



TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN MOZAMBIQUE



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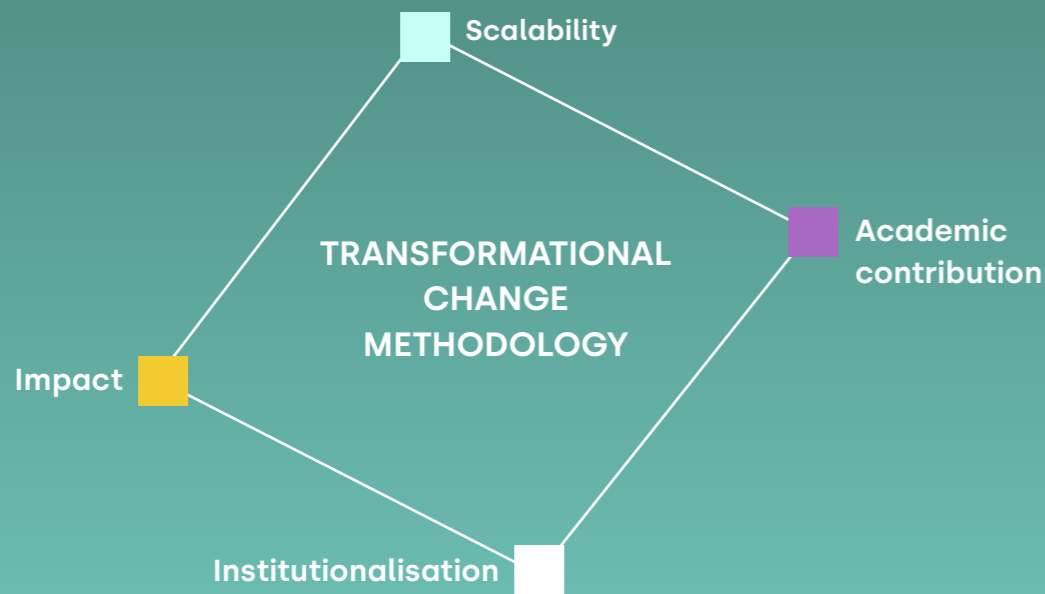
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1. Understanding Transformational Change

The IGC works with policymakers in low- and middle-income countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through pathbreaking research. Our research and policy engagement are supported by an international network of researchers and resident country offices across Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. The collaborative approach made possible by this model – with embedded country teams that bring senior policymakers together with leading researchers – has created an effective mechanism for collaborative idea generation.

To understand, enhance, and communicate IGC's impact, we created a 'Transformational Change' methodology in 2024. The methodology aims to identify the conditions in which research can achieve significant and positive policy and academic impact by focusing on four key dimensions: innovative contribution, institutionalisation, scalability, and impact. Our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Team is now applying this methodology to a series of case studies. The knowledge from these studies will deepen our understanding of the IGC's pivotal contributions and help us to draw actionable insights that inform future strategies and reinforce the IGC's role in driving evidence-informed policy research.

From June to August 2024, we applied our Transformational Change methodology to analyse the Conflict Management and Social Integration research and policy engagement cluster in Mozambique, drawing on internal documents, official reports, publications and fifteen interviews¹

¹ The interviewees consulted for this case study were: Principal Investigators: **Pedro Vicente** (also IGC Mozambique Lead Academic) and **Henrique Pita Barros**; Policy stakeholders: **Vasco Nhabinde** (former Director of Studies at Ministry of Finance), **Manuel Chicamisse** (Coordinator, Unity and Humanitarian Programmes at ADIN), **Haggai Mario** (Coordinator, Economic Management Programmes Unit at ADIN), **Dario Passos** (former Director of Economy and Finance at Ministry of Finance), **Joao Pedro** (Secretary of Neighborhood), **Sabur Lingua** (member of the Islamic Council); Community-level stakeholders: **Imamo Mussa** (community leader) and **Alberto Sabao** (former President of the Christian Council of Mozambique); IGC staff: IGC Mozambique Country Director, **Claudio Frischtak**, IGC Senior Country Economist, **Egas Daniel**. Three interviewees did not wish to be named.

