

WATER FOR LIFE



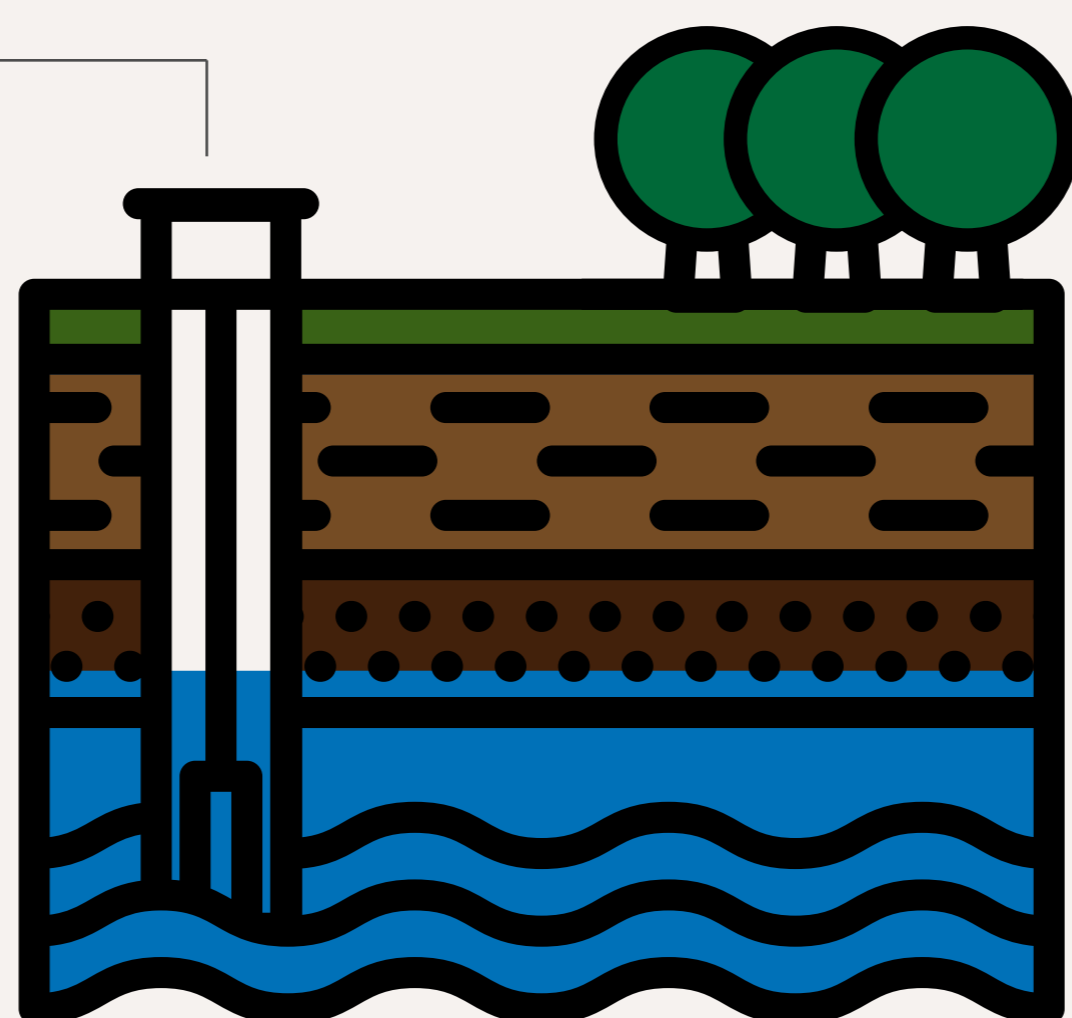
SAFE DRINKING WATER SOURCES ARE OFTEN RARE IN RURAL MOZAMBIQUE. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, MLT HAS SUNK OVER **60 BOREHOLES**, IMPROVING THE LIVES OF APPROXIMATELY 18 000 PEOPLE.

WATER FOR LIFE: IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER IN MOZAMBIQUE

In Mozambique, less than half of the population has access to improved drinking water sources. Diarrhea is still the fourth most common cause of death in the country, killing 14 000 people every year, including 8% of children below the age of 5. In addition, clean water sources are often very far from people's homes, resulting in families having to undertake long journeys on foot to fetch water and carry it back. Carrying up to 20 litres of water in a barrel or bucket is no easy task, and it is usually performed by women and children.

MOZAMBIQUE LEAF TOBACCO LIMITADA (MLT) HAS SUNK OVER 60 BOREHOLES, OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS

WATER TABLE



WATER TABLE

Mozambique Leaf Tobacco Limitada (MLT) was seriously concerned by this situation. In response, MLT has carried out a large-scale initiative to provide boreholes to the most critical areas. Over the last four years, over 60 boreholes have been sunk, bringing water access to approximately 18 000 people. **MLT contracts specialised builders, who must dig at the peak of the dry season to ensure that they reach the water table when it is at its lowest. If the borehole is sunk immediately after the end of the rains or, worse, during the rainy season, it often dries up because the builders stop digging as soon as they find the upper level of the water table, which subsequently drops.**



THIS INITIATIVE NOT ONLY ADDRESSES HEALTH CONCERNS, BUT ALSO GREATLY CONTRIBUTES TO THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR – **NO CHILD SHOULD BE CARRYING A BUCKET OF WATER OVER LONG DISTANCES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY SHOULD BE ATTENDING SCHOOL.** THIS IS A PILLAR OF MLT'S APPROACH TO SUPPORTING THE FARMING COMMUNITIES FROM WHICH IT SOURCES TOBACCO.