CONFLICT ASSESSMENT

Together for the Best:
Uniting Angolan Youth for Political Dialogue

Data collected from November-December 2014
Report Completed in June 2015

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Project: "Together for the Best Uniting Angolan Youth for Political Dialogue"

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1. Executive Summary

Conflicts are present in every social area, involving multiple actors – persons and entities; politicians affiliated with a party, or not; communities and their representatives; governmental bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations. In some situations, conflict escalates quickly, whereas in others, longstanding misunderstandings may aggravate gradually. Sometimes those dynamics are predictable, but in other occasions they might be surprising.

1.1. Project Objectives

"Together for the Best: Uniting Angolan Youth for Political Dialogue" is a 24-month project, funded by USAID aimed at promoting political dialogue among Angolan youth and seeks to explore current trends in Angola in order to leverage the potential of youth, both male and female, to contribute to the resolution of political conflicts and support the quest for collaborative solutions to the challenges faced by the country. The specifics objectives of this project are:

SO 1: to reinforce peaceful and positive youth relationships across political and social dividing lines in communities

SO 2: to strengthen a culture of non-violence through leadership of young men and women

1.2. Conflict Analysis Objectives

More specifically, the purpose of the conflict analyses is to develop an overview of the programming context and current trends by identifying:

- How youth are organizing (mapping youth-led organizations and networks)
- Prevailing divisions among young people of different political backgrounds
- Patterns of their involvement in violence
- Perceptions of youth roles in the community
- Resiliency factors which unite them around conflict prevention
- The role that young women play in peace and violence

Our focus on youth (including young females) is consistent with the healthy relationships and connections theory of change in which this project is grounded: "which posits that long-term peace emerges out of a process of breaking down isolationist tendencies, polarization, and stereotypes between groups, in order to fully address deep grievances and identify mutual interests and values". Young political actors have less historical suspicions among each other and therefore more

motivated to work across dividing lines. In practice, however, we observed political domination from a generation of older political leaders, whose role is to leave a legacy to youth. It is important that youth have the tools to critically evaluate this legacy, in order to be prepared to shape a peaceful future for Angola, surpassing past grievances.

SFCG's approach to the conflict analysis is aimed at providing a comprehensive view of conflict dynamics including the community and the ethnic relationships in the Maquela do Zombo, Songo and Uíge, Municipalities of Uíge Province and in Belas, Cazenga and Viana, Municipalities of Luanda Province, during the months of December 2014 and January 2015. Data collection methods used by the team were: focus groups (12), interviews (48), surveys (536) and observation.

1.3. Key Findings

This study shows that Youth are organized in formal and informal groups. Formal organizations (political parties, non-governmental and governmental organizations, churches, humanitarian and community associations, student organizations, as well as sociocultural and sports organizations) and informal organizations/groups occasionally organize in some neighborhoods to implement sport and culture-related activities with the scarce resources they have. Formal organizations tend to play a more important role in the community, as they are better organized (with articulated missions, objectives and goals, they implement their activity under an agenda and they are well structured) than informal ones, who may play a positive or negative role in influencing youth (as they are not structured and they do not implement their activities under an agenda, with no missions). Some organizations are not even recognized as such (like spontaneous movements). Still, they attract attention to the issues for which they advocate, and play a role in promoting positive social habits and behaviors among youth.

According to a Journalist interviewed in Luanda and participants in two Adult FGs in the Luanda and Uíge provinces, aside from religious organizations, which tend to have many youth members, youth tend to only participate in political and social activities where there is some material reward, which is explained by the fight for survival, stemming from the socioeconomic, political, and cultural context in which Angolan youths are socialized.

The following is an overview of the findings from the interviews and focus group discussions:

I.   Concerning political groups, the most active youth wings are the ones from the parties that are represented in the National Assembly, namely, *Juventude do Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola* (JMPLA), *Juventude Unida*

Revolucionaria de Angola (JURA), *Juventude Patriótica de Angola* (CASA-CE), *Juventude de Renovação Social* (JURS) e *Juventude da Frente de Libertação de Angola* (JFNLA). In addition, there are other youth organizations from parties that are not represented in the National Assembly, but who continue to develop activities accordingly to their agenda and workplan, such as *Bloco Democrático, Nova Democracia*, and PDP- ANA.

II. Journalists and students from Luanda and Uíge, as well as adults and youth from FGDs in Uíge and Luanda, believe that political youth should add value to the ideology of their parties. In political parties, youth should have a vision of building a more harmonious society. In practice, however, most young people who join political parties are those who do not have a vision of a society different from the status quo. Parties should advocate for the implementation of more legislation concerning the biggest challenges faced by youth, such as access to education, drug abuse, and prostitution. As for youth matters at the national level, youth should unite and work together for Angola's development; this does not happen in practice, nonetheless, as each person tends to focus on the ideology of their party only. If senior leaders in political parties do not accept practices to promote union among youth, it will be hard for youth wings to find a viable way of promoting change.

III. There yet remains great potential for developing relationships and collaboration among youth across political parties. With pressure for youth participants to follow their party ideology, many youth see their peers from other parties as rivals. According to a political analyst interviewed from Luanda, *"Despite the existence of CNJ, the relationship among youth wings from different parties is not good because we do not have a culture of respecting differences. Despite de reconciliation process, past grievance remains. In fact, different parties have the same goal, but each one sees a different way of achieving it."*

IV. The main dividing line across youth from different political parties is related to Angola's Liberation Movement history and political formation. The parties MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA have had different influences since the beginning of the armed conflict, which is why each of them has divergent beliefs; as the majority of people grew up influenced by the ideologies of their political party, that influence is still strong today. According to a student and political analyst in Uíge as well as journalists and political analyst in Luanda, young people believe that because their parents' generation is not yet politically reconciled, it influences some to adopt this disunited position. For example, it can be seen from the elderly in the Parliament that they treat each other in a way that

is not healthy for a country that is emerging from a long armed conflict among brothers; youth see that and are influenced by this negative behavior."

V.   When discussing the issue of conflicts that involve youth from different political parties, distinctions should be made whether there are indeed conflicts among youth, or whether they are just reproducing conflicts that exist among the elderly. According to political analyst and journalists interviewed in Luanda: *"It is not correct at present to speak of conflicts among youth, because they are not the ones who have problems with each other. Youth are not the ones who create conflicts; instead, they are victims of the situation because, on one hand, they receive guidance from their superiors and, on the other, they worry about preserving their income and social status."*

1.4. Conclusions and Recommendations

SFCG has observed during the focus group discussions conducted in Luanda and in Uíge, that most youth currently do not understand their role in conflict resolution.