2. Conflict management and social integration in Mozambique

The rise of Islamic radicalisation and terrorism has been destabilising Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique since 2017, leading to social unrest, economic decline, and the displacement of nearly a million people in a region with a population of 2.27 million.²

Since 2015, the IGC has funded seven research projects on conflict management and Internally Displaced People (IDP) reintegration in this region, testing approaches like information campaigns, religious sensitisation, and community-led dialogues, with a total investment of nearly GBP 180,000.³

There are two workstreams included in this research: one on conflict management and the second on social reintegration of IDPs led by Principal Investigators (PIs) Pedro Vicente and Henrique Pita Barros, respectively. This research cluster "aims to address various aspects of conflict and development [in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique], with a particular focus on innovative methods and practical outcomes" (P. Vicente, personal communication, 23 July 2024).

The IGC's contribution to change:

- **Pioneering rigorous research** on the impact of information campaigns on citizens' and local leaders' behaviours to counteract the "political resource curse" in Mozambique, which led to an academic publication in the *American Economic Review* in 2020.
- Enabling a significant shift in practice at the community level, with religious leaders in Cabo Delgado coming together to implement evidence-informed solutions to conflict and **institutionalising** their partnership through an interfaith statement.
- Identifying low-cost, non-military strategies for the government of Mozambique **to manage or prevent conflict and enhance social reintegration** of IDPs in Cabo Delgado.

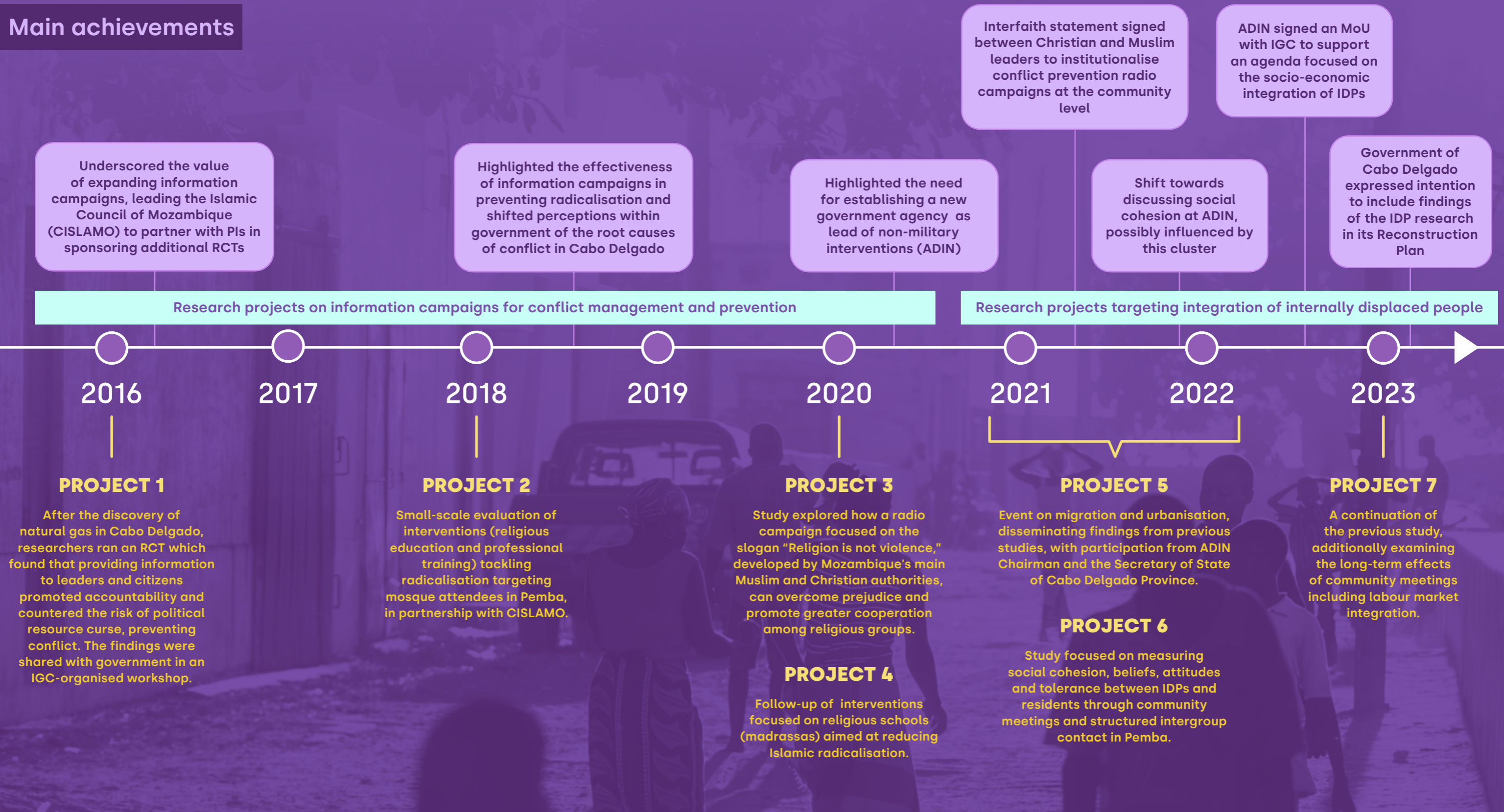
² Data from Mozambique national census 2017: https://www.citypopulation.de/en/mozambique/admin/02_cabo_delgado/; <https://www.ine.gov.mz/en/censo-2017>

