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Advocacy for Social Protection

Annual Social Protection Week in Mozambique

Credits:

Authors: Ana Carolina de Lima Vieira (ILO Consultant)
Rubén Vicente Andrés (ILO)
Denise Monteiro (ILO)

Layout: Daniela Cristofori / Designeid.com

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ANA CAROLINA DE LIMA VIEIRA
(ILO CONSULTANT)

RUBÉN VICENTE ANDRÉS (ILO)

DENISE MONTEIRO (ILO)

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Acronyms



ID	Identity Card
DFID	British Department for International Development
ENSSB II	National Strategy for Basic Social Security (2016-2024)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
HIV-AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IMD	Institute for Multi-party Democracy
INAS	National Social Action Institute
MGCAS	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action
MT	Mozambican Metical (local currency)
NUIT	Tax Identification Number
ILO	International Labour Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
WFP	World Food Programme
PSCM-PS	Mozambican Civil Society Platform for Social Protection
PSSB	Basic Social Allowance Programme
SAWG	Social Action Working Group
TVM	Television of Mozambique
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
US\$	American Dollar (Currency)

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Introduction

Mozambique has shown strong economic performance over the last decade. Nevertheless, it still ranks as one of the bottom ten countries for human development, with around 46 per cent of the population living under the poverty line. The Mozambican Government acknowledges the need for renewed focus on, and expansion of, the Social Protection System so that it may move towards a more inclusive and sustainable growth model.

For this reason, the Government has carried out significant legislative and institutional reforms to set up a National Social Protection Floor. Such advancements were reinforced by substantial growth in budget allocations to basic social protection programmes, which has allowed an increase in the number of households covered, as well as in the value of social transfers. Although there is an increasing trend of budget allocations to the social protection sector, there is still a great effort needed to increase them from 0.6 per cent of the GDP in the 2018 State Budget, to 2.24 per cent of the expected GDP by 2024 (ENSSB 2016-2024).

Advocacy activities have been playing a central role in the evolution of the national social protection system by ensuring an adequate level of political commitment and social support for social protection. Since 2012, the ILO has been supporting the organization and institutionalization of the Social Protection Week. Led by the Government, it is a coordinated effort to increase the importance

of social protection policies and interventions, and to enhance the debate around challenges and constraints in the progressive consolidation of a Mozambican Social Protection Floor.

Based on interviews¹ with the Government, United Nations agencies, development partners and civil society, this document reports on the evolution of the Mozambican Social Protection Week between 2012 and 2019. It starts by presenting the concept of the Week and its implementation, and follows on with a description of its evolution. It then highlights the main results achieved, reflects on the lessons learnt and concludes with an analysis of the challenges faced and recommendations for improving the Week in the future. Its aim is that the knowledge gathered during this experience of advocating for the implementation of a Social Protection Floor in Mozambique may inform national players on how to maximise the results of this type of intervention, as well as any other countries in the same region or elsewhere in the world, engaged in similar processes.

¹ The methodology used in this study was the qualitative analysis of information gathered from the review of literature and from interviews conducted in May 2019 with United Nations' officials (ILO and UNICEF), representatives of the Mozambican Government (MGCAS and INAS), civil society (Plataforma da Sociedade Civil Moçambicana para a Protecção Social - Platform of the Mozambican Civil Society for Social Protection, Humanity and Inclusion, and Instituto para a Democracia Multipartidária - Institute for Multi-party Democracy), donors (Embassy of the Netherlands, Ireland, Sweden, European Union), and the newspaper *Jornal Magazine Independente*.

Social Protection Week

What is Social Protection Week?

The Social Protection Week is an annual national event coordinated by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) that aims to advocate for, and promote actions in, the area of basic social protection for the poorest and most vulnerable populations, as well as raising awareness in Mozambican society about its involvement, through assistance, solidarity and social responsibility actions.

It's specific objectives are:

- to promote the basic social protection actions performed in the Country;
- to encourage public debates on the role of social protection as an important tool to fight poverty, by providing social assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable populations;
- to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices concerning the implementation of social protection programmes.

It is an intervention established in the Communication and Advocacy Strategy for Basic Social Security 2018-2024², considered as essential for the promotion of social protection and a unique opportunity to capitalise on the sector's communication and advocacy efforts, since it covers most of its stakeholders. The main partners involved in the organization of the Social Protection Week since 2012, jointly with MGCAS, have been the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Mozambican Civil Society Platform for Social Protection (PSCM-PS). Since its inception, the event has received financial support from the UN (UNICEF and WFP), development partners (European Union, DFID, Irish Aid, USAID, Sweden and the Netherlands) and the World Bank.

The Social Protection Week currently has five components and each of them includes a set of activities for specific target audiences (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Components of Social Protection Week

Components	Public debate and sharing of best practices	Influence on decision making	Provision of information	Provision of Basic Social Services	Raising awareness
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Conference on Basic Social Protection • Thematic panels • Launch of key documents and studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentarian visits to programme beneficiaries • Training for political parties • Presentation of the Social Protection Budget Brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for journalists and journalism competition • Interviews given to television, radio and written press 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Action Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of audio-visual materials • Sports activities
Target audience	Employees from MGCAS/INAS, MISAU and MINEDH; NGOs; United Nations agencies; donors and universities	Political and financial decision makers (Parliamentarians, Ministry of Economy and Finance, political parties); donors and development partners	Journalists and media	Citizens (beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of Basic Social Protection Programmes)	General public

Source: Based on interviews.

a) Public debate and best practice sharing

National Conference on Basic Social Protection

The national conference is held biennially and is chaired by the highest level of the MGCAS. Its aim is to discuss the main strategic issues of the sector: implementation of social protection policies and strategy in the field, intersectoral coordination, efficiency, constraints and opportunities, as well as to give a voice to the individuals responsible for social protection programmes in the field. In addition to the prime minister, ministries acting jointly with MGCAS in implementing ENSSB 2016-24 are invited, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Human Development, the Ministry of Economy and Finance (ministers, vice-ministers and permanent secretaries), Parliamentarians, civil society organizations, MGCAS Provincial Directorates, Delegations of the National Social Action Institute (INAS), donors and other development partners. Given the national scope of the conference, MGCAS provincial directors and INAS delegates from all provinces travel to Mozambique's capital city (so far, all three National Conferences on Basic Social Protection – 2014, 2016 and 2018 – were organized in Maputo). The average number of participants has been around 300 people.

Media coverage is carried out by the general press, mainly by the group of journalists benefiting from the training provided by ILO and PSCM-PS, since 2016, which is described in more detail below. The conference is concluded with a Declaration which summarises the discussions and sets out practical recommendations and commitments, on which the sector must follow up and achieve results over the following two years. This means that each

Conference begins with the assessment of the level of fulfilment of the commitments undertaken in the previous Conference.

Thematic panels

Thematic panels take place in the years between the National Conferences on Basic Social Protection. They may be suggested by MGCAS, development partners or civil society. The thematic discussions are defined according to the national political debate on social protection at that moment. In 2019, for example, the Management Information System for basic social protection (e-INAS) was launched and there were also debates at the Eduardo Mondlane University: "Child-sensitive social protection" (with UNICEF support) and "Universal old-age pensions in Mozambique" (with ILO support).

Launch of key documents and studies

As this is the peak moment of the year in terms of debate, visibility and advocacy around social protection, the Social Protection Week has also been the ideal moment for the official launch of technical and programmatic documents produced by the Government or partners, providing a space for their debate. Some examples of documents launched during the Social Protection Week include: "Trade Unions' position paper on a Social Protection Floor in Mozambique"³ (2014), the study "Capitalising on United Nations Experience. The Development of a Social Protection Floor in Mozambique"⁴ (2015), the *National Basic Social Security Strategy 2016-2024*⁵ (2016) and the *Communication and Advocacy Strategy for the Basic Social Security Subsystem 2018 – 2024*⁶ (2018).



National Conference on Basic Social Protection, 2016.

3 http://www.saspen.org/conferences/mozambique2014/PT_PPT_OTM_SASPEN_FES_WORKSHOP_SOCIAL-PROTECTION-MOZAMBIQUE_SEP01-02-2014.pdf

4 <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowRessource.action?id=51137>

5 <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowRessource.action?id=54054>

6 https://www.ilo.org/africa/countries-covered/mozambique/WCMS_627187/lang--en/index.htm

b) Influence on decision-making

Social Protection Week comprises a set of activities aimed at engaging political and financial decision-makers to ensure a sustained budget allocation to the sector, allowing an effective implementation of ENSSB 2016-2024. To increase support for social protection reforms among policy makers, parliamentarians and political parties, it is important to expand their knowledge on social protection, share best practices, evidence and results from national basic social protection programmes, as well as to increase awareness of the importance of a growing and sustained investment in the Mozambican Social Protection Floor.

Presentation of the Social Protection Budget Brief

Since 2012, the ILO and UNICEF have supported the development of a Social Protection Budget Brief⁷. These briefs provide a succinct analysis of the sector's budget, so as to provide access to budgetary information and increase transparency of the existing public instruments used for budgeting and planning social policies. They feed the debate around fiscal space dedicated to social protection and the need for an additional effort to increase coverage. The budget briefs are launched every year during Social Protection Week. The event is attended by the MGCAS, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Parliamentarians, political parties, trade unions, journalists, United Nations agencies, donors and civil society organizations.