Since the dividing line across youth from different political parties still exists, youth need more space for political dialogue to overcome this barrier and build up confidence, trust and harmony. Hence, we recommend that the project focuses on the creation of such spaces, that offer youth the opportunity to develop their skills, and introduce their opinions concerning the problems they face, as well as the challenges to Angola's development.

In addition, taking in to consideration the beneficiaries of this project, we recommend working in collaboration with *Conselho Nacional da Juventude* (CNJ), as a key collaborative and co-implementing partner in this project. CNJ is a well-organized council, of national scope, which includes most Angolan youth organizations.

Moreover, considering the current lack of knowledge and use of conflict mitigation, management and resolution tools, we recommend that SFGC opens the training sessions on those matters not only to the youth involved in political parties, but also to the whole youth population of the target-municipalities.

As for the young people that are affiliated with political parties, SFCG in partnership with others stakeholders must take into account the following, (1) Creating spaces for debate and dialogue where they can expose their ideas and opinions concerning the problems they face, as well as debate about possible solutions and (2) Develop charitable activities involving members of different parties, in order to promote harmony and unity among youth.

2. Background Information

2.1. Introduction

Angolan society is polarized along political party lines— a legacy resulting from decades of devastating civil war. Political blockages and limited opportunities for dialogue at all levels have negatively affected Angola's development and stabilization; and it has also promoted social antagonism and disunion. However, new developments towards more decentralization and democracy, as well as increased youth activism, must be seen as an opportunity for youth to leverage the fact that they represent the largest portion of the population and act in ways that reinforce change, increasing well-being and social harmony and contributing to national development.

After largely successful elections in 2012, Angola is rapidly recovering from 27 years of civil war, with enormous macroeconomic and infrastructure development. Angola is emerging as a regional power and middle-income country. However, structural poverty and high levels of inequality have been hampering the post-conflict reconstruction process. As a result, most Angolans do not benefit from the enormous natural resources available in the country. The Angolan government tends to focus on the extractive sector at the expense of agriculture and other income resources[1]. Moreover, the high level of dependence on external oil rents makes the country highly vulnerable to external economic shocks, which could cause domestic social unrest. This risk is even more acute in the largest urban areas where large populations resulting from a quick urbanization process has intensified the problems of limited basic services and employment.

In this context, young political leaders (not only those that are formal members of political parties, but also those who belong to other organizations and associations) are the best vehicle for change. Feelings of victimization runs deep in Angola's political arena, but there are common interests and values that can unite youth in general (such as promoting education and curbing gang violence), making the perpetuation of historical divisions less and less attractive. The project aims at facilitating the development of a culture of mutual trust and collaboration, to leverage the fact that young people are the ones most interested in transforming the current state of affairs.

In Luanda Province, one of the project target zones, and one of the most afflicted by youth-led street violence, the political divisions run deep. Traditionally Luanda has

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[1] Oil-related activities account for 85% of GDP; yet, while agriculture employs 85% of the labor force, it only contributes to 9.6% of GDP and half of the country's food is imported. *CIA World Factbook 2013* https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html

been supportive of the MPLA, but massive migration, an emerging critical middle class, and access to non-State-controlled information are rapidly changing the political dynamic. However, the conflict model set by the elite politicians, as well as the legacy of nearly 3 decades of war means that party partisans tend to approach problems through a political and antagonistic lens. The absence of dialogue and cooperation in politics at the national level encourages prejudices at the community level. This, coupled with a largely underemployed youth population of different political backgrounds living together in vast urban slums means a small trigger could unleash widespread violence.

Uíge Province, the other target zone for the project, has long been a key supporter of the opposition movement of UNITA and therefore is viewed with particular suspicion by the ruling party. Tensions between the followers of the main parties run high. The social conflict dynamic in this border province is exacerbated by immigration from neighboring DRC. In the last decade, the Angolan government has instituted a policy of mass deportations of Congolese migrants arguing it must protect its mining industry from illegal workers.

2.2. Project Overview

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and *Associação Cristã de Ajuda Mútua* (ASCAM) are implementing a 24-month project, funded by USAID aimed at promoting political dialogue among Angolan youth. The project is designed based on the healthy relationships theory of change that postulates durable peace emerges as a result of a process of breaking with isolationist trends, polarization, and stereotypes among groups, in order to durably recover from past grievances, and identify common interests and values. Based on this theory, the project has the overall goal of promoting the skills of young political leaders from all parties, so that they can become peacebuilders and agents of positive social change in their communities.

In order to achieve this goal, the project adopts a people-to-people approach, that focuses on mobilizing youth from different political affiliations, thus enabling them to deal with conflicts that emerge among themselves, emphasizing dialogue as the best way to find solutions to common problems as well as the use mediation and facilitation skills to include their communities in this process. Youth will collectively carry out peacebuilding activities, which will build trust among them while simultaneously demonstrating the importance of youth leadership to the community as a whole, with media productions buttressing those goals. Young Angolan women are strongly encouraged to take part in this process, given that gender and power imbalances are a key factor inhibiting social reconstruction.

3. Methodology

SFCG's approach to the conflict analysis aims to provide a comprehensive view of conflict dynamics and the community and the ethical relationships in a given area. Through focus group discussions, interviews and surveys, SFCG conducted a study to be used throughout the project in order to design the program according to local context.

The methodology used to conduct this conflict analysis focused on the perceptions members of target-communities hold concerning conflict among youth and the dialogue opportunities to participate in country development process. A mixed qualitative-quantitative methods approach was used. The tools used for data collections were desk review, focus groups discussions, key-informant interviews, and surveys carried out in the 6 municipalities where the project will be implemented, namely: Viana, Cazenga, Belas (Luanda Province) e Uíge, Maquela do Zombo, Songo (Uíge Province).

The target-populations of the study were: undergraduate students, NGO members, political analysts, youth leaders, religious leaders, political parties' members, journalists, and youth in general. The following table illustrates the staff that carried out this study and their responsibilities:

Table 1: Project Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Role	Responsibilities
Simão André	Design Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	Design the methodology and of the study, as well as the tools for data collection; Coordinate the implementation of the study; Hire staff to carry out field work; Analyze data and write the final report.
Paula Andrade	Program Associate	Assist in coordination efforts; Take notes during the interviews and focus group discussions; translate the report from Portuguese to English.
Francisco Ngongo	Country Director	Actively participate during the whole process, leading communication efforts and the dissemination of the final report.
Charline Burton	Africa Design Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	Actively participate during the whole process, providing inputs on methodology, tools for data collection, and final report.
Bernardo Lutezo	Main Partner ASCAM	Actively participate during the whole process, providing comments and inputs; identify and organize the groups for focus groups discussions and key-informant interviews.
Mbo João Domingos	Program Officer	Actively participate during the whole process and take notes during interviews.

