

SEMINAR REPORT on

POLICE HUMAN RIGHTS and HARM REDUCTION

**POLANA SERENA HOTEL, MAPUTO
16 de Novembro 2020**



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Acrónimos

- ACAM- Associação Comunitária Ambiente da Mafalala.
- PRM- Policia da Republica de Moçambique.
- GCPCD- Gabinete Central de Prevenção e Combate a Droga.
- CNCS- Conselho Nacional Combate ao HIV-SIDA.
- MOZ-PUD- Rede de Pessoas que Usam Drogas.
- MSF- Médicos Sem Fronteiras.
- UNODC- Nações Unidas Sobre Drogas e Crime.
- SERNIC- Serviço Nacional de Investigação Criminal.
- PUD- Pessoas que Usam Drogas.
- MTS- Mulheres Trabalhadoras de Sexo.
- HSH- Homens que fazem sexo com Homens.
- PUD- Pessoas que Usuárias de Drogas.
- TB- Tuberculose
- ITS- Infecções Transmitidas Sexualmente

1. Introduction

This report is part of the seminar on “Damage Reduction Policing, which took place on November 16, 2020 at Hotel Polana in order to provide sufficient capacity to police systems so that they are able to meet the needs health **people who use drugs (PUDs)**, and at the same time reinforcing the police mission of protection, security, integrity, order and individual public rights. As global objectives, the seminar foresaw, among others, to ensure that the police can contribute to the adoption of more humanized practices and that lead to harm reduction policing that involves communities in a process of building trust. ²

And in this context that ACAM, MOZ-PUD, in collaboration with CNCS, supported the Police Command of the City of Maputo to organize the Reflection Seminar of the Police Operative Sector in relation to how to do policing with harm reduction and to involve them focus more on the Actions foreseen in the harm reduction strategies in Mozambique.

The seminar was attended by several personalities and representatives from police authorities of the Maputo City PRM, representatives of associations and institutions such as GCPCD, CNCS, MOZ-PUD, MSF, ACAM, UNUDO, SERNIC, FHI 360 and FrontLine AIDS. As expected results, it was expected to see an improvement in the Police's level of knowledge in relation to harm reduction programs, such as the public health and Human Rights approach directed at People who use Drugs (PUD) and to know the police's priorities. to be incorporated into the Country Harm Reduction Strategy (2021-2023).

For the accomplishment and success of this seminar, the Police Command of the City of Maputo, in collaboration with the Department of Studies and Planning of the General Command of PRM and CNCS, organized the meeting with the Police agents (Police stations in the areas affected by the problem of sale and consumption of drugs), to jointly find some harm reduction intervention strategies. The training started at around 8:30 am, covered Commanders and Heads of Operations at Squadrons and PowerPoint presentations, group work and plenary discussion were used.

2. Main Objective of the Seminar

The main objective of the Seminar was to contribute to the adoption of more humanized practices by the police and that lead to harm reduction policing that involves communities in a process of building mutual trust.

2.1. Specific objectives:

- • Create a concrete Map of police interventions with people who use drugs for the next 3 years as part of the Harm Reduction strategy;
- • Create space to work with the police, and involve them in human rights as a way of adapting the current reality to the actions of the laws,
- • Evaluate Harm reduction strategies in order to create possibilities for reducing the use of Drugs, needle sharing and overdose deaths;

The seminar's agenda was divided into 3 (Three) parts. The first part was reserved for the opening session, presentation of the objectives and expected results of the Seminar and, presentation and debate on Human Rights in the Context of HIV / AIDS in Mozambique. The second phase included the presentation and debate on how to act in a context of problematic drug use and harm reduction in Mozambique and presentation of the harm reduction component in the proposal for the Global fund (2021-2023) and, in the third and last phase there was a presentation on public health intervention to respond to problems related to drug use in the community (challenges and approaches) and, group work to map the seminar's learning.

