

SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY IN BEIRA

INACCT Resilience

CITY INFOGRAPHIC SERIES

Beira, a major coastal city in Mozambique, faces intertwined socio-economic challenges. Rapid urbanisation, persistent poverty, and climate shocks are amplifying vulnerabilities for over half a million residents. The city's fragile economy and extensive informal settlements are central to its difficulties in resilience building.

STRUCTURAL POVERTY RATES

- About 60% of Mozambicans live below the poverty line, and average household expenditure in Beira's region approximates the poverty line, with 66.43 MZN per day. The country ranks in the bottom 10% of African countries in terms of GDP per capita.
- With around 94% of businesses being informal, a large majority of jobs lack security and social safety nets, exposing families to financial instability.
- The economic toll from Cyclone Idai (in Mozambique) reached \$1.4 billion, destroying livelihoods and causing long-term unemployment for thousands.



EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTHCARE STRUGGLES

- 1372 Mozambican schools were affected by Cyclone Idai, leaving children without education for months, with many still not returned to school.
- Health services were overwhelmed, with 93 healthcare facilities damaged, resulting in untreated chronic diseases, especially in informal settlements.



DISPLACEMENT CRISIS

- It is estimated that 160,927 people were displaced by Cyclone Idai, across 164 evacuation sites, in and around Beira and its province, with many livelihoods devastated.
- Internally displaced individuals continue to live in overcrowded temporary shelters with minimal access to services, straining the city's infrastructure.
- Informal settlements are expanding to accommodate the displaced, pushing more individuals into high-risk flood zones.



INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: HOME FOR MOST

- 70% of Beira's population resides in informal settlements, often in precarious housing vulnerable to climate threats.
- Many of these areas lack essential infrastructure, paved roads, drainage systems, and sanitation, heightening the risk during extreme weather events.



GENDER INEQUALITY EXACERBATED BY DISASTERS

- It is estimated that 36% of households are headed by women, who encounter significant challenges in recovering from climate-related disasters.
- Gender-based violence and sexual exploitation sharply increased in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai. Women and girls, particularly in shelters and resettlement camps, faced heightened risks of sexual violence and exploitation.
- Limited access to land ownership and recovery aid traps women in cycles of poverty.



CLIMATE ACTION MUST BE EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE

"The best way to ensure women are a part of the climate conversation is to educate community members on how to listen to and respect women and their insights."

Vanessa Dos Santos,
Gender Officer at Light
for the World



Beira faces a dire situation, with much of the population living in multidimensional poverty, struggling to meet basic needs for food, education, and healthcare.

Rising malnutrition, especially among children, and escalating mental health issues highlight the urgent need for action. Without immediate action and support, Beira risks further entrenching widespread poverty and vulnerability to floods, disease and other climate change related impacts.



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