



## **COVID-19**

### A WORLD HOPE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE PROPOSAL

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## CONTEXT

Although unknown prior to the recent outbreak in Wuhan, China (December 2019), the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is severely affecting older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions globally<sup>1</sup>. As there is currently no vaccine or antiviral medicine available to prevent or treat COVID-19<sup>2</sup>, the virus has spread voraciously from Wuhan, China. To date, there have been over 110,000 confirmed cases globally, with over 4,000 deaths, and more than 80 countries affected in Asia, Europe, Australia, North and South America, and Africa. More than 10,500 of these confirmed cases are outside of China, including over 165 deaths.<sup>3</sup> The World Health Organization has provided interim guidance for dealing with COVID-19 for countries affected, but the virus is likely to persist until a vaccine can be found, resulting in global service disruptions and many more potential deaths.

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

2 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>

3 <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200311-sitrep-51-covid-19.pdf>

## WHI'S EXPERIENCE

Having been working on the ground in Sierra Leone since 1996, WHI immediately scaled and sustained efforts throughout the 2014-2016 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak to combat the disease. WHI partnered with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, World Health Organization, UNICEF, CDC, IOM, UKAID, and the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund to holistically empower, protect, and build resiliency across the country of Sierra Leone. Working quickly to respond to those in need, WHI achieved the following through its efforts to combat EVD:

### HEALTH SERVICES

- Made and delivered **7,200 meals** and other daily living necessities to over **800 quarantined individuals**
- Triaged **2,500 patients** and provided inpatient care to over **350 victims** in Community Care Centers (CCCs)
- Directly supported another **15 CCC's** with all required supplies – medication, equipment, cleaning materials and personal protective equipment
- Built isolation and triage units for use during the outbreak at rural hospitals and clinics in Kamakwie and Sella Limba
- Provided virus testing to hundreds of male Ebola survivors across the country to prevent transmission
- Distributed **12,000 bars of soap** to facilitate regional Community Health Office sanitation efforts

### CAPACITY BUILDING

- Trained **250 CCC staff** (nurses, cleaners, and security) and **80 hospital staff** in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures
- Trained multiple Burial Teams and **130 community leaders** in safe burial techniques
- Trained the members of **15 villages** on virus prevention, detection, and hygiene requirements
- Provided sensitization training to **177,000 individuals** across the country

### TRANSPORTATION

- Identified and screened **114,092 potential and actual Ebola victims** in their homes
- Transported over **800 suspected or confirmed Ebola patients** in WHI ambulances
- Provided over **600 maternity transports** in WHI ambulances

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- Donated and delivered **468 gallons of palm oil** and **441 bags of rice** to **2,290 individuals**
- Provided all weekly food supplies for patients and staff at **15 CCC's** for **6 months**

## WATER AND SANITATION

- Drilled **81 wells** to support EVD isolation and treatment centers. Constructed water towers and solar pumps at **56 CCC sites** and sinks, toilets, showers and waste zones at **34 CCC sites**.
- Renovated a hospital maternity suite and refurbished water systems
- Renovated the water and sanitation system for the primary Ebola holding center in Bombali

## RESPONSE/ACTION

Despite fighting off EVD in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia, many African countries continue to rank worst globally in being able to deal with epidemic. They are not prepared to deal with the new global health challenges that COVID-19 presents<sup>1</sup>. As confirmed cases have already appeared<sup>2</sup> in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Togo, and many African countries have economic relationships with China, it is likely only a matter of time before more cases appear across the continent.

*Based on our track record and continued presence on the continent, World Hope International knows what it takes to prepare for a COVID-19 outbreak.* Countries in Africa must have strong systems established to prevent, detect, and eradicate the disease. These systems must be able to quickly detect, examine, and confirm new cases of COVID-19. There must be uninterrupted supply chains of critical medicines, infection prevention and control equipment, and trained health workers who can respond appropriately. Communities also need accurate and widespread education to inform and combat misinformation. The international community is already identifying what needs to be done to support impacted countries in Africa. We must strengthen government capacity, meet WHO standards of patient care, sensitize communities to the virus, promote and resource effective hygiene practices, conduct contact tracing, increase and improve isolation facilities, and support infection prevention and control capacity by equipping health facilities with supplies such as protective gear and hygiene products.



In coordination with other stakeholders, **WHI is prepared to bring this technical experience to the fight!** WHI has the staff and capacity to protect vulnerable communities, anticipate outbreaks in health hotspots, establish preventative measures and, most importantly, work side by side in those communities where we have long-standing relationships to reinforce prevention methods and understanding of COVID-19. We are prepared to lead disease surveillance activities, serve as referral mechanisms from communities to isolation centers, provide protective equipment for healthcare workers, train on and distribute test kits and vaccines (when available), set up or renovate isolation units, increase WASH capacity at health care centers, and educate communities on prevention, detection, and eradication.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html#map>

## WHO WE ARE

**World Hope International** is Christian relief and development organization working globally to reduce poverty and injustice using market-based and community-led water, health, and protection programming in more than 20 countries. WHI helps to strengthen public health systems alongside doctors, clinicians, and physical therapists, so communities will have access to affordable healthcare and prevention services. We train Community Health Workers and local church partners in disease surveillance such as the Ebola epidemic, reproductive health, maternal and child health, and community-based management of malnutrition and HIV/AIDS.