



SIERRA LEONE

Rogbere Village

Church of Holy Comforter-Drexel Hill

2015 INVESTMENT

WATER

Community Details

Rogbere village is located about 14 kilometers away from the western rural district headquarter town. It is a small, isolated village with a bush path leading to the location of the Call to Business Orphanage. This orphanage is also isolated from the main village and most of the children that are there are from the surrounding villages, with only a few from the district headquarter town of Water. The people living in Rogbere were in need of a safe water source, as the existing well had iron content in the water, which made it difficult for the children to drink from the existing well. According to the Living Water team, “The orphans, themselves, had to cover about half a mile journey in search of water for domestic purposes, while the director of the orphanage trucked water in from the district headquarter town for drinking and cooking. The only available water source was from a nearby swamp, where the children had dug a hole in the swamp so that they could fetch the milky-white and clay-colored water for their laundering, bathing, and cleaning.” The orphanage director stated, “This situation became unbearable for me to witness, so I requested a repair of our well.” Little did the director know that the Lord had already placed the needs for the orphanage on the hearts of a church, Church of Holy Comforter-Drexel Hill, that was raising the funds needed to repair the well in Rogbere village. So when the orphanage director submitted his request to the Living Water team, they were able to say “yes” to restoring the safe drinking water that the children and village so desperately needed.

When the Living Water team entered Rogbere village to restore the safe water, the village was as the orphanage director had shared, “unbearable to see,” and the team quickly went to work to restore the safe water source. To successfully do this, the team had to repair the pump handle, pump head, pump rod-sucker rods, rising main-drop pipe, cylinder, and chain. While the repairs were taking place, the Living Water team worked with the village leaders to form a water committee capable of maintaining the well and properly managing the water resources. The community gathered a group of seven volunteers who were willing to commit to this important task—keeping safe water both safe and available to the village people and orphanage for many years to come. After the committee was trained to maintain the well and keep the water safe, the team went to work training the orphans and village leaders how to use the safe water to keep their bodies and community free from disease. The hygiene and sanitation training covered topics on handwashing, taking proper care of the pump, and keeping the water clean. While the lessons were shared, the team also wove in stories from the Scriptures. They told oral Bible stories to the children who were from a Muslim-practicing people, and the gospel was, according to the Living Water evangelist, “well received.” In all, 11 men, 7 women, and 43 children were provided a new opportunity to seek hope in life through safe water, improved health, and eternal life.

Project Details

Product	Rehab
Location of water point	Rogbere Village, West Rural Sierra Leone
Type of Institution Served	Orphanage
GPS Coordinates	Latitude:08 18.300 N Longitude: 012 59.522 W

Construction

Altitude	32 m
Static level	14 m
External Diameter of casing	100 mm
Pump Type	India Mark II
Gravel Pack	Yes
Shock Chlorination	Yes

Well Platform

Anything else constructed	Protective Fencing
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Water Quality Results

Water Purity Test	LWI Test Kit
Total Dissolved Solids (as per T.D.S meter) :	101
pH:	6.5
Total Hardness:	40 Ppm
Nitrate/Nitrites:	10 Ppm
Bacteria Test	Coliform Bacteria NOT detected (Colorless or Light Yellow color)

FOR LIFE

Hygiene Promotion

Restoring the much-needed safe water source to the community and orphanage is paramount for the development of the children and the wellbeing of the community. However, the benefits of safe water will quickly plateau if safe hygiene and sanitation habits do not support the life-saving resource. In fact, many children used the bush instead of the toilet system available to the orphanage. Other children would use drop holes or hand-dug pits to suffice for their toilet needs. These practices, among others, witnessed by the Living Water team needed to be stopped before the benefits of safe water could truly help the children and community. To do this, the team taught the orphanage administration and children, using the participatory LWI Traditional Method, about safe hygiene and sanitation behaviors. Together, the children and staff learned about the ways germs are spread, how to properly wash hands, how to save water, safe hygiene behaviors, how to take proper care of the pump, and how to keep the water clean. After the lessons were taught, practiced, and learned, the team helped the orphanage staff build a community latrine facility and a handwashing station so that the community and children could put their newly-learned skills to practice! In all, 40 people were equipped with the new skills and lessons that can help keep their water safe, their bodies free from disease, and their community clean so that their environment can become one of learning and opportunity!

Community Member Interview

“The old water source was unprotected and salty, which made it difficult to drink,” shared 32-year-old community member and teacher, Abdulai Sumah. “Besides, the children from the orphanage had to walk up to two kilometers to access water from a nearby village. During this process, we received a lot of complaints from the villagers about the behavior of the kids. Therefore, having our own well now takes a lot of troubles away from the orphanage administration and the children. The villagers, themselves, can now boast of safe drinking water in Rogbere. We cannot thank you more, and we hope God continues to bless your work.”

IN JESUS' NAME

Christian Witness

This orphanage in Rogbere village, comprised of less privileged children from very poor backgrounds where most of them hail from a shattered polygamous or single parent Muslim homes, is a troubled orphanage. Most of the children are between the ages of 8-20 years old. The children existed in a fragile emotional state, but were, according to the Living Water evangelist, “very much enthusiastic to hear the gospel.” The evangelist went on to say, “The kids looked promising as they were taught all kinds of skills in the orphanage.” This orphanage is managed by Pastor Ethelbert Williams one of the Christian’s in Action (C In A) churches in the western rural area of Sierra Leone. He normally trucks water to the orphanage, but he will no longer have to do this as the orphanage now has safe water access near the facility. The pastor shared his excitement with the team, especially about the Community Mobilization and Gospel Proclamation (CM&GP) work being done in the area. He committed to helping the church continue to serve as a witness to the children and orphanage staff, and will also serve as a contact for the pastors in the western rural area.

PHOTOS



Children from the orphanage collecting water from a former water source that took necessary nutrients from their bodies and allowed diseases, like typhoid, to sicken their fragile frames.



This man volunteered to help the orphanage keep their water safe and accessible.



Children from the orphanage enjoying the safe, fresh water that is now readily available right outside the orphanage doors!



Thank you, Church of Holy Comforter-Drexel Hill, for your donation that has restored hope in the lives of the children living in the orphanage and for the people living in the surrounding community.



The Living Water team working to restore the orphanage's safe water source.



Children from the orphanage enjoy a recreation time outside of the facility.



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Children from the orphanage gather to learn how to properly wash their hands.



The Living Water evangelist teaches the children from the orphanage about the gospel of Jesus Christ, and tells the children what it means to make a choice to walk with Christ.