



ST. JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES



SIERRA LEONE

**UPDATE REPORT
JANUARY –JUNE 2015**

BRIEFING

The Hospitaller Family of St. John of God has been day and night doing all in their capacity to provide curative and preventive medicine and education to a good number of people who crave to seek quality health services and education in Sierra Leone.

Since January 2015, the General Hospital commenced offering services to the general public, and in March, the Health Centre in Lungi re-opened and finally, on April 1st, 2015, the St. John of God Catholic School of Nursing re-opened.

CURRENT STATE OF CRISIS IN SIERRA LEONE

With the serious engagement of the local communities and their leaders, the National Ebola Response Centres and its district sub offices have worked tirelessly in coordinated strong concerted efforts to reach a zero case in the country. As at August 9, 2015, there were 5 EVD+ patients at ETUs in the country; 3 at 34 Military hospital and 2 at the IMC Makeni. Two of the 3 patients at 34 hospital will possibly discharge in the next reporting week.

Infact, on the 6th August, 2015, his Excellency the President lifted major restrictions imposed during the 1-year State of Emergency. However, the EBV testing of all corpses and safe and dignified burial protocols still remain in force.

POST EBOLA ERA

As a nation, the focus remain to restore all basic and essential services to the public, maintain a zero resilient health system, and build a resilient health system in the whole country.

The St. John of God Services by virtue of its mission remains and is part of the resilient health system the country is driving towards.

Below is a summarized report in line with the building blocks proposed by WHO of a resilient health system.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Before this time, many people were scared of using health facilities in the country. One obstacle that the Hospitaller family overcame was to establish a closer link with the local community and its traditional leaders. The Hospitaller family continue to provide health services and nursing education despite the up surging of EBV in the Port Loko, Kambia district and Western Area in May 2015. Our facilities followed strictly the safety protocols established by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation which include triaging all patients and personnel before entering the facility, creating an isolation unit for any suspected EBV patient, enforcing Infection, Prevention and control.

The functional units in the facilities are mentioned below:

Lunsar

- CLINICAL SERVICES:
 - ✓ Out Patient consultation Services
 - ✓ Diagnostic services
 - Laboratory
 - Radiology
 - Ultrasound
 - Electrocardiogram
 - ✓ Inpatient services
 - ✓ 24 hour emergency service
 - ✓ Surgery:
 - General surgery
 - Orthopedic & Traumatology
- PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) ACTIVITIES:
 - ✓ mobile outreach(Lunsar & Lungi)
 - ✓ Immunization
 - ✓ HIV Testing and Counseling
 - ✓ TB diagnosing and management
 - ✓ Social Mobilization on EBV prevention and control
- INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) Structure:
 - ✓ IPC office and Focal person
 - ✓ Triage
 - ✓ Isolation unit
- OTHER SERVICES

- ✓ Kitchen
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Information and communication
- ✓ Statistics
- ✓ Estate

LUNGI

- CLINICAL SERVICES:
 - ✓ Out Patient consultation Services
- PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) ACTIVITIES:
 - ✓ mobile outreach(Lunsar & Lungi)
 - ✓ Immunization
 - ✓ Social Mobilization on EBV prevention and control
- INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) Structure:
 - ✓ IPC office and Focal person
 - ✓ Triage

2. HEALTH WORKFORCE

During the period quite a good efforts have been made to keep an active and committed health care work force. A lot of training has been done and conditions of work improved especially the work environment safety.

The Sierra Leone government having taken into consideration the welfare of its citizens increased the basic wage for all workers in the country and it benefited our staff also. As such this increased the high spirit of essential staff and ancilliary staff who were mostly underpaid.

However, few staff expressed their desire to resign from their post and others were asked to leave. We consider this dynamics as common eventhough the high remuneration provided by the international NGOs in the Ebola Treatment centres attracted some of these staff.

The current staff strength in the 3 facilities:

	Health Professionals	Administrative Staff	Support Staff	Lecturers
SJOGHospital	74	19	45	
SJOGHealth Centre	9	2	8	
SJOGCSchool of Nursing		2	8	11

3. INFORMATION

Since January, the statistics department is being gradually improved and resourced. Data Management is still a huge challenge for the services in Sierra Leone. Nevertheless, a robust Information and communication unit is being established and furnished so as to meet the demand of accurate reporting and projects development. a project office is also in place with a key staff in office.

Between January and May, the hospital utilized only 30 beds until June when it was increased to 61.

