



**CABO DELGADO:
PEACE, SOCIAL COHESION AND CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT
AMONG HOSTING COMMUNITIES
IN THE CITY OF PEMBA**



WEWORLD-GVC'S MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE

WW-GVC has been working in Mozambique since 2000 in several Provinces of the country (Maputo, Manica and Cabo Delgado) in different areas of intervention, such as food security, agroecology, disaster risk reduction – DRR and education. The presence of the organization in the Province of Cabo Delgado started in 2013, and it focused on education as the main area of intervention. In this way the organization developed a competence and solid experience in partnerships and professional cooperation with the competent authorities and with local communities so to reach the objective of contributing to the improvement of the education system in Pemba's primary and secondary schools.

WW-GVC is engaged in considering the participation of all the strata of the population who were directly or indirectly affected by the armed conflict that is affecting the northern region of the country, by giving voice both to internally displaced families and to their hosting communities in the development and planning of the humanitarian interventions, making sure that their ideas get to the decision makers at any level, including the government, the humanitarian agencies, and national and international donors.



CONTEXT

Since 2017, the population of Cabo Delgado has been suffering from an armed conflict. For this reason, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee abruptly, leaving behind their homes and possessions, in search of a safe place to settle. According to official sources, up to April 2021 the people temporarily accommodated in the southern districts of the Province or in the neighboring provinces, Niassa and Nampula, were more than 750,000 (DTM-Abril). Faced with the difficulty of managing the humanitarian crisis, about 80% of the displaced people in Cabo Delgado are staying in the homes of family members, friends and acquaintances. While host communities demonstrate a strong sense of solidarity with their northern neighbors - welcoming them and sharing food with them, among other things - the mass arrival of new people puts greater pressure on community services and resources, which already present strong vulnerabilities. In addition to the difficulties that host families are having in sharing the little they have with the displaced, the new ethnic-demographic conformation of this community presents a major challenge with respect to integration and coexistence between people of different ethnic groups, languages and religions. If badly managed, these issues can give rise to new conflicts and frictions between different communities.

The city of Pemba is the largest reception center for internally displaced persons. Up to March 2021, 143,446 IDPs were registered in a city that had 201,846 inhabitants in 2017 (Census). Specifically, the subject of this document are the most central neighborhoods with the highest population density and the highest number of IDPs.

District	Hosting families	IDP
Cariacó	2.989	21.476
Eduardo Mondlane	3.300	13.350
Gingone	3.728	20.639
Natite	1.815	7.725
Josina Machel	3.304	20547

TOWARDS THE SURVEY

Workshop “The Role of Volunteering in the Promotion of Peace and Social Cohesion”

On the 09th and 10th of February 2021, in the City of Pemba, WeWorld-GVC (WWGVC), in collaboration with the Secretaria do Estado da Juventude e Emprego (SEJE - State Department of Youth and Labor) and the Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado (CNV - National Council of Volunteering), organized the workshop *The Role of Volunteering in the Promotion of Peace and Social Cohesion*. As described in the title of the meeting, the training aimed to train 20 young people from the youth and voluntary association movement to become Peace and Social Cohesion Agents at the level of the Province of Cabo Delgado.