Parliamentarian visits to programme beneficiaries

During the Social Protection Week in 2016, the ILO, jointly with the PSCM-PS and MGCAS, organized a field visit for members of the Parliamentary Committee on Planning and Budget and the Committee on Social Affairs, Gender, Technology and Social Communication from the National Parliament, to the beneficiaries of the Basic Social Subsidy Programme (PSSB) on the outskirts of Maputo. In 2015, a visit was organized to beneficiaries living in Boane, a rural area of Maputo Province. The objective of these field visits was to expose Parliamentarians to the reality that should be taken into account during State budget approval. The field visits included MGCAS staff responsible for the management of Social Action Programmes, as well as INAS staff from local delegations.



Training and debate with Parliamentarians at the Social Protection Week in 2015.



Parliamentarians visiting programme beneficiaries on the outskirts of Maputo, 2016.



Training for political parties, Maputo, 2018.

Training for political parties

Since 2018, the ILO, PSCM-PS and IMD, have been providing social protection training to political parties, followed by a field visit to beneficiaries of basic social protection programmes. The aim is to foster debate among political parties and to promote the inclusion of social protection measures in electoral manifestos. In 2018, 30 members of 26 political parties received training and visited the beneficiaries of the Basic Social Subsidy Programme in the District of Marracuene. This activity precedes the Social Protection Week, in order to encourage wider participation of this audience throughout the Week's events.

⁷ Budget Report 2018: <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowResource.action?id=55394>

c) Provision of information

Capacity building for journalists and journalism competition

Every year since 2016, the ILO, in partnership with PSCM-PS, has provided training on social protection to 22 journalists (2 from each Province) from the written press, radio and television. The continued training and field visits have enabled journalists to improve awareness and knowledge about social protection, as well as giving them an insight into the reality of beneficiaries of the programmes implemented by the INAS. The ILO, in partnership with PSCM-PS, has also supported the participation of these journalists in all activities of Social Protection Week, ensuring extensive media coverage of the event, increasing its visibility in Mozambique, as well as the interest in social protection topics and the debate around the challenges faced by the sector.

In 2015, the first competition for journalism covering social protection was held. The contest, which takes place annually and is organized by the PSCM-PS in partnership with the ILO, aims to motivate the production of more and better quality news about social protection, to feed into debate in society, raise awareness and disseminate information

about rights, draw attention to unfairness and inequality, and also to keep society informed about social protection developments in the country. The competition awards the top three contestants for the best written, radio and television article on social protection. The selection of articles is carried out in two stages: the first one at province level and the second one at national level. The prizes can be an amount of money, international study visits linked to social protection or metal trophies. The Journalist Awards Gala ceremony takes place during the Social Protection Week.

Interviews given to television, radio and written press

During the Social Protection Week, the directors of MGCAS and INAS, representatives of United Nations agencies, civil society and development partners give interviews on the topics covered throughout the Week to television programmes (such as TVM's "Bom dia Moçambique"), radio and written press. The aim is to broaden the debates taking place during the week to a wider and more diverse audience across the whole country.



Journalist Awards Gala, Maputo, 2018.

d) Provision of Basic Social Services

Social Action Fair

Organized by the MGCAS, the Social Action Fair aspires to bring basic social services closer to beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of basic social security programmes who are living in areas with the highest poverty levels and that are excluded from basic social services due to their remote and isolated locations and lack of financial resources. During one day, everyone can have access to information and services provided by the MGCAS, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Human Development, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional and Religious Affairs (National Civil Registry and Notary Public Office and Judicial and Legal Assistance

Institute) and the Ministry of Finance. It involves civil society organizations and can involve the private sector, as long as their services fit the concept of the Fair and are offered for free.

The Social Action Fair started in 2016, following a suggestion from the ILO and the PSCM-PS to MGCAS. At the time of this report, Social Action Fairs have taken place in seven of the eleven Provinces, five of them through Government initiative (Maputo, Inhambane, Zambezia, Niassa and Maputo city) and two of them through the initiative of partners (Humanity and Inclusion in Sofala and UNICEF in Nampula). As of yet, no complete Social Action Fairs have taken place in the Provinces of Cabo Delgado, Tete, Manica or Gaza.

Services available at the Social Action Fair

- MGCAS stand: provides information on social assistance programmes, gender and psychosocial support services, also registering new beneficiaries.
- Health stand: provides information on maternal and child health services, nutrition, HIV-AIDS, senior health, physical medicine and rehabilitation services, as well as psychiatry services. It offers blood pressure measurement, blood glucose control and disease testing.
- Justice stand: provides legal advice and guidance.
- Tax Authority stand: attributes Tax Identification Numbers (NUIT).
- Civil Identification stand: provides birth registration for children up to 3 months and Identity Cards (BI).
- Municipal Council stand: promotes the activities of the City Council for Health and Social Action and the City Council Decree for combatting begging.
- Central Office for the Prevention and Fight against Drugs stand: promotes the Law 3/97 concerning the fight against drugs and raises awareness about the harmful effects of drug use.
- Education stand: raises awareness about keeping girls in school and the essential role that education plays in the development of children, adolescents and the country.
- Civil Society and Religious Institutions stand: promotes the social support services provided by NGOs, associations, basic community organizations and religious institutions.



Social Action Fair, Maputo, 2016.

FILM



Launch of the film "Being Someone", 2016

SPORTS



"Cycling for fair and inclusive Social Protection", 2017.



"Beach football for social inclusion", 2018.



"Solidarity sports for Social Protection – wheelchair racing", 2019.

e) Raising awareness

Launch of audio-visual materials

The Social Protection Weeks in 2016 and 2017 included the launch of two documentary films about social protection, followed by debates with the participation of the government, parliamentarians, civil society, journalists, United Nations agencies, donors and the general public. Both films were produced with ILO support. The first film, entitled "Ser Pessoa" ("Being Someone") presents social protection in Mozambique from the point of view of beneficiaries and policy makers. It includes, among others, statements about issues related to the economic impact of social transfers, links with health and disability⁸. The second documentary, entitled "Por conta própria" ("On Your Own") addresses the extension of social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy in Mozambique⁹. In 2019, the event also included a photo exhibition about the ILO's work on social protection during its Centenary.

Sports activities

Sports activities were introduced as an attempt to make social protection more visible to Mozambican society and to enable citizens to participate in Social Protection Week, by demonstrating their solidarity with the social protection cause. A cycling tour and a Beach Football Tournament have already been held. The 2019 edition included: a marathon, a football tournament for children, a cycling tour, wheelchair racing and aerobic gymnastics session. The initiative aimed to collect non-perishable goods to support the victims of cyclones that had affected the country. Events were widely promoted, a registration process was put into place and citizens could participate in the sports activities that were organized. The event typically ended in an institution providing social protection services, such as an orphanage, with a speech explaining what the Social Protection Week involves. Up until now, these actions have taken place in Maputo, but the aim is that they should also be extended to the country's Provinces.

⁸ Watch the film at: <https://youtu.be/AaM54FbnUjA>

⁹ Watch the film at: https://youtu.be/xl_3l_GM08k

How is Social Protection Week planned?

The MGCAS leads the planning process for the Social Protection Week. It is a participatory process involving the INAS, civil society, United Nations agencies, development partners and different levels of MGCAS and INAS representation. Planning takes place in three stages, as shown in Figure 2.

The first stage is the design stage, in which the MGCAS convenes a meeting with the organizing working group, usually comprising the Government, the PSCM-PS and the ILO, but which may also include other partners of the Social Action Working Group (SAWG) (i.e. UNICEF and Humanity and Inclusion). Thereafter, the MGCAS's National Directorate for Social Action drafts the terms of reference for the Week, submitting them to the MGCAS's Technical and Advisory Council for approval.

The second stage is the planning stage. Once the terms of reference have been approved, the MGCAS develops a programme proposal for the Week including activities covering the Ministry's interests and submits it to the SAWG. Each partner can suggest activities, financially support activities that are already proposed or implement activities autonomously. This stage also includes the mobilization of resources to implement the Week's activities proposed by MGCAS, on the basis of budgets prepared by

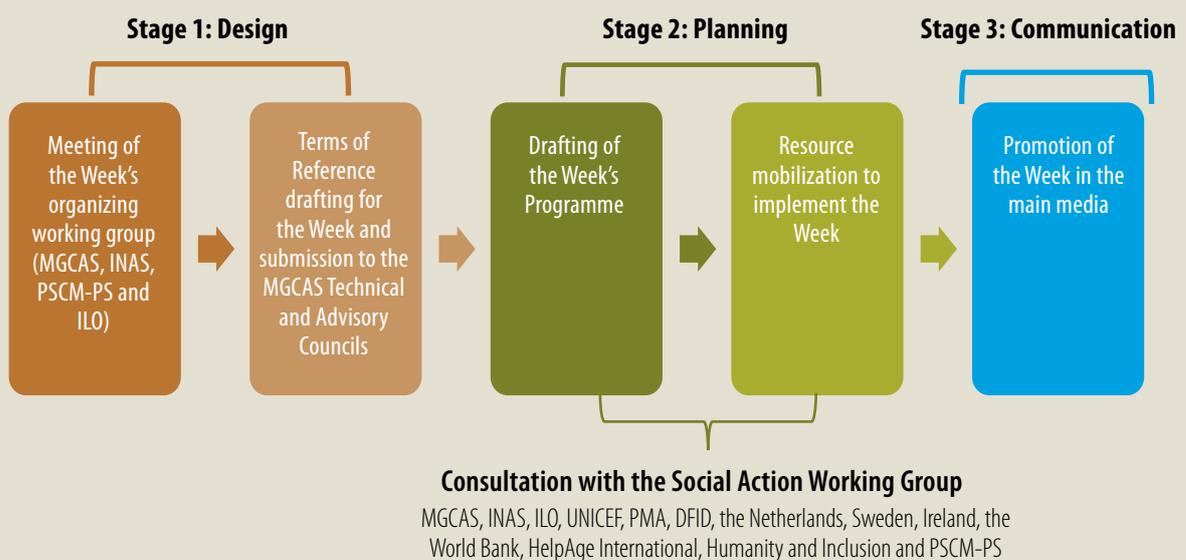
the Ministry itself. After receiving feedback from partners, the MGCAS structures the programme so that the main events do not coincide.

