the approach of the project.

Following the mobilization of resources and the establishment of partnerships, a number of preparatory actions were carried out from July 2017, namely the training of the research team, conducting the baseline study followed by regional consultations involving women elected and appointed by their respective constituents.

2.1 Roundtable and training of the research team

In August 2017, a team comprising FDC, ACCORD and IMD at senior level met with key informant women in a roundtable in Nampula Province. The reference group representing social activists, community and religious leaders, academics and women entrepreneurial was engaged to critical reflect on the main themes that could be considered for a baseline study which was aimed at unveiling the obstacles, gaps and opportunities for effective participation of women in peace and national reconciliation processes.

The roundtable also served to develop the profile of potentially participating women in the baseline study. The roundtable involved 13 women representing 7 institutions, namely civil society organizations (community and faith-based associations), community leaders and women entrepreneurs, the majority of whom were representing pronounced women networks.

As a result, the research instruments were elaborated and deepened by the technical team, which was later deployed to the different districts and localities of pre-selected Provinces for the study. It should be noted that the selection of the Provinces was based on the extent to which they were affected by civil war up until the period of the signing of the Rome Accords in 1992.

As a critical factor that enabled the successful realization of this round-table and its resulting effects, it is worth highlighting the low-profile approach that the project adopted, coupled with the targeting anonymous but very influential women from different walks of life (See attached list of participants). It is also important to note that, the combination of intelligence from FDC and IMD allowed powerful women with an in-depth knowledge of the context to participate and therefore shape the course of the project. This enacted a certain degree of ownership which was crucial for the subsequent phases of the project.

2.2. Baseline study

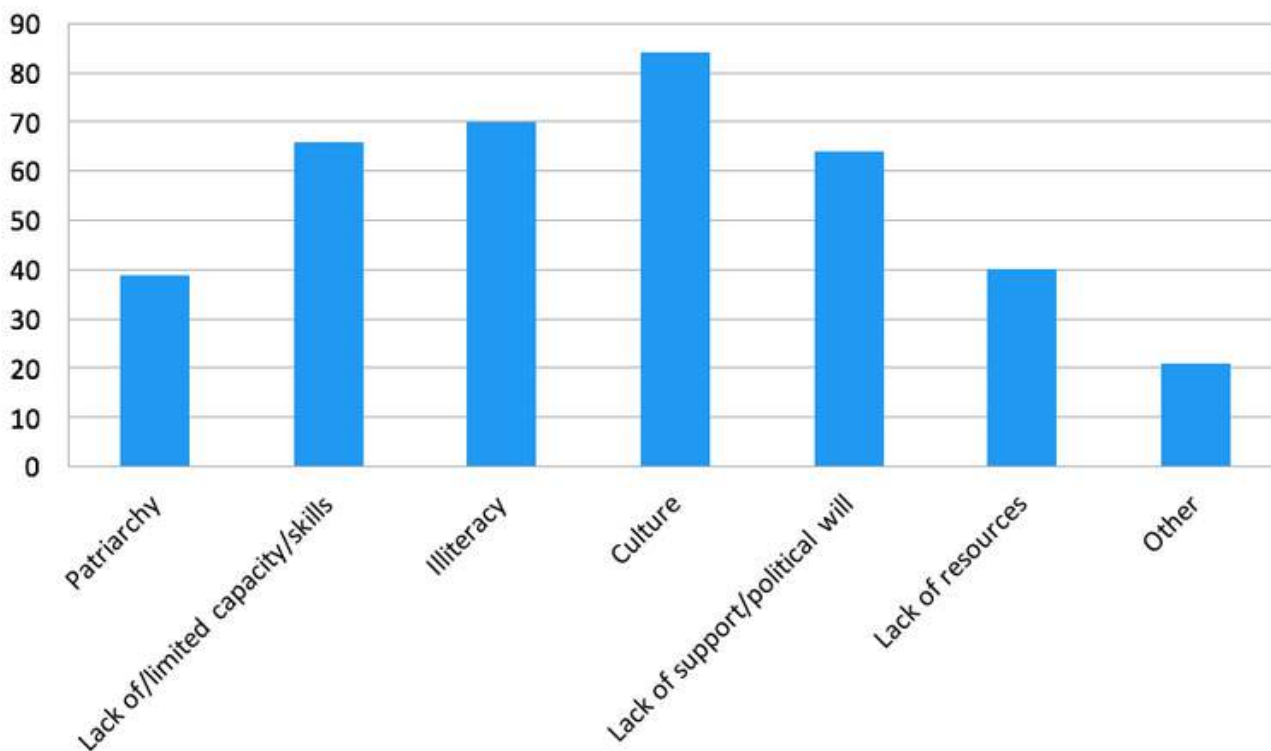
Following the roundtable and research team training, the project undertook the field research and consultation as a basis for identifying contacts and potential participants (whose voice and aspirations do they represent) in the subsequent regional consultations. The baseline served as a mechanism to penetrate remote and isolated areas of selected Provinces, and therefore, the process resulted in increased ownership of the baseline results and also contributed to increase women's awareness of their real potential for peacebuilding and national reconciliation.

The study involved 662 people, 547 women, the equivalent of 83% of respondents and 115 men representing 17%, compared to a target of 600 people distributed by 85 respondents per province. These figures are equivalent to 110% of the total initial sample (600 respondents). As a result, the study identified various aspects that affect women's participation in peace and national reconciliation processes, where the following was highlighted:

- Gender issues, such as low schooling, gender-based violence, socio-cultural barriers;
- Weak engagement of women in initiatives to build peace in Mozambique;
- Existence of opportunities, local experiences that can be capitalized for the promotion and enhancement of women's participation and their influence in the process of peace and national reconciliation. This includes good level of perception about the concepts of peace and reconciliation by the population at large.

