**Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa** 



# PROCMURA-LIBERIA AREA COMMITTEE Monrovia, Liberia

# REPORT OF THE ANTI-EBOLA TASK FORCE INTERVENTION LAUNCH

(September 20 - 27, 2014)

# I. INTRODUCTION:

The Liberia Area Committee is grateful to the Central Office of PROCMURA for the support provided for the recent Anti Ebola Intervention.

This report includes highlights of the PROCMURA Ebola Messages, Radio Talkshow, Assessment Visits, intervention Activities including Photographs, Appreciation, and Conclusion. A Financial Report follows.

#### ASSESSMENT VISITS – September 20, 2014

In order to be able to get a feel of the effect that the Ebola virus epidemic is having on the residents of Lower Virginia a high risk area, the Area Committee in its Executive meeting resolved to visit Banjor Beach Community and Camp as possible Venues for the Ebola Intervention.

On Saturday, September 20, 2014, a team led by the Area Committee Chairperson, Rev. Emmanuel F. Johnson I, with the following Members, carried out an assessment:

- Mrs. Rebecca Tarpeh-Major Secretary (Catholic Church)
- Mrs. Vera Garway (AME Church)
- Mrs. Mary Gibson (EWOL) Ecumenical Women Organization of Liberia and
- Rev. St. John York Area Advisor

The Team visited the selected Communities and reported the following which were approved by the Area Committee at its September 25, 2014 meeting:

- That the September 27, 2014 Ebola Intervention Launch of PROCMURA be held in the Banjor Refugee Camp where 58 residents have died as a result of the Ebola Virus disease (EVD)
- Furthermore, there are 26 residents of the Refugee Camp recovering from the **EVD** attack.
- That there has been no intervention since the outbreak in these areas
- Additionally, the intervention should also be carried out at the Blessed and Banjor Beach Communities since they share common border with the Refugee Camp which was highly hit by this Virus.
- That the Assessment Team also identified 12 other Communities to be visited.

# III. PROCMURA EBOLA RADIO MESSAGES – September 24, 2014

On Thursday, September 24, 2014 PROCMURA Ebola Radio Messages were recorded in studios of ELBC and was played on radio stations ELBC and UNMIL Radio for one week.

# IV. INTERVENTION

# A. Phase One (Banjor Refugee Camp)

On Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 11:00AM the PROCMURA-Liberia Area Committee Anti-Ebola Task Force comprising of the following persons commenced the intervention:

- Dr. Benjamin D. Lartey PROCMURA WEST AFRICA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Atty. James Gayflor LCC General Secretary
- Rev St. John York AREA ADVISOR PROCMURA LIBERIA
- Rev. Emmanuel F. Johnson, I AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

- Mrs. Rebecca A. Tarpeh Major **SECRETARY**
- Rev. Joshua Sehkarpoh CHAPLAIN (CME CHURCH)
- Rev. Fr. Philip Tickey (CATHOLIC CHURCH)
- Rev. Prince Dowee (THREE BROTHERS MINISTRY)
- Sis. Tarsha Jackson (LITTLE WHITE CHAPEL)
- Bro. Adama Tombekai (UMC)
- Bro. Bestman L. Bah (BAPTIST)
- Sis. Mary Gibson (EWOL) Ecumenical Women Organization Of Liberia
- Sis. Vera Garway (AME)
- Bro. Edward Goba OBSERVER
- Mr. Tany Major **OBSERVER**

The team departed Monrovia and arrived in the Banjor Refugee Camp at 11:30 AM, and was met upon arrival by the Representative of District# 17 of Montserrado County, **Hon. William Varney Dakel** (Member of the House of Parliament) and the Town Chief of Pianyonkosa, Mr. John Yekeku.

# AWARENESS MESSAGES:

**PROCMURA – LIBERIA AREA** Anti-Ebola Task Force Central Ebola message was **"Let us all join in kicking Ebola out off Liberia, Protect ourselves and others to stay alive"**.

