



DCAF Geneva Centre  
for Security Sector  
Governance



Ministério da Justiça  
Assuntos Constitucionais  
e Religiosos

# MOZAMBIQUE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS



2025

## **DATASHEET**

**TITLE:** Mozambique Annual Report on the Implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

**PUBLISHER:** Centro para Democracia e Direitos Humanos (CDD)

**YEAR:** 2025

**ADDRESS:** 279, Dar es Salaam, Rd, Sommerschield, Maputo, Mozambique

[www.cddmoz.org](http://www.cddmoz.org).

# Table of contents

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY \_\_\_\_\_ 7
  - 1. Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ 9
    - 1.1. The 2024 Context \_\_\_\_\_ 10
    - 1.2. Implementation Structure of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique:  
Ensuring Security and Human Rights in the Business Context \_\_\_\_\_ 12
  - 2. Achievements and Milestones of the Voluntary Principles Initiative in Mozambique — 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ 13
  - 3. Community Outreach and Impacts of the Voluntary Principles Implementation Project in Mozambique \_\_\_\_\_ 32
  - 4. Implementation Challenges \_\_\_\_\_ 34
  - 5. Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_ 35
  - 6. Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_ 36
  - 7. List of Publications \_\_\_\_\_ 37

# Mozambique Annual Report on the Implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embaixada da Suíça em Moçambique



British  
High Commission  
Maputo



CDD is a member of:





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The implementation of the Voluntary Principles (VPs) in Mozambique, especially throughout 2024, has had a profound impact on strengthening security and protecting human rights, bringing benefits to local communities and contributing to the country's development.

### Key Impact Points:

- Strengthening security and human rights in Mozambique:**  
The implementation of the VPs has served as an important foundation to ensure that operations in the country respect the rights of local communities, promoting greater accountability in the business sector.
- Training and awareness for local leaders:**  
In March 2024, CDD and DCAF organized training sessions on human rights and the Voluntary Principles in strategic regions such as Pemba, Montepuez, and Palma. These sessions equipped government and civil society representatives to implement the principles effectively.
- Increased government and civil society commitment:**  
Throughout the year, workshops and meetings in Maputo and Cabo Delgado created spaces for dialogue between government, companies, and civil society, strengthening their joint commitment to implement the VPs and enhance collaboration to protect communities.
- High-Level Visit in March 2024:**  
A visit by representatives of the Voluntary Principles to Mozambique, including meetings with the Minister of Justice and an important gathering in Cabo Delgado, highlighted the government's ongoing commitment to human rights protection and the integration of the VPs into national policies.
- Mozambique's official membership in the VP Initiative in May 2024:**  
Mozambique was officially accepted as a member of the Voluntary Principles Initiative — a significant milestone for the country, reflecting the progress of the National Working Group since its creation in 2021.
- Logistical and financial challenges:**  
Obstacles remain, such as difficulties in establishing monitoring mechanisms in conflict-affected areas like Palma and Montepuez, and the high cost of monitoring missions, which impact the continuous implementation of the VPs.
- The need for a National Action Plan:**  
Developing a national action plan to integrate business, security, and human rights is essential to consolidate the progress achieved and ensure all sectors align with the Voluntary Principles, fostering a safer and more sustainable environment for communities.
- Raising awareness on human rights:**  
There is a need for increased awareness and education on human rights in northern regions to ensure that local populations understand their rights and can fully benefit from the Voluntary Principles.

- Mozambique's official membership and the progress achieved so far are essential steps toward building a more just and secure nation. However, continued success will depend on constant collaboration among the government, businesses, and communities to ensure respect for human rights and the realization of sustainable development for all.

## 1. Introduction

**This report outlines the progress achieved in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Mozambique throughout 2024.**

The initiative has been driven by the Mozambique National Working Group on the Voluntary Principles, under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, with the Secretariat hosted by the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) and the technical support of DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.

Since 2020, Mozambican civil society has been working to identify opportunities and entry points for promoting the Voluntary Principles (VPs) in Mozambique. A partnership was established in 2021 with DCAF for technical support and the sharing of good practices on security and human rights from other implementation contexts. Political and financial backing from committed government members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI), such as the United Kingdom and Switzerland, has helped advance the implementation of the VPs in the country.

A decisive step forward came when the Government of Mozambique publicly announced its intention to join the initiative in 2022. In line with its efforts to promote responsible and ethical extractive industries, the Government formally submitted its application to the Voluntary Principles Initiative on 14 September 2023. On 18 May 2024, Mozambique's membership was officially approved, marking a significant milestone and a concrete commitment by the country to protect human rights and ensure that security operations in the extractive sector are conducted in accordance with these fundamental<sup>1</sup> principles.

Mozambique's journey toward joining the VPI began in 2021, when CDD, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs (MJACR), initiated awareness-raising efforts around the importance of the initiative. These efforts were driven by the growing relevance of the Voluntary Principles and the increasing scale of extractive investments in the province of Cabo Delgado. As a result, in November 2021, MJACR approved the creation of the National Working Group in Maputo, followed by the launch of the Technical Working Group in Cabo Delgado in March 2022. Both bodies play a strategic role in the implementation of the VPs in Mozambique.

