

Water is a scarce enclosing resource, thus its use, in a given location, determines what it can do elsewhere. The approach that each country performs, in what concerns the management of the resources, has implications in the poverty indices, in the distribution of life opportunities and consequently, in the human development.

Mozambique is often subjected to cycles of water abundance, associated with floods, which alternate with deficit periods leading to droughts. Its **geographical location**, not only determines the climate influence that leads to the existence of semi-arid areas, but it also places the country in the downstream of the major rivers (that were born in the neighbouring countries), making it difficult to manage the water resources.

The Limpopo River Basin is one of the biggest rivers of Africa and it is located in the south. It is considered to be one of the most vulnerable river basins, and that fact is due, not only to the particular climate conditions in the region, but also to the water management that is made in the upstream section. Therefore, there is a huge **variability** between the years. The low flow coefficients, the vast saltpan intrusion, the low water retention capacity of the soil and the high rate of evaporation, associated with a default on climate change and human activity (mainly in what concerns the agricultural and forestry practices, framed into a desertification and deforestation scenario), increase the risk of hunger and poverty **vulnerability**.

The necessary awareness for prevention, preparation and natural disasters mitigation, in a poverty scenario with many priorities, will only make sense if framed into a **concerted international action** setting.