

REGIONAL SPACES FOR DIALOGUE WORKING FOR PEACE



Responding to the need for community-based dialogue

Ten Regional Spaces for Dialogue (RSDs) were created in 2007 by Voz di Paz as a way to foster inclusive dialogue at the community level. Their aim is to create the conditions favourable to a lasting peace. Located across the country, each RSD constitutes a locally owned process in which community facilitators, functioning as the representatives of Voz di Paz, respond to the needs of the people, especially regarding the peaceful management of conflicts.

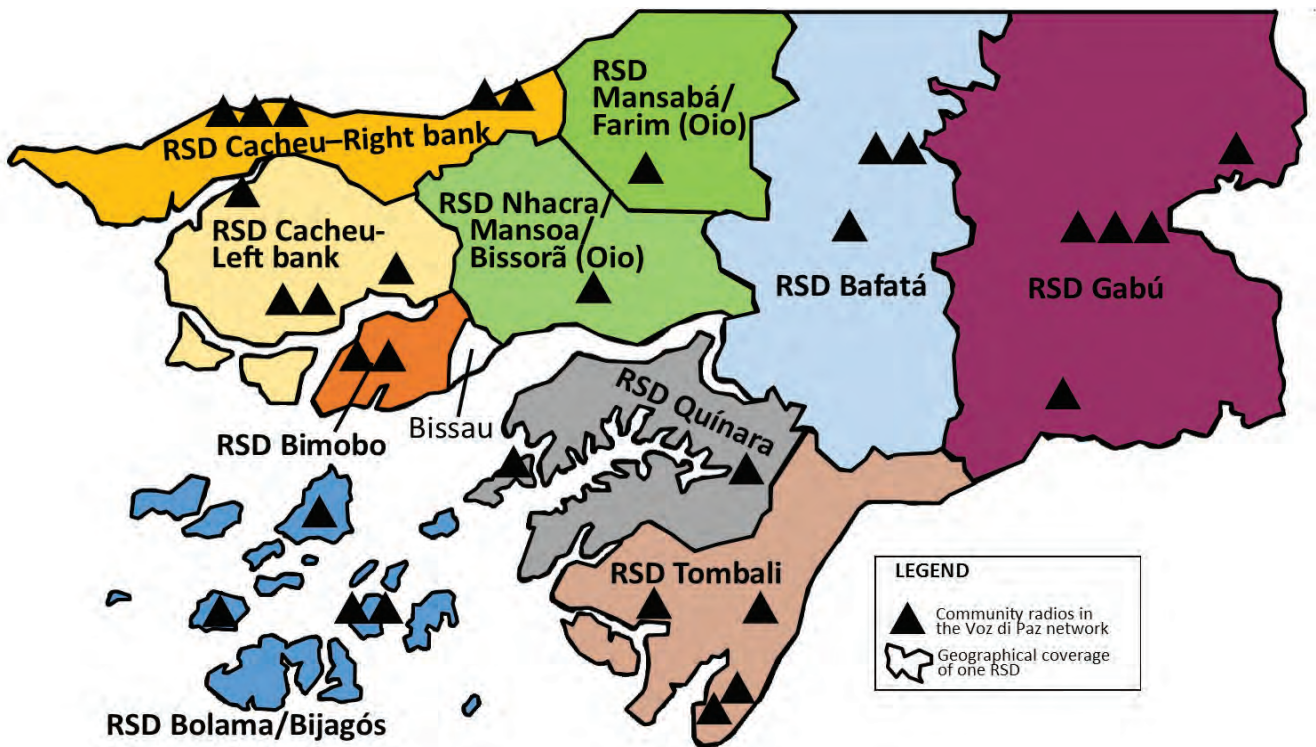


Legitimate personalities

Each RSD is made up of 5 to 15 personalities chosen on the basis of their good local or national reputation as confirmed by a broad cross-section of their communities and for their ability to mobilize their fellow citizens for peace. The fact that these members represent different socio-political sensitivities and groups provides legitimacy to their activities.

Spaces for open dialogue

Members of the RSDs offer a space in which those who have a stake in a conflict feel at ease, able to have an open exchange and to jointly develop a durable solution. The involvement of local representatives of the State allows to create bridges of understanding between them and the people.



Geographical coverage of Regional Spaces for Dialogue in Guinea-Bissau



Local conflict resolution

The RSDs directly contribute to a reduction in local conflicts, as the members who have been trained in conflict management, carry out direct mediation, engage the competent authorities or disseminate relevant information via the community radio stations. Since 2011, more than 200 local conflicts have been resolved.

Using a national radio network

Each RSD includes at least one journalist from a community radio station among its members, and together with others, they form a network of 31 community radio stations that collaborate with the RSDs. The RSDs use this network to raise awareness among the people and the authorities on existing conflicts and their peaceful management through dialogue.

Contribution to peace at the national level

With its direct access to the people as well as to local authorities across the entire country, the network of RSDs has the potential to contribute to peacebuilding at the national level by bringing the voices of the people into the design and implementation of programmes on such issues as decentralization, civic education and peacebuilding by the State and its technical and financial partners.

A call to action

- The people of Guinea-Bissau have the will, the human resources and the capacities to respond to the challenges ahead;
- A dialogue mechanism is in place and functioning, which needs to be supported in order to continue its work in a sustainable matter;
- The State and other actors for peace and development can build upon the experience, the coverage and the credibility of the RSD network in the planning and implementation of their programs and policies.

Voz di Paz and Interpeace

Since its creation in 2007, Voz di Paz - Iniciativa para a Consolidacao de Paz (Voice of Peace - Initiative for Peacebuilding), is working in partnership with Interpeace.

Voz di Paz is a Bissau-Guinean organization working for the peaceful development of its country by contributing to civic engagement for social cohesion and the modernization of institutions. The long-term mission is to address the obstacles to peace in Guinea-Bissau by promoting a culture of dialogue and engaging all sectors and levels of society in the peacebuilding process.

Its partner, **Interpeace** is an international organization recognized for its approach to accompanying and strengthening the capacity of societies in building lasting peace.

For more information please contact Voz di Paz (vozdipaz@gmail.com) and Interpeace (wao@interpeace.org).