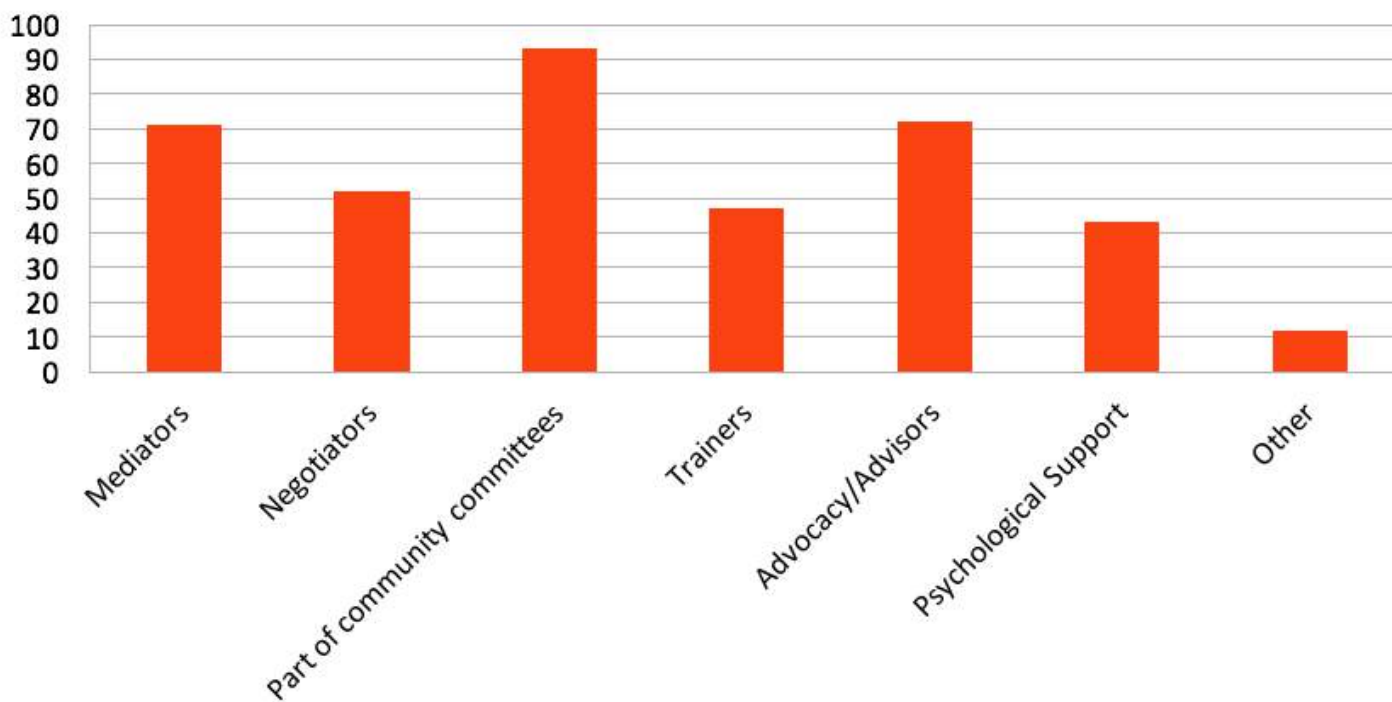
From the baseline study report, some graphs extracted explain the reasons behind the challenges and obstacles that either threaten or hinder women’s participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation. It is striking how culture, illiteracy, limited capacity/skills and lack of political will, all of which are socio-cultural based, appear as the main hindrances.

What factors hinder women’s participation in peacemaking and reconciliation processes?



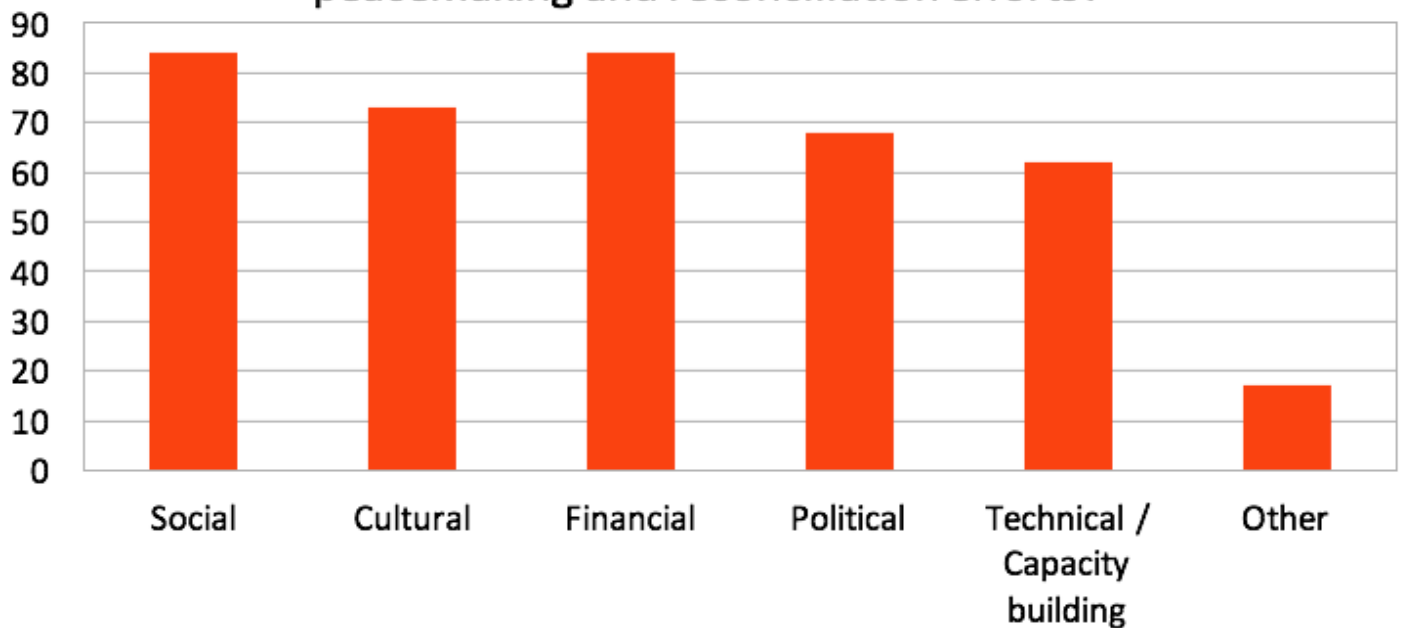
However, surprisingly, despite many cultural-generated hindrances, the study revealed that women at community level are either involved or have potential to engage in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes as mediators, advisors, but mainly as equal members of a community or district committee. The graph below clearly show a number of wasted opportunities for harnessing women potential for gender sensitive peacebuilding and reconciliation.