With the support of CDD and DCAF, the Government of Mozambique, represented by MJACR, submitted its application to the VPI. The application process was developed in close collaboration with the Ministries of National Defence, Interior, and Mineral Resources and Energy.

To join the VPI as a government member, specific prerequisites must be met. These include demonstrating interministerial engagement and submitting a comprehensive application that reflects the government's commitment to upholding the Voluntary Principles. With support from CDD and DCAF, MJACR successfully submitted the application, which was developed in coordination with key ministries.

The application itself is a comprehensive document outlining Mozambique's commitment to implementing the Voluntary Principles within its extractive industries. It reflects the nation's determination to foster an environment where human rights are respected and security operations are aligned with international standards. Following a review period by the VPI Secretariat and Steering Committee, on 18 May 2024, the Government of Mozambique was officially accepted as an Engaged Member of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

<sup>1</sup> <https://cddmoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mozambique-Officially-Joined-the-Voluntary-Principles-Initiative-.pdf>



As an Engaged Member, the Government of Mozambique is now expected to develop a **National Action Plan on Business, Security, and Human Rights**. This plan will set out the steps the government will take to ensure that companies operating in Mozambique align with the Voluntary Principles. Failure to develop and implement this plan could jeopardize the country's membership in the initiative.

Mozambique's accession to the VPI not only promotes ethical business practices and safeguards human rights, but also opens the door to broader diplomatic and economic opportunities. By aligning with international standards and demonstrating its commitment to responsible resource extraction, Mozambique stands to strengthen its global reputation.

The report is structured into five sections: **Context, Key Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities, and Recommendations**. The **Context** provides an overview of the national landscape, while the **Key Achievements** highlight major milestones. **Opportunities** point to promising areas for future progress, while **Challenges** address the obstacles encountered. Finally, the **Recommendations** offer practical guidance for strengthening the implementation of the Voluntary Principles and advancing the protection of human rights.

### 1.1. The 2024 Context

**The year 2024 was marked by decisive events that shaped the course of Mozambique, exposing a series of social, economic, and environmental challenges that continue to shape the country's future. Each of these events reveals persistent problems, but also the courage and determination of local communities to demand justice and transformation.**

In 2024, the districts where the program was implemented faced a series of interconnected challenges that directly affected the business sector, security, and human rights. The instability in Cabo Delgado, fueled by extremist violence, growing political polarization, and the devastating effects of natural disasters such as Cyclone Chido, required constant adaptation of intervention strategies. These challenges were analyzed through three key dimensions: security, politics, and environment.

#### Security Challenges

Security emerged as one of the major concerns in 2024, with Cabo Delgado continuing to be an epicenter of instability since 2017. Extremist violence resulted in the forced displacement of people, destruction of essential infrastructure, and disruption of basic services. Despite efforts by security forces and the government to stabilize some areas, the violence expanded. Extremist groups intensified their operations, advancing southward in the province, particularly in Meluco, generating new hotspots of tension and hindering recovery and development efforts.

The withdrawal of the Southern African Development Community Military Mission (SAMIM) troops and the increased presence of Rwandan forces further aggravated the situation, militarizing districts such as Palma, Macomia, and Mocímboa da Praia. This militarization hindered the recovery of these areas and facilitated continued attacks and recruitment by terrorist groups, which began to reach previously unaffected regions. The impact of insecurity was devastating, directly affecting project implementation and making it impossible to access communities, especially in Palma.

## Environmental Challenges: A Disaster-Affected Region

Environmental impacts also played a decisive role in 2024. Cyclone Chido, which hit Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa in December, caused irreparable damage to infrastructure and the lives of local populations. Recovery from these damages required immediate rehabilitation efforts but delayed the implementation of many programs and hindered the return to normalcy in the affected regions.

This environmental vulnerability, combined with security and political challenges, created a crisis cycle that directly affected the capacity of local communities to rebuild. Additionally, the combination of natural disasters and insecurity created significant obstacles in accessing affected communities, making effective implementation of programmatic interventions difficult. The interaction between these factors—security, politics, and the environment—profoundly complicated project execution in 2024. The need for constant adaptation and the difficulty of accessing the most affected areas forced a revision of the activity timeline, with completion now anticipated for May 2025. Moreover, growing insecurity and the erosion of trust in public institutions made community engagement even more challenging, as local populations became overwhelmed by simultaneous crises.

The impact of the cyclone, political instability, and prolonged conflict required a more flexible and resilient approach. The focus was on the gradual recovery of affected communities, promoting dialogue and collaborative solutions among stakeholders. The project's ability to adapt to these challenges will be crucial to ensuring that, even in the face of adversity, the objectives can still be achieved—advancing human rights in the security and business sectors in Cabo Delgado.

## Business and Human Rights Challenges: Community Conflicts and Demands

In 2024, large-scale extractive industry projects were not immune to conflicts and demands from local communities. The Mozambique LNG project, located in Palma, was halted by communities demanding compensation promised since the project's establishment—promises that remain unfulfilled. This deadlock resulted in protests and encampments at the gates of the facilities, highlighting growing tensions between the company and the communities.

