

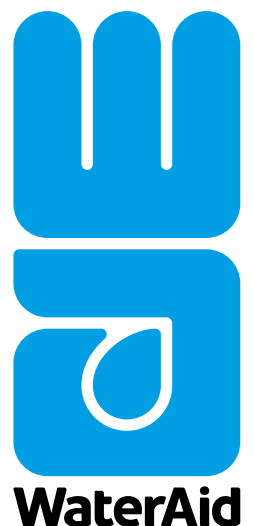
# Country Strategy

**WaterAid Mozambique**  
2023 - 2028

**Water, sanitation,  
and hygiene  
for public health  
and climate  
resilience**



WaterAid/Signus



# Strategy concept schematic



## Strategic focus areas



# Introduction

WaterAid Mozambique has developed its **Country Strategy (2022-2028)**, with the aim of improving public health and climate resilience of communities through access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services. Lack of access to these services and vulnerability to climate change have negative impacts such as waterborne diseases and difficulties in coping with extreme weather events.

## Overall vision of the strategy

Vulnerable communities have access to climate-adapted and gender-transformative WASH services to improve their health and resilience.

### Strategic objectives:

- Prioritise WASH across the health sector to change behaviour and improve public health.
- Strengthen community resilience through increased access to climate-adapted and effectively managed WASH services.

# Situation in Mozambique



WaterAid/Signus

# 80%

of the annual investment in WASH comes from external support<sup>1</sup>



**Mozambique faces significant challenges to human development, ranking low on the Index. There is a notable disparity between urban and rural access to water and sanitation. Despite progress in access to safe water, sanitation is still far from the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with one in five people practising open defecation.**

## Investment in WASH

Most investment comes from external support, mainly focussed on new infrastructure. However, sustainability presents a challenge, especially in rural areas. At the moment, management is concentrated on the state, but there is a push for private sector involvement.

## Public Health

The country faces serious public health problems, many of which are related to lack of access to WASH, particularly in the northern provinces. Most health facilities have insufficient WASH services, which affects the quality of care provided, especially for pregnant women and girls. A lack of reliable data, staff capacity and financial resources are the main obstacles to improving this situation.

## Climate Change

Mozambique is highly vulnerable to climate change and ranks fifth among the countries most vulnerable to long-term impacts, according to the UN. In turn, the continuous cycle of climate-related shocks of increasing frequency and intensity, such as droughts,



**Mozambique ranks 185<sup>th</sup> out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (2021) and is the fifth most vulnerable country to the long-term impacts of climate change.<sup>2</sup>**

cyclones and floods, has a devastating impact on resilience and health. Climate adaptation funds represent a huge potential source of investment provided the government and other actors can develop bankable projects.

### **Gender Issues**

Most decisions on WASH investment priorities are made by men. Although women and girls are responsible for the majority of water supply and health care, their specific needs are often ignored.



WaterAid/Signus



# 20%

**of hospital admissions are due to diarrhea, which is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old<sup>3</sup>**

● Angelina Domingos, a resident of the Muria Community, Mecanhelas District, Niassa. With investments from WaterAid, Angelina now has water near her home, allowing her more time to engage in other activities.

2. Climate Risk Index 2021. 3. Research Gate: The Epidemiology of Diarrhea in Children Under 5 Years of Age in Mozambique (2018).



# WaterAid's role

With an exclusive focus on WASH, a broad global presence and almost 30 years' experience in Mozambique, WaterAid is uniquely positioned to respond to the challenges of the sector and aims to add further value by focussing its efforts on:

- **Promoting better models and practices** for sustainable and gender-responsive WASH services, including private sector involvement in management structures.
- **Utilising service delivery as an opportunity** to conduct research and build an evidence base, positioning itself as a thought leader in the sector.
- **Undertaking evidence-based advocacy, communications and influencing on WASH**, highlighting its connections to climate, health and gender.
- Promoting **systems strengthening** and behaviour-centred approaches.
- **Building capacity and providing technical support** to government and other actors to improve climate-resilient WASH service delivery.
- **Facilitating collective action** by relevant actors, supporting the WASH sector and cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, promoting information exchange, shared learning and harmonised approaches.
- Supporting the dissemination and implementation of **WASH-related policies and strategies**.