The matrix of the conflict analysis[2] was carefully designed to provide additional information about the sources used for data collection concerning each topic and sub-topic.

3.1. Data Collection

Data was collected through the following methods:[3]

→ *Survey*

The survey consisted of six questions, using the Likert Scale, a one-dimensional scale whereby the surveyed people choose one option that better aligns to their opinions, in order to collect information about how members of target-communities perceive the role youth leaders have been playing locally. The sampling was carried out in the six target-municipalities (three in Luanda and three in Uíge Province), targeting the population in general, with a total of 536 surveys, divided as illustrated by the figures and chart below:

Table 2: Survey Sampling by Municipality VS Gender

Municipalities	Men	% of Men Municipalities	Women	% of Women per Municipalities	Total respondents	Total % of respondents per Municipalities
Belas	59	21%	50	19%	109	20%
Cazenga	53	19%	51	20%	104	19%
Maquela do Zombo	37	13%	32	12%	69	13%
Songo	35	13%	33	13%	68	13%
Uíge	46	16%	41	16%	87	16%
Viana	49	18%	50	19%	99	18%
(vazio)		0%		0%		0%
Total	**279**	100%	**257**	100%	**536**	100%

Concerning demography, the research methodology focused particularly on obtaining a balance with gender, age and schooling level as illustrated on the charts below:

Table 3: Gender Demographic

Gender	Respondents	% of total surveys
Male	279	52%
Female	258	48%
Total	**537**	100%

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[2] The detailed conflict analysis matrix is to be found in the annexes
[3] All the data collection tools can be found in the annexes

Table 4: Age groups of Respondents

In terms of age group the survey result demonstrate the following,

The age group 18-35 had 270 respondents representing 50%,

The age group of 36-54 had 187 respondents representing 35 %,

The age group of 55+ had 80 respondents representing 15%.

Table 5: Schooling Level of Respondents

The survey took into account the different academic levels, which is an essential factor for the equilibrium level of knowledge of respondents and which can certainly affect the quality of the answers providers by the persons participating in the survey.

Therefore, we have the following results:

8 % of respondents were people never went to school,

15% of respondents were people with primary school,

27% of respondents were people with secondary school,

35 % of respondents were people with High school,

6% of respondents were people with bachelors and only 1% respectively of respondents was people with master degree.

➔ *Focus Group Discussion*

There were a total of 12 focus groups discussions with two in each municipality (one focus group composed of adults and another by youth). Each focus group lasted at maximum 1.5 hour, with ten to fifteen persons and was led by one facilitator and one note taker.

➔ *Key Informant Interviews*

A key informant interview was used to collect perception and qualitative data to get in-depth information from some key stakeholders. The semi-open ended interview style enabled evaluators to ask direct questions on subjects related to this conflict assessment, in total twenty four (24) key informant interviews was conducted in each province for a total of Forty eight (48) interviews in both provinces. Key informant interviews target academics; NGOs members; political analysts, community youth leaders, religious leaders; members of political party; and journalists who are well connected and knowledgeable in the thematic and the municipalities of concern.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1. Youth Organizations and Activity

Mapping Youth Organizations

Angolan youth have traditionally been centralized in urban areas and their peripheries where, influenced by family culture and upbringing, they've tended to join small neighborhood associations that promote cultural, leisure, athletic and religious activities. Currently, with the emergence of some spontaneous youth-led movements and NGOs, there are some youth organizations that are still active in their communities despite a recent decline in civil society activity in the past 5 years. This lack of Civil Society activity among youth can be attributed to the prioritization of livelihood over civic engagement and challenges associated with lack of social cohesion due the urbanization of the Luanda province. Additionally, many youth wings from political parties have been disbanded as a result of the discontinuation of some parties, thus leaving a social vacuum for youth mobilization.

According to a Journalist interviewed in Luanda and participants in two Adult FGs in the Luanda and Uíge provinces, aside from religious organizations, which tend to have many youth members, youth tend to only participate in political and social activities where there is some material reward, which is explained by the fight for survival, stemming from the socioeconomic, political, and cultural context in which Angolan youths are socialized.

Mapping Youth Organization Activities

From the field data we can gather that youth tend to be divided in thematic organizations, which carry out specific types of activities depending on the character of the organizations. Regarding gender, young women are usually more interested in dance and connecting on the Internet. As for young men, they tend to prefer sports, mainly soccer. According to participants during FGD in Luanda and Uíge and Youth leaders and students interviewed in Uíge and Luanda, the topics that interest youth the most are parties, sexuality and professional preparation.

Concerning political groups, the most active youth wings are the ones from the parties that are represented in the National Assembly, namely, *Juventude do Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola* (JMPLA), *Juventude Unida Revolucionaria de Angola* (JURA), *Juventude Patriótica de Angola* (CASA-CE), *Juventude de Renovação Social* (JURS) e *Juventude da Frente de Libertação de Angola* (JFNLA). In addition, there are other youth organizations from parties that are not represented in the National Assembly, but who continue to develop activities

according to their agenda and work plan, such as *Bloco Democrático, Nova Democracia*, and PDP- ANA.

Taking cues from their political parties, youth wings aim to gain and maintain power through a myriad of activities such as: rallies, conferences, marches, door-to-door canvasing, civic education, as well as charitable service. Participants from focus group discussion in Luanda and Uíge as well as journalists, youth leaders and students interviewed in Uíge and Luanda explain that:

> *"We often see on Saturdays youth wings of the main political parties on the streets, carrying out activities related to public health; road accident prevention; education; HIV/AIDS awareness; cleaning campaigns, blood donation; etc."*

The most active of all organizations are the ones affiliated with political parties, which can be explained by their goal of obtaining and keeping power, requiring them to have more visibility. Moreover, their activities also tend to have more visibility because they have more resources and access to media coverage. Beyond partisan organizations, there are organizations that are very active, but that are not well known, because their activities are restricted to the local level. Of the formal political youth organizations, non-partisan organizations, despite being dispersed and subdivided between religious and social groups, remain the most active force in civil society.

Youth are organized in formal and informal groups. Formal organizations are consist of political parties, non-governmental and governmental organizations, churches, humanitarian and community associations, student organizations, as well as sociocultural and sports organizations and informal organizations groups occasionally organize in some neighborhoods to implement sport and culture related activities with the scarce resources they have.