3. Dynamics and Results of the Seminar

In order to begin the opening of the session, it was up to Mrs. Hassissa C. Gulamo, Head of the Police Protection Department of the Maputo City Command, to offer a welcome word, which after having thanked ACAM for the invitation, congratulated the initiative of the seminar reiterating that the Police will continue to work for the implementation of programs aimed at harm reduction, since there is a constant training of commanders in relation to the matter and knowledge of Harm Reduction and Human Rights made available by the organizations of fight drugs.

Then, the Director of **ACAM**, Mr. Luís Job Mutumbene, started by thanking all participants at the seminar, with special attention from the City Command, ao Comando Geral e ao Conselho. National AIDS Campaign (**CNCS**) that together joined forces for the seminar to take place, and draws special attention to the police who are the main actor in issues related to drug trafficking and consumption in the communities, because it is hoped that from the next few years people who use drugs may have better conditions of access to health services, treatment and have less punitive penalties.

For his part, the Executive Secretary of the **CNCS**, Francisco Mbofana, was pleased to represent the National AIDS Council in training, and stated that they are not stuck in this Harm Reduction process, as there are trainings that are being addressed to police and authorities in matters of Human Rights and **HIV**.

For Dr. Zenóbia Machava, representative of **UNODC**, the issue of Human Rights in law enforcement is still a challenge, demanding more from colleagues in the police, because little is observed about human rights in cells. It is necessary to help the government to work with harm reduction. However, organizations such as **MOZ-PUD** and **ACAM** are currently working on harm reduction in the communities, although plans and laws have not yet been defined in terms of health, since when the prisoner is arrested and does not have due follow-up on your way out can kick back the drugs.

He also affirmed the existence of a lot of work to be done because the national system cannot be linked to the community, but through these organizations it is possible to create a means of linking and implementing activities.

4. Presentations

According to the program, it was up to CNCS to make the first presentation on the theme: HIV and Human Rights. Thus, for him, **HIV** is an alarming problem in Mozambique and adolescent girls and pregnant women aged 15 to 24 are the most affected, making them a vulnerable group, apart from these, there is the Key Population made up of Women Sex Workers (**MTS**), Men Who Have Sex with Men (**MSM**), People Using Drugs (**PUD**) and Prisoners so there is a plan that plans to eradicate or reduce the rates of **HIV** until 2030, although there are still many challenges such as access to public health services to contain the risk of infection, and guarantee the human right to health.

However, one of the strategies for harm reduction is mainly aimed at Drug Users as the risk is greater and can be minimized by ensuring authority and ensuring access to Health services for this group.

Dr. Mbofana also said that the revision of the new National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 that fits **HIV** and human rights is underway, since one cannot speak of one without speaking of the other. This plan calls upon all rights and duties holders to achieve it through the application of human rights, taking into account that the objectives of the State in this struggle, is not to leave anyone behind "under the law we are all equal and we have to be treated with dignity" although there are still barriers to care in terms of discrimination for living with **HIV**, for being **MSM** or **PUD**.

In the context of passing on experiences of harm reduction work, **MOZ-PUD** represented by Mr. Stélio Craveirinha, stated that it was a process that was not at all easy in the beginning of its dissemination and implementation since, there was a certain resistance on the part of commanding officers to realize that Harm Reduction services is a Public Health approach. However, the training that has been carried out on harm reduction and Human Rights has been contributing to a change in behavior and the current approach on the use and sharing of syringes is already different and we are looking forward at this moment to expand this approach to other provinces such as : Beira, Nampula and Nacala in order to prevent the spread of **HIV**.

