



# Improved access to water and sanitation in Maputo

In Mozambique's capital Maputo, almost half of the 1.7 million inhabitants live in absolute poverty and only 40% have access to adequate drinking water. The EIB is working hand-in-hand with the WSUP (Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor) programme to improve water supply by increasing the production and efficiency of the local water network, as well as expanding water supply in the poorer areas on the outskirts of Maputo.

An EIB loan of EUR 31m is helping to improve the water supply by increasing efficiency of the local water network. The project also receives funding from the Dutch and French development agencies, as well as

an EU grant of EUR 25m through the ACP-EU Water Facility. Thanks to an increased water supply, WSUP is able to deliver extra services to low-income communities. WSUP was created a few years ago by a group of NGOs, the private sector and a university in the United Kingdom with the aim of bringing together different experiences that would contribute to scaling up access to water and sanitation services for urban poor communities in developing countries.

People often have to pay quite high prices for water through private water vendors or walk long distances to pick up their water. In the past two years

there have been more than 6 000 new connections in the WSUP-supported bairros. Each connection is to one or more households, providing services to over 50 000 people, and this process is still continuing.

"I go through the bairros (Portuguese for a city district) where we have been working and the change has been quite remarkable. Seeing people living in very small houses and shacks in these bairros now having their own water connection and access to good quality water at rates which are affordable is a huge positive change", says Baghi Baghirathan, Project Director for the Maputo project at WSUP.

More than 6 000 new water connections in the neighborhoods and more to come.



Maputo Water Supply



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The Bank's aim is not just to extend services, but to also make sure that they are sustainable. As in the Maputo project case, it is possible to do so by involving communities in the design and management of lower-cost solutions adapted to local circumstances. WSUP first studied the needs of these communities, undertook baseline surveys and consulted with the asset owner, FIPAG, and the private sector water operator supplying Maputo, AdeRM.

"The impact is already being felt and will certainly prompt further scaling up. I view it as a process that has been triggered and will connect hundreds of new households covering all the peri-urban areas", Baghirathan observes.

By doubling the number of people who have access to safe drinking water (from 670 000 to 1.5 million), this project contributes to the achievement of Mozambique's Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on water, health and poverty eradication.

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