In Balama, the Syrah Resources graphite mine was forced to shut down due to a combination of local demands, terrorist threats, and post-election tensions. In Montepuez, communities invaded the premises of MRM to demand their development rights, while in Topuito, Larde, in Nampula Province—where Kenmare operates—communities took advantage of post-electoral instability to occupy the company's facilities, pressing for the fulfillment of unkept promises, such as the construction of a local bridge.

These episodes reveal an alarming reality: major companies continue to neglect the rights and needs of communities that live with the direct impacts of their projects. Popular resistance is growing, and the disregard for promises made has created a scenario of tension and insecurity in which human rights are at stake—posing a critical challenge to business sustainability and Mozambique's development.

**In summary**, in 2024, Mozambique faced a series of complex challenges directly affecting companies, security, and the human rights of local communities, especially in regions like Cabo Delgado. Insecurity, fueled by extremist violence and military presence, has compromised the continuity of business operations. Furthermore, post-electoral political tensions have worsened the scenario, with protests impacting key sectors such as mining and energy. The lack of trust in political institutions and growing polarization have hindered collaboration between governments, companies, and communities, undermining development and project implementation.

In terms of human rights, communities face serious violations, such as the lack of compensation for project impacts. Neglected development promises and infrastructure commitments—such as bridge construction or employment opportunities—have generated frustration and resistance. The combination of these factors—insecurity, political instability, and the disregard for community rights—has created a crisis cycle that harms both the business environment and the respect for human rights. To overcome these challenges, an integrated approach is essential, with continuous dialogue among companies, government, and communities to ensure security, respect for human rights, and sustainable development.

## **1.2. Implementation Structure of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique: Ensuring Security and Human Rights in the Business Context**

### **Implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) in Mozambique**

In Mozambique, the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) is essential for fostering a safe and human rights-respecting environment within the business sector, particularly in regions affected by conflict and security challenges, such as Cabo Delgado. The structure that supports the implementation of these principles is built on a partnership between the government, the private sector, and civil society, aiming to ensure that business operations align with human rights, social justice, and the safety of local communities.

#### **Institutional Framework for Implementation**

The leadership for implementing the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique lies with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs (MJACR), which acts as the chair of the process, setting guidelines and overseeing implementation progress. The Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD), serving as the secretariat, plays a vital role in coordinating activities, organizing meetings, and ensuring communication among the various actors involved.

The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) provides technical support, bringing international expertise in applying the Voluntary Principles—especially at the intersection of security and human rights—and facilitating training and capacity-building for stakeholders.

#### **Composition and Functioning of the Working Groups**

The implementation of the Voluntary Principles involves the participation of a wide range of actors, including extractive sector companies, civil society organizations, and government representatives. This collaboration aims to develop practical and effective solutions to the challenges faced, particularly in high-risk areas such as Cabo Delgado.

There are two main working groups:

##### **1. National Working Group:**

This group is responsible for more strategic and policy-level discussions on the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique, with a specific focus on Cabo Delgado Province, which faces significant security and human rights challenges. Its meetings address broader issues regarding the relationship between security and human rights, involving representatives from the government, busi-

nesses, and civil society. The group plays a key role in shaping policies that ensure community rights are protected and business operations remain secure.

## 2. Provincial Technical Working Group of Cabo Delgado:

This group focuses on concrete cases of human rights violations linked to company operations in the Palma and Montepuez districts of Cabo Delgado. Using a monitoring system and process, this group identifies and discusses violations, proposes practical solutions, and issues recommendations to ensure that companies operating in the field respect the human rights of local communities. Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Voluntary Principles enables quicker and more effective responses to any violations, adjusting corporate practices as necessary.

### Rules of Operation and Collaboration

The working group meetings follow the Chatham House Rule, which provides a safe and confidential space for information exchange among participants. This format enables open and constructive communication between representatives of the government, private sector, and civil society without the risk of public retaliation. Such an approach is vital for fostering an environment where all stakeholders can freely discuss sensitive issues and develop effective solutions to the security and human rights challenges faced by businesses in Mozambique.

The exchange of experiences and collaboration between the different working groups ensures that adopted solutions are contextualized, viable, and sustainable—promoting not only the safety of business operations but also the respect for the rights of impacted communities.

## 2. Achievements and Milestones of the Voluntary Principles Initiative in Mozambique — 2024

### The Implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Mozambique

The implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Mozambique began in 2021, following a High-Level Conference during which the country formally committed to adopting both the Voluntary Principles and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). This decision was informed by recommendations Mozambique received after the submission of its third cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report to the UN Human Rights Council Working Group in May 2021.

In July 2021, an agreement was signed that led to the establishment of the National Working Group for the effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles—marking a key institutional milestone in the promotion of security and human rights in the business sector. [For more information, click [here](#).

As part of this implementation, the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) has played a central role in promoting strategic initiatives to strengthen security and the protection of human rights in business operations, acting as a facilitator of dialogue between civil society, the public and private sectors, and other stakeholders.