How can women engage or support peace efforts in the community?



Nevertheless, it is worth noting that, although women’s potential is abundant at community level, still there are challenges involved towards enhancing women’s participation and influence in peace and reconciliation. In a series of focus group discussions, it was possible to uncover that financial and socio-cultural constraints were among the most referred needs, as compared to others. This may constitute a challenge to bear in mind when developing a gender sensitive peacebuilding and reconciliation initiative.

What kind of support do women need to participate in peacemaking and reconciliation efforts?



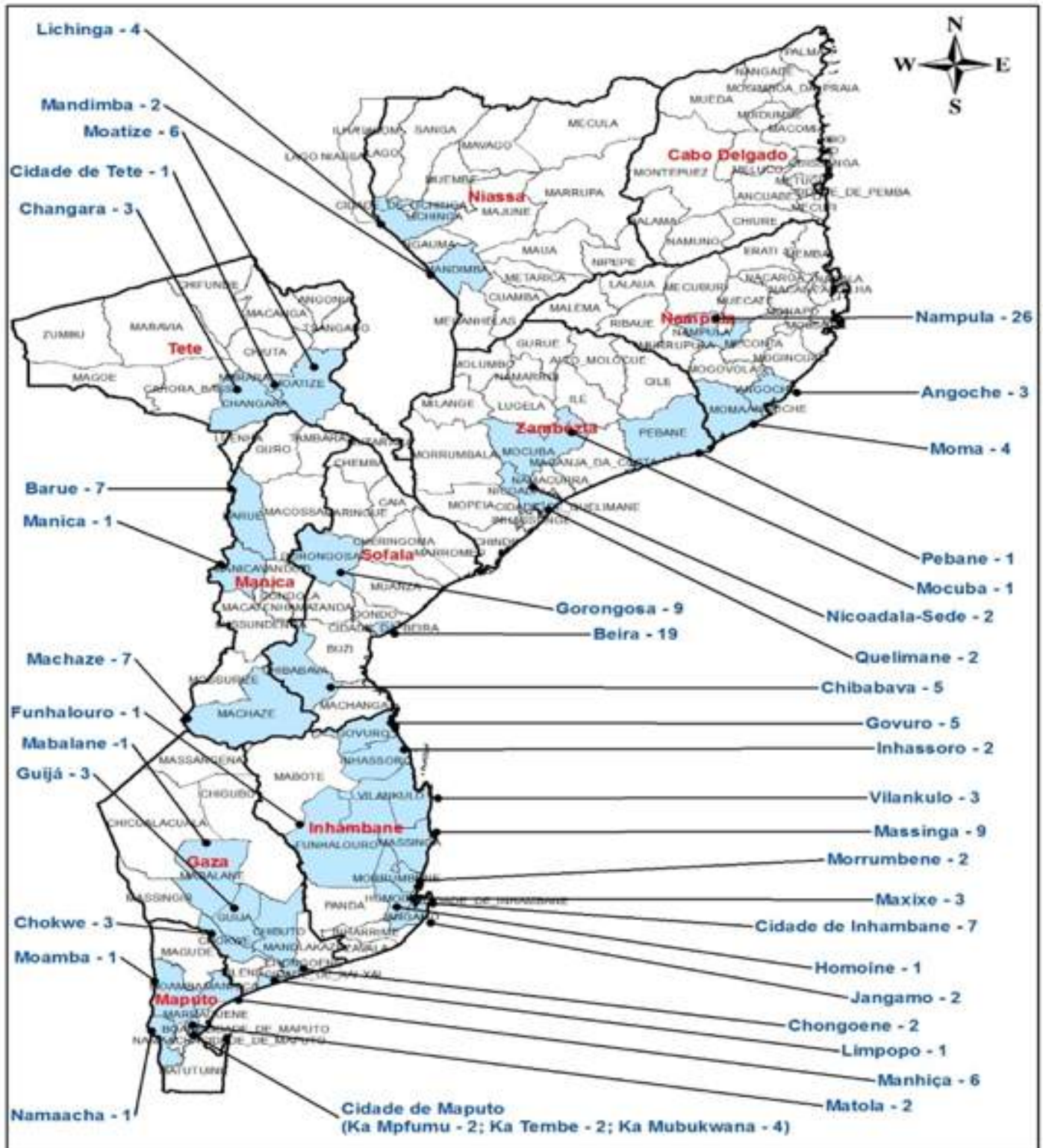
Apart from having uncovered obstacles, gaps and opportunities for women's participation in peace and reconciliation efforts in Mozambique, the baseline served as a powerful exercise to mobilize women and raise their awareness about their potential and influence as peace mediators, negotiators and influencers. It was not by surprise that, at a later stage, the project learnt that certain women groups took it from the baseline discussion to promote community dialogues and reflection workshops based on the themes discussed during the baseline. For the project team, this revealed the gap in terms of space for women's participation, as well as lack of a trigger for change and social transformation.

2.3. Regional Consultations

Regional consultations provided an opportunity to engage women's representatives from different social and geographic backgrounds to hear their experiences, concerns and constraints on women's participation in peacebuilding and national reconciliation. They were coined regional as they were held at each of the three regions that comprise Mozambique, namely, the northern, central and southern regions.

