

JUVICIA GOMES

COORDINATION ASSISTANT AT THE FACE ASSOCIATION

BEIRA (MOZAMBIQUE)



“Sustainable solutions require ongoing dialogue and community inclusion.”

MEET THE CHANGEMAKERS

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

How have you been affected by flooding?

I was affected by the floods from seeing families lose their homes and livelihoods. This motivated me to take action. As a Coordination Assistant at FACE, we support community engagement, promote mitigation and adaptation actions, and collaborate with partners to strengthen local resilience, contributing to a city that is better prepared for climate change.

Key actions and impact

I coordinated seven discussion groups with young students about climate resilience, valuing local solutions. I contributed to the creation of recycling points in vulnerable areas and two guides for living with floods, and I coordinated ditch cleaning with community involvement. These activities reinforce environmental awareness and result in greater participation and preparation for the rainy season and the impacts of climate change. This is an ongoing project and we will only enter the implementation phase of the solutions in the coming months. In the meantime, FACE has developed a guide that presents several local solutions identified in five peri-urban and vulnerable neighborhoods in the city of Beira

Challenges and lessons learned

We faced initial distrust and low participation. We overcame this with active listening, door-to-door visits and involving local leaders. I learned that sustainable solutions require ongoing dialogue and community inclusion. One of the examples that struck me the most was that of Mrs. Rosa, a resident of a neighborhood that is vulnerable to flooding. Although she does not hold any formal leadership role, she is known for her great desire to help others. At just over 40 years old, she developed solutions using reused tyres to mitigate the impacts of flooding. Her example shows how individual action, even without titles, can inspire an entire community.

Call to action

I hope to see communities that are more united, aware and prepared to deal with climate impacts. I believe in the power of small local actions. I advise anyone who wants to make a difference to start with empathy, listen to people and act collaboratively, that is how lasting change is built. Continuous cleaning of ditches, use of vegetation to prevent erosion in unlined ditches, creation of safe paths in low-lying areas with sandbags or tyres, and the use of tyres to protect the material used in backfilling yards are other actions we can take. Directing solid waste with commercial value to the circular economy is also important.

This text was translated from Portuguese.