Speaking of the objectives of the seminar, the Executive Director of **ACAM** said that it aimed to establish a route of interaction between the Police and the Different stakeholders in issues related to Harm Reduction, so the police are an indispensable actor for this program to have successes and the human rights of people who use drugs are respected and that less and less reprehensible approaches to drug possession and consumption are implemented. 6

In the context of the presentation of the Mafalala pilot project, the **MSF** represented by Dr. Ernesto Abreu stated that, it was within the scope of Biomedical and Community interventions for HIV prevention and care, Hepatitis and TB with people who use drugs. According to him, the prevalence of HIV in the general population in Mozambique is frightening, about 12.3% in Mozambique and up to 50% of people who inject drugs have HIV and 44% have Hepatitis C. In turn, in Mozambique, 29% of cases new HIV infections occur daily in key population: Drug users, MSM, Sex workers and prisoners. In this context, the pilot foresees the combat and prevention of drugs (2014-2022) having as a strategic area: harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration through the Community Center, and as packages: antiretroviral treatment, treatment of opiate substitutes, HIV testing and counseling, condom distribution, viral hepatitis management, overdose management, tuberculosis management, information, communication and education, STI prevention and treatment, and distribution of paraphernalia. Although the Covid-9 pandemic has paralyzed hygiene and nutrition activities, everything has been in contact with police stations closer to the military zones, Mavalane, Alto-maé, Mafalala and Chamanculo to ensure that beneficiaries even have access. to treatment

The independent consultant, Carlota Silva, in her presentation on the harm reduction strategy, stressed that Harm Reduction is an intervention for People Who Inject Drugs, and they observe the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and essentially aims **minimize the negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and laws**. Harm reduction is based on **justice and human rights** - focuses on **positive changes and working with people without judgment, coercion, discrimination** or demanding that they stop using drugs as a precondition for support.

Concerning **Global Fund Damage Reduction Proposal 2021-2023**, she said that the police will play a key role in the successful implementation of the proposal and that it is expected to train them on this approach and develop a manual for the police to act with people who use

drugs, including promoting the exchange of experiences. with other countries that already act to decriminalize consumption and apply alternative penalties than detention.

The Consultant also stressed that, in the vision and general perspective for Mozambique with regard to harm reduction, there are strategies to be developed and implemented for this purpose. However, it is known that each country has a complex social structure that needs to be worked on in order to know how to minimize the risks associated with the use and consumption of drugs, for example, the transmission of **HIV and viral hepatitis**, taking into account that Drug users are susceptible to these problems. As strategies for harm reduction, syringe distribution, information and counseling programs are being developed, focusing mainly on the most vulnerable areas. These strategies are oriented towards exchanging syringes and sterilized material, which is the strategy most widely used and adopted in **DR** programs because it has led to positive results in several countries without exception in Mozambique, although there are still difficulties on the part of Police authorities to implement this program in their Action strategies. For this reason, the program provides for the involvement of the police, so that they are aware of the actions developed and that their actions towards drug users can be more humanized and without using violence.

As the last of the activities, Dr. Gabriel Barros launched a proposal for activities in groups and as a result, 5 working groups were created where each Group should work and bring in group work. **the human rights and harm reduction approaches that the City / PRM Command is able to incorporate when dealing with PUDs, and what needs does the PRM Command need to achieve harm reduction policing?** Thus, from the debates held, the following needs and activities were proposed:

- • Training police officers in the management and application of Analaxone in case of having a detainee with complications and symptoms of overdose;
- • Police Training in Harm Reduction;
- Allocation of Peer Educators at police stations to monitor detained peers;
- • Inclusion of **PRM** in the implementation of the Harm Reduction Strategy and in the revision of Law 03/97 of 13 March;
- • Monitoring and reinsertion of the user at the Society level;

- • Sensitization and Civic Education of the communities on the problems related to Drug Consumption;
- • Creation of a green line of communication;
- • Training of agents in Human Rights and harm reduction;
- • Creation of specialized cells for detaining drug addicts;
- Sensitization of drug users in relation to police work in the community.

5. Recommendations

In view of the debates and the dynamics of exchange of experience as well as learning from the seminar, the following recommendations were left:

- Urgent revision of Law 03/97 so that the police can act within the rules;
- • Improve performance and articulation with communities;
- • Greater involvement of the police in the implementation of the Harm Reduction Strategy and in the process of reforming the law 3/97;
- • Conditions must be created for the existence of appropriate cells or spaces to meet the needs of this group;
- • Hold similar meetings in the cities of Beira and Nampula before the second half of December 2020, as a way of training the police in these cities before implementing the damage reduction package in January 2021.
- The need for an exchange of experience with other countries such as South Africa, which has already made progress in terms of human rights and where **PUDs** already have recognized human rights.
- • Decision makers should look at these groups and their Health in the context of HIV and Human Rights.