These consultations, in addition to confirming the results of the baseline study, helped to build a basis for local ownership and assumptions for the sustainability of the movement. It was throughout these regional consultations that the movement was developing, forming itself organically and gradually to the current level. The map below illustrates the districts covered in the selected Provinces, as well as the number of women who took part in the regional consultations

Participação de Mulheres por Distrito no Âmbito do Movimento Mulheres & Paz



Legenda

Distritos Onde Seleccionou-se Mulheres para Conferencias

0 45 90 180 270 360 Kilometers

BEIRA, AGOSTO



REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS



@FDC_MOZ

2.3.1. Northern Region Consultation Meeting

It was the first of the 4 planned meetings that congregated 64 participants, all women representing civil society organizations, public sector, media, community leaders, students, religious leaders, among others. The meeting aimed at gathering recommendations from women in the northern region on the paths for peace and national reconciliation; it was also for the validation of the baseline results and for selection of representatives from the northern region to the national conference.

Participants represented constituencies of just over 8,000 women, men and young people from the Niassa, Nampula and Zambezia Provinces. As a matter of fact, discussions and reflections around the baseline study results and what participating women brought to the meeting, unintentionally generated key messages that then became part of the movement identity and were adopted as women movement's communication and advocacy messages.

“The Woman, as progenitor, promoter and life protector, has a great responsibility for the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the family and society at large”.

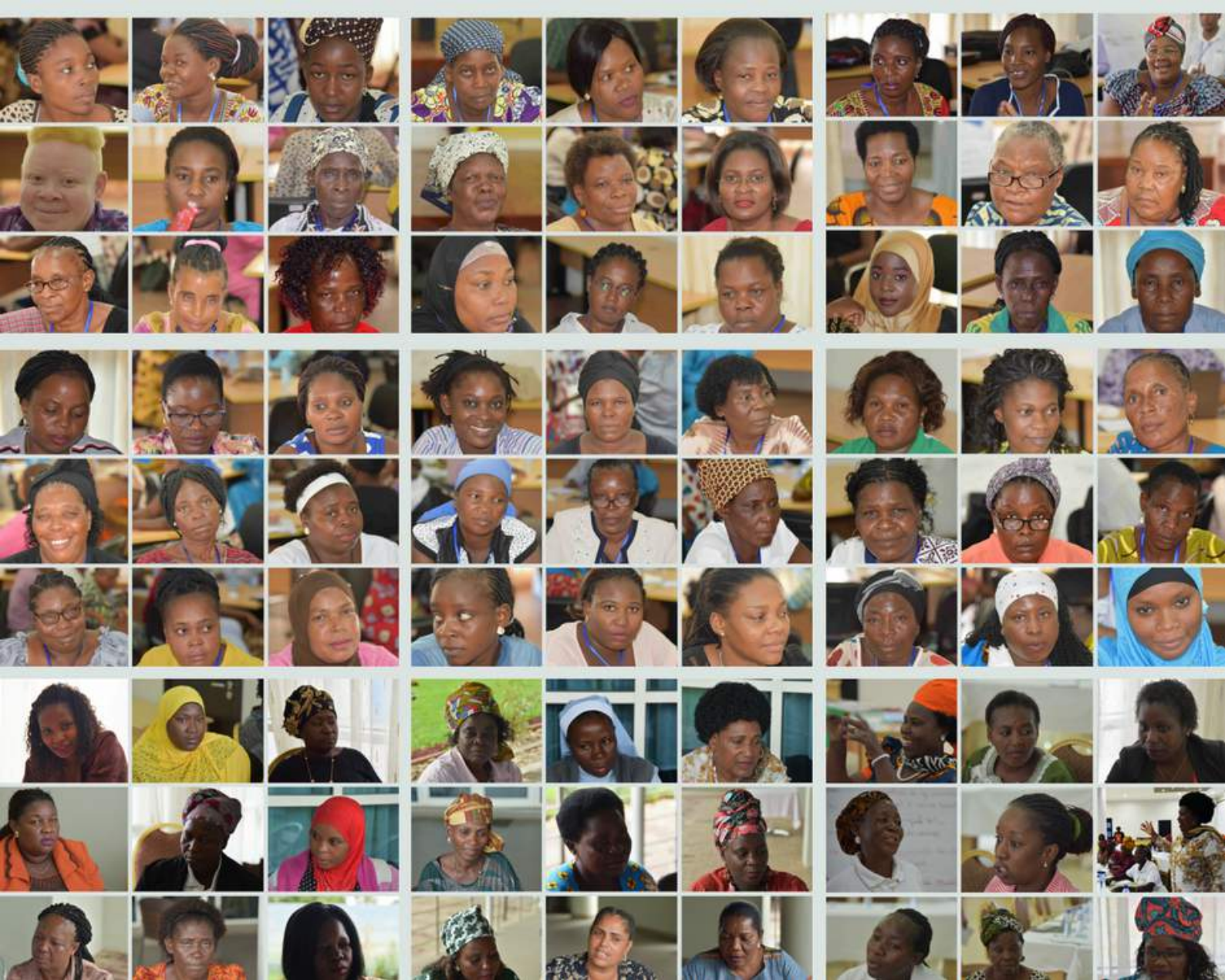
“We, the women, want to affirm our willingness to embark on peacebuilding and national reconciliation because we are COURAGEOUS!”

After a two-day heated discussion on peacebuilding and national reconciliation, the women came up with a number of action plans and recommendations. For instance, a position paper was articulated at the end of the meeting whose pillars are based on the following aspects:

- The urgency for inclusion of women in leadership and decision-making positions;
- A complete formal education, on equal circumstances, including literacy, technical and vocational training in specific areas; and
- Civic education from the family level (Man, Woman and Child) focusing on the importance and the role of Women.

Apart from these key action points, the regional conference brought about the following recommendations:

- a) That men should be included in the subsequent phases as a central part for the change of attitude in the valorization and inclusion of women in leadership processes;
- b) That a field work should be carried out separately for Cabo Delgado Province. This need was felt even more important and urgent given the recurrent occurrence of violence by unknown armed men northern districts of Palma and Mocímboa da Praia.



“The Woman, as progenitor, promoter and life protector, has a great responsibility for the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the family and society at large”.



