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“My role in the work I do is to ensure that the human rights of the **most vulnerable people** (the elderly, people with disabilities, children and heads of families) are respected in all disaster risk management processes.”

MEET THE CHANGEMAKERS

#5 *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?

The city of Beira is prone to various climatic risks due to its geographical location, which means that the population is always cyclically affected. As a result, the population already knows how to get back on its feet quickly. What motivates me to act as a humanitarian agent is wanting to help the population know how to prevent climate risks in order to create lasting resilience.

Key actions and impact

I led the process of simulating flood occurrences involving the Local Disaster Risk Management Committees, including the community, which aimed to show how to prepare for an emergency and what measures to adopt to minimise risks. The notable result was the change in behavior in the communities where I provided training, which now know the need and importance of including women and people with disabilities in activities and measures to build climate resilience within their communities. We've also had impact through the training of the Local Disaster Risk Management Committees in matters of prevention, mitigation and response to disasters.

Challenges and lessons learned

The main obstacle I encountered, using Cyclone IDAI as an example, was seeing the most vulnerable people living in deplorable conditions during a time of emergency and not being able to provide a decent response (due to the lack of resources in relation to the magnitude of the event). The internal solidarity that existed and the support coming from various national and international partners helped to minimise the suffering of the most vulnerable families. The idea that I share with others who face similar problems is that we should focus on early warning systems, using committees to appeal to communities in advance about preventing events, and also using community radio stations in the local language. This helps avoid the loss of human lives and minimises the impacts of the damage caused by these events. The best thing to do is to raise awareness among communities to adopt preventive measures with a view to minimising the damage, building lasting climate resilience in their homes and communities.

Call to action

My hope is to see the drainage ditches improved to minimise the impact of flooding in the city of Beira. My advice is that we must come together to save Beira by creating measures and strategies to mitigate extreme events. Let's save the City of Beira together.

This text was translated from Portuguese.