



Fund for Innovation
and Transformation

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WATERLUTION - A WATER LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Adolescent Girl Empowerment through Capacity Building and Water Innovation in Northern Mozambique

Context

According to UNICEF, only half of Mozambicans have access to improved water supply and only one in five use improved sanitation facilities. Access to piped water is limited to two hours per day, water infrastructure is poorly maintained and the majority of schools do not have running water or well-maintained WASH facilities. This affects women and girls disproportionately. Lack of access to safe, adequate sanitation impacts their dignity in educational settings and can affect school attendance.

The Innovative Solution

Supported by FIT, Waterlution and local partner Girl Move Academy tested an innovation that implemented capacity building and water innovation workshops to embolden and empower adolescent girls ages 12-15 (Mwarusi) to design permaculture solutions that address sanitation and water challenges in local school settings - increasing dignity, safety and attendance. The aim of the innovation was not to change WASH infrastructure in schools, but rather to empower the Mwarusi to better assess and manage their own needs through knowledge and capacity building.

Advancing Gender Equality

The innovation implements a gender transformative approach that not only addresses, but also transforms the root cause of gender inequality: that poor sanitation services in the community have a more detrimental impact on the lives, and futures, of adolescent girls. The innovation aimed to reduce gender disparities and recognize the important role of girls and women on water related issues, strengthening community participation.



COUNTRY

Mozambique

AMOUNT

\$150,000

TESTING PERIOD

8 months

Ended December 2021



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE (GE3)

THEME: WASH

Testing Framework

The testing methodology articulates long-term, intermediate and short-term outcomes, and quantified outputs. Indicators for outcomes are detailed, with data disaggregation, data source, frequency and collection methods defined. Involved in the testing were: Participant Girls, Parents/Family, Boys from the 2 schools, Community Members, School Staff, local partners, external consultants and team members. Collection methods include Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, Questionnaires, Community Meetings, Baseline/Endline studies and Outputs: stakeholder map, baseline study, six workshops, six facilitated field work and data collection exercises, ongoing participant feedback, community meetings, focus group discussions, endline study and a final report. Results were validated monthly with the team confirming the maintenance of data collection methods and identifying necessary adjustments. A MEL expert (with training in gender) coordinated the measurements and reporting.

Results and Impact

At endline, the Mwarusi reported increased understanding of personal hygiene (such as handwashing & daily showering), waste disposal/management, food hygiene, clean drinking water practices, and healthy menstruation practices. Average ratings of WASH/hygiene needs being met at school increased significantly for girls, from 2.7 to 3.4 on a scale from 0-5, coming very close to the target of 3.5. When asked if they would attend school next year, 98.5% of Mwarusi reported that they would attend, exceeding the innovation's target of 90%. The self-reported confidence levels of girls increased significantly, from 3.5 to 4.5 on a scale from 0-5, exceeding the target of 4.2.

Key Lessons

1. Girl Move led reflection activities where Mwarusi shared what they learned and rated the workshop on a scale. Having formative feedback of the Mwarusi understanding was helpful in tweaking future sessions. Their responses demonstrated varying levels of understanding which allowed the facilitators to address and clarify misconceptions in following workshops before moving onto new material.
2. Cultural sensitivity around menstruation serves as an additional barrier. Girls did not have the understanding or language to express their needs in relation to menstruation. In order to address these sensitivities, Girl Movers researched, planned and delivered training on this topic, which was integrated a workshop.
3. Guided survey completion is significantly time-intensive and would have taken time from the workshop delivery. For these reasons, and the short testing period, it was decided to prioritize delivery with the participants at midterm.

“Show me that idea again. I want to go to the mayor and say to the mayor that I want this in my school” – Mwarusi, after a workshop on toilets.

“I don't accept that I'm going to have to get married. I'm super determined to follow my dreams. I want to be an engineer, I want to go to university”

– Mwarusi, following a Waterlution workshop.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Girl Move Academy

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

100 adolescent girls age 12-15 (locally referred to as 'Mwarusi')

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[Waterlution - A Water Learning Experience](#)

ABOUT FIT

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation supports Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South.



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