

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF SIERRA LEONE (EFSL)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 16TH APRIL 2021
INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

I thank God for His grace that has kept us going as we continue to work in the midst of a global pandemic while at the same time working out our ongoing transition process to His glory.

This report represents a résumé of the key activities undertaken by the Fellowship through the various Project teams and the Secretariat covering the period December 2020 – March 2021. It is intended to keep exco members abreast with the realizations of the Fellowship despite the current challenges.

1. CEA/CHURCH SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

The CEA team during the period under review received four applications for EFSL membership. Three of the applicants namely the Light of God Evangelistic Ministry, Christ Miracle of Faith Ministries, and God of Possibility Ministries successfully went through the interviews with an average score of 78%, 76% and 65% respectively. The team hereby recommends the three applicants for interim membership in categories A3, A4 and A4 correspondingly.

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES

Despite the early distribution of annual membership dues invoices this year, as usual only Nine (9) members have paid their full dues out of eighty-five (85) members. We will continue to follow up and encourage them to see the need for supporting the work of the Secretariat.

3. RENEWAL OF EFSL REGISTRATION WITH CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC)

We have been successful in receiving confirmation of company restoration status with the CAC and allocated the company number **SLE310321EVANG2101651**. We have however put the change of Director, Change of Secretary and Change of registered office address to a later date after September 2021 when new leaders would have been appointed/elected.

4. RETAINERSHIP OF A LAW FIRM

Following a request to R.B Kowa and Associate law firm to retain their services, we have received positive response from the firm at a negotiated retainership cost of Le. 13,000,000 (thirteen million Leones) yearly.

5. STAFF MATTERS

Six new staff have been appointed on **contract** for six months period as Tutors on the SDF project. We also appointed Mr. Mohamed Jusu Senesie as the Education Field Officer to be based at the Mattru Jong sub-office. Theresa Kawa's service was terminated as Education

Officer and appointed as Office Admin. Three staff members in the persons of Margaret Tucker, Omotola Alolagbe and Shadrack S. Kpaka resigned. End of service benefits have been paid to Margaret and Omotola while part payment to Shadrack has been made.

FYC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The committee is currently in the process of finalizing the review of the FYC constitution. However, there are concerns lately over the continued deferment of meetings and single person representation from some partner organizations.

6. CHURCH ROOFING ASSISTANCE

We have continued to provide church roofing support to churches through funds provide by Support EFSL. For the period under review, we supported the Cross Purpose Church (Koindu) and the Manyeh community Church to roof their churches. In addition, the Baptist Church (Tintafor, Lungi) has commenced roofing work and the Wesleyan Church (Masongo, village) work slightly delayed due to the transfer of the Pastor and District Superintendent. However, the materials have already been made available to them for the roofing work.



Roofing Work in progress at Baptist Church, Tintafor, Lungi



Almost completed work on the Cross Purpose Church, Koindu

7. SUPPORT TO ORPHANS

We supported orphaned children in three project communities namely Western Area Rural, Bonthe and Port Loko Districts. In the Western Area Rural (Waterloo) orphaned children at the Heaven's Home Orphanage received food items comprising of rice, onions, vegetable oil, tomato, bundles of water and soft drinks. We also distributed school items including shoes to orphaned children in Mankakor, Bross, Modiyade, Kathoma and Tigbonor villages in the

Lokomassama Chiefdom, Port Loko District. In the Bonthe District we assisted orphaned children in *Jorma, Molucia, Tissana and Mowagor* villages.



Orphan Children in Bonthe & Port Loko Districts

8. SUPPORT TO MUSLIM BACKGROUND BELIEVERS (MBB'S)

During the period under consideration, monthly support for MBBs was provided to twelve people who were facing various challenges because of their faith in Jesus Christ. So far, they are all doing well in the faith and other aspects as well.



9. RADIO MINISTRY

The two EFSL regional representatives in the South/East and North/Kono regions continued to disseminate Christian messages through the one-hour radio programs in Bo and Makeni. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the radio programs have been used extensively for Bible studies, prayers, responding to questions, giving people hope and sensitizing churches and communities on how to stay safe and to comply with the COVID-19 regulations.