³ This includes £111,600 through Commissioning Board projects, £60,000 through quick response smaller grants (SPFs) and £7900 spent on 1 dissemination event.

Transformational Change timeline

Conflict Management and Social Integration in Mozambique

Main achievements



Research and policy engagement

This timeline illustrates the evolution of the Transformational Change story over time, highlighting key achievements related to IGC-funded research and policy engagement. It acknowledges the accumulation of research findings, policy efforts, and contributions from multiple actors, emphasising contribution rather than direct attribution to the observed outcomes.

3. The path to Transformational Change

a. Countering the risk of revenue mismanagement through information campaigns

In 2010, the discovery of 180 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Mozambique's offshore Rovuma basin in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, one of the largest in recent years, presented a transformative opportunity for Mozambique's economy (IMF, 2016). Mozambique could become the third largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) globally (World Bank 2014, Frühauf 2014). However, this discovery also brought the risk of the 'political resource curse', through which resource-rich countries experience economic stagnation due to revenue mismanagement driven by corruption. Historically, resource booms in some other African countries have led to rent-seeking behaviour and reduced economic productivity, diverting focus from essential activities (Armand et al., 2020). With the backdrop of Mozambique's low GDP per capita and its majority rural population, the Cabo Delgado province was particularly vulnerable to such risks.

The research team hypothesised that providing information about this major resource discovery and its potential future windfall could mitigate this risk by influencing the behaviour of citizens and local leaders, thereby contributing to local accountability (Armand et al., 2020). Vicente, IGC Mozambique Lead Academic and Principal Investigator, explains the need for research on this issue: **"The literature was mostly about natural resources and their political mechanisms, but there was no experimental evidence at the lowest level of government, which was the village level [...] We wanted to anticipate the potential impact of this discovery on Mozambique's economy and society over the next 10 years"** (23 July 2024).

The IGC started supporting research on this topic in 2015 through its fourth Commissioning Board, which led to funding for the project "On the Mechanics of the Political Resource Curse: Behavioural Measurements."⁴ It also played a crucial role in engagement with the central and provincial governments at the time, to secure support for conducting research in Cabo Delgado. The research team, led by PI Vicente and including Alex Armand, Alexander Coutts, and Inês Vilela, conducted a large-scale randomised controlled trial (RCT) in 206 communities. Their study sought to measure behavioural change after disseminating an information campaign to some communities about the natural gas discovery, including the expected size of the future windfall and the rights of local populations to benefit from its exploitation, including informed consent, local investment, compensation, and employment prioritisation (Armand et al, 2020).

They tested the impact of providing information to either only community leaders or both leaders and the community, compared to a third group that received no information. The study showed that targeting citizens

⁴ The research also received funding by 3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and support by the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, and Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

and involving them in public deliberations "...increases local mobilisation for political accountability and reduces violence, while information that reaches only local leaders tends to increase elite capture and rent-seeking" (Armand et al, 2020). This empirical research indicated that community information campaigns and inclusive participation in decision-making can effectively prevent conflict in resource-producing areas.

