

FDC | ACCORD | IMD |

# REPORT

‘ENHANCING PARTICIPATION OF  
WOMEN IN PEACE AND  
RECONCILIATION PROCESSES IN  
MOZAMBIQUE’

## SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
WITH SUPPORT OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |           |    |
|--|-----------|----|
| Executive Summary .                            | ) _____ ( | 03 |
| Introduction                                   | ) _____ ( | 06 |
| Contextual Analysis                            | ) _____ ( | 08 |
| Activities implemented during the period       | ) _____ ( | 10 |
| Progress towards outcomes and outputs          | ) _____ ( | 11 |
| Conclusion, lessons learnt and recommendations | ) _____ ( | 15 |
| Key Actions for the next period                | ) _____ ( | 16 |
| Annexes:                                       | ) _____ ( | 17 |



# IN NAMPULA

GROUP WORK

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Increasingly tense and polarised political climate has come to characterise Mozambique in recent years. Aside from a number of clear economic stresses facing the country, of particular concern is the uptick in political violence that has threatened to plunge the country into crisis. The cyclical election related violence was witnessed in the country since the independence, which almost for 20 years had the tendency to calm down between the elections. The intensification of violence and deterioration of the security situation in many parts of the country following the 2014 election has prompted consideration and the need for different conflict management, resolution and reconciliation approaches.

Although the need to engage women in peace processes is widely acknowledged, most mediation teams do not have adequate representation of women and often do not incorporate gender issues adequately in the peace processes. Women’s potential in mediation remains largely untapped. In addition to this, Mozambique has yet to develop a NAP on UNSCR 1325 although is in process of finalizing the National Plan of Implementation of Resolution 1325 within the UN Women programme “Promoting a participation of Women and Girls in Peace, Security and Recuperation” in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique.

It was within this context that FDC and ACCORD have come forward with the initiative ‘Enhancing Participation of Women in Peace and Reconciliation Processes in Mozambique’ which intends to impact on ‘social cohesion in Mozambique through gender sensitive and inclusive peace and reconciliation processes’. The initiative was developed to raise awareness and increase the space and systematic engagement of women and girls to peace and reconciliation processes in Mozambique.



Project activities commenced by the time the project contract was awarded in August 2017. Implementation partners involved undertook various meetings for harmonization of project timeline and completion of memorandum of understanding outlining roles and responsibilities as well as resource allocation and communication and accountability mechanism. This period also involved designing of tools and methodologies to roll out project activities that included (i) round table with key informants for consultation and sharing of project essence and scope of work, (ii) training enumerators for the baseline, (iii) carrying out the baseline in 7 provinces, (iv) documentation of baseline results and (v) launching of the series of regional consultation meetings, starting with the northern region.

Following the round table with key informants and training of enumerators in Nampula, the baseline study was undertaken in all seven (7) selected Provinces, and as result of the process 558 women out of 662 people were interviewed to voice their views and concerns over the key issues around constrains and opportunities for women's engagement in peace and reconciliation processes, and the proposed roadmap for attaining peace and reconciliation in Mozambique.

From this study, a number of important inhibiting factors for women's participation in peace and reconciliation have been uncovered, among which the peace making landscape itself that presents a number of barriers, the political exclusion and patriarchy, as well as illiteracy, poverty, traditional norms and gender-based perceptions and stereotyping. On the other hand, the study highlighted that for women to effectively participate and positively influence peace and reconciliation, a tailor made and consistent capacity building on themes such as mediation, negotiation, facilitation, trust building and dialogue is of paramount importance. The study also stressed that while peace processes often involve political party interests, it should be more inclusive if it is to be lasting and sustainable, engaging civil society, community and religious leaders, the youth and the elderly of all genders.

Apart from having increased ownership of project deliverables as well as having unearthed these important issues which will inform the roadmap for social peace building and reconciliation, the baseline study offered an important opportunity for interviewing and engaging potential women who, following pre-defined and agreed criteria, would participate in the regional consultations.