The third stage is the communication stage. Once the programme is consolidated, media communication concerning the Week begins, with national coverage including: a TV advertisement¹⁰, aired on prime time before and throughout the Social Protection Week; production and broadcasting of radio advertisements; publishing the Week's programme in printed newspapers and producing visual materials for all of the event's activities, such as banners. This stage involves MGCAS and INAS representatives at central, provincial and district levels.

How is it implemented?

The implementation of Social Protection Week is coordinated by MGCAS and involves civil society and development partners (mainly PSCM-PS and ILO), other Government sectors (Ministries of Health, Education and Human Development, Justice, etc.) and different levels of MGCAS and INAS representation (central, provincial and district). The MGCAS coordinates all of the Week's activities, including those which are implemented autonomously by partners.

Figure 2. Planning Stages of the Social Protection Week



Source: Based on interviews

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUSJHBnWYFU>

The National Conferences on Basic Social Protection are also implemented by MGCAS with the support of partners. Implementation requires the organization of sessions and logistical arrangements to ensure the participation of guests from all of the country's Provinces.

The majority of Social Action Fairs (2016, 2017 and 2018) were implemented directly by MGCAS, with the support of the ILO and PSCM-PS. In an attempt to create a dynamic of local ownership, to ensure the continuity of the initiative without dependence on external resources, the MGCAS involved the local government and the Provincial Directorates of Gender, Children and Social Action in the execution of the Fairs. Some Fairs have also been organized directly by partners, in coordination with MGCAS (e.g. Humanity and Inclusion in Sofala and UNICEF in Nampula, in 2017), which, on the one hand, contributed to increasing the coverage of the services provided, but on the other, may have compromised results regarding local government ownership.

The implementation of a Fair includes the following actions: contacting all Ministries concerned, mobilizing and ensuring teams from the Ministries responsible for providing services in the field can travel, hiring tent assembly services, renting generators for areas with no electricity, preparing the opening ceremony and promoting the event to the target audience involving the media.

COMMUNICATION



A roller banner for Social Protection Week 2019.



A Social Protection Week banner, 2019.

How is it funded?

Funding is mostly external. The ILO, UNICEF, PSCM-PS, the European Union and the World Bank are the main funders. The Embassies of Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the DFID participate by funding United Nations agencies or the PSCM-PS.

Some partners prefer to transfer their resources to MGCAS, which takes responsibility for implementation and accountability. Others directly hire services needed for the Week. Because the Social Action Fairs take place in the Provinces, the budget received by MGCAS is decentralised to the Provincial Directorates for Gender, Children and

Social Action, which in turn accounts for the budget after the event. Activities proposed by the partners are funded directly by their proposers.

The total cost of the Week's implementation varies from year to year according to the volume of activities performed. For example, in 2017 there were 3 Social Action Fairs, the African Platform for Social Protection Conference, a round Table on Basic Social Protection, a cycling tour and media coverage, all amounting to 4,659,959.28 MT (74,896 US\$). The activities were funded by the following partners: ILO, World Bank, UNICEF and PSCM-PS.

The evolution of the Social Protection Week (2012-2019)

The Social Protection Week was implemented for the first time in 2012. However, the concept has evolved from then, new approaches have been introduced and its target audience and geographic coverage expanded. Activities have been introduced, tested and institutionalized throughout the years in such a way as to always maintain an innovative character. During the period under analysis, the Week took place every year and followed the development of the social protection sector regarding legal and policy framework, as shown in Figure 3 below. The years that stood out most for the interviewees were 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

2012: The International Conference on Basic Social Protection

The first Social Protection Week took place in the context of the Council of Ministers having approved the new programme package within the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy for Basic Social Security (2010-2014) and MGCAS developing the operational system for the new basic social security programmes. Simultaneously, MGCAS and some partners (ILO, UNICEF, World Bank and IMF) made great efforts to raise awareness among Government leaders of the need to increase budget allocations to social protection programmes.

In spite of the advances within the legal and policy framework for social protection, at the time there was a consensus among the sector stakeholders that the topic of social protection was still unknown or little understood by the general population and by some areas of the Government itself. Basic social security policies and programmes were associated with charitable actions, which did not promote the abilities of the most vulnerable people. The social protection sector was still seen by other sectors of the Government as a mere consumer of State resources and not as an investment in Mozambique's social and

economic development. The social transfers of social protection programmes were seen by beneficiaries as a Government favour, not as a right.

In this context, a decision was taken to organize an International Conference which could serve as a knowledge-sharing platform to provide Mozambique with good practices and implementation mechanisms for basic social protection programmes, and which could represent the main advocacy instrument for the sector throughout the year. With the technical and financial support of the United Nations system (ILO, UNICEF and WFP), development partners (European Union, Sweden, DFID, the Netherlands and Ireland) and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the first Social Protection Week was held in Maputo from the 18th-22nd June. The International Conference on Basic Social Protection, which lasted two days, was the Week's main event and brought African and world social protection specialists to Maputo.

MGCAS then decided to institutionalize the Social Protection Week as the sector's main advocacy moment of the year, defining the official slogan as: "Investing in social protection is an investment in human capital". It takes place every year around the

Figure 3. Timeline of the development of the Social Protection Week

LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS	Creation and approval of the new programmes in ENSSB's implementation framework	Development of the operational system of the new basic social security programmes	Increased budget allocations, expansion of INAS' programmes and creation of the Coordinating Council of the Basic Social Security Subsystem (CCSSB)	»»
ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES	2011	2012 1st Social Protection Week International Conference on Basic Social Protection	2013 2nd Social Protection Week Presentation and debate on the Social Protection Budget Brief	

Source: Based on interviews.



Health Services,
Social Action Fair,
2016.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17th October). However, the institutionalization process was not simple, according to one interviewee: *“The first challenge was to make the Ministry’s team understand the concept of Social Protection Week and its reach. The benefits of moving actions, which could occupy the whole year, into a single week. It changed our way of thinking about and doing advocacy work”.*

2014: The 1st National Conference on Basic Social Protection

The 1st National Conference on Basic Social Protection gathered around 280 people and analyzed themes such as the contribution of basic social security to promote social justice in Mozambique and the preliminary evaluation of the National Strategy for Basic Social Security 2010-2014. The National Campaign on Preventing and Fighting against Premature Marriage was also launched.

2015: The Debate on Basic Social Subsidy for Children between 0-2 years old

In 2015, one of the main activities of the Week was a debate on the importance of children’s social protection that included the proposal of a Basic Social Subsidy for children between 0-2 years old and its possible integration in the basic social protection package that would be implemented under the ENSSB 2016-2024. The goal was to create knowledge about the impact of early childhood programmes in reducing chronic malnutrition and promoting access to health and education services. UNICEF presented the cases of South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Malawi. The debate was preceded by a video about social protection for children¹¹, made by ILO in partnership with UNICEF and PSCM-PS. Around 46 people participated in the debate, including members of the MGCAS Advisory Board, MGCAS and INAS technicians, staff from the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Labour, Employment and Social Security, Health, as well as staff from the Bank of Mozambique, Academics, Embassy Officials and Officials of United Nations agencies, International Cooperation and NGOs.

Evaluation of the ENSSB, development of a Management and Information System, and a Single Registry

»
2014

3rd Social Protection Week
1st National Conference on Basic Social Protection

Revision of the ENSSB, development of the operating system for the new basic social security programmes

2015

4th Social Protection Week
Debates on Basic Social Subsidy for Children (0-2 years) and
1st Journalism competition

Approval of the Basic Social Security National Strategy 2016-2024

2016 »

5th Social Protection Week
2nd National Conference on Basic Social Protection;
1st Social Action Fair and
1st Capacity building for journalists



MGCAS's Permanent Secretary at the African Platform for Social Protection Conference, 2017.

2016: Introduction of Social Action Fairs

The 1st Social Action Fair took place in 2016, in the District of Kamavota, a poor area on the outskirts of Maputo. This Fair gave around 1,000 participants the opportunity to access the following services free of charge: social assistance programmes, primary health care, counselling and legal advice, birth registration and civil identification, attribution of a tax identification number, among others provided by several State and civil society institutions. *“At the end of the day, when the stands began to close, and we saw the size of the queues waiting for services, we realized the great need for this type of action for the more vulnerable populations and we decided to open the stands the next day”. “A major milestone was reached when the Week started to include the beneficiaries in the Fair. Beforehand, it was an internal event, among the people working in the sector. Afterwards, it expanded the group of people involved in all of the Week’s events”,* reported the interviewees.

