

# TSIMA-TSIMA: PROMOTING RESILIENCE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN GAZA PROVINCE

## Context

The population in Gaza, southern Mozambique, reliant on subsistence agriculture but in recent years multiple shocks and stresses, including droughts and extreme weather, impacted agricultural production and exacerbated food insecurity across the province. Additionally to chronic and acute food gaps, the population faces insufficient availability and poor quality water; reduced livelihood opportunities and purchasing power; high rates of HIV; and male migration, which increases numbers of vulnerable households and exploitation and destruction of natural resources. According to FEWS NET, Gaza has shifted between **IPC Phase 2 (stressed)** and **IPC Phase 3 (crisis)** for at least the last five years, with drought conditions expected to persist in the 2024 growing season by the current El Niño phenomena.



In November 2020, Save the Children conducted a study in the five districts in Gaza to gauge how families were coping with food insecurity. The report revealed that households had already started to feel the strain of the lean season and were employing one or more negative coping mechanisms:

- 87% of households were purchasing less preferred (cheaper) foods;
- 85% had reduced the number of meals per day;
- 77% had reduced portion sizes of meals;
- 49% of households were borrowing food.

## Project Districts

Chicalacuala ■ Guijá ■  
Mabalane ■ Mapai ■ Massingir

## Timeline

September 2021 to April 2025

## Beneficiary reach

85,410 direct beneficiaries  
152,340 indirect beneficiaries

## \$ Award Amount

\$6,000,000 (USAID Bureau for  
Humanitarian Assistance)

## The project at a glance

The project **Promoting Resilience through the Empowerment of Women in Gaza Province (TSIMA TSIMA)**, funded by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to - and reduce the impact of - climate shocks and stresses by increasing access to livelihoods opportunities, markets and financial services, and coordinating disaster preparedness planning. The project is scaling up to support **77 agriculture groups and 40 small animal production groups** in the five districts. Save the Children and partners, AJOAGO, ISPG and SEPPA, are targeting the most vulnerable households, namely those with few productive assets; chronically food insecure; headed by children, women, elderly, chronically ill individuals or disabled, and living in disaster-prone areas. Save the Children is presently working with the provincial and district government to respond to the 2023/24 El Niño drought, which is creating high levels of food insecurity.

## ✓ Project's main objectives

1. Strengthen household resilience through improved agriculture and animal production, increase income generation, improve market and group savings and loans.

2. Strengthen the preparedness and early action protocols to increase communities' capacities to better anticipate and management risks and safeguard livelihoods, assets and investments in areas affected by climate-related hazards.

## 🔄 Under the TSIMA TSIMA project, Save the Children and partners are:

### Supporting agriculture groups to:

- Employ climate-smart agriculture techniques through Farmer Field School methodology
- Adopt drought resistant crops, including pigeon pea to protect soil from erosion and add nitrogen
- Develop business plans to inform investment decisions
- Establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to initiate or expand income generation, diversify income sources, as well as pay for critical expenses, including school fees, home repairs, food purchases, and health care costs
- Collect money for a social fund to cover costs in the case of an emergency
- Legalize their land and asset ownership
- Ensure that each member supports at least three other vulnerable households to establish home gardens.

### Supporting small animal production groups to:

- Improve animal husbandry practices, including improved feeding, breeding herd management, housing, vaccinations
- Establish fodder banks to ensure food during the dry season
- Establish VSLAs for increased resilience
- Support 3 vulnerable household
- Grow drought-resistance crops for improved diversification.

### Additionally, SC and partners are:

- Procuring critical inputs including irrigation systems for the agriculture groups
- Constructing 90 rainwater harvesting tanks in the most vulnerable households
- Training Livestock Promoters to help all HHs with vaccinations and guidance
- Promoting food and seed conservation

## 🏠 Disaster Risk Reduction

Save the Children and partner AJOAGO supported four district governments to develop **Early Action Protocols (EAPs)** (*Guija district already had a plan approved*), including trigger indicators, and assisted in training communities on the **Early Warning System (EWS)** and the EAPs. The trainings included emergency simulation exercises so that communities and households could plan for safe responses.





