

## **Project title: WASH Project Southern Mozambique**

Contract partner in Austria: AMINA – aktiv für Menschen in Not Austria
Local project partner: AMURT Mozambique
Duration: 1.1.2011 - 31.7.2013
Total project costs: 200.000,- Euro (50% co-financed by OEZA)

### **Brief description of project progress (in German)**

Der vorliegende Bericht über das WASH-Projekt Südliches Mosambik umfasst den Projektzeitraum vom 1.1.2011 bis 31.7.2013. Das Projekt hatte zum Ziel, die Bevölkerung in den Distrikten Xai-xai, Chibuto, Guijá und Bilene in der Provinz Gaza im südlichen Mosambik mit Wasser zu versorgen und die Hygiene- und Sanitärstandards im Projektgebiet zu verbessern. Dies sollte durch Trainings von Wasserkomitees in der Reparatur und Wartung von Wasserpumpen sowie durch Hygienetrainings in Gemeinden und Schulen erfolgen.

Das WASH-Projekt schließt an ein Vorgängerprojekt in den Distrikten Xai-Xai und Chibuto an und umfasst Aktivitäten hauptsächlich in den beiden neuen Distrikten Guijá und Bilene, während die Aktivitäten in Xai-Xai und Chibuto Follow-up-Charakter hatten – hier wurden vor allem Auffrischungstrainings (Re-trainings) durchgeführt.

Im gesamten Projektzeitraum konnten Trainings für 386 Wasserkomitees sowie Re-Trainings für 257 Wasserkomitees durchgeführt werden. Dies sind deutlich mehr als geplant, besonders bei den Re-Trainings. Das erklärt sich einerseits aus dem Umstand, dass das Bedürfnis nach Auffrischungstrainings viel größer war als gedacht und andererseits viele Wasserkomitee-Mitglieder durch Migration, Krankheit oder aus anderen Gründen ausgefallen sind und neue geschult werden mussten.

Aufgrund der Trainings konnten insgesamt 357 Wasserpumpen von den Wasserkomitees (die Wartungs-Gruppe besteht aus jeweils 4 Personen) repariert werden. 60 Pumpen mit größeren Schäden wurden wieder instand gesetzt („rehabilitiert“). Zudem wurden zwei Brunnen mit Wasserpumpe in den Distrikten Guija und Bilene errichtet.

Der Evaluierungsbericht vom November 2012 geht davon aus, dass der Druck auf die Brunnen bzw. Wasserpumpen durch das Projekt abgenommen hat und Ende 2012 etwa 250 bis 400 Menschen pro Brunnen mit Wasser versorgt werden konnten - dies ist umso wichtiger, als eine Pumpe durch Überlastung schneller wieder kaputt gehen kann. Wenn man also annimmt, dass eine funktionierende Wasserpumpe durchschnittlich 350 Menschen mit Trinkwasser versorgt, bedeutet dies, dass etwa 150.000 Menschen vom Projekt profitieren konnten – das sind drei Mal so viele wie angenommen.

Insgesamt hat sich das Know-how der Wasserkomitees in Bezug auf Diagnose und Reparatur der Wasserpumpen, Wartung, Nachkauf von Ersatzteilen, Buchführung, Einhebung von Gebühren und anderem, sowie in Bezug auf Wissen über Hygiene und Sanitärbelange drastisch verbessert. In den Gemeinden wurden Hygienetrainings für 1.458 Mitglieder der Sanitation Groups der Wasserkomitees sowie für 159 „Child-to Child Sanitation Clubs“ an Schulen durchgeführt. Laut Evaluierungsbericht kamen zu Projektende weniger Fälle wasserbedingte Krankheiten als zu Projektbeginn vor.

## **Project goal achieved**

In the project period from January 2011 to July 2013, a total of 386 Water Committees were formed. 2.044 members of the WCs were trained in the repair and maintenance of the water pumps, and 1.458 members trained in hygiene and sanitation promotion (HSP). In the years 2011 and 2012 - during which time 136 WCs were formed - the WCs were composed of 10 members, but in 2013 (with 250 new WCs) it was increased to 14 members due to frequent drop outs of members because of migration, marriages and deaths. So in order to be able to cope with the eventual reduction of members the membership of WCs was increased to 14 persons.

