

#### **UN EBOLA RESPONSE MPTF**

#### FINAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT - VERSION 1

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

| Project Number(s) and Title(s)<br>Ebola Response and recovery positioning Community<br>Quick Impact Projects (C-QIPs) for Montserrado<br>County Liberia<br>0000000 (Gateway ID)00096162                          | Recipient Organization(s)         RUNO(s) UNDP         Project Focal Point:         Name: Cleophas Torori         E-mail: <a href="mailto:cleophas.torori@undp.org">cleophas.torori@undp.org</a> |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Strategic Objective & Mission Critical Action(s)                                                                                                                                                                 | Implementing Partner(s)                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |
| SO (STEPP) SO4and 5: Preserve Stability and prevent<br>outbreaks in countries currently unaffected by Ebola<br>MCA No 13 Multifaceted Preparedness                                                               | Mother Patern College of Health Science (MPCHS)<br>Community Based Organizations (CBOs)                                                                                                          |  |  |
| Location:                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sub-National Coverage Area:                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| Country (Liberia, Montserrado County)                                                                                                                                                                            | Montserrado County Liberia, but also in adjoining counties of<br>Margibi and Bong, where the Ebola situation had relapsed                                                                        |  |  |
| Programme/Project Cost (US\$)                                                                                                                                                                                    | Programme Duration                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| Total approved budget as per<br>project proposal document:<br>MPTF <sup>2</sup> : USD 344,276.96<br>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i><br>Agency Contribution<br>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)UNDP:14233.04</i> | Overall Duration (months): 5<br>Project Start Date <sup>3</sup> (01-08-2015)<br>Originally Projected End Date <sup>4</sup> (31-12-<br>2015)                                                      |  |  |
| Government Contribution<br>( <i>if applicable</i> )<br>Other Contributions (donors)<br>( <i>if applicable</i> )<br><b>TOTAL:358497.00</b>                                                                        | Actual End date $^{5}(31-12-2015)$ Agency(ies) have operationally closed<br>the programme in its(their) system YesYes<br>$\blacksquare$ Expected Financial Closure date $^{6}$ :                 |  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Refers to programmes, joint programmes and projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations - see MPTF Office GATEWAY

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The date of the first transfer of funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. The transfer date is available on the online MPTF Office

GATEWAY. <sup>4</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the Advisory Committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the originally projected end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date, which is the date when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved project have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see MPTF Office Closure Guidelines.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent funds and the submission of the Certified Final Financial Statement and Report.

| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.     | Report Submitted By                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Evaluation Completed                           | Name: Cleophas Torori                                              |
| $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ x No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> | <ul> <li>Title: Deputy Country Director/Programme</li> </ul>       |
|                                                | <ul> <li>Date of Submission 12 May 2017</li> </ul>                 |
| Evaluation Report - Attached                   | <ul> <li>Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP</li> </ul>        |
| $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>   | <ul> <li>Email address: <u>cleophas.torori@undp.org</u></li> </ul> |
|                                                | Signature:                                                         |
|                                                | Report Cleared By                                                  |
|                                                | <ul> <li>Name: (Head of Agency) Pa-Lamin Beyai</li> </ul>          |
|                                                | <ul> <li>Date of Submission 12-05-2017</li> </ul>                  |
|                                                | <ul> <li>Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP</li> </ul>        |
|                                                | <ul> <li>Email address: <u>pa-lamin.beyai@undp.org</u></li> </ul>  |
|                                                | Signature:                                                         |

