

Mozambique



WaterAid/Jon Spaul

Mozambique is a fertile country in south-eastern Africa with a coastline that stretches 2500km along the Indian Ocean. The ex-Portuguese colony is still recovering from a civil war that lasted from independence in 1975 until 1992. The ongoing repair of the infrastructure is being accompanied by relative political stability and good economic growth. However, the legacy of war and the country's vulnerability to floods, droughts and earthquakes create serious setbacks to development.

Extreme poverty remains widespread in Mozambique, with low life expectancy and a high child mortality rate. The national Government estimates that just under 70% of people do not have safe water to drink. This situation, combined with inadequate sanitation, means that water-related illnesses become killers, with diarrhoea causing around 10% of deaths in children under the age of five.

WaterAid in Mozambique



WaterAid/Jon Spaul

WaterAid's aim is to improve the lives of poor people through the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education using technologies that are affordable, appropriate to local conditions and easy to maintain by the community themselves. In Mozambique more than 147 out of every 1000 children born die before their fifth birthday. WaterAid's work is vital if families are to improve their children's health and lift their communities out of extreme poverty.

To date WaterAid has helped more than 270,000 people in Mozambique gain access to water. Our work has particularly focused on working with government departments to implement the national water policy in a way that ensures the poorest people benefit from affordable and long lasting projects.

WaterAid began working in the far-northern Niassa province in 1995, strengthening district-based government departments and local non governmental organisations (NGOs) Estamos and Ulongo to work with communities to implement water, hygiene and sanitation projects. Using the experience learnt here, WaterAid has been in a partnership with UNICEF since 2002 to act as the technical advisor to a large-scale integrated water, sanitation and

hygiene education programme in the neighbouring Zambézia province.

Mozambique is one of the poorest nations in the world, with Niassa and Zambézia provinces two of the poorest in the country. Because people in these areas live in extreme poverty, hundreds of miles from the nearest town, they need easily-maintained technology to supply clean water. Since 2003 WaterAid has been piloting the use of simple rope pumps. If the pump breaks, rope is fairly easy to find and cheap enough for communities to afford. Because the rope pump is quick and easy to fix it means that communities do not have to revert to collecting water from unhygienic sources such as unprotected wells, swamps or rivers.

Another WaterAid-promoted technology

Awa Saide in Lione village, Niassa, explains how the recently-installed rope pump has given the community control over its water supply and transformed the health of the people.



WaterAid/Therese Mahon

“We had a traditional well on the edge of the swamp before we got this well, but the water was very bad. This water has changed our lives dramatically. We can drink clean water. We have fewer problems with sickness. When we are stronger we can work harder. It is easier to cut the grass for my roof and to cut more to sell.

It also gives us enough water and we can control it. The well is secure unlike other wells – you can control how it is used. I grow crops for a living and sell beans. The well is for drinking only – for washing we go to the river in order to keep the well clean.”

is the composting latrine. Agricultural trials in Niassa province have shown that compost from these latrines hugely boosts yields of maize crops and fruit trees, both vital to the local economy. In composting latrines human waste is mixed with soil and ash to decompose into compost which can be dug out after a period of time and used in agriculture. WaterAid and Estamos are responding to demand from farmers to assist in constructing more composting latrines. Incidences of disease will continue to fall as sanitation coverage increases and crop yields rise.

Since 2003 WaterAid has been active in the urban areas of the capital Maputo and more recently Quelimane. We are working with the Municipal Government in Maputo in

five bairros – unplanned city neighbourhoods – outside the main city water supply network and two bairros inside the network to achieve 100% coverage in water and sanitation. To date this has been achieved in one bairro, Urbanização, with water supplies improved in another, Aeroporto.

Plans: 2005-2010

A strategy running from 2005 to 2010 sets out the plans and activities for WaterAid in Mozambique. During this time WaterAid will continue to focus on water, sanitation and hygiene education working with local partners on community-managed projects.

The key aims are to:

- Ensure at least 110,000 people gain access to safe water and 115,000 gain access to improved sanitation every year by 2010
- To develop our urban work and reach more than 125,000 people with a clean water supply and sanitation in five new bairros in Maputo and three in Quelimane

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), internationally agreed targets to tackle

world poverty by 2015, aim to halve the proportions of people without water and sanitation. One of WaterAid's strategic goals is to work with local governments to localise the MDGs and strengthen their ability to meet the targets by providing equitable water and sanitation services to the most marginalised sections of society. WaterAid will continue to support the decentralised local governments in Mozambique and strengthen their capacity to implement these services that they are now responsible for providing.