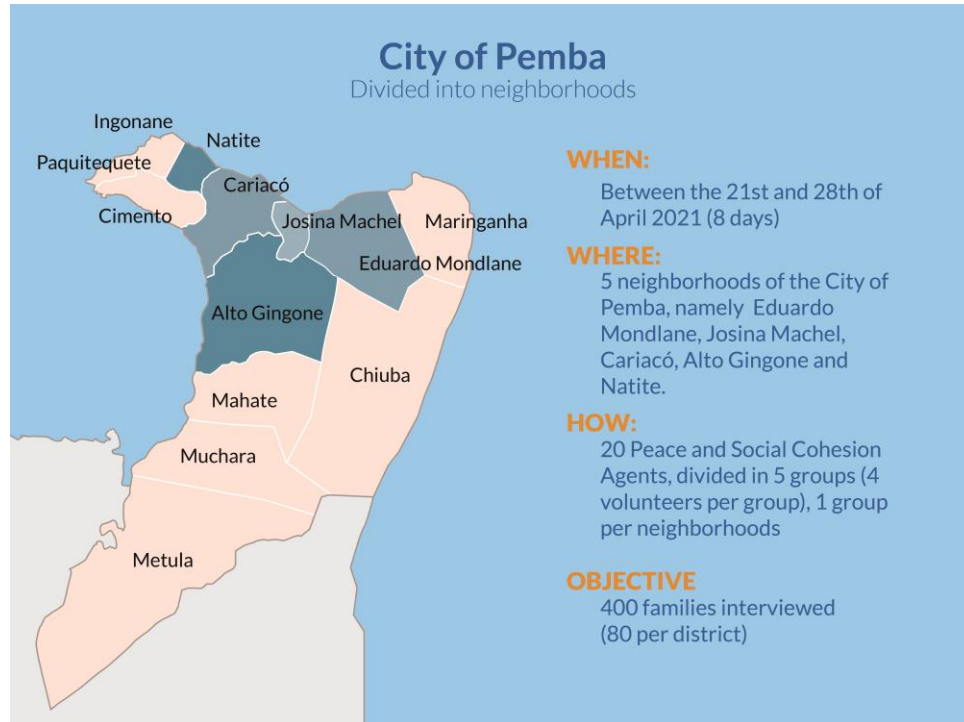
Survey and awareness campaign

In order to respond to the need to have a deeper understanding of the perception of communities in relation to the complex dynamics affecting the population of the Province of Cabo Delgado, a survey on peace, social cohesion and conflict management was carried out. The results of this survey are the subject of this document.

At the same time, in order to continue the training mentioned above through a more concrete action, an awareness campaign was implemented with the aim of increasing the awareness of the communities on the peaceful resolution of conflicts, on tolerance and democratic dialogue and on the socio-economic integration of displaced population.

The activities are part of the project 120194; Promoting Peace, Social Cohesion and Conflict Prevention in Cabo Delgado, Implemented by the Italian NGO WeWorld-GVC and funded by the UN agency UNDP and by the Government of Japan.

METHODOLOGY



Objective

The arrival of internally displaced persons in the host communities creates a great pressure on the resources of the population and on the services of the city of Pemba. For this reason, given the great emergency in which the entire Province finds itself, the humanitarian response has focused primarily on resolving the primary needs of the affected population, creating a gap in dealing with dynamics that can potentially generate conflicts and situations of malaise among host and displaced communities. In fact, there is a gap of data and information on the real perception by families with respect to the new socio-demographic conformation of the communities. This survey aims to be an initial point of reflection from which it will be possible to deepen this type of dynamics in order to improve humanitarian and governmental interventions.