# Project Results Matrix

| Strategic Objective to which the project contributed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MCA 🔲 Multifaceted preparedness                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                |
| Output Indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Geographical Area                  | Target                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Budget    |  | Means of<br>verification                                                                                                                                                                               | Responsable<br>Organization(s).                                                |
| Education:         Number of Schools trained on EVD Awareness and precautionary measures         Number of Schools Restored with improved infrastructural facilities         WASH         Number of Hand washing hand washing facilities and toilets constructed         through community engagement         EBOLA         Number of communication materials developed and awareness training         campaign organized to respond to the Ebola outbreak         Number of people provided with Psycho Social support         Forms created for peoples organization to plan and monitor Ebola related         activities.         Number of community organizations with capacities strengthened to ensure         Liberia stays zero EVD status         Project Management         Existence of an effective and well staffed secretariat managing CBOs micro         grants activities for EVD and early recovery activities.         Existence of well developed templates, guidelines and tools for future replication         of project         MCA [ ] | Montserrado County<br>and environs | 70 community Based<br>organizations (CBOs)<br>in four areas of<br>Montserrado, 4 staff<br>of the C-QIPs<br>Secretariat at the<br>MPCHS, 3 bikes, 1<br>file cabinet, internet, 1<br>computer, 5 months<br>internet subscriptions,<br>fuel for vehicle or<br>rental cost of vehicles,<br>lump sum operations<br>fees for MPCHS | 321751.36 |  | UNDP Face form,<br>detailed expenditure<br>report, MPCHS<br>narrative and<br>financial report,<br>report to MPTF,<br>field monitoring<br>report, vehicle log,<br>Bank Statements,<br>reports from CBOs | UNDP, Mother<br>Patern College<br>of Health<br>Sciences<br>(MPCHS) and<br>CBOs |

| Effect Indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Geographical Area<br>(where the project<br>directly operated)                                    | Baseline <sup>7</sup><br>In the exact area of<br>operation                                                                                                                                                             | Target                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Final<br>Achievements                                                                                                                                         | Means of<br>verification                                                                            | Responsable<br>Organization(s<br>) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Enhanced Capacity of communities to prepare and respond<br>to EVD and other disease outbreaks<br>Education:<br>Number of schools with improved capacities to take preventive measures for<br>Ebola Outbreak<br>Number of schools with strengthened partnerships between parent teachers<br>association and school administration<br>WASH<br>Improved access of communities to WASH facilities<br>EBOLA<br>Reduced incidence of stigma/ discrimination against the Ebola affected people<br>Increased access of communities to livelibood opportunities<br>A. Strengthened capacities of CBOs to design,<br>implement and report on the project intervention<br>B. A culture of hygiene Consciousness through<br>community lead total sanitation with regular hand<br>washing, is imbibed in the communities thus<br>promoting healthy life styles | Monteserrado County,<br>Liberia and where<br>applicable any hot spot<br>in the surrounding areas | About 50% of CBOs<br>applied vetted (70 out<br>of 160)) Liberia has<br>been declared EVD<br>free, but as<br>complacency sets in,<br>there is a likelihood<br>that the disease will<br>resurface; inception<br>training | 70 Approved CBOs;<br>100% of grantees<br>effectively implement<br>their projects in line<br>with approved<br>activities; project<br>conducts evaluations<br>to document lessons<br>and scope for<br>replication. | 76% of CBOs<br>satisfactory<br>reported on<br>project<br>activities, and<br>Secretariat<br>effectively<br>disbursed and<br>oversaw activity<br>implementation | Trainings, sites visits,<br>interviews with<br>beneficiaries, reports<br>from projects, IMS<br>data | UNDP, MPHS,<br>CBOs                |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> If data is not available, please explain how it will be collected.

# FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The expected results of the C-QIPs initiative were: a) enhanced capacity of the communities to prepare and respond to EVD other diseases; b) Strengthened capacities of the CBOs to design, implement and report on project interventions through education, WASH, and EVD related messaging and multifaceted responses/preparedness. This initiative was part of the broader post- EVD recovery effort focusing on enhanced community awareness, ensuring that Liberia stays at zero, that survivors, orphans and health workers are protected from stigma and discrimination and that they enjoy their dignity. The project initially started by UNMEER was transitioned to the UNDP for implementation.