The results were presented to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Defence by Cláudio Frischtak, IGC Mozambique Country Director, in a meeting organised by the IGC in August 2019. His presentation underscored the importance of expanding research in this area to identify other potential applications of these campaigns. Given the link between the resource curse and localised conflicts in resource-rich areas, this was a crucial finding for conflict prevention (Armand et al., 2020).

b. Responding to the rise of insurgency through information campaigns

When conflict broke out in Cabo Delgado in 2017, local leaders such as those from the Islamic Council of Mozambique (CISLAMO), were uncertain about how to address the growing radicalisation and insurgency in rural areas. Vicente (23 July 2024) notes that **"the government was focused on a military approach. This was not effective in all dimensions. The government's approach was security-focused, closing off the province to outsiders and media"**. The government's military response targeted terrorist organisations and potential aggressors, but this approach was losing support among the local community (P. Vicente, personal communication, 23 July 2024). In response, researchers decided to test the effectiveness of alternative strategies: information campaigns with religious messages and employment opportunities targeted to young people at high risk of recruitment to youth radicalisation in Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado.

Based on early evidence of the potential of these campaigns, IGC expanded its support for this initiative in 2018 by funding the study "Preventing Islamic Radicalisation in Mozambique: Through Faith or Employment." The IGC Mozambique Country Team continued to play a crucial role in facilitating research by fostering engagement with key government stakeholders at provincial and central levels, securing data access, and obtaining government permissions. Vasco Nhabinde, former Director of Studies at the Ministry of Finance, highlights that **"the IGC was the primary actor conducting research and organising seminars on these matters. Other participants, mainly donors, were involved in cooperative efforts during the conflict, but not in research. Some organisations might have been doing independent research [...] but not directly linked to the Ministry of Economy and Finance"** (5 July 2024).

Through this study, researchers conducted a field experiment in Pemba aimed at preventing conflict by targeting young men who attend local mosques. This included implementing two interventions in collaboration with CISLAMO, to impact anti-social behaviour, measured by a lab



A community participates in the information campaign about the management of natural resources in the Province of Cabo Delgado, focusing on recent natural gas discoveries.

NOVAFRICA

game.⁵ The first was a religious sensitisation campaign led by religious leaders who provided information to counter the theological claims often used by Islamic fundamentalists to justify violence (Vicente and Vilela, 2022). The second focused on economic opportunities, offering training in entrepreneurship and employment to prepare participants for new job opportunities related to natural resource extraction in the region (Vicente and Vilela, 2022). This study was later published in the *Journal of Comparative Economics* in 2022.

The religious sensitisation campaign reduced anti-social behaviour among participants by 8-9 percentage points. Additionally, the campaign positively influenced participants' attitudes, making them more optimistic about peace, more trusting of the government, and less supportive of mixing religion with politics (Vicente and Vilela, 2022). Conversely, the entrepreneurship and employment training module, which aimed to deter violent behaviour by improving economic opportunities, did not have the same effect. Instead, it heightened participants' expectations that others would act anti-socially, possibly due to concerns that the recent natural resource discovery could fuel greed and adverse political behaviour (Vicente and Vilela, 2022).

What is particularly noteworthy about this research is its impact at both the government and community levels. The findings from this research demonstrated the value of evidence-informed approaches to

⁵ The paper introduced a novel approach to measure outcomes by assessing anti-social behaviour through a "Joy-of-Destruction" lab game, in which each subject has to decide whether to destroy the endowment of the other player at a cost. The research design opposed the main Muslim sample to auxiliary samples of local Muslims, local Christians, local public officials, and foreigners. The behavioral measurement is also complemented by other survey-based attitudes.

understanding and managing conflict. Dario Passos, former Director of Economy and Finance at the Cabo Delgado Provincial Government, notes,

"The research provided concrete actions needed to address the problem, both in cities and rural areas where the problem was happening. It highlighted the need to expand our focus beyond the directly affected to those who might be affected soon. So, it gave us tools of how to intervene in the situation, and it also alerted us that we need to expand reach" (4 July 2024).

The findings also shifted perceptions within government of the root causes behind the conflict in Cabo Delgado and highlighted the effectiveness of information campaigns in preventing radicalisation. Vasco Nhabinde, former Director of Studies at Ministry of Economy and Finance, highlights how the research changed the narrative around the conflict: **"Initially, it was seen as a Muslim issue, but the research helped clarify that it was not. Muslim leaders' involvement in raising awareness was crucial in changing perceptions"** (5 July 2024). The project's results were also shared with Sheikh Carimo, a key political and conflict mediator in Mozambique and President of the National Electoral Commission, in a closed-door meeting. He stated the results were crucial to inform government discussions on the Cabo Delgado conflict and invited IGC's collaboration in future meetings with key stakeholders.

