INTERVENTIONS FOR EBOLA RESPONSE IN THE MARAMPA CHIEFDOM

Proposed by the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God Brothers working in the Diocese of Makeni.

As a congregation and with a mandate and contract with the Public to run a General Hospital in the Marampa Chiefdom, we resolved during the period of quarantine of the hospital to initiate a plan of activities to be carried out in the Chiefdom in order to break the chain of exponential transmission of the EBV disease, which at this time of September and October, 2014, the rate of new infections was extremely high in the Chiefdom. This forced our hospital to hesitate to re-open especially after when one of the Brothers, Dr. Manuel Garcia Viejo got himself infected on 11 September, and passed on 25th September, 2014 in Spain.

After a collective analysis of the prevailing situation in the Chiefdom in a meeting held at the Chiefdom Health centre on 25th August, 2014 (see minutes attached), the Brothers were invited to join the fight against EBV, hence we made the following plan of actions to the stakeholder within the chiefdom. And this plan fell in the pillars set up by the District Health Management Team of Port Loko District.

**PLAN**

The **aim** of this plan was to create a safe environment for the Hospital to offer Non- Ebola health services in the near future.

The **Objective** of the plan was to drastically reduce the spread of new infections amongst families within the Chiefdom

**Specific Objectives:**
1. To empower all the health workers within the chiefdom with Infection Prevention Skills in caring for sick persons in their communities.
2. To engage the traditional authorities to own the preventive activities on EBV eradication
3. To increase the awareness of socio-economic impact of the spread of EBV within the community

**Interventions**
1. Train all health works in the Marampa chiefdom (St. John of God Catholic Hospital, Baptist Eye Hospital, Konike Clinic, Lunsar Health Centre, 6 Primary Health Units, Arab Clinic
2. Identify volunteers to work in the observation centre
3. Identify an observation/a holding centre
4. Soliciting for support to provide a vehicle to transport suspected Ebola victims from PHU’s, homes to the Observation centre
5. Rapid response planning system
   - Proper patients transporting
   - Proper specimen collection and handling
   - Counselling and breaking the news
6. Quarantining protocols
   - Security concerns
   - Provision of food and water
   - Counselling
   - Provision of drugs
   - Monitoring of contacts
7. Motivation
   - Supervision
   - Frequent visit
   - Support to staff

8. Plan for bereaved families of victims

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

ROLE PLAYED BY:

BROTHERS OF ST. JOHN OF GOD THROUGH THE ST. JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC HOSPITAL, LUNSAR AND ST. JOHN OF GOD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE, LUNGI

The St. John of God Catholic hospital ceased to provide services to the Public from August 18th 2014 and September 22nd 2014. In the first instance, we disinfected and fumigated the entire hospital and replaced many infected equipment and materials, and all the mattresses, train our staff and the chiefdom staff on Infection Prevention and Control measures, distributed PPEs and cleaning materials to all health facilities in the chiefdom, etc. This took place from 18th August to 8th September, 2014. From 9th September, 2014 we opened the doors of the hospital to the General Public. This lasted for exactly 2 weeks when one of the Brothers of St. John of God, a medical doctor and veteran surgeon, key to the hospital got himself infected and eventually died in Spain. This sudden event scared us and made us shut down our doors again to the public realizing that there were some serious lapses in the hospital protocols especially during this period of outbreak. The lapses identified were no triage process and no standard Isolation unit to give care to Ebola suspects. So from September, 22nd, 2014 to date, the hospital ceased operations to the Public. However, during this period again, the hospital has not been silent, but for a period of two weeks, (1st October-15th October, 2014) the hospital organized an intensive 2 weeks training on Patient care management during an outbreak to all its staff. This included training on screening and triaging of patients visiting the hospital.

From October 23rd to date, the hospital embarked on an outreach programme to offer food and other basic needs to quarantine families, giving them health education and monitoring their physical health and administering basic medical malaria treatment when necessary. We negotiated for transport for any suspect identified to Port Loko for further management.
During this period also, the hospital embarked on negotiations with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to provide logistics to the area and create a standard Ebola suspect care unit for the area. The hospital released a piece of area with a Building already for this facility to be improved for that purpose. This could serve as a better zone to give care to suspects of Ebola infection. This centre is established by WHO and supported by the Port Loko District Health Management team. See photo below:

Because the President of the Republic placed much importance on the role the Brothers have started playing in the eradication process, he visited the Holding centre in the hospital, for the first time to see such a health facility in the District.
After several negotiations and networking with authorities at the Ministry, and politicians, the Ministry of Health released an Ambulance and 2 burial vehicles to Marampa Chiefdom which the hospital has access to.
The hospital also organized several engagement session with all the traditional leaders in the 146 villages in Marampa chiefdom to motivate them in joining the fight to eradicate ebola within the community.