2.3.2. Southern Region Consultation Meeting

The consultation of the southern region was held in the City of Inhambane and, as it was in the northern region, the aim was to gather recommendations on the paths to peace and national reconciliation; to validate the results obtained from the baseline study in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane Provinces and to elect delegates to the national conference. The tables below indicate the number and category of women participating in the consultation, as well as the universe they represent. In total, 90 participants took part 81 women and 9 men, with a constituency of 55,055 members, of whom 36,849 are women corresponding to 67% from different institutions.

Categories Represented	No.
15 Religious leaders (Muslims and Christians)	15
6 Traditional healers	6
2 Nurses	2
4 Students	4
24 Civil Society	24
3 Teachers	3
8 Members of Political Parties	8
2 Journalists	2
6 Business women	6
6 Informal Sector	6
9 Small-scale farmers	9
2 Academics	2
3 Others	3
Total	90

Following the experience of northern region, women from the southern region spontaneously came up with the following messages adopted at the end of the conference:

“War? Never more!!! Yes to Dialogue, and Always”

“The dialogue is the only privileged way for conflict prevention”

As with the action points, the southern region meeting decided to elect 13 women as their interlocutors who will be meeting and interacting with the Women Parliamentary Group on a number of issues that emerged during the conference, namely, the need for integration of women’s aspirations in public policies. In addition to this, three key recommendations deemed relevant for integration into the Women’s Agenda, were prioritized:

- i. Establish a structure comprising Community Peace Committees and Focal Points
- ii. Give more priority for full formal education
- iii. Promote civic education, starting from the family up to societal level.

The regional consultation also agreed that the Movement’s approach should be starting from the bottom up to ensure the participation of all social strata and safeguard the interests of the most humbly women.



2.3.3. Central Region Consultation Meeting

Following the same approach as in other regions, the central region consultation meeting was held in Beira, in May, with the participation of 76 women and 5 men representing the universe of 165,122 affiliated members in their representing organizations. According to statistics, of this universe, 79,386 are women representing 48% of the total membership.

Categories Represented	No.
10 Religious leaders (Muslims and Christians)	10
6 Traditional healers	6
2 Nurses	2
13 Civil Society	13
5 Teachers	5
8 Members of Political Parties	8
2 Journalists	2
10 Business women	10
11 Informal Sector	11
10 Small-scale farmers	10
4 Academics	4
Total	90

From one regional consultation to the other, the project team was improving their learning. This learning was resulting in changes on facilitation and methodological approaches. As a result, the quality and depth of each consultation varied over time.

The central region consultation was special in that it was the last held since the initiative was launched. But the peculiarity of the consultation was the way the women's movement manifested itself in its fullness, touching on the kernel of the issues, which usually are considered taboo. For instance, the meeting debated over what divides us as Mozambicans and what could possibly strengthen our national unity. Experience tells us that this is the core of continued hatred amongst Mozambicans. To corroborate with that, the regional conference at the central region of Mozambique, the most devastated region during the civil war, brought about profound messages, emotional-charged messages which triggered to different emotional gestures amongst participating women. Emerging messages were as follows:

- **If women are united, violence will fall!**
- **Our Country must institute a restorative justice, accompanied by change of attitude, to repair the damage caused during the conflicts.**
- **You moved one? You moved All of us!!! Apart from these messages, the meeting surfaced important issues that need to be deepened and addressed, if the movement is to survive the normal storming periods of an organization.**

The women in Beira Conference, have clearly defined what was it that was dividing Mozambicans and what would potentially be unifying factors. Some of the dividing factors mentioned were:

- Social level (academic training), culture (chingondo, maxangana or those who are perpetuating division and war), religion and lack of dialogue
- Fear and complex of inferiority
- Tribalism
- Marital Submission - domestic violence, men leave no room for women, men do not allow women to go to meetings
- Political affiliation, when someone from one party is talking to another from another party, is known as being on the other side
- Level of schooling, those who studied more tend to trample others
- Access to financial resources
- Politics - politics created disunity between us, from the moment they know that I you are from a certain Party, they avoid you; we used to borrow money from one another, but everything stopped because of Party affiliation and as if not enough, we are excluded from important meetings because we don't belong to a particular Party.

The conference also unveiled that what could potentially strengthen Mozambican Unity, particularly amongst women:

- Sense of belonging to the Mozambican homeland
- Permanent dialogue, we came from various parties, churches, companies, but we are here to dialogue
- Maternal spirit
- Creation of associations with various objectives
- Maternity - no woman will see a child suffer, without tears, we all cry
- Mother's love
- No violence - no woman likes to see another raped, women help each other, we are against abductions, we are against premature marriages
- Business opportunities, women are capable of managing their own businesses, and are ready to help each other.

In addition to this, the Beira Conference discussed and agreed to propose few items that should be integrated into a national agenda:

- i. Institutionalization of the Women's Movement for Peace to ensure the maintenance of Dialogue and Peace;
- ii. Education and economic empowerment of women;
- iii. Civic education from household level, including gender sensitive peacebuilding
- iv. Advocacy and harnessing synergies with other peace platforms through dissemination and strengthening of the Movement for its sustainability.

At the end of the regional consultation, a message shared by women was that "the country is moving towards a political peace led by the President of the Republic and the President of Renamo who initiated a process that took us to the silence of guns. It has also been pointed out that "the conflict is long overdue; it has already developed hatred in people; it has already developed resentment, distrust ... even with people with whom we pray, conflict has planted these reservations from within; it painted people on people from this side and people from the other side; where are Mozambicans who identify with each other and embrace each other?".

This message epitomized the mood in which the Beira conference unfolded, from the beginning to the end.

As each regional consultation was taking place, the women from various districts representing diverse groupings, inspired by the mood and the energy generated from the regional consultations, returned to their homes where they replicated the messages and the essence of their discussions with their peers. This occurred spontaneously in all regions, taking a different form, but focusing on the message of peace and reconciliation.

