

POLICIES & INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY-LEVEL CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN BEIRA

INACCT Resilience

CITY INFOGRAPHIC SERIES

Given Beira's high vulnerability to extreme weather events, a combination of national and municipal policies, along with community-level initiatives, is essential to building resilience against future climate risks. These strategies prioritise infrastructure development, disaster risk reduction, and active community participation. Below are some key policies and initiatives that showcase Beira's approach to enhancing resilience, with implications at the grassroots level.

Beira Municipal Recovery and Resilience Plan

Developed after Cyclone Idai, the plan outlines measures to rebuild and protect the city from climate risks. It prioritises coastal defenses, flood control, and urban resilience to mitigate future disasters.

Coastal defenses and environmental protection:

- Construction and rehabilitation of protection systems in Ponta-Gea and Macuti.
- Mangrove restoration, dune reforestation, and erosion control measures.

Flood management:

- Retention lakes integrated with green spaces for water absorption.
- Drainage upgrades, particularly in Chota and Manga.

Housing and infrastructure:

- Rebuilding damaged homes and relocating residents from high-risk areas.
- Repair and expansion of sewage networks and waste management systems.

Transportation:

- Road rehabilitation and development of evacuation routes.

While addressing infrastructure needs, the plan presents a crucial gap in terms of social safeguards, posing risks for marginalised communities. Long-term community-level impacts and intersectional vulnerabilities are insufficiently covered by the plan. This is a concern for marginalised communities in informal settlements who are at risk of being displaced by both natural hazards and the projects aimed at mitigating them.

Urban Structure Plan of the City of Beira (PEUCB)

The PEUCB, delivered in 2022, aims to enhance resilience to climate change, manage population growth, and improve living conditions. It prioritises sustainability, safety, and urban attractiveness.

National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (INGD)

Implemented by the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management, this strategy focuses on improving disaster preparedness and response.

- **Early warning systems** help the population stay informed ahead of cyclones.
- **Coordinated evacuations** between municipal authorities and local communities save lives during emergencies.

In 2019, Cyclone Idai revealed several deficiencies in Beira's early warning system. Consequent improvements in warning communication, the provision of emergency kits, and evacuation efforts partially explain the lower fatality rate of Cyclone Eloise in 2021. INGD integrates local knowledge and scientific data to develop rapid and effective responses to hazards.



Macurungo's Committee for Disaster Management at work. The gender-balanced group of volunteers documents their neighbourhood's resilience by drawing maps locating vulnerable inhabitants and evacuation routes.

Community-based disaster risk management committees

These grassroots committees are the backbone of Beira's climate resilience, mobilizing residents in vulnerable areas.

- **Preparedness drills** are held regularly to ensure communities know evacuation routes and safety protocols.
- **Local emergency responses** are led by community members who are often first on the scene to assist with evacuations and distribute relief supplies.

Gender-balanced groups of 18 members work alongside municipal authorities, ensuring that local needs are prioritized in disaster relief efforts.

Committees co-ordinate closely with national and international aid efforts.

These committees, embedded in every neighbourhood, foster strong community bonds and have proven crucial in reducing fatalities during climate events.

