



# MULHERES COM VIDA

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## Platform of Women's Organizations against COVID-19

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, whose effects are expected to be overwhelming, and given the inability of institutions and essential services to respond, *Women's Voice and Leadership Programme (ALIADAS)* established The Platform of Women's Organizations against COVID-19. ALIADAS is an initiative of the Government of Canada, implemented by the Centre for Civil Society Learning (CESC) in six provinces in Mozambique (Manica, Sofala, Tete, Zambezia, Nampula and Maputo).

The platform includes civil society organisations and especially those that represent women and/or with a vocation to promote and protect women's rights. Bearing in mind the need to ensure an inclusive approach, adopting the principle of "Leave no one behind", the platform integrates representatives of various women's groups, including emerging and informal groups, as well as individuals that are committed to the platform's objectives at national level.

The platform aims precisely at responding to the need for an urgent and articulated intervention to promote women's voices and their effective participation in the prevention of COVID-19 and in debates and decisions on the national response to it, informed by the specific needs and priorities of women and girls at all levels and across all sectors. Doing so will contribute to minimizing or even nullifying completely the gender impacts of COVID-19.

The platform response is through three main components namely: i) Prevention and mitigation of COVID-19; ii) Lobbying and advocacy; iii) Documentation of the effects/impact of Covid-19 on women's conditions.

### Summary of observations/findings from the platform

The platform recognizes that the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly affected the lives of women and girls and that social confinement, the greatest preventive measure against contagion by the virus, has meant that many women have their restricted and constrained activities further degrading the already precarious living conditions of most women.

However, during the period of the State of Emergency, women were mostly expropriated from their means of survival and removed from their places of commerce a little by all the municipalities in the country, and in some cases the violence exceeded constitutional limits greatly threatening the realization of their human rights. Many women have been taken out of work without alternative measures for economic reintegration. In effect, the COVID19 pandemic has highlighted the pre-existing social inequalities, leading in some cases to gender-based violence.

The main results so far:

- This initiative has provided financial and technical assistance to nearly 40 organizations and groups of women across the country to develop prevention, mitigation and advocacy actions in support of women's human rights.
- The production and distribution of various materials for prevention and protection against COVID 19 (leaflets, brochures, posters) was ensured. Production and dissemination of positions, campaigns and cultural sessions, radio programs and community dialogue sessions involving associations and community leaders to discuss GBV in times of pandemic.
- interventions that have proven to be innovative and sustainable, such as community response mechanisms and income generation activities for women that the organizations have provided. Partner organizations such as the Cooperativa Semeia Sorrisos (COLUAS), the Litigation and Human Rights Association (ALDH) and Lemusica were able to successfully conceive and implement some initiatives such as the Good Neighbor Network which consists of a cooperation and help network between neighbors to provide support to caregivers of children with disabilities in the event that their mothers are infected or affected by the pandemic and prompt reporting to local and public authorities in cases of symptomatological record.
- The network of good neighbors was created according to the confidence level of the caregiver and the neighbors as well as the local authorities established and covered a total of 175 families from 5 peri-urban areas of the city of Maputo. This initiative also allowed the installation of tippy tap systems in 64 caregiving families, a mechanism that minimizes the spread of COVID 19 within communities.
- the program supported around 10 income generation projects for women. In the Manjakazi district of Gaza, a total of 70 families in need benefited from home gardens through the project - food security for a family, a vegetable garden, implemented by the organization MUCHEFA (Women Heads of Families).
- ALDH was actively involved in the creation of hotline lines for reporting cases of gender violence in Maputo and Manica. Lemusica provided shelter, referral and legal assistance for women victims of violence in the province of Manica.
- ALDH through the “Solidarity Lawyers” initiative provided legal and judicial support to victims of Domestic Violence and established operational legal support phone lines for the purposes of Consultation, counseling and referral of cases. About 150 consultations and counseling sessions were held, and about 30 lawsuits on domestic violence were conducted and followed in Maputo and Manica.