For the whole project period, a total of 257 re-trainings were done as the need was greatly felt, even though the project only planned to do 30 re-trainings. This is due to the fact that some of the WCs were disintegrating and not functioning well due to members' reduction, weak follow-ups, lack of experience added with difficulties in understanding the lessons of the first training and difficulties in relationship with jealous members of the community because of the prestige of being a WC member. In some very remote villages, the local activists in charge may have given less time to do follow up due to logistic difficulties especially in reaching the area. In some cases, local activists were given funds to hire local transport i.e. a motorbike for the rural travel. As the numbers of boreholes is high, it was not possible to maintain follow ups all the time.

A total of 357 water hand pumps were repaired. These repairs were reported by the local activists and mostly done by the trained and already experienced WCs in all 4 districts during the project period. These repairs were not included in the actual objectives of the project but came as a result and concrete impact of the project as the local WCs capacity to maintain the hand pumps in working conditions without outside interventions. In the initial phase, the animators did the repairs with the local activists to increase their practical knowledge and techniques. And in their turn, the local activists did repairs with the local WCs members. As time went by, more and more local WCs were able to do most of the repair without interventions of the activists and animators. Only in difficult cases the activists and animators were called to assist in the process.

Additionally, the project registered altogether more than 200 borehole maintenance works in all four districts by the WCs. Some work of regular maintenance - where a borehole was opened and its parts were replaced - was also verified but was not included in the reporting.

Repairs were done and reported quite differently regarding different boreholes, as there were some boreholes with critical conditions of frequent breakdowns due to the nature of their constructions – like the ones with high inclination – or other local conditions, for example in areas where the water is slightly salty, boreholes with more than 60 meters depth, or because the boreholes were overloaded. These boreholes suffered frequent breakdowns as the rubber seals in the cylinder store up rapidly, the tubes cracked easily, the steel rods broke frequently and other valves wore out. These boreholes were reported to be repaired twice or more times.

For the boreholes with heavy breakdowns, a total of 60 were rehabilitated in this project. The rehabilitation was initially done by a contracted company – Water Life Mozambique – who were accompanied by animators and some local activists. In the second part of the project, with the experience gained, the project personnel took over of being in charge of the rehabilitations itself and continuously trained local activists in the process. A group of activists in each of the first 3 districts (Xai-Xai, Chibuto and Guijá), in which the activities took place, got sufficient practical training in rehabilitations and can proceed with the work alone.

With 2 newly constructed boreholes, 60 boreholes rehabilitated and 357 repairs done, an estimated 150.000 people could benefit (based on the assumption that at the end of the project one hand pump provided water for an average 350 persons). The average number of days of a breakdown could be brought down to four days. This means more time for the women to take care of the family, especially the small babies and children, and the girls have more time to study and for leisure. Aside from these, the Water Committees were also able to do regular maintenance work that avoided major breakdowns.

Year		WCs	Retraining	Rehabilitations of Hand Pumps / Boreholes	Repairs of Hand pumps / Boreholes	CCSC
2011	Xai-Xai	18	63	11	69	0
	Chibuto	7	70	3	59	0
	Guija	72	3	0	10	22
	Bilene	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Sub-total</b>	97	136	14	138	22
2012	Xai-Xai		16	4	33	0
	Chibuto	8	26	6	20	0
	Guija	28	21	5	19	34
	Bilene	3	0	3	0	0
	<b>Sub-total</b>	39	63	18	72	34
2013	Xai-Xai	5	0	0	41	0
	Chibuto	7	37	8	30	0
	Guija	12	21	8	34	17
	Bilene	226		12	42	86
	<b>Sub-total</b>	250	58	28	147	103
<b>Overall total</b>		<b>386</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>159</b>

As for hygiene and sanitation promotion, there was no major outbreak of diarrhoea reported in the target districts. The WASH project may have contributed to this. In the 2013 flood, the WASH project had complimented well the other NGO partner actions as the project period coincided with the major flood occurrence and the response to it. Some HSP activities had intensified and responded promptly the needs of the flood victims in the resettlement villages. AMURT f. e. constructed 3.020 latrines in partnership with World Vision (2.000), Red Cross (560), IOM Geneva (Organization for International Migration 400), and AMINA (60).

The three districts Xai-Xai, Chibuto and Guijá were badly affected by the floods as the Limpopo River runs through them. Although Bilene was not directly affected, it became the host district to receive the displaced populations and most of the resettlement villages were established in this district.