Understanding why youth organizations carry out certain activities and the challenges directly faced by youth requires an analysis of the sociocultural and economic conditions of the country, which is outside the scope of this study.

4.1.2. Impact of Organizations on Youth

Why Youth Join Organizations

Journalists in Luanda and Uíge, youth leaders in Luanda and Uíge, Political Analyst in Luanda and Uíge and members of civil society in Luanda put it that, given the socioeconomic conditions youth face, the main motivation that lead youth to join political parties is the expectation of material rewards and job opportunities; by joining a political group, youth expect to find protection and special treatment. For example, youth members from the ruling party receive protection from police forces when they organize their activities and they also have full access to public media. On the other hand, non-partisan civil society members and youth from the opposition only have limited access to public media and encounter excessive force from the police to stop their activity. When the police arrest youth members from the opposition parties, senior members of their party take actions and demand authorities to release them, where a non-partisan civil society may spend days in jail before being released in the same circumstance.

According to journalists, students, political analyst and youth leaders' in Luanda, as well as students and youth leaders in Uíge: Political party affiliation is also seen as a means for ascending to higher social positions instead of a form of political activity. This has been the choice of many young people, as many believe the there is little to no prospect of finding jobs or investment opportunities outside of involvement in political parties, specifically the ruling party. As a result, after joining a party, many youth become disillusioned and refuse to pay their quota as they expect the organization to fulfill their needs first, before they contribute financially to the party. While for religious groups, the main motivations for youth to take part or join them are for protection of their soul after death, looking for spiritual peace, religious education and to seek help for spiritual and social problems. Other motivations are to contribute to community development, as well as to have personal skills recognized by the community and improved through trainings.

How Organizations Influence Youth

According to Journalists in Luanda, members of political parties and students in Luanda and Uíge and Adults over the age of 36 from FGD in Luanda, youth organizations have great potential to influence young people, both positively and negatively, depending on the goals of the entity. Formal organizations tend to play a more important role, as they are better organized (programming that follows mission statements, objectives and goals) than informal ones. Influence is good when the goals of the organization are good, as is generally the case for religious groups and some political parties. Some organizations are not even recognized as such (like spontaneous movements). Still, they attract attention to the issues for which they

advocate, and play a role in promoting positive social habits and behaviors among youth.

Seven out of 12 youth leaders interviewed in Luanda and Uíge agree that, in civil society, people usually do not have firm political beliefs before joining an organization, but those beliefs become stronger as they are exposed to and identify with the mission of the organization they choose. Usually, being an active member of civil society organizations, specifically those in the field of human rights, may lead to risks to their personal security as they may face very sensitive cases of human rights violations.

4.2. Role of Youth in Politics

4.2.1. Overview

Views of the role youth play in politics vary widely from positive to negative and can be categorized by descriptive statements of what role youth are seen as currently playing, and the potential the youth have to play within politics, or what role they should play, but are not currently. In short, while many respondents view youth as playing a positive role in politics and can refer to various examples of their impact, just as many respondents are themselves discontented with the little change youth have been able to effect in the political sphere.

Views of Current Youth Roles in Politics

Members of civil society in Luanda in Uíge, Journalists in Luanda, youth and adults during the FGDs in Luanda believe that involvement in Angolan politics requires courage, because youth apathy is seen as normal, given that fears of political engagement will lead to risks to personal security and social losses. Despite this widespread fear among youth, there are groups that overcome the fear and advocate for improving basic social services. Those groups work to produce positive change, and there are already indications of their success, such as the fact that the Government has increased housing credit for youth; and built more public schools as a result of youth-led advocacy.

Members of a political party in Luanda have said that,

> *"Within political parties, youth do play a role as advocates; they have an important role of attracting new members, and organizing events. For the country as whole, youth should also play a role in promoting human rights. In short, youth must take responsibility for themselves and their actions, and actively engage in their community's life."*

While some recognize the positive role youth play in politics, many interviewees did not show optimism in this same sense, as a political analyst from Luanda comments:

> "*Youth are just following the elderly, without bringing anything new. They end up acting like the elderly even when those are not present. Mistrust among members of different parties is widespread, like in any other institutions. Youth tend to simply reproduce the ideas and behaviors from the elderly, reproducing their intolerance against those with different ideologies.*"

According to a political analyst in Luanda during an interview session:

> "*It is good that young people learn politics, considering that they will be future leaders. However, I notice that most of them do not have passion for the party and for the ideals of seeking welfare for the people and the country. Indeed, many young people choose to join a party only to receive protection from the organizations. When that happens, those youth will probably be indoctrinated by the party, and will not be able to see different perspectives, thus becoming fanatics and the ones most involved in conflicts.*"

This fear of political indoctrination among youth by the old guard was also expressed by another political analyst and journalists in Luanda:

> "*Young people who choose to join political parties as a way of exercising citizenship require a different political approach, so that they do not become completely conditioned by their party's ideologies. A common challenge in this respect is the fact that some senior members of political parties have some archaic ideas about certain issues. Older politicians, who tend to be more conservative and less responsive to globalization, usually fill those positions. For this reason, even when youth are motivated and mobilized, it is often hard for them to influence the agenda of senior leaders.*"

Journalists and students from Luanda and Uíge as well as adults and youth from FGDs in Uíge and Luanda believe that political youth should add value to the ideology of their parties. In political parties, youth should have a vision of building a more harmonious society. In practice, however, most young people who join political parties are those who do not have a vision of a society different from the status quo. Parties should advocate for the implementation of more legislation concerning the biggest challenges faced by youth, such as access to education, drug abuse, and prostitution. As for youth matters at the national level, youth should unite and work together for Angola's development; this does not happen in practice, nonetheless, as each person tends to only focus on the ideology of their party. If senior leaders in political parties do not accept practices to promote union among youth, it will be hard for youth wings to find a viable way of promoting change.

Potential for Youth in Politics

Political analysts in Luanda and Uíge, and students interviewed in Luanda believe that young men and women have the potential to contribute to the party's goals by bringing in positive and innovative ideas for developing the party and the country as a whole. Furthermore, because youth are a driving force in a society and within organizations they should not simply accept and remain on political ideology but say 'yes' when is for the good of the country and 'no' when is not good for the country. They can play the role of civic activists both inside and outside the party. Youth cannot accommodate the realities that do not fit their social time, they must know what should be changed.

Adults from the Luanda and Uíge FGDs and civil society members in Luanda reported, "Youth comprise a sense of change, transformation, this idea that if something is not good now, then we must change it. Youth of the previous generation are not like those from today, who are growing up in a new context, in an open and interconnected world."

