

LIBERIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



LAC/UMC

ANTI-COVID-19

CAMPAIGN

PROJECT

FINAL REPORT

APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2020

MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Project: LAC/UMC COVID-19 TASKFORCEPROJECT

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Introduction/Background

While the outbreak of the Coronavirus started in China in December, 2019, the bulk of the cases and fatalities are now outside of China, and the virus is now considered a global pandemic. As of June 30, 2020, over 10 185 374 people are known to be infected around the world with an estimated number of 503 862 deaths which have been recorded.

On March 16, 2020, the first case of the COVID-19 was reported in Liberia. As at June 30, 2020, a total of 770 cases have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health, Republic of Liberia. Over the period, the coordination of Public health included: (1) Public Health Emergency Management System was activated to level 1 at National and County levels; 2. Incident Management System meetings were held daily at 10.00 a.m.; 3. Ministerial press briefings were held twice weekly; 4. The Special Presidential Advisory Committee on COVID-19 (SPACO) was officially launched and chaired by the President of the Republic of Liberia. The government prioritized awareness messaging as one of the prioritized methods to curtail the spread. In a country where the adult literacy rate is 47% and there are only 298 medical doctors responsible for a population of 4.5 million (doctor per patient ratio is 1:15,000) with more than 15 indigenous languages, there was a dire need for creative and innovative ways to roll out impactful awareness activities. The Liberia Annual Conference through collaboration and coordination with its partners assisted in filling in the gaps by offering awareness messaging through its church radio station, its health care structures, prayer and fasting and food distribution to address the crisis and have a broader impact. The Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church was quick to act in an effort to support the Government of Liberia in the fight against the spread of the virus by constituting a taskforce called the COVID-19 UMC Taskforce.

Purpose: The mandate of the taskforce was to create education and awareness throughout the country on the COVID-19, as well as advocate against stigmatization of victims of the COVID-19, mobilize resources, provide support to affected communities and individuals, etc. The taskforce was also responsible to liaise with all United Methodist departments/organizations/programs of the LAC/UMC in coordinating and supervising the implementation of activities geared towards the eradication of COVID-19 in Liberia.

Request: The Task Force sought support from partners in the amount of US\$107,850.00. This effort was to expand education and awareness beyond the UMC Health Facilities and the communities where they are located to allow a nationwide impact. It was to also provide food for distribution in the event of lock down. The Task Force received from partners a sum of \$19,797.00USD. The total amount generated was \$23,419.49USD, and this amount was utilized for the implementation of the below listed activities while working in concert with UMC Health Department and collaborating with national, county and district health authorities.

Implemented Activities: The activities of the taskforce were divided into three phases to include, but not limited to:

➤ **PHASE ONE: MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS**

- The Taskforce organized a resource mobilization team to solicit funds in support of the fight against COVID-19; the project document was developed and circulated to various partners. A zoom call was held with LAC partners in the United States. Our USA partners agreed to help support the fight against COVID-19. The taskforce also met with other stakeholders in Liberia to coordinate and collaborate in the fight against covid-19. The partners supported the Taskforce activities.
- The taskforce conducted the official launch of Program activities on April 1, 2020. During the launch, Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr. encouraged United Methodists to follow the protocols prescribed by the Government of Liberia and the Ministry of Health. He further encouraged District Superintendents and Pastors of the LAC/UMC to keep the Church doors closed while they observe the window of the lockdown; he called on all United Methodists to be prayerful and keep the fast and prayer going especially for our partners who are facing the pandemic around the world. Finally, he admonished everyone to be hopeful about the situation, because God was in control.
- Recruitment and Training of Community organizers – In partnership with the Health Department, the TASKFORCE recruited and trained 214 young United Methodists from Monrovia, Kakata/Farmington River, St. Paul River, Grand Bassa, St. John River, Weala and Gompa districts. These young people were very instrumental in their communities. They carried out public awareness, called ambulance when necessary and kept the Taskforce updated with information within their communities. The leadership of the Conference United Methodist Young Adult and the Conference United Methodist Youth fellowships played key roles in coordinating youth and young adults in these districts to support the work of the Taskforce. One of the volunteers, Mr. Ralph Wollor, 1st Vice President for Administration of the Young Adult Fellowship, passed away in July 2020. May his soul rest in peace.

