

GENDER

IN THE MOZAMBIQUE PEACE PROCESS



PEACE PROCESS SUPPORT
-THE SECRETARIAT-

271

total women disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) beneficiaries participated in disarmament and demobilisation (out of a total of 5,221)

50%

of Peace Process Secretariat (PPS) staff are women, in line with the United Nations (UN) Strategy on Gender Parity

63

women DDR beneficiaries have been connected with a reintegration opportunity

41

women DDR beneficiaries and family members have been integrated into the police force as part of the reintegration process



INTRODUCTION

The peace process in Mozambique has placed gender sensitivity at its core from the outset. The PPS recognises that women's active involvement in every aspect of peacebuilding presents a significant opportunity for the sustainability of lasting peace and reconciliation. On the other hand, women also bear a disproportionate burden of conflict; as victims, as members of armed groups where they are often exposed to violence and as community members who inevitably carry the responsibility of reconstruction and receiving DDR beneficiaries (former combatants) in their communities and homes. PPS also firmly supports the belief that women's involvement is key to achieving sustainable peace at the community, regional, national and international levels. This is why the peace process in Mozambique advances gender as a cross-cutting topic with a focus on:

- i) the application of a gender lens to the design of the DDR programme
- ii) delivery of gender-aware communications, studies and monitoring activities
- iii) stakeholder training and capacity building on gender
- iv) gender parity in the PPS

I. DDR THROUGH A GENDER LENS

In close coordination with the Government and Renamo, PPS works to ensure a consistent and gender-sensitive approach to the design, implementation and management of activities, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Mozambique's National Action Plan on WPS (2018– 2022).

The DDR process, which targets a **total of 5,221 DDR beneficiaries**, includes **271 women**. Demobilisation activities take place at assembly areas (AAs) designed to include gender-sensitive services, including separate accommodation and hygiene facilities for women.

During demobilisation, all beneficiaries participate in activities that are crucial to accessing their rights as citizens, including registration for a national identification card and birth certificate, for beneficiaries not in possession of these documents, as well as a health screening to identify any potential health issues or disabilities that require referral to the public health system and partner services.

DDR beneficiaries also complete individual reintegration survey interviews that assess their access to basic services and their interests and capacities for reintegration, informing the establishment of reintegration partnerships. There is also a separate interview with women to provide a better understanding of their specific needs and experiences. Finally, before they return to their chosen communities for reintegration, reinsertion packages are given to all DDR beneficiaries, which have been specifically tailored to women to ensure they include gender-appropriate materials.

Gender and reintegration: Within the mandate of implementation of the 2019 Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation, PPS facilitates the reintegration process within the framework of the individual, family and community pillars of reintegration. Increasing the participation and voices of women in reintegration can positively contribute to the sustainability of peace in Mozambique. Connecting women DDR beneficiaries and women family members with reintegration opportunities and involving women in communities in reintegration opportunities is vital to sustainable peace in Mozambique. Opportunities are designed with women's needs and interests in mind and pursued in coordination with private, public and development entities across Mozambique. In recognition of the points outlined in the gender analysis, PPS developed a reintegration framework to guide gender-sensitive reintegration interventions with a focus on areas including social and economic processes to support DDR beneficiaries, their families and communities.

II. GENDER-AWARE COMMUNICATIONS, STUDIES AND MONITORING

PPS continues to take practical steps through adaptive learning to further understand the gender dimensions of PPS's programme and the peace process at large, including through fieldwork and studies to inform implementation and strategy documents.

Gender analysis: Following the demobilisation of the first women DDR beneficiaries in August/September 2020, PPS developed a gender analysis ('Perceptions, expectations and challenges for women in the DDR process') to inform future DDR activities and the reintegration process. The analysis found that the potential challenges faced specifically by women DDR beneficiaries in reintegration cover a number of different areas, such as education, health, social norms and access to productive resources. In addition, for women and girls in host communities where there is an inflow of men DDR beneficiaries, potential challenges related to health and premature marriage were identified. These findings have informed DDR activities, the reintegration framework and training for key stakeholders involved in the peace process.

Gender-sensitive monitoring: Since 2020, PPS has been conducting a qualitative study to capture and assess perceptions of DDR, and the peace process at large, within communities across the country where DDR beneficiaries have self-selected to settle. In our sampling of DDR beneficiaries, their family members and community members, a gender balance is established across the interviewees to ensure women's perceptions are captured. Likewise, PPS's internal monitoring of DDR beneficiaries is sensitive to the unique needs and experiences of women involved in the DDR process and seeks to prioritise women for reintegration opportunities, where possible.

Gender-aware communications: PPS aims to ensure gender-aware audio-visual and written communications, ranging from press statements, reports, social media posts and presentations, by portraying the experiences of both women and men beneficiaries; using gender-responsive language; and ensuring data collected for M&E purposes is sex-disaggregated.



III. GENDER TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Gender-sensitive DDR approaches: PPS, in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) provides training in strengthening existing and developing new gender-sensitive DDR approaches, including strategies and messages for all peace process stakeholders around women's and men's rights, needs and priorities. Peace Club leaders implementing reconciliation activities also participate in the gender training sessions facilitated by FBA, with the training contents replicated with other community leaders following trainings.



IV. GENDER PARITY IN THE PEACE PROCESS SECRETARIAT

In line with the UN Strategy on Gender Parity, currently, 50 percent of PPS staff are women, with 63 percent of senior staff positions held by women. This is reflective of the core values of equality and diversity that guide its work.

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