

PROGRAM SWISS4AFRICA

Project n° 021/2016

POST EBOLA RECOVERY IN WEST AFRICA

Promoting Training & Equipment, Ethic and Accountability in Health Sector Governance

Since 2010, African Diaspora in Switzerland has been organized under a national platform that has over the years been working mainly for the integration of the African Diaspora in Switzerland in partnership with the State Secretariat for migration SEM. At the same time, the diaspora has been engaging with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. In order to maximize their efforts in the development process, a coalition of the African Diaspora came together to channel their projects to Africa under the platform of African Foundation for Migration and Development (AFMD).

Through its new program **SWISS4AFRICA**, AFMD works to assemble expertise, human and material resources from the Diaspora and from their Swiss friends to add value to the sustainable development of Africa. It is for this reason that AFMD engages in Post Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction in West Africa including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria. This project is to be coordinated through our local partner, *Movement towards Peace and development Agency-Sierra Leone (MoPADA-SL)*. The four aforementioned countries experienced an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease since 2014, which claimed altogether more than 20'000 lives in nearly two years. In June 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease.

The first intervention starting in winter 2016/17 is planned to commence in Sierra Leone in the rural areas known as Kenema and Kailahun District. Our main objective is to assist the affected countries in rebuilding the human capacity and provide some essential materials to consolidate their health care. The outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) exposed the fledging health sector in many African countries like Sierra Leone, as having inadequate capacity to respond to the existing and emerging health needs of their people. (WHO,2014). For instance there was only one testing Centre in Kenema and Kailahun which serviced the whole of Sierra Leone before the establishment of new centers.

We seek to ensure that survivors have access to medical and psychosocial care and screening for persistent virus, as well as counseling and education to help them reintegrate into family and community life, reduce stigma and minimize the risk of another Ebola virus outbreak and transmission.

Our activities focus mainly at mobilizing the expertise and resources in the diaspora and amongst Swiss populace in providing medical and governance training to the local staff and assisting in providing medicine, equipment to the local hospitals and clinics. The training shall include the training of surviving Ebola patients who are already immune after surviving the virus. In this way, they will not be afraid to take care of other patients anywhere in Africa and around the globe should there be another EVD outbreak. According to WHO in 2014, another outbreak of EVD or other infectious disease in Africa is to be expected. Thus, another outbreak is obvious. We have to start today to take care of our health care of tomorrow.

We also plan to do awareness campaign against some of the local beliefs and traditions that gave impetus to the spread and transmission of EVD in Africa. This is a very important preventive measure to avoid the spread of contagious diseases in Africa. Thus, we are contributing to addressing the root causes of irregular migration from Africa.

In this vein, we are seeking partners-experts to mobilize resources for the sustainable development of Africa. We need medical expertise, volunteers, medical equipment, medicine office room, and finance to facilitate the implementation of this project. The three year intervention will cost an estimate of **CHF 350'000-** for each of the aforementioned countries.

Your support and partnership are welcome. The official inauguration and fundraising activities with music and dance for the project is planned for **Saturday, 24th September 2016 at Ref. Kirchgemeindsaal, Obere Zollgasse 15, 3072 Ostermundigen/BE by 14h**. You are all welcome!