



Local Economic Development in Mozambique



International Labour Organization

LED STORY Nr. 4 MAY 2007

Economic and social needs are one

In Mozambique working out of poverty is hard. Natural disasters, HIV/AIDS and other hardship put severe strains on people's ability to generate a decent income. Local Economic Development Agency Sofala looks into ways to decrease people's vulnerability to such risks by linking social protection to economic development.

Project facts

Project title:
Fight against social exclusion

Starting date:
September 2006

End date:
December 2008

Donor:
Government of Portugal

Implementation:
ILO STEP

Partners:
Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs

Location:
Province of Sofala: districts of Caia, Maringue and Nhamatanda

Objectives:
To extend social protection to informal economy workers in Sofala Province

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“Sofala, the natural gateway to Southern Africa.” This is the slogan used by Local Economic Development Agency (LEDA) Sofala to promote investment in the Province of Sofala, situated in the central part of Mozambique. The slogan refers to Sofala's strategic geographical position and highlights its important natural resource base. However, the natural environment is also harsh. For example, droughts and floods destroy frequently people's livelihoods. However, the natural environment is not the only cause of vulnerability.

LEDA Sofala would like to address the risks to which the rural population is exposed through social protection measures. In order to establish a local social protection strategy, LEDA Sofala undertook the following steps. First, the association organized a sensitizing and information

workshop on “Social Protection and its relations with LED” with a wide range of local and national stakeholders. They identified the following major risks: natural disasters, HIV/AIDS, financial vulnerability, lack of drinking water, precarious housing,

Box 1

LEDA Sofala



LEDA (ADEL in Portuguese) Sofala was created in 2000 within the

framework of the UN Interagency Programme “Human Development at the Local Level” financed by the Italian government (1997-2003). The LEDA is an association with 15 members from local government, civil society and the private sector. LEDA's main activities are focused on promoting Sofala's growth potential by attracting economic and development partners whilst expanding opportunities for disadvantaged populations.

Box 2

What is social protection?

The ILO defines social protection as a set of public and private measures that seek (i) to provide income security in case of illness, old age, unemployment, death of the breadwinner or other hardship and prevent or alleviate poverty; (ii) to guarantee access to health and social services; and (iii) to protect the income, health and well being of workers and their family.

human-animal conflict, forest fires and deforestation.

Weak risk management was recognized as the underlying cause of vulnerability. In this respect, financial, technical and cultural issues are at stake. For instance, the lack of saving, insurance or credit mechanisms for the poor is seen as a major obstacle in readdressing the loss of income due to hardship such as illness or devastated productive assets. Also, the lack of stocking techniques weakens the income security of farmers. Finally, cultural traditions can have a destructive impact on the health condition

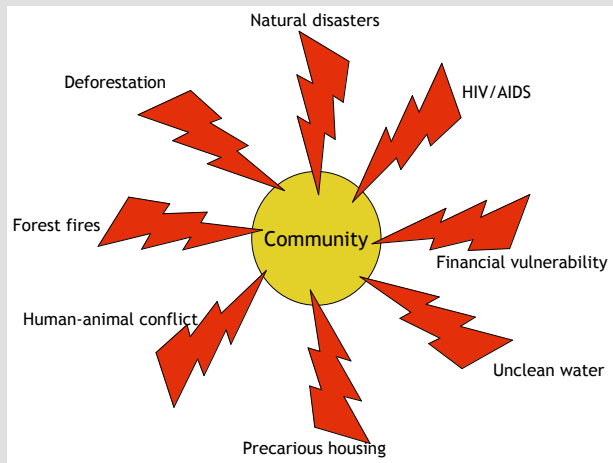
of working women and men.

The second step in formulating the strategy consisted of an in-depth assessment of needs and potentialities at the community level. An international expert assisted the assessment team through a cost-effective online support by the ILO Learning and Resources Centre on Social Inclusion (CIARIS). The outcomes of this assessment served as a basis for the participatory formulation of district action plans. During this third step, each district prioritized the risks to be addressed. Subsequently, actions, target groups, partners and relevant institutions were identified. The actions are a combination of research, awareness raising, training, preventive and protecting measures. For example in Nhamatanda, the proposed actions to increase the access to clean drinking water included the creation of micro-enterprises for the construction and maintenance of wells.

Resource mobilization is the fourth and final step in the formulation process. The LEDA

Box 3

Social protection - risk analysis



Box 4

The Pitakufa practice

Traditionally, the loss of income for recent widows was secured by the Pitakufa practice of integrating the family of one brother-in-law. Sexual intercourse initiated this new relationship. Today, the uninformed awareness on HIV/AIDS changes this practice. The late husband's family pays a stranger to have unprotected intercourse with the widow with the intention to "purify" the woman from the suspected virus. Hence, the way is paved for unprotected intercourse with the brother-in-law.

succeeded to raise the interest of a range of national and international development actors to support these locally driven plans.

Lessons learned

Local ownership starts with endogenous knowledge

Social protection is a concept that originates from practices in industrialized countries. Though its relevance in developing countries may be clear, one needs to invest in "localizing" the meaning of social protection and its relation to LED. The risk analysis at the start of the process turned out to be a good instrument. It relied on local stakeholders' knowledge of the living and working environment to identify current hardships and coping mechanisms. As such, the links between social protection and LED were easily established. Moreover, the LEDA

as a local network institution ensured a broad-based participation from the beginning. Hence, all stakeholders felt ownership of the locally driven process.

Cost-effective process

Formulating a social protection action plan is not necessarily a costly operation. Relying on local knowledge and local organizations reduces the need for hiring external experts. In case there is a need for external support and exposure to other practices, the use of CIARIS services can be a cost-effective option.

Box 5

What is CIARIS?

CIARIS is an ILO knowledge development system, which aims at strengthening actors' capacity in designing, planning, managing and evaluating projects and policies related to social exclusion. It is built in partnership with institutions in Africa, Latin America and Europe and enables to improve people's practices and knowledge by connecting people and practices, by providing information and documentation of a wide range of bibliographical resources, methods and examples drawn from experiences worldwide and by offering technical support and learning activities, through Information and Communication Technologies. See: www.ciaris.org



Straightforward actions facilitate support

Moreover, the proposed actions are mostly straightforward and focused measures that

do not require huge investments or simultaneous implementation. This facilitates the mobilization of support and resources from various national and international development partners.

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