**Report from Water Aid**

Today, like every day, Joyce Loti will be cleaning Ntchisi District Hospital in Malawi. It’s a job she’s been proud to do for 13 years. But previously, despite Joyce's hard work, the hospital was a place where people worried about picking up infections. Now, with clean water on tap, patients travel from far and wide to use the hygienic facilities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
| “When a hospital has clean water, good sanitation and hygiene, it makes everything work smoothly and quickly, which enables patients to be discharged and go back home within a short period of time."But it hasn't always been this way:“Previously I would spend the whole day fetching water. We need at least 400 litres per day to clean the wards and do our job effectively.” |

 |

 |

|  |
| --- |
| Now that Joyce can concentrate on keeping the hospital clean and safe for patients, she loves her work: “I like every aspect of my job as it helps save lives. I understood this when I was applying for this job, and I do it wholeheartedly. I love my job.”Midwife Msanide Kapeshi is also thrilled with the difference clean water has made: |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
| “Now that we have running water 24 hours a day, I can work with a smile on my face. I always wash hands with soap once I finish attending to any patient.” Before, Msanide often picked up infections from patients and worried that she could be bringing life-threatening illnesses home to her young family.  |

 |

 |
| Msanide also told us that the lack of clean water meant women used to leave it as late as possible to come to the hospital to give birth, and that this often led to complications.  |

Now, expectant mothers like Mtima Grey travel to the hospital ahead of their due date. While waiting for her labour to begin, Mtima learned about good hygiene practices like handwashing from hospital staff – vital information that she took back to her community, along with her newborn.