The project provided immediate capacity support through the provision of facilities and equipment, supporting low-cost grassroots projects needed to strengthen preparedness to contain the disease were it to re-occur, comprising preventive care support, and messaging, enhanced community engagement, provision of essential equipment and materials and supplies. The project is a unique example of a successful collaboration and transfer of mission activities to agencies, as the C-QIPs project was launched, followed by training in project management and tools for reporting jointly conducted by UNMEER and UNDP as part of the preparatory transition activities. Among the 70 approved C-QIPs CBOs, 46 focused on Ebola prevention against resurgence in approximately 62 communities in Montserrado County, while 15 focus on Ebola education in schools. Around 9 CBOs are involved with WASH activities such as construction of hand washing stations, water towels in designated community centers and school facilities. One of the CBOs also focused on Ebola survivors and their integration, spreading messages for their acceptance and elimination of all forms of stigmatization and discrimination against survivors in the communities.

The notable achievements of the project are the following:

- Capacities of 70 CBOs were strengthened to implement the CQIPs. By December 2015, 55 CBOs received full payments against their completed work plans. 76% CBOs completed implementation and reported
- Institutional oversight and reporting arrangements agreed/ concluded, including delineated roles for staff.
- Incidence of stigma and discrimination minimized or eliminated in 70 communities by end of project period. Awareness carried out in 55 communities on the EVD prevention measures, have helped in preserving stability of the gains made, with not reported incidence of a relapse of the disease in the project affected communities.
- Improved WASH facilities are available and accessible and used by residents and visitors in 70 communities
- 32 Communities now have access to WASH facilities t such as toilets and hand washing facilities; while 979 people have been provided psychosocial supports. In one school where a Hand washing poly tank was constructed, the deaf and dumb now use it to wash their hands every time they use the latrines. This has helped to imbibe the culture of hygiene consciousness now than hitherto existed.

Overall, the project has contributed in strengthening a culture of hygiene conscientiousness through community led total sanitation with regular hand washing, toward healthy lifestyles, while EVD survivors are gradually being accepted and integrated into communities due to reduced stigmatization and exclusions. Additionally, due to the intervention of the CBOs with funding through the C-QIPs Project, the lives of some 175 young speech and hearing-impaired children who were previously at risk of contracting the disease, have now equipped with preventive measures

While the project contributed to maintaining stability, building trust and community social cohesion, raising awareness, and reducing vulnerabilities of the communities, building their resilience to relapses/or resurgence of the disease, a number of CBOs had real challenges with respect to execution of project activities. In some cases, they did not have visible office locations or conducive environment for work as CBOs. However, 49 CBOs had demonstrated good progress toward implementation, of which 11 had completed successfully way before the end of the year. Implementation progress for some other 38 CBOs were found to be encouraging as they continued to the month of December 2015.

# **Background and Situational Evolution** (please provide a brief introduction to the project and the related outcomes in relation to implementation of the project (1-2 paragraphs)

The intervention seeks to strengthen the efforts of Liberian local and community based organizations toward preserving stability (reaching and staying at zero transmission), promoting recovery from the EVD outbreak and preparedness at the community level in Montserrado County. The project was initially implemented by the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in the framework of its Ebola Response Quick Impact Projects (ERQIPs) under the Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The C-QIPs aim to support local Liberian community based organizations (CBOs) from Montserrado County that are assisting people who have been affected by Ebola. The key focus is to preserve stability for the gains made and to promote multifaceted preparedness, including a transition to recovery, staying at or going beyond EVD zero. In line with the ERQIPs policy, the targets are simple, small-scale, low-cost and rapid to implement projects by grass-roots organizations working in areas of high concentration of people-of-concern

The targeted projects aim to respond to the basic priority needs expressed by communities and include a strong community participation component in the identification, design, and implementation and monitoring. The projects funded through this initiative will build on the existing gains by extending and strengthening current efforts through increased community engagement and mobilization as well as multifaceted preparedness, especially in the context of schools re-opening to preserve stability of the gains made in the Ebola response and Based on previous success, scale up and replicate the initiative, as it has drawn a lot of interest. The C-QIP is designed with a view to scaling up or replicating it in future, as it also pursues a parallel but complementary track to with CSOs/LNGOs and think tank, working with the IMS. In line with the ERQIPs policy, UNDP is targeting simple, small-scale, low-cost and rapid to implement projects by grass-roots organizations working in areas of high concentration of people-of-concern.