OUTREACH

For instance, between June and July, the movement reached 2,114 people, of which 1,532 are women and 582 men in the northern region. In the same region, 84,000 Radio Mozambique listeners were reached through radio debates on peace and reconciliation held in Zambezia during the same period. In the south, the Movement reached 3,688 people, of which 3,233 were women and 455 were men, through community dialogues and debates on peacebuilding and reconciliation.

2114

PEOPLE REACHED

84000


THROUGH RADIO DEBATES

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Overall, all regional consultations mobilized and ensured that 230 women from all over the country participated. Geographically, 53 districts were covered, and those women participated in representation of 125,000 women from different walks of life. These regional consultations played a remarkable role in bringing in women together, in creating a safe environment for women to share their hopes and concerns, they shaped the form and essence of the Women's Movement for Peace, by clarifying and strengthening its identity and the vision for the future. The quote below expresses this quite well:

53

DISTRICTS

A woman with short dark hair, wearing glasses and a colorful patterned top, is speaking and smiling. She is in a meeting setting with other people partially visible. In the foreground, there is a water bottle and some papers on a table.

“For a very great reason, women are the ones who conceive and preserve human life; we women have a great capacity to protect human life; the women unite all, the grandpas, the parents, all of them - our great Mozambican family is divided at the moment - now the time has come for women to say thank you to the leaders who have managed to keep the guns silent. We must build peace from the family, from the community. This is the reason for this social movement created and led by women.”

= MAMÃ GRAÇA MACHEL =

It was within this spirit that the national conference was held in August on 21st – 23rd, in Beira, honoured with the presence of the Vice-Minister of State Administration and Civil Service, representing the President of the Republic, the high-level mission from FBA represented by Ambassador Lena Sundh, the Ambassador of Sweden in Mozambique, Marie Anderson De Frutos, two representatives from Colombian Women's Movement, and Mrs. Graça Machel, Founder and Chair of FDC. The national conference was a culmination of a process that began in June 2017, and it was held with the purpose of (i) sharing experiences arising from each regional consultation meetings, (ii) developing the women's agenda for peace and reconciliation, and (iii) launching the movement and its roadmap towards its affirmation and consolidation.

With 200 delegates from all provinces of Mozambique, the national conference witnessed the birth of the women's movement and was highly inspired by experiences brought from Colombia and from other countries through the testimony given by Ambassador Lena. It was also encouraged by the advent of opportunities offered from the recently adopted Decentralization Law arising on Constitutional changes approved by the Parliament following agreements between the Government of Mozambique and Renamo. The women's movement for peace adopted a Declaration and Agenda which strongly stresses that the belief that the feminine perspective in negotiations and the institution building contributes to the durability and the quality of peace, and for that reason the Movement has come up with the following statements:

- WE Women of Mozambique, young and old, recognize each other as equals, regardless of race, tribe, parental affiliation, religion, social status, educational level. And in this diversity lies the wealth and power of our common identity.
- WE WANT TO VALUE our social role as Mediators, Peacemakers and Conciliators for the construction of an effective social peace and national reconciliation.

- WE WANT TO BE RECOGNIZED as messengers of peace everywhere (places of worship in urban and rural areas, especially the innermost areas), favoring dialogue as a unique mechanism for conflicts mediation and resolution, for peace building and reconciliation from the Family, Community, District up to the NATION.

- To materialize these commitments, WE Women of Mozambique, WE ADOPT a preliminary agenda whose development will be dictated by the dynamics of the Movement. This agenda expresses the will and commitment of the Mozambican Women in building an effective social peace, national reconciliation for social cohesion in Mozambique.

The adopted Agenda is rooted in the following 9 priorities:

1. Institutionalization of spaces for permanent dialogue where women and other actors can inform themselves, reflect on and learn from one another about the process of building peace and national reconciliation;
2. Institutionalization of the Women's Movement for Peace;
3. Training women trainers and peace activists, developing skills for dialogue, mediation, negotiation, and operationalizing Resolution 1325;
4. Strengthening measures to include women in leadership positions and decision-making in public spaces, especially at the local level;

5. Advocate for the end all types of violence and sexual harassment against women, girls and children;
6. Contribute to greater solidarity among women;
7. Promote the creation and strengthening of women's savings and credit groups for greater financial inclusion and economic empowerment;
8. Advocate for the establishment of restorative justice;
9. Promote alliances with related movements and other sectors in the Country and beyond.



This agenda expresses the will and commitment of the Mozambican Women in building an effective social peace, national reconciliation for social cohesion in Mozambique.

Following the national conference, a number of initiatives were held and led by the member of the movement. It is worth to highlight replication dialogues at community and church levels, engagement with the media and meetings with keen movements and other women's organizations involved in peacebuilding and national reconciliation.

One key meeting was held with prominent national organizations such as the Lawyers Order of Mozambique, Women in Law Associations, WLSA, Women's Forum, Forum for Community Radio who learnt from the outcomes of the Women's Movement for Peace and shared their experiences with the Colombian Women's Movement for Peace. This meeting drew some recommendations that worth mentioning, which will strengthen the position taken in Beira, namely:

- Invite social organizations of Colombia and Sweden to an exchange workshop – experiences on the role of women in peacebuilding and reconciliation (Mozambican organizations to explore the possibility of visiting both countries);
- Influence the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Share and harmonize studies and evidences for the edification of a Clean and Sustainable Peace;
- Involve women in the process of demilitarization and decision-making process;
- Involve women in the leadership of the post-conflict processes towards justice and safe transition.

Another great achievement the movement had was the meeting with the President of the Republic who invited the movement to hand over its Final Declaration and Agenda for Peace and Reconciliation in Mozambique. It was a unique opportunity that women had to interact with the President, voice their hopes and concerns, and listen to President's views about the Movement as well as his vision for Peace and Reconciliation.

