



Republic of Mozambique

**MULTI-SECTORAL ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE PROTECTION OF
PERSONS WITH ALBINISM**

Maputo, December 2015

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Our country has been experiencing a wave of violence against persons with albinism due to the combination of several socio-cultural and anthropological factors in our society.

Some believe that persons with albinism are useful in magical and religious rituals, based on the belief that the sacrifice or death of these people will bring good fortune and wealth to those who carry out these actions, and there is also a myth that persons with albinism do not die of natural causes but instead simply disappear.

This situation calls for urgent actions to be undertaken by the State so as to establish appropriate mechanisms to guarantee increased protection to this social group.

In this sense, during the 30th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, which took place on September 1st 2015, a Note on the Issue of the Protection of Persons with Albinism (point 11 in the agenda) was examined by the Council.

As a result, the Council of Ministers addressed a recommendation to the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, in its capacity of Coordinating Institution, to present further information and an action plan containing short, medium and long-term actions.

During this session, a Multi-Sectoral Working Commission was established, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, and composed of the Ministries of Health, of Gender, Children and Social Action, of Culture and Tourism, of Internal Affairs, of Education and Human Development, of Science, Higher Education and Professional Training, of Public Administration, of Youth and Sports, of Labour and Social Security, the Institute of Social-Cultural Research – ARPAC, the Information Office – GABINFO, the University Eduardo Mondlane – UEM, the Association of Traditional Healers of Mozambique, the Association “*Defendendo os Nossos*

Direitos” (“Defending Our Rights”), the Association “*Amor e Vida*” (“Love and Life”) and ALBIMÓZ, with the purpose of preparing a proposal of an Action Plan.

In line with the recommendation received, the Multi-Sectoral Commission convened several work meetings which led to the approval, by the Council of Ministers, of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan to Address the Issue of the Protection of Persons with Albinisms, on 24 November 2015.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

MJCR – Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs;

MINSAU – Ministry of Health;

MGCAS – Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action;

MICULT – Ministry of Culture and Tourism;

MINT – Ministry of Internal Affairs;

MINEDH – Ministry of Education and Human Development

MCTESTP – Ministry of Science, Technology, Higher Education and Professional Training;

MAEFP – Ministry of Public Administration;

MJD – Ministry of Youth and Sports;

MTESS – Ministry of Labour and Social Security;

ARPAC – Institute of Socio-Cultural Research;

GABINFO – Information Office;

UEM – University Eduardo Mondlane;

AMETRAMO – Association of Traditional Healers of Mozambique;

WHO – World Health Organization;

UN – United Nations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BACKGROUND

GENERAL GOAL

SPECIFIC GOALS

METHODOLOGY

CONCEPT

ASSUMPTIONS

CURRENT SITUATION

MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE CRIME

MATRIX FOR ACTIONS

TO PROMOTE EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

TO ENSURE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, PROCEDURAL CELERITY AND THE SHARING OF INFORMATION ON JUDICIAL DECISIONS

TO CONDUCT SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

CALENDAR FOR ACTIONS AND MONITORING

NUMBER OF ACTIONS AND BUDGETARY IMPACT

CONCLUDING REMARKS



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, CONSTITUTIONAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

PROPOSAL FOR MULTI-SECTORAL ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

BACKGROUND

During its 30th Ordinary Session, on September 1st 2015, the Council of Ministers reviewed the Note on the Issue of the Protection of Persons with Albinism (point 11 in the agenda). Following such appraisal, the Council of Ministers addressed a recommendation to the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, in its capacity of Coordinating Institution, to present further information and an action plan that included short, medium and long-term actions.

The Multi-Sectoral Commission coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs was established in the course of this session, bringing together the Ministries of Health, of Gender, Children and Social Action, of Culture and Tourism, of Internal Affairs, of Education and Human Development, of Science, Higher Education and Professional Training, of Public Administration, of Youth and Sports, of Labour and Social Security, the Institute of Social-Cultural Research – ARPAC, the Information Office – GABINFO, University Eduardo Mondlane – UEM, the Association of Traditional Healers of Mozambique, the Association “*Defendendo os Nossos Direitos*”

("Defending Our Rights"), the Association "*Amor e Vida*" ("Love and Life") and ALBIMOZ, with the purpose of preparing an Action Plan proposal.