During the launch of the Task Force intervention drive, Dr. Benjamin D. Lartey, PROCMURA Executive Member for West Africa called on all communities to take ownership for protection of the populace against Ebola which has no place in Liberia.

He concluded by calling on Liberians to stop religious and cultural practices that can expose people to Ebola attacks.

# DONATION:

Atty. James Y. Gayflor – General Secretary, LCC presented household items, disinfectants, 30 bags of 25kg rice, 30 buckets with faucets, 12 dozen powder Soap, 60 gallons vegetable oil and 6 Cartons Clorox to Hon. William Varney Dakel for onward presentation to the Banjor Refugee Camp leadership on behalf PROCMURA.

Hon. Dakel hailed PROCMURA – Liberia for being the first group to reach out to the people of the Banjor Refugee Camp since the outbreak of the Ebola Virus which has taken the lives of 58 residents of this Community. He further thanked PROCMURA-Liberia for the display of Christ's love with such a huge donation and then presented the items to the Town Chief.

For his part Town Chief, John Yekeku could not hold back his joy for the donation received from PROCMURA – Liberia and promised to distribute the items received first amongst the Ebola recovered residents.

During the intervention, the following survivors/recovered were seen by the Task Force:

- 1. Amie Jakema
- 2. Papay Jakema
- 3. Hawa Quoi
- 4. Mamie Kaidi
- 5. Hawa Kaidi
- 6. Sulay Kamara
- 7. Agnette Kromah
- 8. Papay Kromah
- 9. Haja Kromah

- 10. Amie Kamara
- 11. Bamba Trawally
- 12. Ma. Bendu Kamara
- 13. Ma. Kula Kamara
- 14. Omie Daibemie
- 15. Fatumata Tommy
- 16. Momo Kemokai
- 17. Mambu Kemokai
- 18. Momo Kaitambai
- 19. Bendu Sesay
- 20. Bendu Musa
- 21. John Musa
- 22. Kenneh Samah
- 23. Ma. Tenneh
- 24. Sefana Jorma
- 25. Siaffa Massaquoi
- 26. Mercy Jonny

# B. PHASE TWO (Blessed Community)

The Team arrived in the Blessed Community at 1:30 PM.

The awareness message and presentation of items were done by Rev. Fr. Philip Tickey of the Catholic Archdiocese Church. Items presented included: disinfectants, 5bags of 25kg rice, 5buckets with faucets, 2 dozen powder soap, 5 gallons vegetable Oil and 1 Cartons Clorox.

Receiving the items on behalf of the Community, Chief Aruna Jah thanked PROCMURA-Liberia for their thoughtfulness and promised to live up to the challenge of fighting the Ebola virus and assured PROCMURA-Liberia that the items received will be used for the intervention purpose.

# C. PHASE THREE (BANJOR BEACH COMMUNITY)

The Task Force arrived on Banjor Beach at 1:50PM.

# Awareness Messages and Presentation:

The PROCMURA-Liberia Area Advisor, Rev. St. John York gave PROCMURA-Liberia awareness messages and presented the intervention donation to the Banjor Beach Community which included: disinfectants, 20 bags of 25kg rice, 15buckets with faucets, 7 dozen powdered soap, 40 gallons vegetable oil and 2 Carton Clorox.

Responding on behalf of the Banjor Beach Community, the Youth Chairman, Mr. David Menseh thanked PROCMURA-Liberia for being the first group to identify with them in the time of crisis. He assured PROCMURA – Liberia that the items received will be used for the purpose intended and prayed God's bountiful blessing upon the endeavors of PROCMURA.

# RADIO TALK SHOW – September 28, 2014

On September 28, 2014 a 30 minutes Radio talkshow was held on **Radio ELBC** by the PROCMURA-Liberia Area Committee as part of creating more awareness on its Ebola intervention drive.

The panelists were: Rev. Emmanuel F. Johnson, I, Mrs. Rebecca Tarpeh-Major and Mr. Adama Tombekai.