10. FINANCE

Our financial analysis over the period under review shows that we received funding for only four projects: *Bonthe Integrated Development project, Basic Education, Education 4 Development and Skill Development Project*. The details are as follows:

Project	Donor	Budget	Funds Received	Variance
Bonthe Integrated Development	Mission Alliance	\$ 292,928	\$112,447	\$180,481
Basic Education	Woord en Daad	SLL 1,113,949,536	SLL 371,316,512	SLL 742,633,024
Food Security	Tearfund Canada	\$ 94,888		\$ 94,888
WASH	Tearfund UK	£ 15,000		£ 15,000
Education for Development	AVIS	€ 11,975	€ 6,600	€ 5,375
Skill Development Project	Ministry of Higher Education	SLL 1,159,551,360	SLL 569,775,680	SLL 589,775,680

10.1 Staff Cost

Severance package (End of Service Benefit) for up to year ending 2020 has been paid in full to 10 staff as follows: 5 Admin staffs, 2 basic Education project staff, 2 Bonthe Development Integrated Staffs and 1 project driver for Food Security project

2 staffs from the Admin and Church Empowerment have received 50% of their benefits with the outstanding 50% to be paid later as funds are available together with that of management staffs

10.2 Audit

The 2020 project audit for Bonthe Development Integrated project and Basic Education Project have been completed and submitted to their respective donors. The 2020 complete annual audit is in progress with Bun Tejah Doherty & Co as auditors.

11. FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

11.1 TRAININGS:

Through our food security and livelihood project we targeted 300 farming households (comprising of Ebola survivors, widows, orphans, the aged and people living with HIV/Aids), 16 community-based extension workers and twelve Community based Nutrition Volunteers in the Lokomasama chiefdom, Port loko district. The project made the following during the period under consideration:

- Trained all 300 farmers on gender equality at household and community levels, from the 7th to 12th December, 2020

- Trained all 300 farmers on produce handling and marketing from 14th - 19th December, 2020
- Trained 300 farmers on gari and cassava flower processing and packaging, from the 11th to 16th January, 2021
- Trained 300 farmers on tree crop production and management from 25th to 30th January, 2021
- Trained 300 community members on hygiene and sanitation for the prevention of diseases from the 8th to 12th February, 2021 at
- Trained 300 beneficiaries on Guidelines for Healthy Eating and Food Guide. The training was held from 22nd to 27th February 2021
- Trained 300 household beneficiaries on gender roles and activities from 11th to 19th March, 2021
- Trained 300 farmers on repair and maintenance of cassava processing machines from 22th to 27th March 2021
- Conducted field monitoring to farms of project beneficiaries to follow up on trainings, provide technical guidance to on improved agricultural techniques and assisted farmers to establish demonstration plots they learn and replicate the ideas in their own plots.
- Conducted Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey with project beneficiaries from 14th– April 20th - 2021.

11.2 STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

Project staff received virtual trainings by the project partner CFGB - Agriculture and Livelihoods Technical Officers (ALTAs) on Agric. Marketing and Market linkages, Integrated Soil Fertility Management and Gender in Agriculture and Livelihoods Projects. The skills received from these trainings were used to modify the training contents administered to farmers in the project communities.

12. IMPACT INTEGRATED PROJECT

Our IMPACT (Improving Parent and Child Outcome) project in consonant with FGM operates in six communities in the Port Loko District. These are Mafokie, Kamaranka, Mayaya, Mahura and Lungi. During the period being considered, the following activities were conducted:

12.1 16 DAYS ACTIVISM:

We were able to join other activists globally to raise awareness on Gender Based Violence especially on women and girls. The activity was based on the theme ***“rise up, speak and support women and girls on GBV”***. In commemoration of the event, we had a symposium for religious leaders in the western area on the involvement of men and boys to eradicate GBV within the church and communities. Facilitators were drawn from the Family Support Unit- Sierra Leone Police, Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs, the media, Civil Society- Men Engage and our donor partners. In entirety, 28 participants represented their organizations.

Also, on the 10th December 2020, we collaborated with AMAZONIA Organization to organize a day’s symposium in Port Loko Town centered on the abandonment of knives by the SOWIES. Which led 16 SOWIES to speak on the negative impact of Bondo and pledged to lay down their knives.



12.2 REFRESHER TRAINING FOR PROJECT OFFICERS:

A two days refresher training was organized for our two project officers (David Bangura in Port Loko and Fallah Sakilla in Lungi). The training was to help them improve their quantitative data collection and reporting using the Mi-Hope phone and the Kobo Collect Application. Other areas covered with them were work ethics and showing them how to complete their appraisal forms.

12.3 CONTEXTUAL BIBLE STUDY:

The contextual bible study is an ongoing activity done by Pastors and continues every other month. They use the Contextual Bible Study on FGM and Early Child Marriages provided by Tearfund with scriptural references. After every group study, the pastors go back to their churches and implement action points either on the pulpit through preaching or Sunday school messages through the different auxiliary groups. Periodic reports are done by the pastors to the project officers. This

activity has led to the creation of school clubs in 4 schools that meet every Friday to discuss issues on FGM and the law. It has also led to a community led action group for girls which are done in two communities every Saturday evening.