## Tsuma Tsuma's response to the El Niño drought

The EAPs have been triggered in the five districts, with the recommendations including the distribution of drought-resistant cassava. In response, Save the Children has distributed drought-resistant cassava in communities that were most vulnerable to drought, as follows (distribution to the remaining communities will take place in November 2024 in preparation for the 2025 main agricultural season):

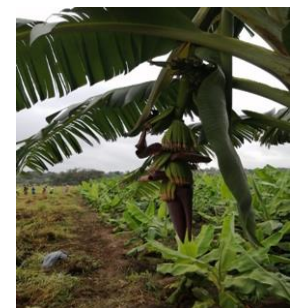
District	# of communities reached	# of cassava stakes distributed (each stake yields 8 shoots)	# households reached
Guija	8	22,325	4465
Massingir	4	5015	1003
Mabalane	4	5265	1053
Mapai	8	6010	1107
Chicualacuala	14	9995	1979
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>87225</b>	<b>17235</b>

The variety of cassava distributed will provide a yield with only 2-3 good rainfalls and will not wither in between rains. Additionally, the project has distributed 30kg of pigeon peas and 30kg of cowpeas per group (approximately 1kg per person) for intercropping to protect soils and boost nitrogen levels, for a total of 2250kg of each pea variety distributed to 75 groups (including to small animal groups).



## Other activities in response to the drought and promoting household resilience

- Ensuring soils are covered with pigeon pea to reduce erosion and soil heat; retain moisture and add nitrogen for low value dryland crops
- Piloting vermicomposting (using earthworms for composting) to naturally increase soil fertility and health for high value irrigated crops
- Ensuring climate-smart agriculture techniques are employed, including mulching, minimum tillage and retaining trees
- Contracting a consultant to study maximizing water use and absorption, including drip irrigation and solar pumps
- Ensuring that VSLAs are operational; assisting with business planning for livelihood diversification
- Constructing water catchment systems for the most vulnerable
- Training on natural and effective seed and food conservation methods to increase food security
- Linking producers to reputable input providers and markets to maximize income.



## Snapshot of the Association Avança Criança / Yani Malhweni Ntsonguani (Advancing Children), Pelane, Guija district



### Production Calender

**Main season:** October to March:

Maize, cowpeas, pigeon peas, cassava, orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP), okra, bananas

**Second season:** April to September:

Onions, cabbage, kale, lettuce, Irish potatoes, butter beans, mandioca, spinach, OFSP, bananas.

Avança Criança was created in August 2021 by the Tsimba Tsimba project. The group has 30 members (26 women, 4 men) and together cultivate 10 hectares. In addition to the agriculture, they also raise small animals; have a VSLA; have implemented activities responsive to climate change; each member supports 3 vulnerable households to establish home gardens; and implement child and adult protection sensitization in their community.

In 2022, the group produced and sold 49,959kg of high value crops, earning 769,400 Mtn (±\$12,000). In 2023, the group produced and sold 67,671kg of high-valued crops, earning 625,220 Mtn (±\$9,800). Their sales crops included:

\* Butter beans \* cabbage \*tomatoes \*onions  
\* lettuce \* okra \*kale \*maize \*orange-fleshed sweet potatoes \*Irish potatoes \*bananas

Avança Criança was given a motorized irrigation pump and are able to produce year-round. Food is also kept for home consumption.

### Avança Criança's VSLA activities

- The group's VSLA cycles run from December to November - then they cash out, divide the savings and interest from the loans proportionally, and start again.
- All members must save between 200 Mtn and 500 Mtn per month (average group savings is 12,000 Mtn per month, ±\$188)
- The group has a social fund used for emergencies - all members contribute 10 Mtn per month to the social fund

### Summary of VSLA Activities

Year	Savings (Mtn)	Interest Earned (Mtn)	Total Value at close-out (Mtn)	Total Value at close-out (USD)
2022	146,690	56,440	203,130	\$3,1800
2023	150,000	77,140	227,140	\$3,560
2024 (2 months)	19,620	710	203,300	\$3,190

### Avança Criança's Plans for 2024

- With the additional funding received in 2023 by BHA, another agricultural group was established in Pelane 6 months ago. Avança Criança would like to work together to have 2 farmer field schools (FFSs) operational in Pelane community
- Complete the legalization process and obtain a DUAT (legalized land rights)
- Continue to support vulnerable families
- Focus on drought-tolerant crops, particularly cassava, OFSP, cowpeas and pigeon peas
- Expand vermicomposting activities.

