Mobile phone water monitoring system

Background

Only one-third of Luanda's 6.5 million population has access to an adequate water service. The other two-thirds of the population living in the city´s peri-urban areas depend on non-reliable sources of water, such as water tankers and the city's 1400 public water stand posts.

Although the stand posts should work 12 hours a day, their water supply from the Public Water Enterprise (EPAL) is often unreliable. Users must buy water from informal vendors at much higher prices and water with the risk of being contaminated. This impacts their income and health, and adds to the daily burden of fetching water, especially for women and girls.

Project Focus

VerAgua (SeeWater) is a monitoring system that sends real-time information about breakdowns and working taps via mobile phones. The mobile phone monitoring technology *VerAgua* was piloted in Huambo in 2014, and the National Water Directorate is interested in rolling it out nationwide.

Methodology

Each stand posts are assigned to a manager who is responsible overseeing and organizing the collection of water and respective payment. The manager reports problems with the stand posts by sending a code on the mobile phone. The information is then received by a central data base and reported immediately to EPAL, enabling a faster response for repairs and water flows which can ultimately reduce the costs, risks of diseases and fetching time associated with these non-reliable sources. The app also shows users which stand posts are operational in their neighborhood.

Location and target audience

The project is located in Luanda in the municipalities of Cazenga, Cacuaco, Viana, Icolo & Bengo and the district of Sambizanga. It directly benefits 170000 people, the local public

water enterprise - EPAL and Municipal administrations.

Duration

The project was established in March 2015 and will run until March 2017.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The main implementing partner for this project is Development Workshop.

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