2017: Visit for heads of cooperation to beneficiaries of social protection programmes and African Platform for Social Protection Conference

During the 2017 Social Protection Week, the European Union organized a visit for heads of cooperation from 12 European Union Member States in Mozambique to the beneficiaries of Basic Social Security Programmes in Beira, followed by their participation in a Round Table on Basic Social Protection in Mozambique, which addressed ENSSB II’s implementation and the results of the year’s Budget Report. The Round Table was organized by MGCAS and ILO and was attended by Parliamentarians, United Nations agencies, journalists and civil society organizations. The initiative promoted the awareness of social protection for these donors.

That year the Week also included the Conference *“Rights based social protection in Africa: Opportunities, lessons and future implications”* and the annual meeting of the African Platform for Social Protection. The events were organized in partnership with *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung* and with financial support from the ILO. The Conference ended with the message that there is still a lot to be done regarding the provision of social protection services and that civil society organizations must have a key advocacy role ensuring that citizens are aware of their right to social protection.

11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaAvYiTH7_8&t=31s



Evaluation of the Communication and Advocacy Strategy for the Basic Social Security Subsystem 2014

2017

6th Social Protection Week
2nd Social Action Fair and Africa Platform for Social Protection Conference

Communication and Advocacy Strategy for the Basic Social Security Subsystem 2018-2024

2018

7th Social Protection Week
3rd National Conference on Basic Social Protection and
3rd Social Action Fair

Operationalization of the Management Information System for basic social protection (e-INAS)

2019

8th Social Protection Week
Launch of the e-INAS and
4th Social Action Fair



Achievements

Although not an impact assessment of the Social Protection Week, this study highlights the results credited by the interviewees to this advocacy intervention. When analysing these results, it must be considered that the Week reflects all of the activities performed by the sector's actors throughout the year. The positive achievements of the Social Protection Weeks within the 2012-2019 period have been identified on five levels in: the political sphere, inter-sectoral coordination and coordination with civil society, shaping public opinion, comprehensive support to beneficiaries and its multiplier effect.

Political sphere

Contribution to increasing the relevance of the social protection sector in the national agenda

The increase in budget allocations dedicated to the sector between 2010 and 2018 is evidence that there has been a change in the position of the sector in the national development agenda. As mentioned in the Social Action Budget Brief for 2018¹², allocations to basic social protection increased from 0.6 per cent of the State Budget in 2010 to 2 per cent in 2018 (see chart 1). This growth, even in a budgetary restriction period beginning with the 2016 economic crisis, allowed the number of households covered to increase (see chart 2) and also a continued increase in the value of the transfers. Despite such advances, the social action sector is worth 0.6 per cent of expected GDP in the 2018 Budget, which is still far from meeting the ENSSB goal for 2024 (2.24 per cent of GDP).

The involvement of Parliamentarians and the Ministry of Economy and Finance in advocacy activities has been mentioned by most interviewees as being essential to secure political support for social protection, ensuring that the Budget Law is approved with adequate allocations for social protection programmes. This may be verified in the following reports: *"The Parliamentary Committee on Planning and Budget has adopted civil society's position reflected in the annual Social Action Budget Brief and has started to advocate for this issue. We assume that this is a result of our advocacy efforts with Parliamentarians". "In the last four years, we have seen that the increase in the budget for social protection has received a clear recommendation from Parliamentarians and the Government had to expand it. I feel that some Parliamentarians have a greater perception of what social protection is." "Although we are far from the ideal financing proportions, if we look at how we have evolved on budgetary terms so far, we feel that the sensitivity our decision-makers have*

developed partly results from the advocacy work we are undertaking, the greatest expression of which is the Week". "Those who are aware of the social action sector realize that even the President of the Republic speaks with increasing autonomy about the sector and the importance of investing further in human capital".

The change in the position of the social protection sector in the national agenda between 2012 and 2019 did not only occur in the financial sphere. This can be verified by the sector's presence in all of Mozambique's main programmatic documents. This result was highlighted as being the cumulation of all of the work developed throughout the years by the Government's partners in the sector, as well as the ILO's Social Protection Floor Initiative.

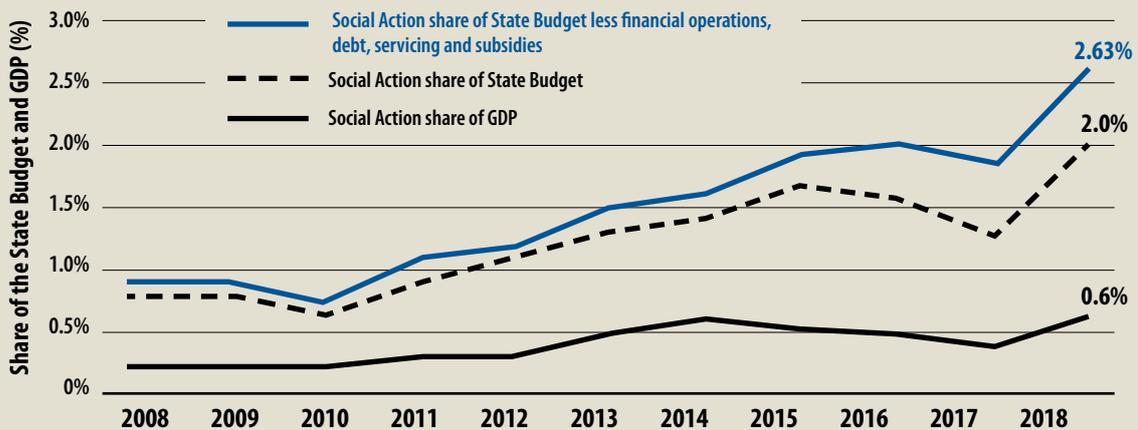
Contribution to qualifying the process of formulation and implementation of social protection policies and programmes in the country

The thematic debates that take place in the Week (inside and outside the National Conference) are acknowledged by MGCAS as having a great impact on producing knowledge that is useful to the sector's strategic discussions. As an example, one of the interviewees quoted the debate held between MGCAS and Mozambique's Central Bank in the 2018 National Conference on Basic Social Protection, about the payment mechanisms of social transfers: *"We are concerned about ensuring the way in which we make transfers is improved, in order to ensure greater reliability, safety and regularity, and we are beginning to reflect together on how we could use already existing methods of electronic payment. The Bank of Mozambique came away from the Week with the task of evaluating possible bank fee exemption/reduction mechanisms for the beneficiaries of social protection programmes. This debate will help make political decisions in the financial sector".*

According to the interviewees, the Week's debates influenced the revision of the ENSSB I, the drafting of the ENSSB II, as well as the inclusion of a

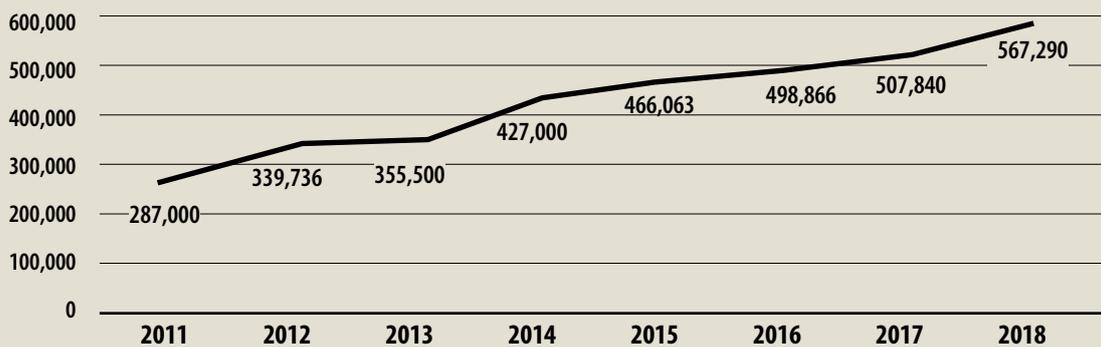
¹² <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowResource.action?id=55394>

Chart 1. Trends in the importance of the social action sector relative to total government spending and GDP



Source: ILO, UNICEF, 2018

Chart 2. Beneficiary households of INAS Social Protection Programmes



Source: ILO, UNICEF, 2018

communication component in the latter. “The type of dialogues we had in the Week’s first four years have contributed to an increase in the quality of policy making, for example regarding the outsourcing of payments, management and information systems, among others”, said an interviewee. They also allowed some of the topics in the sector’s agenda to be highlighted and treated more prominently by the Government, as in the case of adaptive social protection. One of the interviewees mentioned the creation of the Adaptive Social Protection Technical Group after the Week’s debates, which under MGCAS guidance follows this issue at a country level. Another one mentioned the improved implementation of pilot initiatives discussed in the latest editions of

the Week, such as the Information, Guidance and Social Follow-up Service (SIOAS) and the provision of walking aids to the beneficiaries of the Direct Social Support Programme. They recognised the Week as a space that can draw attention to topics in the sector’s agenda, such as social protection for persons with disabilities.

Another positive achievement mentioned is that the Declarations of the National Conferences on Basic Social Protection have been helping the Government and its partners to identify matters which should be looked at and prioritised in the sector. Table 1 below shows the recommendations made in the 2014, 2016 and 2018 Conferences.

