

ALPS RESILIENCE

Strengthening communities in fragile regions

FIELD IMPACT REPORT • WATER & SANITATION

Water for Resilient Communities

The impact of ALPS water points on women, girls, boys and household wellbeing



A solar-powered water tower delivered by ALPS. Reliable, low-cost water at the heart of the community.

181 water points constructed and rehabilitated

Palma District, Cabo Delgado, Mozambique · Prepared by ALPS Resilience · September 2026

181

Water points built and rehabilitated

100,000+

People reached, directly and indirectly

100%

Delivered by ALPS's own
Mozambican teams

01 Overview

Across Palma District in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique, access to safe and reliable water remains one of the most immediate needs facing rural and conflict-affected communities.

Years of displacement and pressure on basic services have left many villages depending on distant, unprotected or unreliable water sources. In response, ALPS Resilience has constructed and rehabilitated 181 water points, including boreholes fitted with handpumps, solar-powered water towers, protected fountains and standposts, and school sanitation facilities.

These water points are more than infrastructure. They shorten the daily journey that women, girls and boys make to collect water, they reduce exposure to risk along the way, and they return time, safety and dignity to households. Every system is designed, built and rehabilitated directly by ALPS's own Mozambican teams through its licensed construction company, ALPS Constructions, Lda. That means tighter control of quality, cost and timelines, and more of every dollar reaching the communities served.

WHAT ALPS BUILDS

ALPS designs its water systems around what each community actually needs and can sustain. The portfolio spans simple, robust handpump boreholes; solar-powered towers that pump and store water without fuel or grid electricity; protected fountains and tapstands close to homes; and sanitation for schools. Ramps, handrails and hard-standing aprons are added so that older people and people with disabilities can reach the water too.

02 The daily burden of collecting water



Collecting water at a community tap stand close to home.

In communities without a nearby, functioning water point, the work of fetching water falls overwhelmingly on women and girls. It is physically demanding, repetitive and unpaid. A single container of water is heavy, and households often need several each day for drinking, cooking, washing and cleaning. The journey may take an hour or more each way, and it is made again and again.

This burden has consequences that reach far beyond the water itself. Time spent walking and queueing is time not spent in school, in income-earning work, in rest or in care for children. Long

journeys, especially in the early morning, at dusk or after dark, expose women and girls to risks to their safety. And when the only available water is drawn from an unprotected source, the health of the whole household is placed at risk. Bringing water close to home changes all of this at once.

03 Impact through a gendered lens

Because women and girls carry most of the responsibility for water, they gain the most when a safe water point is placed close to home. The benefits, however, extend across the whole household, to boys who help carry water, to families' health, and to the standing and confidence of the community as a whole.

For women

When clean water is available a few minutes from home rather than hours away, women recover time and energy that were previously consumed by fetching water. That time can be redirected to farming, small trade, running a household enterprise, caring for children, or simply rest. Reliable nearby water makes it far more practical for women to take part in economic activities and community life, participation that had been limited not by ability or willingness, but by the sheer hours the daily water journey demanded. The result is greater independence, stronger household income, and a more visible role for women in community decision-making.

For girls

Girls are often expected to help collect water before and after school, and the long journey can make them late, tired or absent altogether. When a water point is close by, that barrier falls away. Girls can attend school more regularly, arrive on time and with energy to learn, and keep pace with their education instead of falling behind. Reducing the time and distance involved in collecting water is one of the most direct ways to support girls' school attendance, and with it their longer-term prospects. Just as importantly, girls are freed from a daily task that placed adult burdens on young shoulders, and are able to spend more of their childhood learning and playing.



An ALPS handpump with an accessibility ramp and handrails, designed so that everyone in the community, including older people and people with disabilities, can collect water safely.

For boys who traditionally help carry water

In many households boys also share the work of carrying water, and they too benefit when the journey is shortened. Less time and effort spent fetching water means more time for school, study and rest, and less physical strain from carrying heavy loads over long distances. A water point close to home lightens the load for every child who had been part of the daily collection, allowing boys, like girls, to put their time into education and childhood rather than a long and tiring chore.

Safety, especially after dark

Travelling long distances to collect water can expose women and girls to real dangers, particularly early in the morning or at night when paths are isolated and poorly lit. Bringing the water source into the heart of the community removes much of that exposure. A water point close to home means shorter trips in daylight, within sight of neighbours, and far less time spent walking alone in vulnerable conditions. For many families this improvement in safety, the simple fact that a daughter or wife no longer has to walk far in the dark, is among the most valued changes of all.

Health and hygiene

Access to protected, potable water has direct benefits for health. Water drawn from a sealed borehole or a properly constructed water point is far less likely to be contaminated than water from open or unprotected sources, reducing the risk of waterborne and diarrhoeal disease that so often affects young children most severely. A reliable supply close to home also makes good hygiene practical. There is enough water, close enough at hand, for regular handwashing, for washing food and utensils, for bathing and for keeping the home clean. Where ALPS pairs water points with school sanitation, those hygiene gains extend to children throughout the school day.

Dignity and household wellbeing

Beyond the measurable gains in time, health and safety, reliable water restores something harder to quantify: dignity. Being able to offer clean water to one's family, to keep a clean home, to send children to school rested and presentable, and to be free of the constant anxiety of where the next water will come from, all of this lifts the wellbeing of the whole household. Reliable water at the centre of a community is also a visible sign that services are functioning and that normal life is returning, which matters deeply in areas recovering from conflict and displacement.

Time returned to the household

The single clearest benefit of a nearby water point is time. Hours that were spent walking and queueing for water each day are returned to the household, and that recovered time is what makes everything else possible: school attendance, income-earning work, childcare, rest and participation in community life.

04 Building resilience that lasts

For ALPS, resilience is the lens through which every project is planned, delivered and measured. It is a community's ability to withstand and recover from hardship, whether from environmental stress, conflict or displacement. Water points contribute to that resilience in lasting ways. Solar-powered towers provide a dependable supply without reliance on fuel or the electricity grid, which is well suited to a changing climate and to remote settings. Robust, well-built infrastructure is designed to keep working, accessibility features make it usable by everyone, and by training local people and putting maintenance in community hands, ALPS helps ensure that each water point continues to serve long after construction is complete.

Because ALPS self-delivers through its own national teams and licensed construction company, it can hold each system to a professional standard while keeping costs down and keeping the skills and capacity it builds within the community. Water sits alongside the schools, meeting halls, health facilities and public spaces ALPS constructs, the shared foundations that help fragile communities recover and stand on their own.

05 Community voices

The response from the communities themselves has been overwhelmingly positive. Community leaders have welcomed the new and rehabilitated water points warmly, and have expressed real appreciation for the difference they have made to daily life. Local leaders describe shorter journeys for water, relief for the women and children who once carried the heaviest burden, and a renewed sense that their community is being invested in. Their support, and their commitment to caring for the water points, is one of the strongest signs that these systems will continue to serve for years to come.

"The water point has changed daily life here. Our women and children no longer walk long distances, and everyone is grateful for what has been done. We will look after it."

Community member, Palma district

06 Looking ahead

The 181 water points ALPS has delivered represent both an achievement and a foundation. As ALPS continues to expand its infrastructure support to fragile communities, the priority remains the same: safe water, close to home, that people can rely on, and that lightens the load on the women, girls and boys who have carried it for so long. In doing so, ALPS is not only improving access to water, it is returning time, safety, health and dignity to households, and helping communities build the resilience to shape their own future.