Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

-Brazil and Mozambique

In a trilateral arrangement with United Nations agencies and the United Kingdom, Brazil and Mozambique worked to promote policy reforms, to strengthen institutional capacities, and to mobilise communities for gender equality in Mozambique.

Issue

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was a major milestone for women’s rights and empowerment. There is increasing evidence that when women are empowered, economies grow faster, and families are healthier and better-educated. However, in many countries, gender inequality persists and remains a big challenge. Through exchange of knowledge and experiences countries address existing gaps and shape policies, practices and services relating to social protection, violence against women and economic empowerment, among others.

Towards a Solution

In collaboration with UNFPA, UN-Women and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, Brazil and Mozambique embarked on a joint initiative with the following objectives:

- Support institutional capacity development in the formulation and implementation of public policies and strategies that promote women’s economic autonomy in Mozambique.
- Contribute to strengthen institutional capacities to provide integrated responses to violence against women (VAW); and
- Support community participation and social mobilisation in women’s economic empowerment and responses to VAW.

Results

Best practices of Brazil’s 20-year experience in social protection and the promotion of gender
equality and women’s empowerment through legislation, policies and programmes were shared for adaptation, as appropriate. These include, among others, initiatives such as the Bolsa Família (conditional income transfer programme), “Mulher, Viver sem Violência” - a multi-sectoral programme to end VAW, and social policies targeting rural women.

Demonstrating the two-way flow of learning, Brazilian partners were introduced to Mozambique’s inter-sectoral coordination arrangements of the National Council on the Advancement of Women and to the Single Registration Form (ficha única) for VAW survivors - a tool to avoid re-victimisation by ensuring all services collect and share information on cases.

The cross-country exchange resulted in a wide range of initiatives in Mozambique, including mobilisation of key stakeholders in raising awareness on VAW and advocacy strategies promoting the commitment of authorities to strengthen social protection systems.

Lessons Learned
Knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences and best practices that have been identified, evaluated and systematised are available when requested by other African and South American countries.

Partner
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mozambique
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Mozambique
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