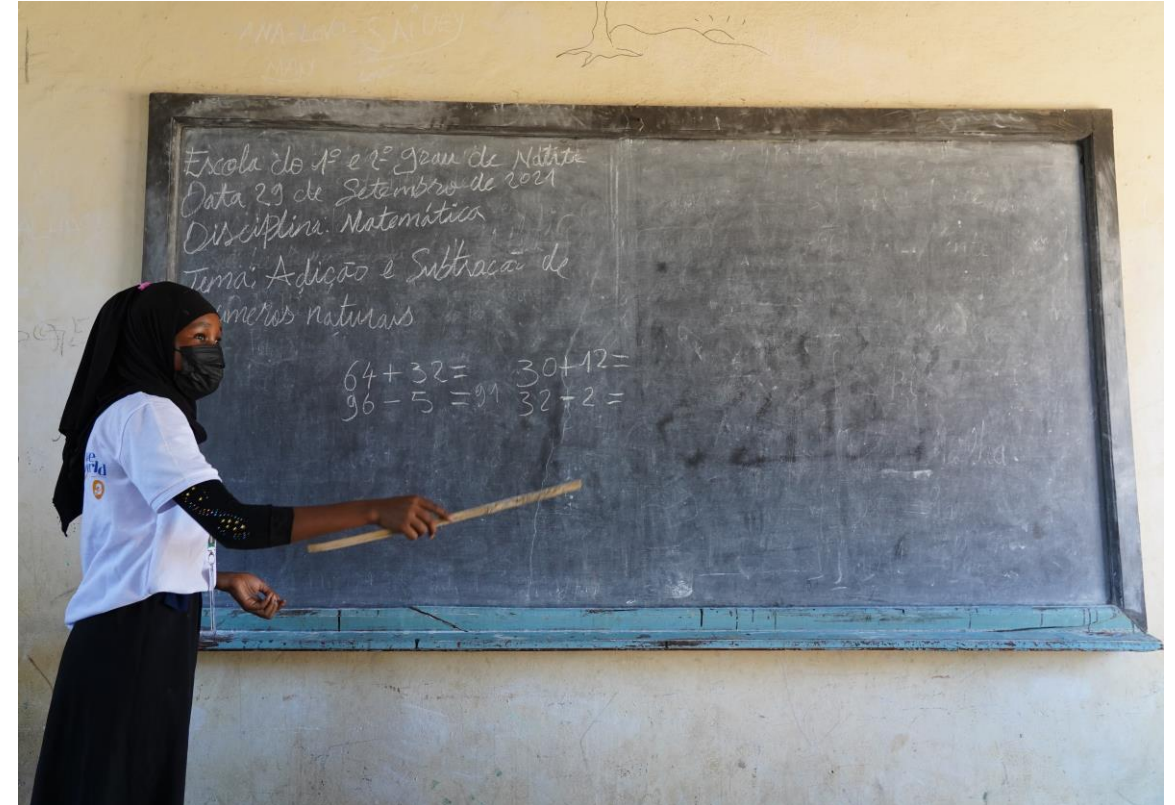
Topics of the survey

The questions of the survey sought to collect information on the languages spoken, the main ethnic groups; the religions mainly practiced in the community; the presence of harmony or conflicts between the different religious groups of the community, their origins and resolution mechanisms; the main conflicts; the definition of peace and social cohesion according to the community; the mechanisms used by the community for the promotion of peace and social cohesion; and the coexistence between the local communities and the internally displaced persons.

Notes

Given the uncertain situation of some families, it was not possible to obtain some data with precision. For example, data on the family unit and contacts of the people responsible for the family were not collected in all families, after they said that in some districts, prior to the attacks, data collection campaigns concerning the numbers of their members took place. Those data, family unit and register of contacts, would later be used by terrorists to recruit young people to their ranks. In carrying out the activity, it was possible to perceive that no family has fewer than 6 members, up to families with more than 15 members, particularly within the host families.

Considering the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to bringing the theme of peace and social cohesion, 2,200 masks were distributed to the 400 families interviewed..



