

Case Study- Manutasi



Angela Fatima de Jesus a house wife with 2 children (all boys), residing at Manutasi Sub-village, Orana Village, Administrative Post of Turiscaí, Manufahi Municipality. Being a villager in the remote area of Manutasi with around 18 households, it takes two- three hours walk from the public street to get there. The majority of the population in Manutasi are farmers and their main income are based upon agricultural productivities such as coffees and beans.

Accessing to safe drinking water and other public services, including transportation, health care services, school, electricity, and stores has always been a great concern to the communities of Manutasi as they need to come down for 4- 5 hours walk to reach a health post in Turiscaí. The village also has not access to electricity yet and most of the community used solar panel to get lights in the evening and to charge their phones for communications purposes.

The communities of Manutasi inhabited the village since the Portuguese occupation, their ancestors have stayed there, and they therefore continue staying there. Angela's family and her neighbors have to walk for miles to access to safe drinking water in the past decade since Portuguese and Indonesia occupation until 2018.

Angela and her families have to walk for about an hour to reach a river to collect water for their daily use, and the most difficult and tiring situation was that they walked down to the river and walked up the hill after collecting the water home by carrying 2-3 jerry cans of water because the river was the only source of water they can access to despite the other farther water sources.

In the last few years, an NGO called Concerns had ever constructed a water system in the village, but the project stopped due to budget issues in the construction process.

In 2019 after the WaterAid WASH program through local NGO Luta ba Futuru has taken place in this village, Angela affirmed that initially WaterAid and Luta ba Futuru coordinated with the community of Manutasi to set-up water system in the village and the community worked voluntarily in the water System construction process and now they have had water system closer to their house and they all can access. Angela further expressed "I'm happy because we can finally gain access to safe drinking water and feel like my burdens are being reduced with the water availability in front of our houses, it is like we are getting our water from the kitchen to the main house, and our children can take a bath easily and always clean and most of the communities here were encouraged to build their toilets and we all can access to a simple, healthy and hygienic toilets compared to the last the years before WaterAid established water system here in our village, for which we have to dig a hole or going to pig nests in the bush to defecate". Angela also promised to collaborate with the Water User Group (GMF) chief and the neighbors to continue contributing monthly fees for the regular maintenance of the water system in the village so that they can easily access to safe water as usual.