In 2024, the implementation of the Voluntary Principles in Mozambique led to significant progress, reflected in concrete actions that contributed to risk mitigation and improved governance in matters of security and human rights. Key activities included:



## 1) Cabo Delgado Provincial Technical Working Group:

On January 22, 2024, CDD, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, and with support from DCAF, held a meeting of the Cabo Delgado Provincial Technical Working Group. The meeting addressed key issues for the province, including discussions on the evolving context of business, security, and human rights. It provided a vital space for information sharing, discussion of challenges, and exploration of potential solutions in collaboration with various stakeholders involved in the development and security of Cabo Delgado Province.



Photo of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)

14

The exchange of perspectives during the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting enabled all stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the situation in Cabo Delgado, identify gaps in existing approaches, and develop more effective strategies to enhance security and promote human rights in the province. The meeting also served as a platform to present the upcoming activities of the Cabo Delgado Provincial Working Group.



Photo of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)



## 2) Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Government Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in the City of Pemba

On January 23, 2024, at the Pemba Express Hotel in the City of Pemba, Cabo Delgado Province, CDD, in collaboration with the MJACR and with technical support from DCAF, conducted training for local authorities and civil society organizations on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.



Photo of the Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Government Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Pemba (Source: CDD)

The training provided an opportunity for local authorities and civil society organizations to enhance their understanding of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. By strengthening their knowledge and skills, participants can effectively implement these principles in their respective areas of work, thereby contributing to the protection of human rights and promoting responsible security practices. For more information, see: [here](#)



Photo from the Training on Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles for Local Government Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Pemba (Source: CDD)



### 3) Training on Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles for Local Government Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in the City of Montepuez

On January 25, 2024, CDD organized a capacity-building session in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado, targeting provincial authorities and local civil society organizations. This training, focused on the Voluntary Principles (VPs), was conducted with the technical support of DCAF and led by the MJACR.



Photo of the Training on Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles for Local Government Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Montepuez (Source: CDD)

16

The event brought together representatives from civil society organizations working in the area of human rights in the extractive industry, as well as various sectors of the Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado. The training's main objective was to enhance participants' understanding and implementation of the Voluntary Principles, providing them with a solid foundation to promote and defend human rights in their communities and areas of action. For more information, see [here](#)



Photo from the Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Governance Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Montepuez (Source: CDD)

#### 4) National Working Group Meeting in Maputo

On January 30, 2024, CDD, MJACR, and DCAF organized the IX National Working Group Meeting on the Voluntary Principles. The main agenda of the National Working Group meeting on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VP) was the presentation of the application process for the government to join the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) and the next steps for the Government of Mozambique's application.



Photo from the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)

The IX National Working Group Meeting on the Voluntary Principles also provided a space for presenting the progress of activities in Cabo Delgado and for a discussion on the broader context of security and human rights. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Government, private sector, and civil society.



Photo from the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)





Photo from the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)

#### 5) No Workshop on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives in Maputo City

On February 21, 2024, CDD, with the support of DCAF, organized a Workshop on the Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives. The workshop aimed to provide government members with an in-depth understanding of the Voluntary Principles, with a particular focus on the national and international instruments that support this initiative. The workshop was dedicated to training on the Voluntary Principles: what the Voluntary Principles are, the tools available for their implementation, what the VPI is, and the advantages Mozambique would gain by joining, as well as capturing the perspective on the Voluntary Principles from each government entity involved in the process.



Photo from the Workshop on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives in Maputo (Source: CDD)

This workshop also represented an opportunity for the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs to reaffirm the government's commitment to ensuring that extractive industry activities in Mozambique are conducted responsibly, respecting the rights of communities and workers.



Photo from the Workshop on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives in Maputo (Source: CDD)

#### 6) Workshop on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives in Maputo City

On March 7, 2024, CDD and MJACR, with the support of DCAF, held a Workshop on the Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives, including the Ministries of National Defense, Interior, and Land and Environment. The main purpose of this event was to provide government members with an in-depth understanding of the Voluntary Principles, with an emphasis on the national and international legal instruments that underpin this initiative. The workshop focused on delivering comprehensive training on the Voluntary Principles, addressing topics such as their definition, the tools available for implementation, the nature of the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI), and the potential benefits for Mozambique in joining them.



Photo from the Workshop on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives in Maputo (Source: CDD)





Photo of the Workshop on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Government Representatives in Maputo (Source: CDD)

## 7) Dialogue with Private Security Companies in Mozambique

On March 11, 2024, in Maputo, Mozambique, the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD), in collaboration with the International Code of Conduct Association for Security Service Providers (ICoCA), hosted an interactive dialogue event aimed at discussing how ICoCA can support private security companies in Mozambique. The main objective of this meeting was to bring together companies from the sector to discuss ways to raise standards and practices within the security industry in the country.