IGC Mozambique Country Director, Cláudio Frischtak, emphasises that the IGC contribution was to point out and provide evidence **"that there are alternative approaches to (...) a pure military approach in the prevention and the resolution of conflict"** (6 August 2024).

At the community level, the project's religious sensitisation campaigns empowered individuals, reducing the number of young people wanting to join insurgency (I. Musa, personal communication, 1 July 2024). This shift in awareness led to significant changes in how people engaged with extremist groups, as they began to realise that they were being misled by insurgents. As Imamo Musa, Community Leader, emphasises

"They [youths] noticed that they were being fooled by the insurgents [...] they got better knowledge of the religion" (1 July 2024).

Upon completion of this study, challenges persisted in Mozambique, particularly with ongoing terrorist attacks in the northern areas of Cabo Delgado. The mobilisation of young people for these attacks, driven by radicalised Islamic beliefs, also became increasingly common (Armand, Vicente, and Vilela, 2022). The positive findings from the earlier information campaigns then prompted the research team to expand their research to a province-wide information campaign. This involved broadcasting the campaign through community radios to examine its impacts on violence or on the recruitment of youths for terrorist attacks (Armand, Vicente, and Vilela, 2022).

IGC approved funding for the expansion of this research through a grant approved through the seventh Commissioning Board in 2020, "Countering Islamic radicalisation in Northern Mozambique through radio campaigning". The PI, Pedro Vicente, Lead Academic at IGC, states, "[t]his third project aimed to take our findings to the next level [...] we wanted to measure antisocial behaviour in a broader context. We developed a project to assess real outcomes of violence across the province as well as surveys and behavioural measures" (P. Vicente, personal communication, 23 July 2024). The resulting information campaign, developed by Mozambique's main Muslim and Christian authorities, promoted the message "Religion is not violence".⁶ It featured three religious leaders advocating for peace using religious texts (Armand, Vicente, and Vilela, 2022).⁷

This research project is still ongoing, but it has already made a significant contribution towards building trust among key religious leaders, laying the foundation for future collaborations on conflict prevention and management at the community level - collaborations that did not exist before this project. Alberto Sabao former President of the Christian Council in Cabo Delgado, notes, "One advantage of the radio campaign was its ability to reach a broader audience [...]. The campaign also changed behaviours among people; Muslims and Christians, who previously did not sit together [...]. There is greater acceptance and forgiveness" (2 July 2024). Imamo Musa adds,

"The radio campaign was the first time we had one message delivered by three different religious leaders [...] who communicated about the brotherhood and the peace that religion should spread" (1 July 2024).

This collaboration between Christian and Muslim leaders was further institutionalised by the signing of an interfaith statement (Club of Mozambique, 2022). Sabao highlights its importance: "The interfaith declaration aimed to unite different groups and address conflicts that were perceived as religiously motivated. The main reason is because they [religious leaders] were saying that the war, or the conflict, was religiously motivated. It helped to align efforts and promote peace, which is consistent with the goals of the project" (2 July 2024). The interfaith statement also led to the creation of a 'Council of Peace' in 2023, established to carry out conflict prevention initiatives, including the scaling up of radio campaigns to reach additional stations across the province with support from community radios. As Egas Daniel, IGC Mozambique Senior Country Economist, notes, "The Islamic Council continued implementing radio campaign messages in the same structure [for nearly one year], although they stopped due to insufficient funds [...] The Council of Peace is still operational" (4 August 2024).

⁶ CISLAMO (Islamic Council of Mozambique), the Islamic Congress, and CCM, the Christian Council of Mozambique.
⁷ Messages were recorded in four local languages and broadcast as 3-minute radio spots in 8 community radios spread around Cabo Delgado, supported by the Centre for Media and Community Radios (CAICC) (Armand, Vicente, & Vilela, 2022). The main outcomes of interests were patterns of violent conflict from geo-referenced datasets (ACLEd and GDELT) and attitudes toward extremism measured through phone surveys (Armand, Vicente, & Vilela, 2022).