6. Issues arising from the Seminar

- • How is Analaxone / Methadone? How is it administered?
- • What are the challenges encountered from community work to clinical work?
- • I would like to understand How does the distribution of syringes happen in a legal framework that prohibits drug use?

7. Comments from the seminar

Filipe Naftal (Representative of the GCPCD)

- • The law must guide us. Efforts are being made so that the law can assist in this harm reduction process, although it is a slow but ongoing process and is based on listening to the different actors.

Horácio Mulequene (Representative of SERNIC)

- • We have to improve our performance in communities and health units, as we lose family and friends daily due to discrimination.

Dra. Justina Cumbe (Head of DEP. of Studies and Projects)

- • To congratulate interventions with **PUDs**, the Global Fund and the Police, colleagues should listen to **MSF** approaches, and change the approach to drive harm reduction and human rights. **UNODC** policies and actions need to be included in **PN5** and, to make a strong intervention in the community.

Dra. Carlota Silva

- At the moment, the global fund is implementing the major harm reduction goal and the police are called upon to be consistently involved in activities and actions.

Gabriel de Barros (FrontLineAids)

- • The harm reduction proposal is being implemented in several countries and the police are called upon to collaborate to avoid unnecessary.

Dra. Hassissa C. Gulamo (Head of the Police Department for Protection of Punitive Laws)

- • Sometimes we cannot value Human rights, there was a crime and **HIV** for example, our duty is not to punish, there must be other packages to intervene and guarantee the human rights of People Who Use Drugs.

Dr. Ernesto Abreu (MSF)

- • Syringes do not put drug users in a vulnerable situation, since we already have partnerships with the police and are already aware of the delivery and collection of syringes, there is already a contact line with MSF, and we in turn we work with the surrounding police stations identified as the places of consumption (**military zone, mavalane, alto-mae and chamanculo**).

Mafalala Police Representative

- • There is a difference between Mafalala, Chamanculo, Zona Militar, Maxaquene and other neighborhoods, in terms of aggressiveness and the way these drug users behave, which is why there has been an intensive police intervention to curb acts of violence by these when the police visit the places (**mouths of smoke**) habitually frequented by drug users, however, some police stations in these places, such as **Mafalala**, where there is already knowledge of the harm reduction approach and we work together with local communities and organizations to release detained **PUDs**.

Mabiel Gove (Chief of Police Operations) 3rd Squadron

- • Affirmed that commanders' work with organizations has been very good, but believes that syringes are a way to encourage drug users to adhere more and more to this practice.

8. Conclusions

It was also reiterated at the seminar, that the damage reduction package consists of 10 important pillars / packages: making paraffin available; opioid substitution treatment; **HIV** testing and counseling, **HIV** and antiretroviral treatment, **STI** prevention, information, communication and education; Condom distribution, viral hepatitis management, **TB** management and Overdose management.

As a way of responding to some concerns about the syringe distribution work (In the Pilot program of Mafalala), Nalaxona and Methadone, Dr. Abreu left claro que, pese embora ainda Nalaxone is not available in Mozambique, this is an injectable drug capable of reversing the overdose situation in an immediate response, and there is a syringe collection strategy that will later be expanded to Schools.