Photo from the Dialogue with Private Security Companies in Mozambique (Source: CDD)



During the event, several challenges were raised, including the issue of minimum wage for private security agents and the failure to adhere to good practices and international standards of human rights respect. These issues were identified as obstacles to fair competition between companies that respect human rights and those that do not. Additionally, the participation of large companies such as G4S Mozambique, GardaWorld, and Chelsea Group Mozambique was essential in enriching the dialogue with their experiences and perspectives. The event represented a valuable opportunity for collaboration, learning, and progress toward a more responsible and effective security industry in Mozambique. For more information, see [here](#)



Photo from the Dialogue with Private Security Companies in Mozambique (Source: CDD)



Photo from the Dialogue with Private Security Companies in Mozambique (Source: CDD)

## 8) High-Level Event on the Voluntary Principles

A high-level delegation from the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) visited Mozambique between March 11 and 15 with the aim of continuing the dialogue and providing the necessary support to the government for implementing the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. The mission included representatives from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and international organizations that are members of the VPI. On March 12, a high-level event was held to raise awareness and continue the dialogue and support for the Government of Mozambique in implementing the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Additionally, the event aimed to share information about the broader context of business, security, and human rights. For more information, see [here](#)



Group Photo from the High-Level Event on the Voluntary Principles (Source: CDD)

The event was attended by various prominent figures, including Justino Tonela – Permanent Secretary of MJACR, representing the Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs; Sarah Love – Deputy Head of Cooperation at the British High Commission; Alain Gaschen – Swiss Ambassador to Mozambique; Nathalie Chuard – Director of the Geneva Centre for the Governance of the Security Sector (DCAF); Paul Smith – Head of Responsible Extractives, Security, and Technology at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; Frédéric Chenais – Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Alan Bryden – Head of the Business and Security Division at DCAF (Geneva Centre for the Governance of the Security Sector); Jamie Williamson – Executive Director of the International Code of Conduct Association for Private Security Providers (ICoCA).





Photo from the High-Level Event on the Voluntary Principles (Source: CDD)

## 9) National Working Group Meeting in Maputo

In March 2024, CDD, in collaboration with MJACR and DCAF, organized the 10th National Working Group Meeting on the Voluntary Principles. The main agenda of this tenth meeting was the exchange of experiences between the Government of Mozambique and the high-level Voluntary Principles mission in Mozambique, as well as sharing the context of security and human rights, and discussing the next steps for the Government of Mozambique regarding this initiative.



Photo from the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)



During the meeting, representatives were able to share their specific realities and challenges related to security and human rights. The high-level mission presented examples of successes and obstacles from other countries that have adopted the Voluntary Principles, offering strategies for the effective integration of these guidelines into national policies and business practices. On the other hand, the representatives from Mozambique presented the local landscape, highlighting the particularities of their social, economic, and security dynamics.



Photo from the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)

### 10) Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting

On March 14, 2024, the Avani Pemba Beach Hotel in Pemba hosted a highly significant event for Mozambique. Organized by CDD and MJACR, the Cabo Delgado Working Group Meeting marked a significant step in the pursuit of peace and respect for human rights in the province.



Group Photo from the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)



As co-chairs of the two working groups in Mozambique on the Voluntary Principles (VP), CDD and the Ministry led efforts to bring together representatives from various sectors for a common goal: promoting the security and dignity of the communities in Cabo Delgado. The Cabo Delgado Provincial Working Group focused on operational issues, including stakeholder dialogue, community engagement, and mitigating human rights violations. With a structure that includes provincial authorities, national and international private sectors active in Cabo Delgado, local civil society, and observers, the Technical Working Group meeting on the Voluntary Principles sought to strengthen the implementation of these principles in practice, thereby ensuring a fairer and more inclusive environment for all Mozambicans. For more information, see [here](#)

The event was attended by several prominent figures, including: António Supeia – Secretary of State of Cabo Delgado; Valige Tauabo – Governor of Cabo Delgado; Helen Lewis – British High Commissioner; Nathalie Chuard – Director of the Geneva Centre for the Governance of the Security Sector (DCAF); Frédéric Chenais – Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs; Alan Bryden – Head of the Business and Security Division at DCAF (Geneva Centre for the Governance of the Security Sector); Jamie Williamson – Executive Director of the International Code of Conduct Association for Private Security Providers (ICoCA).



Photo from the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)

### 11) On March 18, 2024, Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Governance Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Palma

On March 18, 2024, at the Amarula Hotel in the town of Palma, Cabo Delgado Province, CDD, in collaboration with MJACR and with the technical support of DCAF, conducted a crucial training for local authorities and civil society organizations on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.





Photo from the Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Governance Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Palma (Source: CDD)

By bringing together representatives from local government, civil society organizations, and field experts, the event successfully informed participants about human rights and the Voluntary Principles. Furthermore, the event fostered a sense of shared responsibility among participants, ensuring that the impact of the training extended beyond the event itself. It encouraged active engagement and emphasized the need for ongoing efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive agenda that addresses key human rights and security concerns in Palma. For more informations, see [here](#).



Photo of the Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Representatives of Local Governance and Civil Society Organizations in Palma (Source: CDD)



## 12) Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Senior Staff of Chelsea Group Private Security Company

On April 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 2024, in Pemba City, Cabo Delgado Province, CDD organized a training on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights for Senior Staff of Chelsea Group Mozambique, a private security company. CDD conducted the training, covering various essential modules for understanding and applying the Voluntary Principles.



