

# Rotary Club of Freetown – Ebola Response Action Plan

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## 1. Background

Ebola is an acute and deadly viral disease characterised by fever, nausea, headache, tiredness, vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing and bleeding. In Sierra Leone it has resulted in the death of over 475 people since the outbreak began (WHO; 05/09/14) and has the potential to wipe out communities if not promptly managed. In recent times in Sierra Leone, Ebola is the first and most virulent illness amongst others, with highly epidemic potential to cause serious public health impact due to its demonstrable ability to spread rapidly. According to Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), Ebola ranks first amongst the six most important epidemic-prone diseases in Sierra Leone.

Across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, more than 2,000 people have died from the illness, according to the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) data, putting great strain on the health systems of some of Africa's poorest countries. Currently, there is no cure or vaccine for Ebola which can kill up to 90 percent of those infected. Ebola continues to spread in Sierra Leone, Liberia and to a lesser extent in Guinea. This brought the total in West Africa's first outbreak of the deadly viral disease to more than 3,600 cases (WHO; 05/09/14) since February 2014.

Since its outbreak, Ebola has impeded development and has become the major cause of continuing humanitarian tragedy. It is affecting development activities, humanitarian programmes and the healthcare infrastructure throughout the country. Such serious morbidity currently upsets the local economy and economic growth since it is inhibiting local and international investments in Sierra Leone. Ebola is fast spreading out its traditional areas and this has been documented to pose serious threat to communities, where it has been and have high potential to be transported and transmitted via infected persons.

One of the major challenges contributing to the on-going outbreak of Ebola is inadequate understanding within the communities as this is the first major outbreak in Sierra Leone (Ministry of Health and Sanitation; *Sierra Leone Accelerated Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response Plan*, July 2014).

As a Charitable organisation, The Rotary Club of Freetown has been involved in many developmental and emergency programmes that have been of immense benefit to the people of Sierra Leone. Since the outbreak of this deadly Disease the club was able to support Radio stations embark on awareness raising and community mobilisation. Considering the current increase and gaps within the Ebola response, the Club has thought it fit to increase their intervention and be able to give a much more sustainable support to the entire strategy.

## 2.0 Goal

The goal of our Club's Response is to eradicate the Ebola disease in Sierra Leone

## 3.0 Objectives

- Increase community awareness on and enhance capacity for Ebola disease prevention and control.
- Support to Ebola treatment centres
- To contribute to strengthening the national capacity in response to outbreaks of epidemic prone diseases specifically focusing on Ebola

## 4.0 Main Activities to be Undertaken

### 4.1 Increase Community Awareness for Ebola Disease Prevention and Control

This objective has been accomplished through partnership with the Rotary Club of Freetown-Sunset. A total of Le10m (ten million Leones, equivalent to USD\$2000) was expended in this regard and the main activities undertaken were as follows:

- Developed Ebola prevention Jingle that was aired in 4 Radio Stations for an extended period.
- Supported four Radio stations in Bo, Kenema and Kailahun to extend their broadcasting time and also air out jingle and radio phone in programmes on prevention.
- Supported Aberdeen Creek Community with buckets, soap and chlorine as a means of community support in the eradication of Ebola.
- A total of 10 Million (\$2,000USD) was spent on these activity in partnership with the Rotary Club of Freetown Sunset.

We wish to repeat this exercise as we continue to see a need for further sensitisation of communities affected by the disease more especially in the North and Western areas.

### 4.2 Support to Ebola Treatment Centres

#### 4.2.1 Supply of Food and Non-Food Items

Realising the current need for patients to have a well-balanced diet and to have sufficient food for the smooth operations of these treatment centres we have decided to target five treatment centres. (2 in Freetown, 1 in Port Loko and 2 in Bombali). Food Items will include, but not limited to, rice, vegetable oil, sardines, milk, sugar and water; whilst non food Items will cover toiletries. We expect to serve over 250 people for 3 months making a total of 750 patients. These items will be distributed to the various centres by members of the Rotary Club of Freetown.

Drinking water of about 1,000 litres per day will be supplied to ill patients at the treatment centres in Hastings and Lakka for the next 60 days.

#### 4.2.2 Provision of Personal Protective Gears to Health Centres and Home Care Givers

The lack of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been one of the underlying causes of death amongst health workers in their response to the Ebola outbreak. In as much as protective gears have been brought into the country there is still need to have adequate equipment such as gloves, infra-red thermometers and the protective wears that will be used not only in the hospitals but also within private clinics and with home care givers. The Club will be providing over 5000 PPEs to 100 outlets. Burial teams will also benefit from the protective gears that will be supplied to these 100 outlets. Dettol, hand sanitizers and bleach will all form part of this package of supplies.

Infra-red thermometers will also be distributed to over 1,000 homes as a means of regular temperature check of residents.

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Clinical outfit including robes, boots, gloves and bed linens will also be purchased and distributed to health centres.

Supply of detergents, specifically bleach, dettol and soap will also be provided to treatment centres and to general hospitals as a preventive measure.

## 4.3 Contribute to Strengthening the National Capacity in Response Health Disasters

Extensive critical thinking has been done with regard to providing technical advice on the nation's current health systems and adherence to policy issues. These ideas have been documented and presented as a position paper of the Club to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the National Ebola Response Centre and His Excellency the President.

## 4.4 Construction and Equipping an Orphanage for Ebola affected Children

We the current trend in the Ebola outbreak there are lots of orphans who might end up in the street thus losing parental care and that of education. The orphanage will be built by Rotary Club of Freetown in partnership with other international Rotary Clubs and it will be managed by an established Child focus organisation and the Government of Sierra Leone. The orphanage will host 240 children and will have a health centre, school and play ground.

## 5.0 Action Plan

Activity	Duration	Strategy
Construction and Equipping an Orphanage for Ebola affected Children	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop Proposal</li><li>• Submit Proposal and Cash Flow</li><li>• Acquire Land and complete Documentation</li><li>• Start construction</li><li>• Develop MOU and hand over orphanage to a credible institution to manage.</li></ul>
Provision of Personal Protective Gears to Health Centres and Home Care Givers	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Order 5,000 PPE's</li><li>• PPE's to serve 100 outlets over a three months period</li><li>• Donate PPE's to health centres or NERC</li><li>• Purchase over 500 sets of clinical robes, boots, gloves and bed linens</li><li>• Distribute over 1,000 Infra-red thermometers to homes.</li><li>• Supply of detergents, specifically bleach, dettol and soap will also be provided to treatment centres and to general hospitals as a preventive measure.</li></ul>

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Supply of Food and Non-Food Items to Ebola Treatment Centres.	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Treatment centres to support with food and non-food items</li> <li>• Purchase items and distribute to these centres on monthly basis for duration of three months.</li> <li>• Supply of 1,000 litres of pure drinking water to treatment centres in Hastings and Lakka</li> </ul>
Community Awareness for Ebola Disease Prevention and Control	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a Jingle on prevention and best practices</li> <li>• Supported 4 Radio stations to extend air time and include more radio programmes on Ebola Prevention</li> <li>• Supported Aberdeen Creek with Buckets and soap.</li> </ul>
Strengthening the National Capacity in Response Health Disasters	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a Think Tank to brainstorm on what can be done to improve the nation's health system.</li> <li>• Compiled ideas and share with Health stakeholders and H.E the President and other major stakeholders.</li> </ul>