### **Difficulties encountered/changes in external situation**

There were no considerable difficulties the project faced according to the assumptions, and the project followed also the guiding aims of the government's development policy, specifically the PRONASAR program.

In the initial phase of the project, in each of the first three target districts (Xai-Xai, Chibuto and Guijá) there was a relatively weak and low participation of the community members. To be able to get a maximum positive output, the project team started to improve the involvement of all members of the concerned community. Thus, many meetings with communities were needed to be organised. With insistence and patience, these meetings were held, and when the

communities understood that it was for their own benefit and with a transparent process, massive participation was given.

Regarding those boreholes which had notable problems such as high inclination, the repair efforts were often nullified by frequent and rapid wear outs. Problems also emerged at boreholes where parts had been stolen, and the community could not readily afford the costs to replace them. In some communities there was a problem of spare parts being stolen, especially in Chongoene and Chicumbane. Usually, boreholes which were being stolen are on the list of non-operative water pumps.

In some schools in Guijá and Bilene, the headmaster and other school authorities made it difficult for our local activists to do the hygiene promotion, and specifically to organize and train the foreseen "Child to Child Sanitation Committees"(CCSC)". This was due to their lack of knowledge about the project, despite our proper credentials, an explaining introduction, and the fact that the project implementation itself presented conditions that involved the school authorities, but without individual financial/material incentives for children and teachers. This situation was counteracted by organizing meetings with the ZIPs (Pedagogical Zone of Influence) in-charge as well as in the district education department.

In the early months of 2013, the relentless rains and big floods cut the road access to Guijá and the northern part of Chibuto. These areas were covered later on, in the months of May, June and July 2013.

### **Cooperation/networking with...**

Organizations such as Save the Children, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, World Hope and Co-Water (under UNICEF) coordinated their work in the field with AMURT Mozambique. Information was shared for the construction of new boreholes and rehabilitations as well as its coverage. In Xai-Xai, Save the Children and World Vision participated in a debate organized by AMURT with all the local leaders and district authorities how to tackle the problem of stealing water pumps parts. Future meetings are scheduled to follow up the development of the situation and the actions planned and taken as a response.

Regarding local authorities, AMURT coordinated its activities with the respective SDPIEs (District Planning and Infrastructure Service), DAS (Department of Water and Sanitation in the DPOPH level), the District Education and Health Service, and the District Governments of Xai-Xai, Chibuto, Guijá and Bilene. In the process of the construction of boreholes in Guijá and Bilene and of the Demonstration Center for Sanitation in Guijá, the SDPIEs lead the process of selection of the site in coordination with the chiefs of the administrative posts.

AMURT Mozambique continued to work in collaboration with SDPIE in the districts. This is the district organ that collects data on the boreholes that are in the situation of non-operation and which need rehabilitation. They also worked with AMURT to monitor the project activities. Apart from SDPIE, a more general monitoring was done by the officer from DAS (Department of Water and Sanitation) at the provincial level.

AMURT also networked with different NGOs for information sharing as to construct new boreholes where they were more necessary and rehabilitate others. This networking continued in 2012, although no formal meeting was held. The problem of stolen spare parts reduced significantly after meetings had been coordinated with community leaders and the population in general.

In the year 2013 during the flood emergency, several coordination meetings were held to discuss the water and sanitation situation with NGOs and government officials in the province. The project activities of AMURT were shared, as well as the experience gained in the then on-going ADA supported WASH project implementation.

AMURT had suggested to the other partners in order to guarantee good borehole constructions, that the parts used by the companies be inspected by a monitoring company to ensure they are

new, originals and from legitimate source. This was to avoid an increase in the demand for stolen parts.

## **Capacity building/sustainability**

Specific capacity building measures taken included the organizing of community meetings to identify problems related to water and sanitation, the training/re-training of members of water committees (WCs) and regular orientation meetings in the initial phase about how to maintain the pumps, where to find spare parts, when to replace each particular part, and how to organize themselves to raise funds through contributions for buying the spare parts.

The management subgroups were given orientation how to organise the communities to contribute regularly, collect and keep the funds safely (to open bank accounts whenever the fund increase), and the regular reporting of the financial situation to the communities.

The maintenance group members were given training and orientation about how to replace the parts of the pumps, how to proceed with the routine maintenance, and how to do basic diagnostics of the boreholes.

