

REPORT ON EBOLA ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Rotary Club of Freetown, D9101

To Rotary Club of Calgary and Calgary (South) - Canada

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1.0 Background

Since the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease, the Rotary Club of Freetown had been playing and still continue to play a significant role in the EVD eradication campaign by responding to appeals from the public and Government to support the healthcare delivery services. Several interventions had been made at community, regional and national levels with positive impact during this crisis.

Notably, our support to the Emergency Holding & Treatment Centres at Waterloo, serving well over 5,000 patients diagnosed with either Ebola or Non-Ebola related illnesses; and the Lakka Government Hospital which primarily admitted patients diagnosed with Tuberculosis but now also being utilised as an Ebola Treatment Centre with mini- laboratory, a key component vital to the diagnostic process. Our jingles also continue to be aired over the local electronic media networks. The successful outcomes of our timely interventions so far can be attributed to the invaluable financial support of the Rotary Club of Calgary and Calgary (South) – Canada resulting in increasing Rotary’s visibility, credibility and relevance nationwide.

2.0 Activities Undertaken

2.1 Support to Hastings Ebola Treatment Centre

The Rotary Club of Freetown in partnership with Rotary Club of Calgary in Canada have already made an initial supply of non-food items, worth Le30M, to the Hastings Treatment Centre. The Hastings Treatment Centre is manned by Sierra Leonean medics and they have successfully treated and discharged over 800 patients. It is regarded as the most successful treatment centre in the entire country since the outbreak of the Ebola Virus. This was a one off support to this treatment centre. The mattresses and Bed linens supplied to this centre are still being used by the centre and this has increased patient intake and significantly reduced the risk of hospital staff contracting the virus through regular cleaning of the few mattresses that were available or rejecting patients because of limited number of mattresses and bed linens.

2.2 Provision of Water Storage Facility at the Lakka Ebola Treatment Centre

The club conducted an assessment of the Lakka Treatment Centre and its laboratory and found out that there was a huge challenge with adequate water supply. It was then decided, together with the hospital management, that additional water storage systems will be needed to support the activities of the Laboratory and the Centre. In view of the nature of the disease, water supply

is deemed essential for general cleaning of the environment and patients suffering from EVD. As a result, a water storage system was constructed with total capacity of 13,000 litres.

The system is comprised of a tower holding a 3,000-litre tank and two ground tanks with capacities of 5,000 litres each. The tanks are already in use but a formal presentation ceremony is to be organised. The water from the tanks is now being used by the Laboratory and the Hospital and has eased the burden of delay in the supply of water to the centre.



Water tanks installed at the Lakka treatment hospital and laboratory

2.3 Construction of fencing walls and gate at the Lakka Treatment centre

The club further decided to complete the perimeter fencing of the compound with a gate at the entrance to the hospital in order to increase the level of security for both Centre and inhabitants. It also ensures that the water tanks and water supplied to the hospital are not accessed by thieves or the neighbourhood.

One of the medics at the Lakka Health Centre remarked thus: “now that the water tanks have been installed the hospital will now have enough water to keep the entire unit very clean and restore some semblance of dignity to the patients.”



The Perimeter Fencing of the Lakka Ebola Treatment centre and Laboratory

2.4 Public Relations

The Rotary Club of Freetown continues to engage the electronic and print media in all of their activities. We have over the past couple of months benefitted from extensive newspaper, radio and television coverage on all EVD interventions. This will continue as we official hand over the water tanks and gates that were done as part of our Ebola response.

3.0 Conclusion

Our timely response to the Ebola Epidemic has immensely contributed to the significant decline in the number of new cases reported per day and our thanks and gratitude goes to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary for their financial and moral support.

It is worthy to note that we now register zeroes at all district level with the exception of PortLoko and Kambia districts that now range between 0-3 new infected cases per day.

Our post Ebola Recovery response plans will be shared with all major partners as we continue supporting the health care delivery services and hope to target Ebola orphans as next beneficiaries.