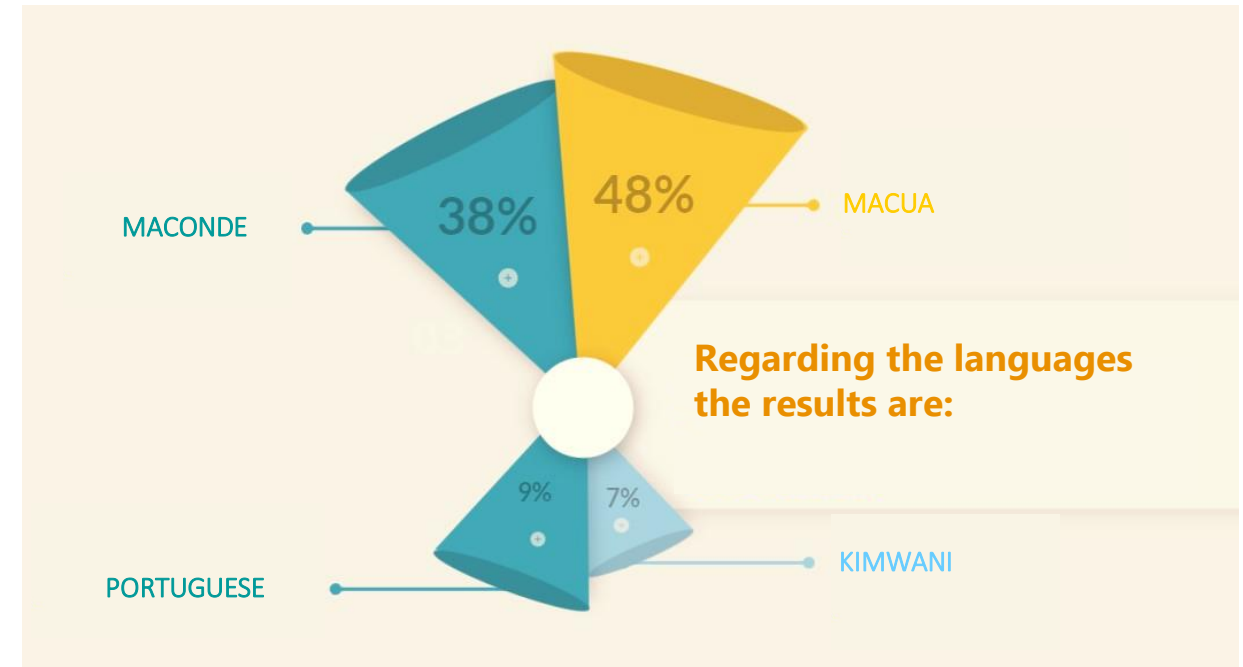
RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The Perception of the Communities

Language

With regard to the language, it was possible to note that within the 5 districts analyzed there are 3 most widely spoken languages, namely Portuguese, Maconde and E-Macua. Specifically, the Macua language is the mother tongue of 48% of the interviewees, followed by the Maconde language (38%), Portuguese (9%) and Kimwani (7%).

The predominant ethnic groups are Maconde and Macua, which exceed 80% of the population interviewed.

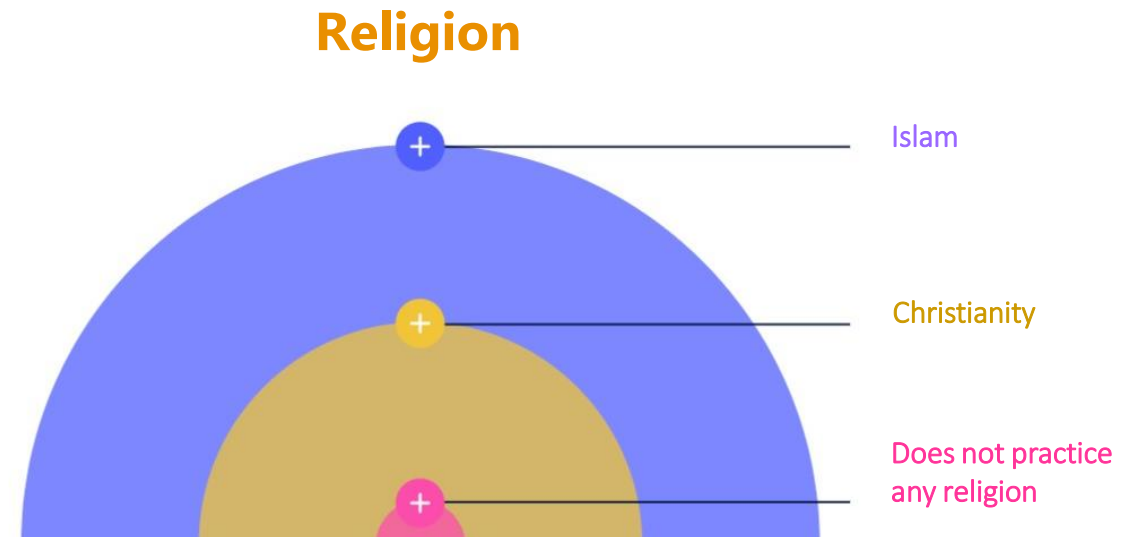


RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The Perception of the Communities