Although Liberia was declared EVD free and has stayed so since 2015, it is imperative to preserve stability, by strengthening preparedness to contain the disease when it re-occurs (via multiple methods, including preventive care support, encompassing messaging, enhanced community engagement, provision of essential equipment and materials and supplies). The increased and continued participation of CBOs in community mobilization will further strengthen the response level mainly at the grassroots level where the infection had been most prevalent. Participation of these groupings will provide traction and enhanced community awareness and prevention of Ebola in these areas in case of any future outbreaks.. The related outcomes are the following:

# • Enhanced capacity of the Communities to prepare and respond to EVD and other disease outbreak

# • Strengthened capacities of the CBOs to design, implement and report on project interventions

Among the 70 approved C-QIPs CBOs, 46 focuses on Ebola prevention against resurgence in approximately 62 communities in Montserrado County, while 15 focus on Ebola education in schools. Around 9 CBOs were involved with WASH activities such as construction of hand washing stations, water towels in designated community centers and school facilities. One of the CBOs also focused on Ebola survivors and their integration, spreading messages for their acceptance and elimination of all forms of stigmatization and discrimination against survivors in the communities. The project contributed in strengthening a culture of hygiene conscientiousness through community led total sanitation with regular hand washing, toward healthy lifestyles, while EVD survivors are gradually being accepted and integrated into communities due to reduced stigmatization and exclusions. Additionally, due to the intervention of the CBOs with funding through the C-QIPs Project, the lives of some 175 young speech and hearing impaired children who were previously at risk of contracting the disease, got equipped with preventive measures

While the project contributed to maintaining stability, building trust and community social cohesion, raising awareness, and reducing vulnerabilities of the communities, building their resilience to relapses/or resurgence of the disease, a number of CBOs had real challenges with respect to execution of project activities. In some cases, they did not have visible office locations or conducive environment for work as CBOs. However, 49 CBOs had demonstrated good progress toward implementation, of which 11 had completed successfully way before the end of the project. Implementation progress for some other 38 CBOs were found to be encouraging as they continued to the month of

# Narrative section: Key Achievements:

**WASH Initiative:** 9 CBOs were involved with WASH activities. Those activities were well targeted for the communities and institutions at their locations. At 5 of the target communities, the WASH activities included the construction of Hand Pumps, water reservoir and stations. Four of the CBOs targeted schools and other community facilities where hand washing stations were established

**Ebola orphans:** One of the CBOs managed an orphanage for the Ebola affected children. WASH and playground facilities were constructed to strengthen the psycho social support to these children, especially from the remote and poorest sections of the counties.

- Ebola Survivors integration: Approximately 15 of the CBOs worked on sensitizing their target communities against stigmatizing and discriminating against Ebola Survivors in the Robert Field High Communities, one of the Epic centers of the disease. This had been a serious issue all over Liberia particularly in communities where Ebola Survivors are visible. The CBOs projects planned, engaged community leaders who were used to ensure that Ebola Survivors are accepted and integrated into the normal activities of the communities like all others. Because of the involvement of the communities. The populated communities were targeted because those communities were hard hit during the EVD outbreak. Of the four sectors of Montserrado, 3 were covered (sectors 1, 3 & 4 Central Monrovia, Via Town to Browerville covering Caldwell and Johnsonville, Red-light to Mount Barclay covering Gardnerville, Bardnersville).
- Knowledge Enhancement (Capacity building): The other CBOs linked with the Community leaders, and youth groupswere involved into psychosocial training for transformation and preparedness for the EVD resurgence. The trainings were focused on the effect of Ebola on the Survivors and their affected families, prevention of Ebola to reduce or eliminate resurgence including hygiene and sanitation. Those trainings went across schools, religious leaders and other community structures such as women groups, Youth groups including people with disabilities. Most

