



Guinean Association of Social Workers (AGAS)

Report on the 1st National Conference of Social Workers in Guinea Bissau

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| Government Organisation present at the event | Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity, Represented by the Institute for Women and Children (IMC) |
| Financiers | UNICEF, ALDEIA SOS and INSS |
| Department Operational | Executive Board of the Guinean Association of Social Workers-AGAS that set up a committee for this purpose |
| General Objectives | The 1st National Conference of Social Workers in Guinea-Bissau had the following objectives objective, to provide debates and evaluate the professional practice of Social Workers in Guinea-Bissau. |
| Location | Bissau, ENA conference hall |
| Date | 23rd and 24th May 2024 |
| No. of participants | 98 social workers were present |
| Introduction | <p>The National Conference of Social Workers of Guinea Bissau, held on 23 and 24 May 2024, at the ENA Conference Hall in Bissau, with the motto "Path, Challenges and Prospects". The aim of the event was to organise debates and evaluate the professional practice of social workers in Guinea-Bissau.</p> <p>The conference was opened by the President of AGAS, Mr Ussumane Embaló, and was attended and addressed by representatives of international organisations, namely Ms Sónia Polónio, representing UNICEF, Mr Elber Nosolini, National Director of SOS Children's Villages, the President of the Organising Committee of the conference, Mr Filomeno Teodorico Barbosa, and all the invited institutions were absent.</p> <p>During the opening speeches, important considerations were made about the importance of the conference. During the two days of the event, three themes were taught, namely the Path of Social Work in Guinea-Bissau (facilitated by Dr Maram Mané), Social Work and Human Rights (facilitated by Mrs Fernanda da Costa), Social Work and Social Policy (taught by Dr Tânia Maria Ramos Godoi Diniz and Sónia Nozadielli, respectively) and the Role of Social Workers in Guinea-Bissau (facilitated by Dr Tânia Maria Ramos Godoi Diniz and Sónia Nozadielli, respectively).</p> <p>Social Workers in the Context of Social Development in Guinea-Bissau (facilitated</p> |

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| | by Mr Edilson Mango and Mr Injai Mané , respectively). |
| Development of activity | <p>The 1st National Conference of Social Workers of Guinea Bissau, held on the days 23 and 24 May 2024, was an event of great importance for the class of Social Workers in the country. Among the panellists present, the presence of Mrs Maram Mané, as speaker on the subject of "The Historical Journey of the Social Work in Guinea Bissau".</p> <p>Discussing the history of social work in Guinea Bissau, Maram Mané highlighted the challenges faced over the years and the prospects for the future of the organisation.</p> <p>profession in the country. She emphasised the importance of the Social Work course in training of professionals who are capable of and committed to promoting social well-being and the defence of human rights.</p> <p>During his presentation, Maram Mané emphasised the need to strengthen the academic training of Social Workers, as well as to promote their valorisation and recognition in society. She emphasised the importance of professionals keep up to date with new trends and practices in the field, in order to guarantee a quality and effective care for the population.</p> <p>In short, Mrs Maram Mané's participation and communication were fundamental to enrich the debate on Social Work at the conference. His experience and knowledge contributed to inspire e motivate the professionals present, reaffirming the category's commitment to social transformation and the promoting social justice. The active participation of the professionals present demonstrated the category's commitment to the improvement of social conditions and the defence of human rights in the country. The conference was an important space for reflection and collective construction that will certainly contribute to the advancement of the profession and to the strengthening social work in Guinea Bissau.</p> <p>On the second day of the conference, Mrs Fernanda Maria da Costa spoke, the theme of "Social Work and Human Rights", where he shared his experience of Brazil during his academic career.</p> <p>She highlighted her work in the prison system, emphasising the role of the assistant</p> |

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as a defender of human rights. Fernanda addressed the challenges faced and prospects for the future. On the other hand, she emphasised the importance of guaranteeing dignity and human rights. Her talk was enriching and inspiring, demonstrating the importance of social workers in the promotion and uncompromising defence of social rights, and highlighting the need for ethical and political commitment in the fight for a fairer and more equal society.

In the same vein, there was online participation by Brazilian professors from the Federal University of São Paulo - Brazil, **Maria Ramos Godoi Diniz and Sónia Nozadielli**, who spoke on the topic of "Social Work and Social Policy". During their presentation, the speakers emphasised the importance of social work throughout history, highlighting linguistic diversity, the politics of good governance, challenges and recommendations for reaffirming the profession.

One of the points discussed was the need to give visibility to social workers in Guinea-Bissau, highlighting their fundamental role in promoting social welfare and defending human rights. Social protection policy strategies were also discussed, emphasising the importance of legislation in each area of intervention. The speakers emphasised the importance of keeping up to date with social policies and engaging in actions that promote equality, equity and social justice.