The President recommended the expansion of the movement, but he warned about the need to keep it flexible and less complex, organizationally, to focus on its purpose and contribute towards women empowerment. The President praised the essence of the movement in the following terms:

““We found the message that you bring extremely positive, because it does not lie, it does not excite hatred, it recommends tolerance among Mozambicans, reconciliation and conviviality; it does not demoralize those who work hard for peace and the emancipation of the national economy; it does not demobilize, nor negate the effort that is visible and quantifiable; it does not encourage revenge or violence among the Mozambicans” – , 27.09.2018.”

= P R E S I D E N T F I L I P E J . N Y U S I =

For the movement, according to some women’s opinions, this was a blessing, and it should spark more energy for women to strengthen their belief to pursue the values of peacebuilding and reconciliation. And it was right so, as more and more movements at grassroots level were taking place at the time this report was written. There are new solidarity groups formed out of experiences inspired by the Women’s Movement for Peace. The Media is even more keen to cover and herald the deeds of the movement. Existing of keen organizations, such as the UN Women, the Religious Leaders for Peace and Reconciliation, to mention a few, are more willingly to cooperate with the Women’s Movement.

III. Changes deriving from the Project implementation

Given the lifespan of the project, and the fact that it was initiated and implemented in a context characterized by uncertainties and ever-changing dynamics in the political arena, it could be affirmed with vehemence that the project brought about significant changes at community and institutional levels. The project began when the two contending parties were still commencing their talks and negotiations in the new format, with the two leaders taking the lead and pursuing their talks with less interference or intervention by other actors as it was the case in the previous negotiations.

Previous experiences that happened to fail, amounted the level of cynicism by many, including ordinary citizens who were sceptical about the results of the negotiations. In addition to this, the process that led to the adoption of the National Action Plan, apart from having been conducted with limited participation by many at grassroots level, it was lengthy, which for obvious reasons did not help to shape the vision of action towards the implementation of the UNSCR 1325. As the project was being implemented, there were news coming from Cabo Delgado about the existence of unknown armed gangs terrorizing people in Palma and Mocimboa da Praia.

All what was described above did not offer conducive environment for an initiative such as this. Paradoxically, the project approach adopted countervailed these trends and dynamics. The project adopted a low-profile approach, wisely using the strengths of each involved partner, with FDC harnessing its community-rooted experience and reputation amongst government institutions, IMD using its influences on political parties and ACCORD bringing in its expertise in facilitating conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes.

Coupled with this, it was decisive to have the bold decision and trust demonstrated by the Swedish Embassy whose continued support encouraged the project team to creatively use the opportunity to initiate a process that led to the changes that presently can be seen almost everywhere across the Country, as a result of the project implementation.

Specifically, there are changes that can be attributed to the project, some of which were intended and other changes unintended, namely:

3.1. The emergence of community and church nuclei for peace and reconciliation inspired and led by women who participated in the baseline and the regional consultations. Some significant examples are the cases of women's group in a Mosque in Katembe, the weekly meetings held at the Methodist Church in Maputo and the introduction of peacebuilding idea within the savings and credit groups in Nampula, Inhambane and Sofala;

3.2. The realization of round-tables involving members of the movement for dissemination and deepening of key messages at community level, using community-based spaces and community radios in Inhambane, Sofala and Cabo Delgado;

3.3. Increasing interest by national and provincial media on women's movement activities, with members of the movement participating radio and TV shows, covering a wider audience;

3.4. Support given to women's movement by district administrators and provincial governments, through providing space for community debates on peace and reconciliation;

3.1. Increasing confidence by women who (re) discovered their potential and power to engage with government and political party authorities to share their views arising from their participation in the movement;

3.1. Joint collaboration among women representing different parties. There are cases such as in Sofala where women from MDM, Frelimo and Renamo formed their own savings and credit groups. This was an initiative proposed by a member of MDM during the Beira Regional meeting in June;

3.2. There is an increasing sense of unity amongst women involved in the movement, regardless their political affiliation. For example, the members of the movement have decided to create a WhatsApp group which is being used as a platform to exchange information and news among women. During the electoral campaign and the actual elections, it was possible to see messages from different places about the need for women's participation and freedom to vote whoever they felt representing their aspirations;

3.3. The movement is sought by different institutions from both the government and church-based to share its vision and experience of being a Women's Movement for Peace.

All in all, the project has brought about a platform for women's involvement in peacebuilding and reconciliation and has filled the void that limiting women from exerting their influence on existing spaces for dialogue and peace. Other institutions such as the UN Women and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare have gained an interlocutor and an actor who will help in consolidating their activities under the NAP for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

IV. Lessons Learned

There are a number of lessons learned from the project implementation. It was the first of a kind for FDC. It required tact and delicacy given the complexities and dynamics in the socio-political context in Mozambique. The project was implemented during the period when uncertainty of donor support to Mozambique was at its peak, and conversations between the President of the Republic and the Leader of Renamo were yet to produce tangible results. In this regard, it is worth drawing some lessons to be considered for this particular project and any future project of a similar nature. The lessons are organized into four different categories as it follows:

4.1. Design

The project was designed in response to a given context, and that context was around the dialogue and negotiations between the Government and Renamo, but mainly around the UNSCR 1325 and the Government NAP for the implementation of that resolution. While the project needed to be aligned with this context, there was a need of an open space in the design for change, innovation and creativity. Therefore, the project document was not tightly bound to specificities of rigid project logical frameworks.

In addition to this, it is worth noting that the involvement of all parties right at beginning created space for a shared vision on project approach. It would have been even more effective if the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare would have been involved, but it was not the case, given the Ministry's lack of firm roadmap towards for the NAP. On another perspective, this status quo might have contributed to a more project ownership by parties involved, particularly those anonymous women who ended to be the real leaders and owners of the initiative.

So, the lessons here are that, for a project of this nature, the need will always be there for space for changes, innovation and creativity. Leaving it open does not mean leaving it loose. On the one hand, the political context of Mozambique, characterized by mistrust between the two main parties, by secrecy on issues of national interest but political-related, turned to be difficult for a project design. Meetings and collaboration with concerned parties within the government proved difficult to organize. However, on the other hand, this status quo played its role in ensuring that the partners involved do not miss any key information that would influence the project design. Continued meetings with the Embassy and other players in Mozambique helped to access information that would be otherwise inaccessible through official routes.