of the CBOs used nationals trained as re social workers to be Facilitators. These were drawn from the Ministry of Health and other institutions to transfer knowledge to their target beneficiaries. The focus of these activities was to reduce or eliminate the potential of Ebola resurgence in the various communities of target in Montserrado. Examples of some of those organizations that worked with the national trainers included:(1) Edusport Liberia (2) Equipping Youth to Help One Another (3) Friends of Success (4) Survivors Aid International Liberia (SAIL), INC (4) Women of Change (5) Women and Adolescent Girls empowerment program

The above listed CBOs activities were focused on psychosocial interventions. As such, they required national trainers who were mostly available at the MOH, Mother Patern and other Institutions. During the EVD outbreak, international organizations especially provided TOT courses for selected individuals provided by the MOH and other health institutions to continue training activities to CBOs. Those individuals were certified as national trainers. Against this backdrop, the CBOs requested the services of the national trainers.

# **Delays or Deviations** – (Please provide short justification for any delays or deviations)

There was delay in project implementation due to the following:

This was one of the residual projects from UNMEER which UNDP inherited. The initial project document and MOU between UNMEER and Mother Patern had been amended to place UNDP as fund manager, and subsequently UNMEER Accra had transferred the funds to MPTF which in turn transferred the funds to UNDP. The candidate CBOs had been assessed to ascertain capacity, verified and approved by Mother Patern and UNMEER following which some 70 of them were selected as project beneficiaries through grants to implement community-based initiatives in Montserrado County. With all the preparatory work, implementation of activities by CBOs commenced in August 2015 and by September 30th, despite some technical hitches, all 70 CBOs had received 75% of the their approved grant for implementation which commenced in October 2015.

In November 2015, CBOs began reporting on their activities. The Based on reports from the partner as well as monitoring visits, 75% of payment of the funds to CBOs had been completed. Further, based on the progress of implementation by CBOs who had successfully implemented their activities against the 75% disbursement, some 54 were reviewed and approved for disbursement of the final balance of 25% of the grant. Of the 70 CBOs, however, 15 of them were found not to have complied with project guidelines and potentially defaulters with a potential liability to the project for some \$16,820. This matter was brought to the attention of UNDP by Mother Patern.

In response, UNDP contacted Mother Patern and together conducted field verification visits which also sought to trace the locations of the 15 non-compliant CBOs. At the same time, MPHCS also alerted leadership of communities where these CBOs were deemed to be operating to help in tracking, keeping UNDP informed, but this did not yield results. Other measures taken by Mother Patern included the publication of the non-complying CBOs in the newspapers, seeking public support in tracing them, writing to banks, in hope of securing the true identities of the owners/officials of those CBOs), and possible clues relating to their transactions.

It should be noted that Mother Patern had liquidated all the funds advanced to it inclusive of the (\$16,820) linked to the 15 non-compliant CBOs, who had received their first tranche (75%) before field verification exercises conducted showed that they had not complied and therefore could not be given further advances. These funds are part of the CO's contribution and not MPTF funds which have fully been utilized and reported on, with a balance of less than 2,000. In the midst of the wide-ranging fact finding measures, the issue was also brought to the attention of the Office for Audit and Investigations (OAI) with the case summary and actions taken. As there was no evidence of fraud or misuse of the funds to warrant investigation, they advised that the CO presses the IP, Mother Patern, to step up the follow-up. The CO is also taking additional measures including securing the services of IC to help with the follow up activities while holding Mother Patern ultimately accountable. In the meantime, as no further non-cost extension was granted, UNDP took the

necessary administrative actions and formalities to close the project operationally and financially and produce and end of the project report

