AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

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Newsletter

Voice of Citizens in Africa | October 2023 | ISSUE 12

Civil society organizations at the frontline of building resilience in transition countries



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

The African Development Bank's engagement with civil society for a resilient Africa

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Violent conflicts have intensified across much of Africa. They are complex and increasingly protracted, involving non-state groups, and both regional and international actors. Over the last two decades, more than 469,000 Africans lost their lives due to conflict and insecurity. Just last year, more than 23,000 conflict-related events affected the continent, up from about 3,000 in 2009. The number of refugees and internally displaced has reached 34.8 million in 2022. In regions such as the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and the Great Lakes, fragility spills across national boundaries, creating regional conflict complexes where entrenched poverty, environmental degradation and political instability become mutually reinforcing.

The African Development Bank strongly believes that engaging with civil society will help it achieve its priorities of an inclusive, resilient, and peaceful continent. Because of the close relationship to their communities and their sense of service, civil society actors possess unique expertise that is critical to achieving peace. Civil society is essential to understanding conflict dynamics, identifying missing capacities, and providing necessary peacebuilding support especially at the grassroots where conflict first sparks. Civil society organizations can facilitate dialogue, strengthen the capacity of local actors and communities in conflict prevention, establishing or supporting community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, operating early warning systems, and implementing advocacy initiatives with policy makers.

Civil society engagement is center stage in the "One Bank" approach we pursue. This includes through the Civil Society Forums, the recent fifth edition of the Africa Resilience Forum, development of Civil Society Engagement Guidelines for Bank operations, which have already yielded substantial results. Complementing other strategic frameworks such as the upcoming Civil Society Engagement Action Plan 2024-2026, the 2022-2026 Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience highlights the Bank's peace-positive approaches, interventions and financing instruments such as the Transition Support Facility.

Civil society organizations also play a critical role in project implementation and monitoring, especially in insecure and high-risk environments. For example, in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the United Nations Development Programme, the Bank is actively supporting the Regional Civil Society Organization Platform in the Lake Chad Basin. This support includes the establishment of the Civil Society Organization Directory and Information Management Systems linked to the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience.

In conflict-affected northern Mozambique, the Transition Support Facility is working with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, as well as with AVSI International, a civil society organization, on providing private sector capacity building to 600 households of refugees, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable host communities in Nampula and Cabo Delgado Provinces. Supporting Government efforts, the objective is to ensure sustainable income generation to reduce dependency on aid. In conflict settings, we are expanding our collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross beyond the Sahel and civil society organizations active in community conflict prevention and resolution. Overall, proactive civil society organization engagement is indispensable for lasting, peace-positive development.

Yero Baldeh,

Director, Transition States Coordination Office, African Development Bank Group



Empowering nomad women and pastoral communities in the Sahel region

The Tin Hinan Association is the brainchild behind the Association for the Development of Nomad Women. Founded in 1994, the Association serves young indigenous women from communities in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. It is dedicated to empowering women and girls within the pastoral communities of the Sahel, by fighting against structural gender inequalities that hinder economic development and women's empowerment in the region and on the continent, particularly those linked to existing social norms. The ultimate goal is to empower these populations to take charge of their own needs and contribute to the development of peaceful, prosperous communities.

The Tin Hinan Association operates in various fields, including: informal education; the protection of the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, particularly for women and girls; the preservation of the environment and the fight against climate change; and social mobilization for behavioral change through communication, advocacy and awareness-raising. It is also committed to the fight against poverty by providing support to sustainable agriculture, contributing to food security, and supporting grassroots structures of women and livestock breeders.

To strengthen the resilience of populations in these countries in transition, the Tin Hinan Association adopts a holistic approach. This approach integrates various actions aimed at improving the well-being of marginalized pastoral communities, internally displaced women and girls, refugees and other vulnerable groups.



Since its creation, it has supported over 100 rural women organizations, including at least 20% indigenous and pastoral women in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and Africa. Since 2021, it has strengthened the operational skills of at least 30 pastoral women's organizations. Together with some 30 civil society organizations of mostly indigenous women and girls, they have founded the "Femmes Pastorales du Sahel en Mouvement" platform. It has also implemented 5 non-formal education projects and 5 capacity-building workshops for pastoral women organizations.