- **JOURNEY TO HEALING:** This is also led by survivors called Champions who holds meetings with survivors of FGM to see how they can speak out to regain healing on abuses of FGM. We have a total of four (4) groups in the two project locations with a total of 64 survivors.
- On the 16th and 17th of March 2021, meetings were held with key Community Stakeholders in the Port Loko Township and Mahera communities on the development and implementation of bye-laws on SGBV issues.
- In port Loko, 30 participants were given orientation on our operations within their community and how we desire to have bye-laws to safeguard women and girls of gender base violence occurring within the communities that they are aware of and most time brought before them for judgment. The two chiefs that were present emphasize that laws on FGM is highly political but will engage other chiefs to see how we all can come together and create the needed bye laws. It was decided that the Imams join the Contextual Bible Study, and the manual was given to one of the Sheik to find Koranic scriptures before holding meeting in April.
- In Lungi, 30 participants attended the meeting. The community instituted a bye law that prevents pregnant women from delivering at home. Defaulters will be penalized by paying the sum of Le 150,000. We applauded this venture as it proved effective and led to a decrease in maternal and child mortality in the community.

❖ Data from the field shows that total clients served stands as follows:

Total number of Client from October, 2020 to March 2021: PORT LOKO

Kamaranka CHC	Maforki CHS	SLCE CHC (Mission Road)
Victoria 33	Hawa George 24	Rita Deen Kamara 25
Huldah 26	Augustine 21	Salamatu Turay 31
Samuel 23		Aminata Samura 26
Total 82	45	82

Total number of Client from October, 2020 to March 2021: LUNGI

OKU TOWN	MAYAYA	KABIA TOWN
Fatmata Kunu 18	Marie Suma 25	Marian Bangura 21
Ashley Ansumana 15	Magdalene Ndanema 17	Nanah Mansary 16
Gloria Kanu 25	Aminata Kamara 22	Hannah 26
Vandy K. Sowa 24	Hannah Lamin 22	Deborah Turay 9
	Victor Deud 40	
Total 82	126	72



Pregnant women received gifts for delivering in hospital

12.4 PACWA

The PACWA women continued with their weekly Monday online meetings where they discuss several issues affecting women and their participation in church and community activities. They hold face to face meeting every 3rd Monday at 5:00pm at the EFSL hall.

The PACWA 30th Anniversary Celebration: The women launched the 30th PACWA anniversary celebration on the 24th of February at the Regent Road Baptist Church, with 167 women from different churches in attendance. Rev. Frances Bioro, the first PACWA leader gave the profile of the Alliance while Rev. Doris Kanu gave the keynote address and Mrs. Marcella Samba-Sesay did the launching. Several activities are still lined up for the celebration



13. REAPS TVET

13.1 STAFFING SITUATION

REAPS currently has a total of 24 staff members with 11 on government payroll and 13 on REAPS payroll. The intension for the future is to get more part time staff recruitment by government or get them replaced with staff that already have pin-codes thereby reducing the financial burden on the Institute.

13.2 STUDENT STRENGTH FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

The academic year started on a very good footing for student number compared to last year. Below is a breakdown of the student roll:

Diploma year 1	70
Diploma year 2	45
Certificate year 1	89
Certificate year 2	56
Total	260

13.3 EXAMINATION, CLOSURE AND REOPENING/RESUMPTION OF CLASSES.

Examination started on 15 March and ended 31st March 2021 for continuing students for all programs and at all levels. The Institute closed down for first term on 31st March 2021 and reopened and resumed classes for 2nd term on 12th April 2021. However, the Administrative section didn't closedown except for public holidays.

13.4 FINANCES- BANK

The financial balances at the bank stands at 40,807.928.94 SLL as at March 31, 2021. We hope to be able to meet our normal running cost for the rest of the academic year and all salaries and pay off of final benefits to Mr. Sheku Kpaka who resigned recently.

13.5 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUNDS PROJECT.

The SDF project written last year was funded by the World Bank through the MTHE and its implementation started in January 2021. It is expected to provide skills training to 288 formal and non-formal youths across seven department within a period of 6 months. The total value of the project is SLL 1.1b

14. BONTHE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This project is currently implemented in the Impere, Jong and Bom Chiefdoms in the Bonthe district. We have over the period under consideration realized the following:

14.1 COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION.

The project team held meetings in five communities to share the project goals and objectives and to also explain the roles and responsibilities of residents in the project communities. The project staff explained the project documents to residents and stakeholders in Torma and Teissor that were selected to benefit from the school infrastructures development. Community residents offered land for the construction of the school buildings, water well and toilets.

