

PUBLIC SPACES

SEVERINO JOSE FIO, a teacher at Ribáuê's primary school, is proud of his school's brand new sanitary facilities.

"Today we even have toilets that are appropriate for children with physical impairment," he says. "Many children in Mozambique are not given an appropriate education due to a lack of accessible sanitation facilities, so they never get the opportunity to go to school." Children with disabilities enrolled in school may cut down on their eating and drinking to minimise the need to use the toilet during school time.

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The NAMWASH programme invested in sanitation conditions in public spaces, such as market places, hospitals and schools. People with disabilities were taken into consideration when improving these sanitation facilities. In general, every sanitary block came with a separate accessible compartment, equipped with support bars, a wide door, sufficient interior space for a wheelchair, and an elevated toilet seat. On the whole, the programme provided school sanitary facilities to 26.000 schoolchildren in the five programme towns, including four sanitary facilities that are appropriate for children with physical impairment.

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UNICEF MOZAMBIQUE
1440, Ave do Zimbabwe
P.O. Box 4713
Maputo, Mozambique

Telephone: +258 21 481 100
Email: maputo@unicef.org
www.unicef.org.mz
www.facebook.com/unicef.mozambique

THE PROCESS STEP-BY-STEP



ADVOCACY, for inclusive WASH. Action plan developed with stakeholders.



ENGAGEMENT, consultations with CSOs representing people with disabilities.



TRAINING, involvement of skilled local artisans.



BROAD AND DIRECT CONSULTATIONS, with people with disabilities, to identify appropriate solutions for all.



SUPPORT, to local municipalities in implementing the action plan.

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Sanitation for All in Mozambique

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CARING FOR A DISABLED FATHER

FAVORITO IS FIVE YEARS OLD and lives in Ribáuê, a small town in Nampula, in northern Mozambique. He loves playing with his friends but always makes sure he does not stray too far away from his house. It generally doesn't take long before his father Bernardo will call him for help, so Favorito tries to remain close at hand. Even if Favorito wants to continue playing with his friends, he also knows that his father needs him when his mother is out working on their plot of land during the day. Bernardo was born with a physical impairment and can therefore not walk. He faces many difficulties every day, and his surroundings are like an obstacle course. When Favorito is not there to push the wheelchair, Bernardo uses his bare hands to drag himself around the house or in the backyard. One of the areas he needs crucial assistance is when using the lavatory. The narrow door of his traditional latrine does not allow Bernardo to roll the wheelchair all the way in, so Favorito has to often help him in. But things are different now that the family has a better and improved toilet.

Things are different now that the family has an improved toilet. Bernardo can now use the latrine all by himself, without burdening his five-year old son.

Bernardo can now wheel through the wider door and use the support bars to lift himself onto the elevated latrine, all by himself without burdening his five-year old son. This toilet was especially made to meet his needs. It has increased Bernardo's freedom of movement and access, but also returned a sense of dignity. He is no longer dependent on his young child for his basic needs. Perhaps just as importantly, it has freed Favorito to do what he loves and needs to do: play with his friends and go to school.



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THE SMALL TOWNS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMME IN NAMPULA

ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES of the small towns water, sanitation and hygiene programme in Nampula - providing safe sanitation to 10,000 people in the towns of Ribáuè and Rapale - included provision of these services to people with disabilities. Accessible facilities, made locally, were therefore developed and provided to such persons, through a cooperation with civil society partners, communities and the private sector. The experiences gained through this particular part of the programme will contribute to overall increased awareness about inclusiveness in WASH interventions and, ultimately, create models for replication in sanitation projects throughout the country.

ABOUT NAMWASH

Implemented in five small towns since 2012, the Small Towns Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme in Nampula Province, or NAMWASH, is a partnership between the Government of Mozambique through the Administration of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure (AIAS), UNICEF, and the Government of Australia. The programme addressed poor health outcomes by providing increased access to clean water and effective sanitation, and by promoting appropriate hygiene practices. This was achieved through infrastructure investments that included the rehabilitation and construction of water supply facilities, such as piped supply systems, water treatment plants, house connections and standposts, as well as sanitation and hygiene complexes, such as latrines, urinals, and hand-washing facilities.