- The taskforce utilized the three regions of the LAC/UMC to cover the geographical areas of Liberia. This included the 20 districts and two circuits within the Liberia Episcopal Area
 - **PHASE TWO (Information Sensitization/Public Awareness/)**
 - Communication/Media Coverage/COVID-19 Messages – The Communication Department of the LAC/UMC played a pivotal role in the dissemination of messages for the Taskforce. UMC Communications partnered with the Taskforce in sending COVID19 messages to 300 United Methodists randomly selected in Liberia through UMCOR support and representative.
 - The Communications Department developed messages, held radio talk shows, developed video messages, created WhatsApp chatrooms for smooth communication amongst the team members. Similar chatroom was created for our partners. T-shirts, flyers, stickers and banners were printed in order to boost the campaign messages against the COVID-19. Held regular interviews with the Bishop and other key leaders of the church.
 - **PHASE THREE (Distribution of Anti COVID-19 materials)**
 - Procurement/supply – The Treasurer and business office of the LAC/UMC in collaboration with the Taskforce coordinated the implementation of the taskforce budget. Proper financial processes were put in place and followed.
 - Distribution to beneficiaries – The Michigan Annual Conference funds impacted 208 families; Illinois Great River Annual Conference funds impacted 220 families in the rural districts/circuits. UMCOR funds impacted 400 families.

Timeframe: The project activities were implemented for the period of three months April 1 – June 30, 2020.

Sources of funding/Support:

• <i>Taskforce Launch</i>	<i>594.49</i>
• <i>Liberia Annual Conference</i>	<i>2,525.00</i>
• <i>UMW -LAC/UMC</i>	<i>500.00</i>
• <i>UMCOR</i>	<i>9,997.00</i>
• <i>Michigan Conference</i>	<i>4,500.00</i>
• <i>Illinois Great River Conference</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
• <i>Others (STEP AID)</i>	<i>300.00</i>
Total	<u>USD\$23,416.49</u>

BUDGET EXPENDITURE:

*Ganta Hospital		500.00
**LAPTOP (FROM LAC/UMC FOR TASKFROCE		550.00
Recruitment/Training/Deployment –		996.00
Information Sensitization/Public Awareness/Communications –		2,079.90
Food distribution –		16,826.10
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		1,135.00
Bank charges		246.71
Logistics/transportation –		1,062.00
Total Expenditure		<u>\$23,395.71</u>
Total Funds Generated	\$23,416.49	
Total Funds Expended	<u>\$23,395.71</u>	
Income vs Expenses	\$20.78	

BREAKDOWN OF BALANCES:

Taskforce	4.59
Illinois Conference	4.90
Michigan Conference	7.75
UMCOR	<u>3.54</u>
Total Balance	\$20.78

*Designated funds from Michigan Conference

** Support from the Liberia Annual Conference for taskforce operation

Monitoring/Reporting: The project was monitored at the implementation of each phase. At the end of each phase feedback was provided to the team.

Contributions received in kind

#	Institutions/Individuals	Items	Quantity/ies
1.	Young Adults – LAC/UMC	Rice	3 bags
2	Liberia Council of Churches designated for Ganta Hospital	Rice	100 bags
		Nose masks	500 pieces
3.	Community Services Department Lac/UMC	Rice	20 bags
		Soap	2 boxes
		Clorox	2 buckets
4.	STEP – LAC/UMC Clarence Benson	Clorox	50 - 5 gallons
		Liquid soap	13 - 5 gallons
		Nose masks	5000 pieces
5.	Theophilus J. Nelson, Sr.	Rice	26 bags
7.	UMU Graduate School – Dr. Jerry Kulah	Rice	70 bags
8.	Pauline Gartor	Nose Masks	100 pieces
9	Conference United Methodist Women	Nose Masks	1,500 pieces

Number of household members who benefited:

- Michigan Funds supported 208 families estimated household members - 1,248
- UMCOR Funds supported 400 families estimated household members - 2,400
- ILLINOIS GREAT RIVER Fund supported - 220 Families estimated household members 1,320
- UMU GRADUATE SCHOOL – 70 Families estimated household members – 420

- Community Development Services - 20 families estimated household members – 120
- Young Adults Fellowship - 3 families estimated household members – 18
- Theophilus J. Nelson 26 families estimated household members – 156
- Liberia Council of Churches - Ganta Hospital - 100 families estimated household 600

Project outcome

1. The LAC/UMC had a successful launched of the taskforce activities on April 1, 2020.
2. Established handwashing stations at UMC Central office, sidewalks of Tubman Blvd., and provided hand washing buckets and drums to districts and local churches for handwashing purposes;
3. Distributed over 12000 nose masks to districts, local churches, orphanages, old folks' home, clinics, hospitals, schools and other organizations outside the church, UMC central office
4. Distributed 50 5-gal tins of Clorox to churches, schools, clinics, hospitals donated by STEP.
5. Distributed 13 5-gallons of liquid soap to clinics, hospital, districts, local churches, schools donated by STEP & Community Services
6. 72% of the budget was spent on food distribution
7. The emergency food was distributed to orphanages, elderly, physically challenged, teen mothers; at- risked youth in rehabilitation centers; etc.
8. Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr. transformed the taskforce into the disaster response committee for the LAC/UMC
9. Over 6,000 household members benefited from the food distribution.

