

FARA extends contract to continue Health Services



Dr. Bernice Dahn signs the agreement on behalf of the Ministry of Health

The Fixed Amount Reimbursement Agreement (FARA) has signed agreement between the MOF, MOH and USAID for a six months cost extension period (1st July– 31st December 2015). The ceremony was held on September 7, 2015 between the Ministry of Health, AFRICARE and the IRC . Signatories to the contract were Dr. Bernice Dahn, Minister of Health, Mr . Ernest K. Gaie, Country Director, AFRICARE and Mr. Aitor Sanchez Lacomba, Country Director , International Rescue Committee, (IRC). The Fixed Amount Reimbursement Agreement (FARA) is a funding Mechanism between the US Government and the Government of Liberia through which the government can reimburse a fixed amount based on successful completion of agreed deliverables of the institution. The first agreement was signed in 2011 and extended to July 31, 2015 which brings to an end all Contracts with implementing partners (IRC, and AFRICARE) . However, with the signing of this new agreement, Implementing partners were awarded contracts for the continuation of health services in Bong , Nimba and Lofa Counties for the extension period of the six month.

ETL trainings end in Monrovia and three counties



gCHVs being trained in ETL in Sanoyea Bong Co.

As the National Health Promotion Division seeks to empower individuals and communities to take charge of their health, and sustain the changes, through positive behaviour change principles. The Health promotion Division of Liberia has partnered with the program for Advancing Community services (PACS) and the Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3) to roll out Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) training for General Community health Volunteers (gCHVs) in selected locations in Liberia. The PACS project has initiated a pilot project

Riders For Health launches new Program in Liberia



Hon. Steve Quiah Cuts the ribbons at the launching

As the EVD Episode fades away, new structures have been emerging due to positive lessons learnt in mitigating the threat posed by the health menace. Riders for Health, in support of the Government of Liberia recent effort officially launched its program in Liberia, which is working to strengthen the country's health system in the wake of current efforts to restore the health system. The official launch of the program was held on Friday 18th September 2015 at a ceremony in Gbarnga, Bong County. The program was attended by Hon. Steve Quiah, who represented the Vice President of Liberia Joseph Boakai, CEO and co-founder of Riders for Health, Andrea Coleman, senior representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Liberian General Service Agency (GSA), USAID

and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), The Superintendent and local Government officials of Bong County and the public. During the program, Key organizations present remarked and were also in attendance expressed their gratitude and support for the services provided by Riders. Riders for Health is working in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Liberia to launch two new projects– one is a sample transportation system to pick up patient specimens from rural clinics and safely transport them to laboratories for diagnosis and the other is a fleet management system for vehicles that were donated as part of the Ebola response. The aim is to establish a comprehensive and well-managed health fleet of motorcycles, four-wheeled ambulances and trekking vehicles that can ensure that even the most rural communities can be reached with essential health care. Under both projects, vehicle users are being trained how to safely operate these vehicles, as well as being taught basic maintenance skills, to prevent unnecessary break-downs. Riders for Health have now trained over 329 ambulance drivers and there are currently 69 motorcycle couriers in operation, transporting blood and swab samples for diseases such as measles, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. The organization is also building six new auto mechanic workshops across the country which will be used to maintain a fleet of nearly 300 Ministry of Health vehicles. Ten mechanics have also been trained by Riders for Health to manage and maintain these vehicles so they can stay on the road, delivering health care. In the ceremony, Andrea Coleman stressed that the work of Rider's is tackling 'a very neglected development' within the health sector. It is through mobility of health assistance that Rider's have contributed to a vital part of the global health initiative to the post-Ebola response.