Photo of the Training on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights for Senior Staff of Chelsea Group Mozambique (Source: CDD)

During the training, participants had the opportunity to explore topics such as the structure of human rights in global operations, ethics in security, responsibilities of security personnel, and the use of force from a human rights perspective. These modules provided a solid foundation for participants to understand how to effectively reconcile security with respect for human rights in all their operations.

The training led by CDD was a crucial step in implementing these principles within the specific context of Chelsea Group Mozambique's operations. By empowering the company's senior staff with knowledge on human rights, ethics, and responsibilities, CDD contributed to enhancing the company's practices and strengthening human rights protection in the communities where Chelsea Group operates. For more information, see [here](#)





Photo of the Training on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights for Senior Staff of Chelsea Group Mozambique (Source: CDD)

### 13) Technical Working Group Meeting of Cabo Delgado

On May 28, 2024, the CDD, in partnership with the MJACR and with the support of DCAF, held a meeting of the Technical Working Group of Cabo Delgado. During this meeting, crucial topics for the province were addressed, and the positive response of the Government of Mozambique's adoption of the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) was shared with the group members. This meeting provided a vital space to share information, discuss challenges, and explore potential solutions in collaboration with various stakeholders involved in the development and security of the Cabo Delgado Province.



Photo of the Technical Working Group Meeting of Cabo Delgado (Source: CDD)



The exchange of perspectives during the 5th Technical Working Group Meeting of Cabo Delgado allowed all parties involved to better understand the situation in Cabo Delgado, identify gaps in existing approaches, and develop more effective strategies to improve security and promote human rights in the province. The meeting also served as a platform to present the future activities of the Provincial Working Group of Cabo Delgado.



Photo of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)

#### 14) National Working Group Meeting

In September 2024, CDD, in collaboration with MJACR and with the support of DCAF, organized the National Working Group Meeting on the Voluntary Principles. The main agenda of this meeting was the official announcement of the Government of Mozambique's adherence to the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI), as well as the next steps for the Government of Mozambique regarding this initiative.



Photo of the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)



This meeting was marked by the formalization of the Government of Mozambique's commitment to the Voluntary Principles. This adherence reaffirms the country's dedication to aligning its security policies and practices, both public and private, with global standards that prioritize the protection of fundamental rights, especially in sensitive sectors such as mining, oil, and gas. Therefore, this meeting was not only an announcement but also an opportunity to plan concrete actions that will solidify Mozambique's commitment to the Voluntary Principles Initiative.



Photo of the National Working Group Meeting in Maputo (Source: CDD)

### 15) Meeting of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group

In November 2024, the CDD, in collaboration with the MJACR and with the support of DCAF, organized the IX Meeting of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group. The meeting focused on issues of great relevance to the province of Cabo Delgado, a region particularly affected by conflict, instability, and social vulnerabilities. Among the topics discussed, the impact of nationwide general protests on businesses stood out, particularly in strategic sectors such as mining, natural gas, and agriculture.



Photo of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)



This meeting was more than just a technical discussion, as it served as a vital space for the exchange of information among various stakeholders. Government representatives provided perspectives on public policies and the challenges faced in managing the situation in Cabo Delgado. Private sector companies reported the direct impacts of the protests and instability on their operations, while suggesting joint initiatives. For their part, civil society and local communities expressed concerns about the rights of affected populations, requesting greater involvement in defining security and development strategies.



Photo of the Cabo Delgado Technical Working Group Meeting (Source: CDD)

#### 16) **Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Governance Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Montepuez**

On November 22, 2024, at the ApartHotel in the city of Montepuez, Cabo Delgado Province, the CDD, in collaboration with the MJACR and with technical support from DCAF, held a training session for local authorities and civil society organizations on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.



Photo of the Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Governance Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Montepuez (Source: CDD)

The event, which also saw the participation of FURA GEMS, encouraged active engagement and emphasized the need for continued efforts in pursuing a comprehensive agenda that addresses key human rights and security concerns in Montepuez. In a district like Montepuez, where significant projects for the extraction of natural resources are taking place, the Voluntary Principles play a crucial role in ensuring the rights of local communities and promoting sustainable and responsible development. For more information, see [here](#).



Photo of the Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Local Governance Representatives and Civil Society Organizations in Montepuez (Source: CDD)

### 3. Community Outreach and Impacts of the Voluntary Principles Implementation Project in Mozambique

The project to implement the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights has shown significant impacts in Cabo Delgado, promoting an environment of increased awareness, dialogue, and collaborative action among communities, companies, and the government. Below are the key outreach areas and observed impacts based on ongoing activities:

#### o Engagement of New Companies with the Working Groups

One of the most positive milestones of the program has been the growing engagement of companies operating in Cabo Delgado Province with the working groups. Companies such as Fura Gems have shown interest in directly participating in discussions and proposed initiatives, reflecting a genuine commitment to adhering to the Voluntary Principles. This engagement is essential to ensure that business operations not only meet legal requirements but also respect community rights and adopt security practices aligned with human rights principles. The involvement of companies in working group meetings allows them to actively



participate in addressing local issues, recognizing and responding to legitimate community concerns. Moreover, the exchange of information and experiences between companies and other social actors facilitates the adoption of good practices that contribute to more harmonious and productive coexistence.