WaterAid/Chileshe Chanda



WaterAid/Etinosa Yvonne



● **Top photo:** Felícia Mário, 39, washing her hands at the Meripo Health Center in Cuamba; **Bottom photo:** Dulce Martins, nurse. **Side photo:** Tototo Aly Rassul posing by the solar panels installed in the water supply system in the Nacotho Community, Mossuril. The solar panels are one of the technological solutions used by WaterAid for providing water to communities.



At the national level, WaterAid serves as the secretariat of the Water and Sanitation Group (GAS) and participates in other networks of water professionals and private sector actors.





# Our strategic objectives

## Strategic Objective #1

### Prioritise WASH across the health sector to change behaviour and improve public health

The choice of this objective is based on low water, sanitation and hygiene coverage, especially in rural and peri-urban healthcare facilities, where there is a lack of data to influence decisions and investments. In addition, lack of adequate WASH is associated with waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea. In this way, WaterAid aims to support the integration of WASH into health sector policies, strategies and plans, increase access to inclusive and gender-sensitive services and promote good hygiene practices in communities.

As a result of COVID-19, the government has reinforced the importance of WASH in healthcare facilities.

#### Expected outcomes:

- Improved integration of WASH into health sector policies, strategies and plans.
- Increased access to inclusive and gender-sensitive WASH services in rural and peri-urban healthcare facilities.
- Hygiene behaviour change integrated into public health programmes and campaigns.
- Increased adoption of good hygiene practices by communities and institutions.



● Laura Juliano, 27, is a nurse at the Mepessene Health Center in Cuamba. Mepessene is a healthcare facility with limited access to water. The low coverage of WASH, especially in rural and peri-urban healthcare facilities, is a significant challenge for the country.



## Methodology for achieving results:

- Modelling **gender-sensitive WASH services** in healthcare facilities.
- **Technical assistance** to improve hygiene integration in public health campaigns.
- **Promoting ownership of WASH by the health sector**, advocating for its integration into sector policies, programmes and plans.
- **Promoting health sector leadership on WASH** by strengthening coordination mechanisms.
- **Strengthening the capacity of health staff** to plan, manage and maintain WASH services in healthcare facilities.
- Working with government and other stakeholders to **ensure the availability of comprehensive data on WASH coverage in healthcare facilities** for decision-making and investment planning.
- **Building partnerships and collectively mobilising diverse actors** (youth, persons with disabilities, women's groups, civil society and media) to influence WASH policies and actions in the health domain.



WaterAid/Etinosa Yvonne

- Dr. Guilherme Tomo, a physician at the Mecanhelas District Hospital, washes his hands after attending to another patient. Hand hygiene is a simple yet effective way to prevent infections in healthcare facilities.

# Our strategic objectives

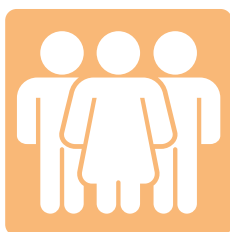
## Strategic Objective #2

### Strengthen the resilience of communities through increased access to climate-adapted and effectively managed WASH services

This objective is grounded in Mozambique's high vulnerability to climate change, which negatively affects access to WASH. Cyclones, tropical storms and intense droughts cause significant damage to WASH infrastructure and put communities at risk of epidemics and loss of livelihoods. Therefore, the aim is to advocate for WASH within the climate space by integrating it into climate adaptation measures and strengthening inter-sectoral coordination



WaterAid/Signus



#### Expected outcomes:

- Integration of WASH into climate-related policies, strategies and plans.
- Securing more adaptation funds to expand access to resilient WASH services in Mozambique.
- Improving the sustainability of rural and peri-urban WASH services through more resilient design and effective management models.
- Better utilisation of data to inform planning and management of WASH services and inform investment decisions.

- Climate change contributes to the destruction of water supply infrastructure and puts communities at risk of epidemics and loss of livelihood.


## Methodology for achieving results:

- **Modelling climate-resilient WASH infrastructure** and promoting professional management models involving women to generate evidence and facilitate replication at scale.
- **Sensitising government, citizens and other stakeholders** to the links between climate change and WASH, as well as the relationship with gender.
- **Advocacy and support to government** in implementing climate adaptation policies and plans related to WASH, taking into account gender-sensitive budgeting.
- Strengthening **data collection and use** to improve management and oversight of WASH services, as well as incentivise investments by government, donors and the private sector.
- **Advocating for prioritisation of WASH** in climate finance.
- Provision of **technical support to government** to design bankable projects.
- Promoting **leadership and supporting effective cross-sectoral coordination** at local and national levels related to climate change and WASH issues.