Currently, the Brothers are engaged in surveillance, social mobilization and Nutrition to Quarantine families, and treatment of minor ailment, monitoring and support to the holding centre in Marampa and Kaffu Bullom and provision of Non Ebola Medical services to the Public at the Out Patient department with a standard triaging post in the hospital.
## PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND ONGOING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ebola sensitisation and training of community health facilities on Infection, Prevention and Control measures</td>
<td>Lunsar and Lungi chieftdom headquarter towns of Marampa and Kaffu Bullom respectively</td>
<td>The Sierra Leone Police, Traditional Healers, Bike Riders, Drivers Union, Youth groups, Local Authorities, Religious groups, Traders and Market Women and health workers from both private and Govt institutions (350 participants)</td>
<td>Manos Unidas, Spain BCN School of Nursing, Spain. St. John of God Dev. Company, Ireland &amp; Holland</td>
<td>To prevent Ebola situations in all health facilities and stakeholder groups in the immediate communities surrounding the St John of God health facilities</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The provision of IPC materials and training of the institution’s health staff</td>
<td>Lunsar and Lungi chieftdom headquarter towns of Marampa and Kaffu Bullom respectively</td>
<td>All staff of the St John of God health facilities And other health facilities and Primary health Units</td>
<td>Cordaid, Netherland GLOBAL LAB, Germany, BCN School of Nursing, Spain, Catalunian Governement, Spain. St. John of God Dev. Company, Ireland &amp; Holland</td>
<td>To create a situation where staff and patients of the St John Of God health facilities become free of the Ebola Virus Disease.</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community engagement on Ebola issues and addressing the welfare needs of quarantined homes</td>
<td>Lunsar and Lungi chieftdom headquarter towns of Marampa and Kaffu Bullom respectively</td>
<td>64 Quarantined homes of a total family membership of 465</td>
<td>Misean Cara- Ireland St. John of God Brothers, St. John of God Dev. Company, Ireland &amp; Holland</td>
<td>To prevent Ebola transmission and further deaths in quarantined homes</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community engagement on Ebola issues and addressing the welfare needs of quarantined homes</td>
<td>Lunsar and Lungi chieftdom headquarter towns of Marampa and Kaffu Bullom respectively</td>
<td>81 Quarantined homes, 261 traditional heads and villages</td>
<td>MISSIO AUSTRIA,</td>
<td>To prevent Ebola transmission and further deaths in quarantined homes</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to Holding centre</td>
<td>Hospital Holding centre</td>
<td>90 suspects and 27 staff</td>
<td>MISEA CARA-Ireland St. John of God Brothers, Catalunian Governemnt, Spain. St. John of God Dev. Company, Ireland &amp; Holland</td>
<td>To motivate staff and encourage sick persons to report for early care</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Re-opening of Health facilities providing Non Ebola services and Primary health Care to rural communities | St. John of God Catholic Hospital and Clinic in Lunsar and Lungi respectively | 16,000 non Ebola suspects | St. John of God Brothers, Italian Cooperation, International Medical Corps, MISSIO AUSTRIA, ENGIM, MOHS-DHMT | To reduce the morbidity and mortality rate during the EBV and post EBV era. | Ongoing

Prepared by: Rev. Br. Michael M. Koroma
Manager of St. John of God Services in Sierra Leone
REPORT ON MEETING HELD AT LUNSAR HEALTH CENTRE


An emergency meeting was convoked by Mme Isha Daramy Kabia to meet and discuss the Ebola response situation within the Marampa Chiefdom among key health workers. Amongst those present were representatives from St. John of God Catholic hospital, Baptist Eye Hospital, Konike Clinic, Lunsar health centre and the 6 Primary Health Units in the chiefdom.

The chairperson was Mme Isha Daramy Kabia.

The purpose of the meeting was to mobilize frontline health workers to help improve the Ebola response mechanism within the Marampa chiefdom. In the remarks made by the chairperson, she stated that the frontline workers are at the greatest risks to become infected with the Ebola Virus.

She asked each representative to address on the impact of the outbreak on self, the issues of concern, the future and its strategies.

She further stated that the greatest concern within the chiefdom is the quarantining of the St. John of God Catholic Hospital. And from the update reports, it indicates that Lunsar has become the topmost infected town in the country. It calls for concern, she said.

From the responses made by various speakers, the following were commonly said:

Impact
- The Ebola Virus has terraced the township
- The stakeholders are not united to accept the fact
- The closure of the hospital is very serious
- Delay and exhaustion of the burial team

Issues
- The community is very hostile to the burial team
- Protective gears are insufficient for the burial team and others
- Transports availability is a huge challenge
- Staff are poorly runemered and no additional incentive despite the enormous work done
- Baptist Eye hospital left aside in all the healthcare interventions done in the town and district
- Financial challenges of the two hospitals
- Lack of funding for the public health committee to function effectively
- Dissatisfaction amongst stakeholders because many speakers on Ebola are not health personnel and they make serious pronouncements
- The denial of the community
- Lack of training of key frontline health workers
- Lack of motivation for health workers
Way forward

- Strengthening the existing chiefdom public health task force
- Training of frontline health workers
- Involvement of St. John of God Catholic Hospital in the Public health activities of the chiefdom
- Integrating volunteer nurses into the salary pay roll

Strategies for the future

- Planning
- Budgeting of needs by PHU's
- Training of frontline health workers
- Procure basic materials to support Health facilities