

# Adaptive Mediation and Adaptive Peacebuilding in Mozambique

Rui Saraiva, PhD.

Research Fellow

JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace & Development

Based on the following chapters:

Saraiva, Rui. 2022. "[Peace-making from Within: Adaptive Mediation of Direct Dialogue in Mozambique's New Peace Process \(2013–2019\)](#)." C. de Coning et al. (eds.), *Adaptive Mediation and Conflict Resolution*, Sustainable Development Goals Series, Cham: Palgrave MacMillan.

Saraiva, Rui. ([Forthcoming 2023](#)). "Adaptive Peacebuilding in Mozambique: The Example of 'Localized' International Non-Governmental Organizations (L-INGOs) amid Complexity and Uncertainty." In: De Coning et al (eds). *Adaptive Peacebuilding: A New Approach to Sustaining Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Cham: Palgrave MacMillan.

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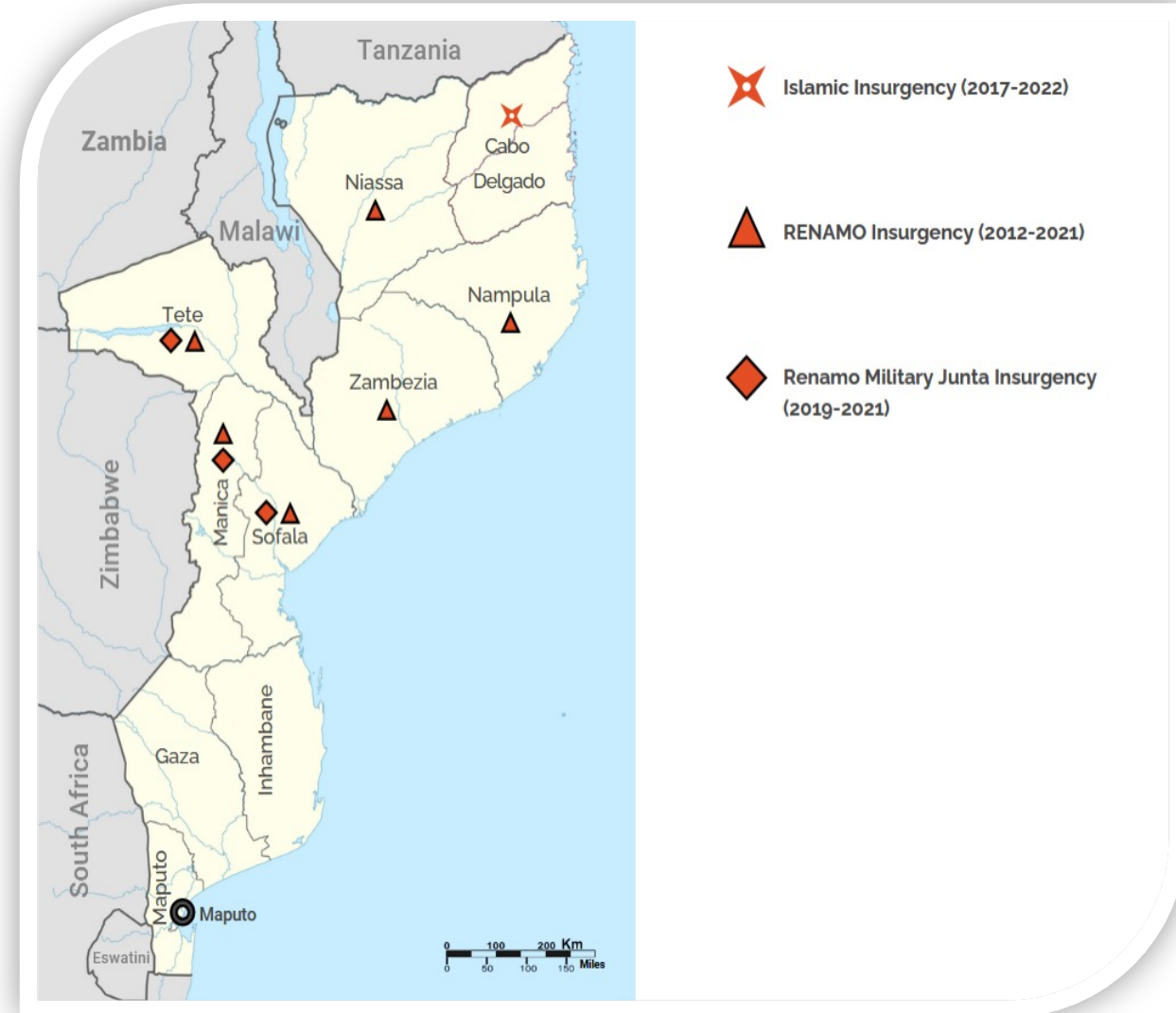
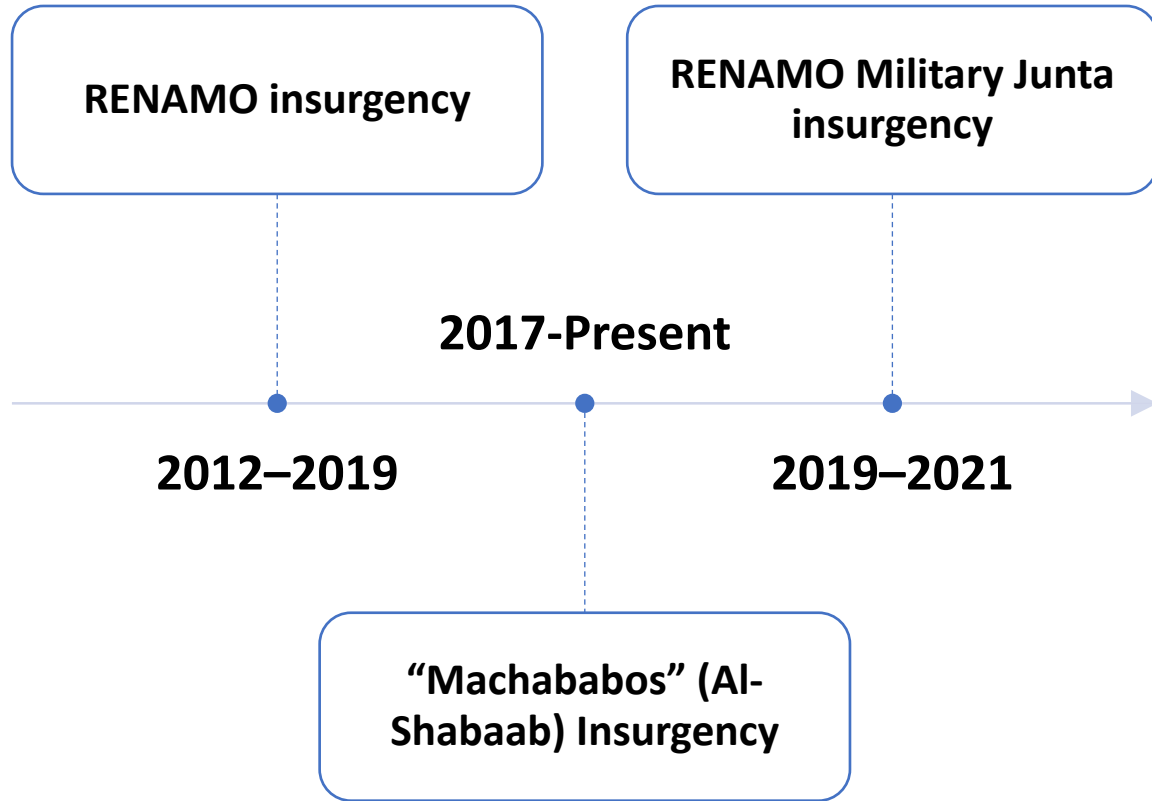
# Past Conflict Cycles in Mozambique