In each 12 districts that were involved in the study, women from different walks of life representing various social, political and economic groupings were identified and elected by their relevant constituency to participate in the regional consultation meeting. The first regional consultation meeting was held in Nampula, aimed at covering women participants from the northern region. The regional meeting was participated by 51 women from 29 different organizations representing 8,000 women. It was intended not only to discuss and deepen the outcomes of the baseline study, but also to provide safe space where women from Niassa, Nampula and Zambezia would voice their views about the roadmap for peace and reconciliation.

The northern regional consultation resulted in a position paper emerging from intense and profound discussions around gaps, constraints and opportunities for women's effective engagement in peace and reconciliation processes. The consultation was embedded in a foundation through which participants agreed that, in essence, given their unique life-giving nature, women are protector, mediators, peacemakers and conciliators. It was therefore based on these qualities that women in northern region demanded (i) the institutionalization of permanent spaces for dialogue at all levels, where women and other actors critical discuss, monitor, reflect and recommend viable ways for peacekeeping and reconciliation; (ii) establishment of district and provincial committees for peace, reconciliation and social cohesion where 50% of membership are women; (iii) in-depth exploration of benefits brought about by the National Gender Policy; (iv) provision of tools and techniques, including by-laws with a view to promote peace and reconciliation; (v) invest in youth education and training, giving priority for girls, while mainstreaming citizenship and freedom of speech; (vi) sensitize political parties to ensure that, by 2022, women's participation achieve 40%.

Given the delicate nature of the initiative, the implementing partners have decided to take a lower profile approach, avoid attempts to mediatise and polarise processes involved in order to gradually root the initiative to the level that can become worthy to the mainstream national peace and reconciliation processes. It was following this approach that the initiative brought together like-minded women who committed themselves to serve as models and pioneers in gender sensitive peace-building, reconciliation and social cohesion in Mozambique.

Although only a third of what is planned in this early phase of the project, there are clear signs of potential change and influence the initiative will bring about. The northern region consultation has vehemently endorsed the need for women's platform and agenda for peace and reconciliation, with clear steps and contents it each step that will form the whole peace and reconciliation roadmap for Mozambique. It is expected that, by the end of April, regional consultations in other two regions and the national consultation will be undertaken. The next six months will be entirely devoted to roll out these activities, by the end of which a thorough assessment will be conducted to assess to which extent intended outcomes have been achieved.

## INTRODUCTION

This report documents the process and activities carried out under the 'Enhancing Participation of Women in Peace and Reconciliation Processes in Mozambique', an initiative of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) in partnership with the Institute for Multiparty Democracy (IMD) and the African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), and funded by the Swedish Embassy in Mozambique. The project is part of a broader program also developed by the FDC whose purpose is to build social peace, national reconciliation and social cohesion in Mozambique as a complement to the Government's efforts towards peace and social inclusion and within the framework of United Nations Resolution 1325.



- There is a need to broaden the debate on women's participation throughout the country. And it is important that these debates and their results contribute to disarming the minds and open the hearts of Mozambicans so that the country will have an effective peace, a genuine national reconciliation and social cohesion.

After a series of meetings, discussions and consultations between the FDC and the Swedish Embassy, it was agreed that, initially, the initiative would be developed for a period of twelve (12) months, laying the foundations for a broader program and through a platform with a clear agenda and roadmap for building effective social peace and national reconciliation in Mozambique. It was in this context that after the formalization of the relations between the parties involved, both the implementers, as the main protagonists and the financiers, the project started in August 2017.

The project was created around six (6) months after the start of the round table discussion with Nampula-based women and the training of the research team to conduct the baseline study. , in particular the baseline study and the first of the three (3) regional pre-national conferences, within the two (2) main results of the project, with a focus on outcome 1. The approach and activities of the project stand out because they are highly participative, flexible and oriented towards learning and change, as the initiative itself is a sui generis experience.

This report describes the whole process and activities carried out in the last six months of July to December 2017. In terms of structure, the report contains an executive summary followed by a brief introduction in Chapter I. For a better framework of the initiative, Chapter II presents a brief contextualization of the project, chapter III summarizing the activities carried out, while chapter IV discusses the progress achieved in relation to the results and objectives of the project. Finally, chapter V presents the conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned.

As an integral part of this report, the reports of the roundtable in Nampula, the baseline study report together with the chosen methodological tool and the report of the North Regional Consultation Conference and their respective Women. The subsequent action plan is included in this report as indicative of the direction the project is in.



## CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Around the world, the average participation of women in parliamentary membership almost doubled between 1995 and 2015, from 11.3% in 1995 to 22.1% in 2015. Their participation has gained ground in almost 90% of the 174 countries for what data for 1995 and 2015 are available. The representation of women has made substantial progress in sub-Saharan African countries, where their average share of parliament has grown from 9.8 per cent in 1995 to 22.3 per cent in 2015 (+12.5 points). By 1995, no state in this region had elected more than 30 percent of women.

In the case of Mozambique, where women represent little more than half the population, their representation in politics has progressively improved over the years. Thus, as regards the percentage of women in the Assembly of the Republic (MAR), the number of women increased from 16% in 1991 to 31% in 2001 and 39.6% in 2009. After the last elections in October 2014, a slight decrease to 38%. These figures place Mozambique as the 14th (14th) ranked in a list of 145 countries in terms of representation of women in parliament (The Guardian). Also at the level of the structure of the Assembly of the Republic itself, it should be noted that the parliament has a woman as president, and the Frelimo and Renamo Parliamentary Stands are led by women.

At government level, statistics show that from 2005 to 2015, in the Central Government, the percentage of women increased from 30.3 to 33.3 percent. The same scenario was registered at the level of provincial governors and district administrators, whose percentage increased, respectively, from 18.1 to 36.4% and from 18.7 to 32.2%; In the current mandate, of the 21 ministers 7 are women and the 19 vice ministers 9 are women. At the level of the governors, the 11, 4 are women.

In the history of women's participation in politics, it should also be noted that Mozambique has had a woman as prime minister for more than one term.

Yet despite this progress, there is an empirical perception that this improvement has not been an added value for the defense of women's interests. Overall, women's loyalty to parties they represent has dominated all the political and economic decisions they take.

Although they are courted as voters and often-active supporters of the mobilization and campaigning of political parties, their participation generally does not translate into inclusion in the development of party politics and decision-making as is the case for finding solutions to peace and national reconciliation.

There is growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making contributes to better solutions. It was on the basis of these evidences and in the belief that FDC, at its highest leadership, nurtured hopes that such an initiative could bring tangible results towards the building of social peace and national reconciliation. These reflections echoed within the international community represented through the United Nations Embassies and Representations as well as the Mozambican Government and as a result the project "Reinforcing Women's Participation in Peace Processes and National Reconciliation for Social Cohesion in Mozambique" funded by the Swedish Embassy.





‘ENHANCING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PEACE AND  
RECONCILIATION PROCESSES IN MOZAMBIQUE’

# PEACE AND COHESION

"We want to herald peace everywhere: in churches, mosques  
and in the community in general" - Paula

## ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PERIOD

The implementation of the initiative involved the (i) joint elaboration (FDC, IMD and ACCORD) of the Activity Plan; (ii) the disbursement of funds to Partners; (iii) the Round Table in Nampula Province; (iv) Training on Methodologies for the Baseline Study; (v) the baseline study proper, and (vi) the first Regional Consultation Meeting of the Northern Region.

1.1. The preparation of the activity plan involved series of joint work among three partners. This resulted in devising methodologies and strategies to achieve the expected results, as well as drawing up the criteria for selecting women to be involved in the process.

1.2 The disbursement of funds to partners was made in accordance with the previously established and agreed through Memoranda of Understanding, indicating the level of involvement and responsibility of each partner. In this regard, ACCORD was responsible for preparing the terms of reference for the baseline study, designing the methodologies for conducting the same study, training the research team and producing the study report. The Institute for Multiparty Democracy contributes to the initiative with its experience in involving political parties as well as the capitalization of its political and social capital in the Mozambican political landscape. FDC, the leader and main implementer, has programmatically and financially managed the initiative, contributing to the experience of its staff in lobbying, lobbying and capitalizing on its presence and deep knowledge at the community level. It should be emphasized that the fieldwork involved to a large extent the FDC staff in all the Provinces concerned.

