Currently, sparse water coverage requires Chimoio’s underserved population to walk great distances to collect drinking water.

Through the construction of standpipes and household connections, residents of Bairro 4, such as Rita Fernando, will benefit from an improved water supply.

Building on a significant effort to increase the quantity and improve the quality of the city of Chimoio’s water supply, partners of the Water and Development Alliance (WADA) work to further expand access to underserved portions of Mozambique’s sixth largest urban center. Chimoio currently faces a severe water shortage as only 10-15 percent of the city’s population of 250,000 receives inadequately-treated water approximately 3-6 hours per day. The region also suffers from an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 19.7 percent – an infection rate well above the national average. This population is especially vulnerable to water-related diarrheal disease, further highlighting the public health need for a clean and reliable water supply serving all citizens.

WADA supports the renovation of 14 boreholes throughout the city to add to the volume of available water for urban residents. Additional access to the existing municipal water supply system will also be provided through extension of a secondary water distribution network to Bairro 4 – a neighborhood identified through a consultative process involving communities and the Municipality to be most in need of an improved water supply. Together these efforts will provide 10,500 people with access to safe, piped water for the first time.

The Bairro 4 activities complement work also underway through another WADA project to renovate the old TextAfrica textile plant’s water treatment system in Chimoio – an infrastructure improvement that will significantly expand municipal water supply capacity.

Working closely with FIPAG, the government of Mozambique’s urban water services investment program, and Vitens, the Netherlands’ largest water company, the WADA project will also include significant technical assistance to the local water company including classroom and on-the-job staff training, the introduction of improved management and financial procedures, and support for improved communications and public relations.