

## THE STORY BEHIND THE RESULTS: MAKING SCHOOLS SAFE AND SANITARY IN MOZAMBIQUE

Imagine risking your health and dignity to use the toilet at school. That was the case for many of the approximately 200 students of Coluhane Primary School in Inhambane province, Mozambique. Girls were especially affected by the lack of private, clean facilities. Some even dropped out rather than deal with the embarrassment and exposure to disease that the shared, open toilets presented. But now, thanks to Canada's help, boys and girls can continue their education without worrying about clean and safe toilets.

Through the PASARI project, a DFATD initiative implemented by Cowater International, a Canadian company, Coluhane Primary School is now equipped with separate latrines for boys and girls. The school also benefited from the installation of "tippy taps"—a hands-free tap for washing. Both of these improvements have greatly increased the sanitation and comfort level for students.



Country: Mozambique © DFATD / Jean-Francois Leblanc

Palmira Victorine, a 12-year-old pupil at the school, explained what the construction of the latrines has meant to the students. "I always enjoyed coming to school to learn, but I did not like having to use the toilets," she said. "When the need came, I used to take a walk and try to hide in a bush about 500 metres from the school. It was very difficult because I was afraid of getting bitten by a snake or insects. It could also be quite embarrassing. Now that we have separate latrines, I feel safe to use them, and I also feel more comfortable coming to school every day. I am very happy because of this."

In Mozambique, some of the most important health issues—diarrhea, cholera and malaria—often come from poor sanitation. According to Mozambique's Ministry of Health, when clean water and proper sanitation services are available, there is a 30 percent drop in illnesses. The Canadian project is addressing this issue by encouraging behavioural changes and by strengthening the capacity of Inhambane province to provide gender-sensitive water and sanitation services. The results so far are encouraging: as a consequence of PASARI activities, 66 communities and 74 schools are now using sanitation systems. By building proper water and sanitation facilities in schools, Canada helps children attend school and build a future for themselves.

### Improving Access to Quality Basic Education

Education is both a fundamental human right and a key driver of long-term progress in other areas of development, notably maternal, newborn and child health, child protection and sustainable economic growth.

Canada has supported the goals of Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals, which have led to significant progress over the past 15 years. While the number of out-of-school children and youth has been halved, 121 million still remain out of school. In 2014–2015, Canada ensured access to quality basic education and provided opportunities for children and youth, especially girls and young women, to build the foundations of lifelong learning.

In Burkina Faso, with Canada's financial and technical support for the country's Basic Education Development Plan, targets to increase post-primary enrolment rates (41.7 percent) and lower-grade repetition rates (7.6 percent) have been achieved. Furthermore, gender-parity rates in primary education in Burkina Faso are also increasing. Canada's funding to the education sector in Burkina Faso also ensures that 106,374 primary school students (including 50,102 girls) receive daily

meals and 8,800 girls take home monthly food rations, which encourages parents to keep their daughters in school.

Canada also supported CODE, a Canadian organization that is increasing learning opportunities for 485,000 children and youth in under-served African communities. Since 2012, 1,720 teachers and librarians (including 820 women) were trained, 548,755 books were distributed and 211,250 copies of 122 new books were published.

In Jordan, Canada's funding enhanced decision-making and resource-planning processes across the education system and helped to train teachers and staff in 2,368 schools. Canada has also assisted the government to implement a school meals program through the World Food Programme, benefiting 320,000 vulnerable children in food-insecure areas of that country.

Canada's support to UNICEF has helped 405,167 indigenous and rural Peruvian children improve reading in both their native languages and in Spanish as a second language. Since 2009, Spanish reading comprehension rates have risen from 2.2 percent to 7.7 percent in the Awajun community, and from 19.2 percent to 24.6 percent in the