

Tanzania: Improved water and sanitation for better health

The Africa Development Impact Awards recognise excellence, innovation, results and quality of operations in each of the High 5s. The Awards go to operations supported by the African Development Bank which have demonstrated unique development impact and improved peoples' lives in Africa.

Tanzania faced an inadequate quantity and quality of water, as well as limited sanitation services, which led to water-borne diseases such as cholera and food insecurity. The Government of Tanzania improved water supply and sewage water treatment, benefiting over 7 million people in the project area. This led to higher agricultural production and improved people's lives.

Challenge

Tanzania is a vast country with a high geographical dispersion where about 70% of the entire population live in rural areas. Until recently, 44% of the population had no access to safe water supply and when water is supplied, a significant share of its output is lost in the distribution system. Often, many rural Tanzanians had to travel long distances to fetch water, which prevented households, particularly women and girls, from engaging into more productive and income-generating activities as well as from dedicating time to school and homework. Meanwhile 85% had no access to adequate sanitation and the existing sewage collection and treatment facilities were often in disarray, with nonfunctioning pumping stations. This led to a high incidence of such water-borne diseases as cholera, dysentery, and diarrhea.

Approach

Tanzania devised a programme to improve the health of rural communities through better access to safe water supply and

sanitation facilities, which would also reduce the time people spent on collecting water. The program also addressed cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender and environmental issues in rural areas. To ensure sustainability, the project included a strong institutional capacity-building component for proper maintenance of the works. It involved community participation and engagement by the local government for greater ownership.

The program applies a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) – which brings together government, beneficiaries and development partners – with the objective of improving safe water supply and sanitation facilities in rural communities. The Bank is the lead partner by providing \$90 million of the total \$300 million dollars. Other donors of this program are the World Bank, the European Union, Water Aid and governmental aid agencies from several countries.

To enhance implementation, monthly meetings took place with the programme's stakeholders for efficient implementation monitoring.

Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa



Sector	Water and sanitation
Country	Tanzania
Project full name	Rural water and sanitation programme II
Project duration	2010–2015
Project total cost	\$300 million
Bank contribution	\$90 million

7 million people with better access to water

24 000 latrines built for households

Impact

The project contributed to sustainable results and improved people's lives by reducing the incidence of water-related diseases including cholera and increasing agricultural activities. The programme also:

- Provided access to improved water to 2.7 million people in urban areas and 4 million people in rural areas, saving time from fetching water for women and girls.
- Constructed over 24 000 household latrines.
- Reformed the water resources management sector for enhanced institutional effectiveness.



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