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Safe drinking water for rural communities

Background

Access to safe drinking water in Angola's peri-urban and rural areas remains inadequate. According to the United Nations (UN) only 28 per cent of people in rural areas have access to safe drinking water. In the province of Bié, water points are largely dysfunctional.

Lack of safe drinking water leads to health problems among the poorest communities, and this mostly affects children, increasing cases of child morbidity and mortality rates caused by diarrhea and related water-borne diseases. The problem is compounded by women and children who have to collect and transport water, a time consuming process. Water-borne diseases and the time spent transporting water both lead to significant economic losses for disadvantaged groups.

Project focus

This project ensures access to safe drinking water for 210 communities in the remote rural areas of Benguela, Bié and Huambo.

Key activities

The project's key activities include:

- Building new boreholes using low-cost drilling technology
- Rehabilitating old water delivery points
- Training local technicians in well maintenance
- Instructing communities on better hygiene and sanitation standards.

Local authorities assist in identifying target communities, with a population of more than 300 people. Communities must be certified as free from open air defecation and understand hygiene and sanitation standards.

In line with the National Policy on Community Water Management, each community then establishes a committee responsible for the technical and financial management of water



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points. Committees then coordinate with provincial departments for water and energy, instilling a sense of ownership and building a sense of sustainability

A small technical team and one focal person from each municipality undergoes training by People In Need (PIN) in areas of maintenance, repairs and sourcing of spare parts. Private sector involvement will see the participation of young local entrepreneurs to ensure a reliable supply of materials and spare parts for the water pumps, as well as build capacity around marketing skills.

Location and target audience

The project is located in six rural municipalities in the provinces of Benguela, Bié and Huambo, and will target 84 000 people. About 20 per cent of the target audience are children under 5 years of age.

Duration

The project started in March 2015 and will run until March 2017.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The main implementing partner is People in Need (PIN)