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Water supply and sanitation in Mozambique

The people's Republic of Mozambique is situated on the east coast of Africa between Tanzania and South Africa, with a land area of 300.000 km² and a coast line of 2500 km approximately.

The 1985 population is estimated at 13.6 million of whom about 2.4 million (18%) live in urban areas and the balance, 11.2 million (82%) live in the country side.

The coverage of the population by water supply and sanitation is as follows (Estimates in 1980).

Water Supply	47.5% urban coverage
	6.0% rural coverage
	13.3% total coverage
Sanitation	67.0% urban coverage
	12.0% rural coverage
	21.6% total coverage

Decade Plan

With respect to water supply and sanitation, the targets defined by the Government for completion by 1990, the end of the decade, are as follows:

- a) To make piped potable water accessible to 75 per cent of the urban population.
- b) To provide a protected potable water supply sources to 75 per cent of the rural population, specifically:
 - to provide one source of safe water per 100 families (500 persons) within 500 metres distance in rural areas.
- c) To provide sewer services to 50 per cent of the urban population served with piped water latrines within their homes and to serve another 30 percent with septic tanks and pit latrines.
- d) To extend excreta disposal systems to all rural populations living in communal villages (70 percent of the total rural population).

Because of the inadequacy of present water supply systems and institutional facilities for the rural population, priority is given to them. The total rural population served by substantially improved water supply by 1990 is thus expected to be 7.585.000 or 57 per cent of the total rural population.

a) Rural Water Programme

This programme is based on the construction

of wells and drilling of boreholes usually equipped with hand pumps in a few cases wind-mills and more complex motor-driven pump systems are used.

The provincial Agency surveys needs at the level of the districts and the communal villages to confirm their requests and define a programme which respects district priorities and prepare the participation of the communities.

Attempts are made to involve the communities in the selection of water sources and later in the construction of the water supplies. Later the plan is analysed and approved at provincial level and compatibilised with other sectors, as well as with available financial and material resources.

At the moment, a study is being made of how best to develop mobilization and health education activities in parallel with these programmes on a formal basis. Some pilot projects are underway.

b) Rehabilitation and Improvement of Urban and Semi-Urban Water Supplies

The poor operation and maintenance of the systems due to the lack of qualified personnel and spare parts has hastened their deterioration. On the other hand, many systems which were built in the 50's and 60's now need renovation and expansion. In the smaller systems, the programme is defined by the municipalities, the systems managers, with technical assistance from provincial agencies.

In the larger systems, UDAAS (Water Supply and Sanitation Agency) analyses and approves the technical feasibility of the programmes and seeks the necessary external finance.

c) Sanitation

In the rural areas, sanitation activities are essentially the construction of latrines. This work is defined and carried out entirely at the local level by the health authorities.

Some promotional work is however carried out at provincial and national level.

In the urban and peri-urban areas however, the population densities are high and the health impact of poor sanitation more serious. In the past, sanitation was even more neglected than water supply.

Since 1980 some pilot programmes in the application of low cost sanitation of latrines

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION INVESTMENT

('000s \$US)

	1981	1982/83	1984	TOTAL	
URBAN WATER SUPPLY	CONSTRUCTION	US\$ 1.720	US\$ 5.530	US\$ 5.130	US\$ 12.430
	STUDIES AND PROJECT	US\$ 120	US\$ 1.390	US\$ 530	US\$ 2.540
RURAL WATER SUPPLY	CONSTRUCTION	US\$ 640	US\$ 3.200	US\$ 2.040	US\$ 10.880
SANITATION	CONSTRUCTION	US\$ 70	US\$ 7.550	US\$ 3.740	US\$ 11.360
	STUDIES AND PROJECT	US\$ 56	US\$ 660	US\$ 130	US\$ 896
TOTAL	US\$ 2.606	US\$ 23.380	US\$ 11.620	US\$ 33.106	

(1 US\$ = 43.95 MT)

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Maputo, March 1985

construction programmes in the peri-urban areas of the main cities of Maputo and Beira.

This activity was in its initial stages promoted and planned at national level.

At the moment, the intention is to develop at city level the capacity needed for the management and continuation of these programmes.

It is also intended to expand the programmes to other cities.

d) Man Power Training

The National Directorate of Water (DNA), the National Water Resources Authority, has training schools where basic level technicians for water supply and sanitation are trained. This school will in the future train medium level technicians as well. The course content, is defined on the basis of the requirements of the provinces which also recruit candidates.

While this plan emphasised appropriate low cost technologies, it is apparent now that some of the targets will be difficult to reach by the end of the decade.

The deterioration of the economic situation in the country has resulted in a shortage of resources.

Since 1979/80 Mozambique has suffered both severe drought and devastating floods. As well as the disastrous effects of the undeclared war promoted from outside which has worsened the economic situation. The lack of foreign currency and of qualified personnel are at the moment the major obstacles to sector development.