From the previous statement and taking in to consideration that today's youth have quick access to information worldwide through the Internet, there is a sentiment that youth are more informed than adults about the rights of citizens in other countries, allowing them to compare with their own circumstances and instill in their peers the hope for change through innovation within their parties. According to a Journalists and a political analyst in Luanda,

> *"Nowadays, youth tend to embrace democratic principles more than in the past. With the influence of social media, youth learn how democracy works elsewhere and what is missing in Angola. As opinion makers, youth also try to influence their peers to support their political party, explain why a law was approved, why the party voted against/for it, the reason a rally is happening, among others. Hence, youth may directly impact on party activities."*

In this context, youth are seen as potential change-agents within political parties; able to leverage their discontent for meaningful change and help their parties utilize new technologies in navigating that transition. However, according to a youth leader and students in Luanda,

> *"Youth need a space to exchange ideas and points of view; otherwise it is hard for them to fully develop their intellectual skills. When such space is available, it allows youth to criticize and propose new ideas to develop the intuition or political organization of which they are members."*

4.2.2 Inter-Party Relationships

There yet remains great potential for developing relationships and collaboration among youth across political parties. With pressure for youth participants to follow their party ideology, many youth see their peers from other parties as rivals. According to a political analyst interviewed from Luanda,

> *"Despite the existence of CNJ, the relationship among youth wings from different parties is not good because we do not have a culture of respecting differences. Despite the reconciliation process, past grievance remain. In fact, different parties have the same goal, but each one sees a different way of achieving it."*

Causes of Division Among Politically Active Youth

The main dividing line across youth from different political parties is related to Angola's Liberation Movements history and political formation. The parties MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA have had different influences since the beginning of the armed conflict, which is why each of them has divergent beliefs; as the majority of people grew up influenced by the ideologies of their political party, and that is still strong today. .

According to student and political analyst in Uíge as well as journalists and political analyst in Luanda:

> *"Young people believe that because their parents' generation is not yet politically reconciled, it influences some to adopt this disunited position. For example, it can be seen from the elderly in the Parliament that they treat each other in a way that is not healthy for a country that is emerging from a long armed conflict among brothers; youth see that and are influenced by this negative behavior."*

The various large group identities solidified through the years of conflict are reified as youth participants extend these divisions by wearing the various t-shirts, and disseminating the material of their political party. The origin of such acts is rooted in the armed conflict. Journalists and political analyst interviewed in Luanda have state that,

> "*Angola started a reconciliation process that is limited to the reconstruction of physical infrastructure, ignoring a fundamental factor in order to have social development, which is human reconciliation; I believe that, if conflicts keep happening, it is because leaders are conniving.*"

4.3. Patterns of Youth Violence

Conflicts Involving Young People: the Causes and Consequences

Despite the various forms conflict may take, their causes and consequences are either positive or negative. They are positive when they work as a factor of reviewing positions taken before, seeking for consensus and points of common ground, and improving the distinction between positions and interests in a negotiation. On the other hand, they are negative when common ground cannot be reached and conflicts end up leading to violence. According to members of political parties and religious groups interviewed in Uíge and Luanda, fortunately, in Angola, many conflicts do not turn violent, and when they do the damage is usually reduced to a minimum.

Members of civil society organizations, religious leaders and students interviewed in Uíge and Luanda have stated that, for a young democratic society like Angola, where older politicians are viewed as role models, complexities arise as mistrust tends to be widespread and trickles down to young people as well. Often, youth political leaders are responsible for conflicts among their peers. Generally speaking, contemporary Angolan conflicts have several causes and might be cultural, ethnic, political, historical, related to the level and quality of education, unemployment, lack of housing, lack of family assistance, lack of participation in public actions, rivalries, fanaticism, influences of the older generation, as well as lack of space for political dialogue.

Conflict among youth is a result of social factors, whereby young people reveal their wishes, obligations, duties, thoughts and anxieties of not being able to accomplish their dreams and goals.

According to civil society members and students interviewed in Luanda and Uíge, the main cause of such conflicts can be divided into three categories: social, economic, and political. Despite the fact that conflicts emerge naturally from interpersonal relationships, those very conflicts might turn violent, because young people usually do not know the tools required to manage them peacefully.

Table 7: Conflict Sources

Conflict Sources ⇩	
Social	**Social exclusion:** Being kept apart of social spaces for political, cultural or ethnical reasons. Migration from rural to urban zones – migrants arrive to cities without having a place to live, or food to eat, which makes integration difficult. **Bullying:** Behavior common among youth when a group or individual attacks (not always physically) another group or individual. Those conflicts might cause trauma that impact youth behavior. **Rally:** Occurs when youth perceive there is no space to share their problems, contribute to national development, or present their opinions concerning the governance of the country.
Economic	**Unemployment:** One of the main causes for families to get caught in a poverty trap. The government provides limited employment policies to safeguard citizenship jobs. **Poverty:** Low quality of life and lack of opportunities cause frustration among youth. **High cost of living:** Causes in some cases even employed families to live below the poverty line.
Political	**Corruption:** May cause conflicts when those involved in corruption are not punished and conditions of living for youth do not improve. **Electoral Processes:** Conflicts are common in pre-electoral, electoral, and post electoral moments, especially when electoral procedures are not clear to the parties in dispute. **Excessive use of force:** It may cause conflict when, in peaceful rallies, brutality and excessive use of force occurs.

Conflict sources data in the table below are from journalists, political analysts, and members of civil society organizations, youth leaders and students during the interview sessions in Luanda and Uíge.

Conflict among youth from different political parties is natural, as each party has their own ideology, with which young members identify and according to which they orient they behavior. This conflict may be positive, if it is dealt with in a healthy way, respecting the principles of good coexistence.