Project Impact:

- ✚ A total of 1,047 families estimated and over 6000 household members were impacted.
- ✚ Distributed 75 five-gallon Clorox to schools, hospitals, clinics, local churches, orphanages, old folks' home, teen rehabilitation centers, districts and local churches which were used to tackle the spread of the corona virus in the respective districts and local churches
- ✚ Distributed liquid soap for hand washing to schools/churches/and clinics which were used to tackle the spread of the corona virus in the respective areas
- ✚ Food basket contained rice, beans, oil, cubes and cooking salt which were used to ensure that families have food as they stayed home to help prevent the spread of the virus
- ✚ Distributed 12000 nose masks to districts, local churches, clinics, hospitals, schools, orphanages, old folks' home, which were used to tackle the spread of the corona virus in the respective distribution areas
- ✚ Distributed 15 handwashing buckets to local churches which were used to tackle the spread of the corona virus in the respective distribution areas
- ✚ Through collaboration with the health department, we distributed 3 hand washing drums to 3 districts (Monrovia, St. Paul and Kakata/Farmington) which were used to tackle the spread of the corona virus in the respective distribution areas
- ✚ Recruited and trained 214 community organizers youths and young adults who provided information to the taskforce with reference to activities unfolding in communities
- ✚ Developed and disseminated anti COVID-19 messages on radio, communities, local churches, text messages so that people got to know of the danger of the corona virus and joined the fight to prevent it and stop the spread of it.
- ✚ Beneficiaries appreciated the support from the Liberia Annual Conference and all of our partners. They expressed gratitude and thanksgiving for the quick impact and timely intervention.

PHOTO GALARY



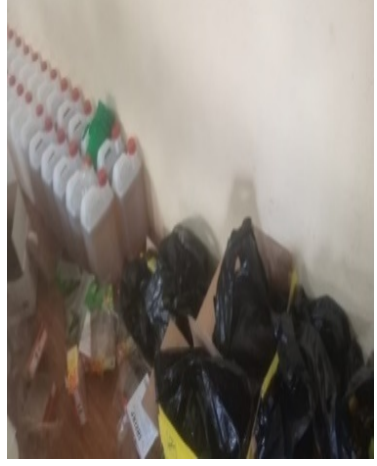
STEP
SUPPORT



MICHIGAN SUPPORT - PHOTOS



UMCOR COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPORT - PHOTOS



ILLINOIS GREAT RIVER SUPPORT

PHOTOS



TAPPITA DISTRICT FOOD DISTRIBUTION



GEE RIVER DISTRICT



GBARNGA DISTRICT



BASSA, ST. JOHN RIVER, RIVERCESS AND MORWEH DISTRICTS

Way Forward:

Now that the Liberia Episcopal Area has appointed the taskforce to continue in the role of a Committee for Disaster Response, we recognize that the task ahead may seem enormous but with faith in God it will be worthy. We call on all United Methodists in Liberia to join in support of the committee and look forward to continuously working with all of our partners. Going forward all work of the taskforce will be supervised under the supervision of the Committee for Disaster Response.

Acknowledgement

We give God the praise for affording us the opportunity to serve humanity. We extend thanks and appreciation to Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr. and Mth. Richlien Quire for entrusting to us such great task and responsibility to share leadership with members of the LAC/UMC COVID-19 Taskforce and for giving their spiritual and moral support to the Taskforce. Many, many thanks and appreciation to our partners and friends especially those from the United States of America (Michigan, Illinois, UMCOR) for their timely response and intervention in the fight against COVID-19 in Liberia.

Thanks to the dean of the bishop's cabinet for the level of coordination he gave in working along with all of the district superintendents for a successful distribution of the food baskets throughout the Liberia Episcopal Area. Thanks to all the hard-working team members of the Taskforce especially the heads of committee and the young community organizers for a job well done. To Mother Mary Mator, Sis. Nyamah Dunbar, E. Julu Swen, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Julius S. Nelson, Jr. for the consultation and support. Thanks to everyone who made contributions to the success of the work of the Taskforce. To God be the glory.

FOR THE TASKFORCE:

Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr – Ex Officio
Cllr. Hilton Powo – Advisor
Sis. Theresa Davies – Acting Conference Lay leader
Sis. Elizabeth Dempster – Conference Treasurer /Finance
Rev. Joel Gould – AA Bishop's Office
Rev. Karyidia P. Gartor – Dean Bishop's Cabinet
Rev. George D. Wilson – Director Connectional Ministries
Dr. Muriel V. Nelson – Chairperson/Conference Women President
Sis. Lango Toe – Co-Chairperson/Health Director
Bro. Joe Malleh – Secretary/Connectional Ministries
Bro. P. Emmerson Harris /Strategic Coordination
Bro. Abraham Newland – Conference Men President
Sis. Mai Pailey – Conference Young Adult President
Bro. Cyrus Yini – Conference Youth President
Bro. Edward Massaquoi – Communications Department
Bro. E. Julu Swen, Jr. – Communications
Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah – Taskforce Resource Mobilization