Religion

As for the religion, Islam and Christianity represent more than 98% of the population interviewed and families claim to practice their religion in their homes. Of this 98%, 36% say they are Christian and 62% Muslim. Considering that the survey was carried out at a time when a state of emergency was in force due to the containment and prevention measures of COVID-19, it is thought that, in a normal situation without any type of restriction, the response related to the place where religion is practiced might be different.



Harmony and Conflicts

As for harmony, there was a difference of opinion: 65% of the respondents declared that there was harmony while the 35% declared that there are several conflicts. The origin of the conflicts is diverse. In the Cariacó district, for example, 60% of the respondents who declared the presence of conflicts report access to drinking water and access routes on rainy days as the main cause. Issues such as the allocation of humanitarian aid to displaced persons, disputes over access to land, access to resources and political differences were reported in the other neighborhoods. It is important to underline that all the people interviewed exclude the possibility of conflicts related to religious differences. The interviewees reported that the most frequent conflicts occurred between members of the same community or between communities of indigenous and displaced persons.

Conflict Resolution

For the resolution of conflicts, more than 90% of those interviewed refers to the district secretaries, the leaders of each block, as well as the police offices. In general terms, families say that the neighborhood secretariats are the most suitable places, since sometimes families are dissatisfied with the feedback mechanisms, which shows the need to strengthen these skills within the neighborhoods. The Weekly Meetings are reported as one of the most ideal mechanisms for conflict resolution.



Peace and Social Cohesion

More than 85% of the families interviewed define peace as "*the absence of war, the end of a situation of armed conflict, a relationship of concord or harmony between people and or groups*". The same group sees social cohesion as "*tolerance towards people of different religions, ethnicities and groups, union despite cultural differences or other types of difference*".

The families that have been interviewed showed that they use different forms to promote social cohesion. They highlight how dialogue is the best strategy. Families understand that participation in community meetings is a good way to contribute to a good coexistence within the group. More than 70% of respondents indicate the organization of workshops on peace and social cohesion as well as the organization of awareness-raising activities at the community level as good practices for the promotion of peace and social cohesion.

More than 90% of the respondents say that with the arrival of the displaced there have been some changes within the community. The main changes concern the increase in competition in the labor market; pressure on services and resources; security degradation; preconceptions and misunderstandings among community members.





Security

Despite the changes in the topic of security, some differences of opinion persist. About 45% say they feel safe. The group that feels safe has some kind of family or friend relationship with the displaced. About 10% said they feel neutral. It is a group that understands that displaced people have not brought about any kind of change in the community. The rest, around 45%, feel insecure with the arrival of displaced people. The main causes reported for this insecurity are: language barriers (groups that live together in the same

space, but cannot communicate easily because one of the two parties does not understand the other's language); perception of insecurity (fear that there are terrorists infiltrated among the displaced).

CONCLUSIONS

Considering that families know the concepts of peace and social cohesion and report dialogue as the best strategy to ensure social harmony, it is advisable to create permanent spaces that guarantee a healthy collective coexistence.

If on the one hand the communities recognize the district secretariats as the ideal place for conflict mediation, on the other hand the feedback mechanisms are weak. There is a strong need to provide local structures with the necessary tools and knowledge on conflict management and negotiation.

Considering that one of the questions that were raised regarding the changes that have occurred with the arrival of displaced persons is related to the pressure on resources and competition in the labor market, it is essential that there are labor market oriented training programs, as well as economic empowerment initiatives for the displaced people, without excluding the local communities, so as to avoid the onset of new conflicts. Furthermore, given that language barriers are reported as a factor of perception of insecurity and instability in coexistence between the local communities and displaced persons,

language training programs can be a useful vector for conflict resolution.



