

Lack of Safe Drinking Water in Schools Worrisome

-PKIKS Presses for Govt. Intervention

The head of a local advocacy group for school kids, Project Kind Initiative Kids Shoes (Project KIKS Liberia), said lack of supply of safe drinking water to schools is extremely worrisome in post-Ebola Liberia.

Making the assertion Tuesday in observance of World Water Day in Monrovia, the group's Country Director Sekou Dukuly indicated that the supply of water resource to schools is as important as the country's response to its post Ebola needs, a situation that requires stakeholders immediate intervention.

Students continue to remain vulnerable to water borne diseases especially when thirsty and are forced to drink water from any source.

As part of its safe drinking and bulk water supply campaign to schools which began during the height of the Ebola outbreak in 2014, the project has so far donated eight 500 gallon poly tanks to schools including United Blind Academy in the LPRC community in Gardnersville, a suburb in Monrovia which has an acute need for safe drinking water supply.

Dukuly lauded beneficiaries of poly tanks especially school administrations for managing the tank and the water resource.

"I express my thanks and appreciation to students, teachers and staff for properly managing the water resource, and for demonstrating gratitude and the need to have clean and safe water on school campuses," he said.

Director Dukuly again reechoed the project's commitment to push for funding and support for the program because one who gives water, gives life.

He used the occasion to strongly appeal to the Government of Liberia, development partners and stakeholders to support its clean water for schools and bulk water initiative.

World Water Day dates back to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and has become internationally observed as International World Water Day.

The ceremony is held annually on March 22 to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Project KIKS took the opportunity to celebrate, show support, and was inspired to delivering 500 gallons of safe and clean drinking water each in the poly tanks at the United Blind Academy and Ward Preparatory School respectively.

During an interaction with students, teachers, and staff to learn more about water related issues, they were inspired to tell others about the importance of freshwater and the actions to be taken to make a difference.



Students and the faculties of both schools lauded PKIKS and its team of volunteers for delivering clean and safe drinking water to their various schools.

In separate remarks, they also admonished the institution to continue its goodwill gesture with a call on government and development partners and stakeholders to support the project's clean and safe drinking water for schools program.

"The lack of freshwater still remains as a serious challenge in our schools and communities. We cannot easily have access to clean and safe drinking water. Water is very difficult to get in our schools and communities," one of the teachers from Ward Preparatory School lamented.

PKIKS has so far delivered a total of 27,000 gallons of bulk water via poly tanks to eight beneficiaries.