Motivation for Youth Involvement in Conflict

When discussing the issue of conflicts that involve youth from different political parties, distinctions should be made whether there are indeed conflicts between youth, or whether they are just reproducing conflicts that exist among the elderly. According to political analyst and journalists interviewed in Luanda:

> *"It is not correct at present to speak of conflicts among youth, because they are not the ones who have problems with each other. Youth are not the ones who create conflicts; instead, they are victims of the situation because, on one hand, they receive guidance from their superiors and, on the other, they worry about preserving their income and social status."*

The fact that in Angola there are two youth political organizations that involve a large number of young people, their leaders might have the responsibility to control their words and deeds, as conflicts among leaders of those groups might lead to conflicts among the larger youth population. According to a Journalist interviewed in Luanda,

> *"Youth have their own language, which is related to the origins of conflicts that often result in violence. Conflicts where youth are the main actors are social in the neighborhoods where they live involving different groups; or related to the educational system; employment opportunity; and road car accidents."*

4.4. Community Perceptions of Youth Roles

All young people are citizens and, as such, have rights and duties that must be explained, recognized, and protected by the Constitution. Currently, discussing the role of youth in their communities is a significant challenge because of increasing crime rates among youth, drug abuse, excessive alcohol consumption, unprotected sex practices, and other problems. According to a member of a civil society organization based in Luanda during interview session,

> *"The less family support and government policies to tackle poverty and social inequalities that are pervasive in Angola hence, youth inherit the problems that stem from the huge social inequalities affect Angolan society as a whole."*

Concerning youth behavior, 59 percent of respondents agree that youth have played a positive role in their community, whereas 17 percent of respondents disagree with this statement citing examples of criminal behavior some youth engage in.

Table 8: Perceptions: Have youth played a positive role in your community?

	Belas	%	Cazenga	%	M. do Zombo	%	Songo	%	Uíge	%	Viana	%	Total	%
Agree	53	49%	36	35%	33	48%	44	65%	52	60%	26	26%	244	**46%**
Totally agree	4	4%	22	21%	4	6%	10	15%	5	6%	26	26%	71	**13%**
Disagree	29	27%	12	12%	6	9%	3	4%	22	25%	14	14%	86	**16%**
Totally disagree		0%	6	6%		0%		0%		0%	2	2%	8	**1%**
Neither agree nor disagree	23	21%	28	27%	26	38%	11	16%	8	9%	31	31%	127	**24%**
Total	109	100%	104	100%	69	100%	68	100%	87	100%	99	100%	536	**100%**

(How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement from 'totally agree' to 'totally disagree': Youth, both male and female, ranging from 18 to 35 years old, play a positive role in my community.)

Despite the majority of respondents agreeing youth have played a positive role in the community, youth from FGDs in Luanda still feel the community can do more to engage the youth:

> "Currently, the positive role youth may play is not often recognized. This shows that it is necessary to work with youth, motivating them to take up leadership roles, giving them space and opportunities so that they can get involved in their communities problems and take part in searching for solutions. The meaning of a young person community life should be that of solidarity, to suffer with those who suffer so that youth develop more social responsibility. In addition, those who are more educated should help others and play a role as youth leaders."

Table 9: Have youth seen as delinquent in your community?

	Belas	%	Cazenga	%	M. do Zombo	%	Songo	%	Uíge	%	Viana	%	Total	%
Agree	56	51%	31	30%	13	19%	9	13%	22	25%	55	56%	186	**35%**
Totally agree	4	4%	34	33%	3	4%	4	6%	9	10%	16	16%	70	**13%**
Disagree	33	30%	20	19%	25	36%	28	41%	47	54%	21	21%	174	**32%**
Totally disagree		0%	3	3%	13	19%	10	15%	1	1%	1	1%	28	**5%**
Neither agree nor disagree	16	15%	16	15%	15	22%	17	25%	8	9%	6	6%	78	**15%**
Total	109	100%	104	100%	69	100%	68	100%	87	100%	99	100%	536	**100%**

(How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement (from 'totally agree' to 'totally disagree': Youth, both male and female, with ages ranging from 18 to 35 years old, are usually the ones who disturb social peace and create problems in my community.)

Close to half of those sampled (48%) believe that youth tend to be the ones who disturb peace and cause problems in their communities, as they have done very little or nothing to promote development and increase welfare in their communities. Moreover, the media often shows information about excessive alcohol and drugs consumption, early or undesired pregnancy, gang violence, and other negative situations in which youth are usually the main actors. Hence, most people conclude that the role of youth in their communities is negative and requires special attention.

Concerning differences in views toward young men and young women, the results show an insignificant difference between women and men's role in the life of their community.

Table 10: Perception of Young Women's Role in Community Life

	Men	%	Women	%	Total	%
Very positive	27	13%	43	23%	70	**13%**
Positive	108	53%	92	49%	200	**37%**
Neutral	70	34%	53	28%	123	**23%**
Negative	63	31%	57	30%	120	**22%**
Very negative	11	5%	12	6%	23	**4%**
Total	205	100%	188	100%	536	**100%**

Table 11: Perception of Young Men's Role in Community Life

	Men	%	Women	%	Total	%
Very positive	26	13%	40	21%	66	**12%**
Positive	109	53%	92	48%	201	**38%**
Neutral	71	34%	58	31%	129	**24%**
Negative	52	25%	48	25%	100	**19%**
Very negative	21	10%	19	10%	40	**7%**
Total	206	100%	190	100%	536	**100%**

When respondents were given the opportunity to classify youth's role regarding the life of the community in which they live, 38 and 37 percent of respondents consider the role of young men and women as positive, respectively, whereas 7 and 4 percent consider the role of young men and women as very negative, respectively.

In comparison to the data presented above, a political analyst from Luanda and youth leaders and students from Uíge and Luanda, during interview sessions have said that young women and men may need to have more initiative, be ambitious, see themselves as a changing force in society, a messenger of the future, and as opinion makers, who have the ability to influence others. In their communities, youth must

play a role of promoting unification. They must also act as social activists, promoting positive communitarian actions, and stimulating dialogue as a way to build social unity. Youth must feel they have a duty, and thus seek to achieve something. They must use all the tools available to them to become more open to different realities, and more socially aware. They should care about solving the problems of their communities, and be the first ones to show up when a challenge comes up. In short, young people must know their community and local challenges, and work to influence local authorities to tackle those issues.

Characteristics of a Community Youth Leader

Scholars define leadership in different ways. For instance, Wagner & Hollenbeck (2002), states that leadership refers to the use of symbolic, instead of coercive, influence in order to direct and coordinate the activities of the members of a group. In other words, the leader emerges as way to achieve the group's goals.

According to members of civil society, religious leaders, journalists from Luanda and youth leaders from Uíge and Luanda, a youth leader is one who has knowledge and skills that will lead to harmony not only for the group to which they belong, but to society as a whole. They must know how to congregate different youth organizations. When dealing with problems, they must take a leadership role in seeking solutions, so that they become a reference for the community. A youth leader assumes that the development of their community depends on everyone, and is able to influence positively their community, by taking the initiative to solve problems and influencing others, particularly in what concerns youth conflicts.

