Project objectives & approaches

This project focuses on strengthening the enabling environment, influencing and reinforcing the capacities of stakeholders to plan, manage and implement effective WASH programs that are sustainable and equitable. Ten year WASH master plans have been elaborated for each of the municipalities in which the project is operating. The project also seeks to increase the water supply in the 2 towns and in Cuamba the coverage has increased from 12% to 29%. Sanitary blocks have been constructed at schools and health centres with additional residents gaining access to sanitation through improved and traditional household latrines. Through these and community-based hygiene promotion activities 59,811 more people in these towns now have access to sanitation.

Lessons learnt

The construction of subsidized household latrines not only benefited the selected vulnerable families but it began to provoke interest in neighbouring families as they wanted the same. This created a business opportunity for local craftsmen and also the need to increase production due to increased demand.

Women have been very successful at the forefront of managing and maintaining water sources because they take good care of the funds for the water sources and remain in the water committees, while many men appear to abandon their roles.

Changing behaviour is a continuous challenge and it takes a long time to observe results. The ways in which hygiene behaviour change is carried out in these urban environments must be updated, improved and suitable for their context. This may mean adopting modern technological methods to reach the masses.

We are proud of:

For the first time in many of the neighbourhoods where this project is working residents have access to safe water within their yards, promoting a healthy life and increasing self-esteem and dignity.

Sustainability

The strategy for the sustainability of the project is focused around the strengthening of the enabling environment. It is anticipated that multi-sectoral forums established in each town will continue to meet and will facilitate the prioritisation of WASH by local stakeholders. At the community level WASH committees and school health clubs will carry on their mandates after the end of the project to maintain demand for improved services.

Project challenge

In the implementation of sanitation marketing, artisans were trained to provide sanitation products but the community had not been engaged sufficiently to share their thoughts about what products they wanted. Sanitation marketing needs to be better explored and understood in order to enable models to be created which are in demand by the communities.