



# WOMEN HELPING WOMEN: HOPE MISSION SCHOOL

Water Project in Liberia

VOSS<sup>®</sup>  
*Foundation*

Lack of water should not be an obstacle  
to human development.

VOSS FOUNDATION WOMEN HELPING WOMEN



# VOSS<sup>®</sup> *Foundation*

The Voss Foundation is a non-profit organization established with a mission of raising awareness of the lack of access to clean water in Sub-Saharan Africa and facilitating improved access for communities in the region. The Voss Foundation aims to help meet communities' water needs and then focus on the self-improvement of lives and communities once basic water needs are met. We have a particular interest in assisting women and girls who, relieved of the burden of fetching water, have time to devote to education and enterprise.

We employ an approach that ensures local ownership and long-term sustainability through partnerships with trusted organizations on the ground, use of appropriate technology, and through systems that assess the multiple water requirements of a community. We incorporate both environmental consideration and the lasting success of the projects into villages' requirements to create a comprehensive project that meets diverse water needs.

Founded by VOSS of Norway ASA as an independent 501 (c)(3) public charity, the Voss Foundation has offices in New York and Oslo.



## Liberia



Location of Liberia. Source: Vardion/Wikipedia

The current state of this West African country is precarious. The fourteen years of civil war that ended in 2003 crippled the economy. Corruption is persistent, and business, industry, and education have not fully recovered. Liberia ranked 169 out of 182 countries in the 2009 *UNDP Human Development Report* index. At least two-thirds of Liberians live on less than \$1 a day. (UN Liberia)

Accessing clean water is extremely difficult; disease runs rampant. Only 58% and 37% have access to improved water and sanitation facilities respectively. In rural Liberia, the figures drop to 40% and 19%. (UN Liberia)

As in the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, Liberian women and girls suffer disproportionately from the lack of access to clean water. From pregnancy and childbirth to infancy, girlhood, puberty, and womanhood, the health of Liberian women is particularly affected by a lack of water, sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, women and girls spend hours each day carrying water for their families when they could otherwise be in school or earning an income.



Students at Hope Mission School  
Photographs courtesy of FACE Arica, August 2011



## The Hope Mission School



Source: Voss Foundation

East of Liberia's capital city of Monrovia lies the Bernard Farm Community of Paynesville. Home to our first project in the country, the Hope Mission School with 200 students, and a surrounding community of over 500, will benefit from the implementation of one well and two institutional latrines equipped with hand-washing stations. With the help of our implementation partners, FACE Africa and the Gunii Creek United Development Association, this project will not only bring accessible clean water to the school and surrounding community but will also develop a school health club aimed at teaching students the value of good hygiene and proper sanitation practices. The project will also educate community members on pump mechanics and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities management to ensure the vitality and maintenance of the well.



Current well for Hope Mission School and surrounding community  
Photograph courtesy of FACE Arica, August 2011



## Project Details

To achieve our aim of providing access to clean water to the Bernard Farm Community and the Hope Mission School, the Voss Foundation will enable our implementation partners FACE Africa and the Gunii Creek United Development Association to:

- Install one drilled well within a 60 second walk from the school building
- Construct two institutional latrines and hand-washing stations within the school
- Oversee the implementation of a health club within the school to promote proper practices in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)
- Delegate 4-6 community members, at least 50% of which must be women, to the WASH Service Management Committee, (SMC) responsible for the sustainability of the well and pump, and keeping records of service and maintenance
- Educate and train the members of the WASH SMC on pump conformation and maintenance



Current outhouse at Hope Mission School  
Photograph courtesy of FACE Arica, August 2011



# Project Budget

## Action 1: Well Construction

Description	Total Cost
Well Apron Construction	273
Drill Materials	90
Pump & Pipe	1500
Labor, Transportation, Overhead	745.28
<b>Total for Action 1</b>	<b>2,608.28</b>

N.B. All figures in USD



# Project Budget

## Action 2: Latrine Construction

Description	Total Cost
Foundation Work/Profile/Layout Materials	26
Excavation	284
Septic Tanks	2196
Slabs 4", Steel	1265.66
Superstructures	614.40
Roof	372.04
Plastering Walls & Exposed Foundation	288
Plumbing	314
Doors	321
Painting	198
Labor, Transportation, Overhead	1881.33
<b>Total for Action 2</b>	<b>7,760.43</b>



# Project Budget

## Actions 3 & 4: Training and Supervision

Description	Total Cost
Pump Mechanic	100
Hygiene Promotion	300
Fuel	150
Project Supervisor	300
Construction Officer	600
Hygiene Promotion Officer	300
<b>Total for Actions 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>1,750.00</b>

**TOTAL COST OF PROJECT**

**\$12,118.71**



## JOIN US!

Women Helping is a Voss Foundation campaign that has brought together women in 8 countries to raise over \$125,000 for clean water projects. Through detailed descriptions, updates, and the opportunity to visit project sites, donors are able to develop a deep understanding of the people whose lives they are changing. Women Helping Women participants keep track of their projects and WHW news through the Voss Foundation's website, Twitter, and Facebook updates.

Since 2009, WHW donors have funded two solar water systems in Kenya and one well in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our newest project in Liberia will be dedicated as the 2011 Women Helping Women project.

By purchasing a ticket or table for our Women Helping Women New York Luncheon on November 2nd, or making a donation through the link below, you can contribute to the Hope Mission School Project. 100% of donations received will go to the project until it is fully funded; the entirety of all contributions received will go to the Voss Foundation to support our mission.

With your gift, the children of the Hope Mission School and the surrounding Bernard Farm Community will have access to clean, potable water for daily use, and benefit from improved hygiene and sanitation. The Voss Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity in the State of New York and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**TICKETS AND TABLES CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT <http://bit.ly/vf-whw11ny>  
OR BY EMAILING [info@thevossfoundation.org](mailto:info@thevossfoundation.org)**

**VOSS FOUNDATION WOMEN HELPING WOMEN**



## Credits

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "CDC - Global Health - Programs - Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program." <<http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/programs/wash.htm>>.

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**[www.thevossfoundation.org](http://www.thevossfoundation.org)**

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