Information leaflets about recent natural gas discoveries in Cabo Delgado, outlining forecasts about resource revenues and the rights of the population. These were handed out to communities by our implementation partner, NOVAFRICA.



Religious awareness and professional training sessions take place at the CISLAMO headquarters in Pemba, led by Theologians Ismail Sulemane and Faruque Ibraimo.

In 2020, the government launched the Agency for Integrated Development of the North (ADIN), an institution designed to implement development programmes and support peacebuilding efforts in the northern region. The idea of creating ADIN had been part of government plans for some time, with similar regional development agencies already in place (V. Nhabinde, personal communication, 5 July 2024). IGC's research - demonstrating the effectiveness of alternative non-military approaches to conflict prevention - alongside efforts from various international organisations, contributed to its establishment by highlighting the need and potential for such an effort.

c. Expanding research on alternative approaches to conflict prevention

The engagements and positive outcomes from the conflict management workstream within this research established trust and collaboration with the government of Mozambique. This motivated the IGC to pursue further research to equip the government with alternative solutions for other conflict-related emergencies. By 2020, the escalating insurgency in Cabo Delgado had led to a growing number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs), which were becoming a priority for both national and local governments. Government efforts focused on building housing for the IDPs and NGOs supported aid distribution (M. Chicamisse, personal communication, 2 July 2024). However, the government lacked comprehensive data on IDPs, relying primarily on anecdotal information from local citizens to assess the situation (H. Mario, personal communication, 4 July 2024), and lacked a framework to integrate IDPs into the local community.

Given the strong relationship the IGC had built with the government of Mozambique, the Country Team secured support and political authorisation for the PI, Henrique Pita Barros, an IGC-affiliated international researcher, to work on this topic. This support was key to secure the safety of the researchers and access to local communities (C. Frischtak, personal communication, 6 August 2024). Subsequently, Barros, who had worked as a researcher in Cabo Delgado, received an IGC Early Career Researcher

grant to conduct the project "Do social interactions help to integrate internally displaced people?" in 2022. Barros identified a knowledge gap in this area, noting that there was a focus on building housing for IDPs but no government strategy for a community-led response to social integration (H. Barros, personal communication, 26 July 2024).

The study, conducted in Pemba, had over 150,000 IDPs (Barros, 2022). It focused on measuring social cohesion, beliefs, attitudes and tolerance between IDPs and residents through community meetings and structured intergroup contact.⁸ Preliminary results showed that a three-hour intervention increased the sense of belonging among IDPs and fostered greater tolerance within host communities, with these effects lasting two to three months (Barros, 2022). The key policy recommendation was to adopt a dialogue-based approach to drive community integration, emphasising its cost-effectiveness, and complementing existing strategies to invest in housing for IDPs. In October 2022, the IGC supplemented this study with another small grant to study the long-term effects of community meetings, exploring how these gatherings could enhance labour market reintegration and foster the development of social networks. While other international development organisations, such as the World Bank, UNU-WIDER, UNDP and IOM were working in this region on the question of how to respond to the IDPs emergency, IGC was the first to support research on the impact of community meetings on social integration of IDPs with host communities (M. Chicamisse, personal communication, 2 July 2024).^{9, 10}

In December 2022, the IGC Mozambique Country Team organised a seminar to disseminate the findings from this research on IDPs and broader issues of migration and urbanisation in Mozambique. The event brought together stakeholders from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, ADIN, the government of Cabo Delgado, Municipalities of Pemba and Quelimane, and partners from international organisations such as IMF, ILO and UNHCR. The event enabled strong collaboration and the internalisation of findings. This led, in turn, to the signing of an MoU between ADIN and the IGC Mozambique Country Team to strengthen research activities and to institutionalise a model of evidence-informed, co-generated research on approaches to promote peacebuilding and cohesion in the northern provinces. Barros adds that

"...there has been a noticeable shift towards discussing social cohesion at ADIN, possibly influenced by our work and discussions with IGC" (26 July 2024).