The current Action Plan proposal aims to dispel beliefs and myths surrounding persons with albinism rooted in society and sets forth the following goals to achieve this:

GENERAL GOAL

- To guarantee the protection of persons with albinism;

SPECIFIC GOALS

- To promote education, information and awareness of families and communities;
- To guarantee protection and social assistance to persons with albinism;
- To ensure prevention, legal assistance, procedural celerity and the public sharing of judicial decisions;
- To conduct socio-anthropological studies to support evidence-based policy making.

METHODOLOGY

The preparation of the present Action Plan proposal included the collection of information regarding short, medium and long-term actions that are developed by the Government at several levels, including other sectors in society, to address issues of concern surrounding the situation of persons with albinism in the country.

CONCEPT

Albinism is a condition caused by a deficiency in melanin production and, depending on its severity, can cause changes in the colour of the skin, eyes and hair. The color of the skin, eyes and hair is determined by the amount of melanin produced by our bodies. Melanin is responsible for guaranteeing pigmentation and protecting the skin against solar radiation. According to the World Health Organization, albinism affects 1 in every 5000 people and 1 in every 15 000 in Sub-Saharan Africa (UN, 2015).

ASSUMPTIONS

Preventing and combating criminality are two of the main priorities of this Government,, and have guided its actions and the management of its resources, with the aim of maintaining peace and tranquility for the population.

However, in the last 12 months, our country has sadly been witnessing crimes against persons with albinism, in the form of abductions, bodily injuries, murder, human trafficking, extraction and trafficking of organs and even disrespect of the dead, commonly designated as “the desecration of graves”.

CURRENT SITUATION

The first cases of persecutions of persons with albinism were reported in December 2014 in the Province of Nampula, epicenter of the phenomenon, which by October 2015 had made 22 victims. In the same period, the General Prosecutor’s Office initiated 57 criminal cases, 32 of which in the Province of Nampula, 15 in Zambezia, 3 in Cape Delgado and 2 in Inhambane.

Faced with this situation, the Government initiated criminal cases, through the actions of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique, as part of its activities in cooperation with the communities from the identified provinces. Criminal investigations were launched, as a result of which 91 individuals were charged in connection with these types of crime, all persons under investigation were Mozambican nationals, of which 56 were kept in pre-trial detention and 35 were released while awaiting trial.

Regarding the 22 criminal procedures initiated, 8 ended in case dismissals, while in the remaining 14 cases, criminal charges were filed against the defendants. Regarding the latter, 8 cases were tried and the defendants sentenced to up to 20 years in prison, 1 is in its contradictory instruction phase and the remaining 5 are undergoing subsequent stages of the procedure, including 1 in which an indictment has been passed.

In addition to these actions, the following initiatives should be noted:

- The re-establishment of Reference Groups that bring together relevant stakeholders in society;
- Awareness-raising among persons with albinism to increase their self-esteem;
- The delivery of a preliminary socio-anthropological study on albinism conducted by ARPAC;
- The joint signature of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Ministry of Health and the Association "*Defendendo os Nossos Direitos*" ("Defending Our Rights"), in the area of medical and prescription assistance to persons with albinism;
- The organization of television and radio debate sessions;
- The inclusion, on the part of MGCAS, of persons with albinism in conditions of vulnerability in programs of basic social security;
- The manifestation of condemnation from society through public messages, marches and exhortations;
- Civic education campaigns by MINEDH, under the slogan "*O ALBINO É MEU IRMÃO*" ("PERSONS WITH ALBINISM ARE MY BROTHERS")
- The painting of school murals, organized by MINEDH, with messages condemning the wave of kidnappings and murders of persons with albinism.

According to the information gathered by ARPAC, with MCTUR, the main motivation driving the perpetrators of these crimes (kidnapping and murder) is their desire to obtain body parts (genital organs, hair, nails and eyes) of persons with albinism to be later sell them to potential buyers.

MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE CRIME

Based on the results of the preliminary study it is possible to assert that, on the one hand, these crimes are driven by greed and, on the other hand, by the general ignorance of the population with regards to the causes of albinism together with deep-rooted myths and beliefs which ultimately may lead to a complete disregard for human life.