In the environmental field, the organization has helped to strengthen the skills of local communities for the sustainable management of forests. It has also played a key role in building the capacity of communities, state institutions and other players involved in environmental protection.

The Tin Hinan Association has actively participated in at least 8 Conferences of Parties and 5 United Nations Biodiversity Conferences. In addition, the organization has played a key role as an observer member of the Climate Fund, as a representative of Civil Society and indigenous women, for thirteen years now.

The organization has made a concrete contribution to strengthening the food security of pastoral communities. At the same time, it has organized workshops that have raised awareness on human rights, particularly those of women and indigenous peoples, and fostered concrete changes in society.

Tin Hinan Association, Burkina Faso

1 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AT THE FOREFRONT OF BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL REGION

For greater inclusion of civil society

With an active portfolio of 21 projects worth a total of $825 million, the African Development Bank is one of Burkina Faso's leading donors. In addition to its traditional sectors of intervention - transport, energy, agriculture, environment, water and sanitation - its operations incorporate the new challenges faced by the country in the recent years. This includes support to the Government's efforts to provide an effective and urgent response to security, humanitarian, food and climate challenges. They also invest in specific operations that strengthen the resilience of the Burkinabè people, job creation and the resettlement of internally displaced persons.

Project 1 of the *Food and Nutritional Insecurity Resilience Program* is illustrative in this respect. Implemented between 2015 and 2022 in some 100 localities, it has enabled the construction of numerous infrastructures that have improved the daily lives of the most vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on empowering women.

A second phase of the project has been approved in 2022. An estimated 150,000 people, 90% of them women, have benefited from the *Projet d'appui au développement de la filière karité* (2016-2021). The *Projet d'appui à l'emploi des jeunes et développement des compétences en milieu rural*, underway, aims to reduce youth unemployment and underemployment, mainly in rural areas.

The effectiveness of these interventions relies highly on the quality of the partnership established with civil society organizations. The Bank has laid the foundations for formal collaboration, on the occasion of an "Open Day" organized in March 2019 in Ouagadougou. As a result, in the field, these organizations help to measure the sensitivity of projects to security risks, participate in the identification of intervention sites and beneficiaries, and contribute to the monitoring of projects implementation. Civil society was consulted during the drafting of the Interim Country Strategy Paper 2022-2025, allowing to place particular emphasis on the issues of fragility, resilience of populations affected by insecurity, humanitarian aid and responses to the food crisis.

The mission for portfolio review and high-level dialogue led in May 2023 by Joseph Ribeiro, Deputy Director General for the Bank's West Africa Region, has marked further steps in deepening the partnership with civil society. Under the impetus of the Bank's Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, civil society organizations from the country took part for the first time in the portfolio review session, which was followed by a specific meeting between the government, the African Development Bank and these organizations.

In these different settings, civil society has enriched the exchanges thanks to their local knowledge and proximity to communities. Its contribution will be extremely useful in supporting the implementation of the Interim Country Strategy Paper 2022-2025, built around two axes: strengthening sustainable infrastructures for inclusive and green growth, and supporting agricultural value chains to strengthen the resilience of the economy.

Daniel Ndoye,
Country Manager,
African Development
Bank Group
Burkina Faso



Civil society organizations at the forefront of building resilience

Mali continues to face multidimensional fragility in the economic, social, political, security, institutional, financial and climatic areas. The role of civil society is crucial in strengthening community resilience and promoting greater inclusion in the transition process. The recent publication of a civil society "White Paper" to ensure that the voice of the Malian people is heard in the elaboration of security and development measures, is a sign of the avant-garde role of civil society in Mali.

Malian civil society has become a key partner of the Bank, and has been regularly consulted and involved in the preparation of the Bank's various strategies and policy documents. But the involvement of local civil society organizations in the implementation of Bank's projects has remained weak.