According to youth leader participants during interview sessions in Luanda and participants from youth focus group discussion,

> *"Being a youth leader does not depend on the schooling level, but on the skills and abilities of the young person, as a youth leader should be characterized by its ability to positively influence the develop of their community, its advocacy skills when dealing with local authorities, they should be able to attract the support of people from different backgrounds, as well as being good communicators, good listeners, who respect others' opinions, is impartial and fair when evaluating a situation, knows how to take timely decisions, and must know the problems faced by their community". In this case, this respondent doesn't make the connection of formal education and to the qualification or preparation for youth leadership, rather a series of skills that would otherwise be developed through experience in civic engagement and potentially non-formal education settings."*

Youth Contribute to Community Development

Youth are motivated by the life-paradigm society offers them, as well as by globalization, love for the country and caring about the community welfare. Personal motivation, which tends to be stronger among youth nowadays, emerges when people seek to satisfy personal interests, even though when their actions may end up promoting the welfare and development of the broader community. On the other hand, during the interview session in Luanda journalist have stated that collective motivation and main reason for action is the community's welfare and development, without taking personal interests into account. Another motivation for youth is when they view the community's development and their own personal growth as interrelated. In addition, young people that are members of religious, political groups, or NGOs are motivated by a mission, a vision, and clear defined goals.

Youth participants from FGDs and journalists in Luanda have stated that a high level of unemployment translates to people spending more time in their communities and, as a result, have the potential to be more interested in solving local problems. This engagement is motivated by the community's development and welfare, but also by personal interests of getting some material benefit or ascending to a local job position. As for gender, according to men and women participants from FGDs in Luanda there is a certain balance in terms of participation in problem solving. Some issues (disease and death) are usually solved by women, who find it easier to get informally organize to tackle those issues than men do men.

Adult Views toward Youth Community Contribution

The way adults and elders view youth contribution depends on the kind of initiatives that are the most common in each community. When such initiatives are positive, there is no problem. That changes when youth adopt negative practices.

Table 12: Have youth played a social peace role in your community?

	Belas	%	Cazenga	%	Maquela do Zombo	%	Songo	%	Uige	%	Viana	%	Total	%
Agree	66	61%	41	39%	28	41%	35	51%	65	75%	42	42%	277	**52%**
Totally agree	10	9%	29	28%	10	14%	6	9%	4	5%	36	36%	95	**18%**
Disagree	20	18%	6	6%	18	26%	11	16%	6	7%	8	8%	69	**13%**
Totally disagree		0%	4	4%		0%		0%		0%	5	5%	9	**2%**
Neither agree nor disagree	13	12%	24	23%	13	19%	16	24%	12	14%	8	8%	86	**16%**
Total	109	100%	104	100%	69	100%	68	100%	87	100%	99	100%	536	**100%**

(How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement (from 'totally agree' to 'totally disagree': Youth, both male and female, with ages ranging from 18 to 35 years old, play an important role in assuring social peace and cohesion in my community.)

Concerning youth's role in assuring harmony, peace, and cohesion in their communities, 70% of respondents say they agree that youth have played such a positive role. For instance, it is viewed as positive when youth get together and organize activities in the community such as soccer or basketball, as playing sports is a leisure that may bring cohesion, peace, healthy activity and social activities. When youth contributions are organized by religious groups, NGOs or political parties, they are also appreciated by the older generation and the community in general as they are viewed to benefit community members. Whereas 13 and 2 percent of respondents disagree and totally disagree respectively with this statement when it comes to political parties, the acceptation in some communities depends on whether adults support the party organizing the activity. When one does not support a party that organized a community activity, they may see activities that actually do contribute to welfare of their community, as negative.

According to youth participants during the FGDs in Luanda; when adults understand that youth, despite their party or religion, are planning to develop something that will benefit society, they offer their support, not only with ideas, but also with the means to put the planned activity in place. Their support even constitutes a motivation for youth to continue playing a positive role, managing conflicts. Nonetheless, in some cases, youth have different positions compared to the older generations, which generates conflicts among then. In those cases, adults do not support youth. Innovation and change in response to globalization have contributed a lot to the generational conflict.

Youth leaders and students during the interview sessions in Luanda said, on the other hand, there are people and executives that bet on youth's potential. This happens more often among those who have studied abroad and are now returning to work in Angola. In contrast, there are older community members who cannot accept in any way to work with young contributors. They get deeply upset when somebody else knows more than they do or have management advice. This generational conflict exists in every area of society, but youth are managing to overcome the problem.

4.5. Youth and Conflict Prevention

4.5.1. Tools for Conflict Prevention among Youth

Misunderstandings might lead to conflicts that, if well managed, may improve interpersonal relationship and make them stronger. However, on the other hand, those conflicts may result in every person involved feeling misunderstood, angry, or hurt, which may damage the relationship between them.

Depending on the maturity of young men and women, when faced with problems and conflicts, they resort to their relatives, to the police, or to the traditional authorities, seeking to solve the issue. Despite this initiative by some people, generally speaking, the most common behavior among youth is to try to solve their conflicts in violent ways.

Moreover religious leaders, and members of civil society interviewed from Luanda believe that conflicts among youth from political parties do not always result in violence. When that happens, despite the fact that youth are those directly involved, senior leaders are the ones who tend to get involved in order to manage, mitigate and solve conflicts, avoiding that they become more acute.

In general, according to member of civil society during interview session in Luanda the organizations that influence society the most are those who have more access to the media, thus being able to send their message and multiply their impact. Those are usually religious organizations, which also deal with issues of civic moral and spirituality.

4.5.2. Youth Involvement in Conflict Prevention

According to political analysts, journalists and students during interview sessions in Luanda, youth do not have enough knowledge of conflict prevention, nor of their consequences. If they were aware of that, they would not be creating as much conflicts as they do today. This applies even to youth in universities. Even though conflict is natural in human relations, it is necessary to know the tools to prevent or manage them.

There are several challenges, but the main one is to ignore the existence of such conflicts, and the fact that they have several causes. Youth face some challenges when dealing with conflict prevention, as religious leaders and political party members from Luanda and Uíge and students from Luanda state that society cannot be afraid of such conflicts. Instead, have to acknowledge their existence and try to find solutions through dialogue by promoting dialogue culture, where youth have to understand and accept different opinions. To conclude, during the interview session

political analysts and members of a political party in Luanda said, "*The biggest challenge is that fact that there is no one person to represent Angolan youth, one that would inspire and be a reference to all young people, despite political party, religion, or other division*."

4.5.3. Youth Potential for Conflict Resolution

Depending on the nature of the conflict, it can be solved in peaceful ways, or turn violent. According to political analyst and journalists in Luanda, youth are not aware of conflict resolution tools and the ways to use a peaceful dialogue when they are involved in conflict, causing them to transfer this responsibility of solving conflicts to their families, the police, traditional authorities, and senior leaders of political parties.

