

„More safe drinking water for rural Liberians in Foya“

Since 2010 safe drinking water is internationally agreed upon as one of the human rights for everybody. Never-the-less there are numerous villages and settlements in rural Liberia which are not granted access to safe drinking water in their village. Even after Village People Empowerment Group (ViPeE) has supported the set up of wells with hand pumps in Foya District during the 10 years from 2008 to 2017, there are still numerous villages around which do not have safe drinking water. In May 2018 three of those can be lucky, because ViPeE in Cooperation with Liberia Freunde in Germany and the German Embassy in Monrovia was able to support the villagers activities to build a well functioning well with hand pump. Again the construction and installation works in Gbongoma, Borma and Tuladu have been organized and supervised by a local technician based in Kolahun, while the effective work was done by the villagers themselves. The effective cooperation between all of them is again the backbone of the whole operation and the guarantee that their well will be best maintained in future, a water manager will soon be nominated and start to collect a monthly water fee, which will be later on used to finance necessary repair as soon as it will be needed, without being depended of an external organization to wait for to come. This independence or self-dependence gives everybody a good feeling for themselves in the struggle to replace the missing activities on the side of the government, the local or regional one as well as on the national level like it is in all societies where taxes are collected and paid on a general level to finance the necessary infrastructure of education, health, communication and mobility as well as for doing business and creating employment. To feel in a community being able to develop such power certainly is as well a positive feature of a nation being able to act by themselves when it is needed, instead of being passively waiting for somebody from outside – within in or outside the country to assist and repair. Quite often in such situations Villagers are forced to return to fetch drinking water from the creek and bare all consequences referring to child death or severe sicknesses of adult people instead of playing football.

Besides everybody is aware that sooner or later no development will be sustainable if not financial means are available on all levels, community, district, county or national levels, to maintain once constructed infrastructure of all kinds only by calling state authorities to do be present everywhere. Confidence in ones own abilities to manage live is promoting the feeling of higher quality of life in a community better than basing on the mentality of being given always.

(based on an interview with the German Rudolf Janke from the ViPeE group)