★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MOH robust plan to strengthen health care delivery service in Liberia
- Liberia's third wave Ebola-free Declaration: A proof of resilience
- MOH and media strengthen Partnership In Improving Health Sector
- Liberia Government dedicates US Government Funded new emergency operations Center
- FARA extends contract to continue Health Services
- ETL trainings end in Monrovia and three counties
- Riders for Health Liberia officially launches programme



Dr. Bernice Dahn, Minister of Health

MOH robust plan to strengthen health care delivery service in Liberia

In furtherance of Government's efforts to restore to full capacity the Health sector of Liberia, the Ministry of Health has embarked on a robust resilient invest plan to strengthen the Health care delivery system in adequately providing for and responding to health Emergencies and meeting routine health needs. Key priority areas within the plan include :

- Scale up National Health Workforce Program and specialize public sector health workforce; establish teaching hospitals and upgrade clinical training environments
 - 406 CHWs will be trained and deployed, in the first two years of the program to cover a population of 141,403 people.
 - 4,100 CHWS will be trained and deployed over the life of the program to cover a population of 1.2 million people.
 - Eight counties will be covered in the first two years of the program. Including: Rivercess (50%, LMH), Gbarpolu (50%, LMH), Grand Cape Mount (50%, LMH), Grand Kru (25%, UNICEF), River Gee (25%, UNICEF), Maryland (25%, UNICEF), Grand Gedeh (25 %, UNICEF), Sinoe (25%, UNICEF)
 - In year one, 56 doctors will be trained and 26 general physicians deployed in the public sector
 - Medical school infrastructure will be improved and expanded with 1 new skills lab, 1 new faculty office block, 5 student dormitories, 2 new faculty accommodations, 8 online lecture video systems, and 1 new lecture hall
 - Improve quality of nursing training programs and create nursing specialty programs to enhance skill diversity of the cadre
- National Public Health Institute will create an institute dedicated to reduce the risk of health impacts from disasters and assist communities in recovery of health functions, to provide technical guidance to the Ministry of Health on people-centered healthcare quality assurance and facilitate continuous quality improvement within health the systems and the Institute will be located in the new Emergency Operations Center, across the street from the Ministry of Health headquarters.
- Three regional labs will be created to form a public health laboratory network to retain and expand the EVD testing capacity in Liberia, develop and implement specialized referral tests and to determine the best uses of financial resources amongst partners to establish a functional national public health laboratory network to detect and respond to outbreaks of public health importance
- A Cancer Center of Excellence for Women will to establish a national care center for women's cancers.
- National Diagnostic Center, which will be located at the JFK Medical Center, will provide a range of radiology services, medical imaging services and train radiologists and radiological technologists
- Development and implementation of NDS improvement plan. Reform management of National Drug Service and create unitary, functional supply chain system for the country
- Procure and distribute needed medical and diagnostic Clinical and

Dead Body Swabbing

The Ministry of Health through the Incidence Management System (IMS) for the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response has identified the swabbing of all dead bodies as a critical component of the national response and the alert system for the early detection of EVD cases especially among descendants.

All public and private Healthcare institution in Liberia are asked to ensure the swabbing of ALL decedents whose deaths occur in their health facilities as well as those brought dead on arrival.



Liberia's third wave Ebola-free Declaration: A proof of resilience

Statement By Dr. Alex Gassasira of the World Health Organization



Dr. Gassasira of the WHO Presents Declaration to Dr. Kateh of MOH

Today, Liberia has once again interrupted transmission of Ebola Virus. This marks the second time in a four month period that the World Health Organization has declared Liberia free of Ebola Virus transmission.

But as the past few months have shown, the Ebola fight is not over. Fifty days after WHO declared Liberia free of Ebola, on June 29 an Ebola case was identified through a dead body swab collected from a patient from Margibi County. Thanks to Ebola surveillance and incident System, rapid response plans, and experienced field teams, the Ministry of Health and its partners quickly identified and isolated five additional cases and 143 contacts in Margibi and Montserrado counties. Four patients got early treatment in an ETU, recovered from Ebola, and are back with their families and communities. Hence, this confirms that Liberia has completed two incubation cycles according to WHO standards.

