

Safe water for the Island of Pemba

Re-habilitation of the water network in Chake Chake District,
Pemba Island, Zanzibar (Tanzania)

Duration: 2 years

Main collaborators: University of Milan (Department of Public Health, Microbiology, Virology), University of Trento (Engineering without Borders, Trento)

Local counterpart: Public Health Laboratory Ivo de Carneri (PHL-IdC), Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Environment, Zanzibar Water Authority,



BACKGROUND

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over one billion people have no access to clean water and **1.8 million people die every year** (especially children under 5) because of diarrhoeal diseases (for instance, cholera), mostly in developing world. In about 90 percent of the cases these diseases are directly related to unsafe water and poor hygiene. These deaths, with their related health costs, could be dramatically reduced if the quality of the water were improved through rehabilitation of water networks, routine laboratory water quality tests and health education for the population.



OBJECTIVES

Improvement of the hygiene conditions (reducing morbidity and mortality caused by diseases that spread through water) in the main district of the Pemba Island (Chake Chake District) by:

- 1) restructuring **the water distribution network**;
- 2) building **new wells with their pumping stations**, and improving the system of distribution;
- 3) strengthening **local technical capabilities** for water quality control (monitoring and laboratory tests);
- 4) enabling **the population** (particularly young people) to **obtain information about health hazards** related to the use of polluted water.



Intermittent water supply with long queues at the tap where water is available only once a week



Multiple leakages along the damaged water network



AND THEN...

- 1) The water infrastructures selected for rehabilitation work will be refurbished according to **international safety standards** and the whole water network will be regularly inspected to check the water quality;
- 2) **a local committee** will be set up, officially charged by the Ministry of the Water and the Environment and the Ministry of the Health with supervision and maintenance of the water network and monitoring water quality. The microbiology laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory 'Ivo de Carneri' (PHL-IdC) will be able (with its equipment and technical staff) to perform routine analysis and to intervene promptly in case of epidemics.



WHAT YOU CAN DO



€10

Contribution to educational material on the safe use of water



€25

Contribution for building wells



€50

Contribution to analysis of water quality at the source