MATRIX FOR ACTIONS

Considering the worrying levels of violence against persons with albinism in the form of kidnappings, bodily injuries and murders, the Multi-Sectorial Working Commission proposes the following Action Plan and respective budget, with quarterly monitoring and evaluation sessions.

PROMOTING EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

No.	Activity	Range	Goal	Expected outcome	Responsibility	Time frame	Budget	Level of achievement	Observations
01	Organize awareness raising talks on the health and condition of persons with albinism among communities	National level	152 talks per sector	An informed community	MISAU, MINEDH, MGCAS, MCTESTP MJCR, MICULTUR MTESS, MINT, MAEFP AMETRAMO,	Short and medium-term	2.405.133,00 MT		Coordinated by MISAU

					Association “Defending our Rights”				
02	Prepare and share materials to promote civic education and education with regards to legislation and public policies	National level	20 000 per sector (posters, leaflets, spots, television and radio time)	Informed community with a verifiable change of attitude	MISAU, MINEDH, MGCAS, MCTESTP, MITESS MJCR, MINT, MAEFP MICULTUR, GABINFO	Short and medium-term	1.800,000,00 MT		Coordinated by GABINFO
03	Organize educational initiatives in different categories: theatre, poetry, writing, singing sessions as well as mural painting activities	National level	100 sessions per category (theatre, poetry, writing, singing) 100 schools with murals painted	Informed school community	MICULTUR, MINEDH MCTESTP, MITESS, MAEFP	Short and medium-term	1.800.000,00 MT		Coordinated by MICULTUR
04	Contribute to capacity building of families,	National level	112 regional capacity-building sessions	Developed capacities of families, communities,	MGCAS, MJCR, MCTESTP, MICULTUR, MINT,	Short and medium-term	1058.052,00 MT		Coordinated by MAEFP

	communities, local consultative councils, local community leaders, religious and civil society institutions to promote actions for preventing and combating kidnapping and murder of persons with albinism			local consultative councils, local community leaderships, religious and civil society institutions	MISAU, MAEFP				
05	Coordinate with mass media the involvement of leading figures in debates, interviews, radio and television programs and in promoting information	Central level	100% of coordination actions secured	Informed population	GABINFO	Short and medium-term	2.838.600,00 MT		Coordinated by GABINFO

	about persons with albinism								
06	Capacity-building of journalists	Central level	4 capacity-building sessions	Developed capacities of journalists	GABINFO, MISAU, MINT, MJCR, MGCAS, MCTESTP, MICULTUR	Short and medium term	3.689.624,00 MT		Coordinated by GABINFO
07	Include in school curricula and textbooks content related to persons with albinism	Central level	The issue of persons with albinism is integrated in school curricula and textbooks as well as in the manual for civic education	Adequate information on the issue of persons with albinism delivered	MINEDH	Medium and long-term	????????		Coordinated by MINEDH

TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

No.	Activity	Range	Goal	Expected outcome	Responsibility	Time frame	Budget	Level of achievement	Observations
01	Prioritize medical assistance in the fields of	National level	100% of persons with albinism assisted	Medical assistance secured for persons with	MISAU	Short and long-term			Coordinated by MISAU

	dermatology, ophthalmology , surgery, oncology and in the provision of glasses to persons with albinism			albinism					
02	Provide social assistance to persons with albinism and their families	National level	400 persons with albinism and their families assisted	Assistance secured for persons with albinism and respective families	MGCAS	Short and medium-term	2.400.000,00 MT		Coordinated by MGCAS
03	Integrate persons with albinism and their families in programs of basic social assistance	National level	500 persons with albinism and their families integrated	Assistance secured for persons with albinism	MGCAS	Short and medium-term	3.600.000,00 MT		Coordinated by MGCAS
04	Provide psychosocial support to persons with albinism victims of violence and discrimination	National level	100% persons with albinism and respective families assisted	Assistance secured for persons with albinism and respective families	MGCAS, MISAU, MINT, MAEFP, MITESS, MCTESTP	Short and medium-term	1.500.000,00 MT		Coordinated by MISAU
05	Provide for	National level	Guideline	Education	MINEDH,	Short and			Coordinated by

	first seat rows in classrooms to be available for persons with albinism due to inherent eye problems		material produced and shared with all schools	adequately ensured to persons with albinism	MCTESTP	medium-term			MINEDH
06	Adopt larger characters in national exams to address the eye conditions of persons with albinism	National level	100% persons with albinism benefit from this action	Education is adequately provided for persons with albinism	MINEDH, MCTESTP	Short, medium and long-term			Coordinated by MINEDH

