

Impact Story 12:

Rebuilding Fresh Food Markets in Mozambique

THE OPPORTUNITY

The level of urbanisation in Mozambique is rapidly increasing. In 2020, 37% of Mozambique's total population lived in urban areas and cities¹ and the annual urban population growth was reported to be 4.4%². This means that the pressures on urban infrastructure and services will intensify over the coming decades, and along with population growth the demand for food will increase considerably³. Traditional (informal) markets continue to be a major source of both staples and nutrient-dense food for the urban poor in Mozambique who often purchase small quantities of fresh food daily. They are critical nodes in an informal network of urban food supply and distribution throughout cities and remain a major source of informal and formal income and jobs⁴.

Even so, Mozambican traditional markets often face many challenges, such as: less than favourable locations (resulting from sub-optimal urban planning); precarious market infrastructure or lack thereof; as well as inadequate water supply and quality, drainage, sanitation and waste management; unstable power supply; overcrowding; and lack of refrigeration⁵. The precarious infrastructure is particularly problematic in the city of Beira because of the extensive damage from Cyclone Idai in 2019, Tropical Storm Chalane in 2020 and Cyclone Eloise in 2021⁶. Cyclone Idai alone destroyed 176 municipal buildings, including marketplaces, in Beira⁷.



Figure 1: First two pictures on the left shows damaged roofs, and the third picture on the right Stalls empty and vendors selling their produce on the sidewalks after the market suffered cyclone damage.

Not only did the deficient and damaged infrastructure on those markets present health risks to vendors and consumers, some of the markets were partially or completely abandoned, with 135 stalls damaged or inactive due to their dilapidated state .

THE SOLUTION

To make sure Beira's low-income population can continuously access affordable **safe nutritious fresh foods** and economic opportunities in traditional urban food markets, GAIN with funding from the government of the Netherlands supported the city of Beira by upgrading three fresh food markets.

GAIN's interventions aimed to create long term and sustainable change in the safety, hygiene and resilience of food markets that were severely impacted by compounding shocks (including back-to-back cyclones and COVID-19). To achieve this goal, GAIN implemented the following: a) Upgraded to a cyclone-resilient manner. Incorporating climate-resilient building design, materials and practices. Utilising steel roof structures, iron galvanized roof sheeting and reinforced concrete structure. – **three severely damaged traditional food market infrastructure equipping them with refrigeration and waste collection equipment**; b) delivered capacity building to vendors and the market authority (including market committees) on the operational management of the markets and participatory good 'food' governance ; c) provided technical assistance and capacitation to improve market hygiene and food safety practices (including waste management).

1 <https://www.statista.com/statistics/455889/urbanization-in-mozambique/>

2 <https://tradingeconomics.com/mozambique/urban-population-growth-annual-percent-wb-data.html>

3 https://www.healthpolicyproject.com/pubs/297_MozambiqueRAPIDEnglishEmail.pdf

4 https://www.rimisp.org/wp-content/files_mf/1467380890194_Felicity_Proctor_Julio_Berdegue.pdf

5 https://www.pdul.gov.mz/content/download/130/644/file/MERCADOS%20E%20FEIRAS%20-%20PDMF%2010Ago20_.pdf

6 https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/05/covid19_wash_mz_web.pdf

7 <https://www.dutchwatersector.com/sites/default/files/2019-06/Summary%20Beira%20Municipal%20Recovery%20and%20Resilience%20Plan.pdf>



Figure 2: During construction



Figure 3: Training of vendors



Figure 4: Munhava market completed



Figure 5: Handover of waste collection truck (The Mayor and GAIN)



Figure 6: Vegetable cold storage



Figure 7: Massamba market

The three rebuilt market structures accommodate a combined total of 302 vendors of fresh foods, all of whom were trained in basic hygiene and food safety practices and waste management. Furthermore, the same vendors were sensitized on COVID-19 mitigation measures, and 17 market authority members were capacitated in market management (including marketing, operational and financial management).

THE IMPACT

The markets now have improved sanitation facilities (toilets), water supply infrastructure, a lighting (electricity) system, waste collection, and quality and hygienic buildings, solar-powered cold-rooms, and an icemaker. 305 vendors (77% women) are now selling their fresh produce in healthier and safer working environments that provide safer nutritious foods to an estimated 70,000 people. Further, as some of markets were already overcrowded (people were selling produce on the floor), the upgrade also resulted in increased number of stalls for selling fresh foods (42 additional stalls constructed), which has resulted in more nutritious and safe foods being sold in the target neighbourhoods.



Figure 8: National Newspaper with headline "Munhava and Massamba markets cleaner and safer"



Figure 9: Vendor selling in healthier food market



Figure 10: Market committee performing deep cleaning in a Saturday



Figure 11: The mayor, deputy head of mission (The Netherlands) & GAIN team on the inauguration event

In terms of sustainability, the market infrastructures have been rebuilt in strict collaboration with city government, as well as market leaders/market authorities and vendors from the onset throughout implementation. Post intervention, the markets were 'handed over' to the city government (and the market management committees) who were capacitated on how to effectively operate and manage the food markets.

In recognition of this work, a new donor (Norway Embassy) has approached GAIN Mozambique with the intention of replicating the market interventions in Cabo Delgado province by facilitating (through similar processes) the construction of wholesale and retail food markets.

See a video about the market work in Beira: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb7ASiCtUK>

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