# **V. CONCLUSION**

We are grateful to God for using the PROCMURA Family to touch the lives of the various communities during the Launching of our Ebola Task Force Intervention.

As we conclude, this Report is worth mentioning that the journey has just begun as we have about 12 more communities to be reached in Montserrado County. We also cease this opportunity to appeal to PROCMURA Central Office and friends to do all they can to help us make PROCMURA a driving force in the fight against Ebola in Liberia.

# CHALLENGES

- 1. The wide spread suffering from the Ebola Virus is very devastating. Both during assessment and intervention the contributions seem minimum whilst the needs/requests were overwhelming
- 2. There is a need to mobilize additional funds not only to revisit the Banjor Refugee Camp but to make interventions in an additional twelve (12) areas.
- 3. A major challenge was the lack of electronic thermometers to test the temperature of people, and to empower them with thermometers to do daily test. We need minimum of fifty (50) electronic thermometers.
- 4. The urgent need to cater to survivors of the Ebola Virus and orphans especially at the Banjor Refugee Camp.
- 5. Lack of adequate psychosocial counseling:

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. There is an urgent need to mobilize additional funds to continue the interventions of the Area Committee. We recommend that PROCMURA Central Office seeks funding for this life saving venture;
- 2. That **PROCMURA** Central Office assists the local Area Committee with Fifty (**50**) electronic thermometers.

# VII. APPRECIATION

The Liberia Area Advisor, Chairman, Secretary and Members of PROCMURA wishes to acknowledge and appreciate the following individuals and organization, for their support in making the PROCMURA-Liberia Area Ebola Task Force intervention launching a success:

- 1. Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah General Advisor, PROCMURA
- 2. PROCMURA Central Office Staff
- 3. Atty. James Y. Gayflor

**General Secretary** Liberia Council of Churches (LCC)

- Dr. Benjamin D. Lartey
   PROCMURA Executive Committee Member West Africa
- Hon. William Varney Dakel Representative, District #17 Montserrado County
- 6. The Media Representatives
- 7. Computer Analysts PROCMURA-Liberia Area Office

# PROCMURA-LIBERIA AREA COMMITTEE ANTI-EBOLA INTERVENTION LAUNCH PICTORIAL



(L-R) PROCMURA Area Committee Chairperson and LCC Gen. Sec.



(L-R) & Hon. Dakel (Member of Parliament) and Area Committee Chairperson in a Chat



Procmura –Liberia Anti-Ebola Task Force with Intervention Supplies



Rev. Johnson (center) chats with Hon. Dakel, Dr. Lartey & Mrs. Garway Prior to Intervention Launch at Refugee Camp



Hon. Dakel Responding to Intervention Donation from Procmura-Liberia Ebola Task



Dr. Lartey, Hon. Dakel, Bestman, Gibson & Jackson during Intervention Launch



Town Chief Yekeku of the Banjor Refugee Camp Expressing Appreciation to the Procmura-Liberia Task-Force.



PROCMURA Area Chairman Posing With Two Survivors & the Youngest Ebola Survivors.



Hon. Dakel, Area Chairman & Ebola Survivors including the Youngest (center).



Procmura Liberia Area Ebola Task Force and Chief Aruna Jah of Blessed Community.



Blessed Community Chief, Aruna Jah & Some Procmura-Liberia Area Ebola Task Force Members.



Chief Aruna Jah, Responding To Donation From Procmura-Liberia Area.



Area Advisor, St. John York Presenting Intervention Donation to Banjor Beach Community.



Banjor Beach Youth Chairman responding to Donation from Procmura Ebola Task Force



CROSS SECTION OF BANJOR BEACH RESIDENTS DURING INTERVENTION



PROCMURA-LIBERIA AREA COMMITTEE EBOLA TASK FORCE WITH SOME INTERVENTION ITEMS AT THE BANJOR BEACH COMMUNITY



(L-R) LIBERIA AREA COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP CHAPLAIN, CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY AND AREA ADVISER