Table 1. Recommendations in the Declarations of the National Conferences on Basic Social Protection

2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinforce the role of the family in protecting its members, especially those most vulnerable. 2. Adopt measures to prevent and eliminate violence against children, disabled people and the elderly, involving and raising awareness among community leaders, practitioners of traditional medicine and religious denominations. 3. Implement the actions of the Campaign to Prevent and Fight Against Premature Marriage on a national level (down to a city or village level) involving, among others, families, civil society organizations, religious institutions, community leaders, children. 4. Consolidate, harmonize and/or reinforce the implementation of laws, policies and programmes, in order to ensure protection of the rights of children, disabled people and the elderly, as well as their participation in matters which concern them, down to the grass roots level. 5. Reinforce coordination mechanisms at all levels, within the scope of implementing policies, programmes and legislation for the most vulnerable groups. 6. Reinforce health programmes for children, disabled people and the elderly, including the creation of conditions for specialized medical care. 7. Pursue actions aimed at increasing the coverage of Basic Social Protection for the elderly, disabled people, orphan children and other vulnerable groups. 8. Reinforce civic education measures and information on the rights of the most vulnerable groups, at family, community and school levels. 9. Improve the identification and follow-up system for the beneficiaries of basic social protection programmes. 10. Expand physical and rehabilitation medicine services, as well as community-based care of people with disabilities. 11. Reinforce the capacity of Child Protection Community Committees and other community mechanisms of mutual aid and social support. 12. Reinforce investments in education, the use of information, communication and vocational training of vulnerable children and people with disabilities, as well as to re-orientate them towards the labour market. 13. Reinforce the measures for protecting children with disabilities on a family level, as well as to promote access to inclusive education at all levels and near communities. 14. Promote the use of sign language and Braille writing in teaching institutions, at all levels. 15. Integrate the nutritional education component in all actions performed for children. 16. Take measures to ensure accessibility conditions in public use buildings (both public and private). 17. Apply measures for the accountability of parents who abandon or fail to feed their children. 18. Pursue the process of drafting the Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, involving several sectors of society. 19. Continue the process of drafting the Proposal for a Plan to Aid the Victims of Land Mines and other remaining devices of war in the context of materializing the National Plan for Disability. 20. Conclude the Proposal for the National Plan for the Elderly.
2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proceed with the sustainable expansion of the basic social protection programmes, reinforcing the empowerment of vulnerable families. 2. Strengthen the coordination of the basic social security programmes implemented by the different Government sectors. 3. Conduct advocacy campaigns on the contribution of social protection to social development. 4. Disseminate the rights and instruments which protect the most vulnerable groups of the population in the national languages and in formats which are accessible to persons with disabilities. 5. Reinforce the institutional capacity of Child Protection Community Committees both in means and knowledge, in order to ensure their sustainability. 6. Conduct an impact assessment of the Minimum Standards for Child-Care Services. 7. Strengthen the capacity of staff in public institutions, civil society, especially on a district level, members of Community Committees for the Protection of Children and other actors, to implement the Minimum Standards for Child-Care Services.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Carry out awareness-raising actions for families and communities on enrolment and retention of children in school, especially children with disabilities and girls. 9. Strengthen the capacity of healthcare, social action and education staff in Sign Language. 10. Ensure the regular use of mobile brigades to provide medical care to children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, in social units. 11. Conduct research on issues related to basic social protection and health problems of the elderly, their integration in families and community. 12. Reinforce the dissemination of Decree n.º 53/2008, of 30th December, which approved the Regulation of Construction and Maintenance of Technical Accessibility Devices and apply the relevant measures to ensure the requirement for project approval, in compliance with the Regulation. 13. Carry out inspection actions, as well as actions to control the implementation of the technical devices established in Decree n.º 53/2008, of 30th December and correct irregularities in public buildings. 14. Evaluate the implementation of Decree n.º 53/2008, of 30th December, in order to adapt it to the current context. 15. Accelerate the adaptation of public buildings which do not ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. 16. Encourage public and private universities to conduct research on sign language and Braille spelling. 17. Take measures to ensure access to specialized healthcare for elderly people. 18. Reinforce the coordination between the various stakeholders inside the basic social security sub-system. 19. Strengthen social protection measures in response to climatic changes. 20. Pursue the labour-intensive public work activities aimed at strengthening the resilience of households regarding climate changes.
2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involve the Bank of Mozambique in the process of outsourcing the payment of cash transfers from social assistance programmes. 2. Reflect on the possibility of establishing social fees or the exemption of bank fees for the beneficiaries of social assistance programmes. 3. Raise the awareness of banks and financial institutions to the implementation of mechanisms and platforms allowing the financial inclusion of poor and vulnerable populations and facilitating the access of persons with disabilities to information and services. 4. Extend coverage of social assistance programmes and improve the mechanisms for monitoring their performance. 5. Strengthen the capacity of those in charge of implementing social assistance programmes, in order to ensure a more humane assistance to beneficiaries. 6. Implement measures to promote the autonomy of PASP beneficiaries. 7. Disseminate eligibility conditions and procedures to access the Basic Social Subsidy for Children and follow-up beneficiaries to ensure that it reduces the high levels of malnutrition in children. 8. Conduct a National Evaluation of the Implementation of the Minimum Standards for Child-Care Services. 9. Strengthen inter-institutional coordination, at different levels, in order to ensure the children have access to essential services and safe family reunification. 10. Intensify the dissemination of the Law regarding the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Elderly Persons through several media, contributing to law enforcement. 11. Approve the Regulations of Centres for Older People and Open Centres. 12. Continue to provide appropriate learning materials to students with disabilities. 13. Promote the training of teachers in Braille spelling and sign language, in order to better prepare teachers to serve students with disabilities. 14. Ensure that the education and/or training of teachers includes the components of Braille spelling and sign language.

Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Declaration of the National Conference on Basic Social Protection in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

Boosting the implementation rate of the sector and motivating human resources

The Social Protection Week is acknowledged by several interviewees as the peak moment of the year in terms of visibility and advocacy around social protection, situation analysis of the most important aspects within the sector and knowledge sharing. Because it is a week during which social protection is at the forefront of the political agenda, the media's agenda and the country's agenda, it gives visibility to the work of social protection institutions and ends up acting as a moment of accountability, creating pressure on the sector to perform.

It also plays a role in motivating INAS staff involved in the presentations made during the National Conferences, thematic debates and Social Action Fairs. *"The opportunity for INAS workers to meet different stakeholders in the debates and the population in general during the Fairs, contributes to the acknowledgement and empowerment of these workers at all levels"*, said one of the interviewees.

Contribution to a more active and permanent participation of donors in the sector

According to the interviewees, the participation of the Heads of Cooperation of the European Union Member States in the 2017 Social Protection Week contributed to increasing their awareness and knowledge regarding the sector's issues, as well as to the creation of a social protection donor group (called Troika) who regularly meet with the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Action concerning the main milestones and critical aspects for the sector's evolution.

Intersectoral coordination and coordination with civil society

Enabling greater engagement of other Government sectors with the social protection sector and favouring intersectoral coordination for the implementation of the National Strategy for Basic Social Protection (ENSSB II)

In MGCAS's view, the participation of the Ministries of Education and Health in the Social Protection Week's debates has contributed to a greater commitment on their part to the social protection sector and has led to concrete progress towards the implementation of ENSSB II's axis 2, regarding improvements in nutrition and access to health and education services. The presentation of the Inclusive Education Strategy, made by the Ministry of Education in the 2018 National Conference on Basic Social Protection,

was quoted as an example within the scope of School Social Welfare. The debate with MGCAS should feed the drafting of the National Plan of Action on Special Education, established in ENSSB II. Within the scope of Health Social Welfare, it was mentioned that the Ministry of Health institutionalized Waiting Houses for Pregnant Women, and during the Week's events it's expansion and quality improvement strategy for such houses was presented. *"We believe these initiatives are the result of the mobilization and awareness campaigns we conducted, mainly during the Social Protection Week"*, said one of the interviewees.

This result is shared by one of the development partners that was interviewed: *"The Week is one of the only moments in which intersectoral debates really take place. During the National Conference, we have been having sessions which bring education, health and other dimensions (such as gender) to the table, where we can study the current level of social protection in these sectors and propose recommendations"*. According to the same person, as a result, the multi-sector approach addressed during the Week has already been influencing the operational and financial plans of the participating sectors, which accommodate interventions to include social protection.

According to MGCAS, the participation of other Government sectors in Social Action Fairs has been creating a progressive ownership process regarding the services they provide in the Fairs and inspiring changes in the regular operation of their services. According to one of the interviewees, *"Once a dynamic is created, actions take place more easily. The National Civil Registry and Notary Public Office took the concept of the Fair and expanded it. They even increased the use of so-called mobile brigades for Birth Registration. From the Week's initiatives, they have gained their own momentum, they are working on their own and they are making great progress at a provincial level. To us, the closer services are to citizens, the more we approach our goal. We don't need to be there, but from one initiative we have been able to create progress in other sectors which are more focused on working in the field"*.

Strengthening dialogue and collaboration between Government and civil society

According to PSCM-PS, the dissemination of the results of the Independent community-based monitoring of INAS programmes, organized every year at Social Protection Week, has contributed to establishing a positive space for dialogue and cooperation with INAS. Several civil society recommendations put forward on these occasions have been accepted, such as the creation of new payment stations, the improvement of payment regularity and other changes in the practical work of INAS delegations. Other interviewees consider that the Week has contributed to reinforcing the participation of civil society, as well as its dialogue and collaboration with the Government within the scope of implementing social protection programmes.

Shaping public opinion

Influencing the shaping of public opinion

The involvement of journalists in capacity building activities, field visits to beneficiaries and the competition for journalistic coverage of social protection, which took place during the Week, has led to short-term results (press coverage of the Week), medium-term results (increased insertion of social protection in the media throughout the period covered by this study) and long-term results (creation of a permanent platform to exchange experiences concerning social protection among journalists). According to the 2018 PSCM-PS Report, the number of pieces of news on social protection published across all media between 2016 and 2018 increased by 73 per cent, from 48 news pieces in 2016 to 83 in 2018. For journalists, the results include greater knowledge, awareness and access to information about social protection, as well as the motivation to publish on this theme throughout the year.