The Country Strategy for the period 2021-2025 aims to address the challenges of economic fragility, with a single priority area focused on improving agricultural value chains, given the country's enormous potential in the agricultural sector. The Bank's operations should contribute to the creation of high added value, more decent and sustainable jobs for the most vulnerable groups, notably women and young people.

Due to the country's fragile state, 50% of the Bank's pipeline extends over regions affected by conflict, where fragility is the most acute. The country strategy provides for the involvement of local civil society organizations to ensure monitoring of projects in remote and conflict zones that are inaccessible due to insecurity. Civil society organizations that are familiar with the Bank's procedures and meet certain quality standards after evaluation will be selected in some projects to carry out specific activities.

The mid-term review of the Country Strategy shows that since 2021, the Bank has strengthened its engagement in conflict zones and in favor of the most fragile populations: (i) 45% of operations cover areas affected by insecurity (almost half of the resources mobilized in 2021 and 2022 were earmarked for these localities, representing a total amount of $ 60.629 million; (ii) the Bank has specifically carried out operations in favor of populations affected by the security crisis, notably through the *Projet d'Appui à la Réinsertion Socio-Economique des Populations du Nord-Mali*. In addition, the Bank has shown proactivity and flexibility by readjusting its 2021-2022 loan program to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of populations in conflict zones plagued by food insecurity. In December 2022, the Bank approved two projects that should help reduce food insecurity in crisis zones.

Following consultations held with civil society stakeholders, and in order to have a greater impact on the Bank-funded projects in Mali, the following action points have been retained: (i) Set up a tripartite committee Government-Civil Society-Bank to ensure inclusion and accountability; (ii) Conduct a mapping of civil society organizations; (iii) Assess capacity-building needs; (iv) Identify activities where civil society participation will add value, especially through community mobilization, awareness-raising, service delivery and community monitoring. (v) Select the Bank's partnering civil society organizations for the implementation of certain activities and the provision of services, on the basis of the Bank's procedures.

Adalbert Nshimyumuremyi,
Country Manager,
African Development
Bank Group
Mali



Reaching remote communities affected by conflict

Adkoul, a Niger-based non-governmental organization, was founded in 2001 following an analysis by its founders of the need to respond to the problems of poverty and recurring crisis faced by the people of Niger. The aim of the non-governmental organization Adkoul is to allow the poorest communities to make major progress in their lives. Its vision is to respond effectively to humanitarian and development challenges, contributing to the creation and maintenance of a climate of peace and stability while respecting human dignity.

We are convinced that "development is possible" if it is based on the respect of choices and specificities of beneficiaries. Our values are thus: Solidarity, Respect, Accountability and Quality. Our programs are defined on the basis of beneficiaries' needs and partners' requirements, and remain open to the observations and criticisms of all stakeholders to guarantee the quality of our interventions for a much greater impact.



Adkoul works in areas affected by a number of factors that make it difficult for people to improve their living conditions and to access basic necessities: climate change (droughts, floods), growing insecurity due to conflicts between non-state armed groups and the Forces de Défense et de Sécurité. To meet these challenges, Adkoul's strategy revolves around:
-Advocacy for humanitarian access with the authorities.
-Regular monitoring of the humanitarian and security context.
-Building the capacity of local partners and stakeholders involved in implementing emergency responses.
-Integration of refugees and internally-displaced persons into local dynamics, social cohesion between forcibly displaced people and host populations through training/awareness-raising and capacity-building for access to resources.



-Synergy of interventions through participation in various humanitarian coordination meetings.
-Support for local resilience and adaptation strategies. Innovations are developed with communities to strengthen their production capacities: pastoral school fields, farmers' school fields.

Over the past 5 years, in the 5 regions where it operates (Agadez, Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéry), Adkoul has implemented, with the support of its partners (United Nations, international non-governmental organizations and the State of Niger) 68 humanitarian and development projects in the sectors of food security/livelihoods, WASH (water sanitation and hygiene), education, health-nutrition, environment, shelter-infrastructure, protection, peace-building, socio-economic reintegration, benefiting some 622,543 people for a budget of XOF 9,785,489,050 ($17,218,711). The beneficiaries of our operations are primarily vulnerable groups like women, men, children, young people, the elderly affected by famine, conflict, drought and other natural or man-made crises.

Adkoul's work in the field has significantly improved the conditions of the vulnerable communities (internally-deplaced persons, refugees, host communities) supported. Despite the lack of resources and challenges to access certain areas subject to recurrent actions by armed terrorist groups, Adkoul's interventions, with the support of its partners, have made it possible to mitigate the effects of various shocks by creating the conditions for communities to live a decent and sustainable life in a protective environment by adopting a nexus approach.



Alhassane Abdoulaye,
National Coordinator,
Non-governmental organization Adkoul
Niger

2 BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH GREATER INCLUSION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Tackling the adverse economic and social impacts of climate change in rural areas

The Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC) was created in 1994 with the conviction that poverty and hunger in rural areas, although unavoidable in the post-civil war context in Mozambique, were not acceptable. Combined and targeted efforts to improve living standards in rural areas were urgent. To this end, the founding members believed that deep structural and social changes were needed to ensure the effective involvement of all relevant actors in working with the Government of Mozambique to design and implement inclusive and locally viable development interventions, to intelligently combat poverty, hunger and social inequalities.

However, today, almost 30 years after the creation of the FDC, despite the efforts of the Government and development partners, the country continues to face the same problems. This situation is partly explained by the poor access to basic primary services and a weak network of support infrastructures, particularly in rural areas. Among the factors that add to the development setback are climate change and natural disasters.

FDC's interventions fall under the following pillars: Promoting good practices in the social and economic dimensions, with the premise of integrating climate resilience into emergency and development programs; Empowering civil society,



parliamentarians, members of government, communities, etc; Mobilizing resources and financing socio-economic projects and programmes.

FDC's approach to strengthening and diversifying livelihoods to reduce climate vulnerability in rural Mozambique is based on the assumption that in the current climate context (increasingly erratic rainfalls, cyclical floods and droughts, tropical cyclones…) food and nutritional security, access to water and sanitation, emergencies related to public health, family income and well-being are no longer just a direct function of productive capacity and have become multifaceted phenomena.

In terms of impact in the context of climate resilience, FDC's interventions allowed to: 1) Install community alert systems to strengthen early warning in three localities in three districts affected by Cyclone Idai;



2) Improve the livelihoods of 5,000 households in communities affected by natural disasters and armed conflict in Cabo Delgado; 3) Improve the health of 145 children living with acute malnutrition in accommodation centers due to emergencies; 4) Establish more than 55 savings and credit groups integrated into income-generating activities as part of the strategy to promote alternative livelihoods; 5) Improve sanitation for 120 families by expanding improved latrines in resettlement centers; 6) Open 8 multi-purpose water boreholes (water for consumption and productive use) for around 2,400 families; 7) Promote playgrounds as part of occupational therapy for children; 8) Monitor and manage cases of gender-based violence in the emergency context.

Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade, Mozambique

Networking to address fragility



The Conseil National des Organisations de la Société Civile Guinéenne, created in 2002, is the federal body of civil society in Guinea. The organization's mission is to promote democracy, good governance, harmonious development and peace through:
-The effective involvement of citizens in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies
-The establishment of social and political dialogue, mediation, national reconciliation, conflict prevention and management initiatives
-The effective participation of citizens in the electoral process
-Civic education, information, communication, and capacity-building for civil society players

It covers the entire country, with a network of 138 members, 5,300 grassroot organizations, 8 regional councils, 33 prefectorial councils, 333 sub-prefectorial councils and 2,504 district councils. With the aim of making its interventions professional, effective and efficient, the Conseil National des Organisations de la Société Civile Guinéenne has divided its network into thematic groups, including: Electoral governance and public policy monitoring; education, health, food security and nutrition; sustainable economic development and fight against corruption; sustainable management of natural resources; Sustainable human and social development; ethics, internal governance and civil society organization capacity building; democratic governance and human rights.

Through the mobilization and federation of various platforms, Guinean civil society organizations and trade unions federated their efforts right from the start of the transition under the leadership of the Conseil National des Organisations de la Société Civile Guinéenne.

