

Essenati Obadi, Mozambique

Essenati lives in Malica village in the Niassa province of Mozambique, Southern Africa. Niassa is the poorest region in the country and many communities here live without safe water or sanitation.

In Malica village the community used to collect their water from pools in the marsh at the edge of their village. This water made them and their children sick with illnesses like diarrhoea.

Essenati and others from the village wanted to improve the situation, but didn't know how to build a well on their own. They contacted WaterAid and together they mapped the area and found a good location for the well, and then constructed a safe water supply for the village.

Here she explains how the village well now benefits everyone. >>

Essenati is influential in Malica village because she is one of the eldest people there. →



↑ Essenati is in charge of the well.

↑ Essenati carrying water home from the well.

Q&A

Hello Essenati. Can you tell us how you managed to get the wells near to the village?

"I was in the group which decided what the community needed for their water source. We mapped the area and chose the best place for the well."

Why did you choose to put the well at the edge of the village?

"We chose to put the well a few minutes' walk away from the houses. It's at the bottom of a small hill so that it won't run dry in the dry season like the old source. The water here is good and we don't get cholera."

Who looks after the well?

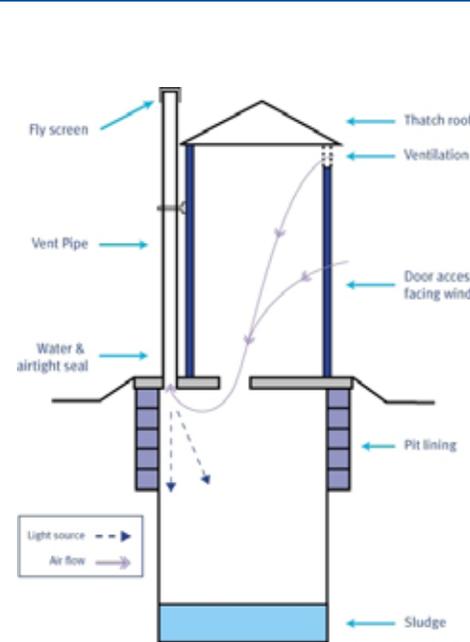
"I also look after the well. I have the responsibility for it. Every day I open the well early and then go to work in the fields. Then I came home and later at night I lock the well up."



↑ Omar lives in the nearby village of Matamangwe. He decided to build a composting latrine near to his house.

"We use the compost in our soil which has increased the quality of our crops. Now we not only have enough food for ourselves but we have extra crops to sell. Maize, lettuce and peppers do best – they don't just wait in the ground, they shoot up just like that! In the past we had to buy artificial fertiliser and we could only afford to open a small field – just three hectares. Now we are able to farm 13 hectares."

There are many different types of latrines that communities can choose from. Omar chose a composting latrine, but others include the VIP latrine (shown below) which stands for Ventilated Improved Pit, as it keeps flies and smells away. ↓



Mozambique

Population: 19.1m
Infant mortality: 147/1000
Life expectancy: 41.6 years
Water supply coverage: 43%
Sanitation coverage: 32%*
Below poverty line: 69.4%
Adult literacy: 46%

* It is estimated that 68% of the population do not have sanitation