Since January 6, 2015, below are some specific activity data of the hospital:

PARAMETERS	NUMBER
GENERAL CONSULTATIONS	4,972
ADMISSION	723
ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY	681
GENREAL SURGERY	143
CEASARIAN SECTION	50
NORMAL DELIVERIES	37
MOBILE CLINIC OUTREACH CONSULTATIONS	524
DEATHS	20

4. FINANCING

Internal revenue generation (IGF) has been gradually recovering. Before this time the hospital was able to generate its own internal revenue to fund its operational expenses.

This time around, the EBV crisis which has scared a lot of people from using health facilities, the closure of the mining companies, the number of movement restrictions within country thereby reducing the clientele coming from other parts of the country to seek medical care, the reduced income earned by majority of the rural population as a result of many restrictions and no farming activities carried out.

THE EBOLA OUTBREAK SINCE MID 2014 has affected the ability of the hospital to generate enough income from patient fees to support its needed expenditure. The bed capacity of the hospital is currently 61, from a pre Ebola capacity of 146

In our half year budget, patient fees only accounted for 30% of the budget. The huge 70% deficit is financed through partners donations. Our payroll expenditure alone accounted for about 69% of the deficit.

For the next half of the year we have projected patient fees to account for about 39% of the budget. This means that we still require 61% support from donor partners in order to fully meet our budget.

Since the re-opening of the hospital in January the financing of the hospital activities has been hugely subsidised by fund raised in Rome by the General Curia of the Hospitaller Brothers.

Currently, the breakdown of the Source of financing:

- ✓ Patient fees – 30%
- ✓ Cash Donation: From external partners – 55%
- ✓ Non cash donation: Drugs, consumables and PPEs received from partners and other NGOs – 12%
- ✓ Government subsidies: Through medical supplies and duty free waivers on donated cargos at the port – 3%

5. MEDICAL PRODUCTS, VACCINE

Increase demand for quality medical products still remain a major challenge for the hospital. However, during the crisis, friends from Spain, USA, Germany, UK,

Netherlands have demonstrated greater interest to subsidise the cost of medical products by sending via containers and pallets.

The six killer vaccines are provided by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation except anti snake venoms and rabbies vaccine which are hard to come by.

Intravenous fluids are also quite expensive medical products and Medical laboratory reagents as well. Nevertheless, the hospital continues to receive support from organisations abroad in view of reducing the cost of service charge to the consumers of these medical products.

6. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The governance of the services is guided by the 5-year Strategic plan prepared in March 2014. From the strategic plan, an annual work plan was drawn for each facility which is being implemented during this crisis period.

The service delivery plan of the hospital is in line with the work plan of the District Health Management Team. There is a cordial and reciprocal collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation of Sierra Leone.

A lot of importance is being placed on work delegation to supervisors and reporting. The bottom top approach system of communication is applied.

One key challenge is the lack of protocols for delegation to the supervisors and other staff. There will be need for a lot of in service training, sensitization and staff durbars for information dissemination and closer communication.

Projects for the Future

- Recover OPD patient numbers
- Recover In Patients and Maternal Health numbers
- Continue and increase Primary Health Care services
- Train and educate Staff to improve the quality
- Continue and increase education and sensitization in the Communities
- Improve the Data Management System
- Improve Hospital equipment and facilities
- Start research
- To start the State Registered Nursing Programme(SRN)

Some Interventions(Activities) – You can give a help.

For Sierra Leone, we need hospital personnel:

- Paediatrician doctor
- Gynaecologist doctor
- Paediatric surgeon
- Nursing supervisors

- Administrative staff
- IT manager
- Researchers

For Sierra Leone, we need teachers for:

- Triage set up at Accident and Emergency & OPD
- Abdominal ultrasound
- Diagnosis and gynaecology ultrasound
- Heart ultrasound and ECG
- CPR
- Diagnosis in paediatrics
- Diagnosis in Primary Health Care
- Laboratory
- Administration and data management
- School of Nursing

For Sierra Leone, we need funds and donations for:

- Medical Equipment (hospital + PHC)
- Digital X-Ray
- Drugs, medical supplies, nutritional products,
- Laboratory Equipment
- Computers
- Furniture for the wards
- Shelving for the stores
- Lockers for the staff changing rooms
- Compound fence
- Tarmac the compound
- Solar panels (School of Nursing + Lungi)

Word of Thanks

I must say thank you to all of you our beloved friends, good people of generous hearts, interested people in the activities of the Hospitaller Brothers all over the world and specifically friends of St. John of God Sierra Leone.