The perception of greater inclusion and relevance of the social protection theme in Mozambican media is also mentioned by the interviewees: *“It is one of the gains that we believe is essential, because we are aware of the importance of the press in society’s education, helping not only to disseminate information but also to raise awareness. We have achieved a very privileged space in the media throughout the Week, bringing social protection to the public domain.”* *“In addition to creating a more informed audience, it produces material evidence that can support the arguments of political and financial decision-makers.”*

Helping to change society’s view on the role of social protection

The interviewees acknowledged that the advocacy activities based on the testimonies of beneficiaries and those oriented towards raising society’s awareness on the positive impact of social protection have contributed to changing the view of Mozambican society. According to the interviewees: *“In general, there is a positive perception that social protection has an impact, that social transfers contribute to ensuring that beneficiaries of INAS programmes can have the minimum conditions of human dignity. We believe that there has been a change in logic around the role of social protection, this has changed from being seen as an expense to being seen as an investment in human capital.”* *“Currently we talk about social protection as something that everybody knows about. People who associated social protection with philanthropy are beginning to understand that it is a human right. Today at INAS, we receive a lot more social work and sociology students wanting to undertake research than we did ten years ago.”* Documentaries were considered by most interviewees as a useful advocacy tool to increase awareness on the importance of expanding the Country’s social protection. *“The production of audio-visual materials to convey key messages about the sector has been highly innovative and has had a great impact, not only to create the sensitivity with which we should engage in the Week’s discussions, but also as a resource material which remains in use for the whole year”,* said one of the interviewees.

“I have participated in the Week since 2014 and I feel like I have evolved as a journalist. The first time I was involved in Social Protection Week, I had no idea what social protection was. I considered it to be a theme which did not deserve my attention as a journalist, but I feel I have evolved regarding these concepts. It has raised my awareness regarding social protection. First, we had a training stage where we updated our knowledge regarding policies being implemented in the sector, the sector’s gains and challenges and we also had contact with beneficiaries. Our offices often lack resources to fund jobs linked to social protection, because they entail travelling and accommodation. During Social Protection Week we are able to gather a lot of information, and equally, we have our sources. Access to information in Mozambique is still poor, and the Week has enabled us to talk with those responsible for social protection policies and programmes. This already provides us with the necessary basis to continue our work beyond Social Protection Week. The competition is very important, because we tend to do better work in order to receive recognition. It has motivated me to work further around the social protection agenda throughout the year.”



AIDA MATSINHE, of the newspaper Jornal Magazine Independente, awarded 2nd place in the 2018 competition.

Comprehensive support of beneficiaries

Allowing the most vulnerable populations to access essential services through Social Action Fairs

The Social Action Fair has been fully held in seven Provinces (Maputo, Inhambane, Zambezia, Niassa, Maputo city, Sofala and Nampula) and in total 17,038 consultations were made available covering the following services: Identity Cards, Birth Registrations, Single Tax Identification Numbers (NUIs), Legal advice, testing and medical consultations, school enrolment and social action services (See table 2).

According to the interviewees, the introduction of Social Action Fairs in Social Protection Week enabled it to expand its target-audience and geographic coverage. This is because it included beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of basic social security programmes from different Provinces, living in remote areas with a high level of poverty. In addition to facilitating access to a set of essential services at least once a year, these enable potential beneficiaries of social protection programmes to receive civil identification and register for the programmes, through direct contact with MGCAS and INAS. To one of the interviewees, *“Birth registration and an identification card turn a person into a citizen and give her/him access to all Government social services”*. Some interviewees explained that the Fairs allowed a new successful approach to comprehensive support of beneficiaries to be tested. Others highlighted the question of access: *“The Fairs enable an integrated*

provision of essential services to people who would otherwise have no access to, or take too long to gain access to, these services due to distance and costs”.

Another result mentioned is that the Fairs contribute to disseminating social protection information as a human right, enabling the most vulnerable people to receive information on social protection programmes and clarify their doubts. The INAS acknowledges the Fairs as a crucial dissemination moment of social action programmes for the general population and potential beneficiaries.

Multiplier effect

Having a multiplier effect within the country

The concept of Social Protection Week has been taken on by the central Government, as well as provincial Governments. According to MGCAS interviewees, on a central level the Week is already an established brand and no-one questions its existence. On a provincial level, they have observed a progressive appropriation of the Week's concept, with the introduction of Social Action Fairs, mainly in the Provinces where the Fair was held. As we can observe in table 2 above, five provinces held Fairs on their own initiative in 2018. *“I remember that last year we were closing the Social Protection Week programme when one of the Provinces said: we will also organize our own fair, we don't need support, we only need banners. As for the rest, the different sectors will implement this on their own initiative”*, mentioned one interviewee.

Table 2. Services provided in Social Action Fairs (2016-2018)

Provinces/Services	2016		2017			2018					Total**
	Maputo (Kamavota)	Maputo (Magde)	Zambezia (Quelimane)	Niassa (Lichinga)	Inhambane (Massingao e Guma)	Manica*	Tete*	Zambezia* (4 distritos)	Niassa* (Marrupa)	Cabo Delgado*	
Identity card	n/a	1,273	1,381	1,500	1,107	n/a	n/a	480	n/a	n/a	6,741
Birth registration	n/a	318	399	1,002	207	n/a	44	194	37	34	2,235
NUIT	n/a	1,220	555	544	156	n/a	18	2,010	n/a	n/a	4,503
Legal advice	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
Testing and medical consultations	n/a	877	n/a	436	325	n/a	n/a	1,453	271	n/a	3,362
School enrolment	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	62
DPGCAS and INAS	n/a	n/a	130	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	130
TOTAL	1,000	3,688	2,465	3,532	1,800	n/a	62	4,137	320	34	17,038

*Fairs held by local government initiative (without partner support).

** Does not take into account services rendered in the Fairs held in Sofala and Nampula - data not found

n/a: Data unavailable.

Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action. Report of the Activities developed within the scope of the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 Social Protection Weeks.

The analysis of the activity reports of the Social Protection Weeks in 2015 to 2018¹³ shows that in addition to the Fairs, the Provinces have been performing a great number of activities during the Week, such as lectures on social protection issues. Tables 3 and 4 show that although there was a reduction in the number of lectures between 2015 and 2018, there was an increase in the number of participants in these lectures overall. Other activities performed in the Provinces during the Week include launching social action programmes, exhibitions, training actions and visits.

Having a multiplier effect outside the country

Mozambique's Social Protection Week initiative has been replicated since 2016 in Malawi and in Zambia, with the ILO's support. One of the interviewees mentioned that *"Malawi and Zambia have been holding Social Protection Weeks on a yearly basis, but the initiative is aimed at organizing academic debates on the matter. In Mozambique we also open the debate to other stakeholders in society. A field like social protection needs political and popular support, so that common citizens know what we mean when we talk about protection."* Furthermore, the approach was adopted by Irish Aid: *"Irish Aid has adopted this approach for all its missions and at a regional programme level"*.

Table 3. Evolution of the number of lectures in the Social Protection Weeks in the Provinces

Province /Years	2015	2016	2018
Inhambane	n/a	1	32
City of Maputo	n/a	39	n/a
Maputo Prov.	6	2	n/a
Manica	30	16	7
Niassa	40	15	n/a
Nampula	54	n/a	11
Cabo Delgado	3	29	2
Gaza	7	14	24
Sofala	n/a	1	n/a
Zambezia	3	15	20
Tete	2	2	4
TOTAL	145	134	100

Table 4. Evolution of the number of participants in lectures during the Social Protection Weeks in the Provinces

Province /Years	2016	2018
Inhambane	11.543	6.026
City of Maputo	n/a	n/a
Maputo Prov.	33	n/a
Manica	700	1.700
Niassa	n/a	n/a
Nampula	n/a	7.688
Cabo Delgado	1.210	n/a
Gaza	391	n/a
Sofala	n/a	n/a
Zambezia	n/a	n/a
Tete	620	755
TOTAL	14.497	16.169

n/a: Data unavailable.

Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action. Report of the Activities developed within the scope of the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 Social Protection Weeks.

Tabela 5. Comparative table of key changes related to advocacy activities

2012	2019
Scant knowledge of social protection as a concept and basic social protection programmes by financial and political decision makers.	Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Planning and Budget and the Committee on Social Affairs, Gender, Technology and Social Communication from the National Parliament strongly defended the increase in the sector's budget during the approval of the State Budget Law.
Low State budget allocation to basic social protection programmes and low value of social transfers.	Increased budget allocations, which have resulted in the revision of the value of social transfers and the extension of the coverage of basic social protection programmes.
Social protection almost ignored by the national media. The few pieces of news published were negative.	83 news pieces published by the written press, radio and television, covering different aspects of social protection policies and programmes throughout the year.
The Coordinating Council of the Basic Social Security Subsystem was created but not operationalised.	The Ministry of Education presented the National Strategy of Inclusive Education; the Ministry of Health institutionalized the Waiting Houses for Pregnant Women and the Ministry of Justice created Mobile Brigades for Birth Registration.
Essential services provided separately and concentrated in Maputo city and provincial capitals.	Essential services provided during the Social Action Fair in the most remote and poorest areas of the Provinces, allowing beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of social protection programmes to save time and financial resources.
Social Protection Week limited to Maputo city.	The Social Protection Week had already been held in seven of the eleven Provinces of the country, in some of them due to local Government initiative.