Continuous dialogue improvement may offer youth alternative solutions to violence. Furthermore, alternatives to punitive approaches to youth violence can help youth break out of cycles of violence. One of the interviewees from the Cazenga municipality during the FGDs presented one such case in which a peaceful solution was found to a violent issue faced by the community:

"There was a criminal group that used to send letters saying the places they would rob, and the police did nothing about it. A group of ladies from a church in the neighborhood decided to talk to the gang members and realized that this misbehavior was a consequence of unemployment. Thus, the community helped them get their driving license so that they could work as taxi drivers." By doing so, those ladies managed to solve a social problem facing youth in their community without the intervention of the police force, which would have been simply punitive, and would not tackle the root causes of the conflict."

4.6. Role of Young Women in Peace and Violence

Peace

Attitudes, habits, traditions and cultural values, as well as the low quality of training and the lack of space where the young women would gather for the promotion of dialogue in solving problems are the main factors contributing that affect young women not play an active role in resolution and peace promotion according to members of civil society groups, journalist interviewed in Luanda and women participants in the focus group sessions in Uíge.

Violence

Table 13: How would be defined the role of young women in their community?

Gender	Very Positive	%	Positive	%	Neutral	%	Negative	%	Very Negative	%	Total	%
Male	27	39%	108	54%	70	57%	63	53%	11	48%	279	52%
Female	43	61%	92	46%	53	43%	57	48%	12	52%	257	48%
Total	**70**	100%	**200**	100%	**123**	100%	**120**	100%	**23**	100%	**536**	100%

According to the table above, the perception of the community members referring to the role of young women in their communities shows us a balance, 54 percent of survey participants believe that the young women have played a positive role, while 53 percent consider that young women play a negative role in their communities.

The causes cited by participants from civil society groups and journalist during an interview session in Luanda as well as women participants during a focus group sessions in Uíge, can result from lack of family support and encouragement of communities leaders so that young women can be free from apathy, myths and cultural values that have inhibited them from taking a proactive and positive role in their communities and sometimes be involved in neighborhood conflicts which sometimes result in violence.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

Youth Organizations and Activity

In conclusion, the above research findings demonstrate youth organize in formal and informal groups. Formal organizations are better organized as they have missions, objectives and goals, they implement their activity under an agenda and they are well structured, while informal organizations are groups who occasionally organize in some neighborhoods to implement sport and culture related activities with the scarce resources they have.

Religious organizations tend to have many youth members motivated for protection of their soul after death, looking for spiritual peace, religious education, and help with spiritual and social problems as well as a means to contribute to community development.

Political party affiliation is also seen as a means for ascending to higher social positions instead of a form of political activity. This has been the choice of many young people, as many believe the there is little to no prospect of finding jobs or investment opportunities outside of involvement in political parties, specifically the ruling party.

Youth do play a role as advocates as they have an important role of attracting new members, and organizing events. Moreover journalists, political analysts and members of civil society interviewed are of the opinion that beside attracting new members and organizing events, youth should also advocate for the implementation of more legislation concerning the biggest challenges faced by youth such as access to education, drug abuse, and prostitution.

Mistrust among youth members of different parties is widespread as they tend to simply reproduce the ideas and behaviors from the elderly. The main dividing line across youth from different political parties is related to Angola's Liberation Movement history and political formation. The parties MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA have had different influences since the beginning of the armed conflict, which is why each of them has divergent beliefs. Subsequently, the majority of people have grown up influenced by the ideologies of their political party, and that is still strong today.

Patterns of Youth Violence

When discussing the issue of conflicts that involve youth from different political parties, distinctions should be made whether there are indeed conflicts among youth, or whether they are just reproducing conflicts that exist among the elderly. According to political analyst and journalists interviewed in Luanda: It is not correct at present to speak of conflicts among youth, because they are not the ones who have problems with each other. Youth are not the ones who create conflicts; instead, they are victims of the situation because, on one hand, they receive guidance from their superiors and, on the other, they worry about preserving their income and social status.

Youth have their own language, which is related to the origins of conflicts that often result in violence. Conflicts where youth are the main actors are social in the neighborhoods where they live involving different groups; or related to the educational system, employment opportunity, and road car accidents.

Community Perceptions of Youth Roles

Presently, discussing the role of youth in the community is a significant challenge to Angolans because of the increasing crime rates among youth, drug abuse, excessive alcohol consumption, unprotected sex practices, and other problems. Close to half of survey sampled (48%) believe that youth tend to be the ones who disturb peace and cause problems in their communities.

Concerning, youth's role in assuring harmony, peace, and cohesion in their communities, 70% of survey respondents agree that youth have played a positive role. For instance, when organizing activities in the community such as soccer or basketball, healthy and social activities; whereas 15% of respondents do not see youth playing a positive role.

Youth and Conflict Prevention

Unfortunately, youth do not have enough knowledge of conflict prevention, nor of the consequences of conflict; this applies even to youth in universities. So when faced with problems and conflicts, they resort to their relatives, to the police, or to the traditional authorities when seeking to solve the issue. Despite this initiative by some people, generally speaking, the most common behavior among youth is to try to solve their conflicts by violent means.

Conflicts among youth from political parties do not always result in violence. When that happens, despite the fact that youth are those directly involved, senior leaders are the ones who tend to get involved in order to manage, mitigate and solve conflicts, avoiding that they become more acute

5.2. Recommendations

Given the findings of the study, we recommend the following for the project,

- During conflict management trainings with youth involved in political parties, consider inviting other youth from formal and informal organizations.
- Consider working with CNJ as a collaborative implementing partner, as CNJ is a well-organized youth council, of national scope which includes most of Angolan youth formal organizations.
- As youth tend to only participate in political and social activities where there is some material reward, the project should include the themes of citizenship and voluntarism.
- As mistrust among youth members of different parties is widespread, the project should consider creating spaces where they can expose their ideas and opinions concerning the problems they face, as well as debate about possible solutions and develop charitable activities.
- During project implementation, ASCAM and SFCG should take in consideration and create mechanisms to reverse the following finding of this study:

  > "Close to half of survey sampled (48%) believe that youth tend to be the ones who disturb peace and cause problems in their communities."

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Texto adaptado de The Student Counseling Virtual Pamphlet Collection.

7. Annexes

Annex 1: Final Evaluation Methodology

Annex 2: Tools

Annex 3: Table 6 Youth Organizations