The seminar ended around 4 pm, with the closing speech by the representative of the City Commander, Mr. Rui Cumbane **Head of the Legal Department**, who thanked the opportunity to participate in the meeting representing his department, and appealed to the PRM commanders, the technicians of Protocol Offices, the top Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior to continue working to ensure the safety of the key population and, above all, drug users through humanization work, and left the promise to continue to seek efforts to win in this joint fight against drugs and, create stability and public security for humanization work with the aforementioned organizations, in order to plan with the police incorporating Human Rights and Harm Reduction in their operative action

Anexo 1 – List of participants

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Nº	NAME	INSTITUTION	OCCUPATION
1	Francisco Mbofana	CNCS	Executive Secretary
2	Justina Cumbe	PRM – Comando Geral	Head of the Department of Studies and Projects
3	Custodio Duma	CNCS	Human Rights Advisor
4	Lurdes Satarino	PRM – Comando Geral	Head of Training Division
5	Zenóbia Machava	UNODC	National Project Officer
6	Filipe Naftal	GCPCD-Cidade de Maputo	Director
7	Hassissa Cassimo Gulamo	PRM	Head of Police Protection Department
8	Rui Cumbane	PRM – Comando da Cidade	Head of the Legal Department
9	Luís Job Mutombene	ACAM	Diretor Executivo
10	Stélio Craveirinha	MOZ-PUD	Diretor Executivo
11	Amarildo Gomes	MOZ-PUD	Finance officer
12	Ernesto Abreu	MSF	Director Centro Mafalala
13	Gabriel de Barros	Frontline AIDS	Frontline AIDS
14	António Jorge	COALIZÃO	Program Officer
15	Anália Siteo	MSF	Program Officer
16	Francisco Luís	FHI 360	National Clinical Technical Officer
17	Joaquim Tiago	PRM	Chief of Operations 1st Squadron
18	Hortência Mutapia	PRM	Commander 23rd Squadron
19	Lúcia Rosita Sueia	PRM	Commander 17th Squadron
20	Correia Nhatave	PRM	Commander 17th Squadron
21	Isaías Jamisse	SERNIC	Inspector
22	Henriques Howana	PRM	Commander 12th Squadron
23	Custódio Duma	CNCS	Human Rights Advisor
24	Mabiel Gove	PRM	Chief of Operations 3rd squad
25	Teresa Mambo	PRM	Assistant
26	Felismino José	PRM	Commander 9th Squadron
27	Custódio Rafael	PRM	Commander 20th Squadron
28	Jossias Lourenço	PRM	Commander 19th Squadron

29	Horácio Mulequene	SERNIC	Inspector
30	João Mondlane	PRM	Commander 14th Squadron
31	Armando Mabue	PRM	Chief of Operations 16th Squadron
32	Leonel Cossa		Commander 6th Squadron

Anexo 2: Programa do evento

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Hora/tempo	Atividade	Interveniente
08:00 – 08:30	Arrival and Registration of Participants	Protocol
08:30 – 09:15	Opening session	PRM Command, Maputo City; Director of C. Maputo of GCPCD, Director of ACAM; CNCS Executive Director.
09:15 – 09:30	Presentation of the objectives and expected results of the Seminar	ACAM
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation and debate on Human Rights in the context of HIV / AIDS in Mozambique	CNCS
10:0 – 10:30	Coffee / Tea Break	Protocol
10:30 – 11:45	Presentation and debate on how to act in a context of problematic drug use and harm reduction in Mozambique	PRM Command, Maputo City, Moz-PUD & ACAM.
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation of the Harm Reduction Component in the Global Fund Proposal 2021-2023 (Webinar)	Consultant (Carlota Silva)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Protocol
13:30 – 14:00	Presentation on Public Health interventions to answer the problems related to the use of Drugs in the Community - What are the challenges for the police and how to approach the situation and answer the questions.	MSF
14:30 – 15:30	Working Groups to Map the Seminar's Learning; What are the Human Rights & Harm Reduction approaches that the PRM City Command is able to incorporate when dealing with PUDs; What needs does the PRM Command in Maputo City need to achieve “Damage Reduction Policing”	PRM, CNCS e ACAM
15:30 – 16:00	Closing	Command PRM, Maputo City

Anexo 3: Photos













Harm reduction policing involves communities in a process of building trust, seeking to respond to the needs of drug users, but in order to mitigate the adverse effects of these substances and the enforcement of drug laws.