

# JOSÉ HENRIQUES

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BEIRA (MOZAMBIQUE)



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## How have you been affected by flooding?

The floods have affected the majority of the population, flooding homes, schools, fields and led to people losing their possessions like documents and more. What motivates me to act is my role in the community, which is to prevent the destruction of houses and schools and electricity poles, so I help communities get back on their feet and build resilient buildings. We also want to sensitise communities to the dangers and risks of rivers, pits and electric poles, to prevent deaths.

## Key actions and impact

During the event, heavy rains flood houses, destroy bridges and knock down power lines. Everyone is left without power. As part of my work, we join forces with community leaders to take those affected to safe places and create conditions to shelter the population. We have already organised workshops and seminars where we have called together community leaders, heads of directorates and community members to talk about climate change, heavy rains and flooding. My efforts have contributed to supporting my municipality by sensitising people to follow the instructions and recommendations of how to have resilient buildings, and take good care of drinking water.

## Challenges and lessons learned

We are fighting to build more drainage ditches in the neighbourhoods that are most vulnerable to flooding. We learnt from our mayor to put harness bags over the roofs to secure the metal sheets, and to avoid living in the high-risk zones altogether. To overcome these challenges, we designed a project and asked donors for funds to build drainage ditches. It is important to share ideas with others who have faced similar problems by exchanging experiences and travelling between cities.

## Call to action

My hope is to see my community with a transformed frame of mind, realising the importance of climate change knowledge. I would say that the most important thing people can do is sensitise communities about the danger of climate events and to educate both children and adults.

*This text was translated from Portuguese.*

## MEET THE CHANGEMAKERS

**#6** *This is part of an infographic series profiling key role players who are working with the INACCT Resilience project in supporting resilience building.*