4.2. Implementation approach

One key lesson here is that a thorough assessment of each partner capacity and the added value brought to a particular project is crucial for an effective and efficient implementation process. This was the case in relation to all parties involved, with each bringing in its own expertise in each stage of project implementation. Another lesson learned was the implementation approach itself. For instance, while the baseline study was being undertaken, key messages and concepts related with peacebuilding, reconciliation were being discussed within the focus groups and key informants involved. This prompted to an awareness raising amongst the women involved, including community and religious leaders.

In addition to this, consultation meetings held in each region formed a firm foundation on which the national conference was held. Each stage was building to another stage of the project, with lessons learned integrated into the following stage, and so on. The implementation approach turned to be an action-reflection-learning process with each stage improving as the implementation unfolded.

It is also worth noting that continued and unconditioned presence of the Mentor of the initiative (Mrs. Machel) and full accompaniment by the Embassy of Sweden staff at senior level, proved very effective. The team benefitted from the first-hand sharing of the vision around the movement, thus being in position to align all methodological approaches to that vision. This arrangement and the continued presence of key people such as those mentioned above, created a sense of vitality and worthiness of the initiative amongst the women. Therefore, women increased their belief in the process, hence their ownership which propelled them to give all they had for the success of the initiative. In short, the vision needs to be nurtured by its initiators, and the team also requires a degree of certainty and support as the project progresses.

4.3. Management

Although each partner had its own specific responsibility, project management was assigned to FDC as the lead partner. Management processes included coordinating partners' work, liaising with key stakeholders, including the government and the UN agencies, as well as managing finances and reporting. One important aspect to draw from this experience is that FDC staff who were responsible for program content and processes were entirely devoted to that aspect of the project, while the nitty-gritty management was assigned to the administrative and accounts staff who extensive experience in managing large projects.

When assessing project performance, it could be argued that, having centralised project management in one organization worked well. However, the burden associated with keeping the accounts, of ensuring timely reporting with all what it takes to put together supporting documents, created even more pressure on one organization. This was the case, particularly when involved parties were not able to abide by their responsibilities.

On a positive note, the freedom given by the Swedish Embassy to have concise quarterly update reports and then detailed semi-annual and final reports worked well in terms of space that was allowed for partners to focus on deliverables and processes herewith.

The lessons learned here are that (i) management capacity (and responsibility) should be prioritized in all parties involved, regardless their responsibility in the consortium. Centralized management works well in terms of responsiveness but needs to be balanced by increasing capacity within all other partners involved; (ii) accountability is one of the most important aspects of management and should be aligned with the nature and approach of the project. The approach adopted by the Swedish Embassy was intrinsically aligned with the nature of the project, and enabled partners to focus on the project content and processes, while ensuring that the other part of their organization deals with administrative and financial issues.

4.4. Partnership and networking

Given the nature of the project, partnership and networking became intrinsically embedded in the project approach and methodology. Both partnership and networking formed integral part of the project practice, and therefore it took the major part of the management's time.

First and foremost, the partnership that is based on mutual gains, but that is focusing on achieving agreed common goals, and that which is working under certain agreed value system, tend to be successful.

Secondly, networking tends to be facilitated when the project is being implemented by a consortium, with each organization putting more emphasis on strengthening the networking from its extension in the web. FDC brought in organizations with which it had good track-record, while IMD would do the same with those organizations that, otherwise would not be possible to mobilize.

This arrangement allowed the project to penetrate in difficult spaces, such as within political parties and other government institutions. This was also possible through the involvement of respected personalities such as the Founder and the Chair of FDC and the Honourable Ambassador of Sweden. Thanks to these personalities and their influence, it was possible to bring along the Colombian Women's Movement and the FBA as well the personal involvement of the President of the Republic.

Through these institutions, it was possible for the Women's Movement to secure potential support from the FBA, exchange visits with Colombia and the engagement of women with the Government Decentralization and Demobilization, Demilitarization and Reintegration Programs. These networks constitute the basis from which future interventions will be founded.

V. Conclusion

By assessing the project 'Enhancing Participation of Women in Peace and Reconciliation Processes towards Social Cohesion in Mozambique' through its key deliverables, it could be concluded that the project superseded its anticipated changes. The project gave birth to a movement for peace and reconciliation that has taken roots at community level. In less than twelve months, the movement has managed to mobilize and bring together a constituency of over 162,000 women who, from time to time gather, discuss, reflect and take appropriate actions towards peacebuilding and national reconciliation. Almost everywhere, there are signs of tolerance, co-existence, joint collaboration between women from different political parties who support and empower each other.

It was anticipated that, by the end of the project a women's platform for peace and reconciliation and a roadmap towards peacebuilding national reconciliation would be developed. These have been achieved, and even began to take root through a number of activities at community level with community dialogue, media engagement, gender sensitive messages for peace and reconciliation, savings and credit schemes and other solidarity initiatives that, gradually and firmly contribute towards women's empowerment. Citing Mrs Machel, 'In our villages, in our communities, it is women who meditate on problems and conflicts; at family and church levels, women have a great capacity to unite, nourish harmony and social cohesion'.

The follow-up project should harness from these fruits yielded by the Women's Movement for Peace. For successful and sustainable attainment of the final project impact, which is social cohesion in Mozambique, there are a number of risk mitigating actions to be considered, namely, to keep the movement rich in its diversity, rooted at family and community level, led by women, with alliances and networks with other similar movements. It is also important to adopt a holistic and gender sensitive approach to peacebuilding and reconciliation, combining educational and economic empowerment activities. It is also key that the Movement, while it expands and reach other women in remote areas, it should also be flexible in its structure and functioning to endow it with more fluidity and incisiveness for advocacy-related actions.

Annexes

1. Women's Movement Final Declaration and Agenda
2. List of National Conference Participants
3. Baseline Report
4. Minutes of the meeting between Mozambican CSOs and Colombian Women's Movement 'Ruta Pacifica'