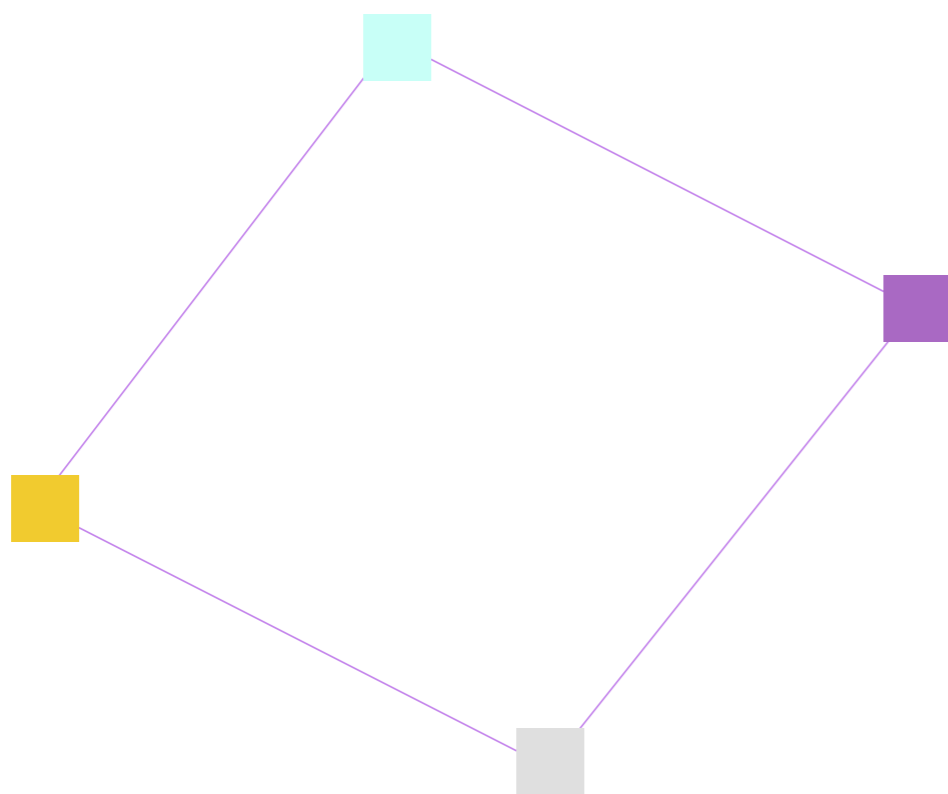
⁸ Locals and IDPs were randomly sampled and assigned to groups, and the treatment cohorts engaged in community meetings, surveys, and lab-in-the-field games. (Barros, 2024)

⁹ Support for IDPs through a revised 'Northern Crisis Recovery Project' through various activities. (World Bank, 2023)

¹⁰ Various UN organisations support activities through the Programme for Resilience and Integrated Development in the North (PREDIN) and the Plan for Reconstruction in the areas affected by terrorism in Cabo Delgado (PRCD - 2021-2024).

These projects, spanning over three years, have supported ADIN's response to IDP emergencies, offering a new perspective to respond to the IDPs emergency (M. Chicamisse, personal communication, 2 July 2024). He adds that "...when organisations came to help, they were primarily raising funds and distributing goods [...] Henrique's research used scientific parameters which offered something different and valuable [...] This approach reduced the likelihood of failure, which often stems from inadequate groundwork. Their research-based methodology was crucial for informed decision-making and long-term planning" (M. Chicamisse, personal communication, 2 July 2024). While community meetings may seem simple, Frischtak notes that setting up the right mechanism to get significant results is challenging, but this study tested and validated such an approach (C. Frischtak, personal communication, 6 August 2024).

This research has also had a positive impact on the local community in Pemba. Pedro adds "For me the impact has been positive because social cohesion would have been very hard without this project [...] it gave us the tools necessary for us to find alignment and to implement" (J. Pedro, personal communication, 1 July 2024). Today, PI Barros continues his research on this topic, currently conducting a second round of data collection. These findings will be shared with provincial and national governments, as well as international organisations, with the support of the IGC Mozambique Country Team. The IGC remains committed to this research as part of a broader effort to address the economic and social reintegration of IDPs across Mozambique.



