

April Editorial

<p><i>In Countries with Conflict: War is written, hunger is read. An alarm from the UN about the crisis: "At risk: 124 million" In Mozambique: economic growth is written, hunger is read ... AND, the absolute poverty situation increases.</i></p>
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"FAO and other United Nations Agencies have put together a joint report: hunger and food shortages are caused not only by natural events but above all, by conflict! FAO has called this "food crisis", or in its documents. It speaks of "insecurity". Sometimes the word "hunger" appears. The language is that of the UN agencies, therefore, of a cold, almost aseptic, tendentially impartial need. But words that remain abstract in the Third Millennium are no longer enough: it may be worth beginning to use terms as "hungry" ... hunger is not a destination, it does not happen by chance to the most disadvantaged on Earth. Hunger comes through very precise human responsibilities. "

This was the case of Mozambique soon after Independence with the introduction of the Metical in the Country, the total lack of food in the markets and then during the long armed conflict that led many people to move from the production lands, living day by day with high state of food insecurity that is pronounced.

Now the conflict is over, but the politicians' personal interest still continues to have large personal profits, bribery and corruption, disability and judicial bureaucracy, which only brings disadvantages the poor ... and the laws of economic growth do not favor the poor class of the Country.

As unemployment increases, there is no analysis of the exodus of young people from the countryside to the cities, there are serious amounts of programs to fight against endemic diseases which are not proposed, only palliatives associated with sources of external financing, and all that is social growth, is always coupled with party growth and favoritism.

What worries the most is the lack of clarity at all. You cannot know the truth in the different economic sectors, or at least it is not officially said when it is very clear within the people and in the circuits of communication. There is so much lack of communication in all sectors and if there were clarity of social and economic situations, we could help a lot and enter into a serious collaboration.

"Another graph of hunger is" insecurity "for climate reasons ... But even if we wanted to attribute total responsibility to hunger and drought, we must not forget that the productive capacities of the planet, if properly managed and without war, are more than sufficient to feed even the most unfortunate. "

This is the case of Mozambique: we are talking about drought, while we have water coming from the sky, which is not harnessed, or from the subsoil. Mozambique is not a desert! It lacks its rational and technical use. We talk about climate change, organize specialized platforms and continue to hold meetings to deepen this phenomenon on the part of UN agencies and Mozambican civil society, but how many people fight against these risks? How many people know how to methodically overcome these situations that create constant calamities?

Each and every one of us works in his/her own way, linked to external salary funds and subject to a thousand and one bureaucratic rules, without there being any research of the best practices already applied by the best NGOs in the country. So long as the donors' bidding process is in place, economic growth will be short-lived and momentary. The expertise of winning contests and afterward, washing their hands and waiting for a next contest is the attitude of many foreign NGOs, imitated by several nationals. Once the program is complete they all disappear and everything comes back to how it was before! Is this called "development support" for a country?

In this case, it would be better if there were no cooperation funds, whose specialists are now only evaluators of the administrative and financial bureaucracy and do not invest in any capacity for analysis of joint social and economic growth! This attitude, however, does not apply to all the Donors. Infact, here is an example: UNICEF's cooperation in Water and Sanitation programs is an excellent program!

If we had access to an open and fearless dialogue with everyone, be they the International Organizations and even Donors, how will the situations on the ground change? and any if few are offered we would bear its fruit!

"The people that are affected by" food insecurity " around the world today are 124 million in 51 countries. And FAO stresses: "We should expect no significant improvement in global food security until peace returns in these countries." But whoever decides about wars usually has a full stomach. "

And in the case of Mozambique?

The unilateral decision by the political authorities on economic growth policies, it should end the sense of victim on the part of the people that could have a social impact, the inaction of the NGOs in the search for solutions, even when there is no cooperation fund, should end our attitude of spectators, always waiting for decisions from above!

Together we can make a difference!