At the local level we will also continue to assist communities, organisations and the private sector to gather information on the state of services in their area. One useful technique is to map the location of functioning and non-functioning waterpoints. Information like this helps communities to engage in constructive dialogue with government and service providers and hold them to account for the provision of services to which they are entitled.

WaterAid is working in the urban areas of Maputo and Quelimane with the Government and Águas de Moçambique (ADM) – the city water utility company – to develop a full sanitation service in some of the city's bairros, from providing household latrines to de-sludging existing pits and transporting the waste to treatment works in

the city. Over the period of the strategy WaterAid will also work with ADM to fulfil its government contract to develop water supply and sanitation infrastructure in the bairros that links to the main city network. This includes drainage for storm water and domestic waste.

Essential to our work in both urban and rural areas is the long-term sustainability of water sources in terms of quality and quantity. WaterAid, through local partners, ensures that all boreholes are tested for bacteria as required by the Government. Water quality tests are also carried out every three years to ensure latrines are not polluting drinking water sources, taking corrective action where necessary.

WaterAid's work will continue to be vital in a country where access to water supply and sanitation is very low and child mortality rates very high. WaterAid-supported projects adopt a pro-poor approach, with work being carried out to target interventions at those most vulnerable or excluded due to ethnicity, poverty, health (particularly HIV/Aids status) or politics. Low-cost technologies, easily maintained by the communities themselves, will continue to be developed and promoted so that the poorest of the poor can benefit from and manage affordable and improved water supply and sanitation services.



Mozambique

Area: 801,590km²

Capital: Maputo

Other main cities: Beira, Quelimane, Nampula

Population **19.1 m**

Infant mortality **147/1000**

Life expectancy **42 yrs**

Water supply coverage **42%**

Sanitation coverage **27%**

Below poverty line **69.4%**

Human development index **168**

Adult literacy **46%**

Sources: World Development Report 2005, Human Development Report 2005 and UN 2005.

NB. Official statistics tend to understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large factor. There are not sufficient resources available for accurate monitoring of either population or coverage. Varying definitions of water and sanitation coverage are used and national figures mask large regional differences in coverage.

Achievements to date

- Helped more than 270,000 people gain access to water
- Introduced the rope pump to poor rural areas providing a cheap and easily-maintained water supply system
- Achieved 100% sanitation coverage in the urban area of Urbanização in the capital city Maputo

£7 pays for a toilet slab for a family's composting latrine

£9 pays for a tool and spares kit for a rope pump

£55 pays for a tool and spares kit for a handpump

£1100 pays for a hand-dug well including a rope pump

£1400 pays to train a water committee and give hygiene education in one community for six months

WaterAid

WaterAid – water for life

The UK's only major charity dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

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WaterAid/Jon Spaul

Matamangwe village, near Lichinga in Niassa Province.



WaterAid/Therese Mahon

WaterAid's partner Estamos built 20 trial composting latrines in Matamangwe. The latrines have two pits so that when one pit is full the contents are left to decompose and the second pit is used. When the second pit is full the first pit can be dug out and the contents used as a rich compost.

Omar Salima, a local farmer, says "The compost produced has increased our yields and is producing better quality crops. Now we not only have enough food for ourselves but we have extra crops to sell. Maize, lettuce and peppers do best – they don't just wait in the ground, they shoot up just like that! In the past we had to buy artificial fertiliser and we could only afford to open a small field – just three hectares. Now we are able to farm 13 hectares."

Essenati Obadi lives in Malica village, near Lichinga in Niassa province, and is in charge of the new well.



WaterAid/Jon Spaul

"I used to collect water from a traditional well. You had to wait while others collected their water and then because there was so little you could only get one bucket each a day. We had no alternative. A lot of people here had scabies during the dry season. We often heard of people dying from diarrhoea.

Now the new well is much better because it is protected and we can collect three or four buckets each a day. We use it for washing, cooking and everything at home – to clean our clothes, plates and house. We chose to have a bucket and windlass because handpump spares are very hard to come by and it is very hard to repair handpumps. It is easy to mend this kind of well. We chose to put the well here [it is a few minutes walk away from the houses down a small hill] so that it won't run dry in the dry season like the old source. The water here is good and we don't get cholera.

I also look after the well. I have the responsibility for it. Every day I open the well early and then go to work in the fields. Then I came home and later at night I lock the well up."