#### Other issues:

- Delay in kick-starting implementation due to long process of negotiation and transitioning of the project from UNMEEER to UNDP.
- Delayed disbursement. The project was expected to commence in May 2015 but funds were only disbursed in August
- Delayed reporting by CBOs.
- Limited implementation capacity of some CBOs to implement their projects, with some 15 others defaulting, thus leading to a long process of tracking and verifying these CBOs. Fifteen CBOs amongst the 70 CBOs who earlier received the 75% of their overall budget could not be verified. By the close of the year 2015, 76% or 55 of the CBOs successfully completed their activities and submitted their reports, albeit some delays in receiving reports.

| No. of Beneficiar | ies    | Environmen   |
|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Women             | 29,000 | e.g. Medical |
| Girls             | 83,000 | e.g. Chemica |
| Men               | 21,000 |              |
| Boys              | 77,000 |              |
| Total             | 210000 |              |

Gender and Environmental Markers (Please provide disaggregated data, if applicable)

 Environmental Markers

 e.g. Medical and Bio Hazard Waste

 e.g. Chemical Pollution

Practice and

#### Best

# **Summary Evaluation** (one paragraph)

This project represented a good practice in promoting a multifaceted community mobilization solution with the targets being simple, small-scale, low-cost and rapid to achieve results through grass- roots organizations working in areas of high concentration of people. It responded to the basic priority needs expressed by communities with a strong community participation component in the identification, design, and implementation and monitoring. It built from other community engagement initiatives developed and implemented as part of the wider ebola response.

# Lessons learned

The ebola crisis demonstrated the crucial role that the communities and CSOs can play in responding to an outbreak and how they can galvanize their latent energy into action, for community and national development. While the crisis demonstrated the extreme vulnerability of the state and the citizens, a disconnect existed between key actors mandated to deliver services; the Community response was at its best and showed the need for partners to change their approach towards development assistance through engagement with communities and CSOs on how they support development assistance. The C-QIP was a clear demonstration of this.

Another common-sense lesson accentuated by the Liberia outbreak was that in fighting epidemics like Ebola which is local, solutions cannot be dictated from elsewhere. It is important to rely on local leadership, knowledge, build trust and confidence, to develop a situation-specific intervention, which will have local support and commitment in order to ensure its sustainability. The Montserrado initiative demonstrated that foreign expert intervention and billions of dollars alone is not enough to curb such outbreaks. The people suffering the disease within their physical and social-cultural circumstances, have something to offer. It is very important to seek and listen to their views first, and integrate into interventions. Ebola in Liberia has shown that it is a lot cheaper and easier to stop a viral outbreak early, before it metamorphoses into a full-blown epidemic, through community engagement. The most vulnerable were affected, especially the women, girls, and adolescent youth. This belies the need to focus on gender and youth empowerment programme, capacity and skills development. Through the experience of the C-QIP, UNDP demonstrated how it can play a significant role in bringing the connections between the center and the vulnerable. Within the Government, this disconnect became evident between central entities, but it was even more apparent between the center and the periphery (as demonstrated by the disparities in terms of resources and capacities to provide services as well as decision-making power).

From an operational standpoint, the project demonstrated that a transition to the fold of another UN organization is possible if they both are engaged in related programme activities that can be continued, scaled up or replicated. However, there is lot of negotiation required, as well as additional assessment in order to determine the risk being absorbed and the capacities required. While community mobilization is an effective tool to confront an emergency, care must, however, be taken to properly vet CBOs, and where applicable, secure community guarantees and participation of the community leadership in the operations of these CBOs. Activities with community leadership participation have proved to be most successful and effective.

# 2016 NIM Audit Findings

The project was one of those audited during the 2016 NIM/NGO Audit conducted by Price Water House Coopers<sup>8</sup>. According to this audit, the expenditure of some US\$360,815 audited including the funds from the MPTF, the conclusion was that the above expenditure was:

- In accordance with the project document, AWP and budgets; and are in compliance with the UNDP process for procurement/contracting activities was transparent and competitive;
- Equipment procured met the identified needs and it was used in line with intended purposes;
- Process for recruiting project personnel and consultants was transparent and competitive;
- Implementing partner accounting records are adequate for maintaining accurate and complete records of receipts and disbursements of cash; and for supporting the preparation of the quarterly financial report; and
- Request for direct payments were signed by authorized government officials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Audit Report available and can be made available.