14.2 CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Construction work on two new school buildings with water well and gender sensitive toilets in two communities (Torma in Bom chiefdom and Teissor in the Impere Chiefdom) started in January 2021. In March 2021, the Interim General Secretary and Project Team leader made site visits to evaluate work done as against money disbursed to contractor. The team observed that all specifications for the school building were considered, materials used were of good quality and therefore was pleased with the quality of work done by the contractor and his team



Construction site in Torma



Construction site in Teissor

Three water wells were constructed in three communities (Boama and Ndeama in the Bom Chiefdom and Bobasani in the Impere Chiefdom) all in the Bonthe district. Preliminary activities involved community mobilization through meetings and site selection led by staff of the Ministry

of Water Resources taking into account sanitary considerations and the prevention of underground contamination.



Water well in Mboama



Water well in Ndeama



Water well under construction in Bobasanie

14.3 TRAININGS

For the period under review the team conducted following trainings

- Train Households in Teissor and Bobasayni on improved hygiene practices: A total of 100 household heads were trained on improved hygiene practices. The training was conducted on the 15th, 16th and 17th March ,2021 in the project communities.



Participants sharing knowledge training practices



HH heads trained on improved hygiene practices

14.4 TRAINING OF ON COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION

50 natural leaders were trained on from 20th to 24th February in Teissor and Bobasaynie in Community -Led Total sanitation. During the training participants were trained on the use of local materials to construct household latrines. The training was attended by residents from the Impere and Jong chiefdoms in Bonthe district.



Participants at the CLTS training



Participants after the CLTS training

14.5 AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP

We awarded scholarship to 86 Student teachers to attend the FTC distance education classes in FTC campuses in Freetown, Mattru Jong, Pujehun and Koindu for the 2021/2022 academic year.

15. BASIC EDUCATION PROJECT

15.1 END OF 2020 ACTIVITIES

Through the basic education project, we realized the following activities towards the close of the year 2020:

- The provision of teaching and learning material for examination NPSE and BECE classes
- Provision of dry ration for all the 175 sponsored children from five communities
- Provision of mosquito nets and Blankets
- Consultative meetings held in various communities with head of schools, teachers, SMC, CTA and community stakeholders on orientation of sponsorship program and the procedures involved
- Orientation and sensitization on the retention of children in education program
- Training conducted for school administration and management on inclusive education and development of school policy on special needs and disabled children in various schools
- Special training for teachers assigned to sponsorship children in various schools of our operations.



The distribution of school and learning materials to sponsored children



Distribution of food items, mosquito nets, blankets and used clothing to sponsored children

15.2 PROVISION OF DRY RATION TO SPONSORED CHILDREN IN FIVE COMMUNITIES

Since the restriction of people's movement from one place to the other and schools were not in session for quite a long time, 175 sponsored children were not given foods as before in their respective communities and as such, dry rations were given to them and their families. 175 sponsored children were provided for with dry rations which included rice, palm oil, onions, salt and Maggie. In addition, the information of each child has been updated captured in the WDCAP



Food items distributed to sponsored children

15.3 TRAINING OF TEACHERS, CTAs, SMCs, AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

For the period under review, training was conducted for heads of schools, teachers, SMCs, CTAs and other community stakeholders. The training covered child protection, inclusive education, teacher development and other child development topics.



Participants from five communities pose after the training

15.4 IDENTIFICATION, VERIFICATION, AND REGISTRATION OF 150 NEW SPONSORED CHILDREN IN FIVE COMMUNITIES

150 additional new sponsored children were identified, verified and registered and taken on our sponsorship programme for 2021 project year. This was done in collaboration with the heads of schools, sponsorship teachers and community stakeholders. The 150 children were taken from Mowagor, Semabu, Tissana, Logbana and Mosonga all except Semabu are from the Jong Chiefdom and Semabu in the Sogbini Chiefdom.

CONCLUSION

I want to take this opportunity to thank the exco for their relentless efforts in providing leadership. I also thank my Supervisor for his guidance and advice that has kept me moving on and the rest of the staff team for their support at this time. I appreciate all our donors who have contributed immensely to the realizations made. I thank you all and God bless.

Faithfully Submitted,

Rev. Musa F. Fobay

INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY