

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Development Strategies

AT A GLANCE

Country Mozambique

Risks Drought, flooding, sea level rise, storms

Area of Engagement Community resilience

Faced with high vulnerability to climate change, Mozambique worked with communities around the country to devise locally-appropriate and locally-owned disaster risk management strategies.

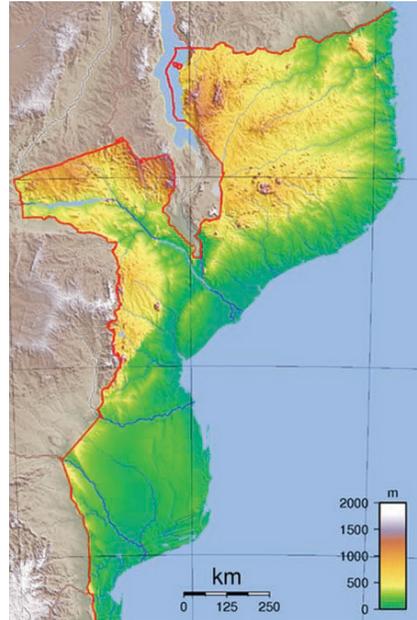
NO 'ONE SIZE FITS ALL' SOLUTION FOR MANAGING DISASTER RISK

The majority of Mozambicans live in rural areas that are prone to weather and climate shocks, have low capacity to adapt, and are reliant on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fish, and livestock. Population density is highest along the country's 2,470 km coastline, where specific risks such as sea level rise and floods exist.

Mozambique suffers predominantly from prolonged droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, which pose a particular threat to communities in the province of Gaza and the Districts of Chibuto, Guijá and Chókwe.

Two constraints hindering effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Mozambique are the limited integration of DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) considerations into development strategies, and the limited involvement of local communities in decision-making for disaster risk management (DRM).

*African, Caribbean, Pacific - European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program, which is managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).



Topography of Mozambique

The topographic map of Mozambique clearly shows the low lying coastal plain covering much of the country in the South and Central zones (colored green/blue). The higher mountains/plateaus inland and to the North are also clearly visible.

Map source: Wikimedia Commons; description from National Institute for Disaster Management Mozambique

TURNING TO COMMUNITIES TO SCALE UP DRM

By embracing Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), Mozambique was able to address these two constraints jointly. CBDRM places communities at the heart of decision-making, supporting development and ownership of locally-appropriate strategies for disaster preparedness and risk reduction, which in turn guides development strategies.

With support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program*, World Vision Mozambique implemented a project to enhance CBDRM in 32 target communities and enhance the integration of DRM in development planning in the Districts of Chibuto, Guijá and Chókwe.

A baseline study on the state of CBDRM in these communities found that local DRM committees were never established in 11 of the communities, and the other 21 were deemed in need of refresher training due to inactivity. The study also revealed that the absence of guiding documents slowed down the establishment and functioning of local DRM committees.



32 communities have stronger community-based DRM measures

Using these findings, the project team worked with key DRM actors in Mozambique, including the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) and the District Services for Planning and Infrastructure, to develop three important documents: a Manual for Establishing and Training Local DRM Committees, a Methodology for the Design of Local Adaptation Plans, and Guidelines to Integrate DRR and CCA in District Development Plans.

Together, these three documents address the aforementioned constraints to effective DRM in Mozambique. They help prevent each local DRM committee from needing to “reinvent the wheel” on their plans, and at the same time enhance the capacity of communities to implement CBDRM. Once they are established as the primary reference source among government, local communities, and DRM partners in Mozambique, they can also help ensure that DRM is integrated in development plans. Finally, the common guidelines ensure that a government-approved methodology to train local DRM Committees is used by all stakeholders involved.

LESSONS LEARNED

Ownership and leadership of the government is critical to putting DRM plans into practice

The Ministry of Economy and Finance of Mozambique led the review of the Guidelines to Promote the Integration of DRR and CCA in Local Development Plans. After approving them, the Ministry organized a meeting with heads of the planning departments from all provinces to present the guidelines and ensure that everyone was able to use it adequately. The heads of the planning departments, in turn, disseminated the methodology in their respective provinces. Because of the ownership and leadership of the Government, the Guidelines have been taken up in the districts of Chibuto, Guijá and Chókwe, increasing their capacity to enhance DRM efforts.

Including civil society when making decisions helps ensure that local conditions are addressed

Civil society groups - such as Save the Children, Handicap International, and Conselho Cristão de Moçambique - participated in an advocacy campaign and consultation meetings as part of the ACP-EU NDRR project. Based on their experience in training local DRM committees, civil society organizations provided written comments on how the Manual for Establishing and Training Local DRM Committees could be improved. Their ability to provide local context proved valuable during workshops in which the three guiding DRM documents were discussed.

DRM TOOLS DEVELOPED

Three guiding DRM documents were developed as part of the ACP-EU NDRR Project. The documents harmonizing best practices, were approved by Government counterparts as official guiding documents for DRM interventions in Mozambique. The Methodology for the Design of Local Adaptation Plans was approved in September 2017, the Guidelines to Integrate DRR and CCA in District Development Plans were approved in June 2018 and the Manual for Establishing and Training Local DRM Committees in October 2018.

LOCAL CAPACITY ENHANCED

Ten INGC officers and Government officers from the Chibuto, Guijá and Chokwe districts received a Training of Trainers on the creation and training of local DRM committees. These new trainers in turn delivered trainings to a total of 568 community members, of which 354 women. Enhancing local DRM capacity has already led to the establishment of 11 new local DRM committees.

\$80 MILLION LEVERAGED

Activities developed under the ACP-EU NDRR project fed into the activities of the US\$80 million World Bank-financed Mozambique Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Program. This Program supports emergency management at local and national level, amongst others by strengthening local DRM committees. Specifically, the Manual for Establishing and Training Local DRM Committees and the methodology developed are used as the main guide to train and equip supported committees.

“The establishment of local DRM committees in places where they did not exist before, is one of the great achievements of the project.”

-- Gilda Tivane, Permanent Secretary of the Guijá District