**1505–1975 (470 years)**  
**Portuguese colonization**

**1977–1992 (15 years)**  
**First civil war:** Mozambican Liberation Front (FRELIMO) vs. Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO)

**Independence War: FRELIMO vs. Portuguese Dictatorship**  
**1964–1974 (10 years)**

# Recent Conflict Cycles in Mozambique



# Mediation Process (2013 - 2019) Three Main Phases

1. Domestic mediation without external process facilitation
2. Standard high-level international mediation
3. Adaptive Mediation as Process Facilitation of Direct Dialogue

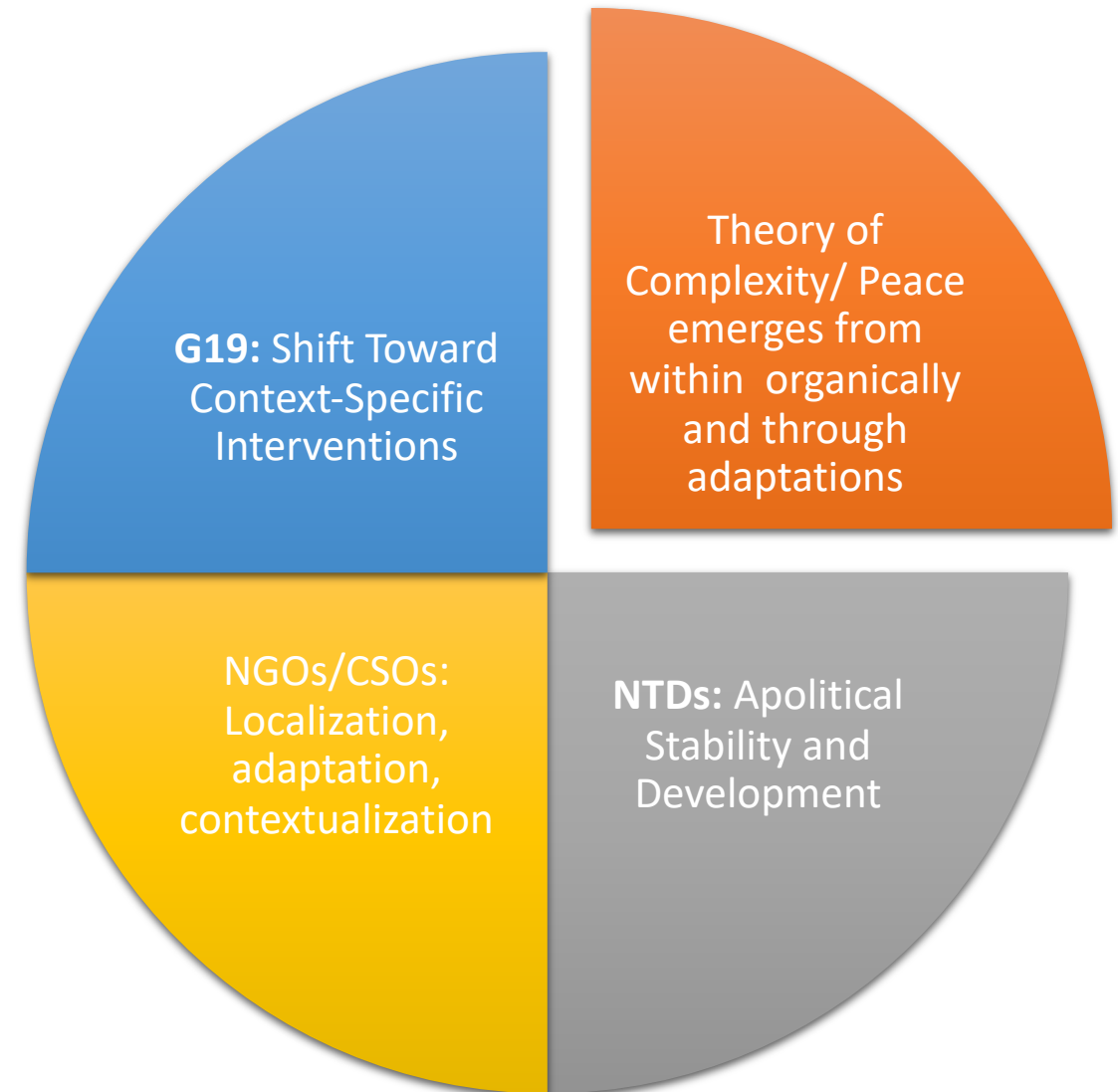



# Adaptive Mediation as Process-Facilitation of Direct Dialogue



# From Adaptive Mediation to Adaptive Peacebuilding

1. Direct Dialogue and Adaptive Mediation led to a new peace agreement in 2019
2. Lead Mediator becomes the UN-PESGM and facilitates the implementation of the new peace agreement
3. Shift in G19 Donors peacebuilding approaches. Example of European Union - main peacebuilding partner in Mozambique shifting toward context-specific and hybrid/pragmatic approaches (Country delegation + NGOs/CSOs)
4. Evidence of Localized INGOs demonstrate the effectiveness of adaptive peacebuilding in Mozambique. Good examples in the country are provided by the Community Sant'Egidio and the Aga Khan Development Network.





## Aga Khan Development Network's Adaptive Approach

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The key intermediary of AKDN in Cabo Delgado are the **village development organizations (VDOs)**, focused on capacity-building and financial literacy.

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VDOs have 10-20 members, representatives of local areas and local government. Members are elected by locals.

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Once elected, these members will work to create “the map of dreams,” i.e., their optimal vision for the future of those communities.

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By creating the map of dreams and generating this discussion, the problem recognition and the modes of assistance are clarified. Initial funding provided by AKDN.

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Localization through the VDOs that function as intermediaries of an adaptive approach that promotes the self-organization and resilience of local communities.

# Key Insights

- Adaptive approaches to mediation and peacebuilding had more positive outcomes than earlier attempts driven by externally imposed concepts
- Peace needs to emerge from within to be self-sustainable and peacebuilding programs should stimulate self-organization and resilience
- Peacebuilding donors are following this trend and developing more context-specific approaches. Localized international non-governmental organizations such as the Community of Sant'Egidio (CSE) and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) provide examples of how international peacebuilders can contribute to sustaining peace through adaptive approaches.
- The focus on context-specific programs, participatory process facilitation, institutional learning, and addressing cross-cutting issues such as poverty, inequality, and education are part of a more holistic approach to peacebuilding.



# Thank you

[Farosaraiva.Rui@jica.go.jp](mailto:Farosaraiva.Rui@jica.go.jp)