

NARRATIVE REPORT

Project # 95220

Date of report: NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Project Name: Liberian Church Ebola Response

Report for the period: SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2015

Vision of the project

The vision of this project is to equip the Evangelical Church of Liberia with the funds required to engage meaningfully in multiple facets of Ebola response with the aims of protecting those at risk, providing for those who are suffering, and caring for those who are grieving. ECOL will intensify Ebola awareness campaigns, assist with the societal reintegration of those who survive, provide relief support to affected family members, and provide counseling services to those living through this trauma.

Project background

Liberia is Africa's oldest republic with a population of just over 4 million people. In recent history, the country suffered through a long-running civil war which killed approximately 250,000 people and left the country in economic ruin (the GNI per capita is \$330). The conflict also left the country with a vulnerable public health infrastructure making the government unable to effectively manage the rampant transmission of the Ebola virus. The Ebola virus has been spreading in Liberia since March. There have been approximately 8,000 cases to date (with approximately 65% fatality). There are approximately 20,000 contacts of infected people identified and about 10,000 of these are actively being followed up. The church is in the epicenter of caring for the vulnerable, the quarantined, the grieving, and the survivors.

Progress

During the period under review our emergency response team provided relief for 40 families. We believe a total of about 200 family members were fed. Each family received relief aid items including a 25kg bag of rice, 3 gallon container of refined cooking oil, one large bottle of bleach, 2 packs of magi cube, 2 cans of mosquito spray, 1 dozen washing soap, 1 dozen bath soap, and 2 tubes of toothpaste.

We also renovated the home of Ebola survivors, Solomon King, Jr. and family in addition to the food aid they received. Solomon and his siblings lost their parents to Ebola in October last year. He and his sisters still live in the home where their parents and little sister died. The roof was in need of urgent replacement before Ebola struck, and one year since their parents died, the house leaks very badly during the current wet season. We removed the roof and put on a new one. Moreover, we are currently constructing a pit latrine for the family since there is none in their home.

We also continued the Ebola awareness campaign in churches and communities. The ECOL health team which comprises of 25 health workers who are ECOL church members continued conducting Ebola prevention awareness and situation reports for 15 minutes during every worship service in churches. The team also spent time creating Ebola awareness in communities. We believe that this awareness campaign greatly helped in the fight against Ebola.

Liberia has made tremendous progress in the fight against Ebola. The country was declared Ebola-free nearly two months ago, and is now placed under heightened surveillance for a period of 90 days which expires next month. The awareness campaign from our health team is very critical to achieving a total Ebola-free status after the surveillance period.

Our counseling team also continued their services to both Ebola survivors and others affected by the trauma of Ebola. The counseling team was in contact with 30 of the beneficiaries weekly during the period under review for follow up, prayer and counseling. All of those contacted are coping well except for Solomon King who suffered occasional bouts of discouragements and needed extended time of counseling.

Story time

The renovation of the home of Solomon and his sisters has come as a huge relief and joy to them. Says Solomon: "My recent discouragement was due to the poor condition of our house roof in this rainy season. We don't sleep when the rain came at night because we have to keep moving out clothes and other belonging around. Almost every day we have to get the water out of the rooms. This makes me to feel so sad because my father would have never allowed the problem to continue like this. I have really been feeling bad and ill until the church came to our rescue. Thank you so much for giving us a new roof and a pit latrine; you saved us."

Prayer request

Please join us in prayer for:

- the Lord's provision to enable us expand our assistance to more needy people regularly and promptly.
- the end of the Ebola outbreak.
- more people to receive Christ during this outbreak.

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PHOTOS:



Blind widow of the late ELWA employee, Ben Manuel, receiving relief aid



Renovation work on the home of the King's



New roof over the home of the King's



Constructiion of pit latrine for the King's



L-R: Ebola survivors Reuben and Solomon



Dexter Brown and family receiving relief aid



Daughter of the late Konyon with relief aid