

MuniSAM

Promoting women empowerment and inclusion in local Governance processes



GENERAL FACTS – MOZAMBIKAN WOMEN

- Still poorer than men - more women living below the poverty line;
- Have heavier domestic responsibilities than men;
- Have lower income and less access to credit and land;
- Less educated (high illiteracy rates) and more vulnerable health;
- The predominant patriarchal (South) and matriarchal (North) systems in which both disadvantage women;
- Women's social and cultural subordination extends from the private to the public sphere;
- Female partisans are marginalized in decision-making processes;
- Poor operationalization of legal instruments that defend and protect the rights of women;
- In the 2018 local elections, the number of CA and AA Women Presidents fell from 09 to 07 (only 6%).



Strengthening women's participation is essential for democratic, equitable and inclusive development. But building skills, improving knowledge and abilities is not enough, it is also necessary to promote appropriate spaces where women can have the opportunity to participate, debate and contribute to decision-making processes.

While some progress has been made, and some efforts have been putted into place to improve representation quotas, women are still underrepresented at all levels of governance and public administration. **There is still a long way to go to achieve the desired equity outcomes**, especially at the most decentralized levels of governance.



MuniSAM is a municipal-level social accountability monitoring program that promotes **citizenship manifestation and interaction between citizens organized into civic groups and municipal bodies for accelerated and equitable development.**

How MuniSAM Fostered Women's Empowerment and Participation in Governance Processes at Target Municipal Level

- ❖ Women members of the 14 target municipalities have been trained to better represent the interests of other women;
- ❖ Women members of the 14 Social Accountability Monitoring Committees (SAMComs) trained in Gender and Leadership issues in partnership with Women's Organizations such as FOFEN (in Niassa), NAFEZA (in Zambezia) and MULEIDE (in Cabo Delgado and Nampula);
- ❖ Advocacy for the inclusion of more pro-women projects in municipal plans, greater observance of aspects related to women's reality;
- ❖ Training and sensitization of all key municipal actors in social accountability from the perspective of gender inclusion, equality and equity;
- ❖ Highlighted female champions – women of reference - to influence other women;
- ❖ Conduct awareness campaigns on women's rights and duties;
- ❖ Supporting the participation of women members of target Municipal Councils and Assemblies in women's promotion events in local governance;
- ❖ Gender action approach based on the “nothing for us without us” principle putting all actors at the center of their own story and creating a safe environment that reduces risk and fear;
- ❖ Use of mixed group methodology in gender training to engage men in changing thinking and attitudes.

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“As a woman and as a member of the Municipal Assembly and Head of a Commission it is in my interest to see the needs of women better answered because these are also my needs. I am in a position to give voice to many other women and help find the best solutions for all”.

(Adelina Media Tinoso – Municipal Assembly, Mocuba)

Some **Digital Stories** produced in the context of MuniSAM's work on gender can be accessed through the following links:

- ➔ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya_XQxHuoMs&list=UUhMwwoi-VorJs0SikZB0WYg&index=2
- ➔ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRQMX7-rNo8&list=UUhMwwoi-VorJs0SikZB0WYg&index=1>
- ➔ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKs14P0P784&list=UUhMwwoi-VorJs0SikZB0WYg&index=3>

For the implementation of actions within Gender component MuniSAM has developed partnerships with **Women's organizations** based at the level of target Provinces, namely:

- ✓ FOFEN (Niassa);
- ✓ NAFEZA (Zambezia);
- ✓ MULEIDE (Cabo Delgado);
- ✓ Fórum Mulher (Nampula).