1.3. The roundtable held in Nampula Province served to engage women designated as 'reference', not only to explore their sensitivity to the initiative, but also to gain input on women's selection criteria for interviews and for regional and national consultations. Through this, it was possible to gather experiences on progress and gains related to the role of women in various peace processes in Mozambique and to identify existing challenges, gaps and opportunities. It was also possible to outline the profile of women to be involved in the baseline study and in subsequent peace-building and national reconciliation processes. This activity preceded training on baseline study methodologies and thus contributed to adjust the selection criteria for women to be selected during the study. The round table included 13 women representing 7 institutions, namely civil society organizations (community-based and religious associations), community leaders and women entrepreneurs. It should be noted that the majority of the participants represented networks of women, i.e. their constituency.

1.4. The training of the team to conduct the baseline study was undertaken to equip participants with knowledge on methodologies for baseline study to identify the main gaps, challenges and opportunities in women's participation and influence in peace and reconciliation in Mozambique. The action also sought to identify the profile of women in the study and who should be take part in the future national agenda for peace building and national reconciliation. The training benefited 10 FDC technicians from 6 provinces in the country, namely Nampula, Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane and Maputo.

1.5. The fieldwork and consultation were carried out in 7 provinces whose communities were the most affected by the armed conflicts. At the grassroots level, the focus of the study was to understand the views of those involved on the current peace situation in the country and then to identify the main obstacles to women's participation in these processes, and then to explore opportunities for their participation. The Study also served to identify women leaders and women with leadership skills who are influential in their communities as well as committed to making a contribution to the achievement of lasting peace and thereby ensuring social cohesion. Of a target of 600 people expected, 662 people were reached, equivalent to 110% of the total expected, of which 558 are women and the remaining men.

1.6. The Regional Consultation Meeting (North Zone) was the first of the 4 planned meetings that gathered 51 participants, all of them female representing civil society organizations, public sector, media, community leaders, students, religious leaders, among others. The participants represented about 50 men and about 60 young women from the provinces of Niassa, Nampula and Zambézia, representing around 30 institutions with an estimated population of more than 8,000 women. It also aimed to gather recommendations from women in the northern region on the path to peace and national reconciliation; validate the results obtained during the baseline study in the mentioned provinces, and select representatives from the northern region for the national conference on peace and national reconciliation.

## **PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS**

The project intends to impact on social cohesion in Mozambique through inclusive and gender sensitive peace and reconciliation process. Given the cultural and socio-economic context of Mozambique, this may appear a very taxing achievement to aim to, however, the experiences the project had so far open windows of opportunity for hope. As it was indicated, the project devised two outcomes, namely, (i) Mozambican women and other leaders engage and influence gender sensitive peace and reconciliation, and (ii) women leaders of different sectors have increased knowledge and practice to effectively engage into peace and reconciliation process in Mozambique.

Although both outcomes have a long term horizon, there are tangible signs indicating that the project activities undertaken so far have shaken and shifted the status quo, particularly amongst those women who were involved since the project kick-off with the round table dialogue through the baseline study and the northern region consultation held in Nampula. The first outcome which the progress described in this report contributed, comprises three outputs, one which is about a **'women's peace and reconciliation platform created and integrated in the current peace process'**, the second aspiring that **'women's agenda for national reconciliation developed and implemented'** and the third aiming towards **'increased public access to information related to peace and reconciliation'**.

For the attainment of these results, there are numbers of events and processes the project was required to implement, which on their own have taken steps towards achievement of the aforementioned results.

For instance, the roundtable contributed to the consolidation of the hypothesis according to which women suffer even more and are vulnerable to the effects of violent conflicts. The meeting also confirmed the situation of exclusion in which the woman is. Above all, the participants contributed to the development of profile of women who should be involved in community peace processes, peace building and national reconciliation.

The round table involved 13 women recommended as key informants and coming from pronounced civil society, academia, community and religious institutions. They were women with profound knowledge and experience of the context in Nampula whose opinions and ideas are generally impactful given their status and what they have achieved. The roundtable recommended names, places to visit as well as a tentative roadmap that would eventually lead to peace and reconciliation in Mozambique. This information formed a solid basis for the team to refine the tools for the baseline and for the training of baseline researchers and enumerators who were then involved.