Today is a day celebrate, but we must not forget what we have

learned. As long as there is one person with Ebola in our region Ebola is still a threat. The Ministry of Health had its partners will continue monitoring Liberia's borders and rebuilding and the Health care system to assure that Liberians remain safe. Measures also have been taken to improve surveillance and monitoring in the 15 counties for Ebola and diseases.

Other jobs not over. The Ministry of Health will maintain heightened surveillance for Ebola through community based surveillance initiatives developed during the course of the outbreak, and a policy of swabbing all dead bodies before burial. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health has mandated all Health facilities and funeral homes to swab all dead bodies, while communities are encouraged to call 4455 or alert local health officials so the body can be swabbed before burial.

While WHO is confident that Liberia has interrupted transmission, outbreaks persist in neighboring Guinea and Sierra Leone, creating a high risk that infected people any cross into Liberia. Therefore, WHO is for Liberia to continue 90 days of heightened surveillance for potential Ebola cases.

Keeping Ebola out of Liberia is not just the government's business, or partners' business; it is everyone's business! Every citizen has been vital in stopping the worst disease outbreak in our country's history. Now that Liberia is again declared Ebola free, let us remember to:

- Maintain good hand washing practices,
- Report all sick people with signs and symptoms of Ebola
- Make sure you are well if you are travelling and have your temperature checked at every check point
- Keep all sick people away from others
- Allow all dead bodies to be swabbed before burial (Taking saliva from the mouth of the dead body with cotton ball for checking)

Today we take a moment to acknowledge that we have again stopped the transmission of Ebola in Liberia. We have reached this milestone thanks to the sacrifices and unbreakable strengthen of the response team. We commit to do every thing in our power to stop Ebola. The systems in place will not only help against Ebola but also against other disease as we move forward to restore health services and protected the people of Liberia.

MOH and media strengthen Partnership In Improving Health Sector



Thomas Nagbe makes a presentation on behalf of MOH at the Media training

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with partners held a one-day training Workshop for 50 media Personnel. It was aimed at acknowledging the immense contribution of the media during the EVD outbreak, to forge a partnership with the media as the health sector restores basic health services and to orientate the fourth estate of Liberia on the Integrated Disease Surveillance response (IDSR) Risk Communication, Health Emergencies/crisis reporting and other current health interventions which are trending.

Friday, October 2, was the date and the City of Kakata was the venue of the workshop which graced and facilitated by the acting chairman for the Incident Management System (IMS), Thomas Nagbe. Mr. Nagbe keen to point out the role of the media in the development of Liberia's health sector. He considered the link between the media and the community as cardinal and described them as important stakeholders in the sector to in the Health service delivery activities. He noted that lessons learned from the Ebola crisis enabled the system

to clearly showed the Health sector weaknesses and provide opportunities in mitigating the potential health threats and socio-economical devastation. He intimated that, It was through the media the people were informed on what they could do to prevent the EVD. He realized the need for Stakeholders to strengthen their relationship with the Liberian media to get the necessary messages and services far and wide to the people.

Welcome and introductory statements were made by the County Health Officer of Margibi County, Dr. Adolphus Yeiah, ushering in the journalists as guests of the county and went on to realize the need to designed and sustain a stronger relationship between the health sector and the media, which the Ministry of Health and partners consider as key in delivering needed health services.

Key Presentations were delivered by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Media Consultant, Professor James Wolo in Risk Communication.

Group Discussions were facilitated by the President of the PUL, Abdul-lai Kamara to stimulate a dialogue aimed at assessing the quality of role play of the media during the EVD. Group presentations were made their respective findings.

