

# EVERY GIRL



**Global Partners**  
For Community Development

# A WATER PROJECT

AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE LACK OF PURE/CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR PUPILS



# Reaching 800 pupils, providing 1000 ready needed pure water

- ▶ **Broken pumps are broken promises.**
- ▶ Every good thing made possible by access to safe water depends on it being available every day - year after year. Sadly, the promise of safe water has been broken many times in the past and even still today, by otherwise well intentioned groups. Faulty and abandoned pumps are almost expected in places like Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda.
- ▶ **This must change.**
- ▶ The Water Project has always taken pride in being one of the first to report transparently about your specific giving impact through photos, project descriptions, stories, maps and follow-up updates. Today, we continue holding ourselves and our partners to ever higher standards and values as we implement more robust monitoring and resolution commitments to ensure the promise of water keeps flowing for every community we serve.
- ▶ **Count what counts. How many people are we helping today?**
- ▶ For years, water organizations have advertised their impact based on a number of projects installed. That's a fine metric of success... *for one day in time*. But, what matters to a family in Kenya and to us, is whether water is flowing today.
- ▶ So, we count what counts. We are not satisfied to say we are responsible for 1,000 projects in total unless we are truly responsible for 1,000 projects *today* - and that means ensuring they work. When we consider true impact, this is what counts.

*Lack of pure water to drink a day, is a community emergency.  
Every seconds, a child dies because of lack of water*

# Clean water is a whole community concern

Finding water is a daily challenge for young girls, moms and sons. With a charitable donation today, you can lift this burden.

Providing a reliable and safe water source will unlock potential by returning time for study, work, and imagination.



# The Problem

- ▶ Freetown has a population of about 2.5 million people. Children make about 20% of that population. Approximately, 4 in 5 children have access to clean drinking water. And majority of these children are in government assisted or community development schools.
- ▶ The reality in the city is that the majority of the people depend on the use of water fetched from unsafe sources often responsible for the almost perennial health hazards of typhoid and diarrhea stocked with the Freetown Health scenario. Whilst it is expected that the city's water agency – the Guma Valley Water Company stand up to the challenge of providing the whole of the city with pure drinking water, it is also more than clear that the company is very much constrained in dealing with the problem.
- ▶ The Guma Valley dam that was created in the 60s was meant to serve a maximum 80 thousand capacity in the city; but it is today serving a city of more than two million people. This trend is a sickening one as it leaves a lot of public impact implications as to the health, general welfare, social and academic effect on children that are obviously the most affected of all in this ugly situation. Schools have reopened and most Head Masters Principals this writer spoke to report an everyday increase on the number of late comers to schools; with more than 90% of children giving the attendance to their morning chores as the reason for their lateness.



- ▶ **AT HOMES:** *the homes all over the city, most homes rely on their children to fetch water for domestic use in the morning before going to school. As early as 6 a.m. on school days, you see children taking to the street with gallons and buckets in their hands scrounging for water usually from distances as far as a mile or more. This chore usually lasts in Freetown to as late 8:30 a.m. when school session has already started in schools; consequent of this, they go in a mad rush to school either fearing not to miss lectures or in fear of the consequences from school authorities as a repercussion of their lateness which is largely no fault of their own.*
- ▶ **IN SCHOOLS:** *In class at school, you see them dozing into quick sleeps from the sleeplessness they got from their early waking and fatigue from carrying water from long and sometimes rough distances. The result too from this is reflected in their academic performances that cut right across from elementary to high school; especially in external examinations. This factor can certainly not be excommunicated from the mass failure of children in our school system. Casting the blame of parents alone in this instance sounds absurd and largely geared at circumventing the solution to the very problem. What is salient to consider here is that we should be made to acknowledge that the problem of water crisis has diverse ramifications and implications. This may be just one. In this case it is expected that government and child and humanitarian organizations fighting for the welfare of children to come together and nip the problem in the bud. This underscores the importance of solving the Freetown water crisis.*

# Objectives

- ▶ Education is critical for breaking the cycle of poverty and yet over 90% of schools in Freetown lack access to safe water and sanitation facilities.
- ▶ Lack of clean water has serious effects on students' academic performance and attendance rates. The lack of safe water can cause even the best students to lose momentum as they deal with stomach pains and diarrhea from disease and hunger.
- ▶ Students miss class to go fetch water, or to care for sick parents or siblings. In many places HIV/AIDS has already caused a large percentage of children to become orphans, requiring students to drop out and find work to provide food and care for younger siblings. If teachers are sick, classes get cancelled for all students.
- ▶ Schools cannot run programs if they cannot provide water to students, faculty and their families.
- ▶ Lack of Water = Lack of Equality
- ▶ For girls, the situation is especially troublesome. If schools do not have proper toilets, girls drop out once they reach puberty.
- ▶ Further, it is typically the responsibility of the women to fetch water thus limiting their access to both education and business opportunities.
- ▶ With the many additional burdens that a lack of clean water brings, education simply becomes less of a priority. This sets up an unfortunate cycle of poverty and inequality as without a proper education, there is little chance of improving one's situation later in life.
- ▶ The Every Girl a Water Project is working to break this cycle. Sometimes the first public voice the women of a community ever have, comes from a child who is in school but lacks water to drink.



# Perceived Impacts of project

- ▶ Reduced outcome of the risk of school teenage pregnancy
- ▶ Respond to emergence of lack of pure drinking water availability in schools for pupils
- ▶ Increased school attendance and pupils wellbeing
- ▶ Promotes human rights and reduced the outcome of child labour
- ▶ *Think about it: everyday, women and young girls carry more than 40 pounds of dirty water from sources over 4 miles away from their homes. This leaves little time for education which is critical to changing the long term prospects of Sierra Leone*
- ▶ *With available drinking pure water in school for every pupil, each child will grow healthier, mentally sound and happier.*

# Project GOAL

- ▶ To reach **800** pupils, one community school at a time
- ▶ Targeting **1000** government owned and government assisted primary schools in Freetown
  - ▶ Estimated Budget
  - ▶ **Le 24,000,000.00** ( Twenty Four Million Leones)



# Project Activities

1. Mapping at-risk primary schools
2. Conducting needs assessment
3. Engaging relevant stakeholders
4. Launching of Every Girl A water Project
5. Establishing Every Girl a water Project school club
6. Forming a school supporting team
7. Development of pure water distribution plan
8. Weekly distribution of pure bundles of water
9. Recycling plastics from schools
10. Writing reports on distribution
11. Monitoring and Evaluation

# Contact Details

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