

Keywords:

Social protection, climate change adaptation, resilience, poverty reduction



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OVERVIEW

IIED Strategy and Learning Group

Initiative name:

PRIORIZE Initiative

Initiative leader:

Melq Gomes

Time frame:

April 2017 to July 2020

Objective:

To generate evidence on the feasibility and effectiveness of linking social protection and climate adaptation to reduce climate vulnerability and increase incomes of the poorest and most vulnerable households. Specific objectives include building community resilience; influencing government in planning and implementation of **poverty-centred local adaptation (PCLA)**; and testing a prototype for PCLA delivery.

INITIATIVE SUMMARY

The PRIORIZE Initiative is a three-year prototype PCLA programme aligning social protection with climate adaptation in Mabote district, Mozambique. Focusing on female-headed households eligible for social protection, the initiative provides assets and infrastructure, plus training in climate adaptive income-generating activities to strengthen resilience, reduce poverty and improve gender equality. The district-led approach engages local authorities and promotes a coherent, multi-sectoral approach through participatory, bottom-up processes.

CHANGE IN ACTION

Poverty eradication in the face of escalating climate risks is best achieved through locally driven and socially inclusive climate adaptive development.

Poverty-centred local adaptation in Mozambique

Aligning social protection and climate adaptation

Social protection systems aim to eradicate poverty but often only reach a minority of the poorest households. Those eligible for social protection are often vulnerable to climate impacts that risk driving them further into poverty. Mabote district, Mozambique, is susceptible to 'slow onset' climate shocks, particularly droughts, which exacerbate food insecurity. Social protection reaches just 15% of poor households there.

The PRIORIZE Initiative worked at district level to align social protection with climate adaptation, adopting a variant of the 'adaptive social protection' approach – what we call 'poverty-centred local adaptation' (PCLA). PCLA aims to strengthen the climate resilience of those eligible for social protection using the local adaptation planning process as an entry point. Investments of climate resilience funds by the local government focus on income-generating activities (IGAs) and developing local infrastructure such as water points to address poverty, gender inequality and climate shocks.

Prospective study to assess needs, design prototype

In 2016/17, the project team and the University of Eduardo Mondlane reviewed the evidence base and social protection and climate adaptation policy frameworks. We identified a large overlap between poverty and climate vulnerability. An enabling policy environment existed but the social protection system was overwhelmed, policies and strategies needed to be more robust, and inter-institutional coordination needed to be strengthened.

During 2018/20, we developed a prototype for implementing PCLA in a learning-by-doing, adaptive way that allowed adjustments throughout the process.

Strengthening local leadership

Embedding the approach required competent and knowledgeable local leadership and joined-up institutions. The next stage involved policy dialogue at district, provincial and national levels, focusing on ministries of environment and of gender and social action. Inter-institutional platforms brought together technical staff to plan cohesive approaches.

It was critical that Mabote authorities led PRIORIZE through a 'bottom-up' approach. They coordinated the platforms and managed planning processes. IIED supported authorities in adaptive management decision making and resource allocation. The methodology for local adaptation planning was revised to include assessing climate risks and the adaptation needs of people eligible for social protection.

Challenges included an initial reluctance by local authorities to manage and take ownership of the programme and a need for technical assistance in targeting and monitoring and evaluation systems.

Improving livelihoods

In 2018, the PCLA prototype began with households eligible for social protection. Through the local adaptation plan, the district authority invested in water infrastructure and nurturing IGAs.