The exercise culminated into the journalists drawing up a ten count resolution to strengthen and sustain Media-Health Sector engagement and collaboration. They are as follows:

- 1.Strengthen HPNL to serve Focal Point, Decentralize a& incorporate rural based reporters
- 2.Sustain engagement through MOH & Media (HPNL)
- 3.Organize follow-up sessions
- 4.Capacity Building through HPN
- 5.Develop key messages/ Guide
- 6.MOH Should empower CHO to utilize Community Radio Stations
- 7.Formalize relationship b/w PUL/MOH
- 8.HPN should encourage collaboration with existing reporters (Local Voices)
- 9.CHTs should organize briefings with Media
- 10.MOH should Address media quarterly

Liberia Government dedicates US Government Funded emergency operations Center



Dr. Bernice Dahn and US Ambassador Deborah Malac Cut ribbon to dedicate EOC

As part of the rebuilding of Liberia's health system following the Ebola outbreak, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has turned over a newly erected Emergency Operating Center to the Ministry of Health (MOH). The center is located opposite the MOH and adjacent to the TB Annex at 72nd Junction. It is meant to enhance collection of data and information about Ebola and other life threatening diseases.

The CDC Country Director, Desmond Williams, indicated that the center will be a place to train health workers to be adequately prepared for outbreaks and surveillance. He said 30 health workers were trained there in Epidemiology. Mr. Williams said at a press briefing that CDC spent US\$6 million to erect the structure. He also indicated that US\$75.7 million has been invested in the counties for operation of emergency centers to address any outbreaks.

In separate remarks, US Ambassador Deborah Malac and officials at

the Centers for Disease Control said the Paul G. Allen Ebola Program provided US\$100 million toward the fight against Ebola in West Africa. Ambassador Malac said the newly dedicated center is now the final home of the Emergency Operating Center having operated in a temporary facility in Sinkor for a year and a half. A representative of CDC, Jeffrey Bryant, in his remarks expressed delight over the construction of the center and attributed the success to the Paul G. Allen Ebola Program. He said the Paul G. Allen Ebola Program was very timely in responding to their request for help to West Africans affected by Ebola when they at CDC expressed the need for a quick emergency response and intervention to the outbreak.

Also making remarks, Brennan Banks, Deputy Director for Programs at the Paul G. Allen Ebola Program said the center has several pieces of equipment, including computers which will help Liberian medical personnel to quickly respond to data gathering and training of local staff to address disease outbreaks. He hoped that the center will be an establishment of excellence for all Liberians to benefit.

In her words of gratitude to the US Government, Health Minister Dr. Bernice Dahn said the erection of the center is in compliance with the consensus reached with partners to revitalize the health sector. Dr. Dahn said the Ministry has developed nine pillars, among which are the erection of the Emergency Operating Center, training of competent health workers, establishment of public health facilities and information gathering and data collection. She underscored that the US Government has been working along with the Ministry of Health in implementing the plan to rebuild the collapsed health system.

The support is evidenced by the establishment of Emergency Operating Centers in all of Liberia's 15 counties, said Dr. Dahn. She further indicated that the dedication of the center put government under obligation to make budgetary allotment for its operations.

Meanwhile, the CDC also pledged to support government through the Ministry of Health to ensure that technical equipment and training are provided to get Liberia prepared for any emergencies.

Rural Women Groups agree to form listening groups



Participants at the Women's Training workshop

Women groups from Margibi County have agreed to form Radio listen groups as a way of supporting a component of the general communication strategy put in place for the Ministry of Health to increase awareness in the public. The activity will include monitoring of Health media messages on national and community radio stations by community members, that participate in large community meetings and reporting to County Health communication team for analysis.

Several pieces of Solar rechargeable radio sets were donated by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as initial support to the strategy. The radio sets were distributed by the National Health promotion Division (NHPD) of the Ministry of Health during the closing ceremonies at The Carter Center Access to justice training for women.

Several women group leaders and female traditional and local leaders participated in the three-day training held in Kakata City, Margibi County from August 19-21 2015. The training also included topics on Ebola prevention and control and was presented by a master trainer from the National Health promotion Division of the Ministry of



AFTER FEEDING YOUR BABY WITH ONLY TAY-TAY WATER FOR 6 MONTHS, YOU CAN START FEEDING THE BABY WITH SOFT FOOD LIKE RICE DUST, EDDOE DUST AND FRUITS BUT KEEP GIVING THE BABY TAY-TAY WATER UNTIL 2 YEARS

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