

**Program Theme:** Safe Water, Safe Schools and Save Lives

**Date:** June 26th, 2024.

Venue: Unique Stars Creative Kiddies Academy Ibadan, Oyo State

# REPORT ON THE SAFETY PROGRAMME

## ORGANISED BY

CHILD HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY TRUST (CHEST)

#### INTRODUCTION

Children spend a significant portion of their childhood and adolescent years in the school environment with an average duration of over 6 hours per day, summing up to over 1100 hours spent every year in the school vicinity and are exposed to all kinds of safety and insecurity issues such as overcrowding, unsanitary conveniences, poor lighting, poor ventilation, lack of protective equipment in strategic locations amongst other issues. This implies that the state of the school environment has a significant impact on the students' well-being, habits, and perceptions, hence it is imperative to make the school environment a safe, secured and friendly one.

Child Health Environment and Safety Trust (CHEST) carried out a safety programme on the theme "Safe Water, Safe Schools and Save Lives" on Wednesday, the 26th of June, 2024 at the Unique Stars Creative Academy, Ibadan with the aim to improve health outcomes of in-school children by promoting safety issues which aid the reduction of the spread of infectious diseases transmitted through contaminated water, inadequate hygiene practices and sanitation facilities. Our specific objectives for this programme were to:

- 1. evaluate the state and level of compliance with safety, hygiene and sanitation protocol in selected schools.
- 2. establish, train, and equip WASH clubs to comply with daily care and maintenance of WASH facilities.
- 3. promote good hygiene practices amongst in-school children.
- 4. create a conducive learning environment for children that promotes health and well-being through the provision of safe and potable drinking water.
- 5. to mainstream safety education into existing school curriculum.

### **Target Population:**

The target population for this programme were children in primary schools (private and public) in Oyo state, Nigeria.

#### APPROACH ADOPTED FOR THE PROGRAMME

The following strategies were employed to achieve the objectives of the programme:

- Meeting with Stakeholders: This was done by approaching and meeting with the headteacher of the intended school and relating to them our program's intent as well as its purpose.
- **ii. Training:** A sensitization on the safety of children in school was carried out by the Prof. G.R.E.E Ana and Mrs Huswah Sideeq-Fakeye via an advocacy session for both the pupils as well as their teachers.
- **iii. Intervention:** The school are provided with hygiene supplies/resources (tissue papers, handwashing liquid soaps, hand sanitizer and toilet disinfectant).

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

The program started at 9:00am with the Program Manager, Mrs. Huswah Sideeq-Fakeye welcoming all participants. She went further to introduce the organisation's executives, gave a brief profile of the organisation and the different activities that had been carried out over the years.



The Programme Manager addressing the participants

The training session started with the President, Prof., G.R.E.E. Ana giving a talk on the concept of safety in the school environment. He gave an exposition on how a safe and secure school environment makes way for effective teaching and improve learning outcomes for students.



The President addressing the participants

Focusing on health safety and hygiene education, the Programme Manager introduced the participants to the sustainable development goals and how they relate to the topic of the day. She also related to them how the provision and availability of adequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in schools can improve health and well-being and the quality of education received by school children.



The Programme Manager and the Executive Director addressing the participants

On the concept of hygiene, the Programme Manager carried out a practical demonstration of the handwashing technique as recommended by the World Health Organisation.





A practical demonstration of handwashing technique



A student trying out the handwashing process

The incentives were presented to the school administrator by the President, Prof G.R.E.E Ana and the Executive Director Mrs. Margaret Ana and the vote of thanks and the closing remarks were given by the Programme Manager. The closing prayer was said by one of the participants and the programme came to an end by 10.30am with group photograph.



Donation of hygiene supplies



Donation of environmental health textbook to the school library

#### **IMPACT**

- Increased Awareness: Participants gained a heightened awareness of safety, hygiene, and sanitation issues within school environments. They learned about the importance of clean water, proper sanitation facilities, and good hygiene practices in preventing diseases and promoting overall health.
- 2. **Improved Knowledge and Skills**: Through practical demonstrations and training sessions, participants acquired new knowledge and skills. For instance, they learned the correct handwashing techniques recommended by health authorities like the World Health Organization (WHO), which they can apply daily to reduce the spread of infections.
- 3. Enhanced Learning Environment: By promoting a safe and hygienic school environment, the programme contributed to creating a conducive atmosphere for learning. When students feel safe and comfortable in their surroundings, they are more likely to focus on their studies and achieve better academic outcomes.
- 4. **Long-term Impact**: Initiatives like integrating safety education into the school curriculum and advocating for sustainable practices can have a lasting impact. They can lead to long-term improvements in health outcomes, hygiene practices, and overall well-being among students, benefiting future generations.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Safety Programme conducted by the Child Health Environment and Safety Trust (CHEST) at Unique Stars Creative Academy, Ibadan, underscores the critical importance of ensuring a safe and hygienic school environment for children. The event successfully addressed key issues such as safety, hygiene, and sanitation protocols within school premises, aiming to enhance the health outcomes and overall well-being of in-school children.

Through engaging activities and informative sessions, including practical demonstrations on handwashing techniques and discussions on sustainable development goals, the programme emphasized the role of adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in promoting health and facilitating effective learning environments. Moving forward, it is imperative to integrate safety education further into the school curriculum and continue advocating for improved

infrastructure and resources to ensure that every child has access to a safe and supportive educational environment. By prioritizing these efforts, we can positively impact the habits, perceptions, and educational outcomes of our children, ultimately contributing to their holistic development and future success.

## PICTURE GALLERY

































