

Distances to Obtain Water

Issue: People, mostly women and children, in rural areas having to walk great distances to collect water, often 3 to 5 km each way. Many times there are boreholes that have been installed nearby by NGOs or the Ministry of Water, but either the borehole isn't functioning or the local people don't have permission to use it.

Solutions: Graduates from the MSc program learn to drill boreholes properly, optimizing the aquifer resources by properly designing and construction of the well; they learn which pumps are readily available in the area, and for which ones parts are easily obtained; they learn about well maintenance and repair; they learn how to direct drillers so that the desired outcome is achieved – this leads to wells functioning for longer than 1 year, and are more likely to last for 20+ years.

Graduates are taught how to communicate technical aspects of the local water supply to laypeople who sit on the local Water Committee thereby encouraging people to take an interest in their well. The local hydrogeologist will be able to act as a mediator between the Ministry of Water, or other 'owner' of the well to ensure the local people have access to a borehole close by their homes.