As for the training of baseline team that followed the roundtable, apart from confirming the selection criteria for women to be part of the peace-building process, it served to produce tools for data collection as well as defining appropriate sample and sampling method. The agreed selection criteria were essentially these: (i) women from different walks of life representing all social, economic and political spheres (peasant and housewives, community leaders, religious leaders, nurses, economic agents, teachers and academics and civil society and policy makers); (ii) women with leadership skills with a constituency and legitimacy to represent others, whether by the nature of work or influence they have in communities; (iii) women who have undertaken any pacification actions for the good of their community or even (iv) women who are committed to the values of peace and reconciliation regardless their party affiliation.

It was important for the project team to agree beforehand which criteria would be used for the involvement of women who in their own would represent a wide spectrum of women, particularly women in very remote areas where the project, given its limitations in timing and logistics, would otherwise fail to achieve. In addition to this, in order to create a platform as it is well articulated under outcome #1, it is important for the platform to be formed following objective criteria, both in terms of content quality, representation and level of influence.

As the process unfolded, the step that followed after preparing the baseline teams and relevant tools, was the baseline study itself which, according to participants involved, it brought about greater ownership of the program, as participants indicated that craved for such a program for long time. In addition to this, the main challenges, gaps and opportunities of women's participation and influence in peace and reconciliation processes in Mozambique were identified and it was possible to identify women leaders and influencers who support peace and reconciliation efforts. Overall, in short time, the baseline turned the initiative nationwide, at grassroots level where researchers reached in search of women interviewees recommended beforehand.

It was intended at the beginning that the fieldwork and consultation in Mozambique would involve 7 provinces: Nampula, Niassa, Tete, Manica, Zambézia, Sofala and Inhambane, whose communities were the most affected by armed conflicts. The study began in northern Mozambique including Zambezia, and the focus, as it was mentioned, was to identify women leaders and women with leadership skills who, while anonymous, are influential in their communities and have a well-demarcated constituency. The study involved 662 people, equivalent to 110% of the total as the sample expected to achieve 600 people. The results obtained reflect key issues that worth highlighting:

- a) Gender issues in Mozambique that negatively affect women's participation;
- b) Perceptions about the concepts of peace and reconciliation are generally good;
- c) Weak engagement of women in peace-building landscape in Mozambique, due to social, and political barriers;
- d) Key challenges and gaps identified in women's participation and their influence in the peace and reconciliation process;
- e) Opportunities and recommendations for the participation of women and their influence in the peace and reconciliation process were identified and shared.

According to the baseline study, 'the peace-making landscape presents a number of barriers to women's participation'. Women's participation relates to a broader dilemma about the ends and means of peace-making: if the goal of a peace process is only to end violence, then women—who are rarely the belligerents—are unlikely to be considered legitimate participants. **If the goal is to build peace, however, it makes sense to gain more diverse inputs from the rest of society.**

Still citing the baseline study report, 'political Exclusion and patriarchy are some of the reasons highlighted by the respondents'. In addition to this, domestic violence still has strong footprint in the community, accompanied by early marriages, lack of support, political will and lack resources. Coupled with this, illiteracy is also another limitation that is also linked to lack of or limited skills for women to engage effectively in peace processes. There is also cultural perception which stipulates that peace is a man's world, which is in turn reinforced by women's tendency to keep silent, for fear of losing any given opportunity (job, home, any important asset).

With regards to opportunities, the baseline study revealed the following:

- To effectively participate in peace-making and reconciliation efforts, women need tailor made and consistent capacity building on thematic areas like mediation, negotiation, facilitation, trust building and dialogue amongst others;
- Inclusivity in the peace process is key, and all actors at different levels should be included. It was cited that the peace process often involves only political party interests, and should be expanded to incorporate the voices of all the members of the society.
- Another recommendation was to explore more on the women peace role models and engage them in building capacities of the young people in mediation and dialogue.

- Financial support should be provided for the women working towards peace at the community level.
- Need for women's empowerment in order to enable them to engage in community level processes from an informed point of view
- Dialogue in the family was emphasized as one of the recommendations in working towards strengthening reconciliation and social cohesion efforts at the community level.
- Trauma healing and support to the victims and survivors of violence is needed

The results of the baseline study were then shared with 50 women who took part in the northern region consultation meeting. These and other gaps, constraints and opportunities were further deepened in well-spirited and heated discussion that led to the elaboration of a statement that essentially proposes ways towards a national agenda for peace and reconciliation. Participants pointed out some actions that involve the dissemination of the message of peace to the most remote areas using existing structures and actors such as Associations, Religious Institutions, Public and Interest Groups, involving constituencies of different categories.