TO ENSURE PREVENTION, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, PROCEDURAL CELERITY AND THE SHARING OF INFORMATION ON JUDICIAL DECISIONS

No.	Activity	Range	Goal	Expected outcome	Responsibility	Time frame	Budget	Level of achievement	Observations
01	To guarantee legal assistance to victims during judicial proceedings	National level	100% of victims	100% of victims provided with legal assistance	MJCR	Short and medium-term	N/A		Coordinated by MJCR

02	Ensure civil registration of all persons with albinism	National level	100% of persons with albinism registered	Persons with albinism will be registered in the Civil Registry	MJCR	Short and medium-term	500.000,00 MT		Coordinated by MJCR
03	To guarantee the respect for the fundamental rights of persons with albinism	National levels	All judicial proceedings	Fundamental rights guaranteed	MINT, MJCR	Short and medium-term	1.000.000.00 MT		Coordinated by MJCR
04	Disclose court decisions, including sentencing of perpetrators, in order to discourage the future practice of these crimes	National level	All judicial proceedings	Rights guaranteed	MJCR	Short and medium-term	1.000.000.00 MT		Coordinated by MJCR
05	To approve legislation on traditional medical practices and respective regulation	Central level	Piece of legislation	Legislation approved	MISAU, MJCR	Medium-term	2.000.000 MT		Coordinated by MISAU
06	Ensure that those who	Central level	Search and apprehension	Those responsible	MINT	Short and medium-	N/A		Coordinated by MJCR

	order these crimes are identified and held responsible		actions secured	for ordering these crimes identified and presented to court		term			
--	--	--	-----------------	---	--	------	--	--	--

TO CONDUCT SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

No.	Activity	Range	Goal	Expected outcome	Responsibility	Time frame	Budget	Level of achievement	Observations
01	Conduct a socio-anthropological study on crimes perpetrated against persons with albinism	National level and neighbouring countries	2 studies conducted	References collected to prepare comprehensive reports on the phenomenon	MICTESTP U.E.M, ARPAC	Medium and long-term	3.000.000,00 MT		Coordinated by MICTESTP
02	Prepare material to guide policy-making	National level	Materials prepared	Material produced to guide policy-making	Relevant sectors	Long-term	2.000.000,00 MT		ALL

CALENDAR FOR ACTIONS AND MONITORING

PROMOTING EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

No.	Activity	Time frame			Monitoring				Indicators	Observations
		Short (up to 1 year)	Medium (1-3 years)	Long (3-5 years)	1º	2º	3º	4º		
01	Conduct 1824 talks to raise awareness on the health and condition of persons with albinism in communities	456	912	456	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	1824x4 years	Coordinated by MISAU
02	Prepare and disseminate aprox. 100,000 units of materials for civic education and education on public legislation and public policies	25.000	50.000	25.000	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	100x4 years	Coordinated by GABINFO
03	Organize 100 educational initiatives in different	25	50	25	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	100x4 years	Coordinated by MCULT

	categories: theatre, poetry, writing, singing sessions as well as 100 mural painting activities									
04	Carry out 112 capacity-building sessions for families, communities, local consultative councils, local community leaders, religious and civil society institutions to promote actions for preventing and combating kidnapping and murder of persons with albinism	28 undertaken	56 undertaken	28 undertaken	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	Septembe r (1st week)	Novembe r (1st week)	112x4 years	Coordinated by MAEFP
05	Coordinate with mass media the involvement of leading figures in debates, interviews, radio and television				April (1st week)	June (1st week)	Septembe r (1st week)	Novembe r (1st week)		Coordinated by GABINFO

	programs and in promoting information about persons with albinism									
06	Organize 4 capacity-building sessions for journalists	1	2	1	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	4x4 years	Coordinated by GABINFO
07	Integrate content regarding the issue of persons with albinism in school curricula and textbooks				April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)		Coordinated by MINEDH

TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH ALBINISM

No.	Activity	Time frame			Monitoring				Indicators	Observations
		Short (up to 1 year)	Medium (1-3 years)	Long (3-5 years)	1º	2º	3º	4º		
01	Prioritize medical assistance in the fields of dermatology, ophthalmology, surgery, oncology and in the		% of persons with albinism assisted		April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	% of persons with albinism assisted	Coordinated by MISAU

	provision of glasses to persons with albinism									
02	Provide social assistance to 400 persons with albinism and their families	100	200	100	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	400 persons with albinism and their families provided with social assistance	Coordinated by MGCAS
03	Integrate 500 persons with albinism and their families in programs of basic social assistance	100	300	100	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	500 persons with albinism and their families integrated	Coordinated by MGCAS
04	Provide psychosocial support to persons with albinism victims of violence and discrimination		% of persons with albinism and their families assisted		April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)		Coordinated by MISAU
05	Provide for first seat rows in classrooms to be available for persons with albinism due to inherent eye problems		% of persons with albinism		April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)		Coordinated by MINEDH
06	Adopt larger		% of persons		April	June	September	November		Coordinated by

	characters in national exams to address the eye conditions of persons with albinism		with albinism benefited by this action		(1st week)	(1st week)	r (1st week)	r (1st week)		MINEDH
--	---	--	--	--	-------------	-------------	--------------	--------------	--	--------

TO ENSURE PREVENTION, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, PROCEDURAL CELERITY AND THE SHARING OF INFORMATION ON JUDICIAL DECISIONS

No.	Activity	Time frame			Monitoring				Indicators	Observations
		Short (up to 1 year)	Medium (1-3 years)	Long (3-5 years)	1º	2º	3º	4º		
01	To guarantee legal assistance to victims during judicial proceedings	% legal assistance guaranteed	Legal assistance guaranteed	Legal assistance guaranteed	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	% of persons with albinism assisted	Coordinated by MJCR
02	Ensure civil registration of all persons with albinism	% of persons with albinism registered	Persons with albinism registered	Persons with albinism registered	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	% of persons with albinism registered	Coordinated by MJCR
03	To guarantee the respect for the fundamental rights of persons with albinism	Guaranteed rights	Guaranteed rights	Guaranteed rights	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	100%	Coordinated by MJCR
04	Disclose court	Disclosed	Disclosed	Disclosed	April	June	September	November	100 % of court	Coordinated by

	decisions, including sentencing of perpetrators, in order to discourage the future practice of these crimes	court decisions	court decisions	court decisions	(1st week)	(1st week)	r (1st week)	r (1st week)	decisions disclosed	MJCR
05	To approve legislation on traditional medical practices and respective regulation		1		April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	1x4 years	Coordinated by MISAU
06	Ensure that those who order these crimes are identified and held responsible	People who ordered the crimes held responsible	People who ordered the crimes held responsible	People who ordered the crimes held responsible	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	People who ordered crimes stand trial	Coordinated by MJCR

TO CONDUCT SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

No.	Activity	Time frame			Monitoring				Indicators	Observations
		Short (up to 1 year)	Medium (1-3 years)	Long (3-5 years)	1 ^o	2 ^o	3 ^o	4 ^o		
01	To conduct 2 socio-anthropological studies on crimes perpetrated		1	1	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	2 studies conducted and disseminated	Coordinated by MCTESTP

	against persons with albinism									
02	Prepare material to guide policy-making			1	April (1st week)	June (1st week)	September (1st week)	November (1st week)	Public policies drafted	MJCR

NUMBER OF ACTIONS AND BUDGETARY IMPACT

Number of actions	Budget (MT)	Observations
G1 – OE1 – 7	13.591.409,00	Allocate budget for action 7 (MINEDH)
G2 – OE2 – 6	7.500.000,00	
G3 – OE3 – 6	4.650.000,00	
G4 – OE4 – 2	5000.000,00	
Total - 21	30.741.409,00	

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Since the start of the preparation works that led to the present Plan, several meetings took place spanning all sectors in view of guaranteeing its feasibility. It is our belief that this is still an unfinished endeavour, so that, in the course of its implementation, the Plan may be revisited on a second phase.

As can be concluded based on the introductory remarks, this Plan aims at establishing the adequate and immediate mechanisms to provide increased protection to persons with albinism.