



IMPROVING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

LLTC supports farming communities by improving school facilities

BY MAKING SCHOOLS BETTER PLACES, THE COMPANY ALSO AIMS TO REDUCE CHILDREN DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL AND WORKING IN THE FIELDS



BETTER SCHOOLS

=



FEWER CHILDREN DROPPING OUT

+



FEWER CHILDREN WORKING IN FIELDS

Investing in Malawi's future: improving the school environment

No country can develop without substantial investment in its people – and its foundation rests on its schools. Many primary schools in the tobacco-growing areas of Malawi lack basic services and furnishings. These conditions do not encourage children to attend school, and so Limbe Leaf Tobacco Company (LLTC) has been committed for years to addressing the needs of schools in the communities in which it operates. This has taken the form of a variety of projects, all aimed at improving school conditions.

Last year some contributions were in the form of furnishings. Chauta Primary School in the Ntcheu district, Demera Primary School in the Kasungu district and Mbalachanda Primary School in the Mzimba district each received:



80 double desks, 15 water buckets, and two teachers' desks and chairs.

In addition, Majiga Primary School in the Mzimba district was given 120 double desks and three teachers' desks and chairs. Other donations took the form of educational materials – Bolero and Kabwafu schools received essential classroom tools including chalkboards, chalk, dusters, notebooks, pencils and pens, as well as sports kits for boys and girls.



In all the schools that received desks, the headmasters or ministry officials have confirmed that the donation has reduced the pupil-to-desk ratio dramatically – in some cases, there was only one desk for every twenty children in the school. For schools without running water, donations of water buckets and a tap system enable children to wash their hands after going to the bathroom.

Continuing the drive to improve school hygiene, LLTC constructed child-friendly toilets for Mwachundi School that also catered to disabled children. By addressing the needs of the students, these facilities make coming to school more attractive and accommodating, increasing attendance and reducing the drop-out rate. The toilets were built with a rain-harvesting system to ensure the conservation of water for the dry season. This serves as a model for people in the area to learn how buildings can be constructed in a way that maximises the benefits of natural resources, especially in a place where these resources are very scarce.

LLTC also renovated Chatata Primary School in the Lilongwe district, repairing broken toilets, replacing classroom doors, and fixing the notice boards. These renovations changed the face of the school. They also improved the hygienic conditions, which contributed to increased attendance and improved learning outcomes.

Combined, these interventions made a difference in the daily school experience of

6 970 children.



These interventions are designed not only to improve hygiene and learning conditions but also to increase school attendance and reduce the incidence of child labour. LLTC underlines its message by communicating with the local chiefs and communities to encourage children to go to school and raise awareness of the detrimental effects of child labour.