

Singing for water



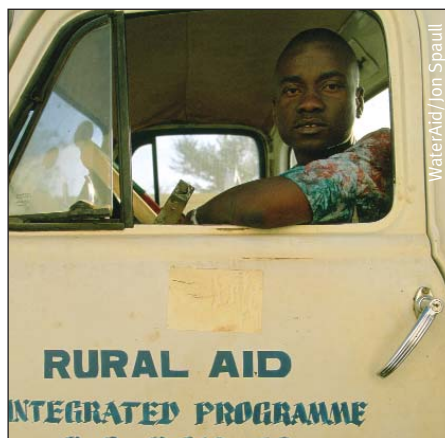
Feliciano dos Santos is the director of ESTAMOS, an NGO partner of WaterAid in Mozambique. Their success relies partly on using the power of music to initiate social change. Santos' hugely popular band, Massukos, draws thousands to hear songs focusing on subjects including the need for safe water and sanitation. "We are looking at sustainable and long term behavioural change. We spend a long time talking with and training staff and activists who then do the same with communities. Our partnership with WaterAid is good. It works both ways on equal levels. WaterAid helps us with our institutional development and helps fund our projects." In April 2008 Santos was awarded the prestigious international Goldman Environmental Prize for his commitment to campaigning for better public health in Mozambique.

Sharing expertise



The community of Basanta Kellyamura in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh now has easy access to safe water from a tapstand. The new water supply has saved women from travelling by boat across a lake and walking for 40 minutes through dense jungle to reach the source of a stream. Their water point is the end product of a learning visit by staff from WaterAid's local partner NGO, Green Hill, to Kathmandu in Nepal, where they met with WaterAid's local partner NEWAH. WaterAid had arranged the visit so that Green Hill could learn how NEWAH had tackled water problems in a similar physical terrain. Following the support from NEWAH, when Green Hill returned to Bangladesh they successfully implemented gravity flow technology that pipes water from spring sources to a network of tapstands.

Community perspectives



Frank Nansam-Aggrey is the District Manager of Rural Aid, an NGO partner of WaterAid in northern Ghana. He helps local communities draw maps and use other methods to identify their priorities for change. "You need to have community development skills to gather information from the maps. You can tell the number of households and existing resources from them. Sometimes there are conflicts when a community does the mapping and this shows us what conflicts exist in the community. "I learnt community development skills from training courses and reading books. WaterAid has supported me in my training. You need good human resources and high calibre staff to implement good projects and deliver benefits to communities. WaterAid has also supported us in our in country fundraising so that we can grow our organisation."

Working with partners



Front cover photo: Local women in Uttar Pradesh, India, take lessons in handpump maintenance.

WaterAid works in partnership with local organisations to enable the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Our partners' understanding of local culture, languages and institutions ensures that together we can cost effectively develop programmes that meet the real needs of vulnerable communities.

Our partners provide the direct assistance to the communities we help. In return, we offer them financial support, training, technical advice and assistance with planning, budgeting and institutional development. Our ultimate aim is to strengthen our partners so they no longer need our assistance and can independently act as centres of expertise and advocates for the interests of poor people within their region.



WaterAid's mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.



WaterAid, 47-49 Durham Street,
London SE11 5JD
T: + 44 (0)845 6000 433
E: wateraid@wateraid.org
www.wateraid.org

Registered charity numbers 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland). May 2008



WaterAid/Juthika Howlader

Various WaterAid partners helped the community to build this latrine block in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Why work with partners?

Our experience has shown that the key to sustainability of water and sanitation programmes is ensuring that projects are tailored to the unique circumstances of each community. We also strive to assist the most marginalised people – those whose voices are least heard. By working with local organisations, who understand local issues and have strong links with local leaders and the community, we are best placed to identify vulnerable groups and adapt our approaches to cater to their needs.

WaterAid sees the strengthening of partner organisations as an

important long term investment in the development of a country's policies and infrastructure. We encourage our partners to grow and replicate effective programmes, and exert influence on other key players in the water and sanitation sector to ensure poor people's needs are met.

A key element in the development of partners is enabling them to secure independent funding. Once this happens, WaterAid's money is freed up to start work with new, less well-established partners. In this way, we can help far more people than we could alone.

Who are the partners?

WaterAid currently works with around 400 partner organisations – 174 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), 113 local government institutions, 18 state government agencies, 18 academic and research institutions and 52 forums of water and sanitation providers. All our partners share similar characteristics. They are dedicated to empowering poor people and are staffed and managed by local people. All work with communities according to need and not on the basis of their religion, ethnic origin or political affiliation.

The NGOs we work with range from recently established groups working in one district to well established national organisations. Some specialise in water supply, hygiene or sanitation, while others incorporate these elements with other services including healthcare, education or work combating urban poverty. WaterAid respects their identities, aspirations and innovative ability and sets up long term agreements with them to provide stability.

In many of the countries where we work decentralisation processes mean that responsibility for delivering water and sanitation services is being assigned to local government departments. Many of these departments lack the skills and resources to fulfill these responsibilities adequately. WaterAid is increasingly working in partnership with local government to help develop their capacity to operate. Where this is not the case, we strive to

harmonise our partners' planning processes with those of government, as the more coordinated the water and sanitation sector is, the more effective it will be as a whole.

How does WaterAid assist its partners?

WaterAid's assistance to partner organisations includes:

- Funding
- Technical advice
- Training
- Procurement of equipment
- Assistance with planning, budgeting and evaluation
- Knowledge sharing
- Management development
- Fundraising advice

Partners for policy

Partners are just as important in our campaigning and advocacy work as in our fieldwork. In 2007 WaterAid launched the international End Water Poverty campaign, which to date has united more than 60 organisations in calling on world leaders to act for universal access to water and sanitation. Partnership is also crucial to many of our



Community members are trained by partner staff to maintain water facilities.

local advocacy programmes, such as initiatives that bring communities face to face with water providers to develop joint action plans for improving service levels.

WaterAid's supporters

WaterAid's supporters are also partners, essential to WaterAid's survival and success. Their active engagement and interest not only provides the money for projects but also constantly challenges WaterAid to ensure that its work is as effective as possible.



Partner staff and community members work together to construct latrines.

Sharing information

WaterAid encourages partners to share knowledge and ideas with each other. Lessons are often shared across regions and countries through:

- Conferences
- Exchange visits
- Technical reports
- Email forums

WaterAid organises conferences that bring its partners together with other key players in the water and sanitation sector, as well as each other. For example, in April 2008 WaterAid organised a conference in New Delhi to tackle the growing problem of polluted drinking water in rural India. Attendees included engineering experts, health practitioners, scientists, researchers, utilities' service delivery staff and private sector agencies, as well as partner NGOs.

WaterAid also facilitates and supports the development of networks involved in water and sanitation. For example, in Uganda WaterAid is actively involved in the Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network that provides opportunities for information sharing, improved co-ordination and technical capacity building.