This action enabled social actors to create and maintain a close relationship with the transition authorities. The organization is a member of several transitional bodies, as well as frameworks for exchange and discussion on national issues.

The Conseil National des Organisations de la Société Civile Guinéenne's actions have achieved considerable results, including:
-Supporting women's socio-professional organizations and groups, as well as capacity-building for the promotion of nutrition in 40 localities in Guinea, thanks to financial support from the United Nations Office for Projects Services
-Strengthening of 60 civil society organizations on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4 to enhance their participation in public policy monitoring
-Mobilization of civil society for health governance in the 38 urban localities, with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development.
-Participation in the inter-Guinean dialogue framework with technical and financial support from the European Union, and in missions to disseminate subsequent recommendations.
-Strong mobilization of citizens around the authorities for a peaceful transition.
-Establishment of a framework for monitoring transition activities.

Oumar Kanah Diallo,

National Secretary in charge of Diaspora and Integration, Conseil National des Organisations de la Société Civile Guinéenne
Guinea



Promoting access to safe water in remote communities

South Sudan is the world's youngest country and ensuring its population's access to safe water is fundamental to security, peace, and long-term development. In this unique context, the broader water and climate change crises are exacerbated by the absence of a stable government and basic infrastructure and the presence of ongoing tribal conflicts over water sources and grazing lands, which have displaced millions. Water for South Sudan is one of the few organizations with the local team and expertise needed to address South Sudan's water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges. We work holistically with buy-in from local government and communities. We have a track record of successfully, and sustainably, providing access to safe water in rural villages and are piloting many innovations to deepen our impact.



Water for South Sudan has been delivering high-quality and locally appropriate water, sanitation, and hygiene programming without interruption since 2005. We work at community level, in close collaboration with community leaders to determine the placement of new wells and to train 2 people per village to perform well maintenance. We use renewable energies such as solar-powered wells pipes to create easy access to water in high-impact locations such as schools, market centers and health clinics. Between 2005 and 2023, we build 628 wells, which has dramatically changed the lives of more than 500,000 people served daily with safe water. To date, 100% of them are still in operation.

Water for South Sudan builds local capacity by engaging, training, employing, and promoting local leadership and team members, and we are directly benefiting the communities we serve by hiring local staff. South Sudanese employees receive fair wages, on-site skills training, and an opportunity to grow within the organization. This helps remote, rural villages develop, thereby benefiting the young nation of South Sudan and bringing greater stability to the country and region. Water for South Sudan will ruthlessly pursue its engagement to providing access to safe water and hygiene to local communities.





Our main priorities for the 2023-2027 are to expand footprint to new regions across the country, to increase water supply nationwide through the use of new filtration techniques, particularly in areas that are too rugged for well drilling but have plentiful surface water and to continue to build our own organizational capacities as well the capacities of community-appointed members so that inaccessibility of safe water and avoidable illnesses/ deaths from waterborne diseases become history.

Salva Dut,

Founder and Chief
Strategy Director,
Water for South Sudan
South Sudan



3 *Word from the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division*

I am more than impressed by the unrelenting work civil society organizations are doing in fragile settings. Apart from the challenging political and socio-economic contexts, I am also aware of the lack of resources they face to provide basic services to vulnerable communities. Yet, the impact of their work goes far beyond our imagination. I truly want to commend the contributing civil society organizations, as well as the broader community of civil society organizations across the continent. Your dedication and commitment are seen, acknowledged, and valued.

Fragility in Africa is a widespread and an evolving dynamic. Countries that in the past were defined as fragile have found a way out, while others that were doing well are now affected by conflict, weak institutions, political unrest, climate change and additional issues that today would characterize them as fragile. The common thread running through it all is our will and determination to leave no one behind. This is why the African Development Bank Group upholds civil society engagement in transition states as a key priority and will continue to do so. We rely on the convening power of civil society organizations and their unique proximity to the populations to reach out communities affected by fragility.

Zéneb Touré,

Manager, Civil Society and Community
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