

## **EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF SIERRA LEONE (EFSL)**

### **GENERAL SECRETARY'S UPDATE TO SAVE, USA**

#### **Introduction**

This update provides a summary of activities of the EFSL Secretariat by the respective departments for the period January to June 2019.

#### **Membership**

The membership continues to grow with currently a total of 81 members. Seven new applications for membership were received and four of them interviewed on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The interview panel recommended the undermentioned for the approval of the ExCo and Council:

- Project Jephthah Foundation- Category B2 – Full membership
- Jesus Saves Gospel Outreach Ministry- Category A4 – Full membership
- Day Light Vision Ministry- Category A4- Interim membership
- Living Word International Church –Category A4 – Interim membership

#### **Assistance to Rural Pastors**

Farming seeds (2 bushels rice & 2 bushels groundnut each) and tools (hoes, rakes and cutlasses) were supplied to 20 Pastors in Port Loko and Daru to help them engage in farming to support their families and ministry. In addition the 20 Pastors were supplied with bicycles to assist them with outreach especially to the villages.

#### **Study Bibles, Bicycles & Sewing Machines**

Twenty Study Bibles were distributed to 5 UBC conference Pastors, 5 New Harvest Global Ministries and 10 to the Pastoral Councils in Port Loko and Kambia Districts.



*Pastors in Kambia and Port Loko with their Study Bibles*

One sewing machine each was donated to two Christian women (Christiana Williams & Elizabeth Matthews) and two machines to the Dream Again Home orphanage in Wellington, Freetown.



Mrs. Elizabeth Matthew



Donation at Dream Again Home

### **School Construction**

The EFSL with the support of Woord en Daad is currently constructing a six- classroom block at Levuma village, Jong Chiefdom, Bonthe District. The project is expected to complete in November 2019.

### **Child Sponsorship**

Seventy-five children in the sponsorship program in Semabu and Morwagor villages were supplied with school materials and used clothing.



*Sponsorship Children in Morwagor and Semabu village supplied with School bags, school items and clothing*

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

### **Port Loko Livelihood Project**

The EFSL is currently engaged in livelihood, WASH & HIV IMPACT projects in Port Loko, Bombali and Bonthe Districts.

The Livelihood project in Port Loko District is being implemented in six villages (Bross, Kigbal, Modiade, Mankankor, Kathoma and Tigbonor villages) in the Lokomassa Chiefdom. The project targets 300 households with Ebola survivors and orphans, aged and people living with HIV and AIDS.

Each of the three hundred (300) households were initially supplied with okra, pepper, amaranthus and onions seeds for cultivation. Sixteen (16) extension volunteers were trained on the improved farming techniques to provide support to EFSL staff in mentoring the activities of the beneficiaries in the respective communities. The beneficiaries have been supplied with groundnut seeds, cassava cuttings and Cashew nuts.



Picture 1. Shows okra field in Makankor



Picture 2. Chief Murah and sons in their onions farm

EFSL also provided training for beneficiaries on gender equality and its impact on household's advancement. The training covers topics such as gender roles and responsibilities. As a result of this training, staff observed communities have started discussing how they can place the women in the community development initiatives and there has been an increased in the number of women attending community meetings.

The six communities in September were supplied with Cassava processing machines, hoes, cutlasses, watering cans, shovels and measuring tapes to further empower them to do their farming.



### **Bonthe Livelihood Project**

EFSL is also engaged in Livelihood and WASH projects in six communities (Gerima, Semabu, Wangifor, Bissao, Logbana, Jagalor and Sebehun villages) in the Sogbeni, Jong and Imperi

Chiefdoms. Rice , cassava cuttings and groundnut seeds were supplied to one hundred and seventy-five (175) farm families in the respective Chiefdoms.



Farmers standing by their groundnut seeds and cassava cuttings Project beneficiary weeding his groundnut farm

We have established eight Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Project communities in partnership with the local churches in the communities.



VSLA meeting in Semabu Village

The VSLA members were trained on the management of VSLA scheme and how they can use the social funds to contribute to community development. The commencement of the VSLA in project communities has increased residents access to finance and has reduced the burden of paying high interest rate to traders. They now have the opportunity to loan money without collaterals

The construction of four water wells have been completed in Mattru Jong, Jangalor, Sembehun and Lungi communities in the Jong and Imperi chiefdoms. Water Management committees have also been established and trained in all project communities to enable them manage the wells.





### Water Wells Constructed at Mattru Jong and Lungi Village

Two VIP latrines have also been constructed at the Baptist Junior Secondary School, Lungi village, Imperi chiefdom and the Agricultural Vocational Secondary School, Mattru Jong.



VIP Latrines constructed at AVSS and BMJSS

### Impact Project

The HIV IMPACT project is being implemented in Makeni, Bombali District aimed at eliminating Parent-to-child HIV transmission and the following have been achieved so far:

- Procured and distributed mobile phones to ten (10) mother buddies to aid their reporting and communications with their clients (Pregnant women and their spouses)
- Conducted 2-days training for Mother buddies on the nutritional requirement of pregnant women and lactating Mothers.
- One hundred and fifty (150) pregnant women and spouses were identified and accompany to various hospitals in Makeni to do HIV and AIDS tests. The rationale for the HIV test was to eliminate mother to child HIV transmission in Makeni.
- Two (2) HIV positive cases were identified and referred to Makeni Government hospital for treatment

### TVET Image Campaign

EFSL was awarded the TVET Image Campaign project as part of the Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Project (YEEP) funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) for 15 months. The project aim to build a positive image and social perception for TVET sector in Sierra Leone and positively change the perception about TVET among parents and young population.

The inception meeting for the commencement of the TVET Image campaign was held on 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the EFSL conference hall attended by staff of National Youth Commission,

Representatives from the Department of Mass communications ( FBC) ,TVET coalition Members, NCTVA, Youth Service Commissions, Chamber of Commerce and Fifty Media houses (electronic and print)



Inception Meeting at EFSL Conference Hall

## **REAPS VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE**

A new Principal Mr. Alex K. Thomas was appointed as Principal in January 2019 after the resignation of Mr. Michael A. Renner. One hundred and thirteen (113) students graduated (80 Certificate and 33 Diploma) on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The school currently has an enrollment of 267 for the academic year. A total of 71 students are registered to take the NCTVA Exams this year (30 Certificate and 41 Diploma). The Board has approved the upgrade of REAPS to a college level and the administration is currently on the process with the relevant authorities.

Faithfully Submitted

Jonathan Titus-Williams (Rev)

**General Secretary/CEO**