

Latrine Programme Liberia

Background & context

For the past four years Samaritan's Purse has been involved in the rural recovery program in war torn Liberia. Our Liberia Water & Sanitation (WatSan) programmes commenced in 2005 with a BioSand Water Filter (BSF) pilot project within the capital, Monrovia. Since that time, we have added a two year BSF programme which will finish in late 2007, a six month latrine programme back in 2006, and a UNICEF school latrine programme in 2006/2007. Within all of these programmes there is an extensive health and hygiene education component.

Safe disposal of excreta is of paramount importance for health and welfare and also for the social and environmental effects it may have in the communities involved. It is estimated that over 40% of anal to oral diseases can be reduced with the introduction of proper sanitation facilities, washing hands after latrine use and with proper health and hygiene education. This project will help complete the 'WatSan triangle' for the target communities - Clean Water (provided through the BSF project), Sanitation, and Education.

Project aims

This project aims to lower the rates of water & sanitation-related disease in the targeted communities, and to measurably raise the socio-economic standard of living by reducing the number of working days lost due to illness.

Project description

The project will provide 200 Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines in communities which have received BioSand Water Filters, but where sanitation provision is lacking. Communities will also be educated in health & hygiene practices.

The latrines are built to UNICEF and WHO standards and are designed to cater for both males and females, as well as young children and people with mobility difficulties.

Qualitative and quantitative data will be collected to monitor improvements in health (due to decreased occurrence of water and sanitation-related diseases), and the positive knock-on effects of this within the community - such as increased school attendance for children and increased income for adults due to a reduction in days missed as a result of illness.

Expected Outcomes

- 200 Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) Latrines constructed
- 1,600 beneficiaries gain access to improved sanitation and are reached with health & hygiene education and follow-up
- Measurable reduction in water and sanitation-related disease rates, leading to improved health, increased school attendance less working days lost as a result of illness

FACTFILE



Location: Bopolu, Liberia
Partner Organisation: Samaritan's Purse Liberia
Investment: £ 25,000
Duration: 1 year