DAY AND NIGHT, WITH PRIVACY AND DIGNITY

IN ANOTHER SMALL TOWN called Rapale, not far from the market, behind a row of bars, or barracas, where local beer is served, three other children sit outside a small house. The oldest is 15 and holds her sleeping brother in her arms. They live with their mother, Laura Joao. She is 31 and has a physical disability. The father of the children abandoned her and his children, leaving them alone and fending for themselves. The only income Laura has is a small monthly grant from the government, which is barely enough to feed her three children. Laura always wanted to build a new family latrine but never had the money nor the physical condition. Her old toilet was often wet, dirty and slippery, and during the rainy season, it got even worse because it had no roof.



She felt uncomfortable touching the dirty floor as she needs her hands to pull herself around. She often fell. Living behind the barracas, Laura, who has a young daughter, also felt unsafe using the toilet at night because it did not have a door. Once, some people came in and tore down the walls of the toilet. Today her new latrine has a roof and a door. Laura and her young daughter are now able to use the family latrine day and night, with privacy and dignity.

WIDE CONSULTATIONS

AS A FIRST STEP towards mapping the needs of people like Bernardo and Laura, stakeholders came together in June 2013 to discuss how small town water, sanitation and hygiene programmes can address the needs of community members with disabilities. Participants included relevant local, district and provincial authorities, non-governmental organisations and UNICEF. The Mozambican Association of Disabled People (ADEMO) played a central role during the meeting, introducing the country context, relevant legislation and challenges faced by people with disabilities. UNICEF and AIAS then embarked on in-depth consultations with civil society organisations representing people with disabilities for detailed discussions about the main obstacles to WASH facilities, as well as different designs and solutions.

DISABILITY IN MOZAMBIQUE

Children with disabilities encounter different forms of exclusion and are affected by them in varying degrees. Throughout the developing world, people with disabilities face particular difficulties in accessing safe drinking water and basic sanitation services. Physical impairments can hamper water collection. Sanitation facilities - whether at home or in public spaces - can be difficult or unsafe to use. Furthermore, in addition to the challenges posed by physical location and design issues, people with disabilities often face stigma and discrimination. Mozambique is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD), and has accepted responsibility for ensuring that all citizens, irrespective of ability, enjoy their rights without discrimination. According to estimates from the Forum of Association of Disabled People in Mozambique (FAMOD), about 1.5 million people live with disability in the country, with 14 percent of children aged 2 to 9 registering some form of disability (MICS 2008).



STIGMATISATION

Many people with disabilities face stigma and discrimination in Mozambique. In many cases, families keep their children hidden inside the house, because they feel ashamed. The work of UNICEF will contribute to breaking down the myths and stigma in my country. Rather than being ashamed of their family members, families will learn to support them and better integrate them into the community. I also hope that projects like NAMWASH will set a national standard and ensure that people with disabilities countrywide have the same access to water and sanitation like everyone else, with no exception," says Ribáuè Sissoura, President of FAMOD.

SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE TOILETS AT HOME

Workshops with the direct involvement of people with disabilities were organised in both Ribáuè and Rapale, gathering more than 100 participants. Bernardo and Laura were among them. The National Institute of Social Action of Mozambique, community leaders and local municipalities all helped in locating and inviting adults and children with disabilities to the workshops, which were held in the local language. Local solutions and models used with success in other countries, such as Mali for example, were presented and discussed.

Some local technologies, such as elevated latrines and bars, were even tested and compared by the participants. Many took active part in this session and expressed personal preferences for the different options. One of them was Josefina Cordoso, 45, a mother of four, who cares for her aging mother. Josefina is blind, and often uses her hands to feel herself around. Using the traditional latrine in her home has not been easy for her. She has often stepped into the hole or touched dirty surfaces with her hands by accident. What she wants, she says, is to have a toilet she can safely access all by herself in a hygienic way.

Artisans were also engaged in the demonstration, offering technical advice and ultimately increasing their understanding of special needs like Josefina's. Today she has a new improved toilet built by artisans, who included marks at the entrance so she can use her feet to feel the door and tell the distance to the elevated toilet. She does not need to use her hands to understand where the toilet or elevated latrine are anymore, something that also makes her older mother feel comfortable using their new facilities.

With the support of local artisans and municipalities, accessible and appropriate facilities have been built for people with disabilities in Ribáuè and Rapale. The NAMWASH programme financially supported this intervention throughout 2014. Each unit cost approximately \$160.

WHAT DID THE WORKSHOPS ACHIEVE?

- They provided a space to share information, experiences and ideas.
- Helped identify local solutions and tools to improve access to sanitation facilities at the household level, inspired by best practices from other countries.
- Strengthened reliance on skilled local artisans to build accessible sanitation facilities.
- Led to a concrete plan of action to address the needs of community members with disability.