● **Top photo:** Francisco S. Alcandra is the Head of the Landinho Resettlement Center in Maganja da Costa District, Zambézia, which was severely impacted by extreme weather events; **Bottom photo:** Water supply infrastructure faces significant sustainability challenges. This situation is exacerbated due to the impact of climate change.



A woman wearing a purple headscarf and a patterned dress is smiling while washing her hands at a tap. Water is flowing from the tap onto her hands. The background is a brick wall. An orange text box is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Josenilde Inácio Manuel washes her hands at the tap installed in her backyard in the village of Caronga, Mecanhelas. This is the first time Josenilde has a household connection, and as a result, she now has water at home.



# Our approaches



## Services, Capacity and Influencing

WaterAid will continue to deliver services as a means of promoting best practices, as well as collecting evidence to inform capacity building and influencing activities. In addition, issues relating to sustainability, climate resilience and social inclusion, with a focus on the needs of women and girls, will be prioritised as well as working in partnership with government, the private sector and others to strengthen capacity to scale up services.

## Evidence, Learning and Innovation

A range of research methods will be used to build an evidence base of best practices and innovative solutions for climate resilient WASH services. In turn, learning will be systematically incorporated into projects and more comprehensive research will be conducted in collaboration with academic institutions. In addition, learning will be disseminated widely to support the improvement and expansion of services.

## Partnerships, Alliances and Convening

WaterAid will work in partnership with actors from all relevant sectors, including government, academia, civil society and the private sector. In addition, it will promote coordination and collective action, supporting learning between local and global actors, as well as advocating for a greater role by the private sector in WASH service delivery, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.

## Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion

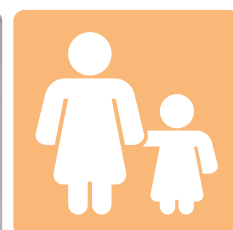
There will be a focus on promoting gender transformative interventions which involve and empower women and girls in decision-



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WaterAid/Etinosa Yvonne



making processes. The inclusion of gender considerations in sector policies and budgets will also be promoted. Marginalised groups, including youth, will be engaged to leverage their potential as agents of change in the WASH sector through graduate programmes that support government and capacity building for entrepreneurs to work in direct service delivery.

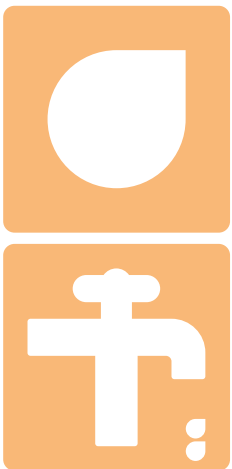
# Conclusion

To implement this strategy, WaterAid Mozambique will **establish all necessary measures for planning and resourcing**, valuing the diversity of its staff and investing in skills development to fulfil its objectives. In parallel, it will also **promote a productive work culture and staff** well-being through flexible arrangements and encouraging the open exchange of ideas.

To achieve greater impact, WaterAid **aims to increase and diversify its funding base**. Where

it is strategically and financially feasible, it may consider working in new geographical areas. However, this will be carefully balanced with the desire to achieve greater impact by modelling effective services in specific areas as a tool of influencing.


All of the actions that will be undertaken as part of this strategy are intended to contribute to the ultimate goal of **ensuring that has all Mozambicans enjoy sustainable access to WASH services forever**.



WaterAid/Arão Valoi

- Osvalda Júlio with her one-year-old daughter Nila, after a consultation at the Meripo Health Center in Cuamba. Meripo is one of the five healthcare facilities that will benefit from WASH infrastructure built by WaterAid.





Students from Muria Primary School. The two are washing their hands at the facilities installed by WaterAid. Ensuring access to WASH in schools is crucial to ensure healthy conditions and unlock the potential of children.





To learn more about WaterAid, visit:  
[www.wateraid.org/mz](http://www.wateraid.org/mz)