Source: Elaborated by the author.

13 Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Challenges



Despite remarkable progress in advocacy for the consolidation of the Social Protection Floor, Mozambique still faces challenges related to Social Protection Week. The main challenges identified were in terms of: concept and funding, Government ownership, institutional capacity, planning, involvement of the sector's partners and annual evaluations.

According to some of the interviewees, the current focus of the Social Protection Week is limited to giving visibility to the social protection sector and does not exploit its full potential, namely regarding relevant knowledge development for the sector's stakeholders and its influence on programmatic documents and strategic changes in the sector.

Financial challenges mean that MGCAS is dependent on external funding for almost all of the implementation of the Social Protection Week. According to one of the main partners of the initiative: *"Our aim is to temporarily support this activity. It is increasingly being taken over by the Government, and ideally when they have their own budget, we will only be present as a guest. We will always organize events, but we will progressively abandon funding recurring activities"*. In addition to the risk of the action being discontinued due to unavailability of partner resources, it was also mentioned that external resources must only serve as a complement to a minimum format funded by the Government. In the case of the Social Action Fair, external and limited funding prevents a larger number of people living in poverty from benefiting from the services offered, such as the civil registration, which gives access to other essential services.

Regarding Government ownership, although all interviewees acknowledge Social Protection Week as an intervention of the Mozambican Government, it was mentioned by a large number of interviewees that there seemed to be reduced importance attributed by MGCAS to the event in the last two years (especially in the years in which there was no National Conference), due to the latter's scant pro-activity in proposing activities for the Week's programme aimed at influencing strategic and priority changes in the sector. The different stakeholders' perception of the Government's ownership was also influenced by MGCAS's ability to plan ahead and respect dates for events, as well as by the level of participation of Government authorities in the opening ceremonies

(the President of the Republic, the Minister of MGCAS). To one of the interviewees, this resulted in lower participation of civil society organizations and donors.

The Government's institutional capacity to plan and implement the Week was also indicated as a challenge. The absence of technical staff in MGCAS and INAS specializing in institutional communication, who are able to dedicate themselves full time to this type of event, leaves the responsibility for the Week's planning and implementation to professionals who also have other responsibilities, other strategic levels and who cannot easily dedicate the time required to coordinate the Week with the priority it deserves.

Challenges regarding planning include the late start and the change of the Social Protection Week dates each year, as well as the fact that the Fair is not held on the Week's opening day, as initially established. Another fact mentioned was the limited flexibility shown by the Government to allow partners to influence the event's agenda, including debates on key issues for the sector.

There is acknowledgement of the need to ensure greater involvement of the sector's partners in the Social Protection Week as a whole. According to an interviewee, currently the sector's partners are divided into three groups: the lead partners (ILO and PSCM-PS), who pro-actively propose activities, fund, lead meetings and promote the idea; partners willing to fund activities that have already been proposed (UNICEF and World Bank) and partners who attend the Week's activities. One of the development partners mentioned that the recent low participation of partners was due to the lack of coordination and timely information for events over the last two years, which reduced the impact of the intervention. To the interviewee, *"If there was more strategic discussion about the contents of the next Week within the scope of the Social Action Working Group, we would have different results in respect to participation. We would be discussing the concept and expected results of the Week linked to the most relevant issues."*

Another challenge mentioned as being permanent, is that of mobilizing and coordinating other Government sectors to implement joint actions within Social Protection Week (National Conference and Social Action Fair). *“We need persistence and awareness to convince others that the actions will be beneficial to everybody”*, claimed an interviewee. Within the scope of the Fairs, this entails better central coordination between the different ministries on the services provided and the modality to deliver such services in all Provinces (i.e. the registration of birth was free in some of the Provinces but paid for in others). Some of the interviewees also considered that the participation of other ministries such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Human Development in the Week’s events was not yet very significant.

There is a challenge in maintaining and expanding provincial involvement, increasing the number of participants in the Week at a national level. One difficulty raised by MGCAS concerns local Government ownership regarding the Social Action Fairs when they are held directly by development

partners. *“We need to remember that when the flame is lit by the Government, it is very easy for it to remain alight, but that when it is lit by partners, it remains as something external, the local Government does not take it on. We need to return to Sofala and Nampula, because the coordinating process did not take place in the best way. We were unable to pass it on to the local Government”*.

The lack of scientific evidence of the impact of Mozambican social protection programmes on beneficiaries and on the Country as a whole (based on impact evaluation studies) was mentioned as an obstacle to increasing the positive outcomes of the advocacy actions with the target-audiences.

As for the annual evaluation of the Social Protection Week, analysis of the Weeks’ reports written by MGCAS from 2015 to 2018 demonstrate progress in the recording of performed activities (i.e. systematic writing of reports from 2015 and improvement in the quality of provided information), but such recording still fails to be performed in a coordinated way with different partners. No reports were found for the years 2012 to 2014.

Success factors

The positive results from the experiences around the Mozambican Social Protection Week are mainly attributed to three factors: those linked to its design, to the Government and to the relationship between the Government, development partners and civil society.



The main highlighted success factors linked to the Week's design were the annual introduction of innovative elements, its continuity (i.e. the Government's capacity together with partners to implement it recurrently every year) and the involvement of different actors, such as journalists and Parliamentarians, considered to be key elements in shaping public opinion and in Parliament's decision-making. *"... the most important thing is that every year there was a Social Protection Week, which has grown over the years. We can look back and say that a Week was held each year, as well as three National Conferences, three Social Action Fairs and in particular that there was always a group of partners trying to innovate in relation to the previous years"*, mentioned one of the interviewees.

Another fact emphasized was the use of the Week's space to test solutions to problems identified in the sector, so that the successful solutions could be progressively integrated by the Government in programmes, policies and the social protection system (i.e. Social Action Fairs which proved to be a successful solution). The following innovations were also considered: the inclusion of the service provision component in the Week, the ability to expand geographic coverage involving a significant number of Provinces, the variety of approaches used, the successful organization of parallel events in the Week (such as the African Platform for Social Protection Conference) and the involvement of different stakeholders in the sector from the Week's design to planning.

Regarding the Government, MGCAS's capacity to coordinate and ensure the participation of other sectors in the Week (such as health, education, economy and finance), as well as to attract and coordinate civil society and development partners initiatives within the Week, was also highlighted.

The use of existing and consolidated spaces of coordination between the Government (MGCAS and INAS), UN Agencies, development partners and civil society, such as the Social Action Working Group, was essential to enable regular dialogue and the harmonization of different interests and priorities, allowing the planning and execution of the Social Protection Week to be a participatory process. *"Transparency among the donors was very positive. It was very easy to ensure that there was no duplication of funding, that messages and priorities were adjusted and the fact that the Government called periodic meetings helped with coordination among us"*, says an interviewee.

Civil society's growing participation as a strategic government partner in planning and executing the Week shows that these actors have taken ownership of the initiative and this was also considered a success factor. For this element, interviewees mentioned the increase in the number of activities autonomously organized by civil society in the districts and provincial capitals during the Week, enabling proposals to be discussed in local forums and conveyed by the media, thus achieving other levels of decision making.

Lessons learnt

A number of lessons were learnt from the rich experience of stakeholders in the development of the Social Protection Weeks 2012-2019 in Mozambique. These lessons may be useful for other developing countries interested in implementing similar interventions.

Concerning the design process

- i. The Social Protection Week can serve as an effective platform to share national and international good practices that respond to specific challenges faced by the sector in the country, both regarding the design and implementation of social protection programmes.
- ii. Engaging with political and financial policy makers, such as Parliamentarians, is key to ensure political support for social protection, with the objective of State Budget Law approval with adequate allocations for social protection programmes.
- iii. The decentralization of this kind of intervention is necessary, but organizers must ensure that content quality is maintained.

Concerning Government ownership

- iv. The political will and strong commitment of the social protection political institutions to the intervention is essential. The leadership role assumed by the Government in the planning and implementation of the Social Protection Week is a condition to ensure the success and continuity of the initiative. Even receiving strong external support, the Government must have the ability to undertake the responsibility for the intervention and ensure its implementation.
- v. The level of Government ownership regarding the Week determines the level of interest and participation of development partners and civil society in the design, implementation and financing of the intervention.

Concerning the coordination between the Government, development partners and civil society

- vi. Consolidated coordination between the Government, development partners and civil society is a key element to ensure the success of advocacy interventions such as the Week. We may use already existing coordination spaces to create synergy among all stakeholders towards the common goal: advocating for social protection.
- vii. The presence of civil society in the planning process, implementation and funding of Social Protection Week is essential.

Concerning the planning process

- viii. Organizing such an event requires at least 6 months for planning, due to logistical aspects and the number of partners involved. The date of the event should be fixed and defined taking into account previously known national events.

Concerning Social Action Fairs

- ix. It is possible to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable populations by providing several essential services simultaneously. Organizing Social Action Fairs requires central coordination between the different ministries involved, to ensure harmonization of the services provided and the modality of delivery of these services across all Provinces.

Concerning the Week's follow-up

- x. The achieved results, challenges and recommendations of each Week should be efficiently recorded each year in an annual report, to be disseminated among the partners.

Recommendations

The main recommendations for improving Social Protection Week involve its evolution, planning, funding and follow-up.