The sanitation sub-group members promoted hygiene and sanitation practices in the water points that included the use of appropriate clothing while fetching water (like dresses with sleeves and head scarfs), the proper conservation of potable water, avoiding contaminants, adequate hand washing, and the maintenance of the physical cleanliness in the water points and its surrounding areas, the individual houses and backyards, thereby reducing diseases spread,

The communities constructing their own low-cost but durable latrines will help in environmental sanitation, as faeces will not be scattered and the latrines will not be eroded due to rains. The community members maintaining cleanliness in their respective residence and gardens contributes to an environment less prone to outbreaks of diseases.

## **Allowance for ADC cross-cutting themes**

### Poverty reduction

The project contributed to poverty reduction, especially for women, as they mainly work in the agriculture and now could get more time for it, as they didn't have to walk so far any more to fetch water. Also they were not forced to pay higher fees to get water from private owners of water points.

### Promotion of democracy and human rights

While the project inspired the community members through information in hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, the members themselves decided on next actions. The application of CLTS (Community Leading Total Sanitation) in the communities of Mubanguene f. e. encouraged the sale of 38 latrine slabs and thus the construction of latrines. This shows that the community had the final say in deciding to solve the problem of water and sanitation and to improve their lives. With regard to the responsibility to care for the water pumps, the local people decided and influenced the continuous use of this resource, therefore not to be dependent on the government and NGOs for the maintenance of the water sources.

Human rights were also promoted through the provision of opportunities for the communities to construct their own cheap but durable latrines and having better access to potable water, thereby availing themselves of the right to a dignified life.

### Inclusion of disadvantaged groups such as children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities

The disadvantaged groups of vulnerable children, elderly and persons with disabilities got free access to water in the water points.

#### □ Gender

The project not only promoted equality between the two genders and admitted the inclusion of both sexes in the composition of Water Committees and in the CCSCs in schools, but a higher proportion was given to women, as in the households they are more responsible for the collection of water. For the formation of maintenance groups a minimum female participation rate of 50% was obligatory. In the end, 64% members of the members of the WCs built in the project were women.

#### □ Environment

The project in its hygiene and sanitation promotion activities included the aims environmental cleanliness and proper disposal of different garbage types, for example to bury the biodegradables to be decomposed, to burn the combustibles and to recycle or bury non-combustibles. This is very important as there is no recycling culture in the country.

### **Monitoring/evaluation**

The project was visited by an officer of AMINA in May 2012. The activities and work done were verified as well as the future planning of the project implementation. The evaluation by a third company was done in October 2012.

### **Public awareness raising locally and in Austria**

Leaflets that promote hygiene and sanitation practices were produced and distributed to community members. AMURT Mozambique also held radio interviews after a meeting with an ADA representative, government officers and other NGOs in February 2011 and a meeting in Chongoene in October 2011.

Public awareness-raising in Austria was done by publishing information and news from the project on AMINA's homepage, in electronic newsletters, in sending direct mailings with info about the project to private donors, and in advertising the project in the media via insertions.

### **Lessons learnt/outlook**

The project, with its approach to train local community members in the maintenance and repair of water pumps with maximum follow up by its animators/technicians, proved to be successful in empowering the communities to be able to take charge of their own development in terms of water and sanitation decisions. With patience in working and guiding the people in the villages the project showed that it is possible to reduce high costs, save time and a lot of efforts in the repairs of the boreholes and avoid the loss of uncared and abandoned broken pumps. The local WCs were trained to detect the defects, find solutions, buy small spare parts and re-install the water pumps.

The project was able to gain knowledge, both theoretical and practical, regarding the rehabilitation of a borehole. In each of the district at least one group of local activists was able to proceed with the rehabilitation of a borehole. The selection, capacity building and training of local activists proved to be a great benefit to the communities.

The activities in their responsibilities helped the communities in which they are members. For the next period, more PR events shall be included and highlighted, such as meetings with the respective district administrators, as well as more exposure to the media, etc. As the local activists' assistance is vital for the maintenance of the water pumps, the local WCs could give them a consolation fee for their personal expenses. In the recent project implementation, there were some rare instances in which some of the activists were given a small financial subsidy by the gratified community.

In future we can start encouraging the communities to give financial consolation fees to local activists upon repairs of hand pumps, and start lobbying to other stakeholders like local leaders, the government, other NGOs or teachers to get some fixed rate subsidies from the communities.



Fotos: Activists training; coordination meeting; damaged pump base; rehabilitated pump base; couple in Guíja in front of a pump base; HSP training for school children.