Recommendations were also put forward to strengthen the work of social workers, such as continuing training, networking and defending the rights of social service users.

In his presentation on the fourth theme, "The Role of Social Work in the Context of Guinea-Bissau's Development", Edilson Mango considered that Guinea-Bissau is far below the development indicators and this reality has contributed to an increase in poverty among the population. In this sense, the speaker defended the importance of social workers working on social issues in order to promote well-being and social justice. For his part, Injai Mané defended the need to implement social policies with a view to improving the lives of the population.

because it is through social policies that people have access to their rights.

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| | <p>rights.</p> <p>To summarise, the social workers' conference was a time for reflection and debate on the role of the profession in building a fairer and more equal society. The speakers were unanimous in reaffirming the commitment of social workers to fight for an inclusive and effective social policy that meets the needs of the most vulnerable population.</p> <p>The 1st National Conference of Social Workers from Guinea Bissau was a space and moment for professionals from different backgrounds to come together and discuss and share experiences. During the event, debates were held in which each participant had the opportunity to present their experience in different areas of professional practice.</p> |
| Conclusions | <p>In terms of the conclusion of the 1st Conference, it went as planned in that the participants were satisfied with the results achieved in terms of debate and insight into class life.</p> |
| Recommendations | <p>After lengthy discussions by the speakers, the following resolutions emerged, which should be retained for implementation after the conference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That AGAS has its own headquarters;2. Transparency in the reporting of activities and accounts;3. Hold annual conferences to discuss and evaluate the progress of public policies and identify areas for improvement;4. Promote meetings with sovereign bodies to ensure integration and collaboration in the implementation of public policies;5. Establishing guidelines e mechanisms clear for a our area of intervention, guaranteeing effective action focussed on the established objectives;6. Systematise the areas of intervention to facilitate the evaluation and monitoring of the results achieved; |

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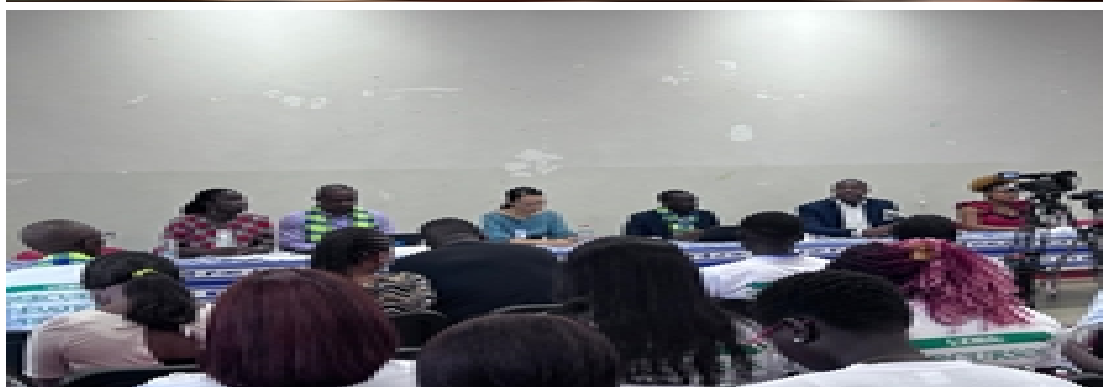
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7. Promoting national and international exchanges to share good practices and experiences with other organisations;
8. Establishing institutional partnerships to increase the impact and reach of the actions carried out;
9. To elect coordinators for the different areas of intervention of Social Workers within AGAS;
10. Encourage social workers to join AGAS (membership, fees and dues);
11. Create the Order of Social Workers of Guinea-Bissau;
12. Create mechanisms to identify social workers in public and private organisations (database);
13. Systematisation of the areas of intervention of Social Work professionals in different sectors;
14. Create exchange mechanisms between different professionals at national and international level;
- ✓ 15. The Guinean Association of Social Workers (AGAS) should create institutional partnerships with universities, both internally and externally.

Means of verification



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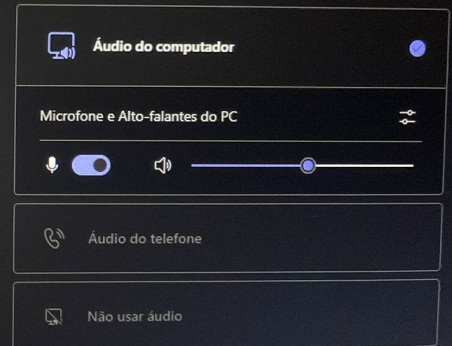
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The Commission