#### <u>Annexes</u>

Story on the Ground

#### **Total Dignity Institute**

Amongst the vulnerable groups, one group that has serious challenge is the hearing impaired community. Painfully, they see, but find it difficult to communicate with the majority that dwells with them in the same communities. Worst is the fact that they are usually neglected by the society that do not care much to go through the struggle of helping someone who will pose serious challenge in terms of communicating.

Interestingly, one the CBOs-"Concern Women" directed its project to helping young Children who have the disability as their speech and hearing impaired, and attending a school located at the Old Road, Smyth road community. While preventive messages were important, this group of students had no means of accessing oral communication messages, a situation that could have hindered their participation in the fight. Therefore, at this school, the CBO translated Ebola Prevention messages into the sign language and trained the teachers teaching these youth who are attending the school in the use of the sign languages to communicate with the students.

Together with the construction by Concern women of a hand washing station at the facilities for these children thus complementing these efforts, also with funding through the C-QIPs Project, the lives of these 175 young speech and hearing impaired children were prevented from the reach of Ebola as they actively participated and were sensitized via sign languages. Beyond EVD, teachers in this school now have enhanced way of communicating, now making it possible to reach to students with disabilities of speech and hearing impairment.

#### **Concern Women**

Many schools in Montserrado that have Toilet facilities lack proper hygiene and sanitary care. Some of the toilets are not attended to by anyone in terms of cleaning. At some places, only the faculty toilets are properly clean but the students facilities are left unattended to making them a potential ground for acquiring diseases. Against this backdrop, the Concern Women, one of the C-QIPs beneficiaries embarked on improving the sanitary conditions at the Clayton M. Christensen Institute located on Smyth Road, within the Old Road community. The school has 366 students. Of this number, 136 are females and the rest are males. In addition to the poor sanitary condition of the latrines, the school did not have exclusive facilities for specific sex (male or female), a situation that made it difficult for mostly female students to use the facilities.

To address this situation, the Concern Women constructed a new modern toilet with exclusive partition for both boys and girls. The old toilet building that was no longer useful was demolished. Before this Concern Women intervention, students were using surrounding swarms as toilet. The swarm is right behind the school. The situation posed serious health hazard to the student population in the school. With this intervention there is a sense of relief for the students.

# Taffi Dollar

Due to the high rate of adults' death during the Ebola outbreak, many children were left orphan. Along the Robert's field Highway, a CBO called Taffi Dollar runs program for children. The program existed before the Ebola outbreak. During the

EVD epidemic, Taffi Dollar identified and enrolled many children who are orphan of the Ebola deaths. The population of the program increased. As Taffi Dollar succeeded in receiving the C-QIPs grant, the orphans then benefited from school and other psychological supports. C\_QIPs grant was then used to tap into the existing resources at the Taffi Dollar center. A sporting ground including a basketball court was built. The program a sustained by a Christian Mission

**Report reviewed by** (MPTF M&E Officer to review and sign the final programme report)

- o Name:
- o Title: M&E -
- Date of Submission:
- $\circ$  Email address:

Signature:

Annexes: Photo graphs of selected project activities



A newly constructed water storage tank for hand washing by students of the school of hearing impaired located on the Old Road, Smyth Road. This project was undertaken by one of the CBOs, Total Dignity Institute (TDI), of the C-QIPs project. The main goal of this project is to secure a community of Ebola-free Prevention and Care for hearing impaired students (EPCADS. The school is located on Smyth Road, Old Road community and is being run by the Church of Christ.

Photos of construction works of a playground for Ebola Orphans by Taffi Dollars.





80'x45'Basket and volley ball court back fill view.

80'x45 'Basket and volley ball court fully casted.