### o **Communities More Active in Understanding the VPs**

In districts such as Palma and Montepuez, the training of civil society members has been one of the most effective tools for expanding the project's reach. Participants in these trainings not only gained knowledge about the Voluntary Principles but also became multipliers of this knowledge, spreading it within their own communities. Awareness among local communities about human rights and corporate responsibilities—particularly regarding reparations for rights violations—has increased. This process has empowered communities to become more active and assertive in their demands, such as claiming appropriate compensation and reparations. The improved understanding of rights and responsibilities among the involved parties has enabled communities to position themselves more effectively, resulting in a greater ability to claim their rights in a structured and impactful way.

### o **Local Government Members Aligning with Respect for Community Rights**

Another positive impact of the program is the ongoing training of local government officials, who have become more sensitized to the importance of the Voluntary Principles in protecting human rights within the business sector. Local officials, including public security personnel, have shown a shift toward greater respect for community rights. The adoption of a more sensitive approach by local authorities to security and human rights issues has facilitated peaceful coexistence between businesses and communities. In addition, the training equips government officials to identify and respond swiftly to human rights violations, supporting the implementation of solutions that respect the dignity of affected individuals. This has strengthened community trust in government institutions and improved relationships among government, businesses, and civil society.

### o **Strengthening Working Groups as Vital Dialogue Platforms**

The Voluntary Principles working groups have become key spaces for dialogue among communities, companies, and government actors. This platform has been fundamental for resolving emerging conflicts and building consensus among the involved parties. The use of the Chatham House Rule in meetings—providing a safe and confidential environment for information exchange—has allowed stakeholders to discuss sensitive issues openly and constructively. Strengthening these working groups is essential for effectively managing conflicts between businesses and local communities, allowing concerns to be heard and collaboratively addressed. As these dialogue spaces grow stronger, their capacity to mediate and resolve disputes also increases, promoting social peace and the sustainability of business operations.

### o **Government of Mozambique's Engagement with the Voluntary Principles**

The Government of Mozambique's engagement with the Voluntary Principles has been expanding, and the increasing acceptance at the provincial level in Cabo Delgado has made it easier to present community demands to the appropriate authorities. This collaboration has been crucial to the project's success, ensuring that communi-



ty grievances are addressed in an institutionalized and effective manner. By ensuring that local concerns are heard by the proper authorities, the project strengthens governance processes and contributes to building a more just and equitable society. Government support has been key to ensuring that human rights violations are taken seriously and that companies commit to adopting responsible practices. This commitment also facilitates the implementation of policies that protect communities and promote development.

#### o **Medium-Term Improvement in Business–Community Relations**

In the medium term, the project has shown promising results in improving relationships between companies and communities, particularly regarding security and human rights issues. With the implementation of the Voluntary Principles, companies are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of adopting business practices that respect human rights and contribute to the safety and well-being of communities. This has fostered greater mutual trust, which supports the development of sustainable partnerships and the reduction of conflicts. Furthermore, companies' commitment to improving relationships with communities has directly contributed to reducing social tensions and strengthening local peace. Communities, in turn, have become more receptive to dialogue with companies, knowing that their concerns are taken seriously and with respect.

**In summary**, the visible impacts of the Voluntary Principles implementation project in Mozambique—particularly in Cabo Delgado—indicate that this effort has the potential to positively transform the relationships among companies, communities, and the government. Through awareness-raising, dialogue, and strengthened collaboration among all actors, the project is creating the conditions for a more harmonious, sustainable, and respectful coexistence that ensures the protection of human rights and the security of local communities. Continued support and reinforcement of these efforts are essential to consolidate progress and ensure a safer, fairer future for all.

## 4. Implementation Challenges

The implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Mozambique faced several challenges in 2024:

- a) **Delay in the approval of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights:** The delay in the government's approval of this plan poses a barrier to consolidating the integration of the Voluntary Principles into national strategies. The absence of a comprehensive plan may hinder effective alignment between the initiative's objectives and the country's broader agenda.
- b) **Interlinked crises of political instability, social unrest, and economic tension:** Mozambique experienced a period marked by interconnected crises that threatened to destabilize its extractive industry. The post-electoral crisis of October 2024 exposed deep governance gaps and unresolved community grievances, creating a volatile environment that severely affected critical infrastructure. This context led to the suspension of business operations, loss of investor confidence, and significant damage, including over 500 businesses vandalized, 12,000 jobs lost, and key energy and mining facilities targeted by widespread protests.
- c) **Limited access and engagement with the private sector:** Uncertainty and conflicting priorities among some stakeholders, coupled with non-compliance with international standards, hinder meaningful engagement with the private sector.

Consultations with influential local actors can be challenging, limiting the effectiveness of dialogues and collaborations needed for successful implementation of the Voluntary Principles.