It is important to note that from 30 institutions present, there were 8 associations (Widow Women's associations, OPHENTA, AMOKANA, AMIN, APROMM, Wiwanana, OSSUCA, OVILELA); 4 religious associations (AMACAMO, CISLAMO, CCM, Evangelical Christian Church); 4 Women Networks (Chitukuku Txa Azimai Network, FOFEN, Police Women Network, Majune Women's Network); 2 Credit Cooperatives (Caixa Económica de Mulheres, Cooperativa de Crédito de Mulheres) Savings Groups, 7 institutions representing Public Institutions (SDMAS, Attorney's Office, Family and Child Affairs Office, Gender Unit and Police Women Network, SDEJT, Schools and Uni-Zambezi); the media (Journalists); 4 Party Women's League (MDM, Renamo and Frelimo).

Thus, the universe of about 50 participants, including Chairs of Women's Associations and of Religious Groups, Teachers, Journalists, Mobilizers, Heads of Civil Service Departments, Community Leaders have a range of action and influence that stems from the family to provincial level, involving informal groups, civil society, public and private sectors and political parties, representing over 8,000 women, 50 men, about 60 young women. It should be noted that during the meeting testimonies were made that demonstrated the real social exclusion of women in various senses, as well as affirmations that denoted women's sense of self-esteem and determination for their involvement in peace-building processes. It should be stressed that the declaration pointed to the observation of three pillars for the attainment of an inclusive peace building process, namely:

- Pillar 1:** Inclusion of women in leadership positions and decision-making processes;
- Pillar 2:** Complete formal education of women, on equal standing with men, which includes literacy, vocational training and other specific training;
- and **Pillar 3:** Family civic education (Man, Woman and Child) on the role of women in Society.

## 1º PAPEL DA MULHER

- MÃE E EDUCADORA;
- MULHER DEVE PARTICIPAR NA RECONCILIAÇÃO DA PAZ EFECTIVA; LADO A LADO COM O HOMEM;

## COM O HOMEM:

- FAZENDO PALESTRAS, MOBILIZAÇÕES COMUNITÁRIAS;
- PEDIR ENVOLVIMENTO DAS MULHERES NAS ZONAS RECONDIADAS; NO PROCESSO DA RECONCILIAÇÃO NACIONAL.
- ENVOLVIMENTO DA MULHER SEM ESCOLARIDADE & ENCORAJA-LAS
  - MANTER VIGILANCIA E DENUNCIAR CASOS DE CONFLITOS NA COMUNIDADE.

## Grupo 2 MIRUKO

- MULHER PODE FAZER PAPEL DE MEDIADORA DE RESOLUÇÃO DE CONFLITOS E DESORDEM.

## 2º DESAFIOS

- MULHER DEVE-SE FAZER VALER NA SOCIEDADE QUE ELA É CAPAZ, DANDO OPINIÕES, SUGESTÕES PARA PAZ EFECTIVA
- DESENVOLVER ACCOES CONCRETAS
  - TER UNIÃO COM A COMUNIDADE FAMILIA E ENTRE AS MULHERES;
  - QUEBRAR BARREIRAS CULTURAIS PARA MUDANÇA DE ATITUDE E

## COMPORTAMENTO DO HOMEM QUE IMPEDEM O DESENVOLVIMENTO DA MULHER

- EMPONDERAR AS MULHERS ATÉ VES DE CAPACITAÇÕES, FORMAÇÕES SOBRE A LIBERANÇA E GESTÃO DE CONFLITOS E ESTRATÉGIAS PARA UMA PAZ DURADOURA, ADVOCACIA E LOBBY PARA INFLUENCIAR OS TOMADORES DE DECISÃO.

Obrigado  
NA XUKURO



## CONCLUSION, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although it is too early to come to a final evaluative conclusion, it is worth affirming that the initiative has awakened dormant energies that could spark lights of change towards reinforcing 'Women's Participation and Influence in Building Peace and National Reconciliation' in Mozambique. The initiative has shed light on women's self-esteem and untapped potential. Various testimonies collected throughout the process during the six months reflect the firmness and readiness shown by women for their involvement in leadership roles.

The initiative had clearly indicated the need to enable women through all possible forms, from the educational component (basic training, professional technician) to specific skills building (notions of leadership and conflict prevention) to knowledge for the adoption of strategies to obtain financial resources (implementation of income generation and sustainability projects), to initiate, engage and take off towards self-empowerment that will lead to readiness to engage in other political and social spheres.

There is a need to broaden the debate on women's participation throughout the country. And it is also important that these debates and their results contribute to disarming the minds and opening the hearts of Mozambicans so that the country can have an effective peace, a genuine process of national reconciliation and social cohesion. Mrs Graça Machel pronounced these words of wisdom during the consultation, and added that the role of woman, as the *'link that ensures the bonding and cohesion of the family, through her capacity of surrendering and giving up her needs so that the family has peace and keeps united'*.

These are the foundations that the initiative should take further, building step by step, that which is emerging out of the process provided that it shows potential to contribute towards the bigger aim - *'social cohesion in Mozambique through inclusive and gender sensitive peace and reconciliation'*. The first six months have brought about some lessons that worth consideration for the current and future initiatives:

- The Nampula meeting brought a sense of appreciation of the role of women in the country's development affairs. The depth of the debates undertaken revealed some qualities that are embedded in the qualities of being woman which are essential for peace building and reconciliation -life-giver, protector, peace-keeper, mediator and conciliator;
- The meeting reinforced the need for a space for ongoing dialogue where women share their feelings about peace and social harmony;
- The predisposition of women's involvement in peace efforts must be accompanied by a change in the mentality of men;
- The Road Map should include the empowerment of women at all levels;



- The Peace Roadmap should be extended to remote areas to ensure the involvement of all;
- FDC's influence in remote communities, using its network of activities, played a key role in the achievement of project activities, particularly in the context where certain resources were not available;
- The joint work of the three partners was a learning process considering the variety of experiences invested in the implementation process of the initiative.

In addition to the above lessons, during the project implementation the project team experienced some constraints, which were also taken as challenges, given the uniqueness of the initiative. In many instances, it was obvious that certain groupings had signs of fears to take part given the delicacy of the subject. By showing the bigger picture aligned with the overall social and economic development goals, it was possible to persuade them to participate.

As any given new initiative, as the implementation unfolded, the team came across certain needs that were not foreseen in the project, or at least under-resourced. In fact, there is a common understanding that the scope of work seems to be beyond the allocation of resources, although in certain areas, flexibility and creativity would be required. For example, the sampling and the number of participants in regional consultation were conditioned to existing resources. In a scenario where the project would be replicated, for instance, it would be necessary to hold various roundtables before the baseline study as these provide a space to build the momentum and rapport with those who will be involved throughout the project life.

In addition to this, Cabo Delgado and Gaza were excluded in this process. However, there are firm arguments claiming that those two provinces should be included to make the whole process more inclusive in it self.

## **KEY ACTIONS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD**

The next six months will be devoted to the completion of project activities, while developing a follow up full program that will link up with the emerging results of this phase. It is expected that, following the project agreement, a reflection and evaluative meeting should be held, out of which specific actions will be endorsed or integrated into the following plan. By the end of February 2018, the southern region consultation meeting will be undertaken, and before the end of March the team envisages to organise both the central region meeting and the national meeting in Beira, Sofala Province.



## ANNEXES

1. Nampula Round Table report
2. Baseline Study Report
3. Northern Region Consultation Meeting Report
4. Nampula Final Declaration
5. Financial Report



**WITH SUPPORT:**



Foundation for Community Development (FDC), Av.  
25 de Setembro, Building Time Square, Bloc 2,  
Mailbox 4206 Maputo, Mozambique | Phone: +  
258829902284 | E-mail: [info@fdc.org.mz](mailto:info@fdc.org.mz) |  
Website: [www.fdc.org.mz](http://www.fdc.org.mz)

Maputo, February 2018

Joaquim Oliveira Mucar

---

**Program Director**  
**FDC**

Zélia Menete

---

**Executive Director**  
**FDC**