



FIELD NOTES

The 15-Year-Old President

By the time we arrive at our first village in Mozambique, a small crowd has already gathered around the hand pump, anxious to talk about the difference that clean water has made in their community.

At the front of the pack, neatly lined up in matching blue T-shirts, are five members of the local water committee. They stand tall, three men and two women, as they introduce themselves and their responsibilities one by one.




*I am Bonito; I'm the chairman.
My name is Sophia; I'm a mechanic.
Mario, tax collector.
Fraqueza, head of hygiene.*

And then the final introduction, which comes from the seemingly shy 15-year-old girl on the end. "My name is Natalia," she says. "I'm the President."

Hold on. The President?

[READ NATALIA'S STORY](#)

 5 min read	<p>Find out how Natalia became President of her local water committee — and see the next big career move she's working toward.</p>
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Building brighter futures for more girls like Natalia

While the water crisis is a human issue, it is unquestionably a girls' and women's issue. Globally, girls and women spend an estimated 200 million hours every day collecting water. 200 million hours that, with access to clean water, could instead be invested in education, personal growth, and opportunities for a more promising future.

Today, on International Day of the Girl, we celebrate the bold, brave, and bright girls who carry hope forward, one determined step at a time. We applaud the Natalias of the world, the girls who elevate potential within themselves and those around them.

Thanks to generous supporters like you, we've seen how access to clean water unlocks limitless possibilities — for everyone, but especially for girls. Your support turns hope for the future into lived reality. Thank you for standing with us, and with girls around the world.

– your friends at charity: water