4. What makes this work transformational?

Key achievements by dimension

- **Academic contribution:** The first workstream of the cluster, focused on the political resource curse, provided foundational evidence that information campaigns are an effective mechanism for changing behaviours and increasing accountability, led to academic publications in top academic journals - AER and Journal of Comparative Economics - and made important contributions to conflict management and prevention literature.
- **Impact:** This work has convinced the government of the effectiveness of non-military, low-cost approaches to conflict resolution and social reintegration, even during peak violence and in remote areas with limited government presence. This shift in perspective contributed to the government's decision to reprioritise non-military programmes and agencies. At the community level, the interventions improved relations between Christian and Muslim leaders, leading them to recognise that the conflict's root causes were not religious but due to misinformation and socioeconomic opportunities. The interventions also reduced the appeal of insurgent groups by clarifying the roots of Islam, preventing Quranic misinterpretations, and encouraging youths to pursue jobs and skills training.
- **Institutionalisation:** In 2023, the collaboration between Christian and Muslim leaders was formalised with an interfaith statement, leading to the creation of the "Council of Peace," comprising representatives from both religions. The Council continued running information campaigns via radio until funds were exhausted, but remains active, planning further low-cost initiatives to address conflict. IGC's research demonstrated the effectiveness of non-military approaches to conflict prevention, which, together with efforts by other organisations, helped catalyse the launch of ADIN, an initiative that had been in government plans for some time.
- **Scalability:** The findings of this research are relevant to similar conflict-affected contexts beyond Mozambique, where empirical evidence is scarce.¹¹ In Mozambique, although the community-led radio campaigns initiative was halted after a year, the Council of Peace had initially expanded these campaigns to additional radio stations across the province, demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach in reaching wider audiences even during peak violence. The IGC recognises the potential to further scale up these findings through additional policy engagements.

¹¹ "This work contributes to four key areas: (1) research on civil wars and conflict emergence (Berman et al., 2017; Blattman and Annan, 2016; Blattman and Miguel, 2010; Dube and Vargas, 2013); (2) U.S. counterinsurgency strategies targeting local livelihoods (Beath et al., 2017; Berman et al., 2011a; Crost et al., 2014; Hirose et al., 2017; Lyall et al., 2020); (3) studies on the importance of insurgent attitudes beyond material benefits (Abadie, 2006; Atran, 2003; Berman et al., 2011b; Bursztyn et al., 2020; Dell and Querubin, 2018; Krueger and Malečková, 2003; Lyall, 2010; Lyall et al., 2013); and (4) literature on community-driven reconstruction emphasizing collective action and social cohesion (Collier and Vicente, 2014; Fafchamps and Vicente, 2013; Fearon et al., 2009, 2015)." (Armand, Vicente, & Vilela, 2022, P.4)

5. Drivers of change

Through our Transformational Change analysis, we have identified the following key factors that enabled IGC's engagement to contribute to change:

Effective communication and inclusive dialogue: IGC engaged collaboratively at different levels of government, working with both local and national government agencies to clearly communicate the project's objectives and benefits. IGC researchers were noted for their commitment to consistently share insights with central and provincial governments. This approach reinforced accountability and strengthened trust with stakeholders.

Ownership and support from policy champions: IGC played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and the community to explore new approaches for reducing conflict by combining policy engagement assistance with financial support. This effort secured the political buy-in necessary to conduct research on this topic, which was crucial for successful data collection and ensuring the safety of researchers. Engaging local leaders was essential for building community trust and facilitating effective participation. This involvement helped navigate local dynamics and improved communication with the provincial government and communities.

Responsiveness to local demand for research and contextual relevance: The research gained further significance during the period it took place, due to the discovery of natural resources and the rise of insurgency. The government's initial challenges to respond to these emergencies underscored the importance of this work, prompting authorities to approve the research projects and actively engage with their findings.

Supporting agile research processes via the strategic use of various funding streams. Offering a variety of funding streams (including rigorous competitive grants, fast response grants, seed funding for exploratory research, and funding for dissemination activities), enabled the IGC to support the research and its dissemination, stimulating interest.

Fostering long-term research collaborations. The presence of an IGC in-country team, with embedded country economists and leadership for over a decade in Mozambique, has fostered close, collaborative relationships with policymakers and researchers. Investing time and resources into long-term research agendas and clusters of work has proven crucial for achieving impact. This structure has facilitated timely exchanges between policymakers and researchers and leveraged previous findings to continue testing new policy innovations in response to the rise of conflict in Mozambique.

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