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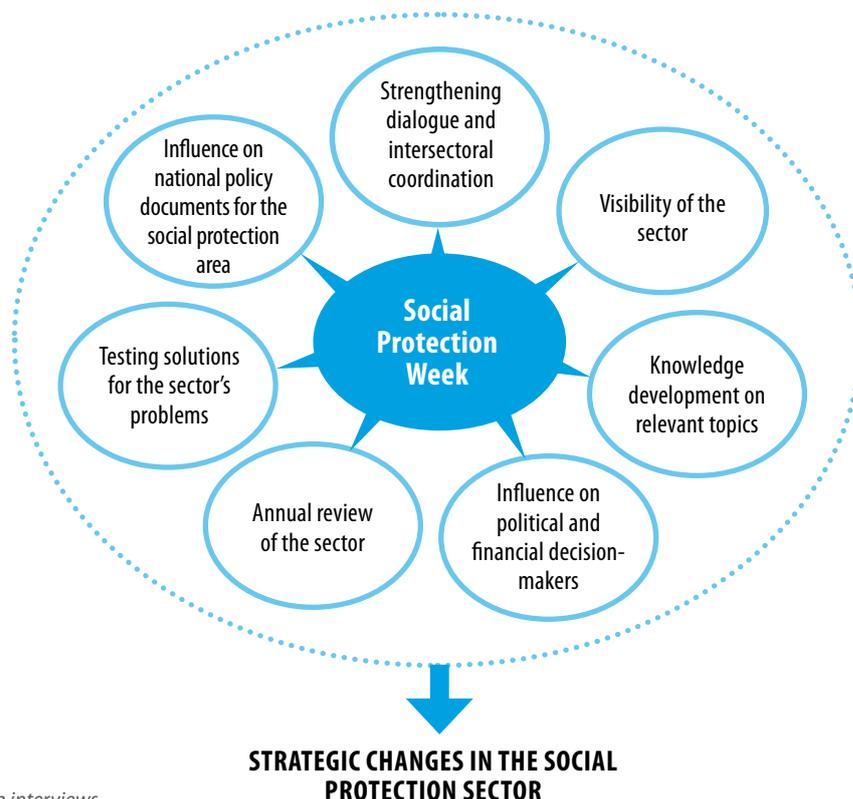


Evolution of the Week

Most of the interviewed partners agreed that after seven years' experience, it was now time to raise Social Protection Week to a higher level with the aim of influencing strategic changes in the sector. The following are included in the main recommendations:

- Improve the design stage of the Week by restructuring goals, target-audience, expected results and event format, according to the intended strategic changes. The MGCAS should present to the Social Action Working Group's members its position regarding the relevance of the Week in the coming years, reaffirming its added value for all participants.
- Focus on knowledge development in order to increase the knowledge background of all stakeholders on relevant issues in the sector. This could include for example, successful international experiences, Census and IOF analysis.
- Evolve from a platform for exchanging good practices to a space for strategic discussion, in which the Government undertakes commitments regarding the position of social protection in the national agenda.
- Use the Week's space to strengthen intersectoral coordination, aiming to implement different ENSSB II components in a harmonized way. Enhance the links between the basic social protection programmes and the provision of essential services.
- Explore the potential to transform the successful experience of the Social Action Fairs into a permanent component of the programme, implemented on a national scale. The Government should consider the potential of social protection sector to coordinate the provision of different essential services, for example at the time of payment of social transfers.
- Use the Week for the annual planning and review of the sector and the mid-term review of ENSSB, influencing national policy documents for the social protection area.

Figure 4: The Potential of Social Protection Week



Source: Based on interviews

- Re-engage the Heads of Cooperation in the Week's activities, as strategic participants who may contribute to strengthening MGCAS's image inside and outside of the Government.
- Use the Week to create new alliances with key actors for the social protection sector, such as IMF and the private sector.

According to the interviewees, the Week still has great potential to be explored, as shown in figure 4.

Planning

- Involve the Social Action Working Group in the Week's design stage, in order to enable a consensual understanding of the relevance and coverage of activities as well as greater involvement and commitment from Government partners to the intervention from the beginning.
- Perform timely planning (at least 6 months before the event) and establish fixed dates to give an identity to the event and increase attendance. Consider the best moment to influence decisions, i.e. before the planning cycle of other Government sectors for the following year.
- Ensure that all Weeks are attended by the highest level of the MGCAS and, if possible, by the President of the Republic. This is to make sure that every Week is represented by a figure of authority who can publicly commit to the social protection sector's agenda.
- MGCAS should find a balance between the funding of activities it proposes and the space offered to partners to include activities in the event agenda.
- Involve other partners and donors in planning and financing the Week, in addition to the usual donors. This would entail involving the education and health sectors in such processes.
- MGCAS should ensure coordinated planning and communication among the several partners promoting the activities in the event. It should draw up a Social Protection Week guide, define its structure and the competences of each actor in the Week's planning, implementation and follow-up.

Funding

- MGCAS should define internal strategies and establish a medium and long-term vision to create a budgetary line for the Social Protection Week. That line should ensure at the least a minimum execution of the Week (National Conference and Social Action Fair) which could be complemented by external resources.
- Define the Week's format (type of event, duration and geographic coverage) based on a cost-benefit analysis of the activities. Ensure greater representation of the Provinces in the Week in Maputo or consider taking it in full to different Provinces.
- Increase accountability and participation of other Government sectors in planning, implementing and funding the services provided during the Social Action Fairs, such as civil identification and health. Mobilize the institutional and financial capacity of the Provincial Directorates of Gender, Children and Social Action to organize the Fairs with more autonomy.
- Acknowledge and give more visibility to the support received from development partners for the Week. This transparency will bring greater accountability and greater partner participation.

Follow-up

- Perform a systematic and structured follow-up of the technical recommendations made during the Social Protection Week, through the National Conferences or the thematic panels (questions, decisions and key-conclusions), acknowledged as issues deserving analysis and to be included in the sector's agenda.
- Organize meetings post-Week in order to reflect on the achieved results and challenges, as well as to restructure the key-recommendations, clearly identify them and channel them to the appropriate actors for follow-up. Such recommendations should be discussed in the Social Action Working Group and influence the choice of the following Week's themes.
- Produce policy briefs throughout the year, on the Week's technical recommendations, providing information on the current situation regarding each specific theme.
- Ensure an annual report about the Week is drafted in a timely manner, consolidating the technical recommendations and the main outcomes, based on an assessment methodology.



Other recommendations

- **National Conference on Basic Social Protection:** a) Give participants the option to participate in a field visit to beneficiaries of social protection programmes to capitalize on the Conference's theme and allow a greater engagement in discussions. b) Produce and share with Government partners the final version of the National Conference Declarations by the end of the Conference. c) Include the voice of social protection programme beneficiaries and INAS local intermediaries (known in Mozambique as "Permanentes") in the debates.
- **Social Action Fairs:** a) Define minimum standards so that Social Action Fairs may take place in all Provinces, every year. Determine criteria for the selection of locations in which the event will take place. Improve central coordination between the different ministries involved, to ensure a harmonization of the services provided and the modality to deliver these services across all Provinces. b) Improve and expand event promotion, conveying adequate and timely information to the target-audience on the necessary documents needed to benefit from the services offered. c) The Provincial Directorates of Gender, Children and Social Action should undertake the leadership and logistic organization of the Fairs in their Provinces.
- **Government institutional capacity to implement the Week:** Government institutions at central level involved in the Week organization should have strong institutional communication units, with MGCAS and INAS professionals specifically dedicated to planning, executing and following Week recommendations. They would also be responsible for registering activities, results and lessons learnt, creating an institutional memory space.
- **Civil society participation:** PSCM-PS should expand and diversify its contribution to the Week through the Independent community-based monitoring of INAS programmes panel. It should include best practices on innovative approaches and lessons learnt from its experience at local level, bringing the concerns of the organizations it represents to the attention of Government institutions at central level.
- **Awareness and visibility actions:** a) Produce scientific evidence of the positive effects of Mozambican social protection programmes on beneficiaries and on the Country as a whole (based on impact evaluation studies). b) Identify key personalities in Mozambican society who can act as social protection ambassadors.
- **Capacity building for journalists:** Ensure the presence of MGCAS's national directors or assistant directors, as well as Parliamentarians in journalist training activities, so that they may answer questions that go beyond the competences of INAS technical staff.

List of interviewees

MGCAS	Graciano Langa	<i>National Social Action Assistant Director</i>
	Félix Matusse	<i>Head of the Department of Social Welfare Policy</i>
INAS	Higino de Araújo	<i>Head of the Central Monitoring and Evaluation Office</i>
ILO	Rubén Vicente Andrés	<i>Social Protection Project Manager</i>
UNICEF	Edina Kozma	<i>Specialist in Child Protection</i>
	Rita Neves	<i>Specialist in Child Protection</i>
Embassy of Ireland	Koeti Seródio	<i>Vulnerability Advisor</i>
Embassy of Sweden	Luisa Fumo	<i>National Program Officer</i>
Netherlands Embassy	Eleasara Antunes	<i>Policy Officer</i>
European Union	Graça Sousa	<i>European Union Delegation Official</i>
Mozambican Civil Society Platform for Social Protection	Ámina Pais	<i>Policy Officer</i>
Humanity and Inclusion	Ezequiel Mingane	<i>Head of the Social Protection Project</i>
Jornal Magazine Independente (newspaper)	Aida Matsinhe	<i>Journalist</i>
Institute for Multi-party Democracy	Dercio Alfazema	<i>Programme Coordinator</i>

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