Handpumps

A handpump design must be chosen that meets the needs of the community and is appropriate for the local context.

The handpump draws clean, safe water from deep below the ground.

Access to clean, safe water close to home transforms lives in the world's poorest communities. The best technology to deliver this water depends on the local context, but handpumps are often the simplest, most affordable solution.

Once a handpump is in place, our local partners train the community to maintain it and set up a water committee to collect appropriate fees. This money is used to pay for ongoing maintenance. Communities often need assistance when major breakdowns occur, so it's important that local governments and service providers are on hand to offer support.

Only if all these elements are in place can handpumps continue providing a reliable source of safe drinking water long after they are installed.

Juliana Mwemedi, 45, lives near the handpump WaterAid installed in the village of Namarika, Niassa, Mozambique. She says, “In the past we had to travel a long way for water and it was dirty. There were insects in it and during the dry season we had to queue. There is not much diarrhoea anymore.”