- d) **Insufficient dialogue on governance issues:** Addressing the root causes of human rights abuses, including those driven by elite groups, has been limited. Moreover, the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado continues to obstruct significant progress, delaying dialogue with liquefied natural gas (LNG) sector partners on critical governance and security issues.
- e) **Resistance from elite influencers:** Buy-in from elite influencers, particularly those with vested interests in extractive concessions where human rights abuses are frequent, remains unlikely. Local partners of multinational companies often operate outside legal and ethical human rights obligations, safeguarding their power and influence. Overcoming this resistance and promoting accountability among these actors remains one of the major challenges in implementing the initiative.

## 5. Opportunities

The implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Mozambique also presented several opportunities in 2024:

- a) **Official accession to the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI):** Mozambique received official approval to join the VPI, marking a concrete commitment by the country to the protection of human rights. This membership reflects a determination to ensure that security operations in the extractive sector are conducted in line with fundamental principles.
- b) **Progress in the development of strategic instruments:** Advancements in the development of the Updated Report on Business and Human Rights and the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (still pending approval) were significant milestones. These initiatives reflect a vital step towards respecting human rights in the extractive sector and signal the government's openness to integrating good practices into internal policies.
- c) **Active stakeholder engagement:** The Ministry of National Defence, the Mozambican Police (PRM), provincial authorities, companies, the local business community, and civil society organizations have expressed willingness to participate in multistakeholder dialogue. This engagement provides a solid foundation for establishing a provincial working group where stakeholders can collaborate and contribute valuable perspectives to address security and human rights issues in an integrated and effective manner.
- d) **Participation of private security companies:** The first National Dialogue on Private Security Companies and Human Rights demonstrated openness from companies to align with international best practices. This step reinforces the sector's commitment to respecting global security and human rights standards.
- e) **Collaboration with complementary initiatives:** There are major opportunities to align this initiative with other ongoing processes such as conflict resolution dialogues, energy transition, bilateral and multilateral social cohesion projects, as well as initiatives for preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). Avoiding duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies through such collaboration promotes a comprehensive approach to addressing security and human rights challenges.



## 6. Recommendations

The following are key recommendations for the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) in Mozambique:

- a) **Approval and implementation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights:** The government of Mozambique should prioritize the approval of this pending plan and begin implementing its outlined actions. This step is crucial to consolidating commitments to human rights and integrating responsible practices across the economic sector.
- b) **Development of a National Action Plan on Business, Security, and Human Rights:** It is essential for the government to develop a plan specifically focused on business, security, and human rights. This document should outline concrete measures to ensure that companies operating in the country adhere to the Voluntary Principles and contribute to reinforcing the existing National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.
- c) **Promotion of a broader understanding of legal obligations:** Efforts to enhance stakeholders' understanding of legal obligations related to human rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) must be strengthened. Awareness campaigns, training programs, and capacity-building initiatives can serve as effective tools in this regard. Furthermore, greater engagement of both local and international private sector actors in adopting and implementing the VPSHR should be encouraged.
- d) **Ongoing monitoring and mapping in Cabo Delgado:** Establishing a dynamic monitoring and mapping process for security and human rights initiatives in Cabo Delgado province is a priority. This process will help identify critical issues and provide updated information to support targeted decisions and interventions. A working group composed of multiple stakeholders will be fundamental to the success of this initiative.
- e) **Improvement in risk assessment:** There is a need to promote better understanding and application of the VPSHR risk assessment process. This includes conducting detailed and contextual assessments to identify risks and vulnerabilities related to security and human rights. Empowering stakeholders to effectively carry out these assessments will enable them to proactively address challenges and implement suitable mitigation measures.
- f) **Strategic use of third-party human rights monitoring mechanisms:** Strengthening the use of independent human rights monitoring mechanisms can provide objective assessments, valuable recommendations, and strategic support. These mechanisms should be emphasized as tools for collaboration and improvement rather than punitive measures. This constructive approach promotes continuous learning, accountability, and the strengthening of practices in favor of human rights.

## 7. Lista List of Publications

- *Training on Human Rights and Voluntary Principles for Representatives of Local Government and Civil Society Organisations in Pemba* - see [here](#)
- *Interactive Dialogue on Private Security in Mozambique* - see [here](#)
- *High-Level Mission of the Voluntary Principles Initiative Strengthens Dialogue in Mozambique* – see [here](#)
- *Training on Voluntary Principles in Palma* – see [here](#)
- *Cabo Delgado Working Group Meeting Highlights Commitment to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights* – see [here](#)
- *Implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights – Training for Seniors of Chelsea Group Mozambique* – see [here](#)
- *Mozambique Officially Joins the Voluntary Principles Initiative* – see [here](#)
- *Training on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Montepuez* – see [here](#)





1. **MISSION:**

*Inspiring and driving actions to protect human rights, strengthen democracy, and promote justice.*

1. **MISSÃO:**

*Inspirar e impulsionar ações para proteger os direitos humanos, fortalecer a democracia e promover a justiça.*



Rua Dar-Es-Salaam N° 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Maputo - Moçambique



+258 21 085 797



info@cddmoz.org

@CDD\_Moz

@cdd\_moz

@cdd\_moz

FINANCING PARTNERS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embaixada da Suíça em Moçambique



OXFAM



FORD  
FOUNDATION



UNIÃO EUROPEIA



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland