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# WATER RESOURCES INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (WARIDI)

## SUCCESS STORY

### *Leveraging village resources to make funds go further for clean water projects in Tanzania*

With innovative solutions and participatory approaches, the Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) project is increasing its impact and reach through engaging local labor during the implementation of its 16 water schemes in Tanzania, which will provide sustainable and clean water to over 135,000 villagers.

WARIDI, a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is providing \$2.1 million in total financial and technical support to build and repair water infrastructure across the 16 schemes, which will provide over 400 water distribution points in Tanzania.

To supplement the efforts, the project is leveraging local contributions to the projects, where villagers who will benefit are providing labor to support the success and sustainability of the project. This labor equals \$294,470 across the schemes, which accounts for 14 percent of the overall USAID investment.

Labor activities being done by local villagers include: excavating trenches, laying down pipes and backfilling, and carrying, loading, and offloading materials such as pipes, cement, and blocks to the construction sites. Villagers also happily contribute through the local storage and safeguarding of project materials as well as transportation of materials within site areas. By leveraging this local labor, WARIDI is encouraging sustainability of the water systems.

WARIDI engineers estimate that per site, trench excavation costs \$1,576 per kilometer, \$293 per month for the storage and security of project materials, \$113 per trip for loading and offloading, and about a dollar per kilometer for the transportation of materials within the worksite area.

In addition to provision of labor, the villagers contribute a total of \$113 in cash for each distribution point installed in their village. The funds are kept in community owned water supply organization accounts, which are managed by the villages that are benefiting and are used for operational and maintenance costs of the project.

To ensure quality of construction and materials, the work is being done through local contractors who work with villagers to complete the work. In addition, the project sites are being overseen and supervised by young engineers, male and female, who have been recruited and trained under the WARIDI Internship Program.

“We really appreciate the commitment shown by project beneficiaries. We are saving a lot of money due to their contributions, which will be used to start new and similar water schemes in additional areas,” says Muganyinzi Ndyamukama, technical lead for WARIDI’s Morogoro office.

The labor provided by local communities is giving people confidence, knowledge of how the water systems function, and a sense of ownership that will ensure project sustainability when WARIDI closes in 2021. The 16 schemes implemented by the WARIDI project are in five districts of Kilombero, Mvomero, Kilosa, Kilolo, and Iringa.

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