



the survivor  
dream project  
faith | design | change

**The Survivor Dream Project  
Ebola Survivors - Resource Guide 2016**

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## **THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)**

On May 24th 2014, the first case of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak was recorded in Sierra Leone, by the end of the year, there were 9,605 confirmed cases and 2,801 deaths. The 2014 EVD outbreak affected all 14 districts in Sierra Leone, to date there are over 4,000 Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone. This figure is not disaggregated by gender, district or the necessary demographics needed for targeted social interventions to occur. Survivors face urgent health problems as a result of having contracted EVD, including vision and hearing impairment, joint and muscle pain, fatigue, headaches, and emotional or psychological distress. In addition, it has not been an easy journey for Ebola Survivors who have returned to their homes and communities. Having to cope with the stigma attached to being a Survivor they are left extremely vulnerable and struggle to find consistent and sustainable financial and social support.

A number of government and non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, and local organizations have come together to provide services for Ebola Survivors. However, a number of Survivors do not know that these services exist or have the means of accessing these services, even though most of the services provided are free of charge.

| This **Resource Guide**, prepared by The Survivor Dream Project, comprises an index of medical and social services available in Freetown, Sierra Leone to Ebola Survivors. |

## THE SURVIVOR DREAM PROJECT

### WHO WE ARE:

The Survivor Dream Project (SDP) is a community solutions based organization, dedicated to supporting the youth and young women who have survived post-traumatic events, implement sustainable and impactful social change within their communities— where it matters the most. We offer an unconventional approach to social development for women and youth.

Our principles are rooted in Faith, Design and Change. **Faith** in the human capacity to heal. The SDP is branching from solely being a post-Ebola survivor support platform, to a post trauma and healing mission. We believe in the human capacity to heal and grow beyond measure. **Design** of road-maps to recovery by supporting social-economic dreams and aspirations. These are channeled through innovation, art and creativity and there is a standard of individual ownership of solutions. **Change**: that occurs at a personal level is the catalyst for sustainable impact on community ecosystems.

### MISSION:

Healing bodies & transforming communities.

### OUR APPROACH:

At the SDP we tailor community designed projects based on the social area of focus. We provide a kick-start package that encompasses;

- a. **Build Up! Support Network** that establishes safe space to incubate and nurture leadership and participation; build trust and foster partnership and accountability
- b. **Inspire & Upscale Capacity** through education and economic empowerment which we recognize as fundamental tools for empowerment, personal security and claiming of rights.
- c. **Speak Up! Story Telling** platforms that facilitate ownership of ‘safe spaces’ in communities as permanent, reliable and sustainable spaces for women + youth. The stories come from the community & belong to the community.

## **OUR PROGRAMS:**

### **[Project I] - Women and Ebola**

A community designed concept for a one year period that offers a kick-start package for women who have survived Ebola in Sierra Leone, seeking to provide a safety net for women by building a community of supporters with the aim to ensure that each and every woman that participates in Project I sets into motion her aspirations to live her life to the fullest again.

#### **NURTURING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY DIALOGUE & ENGAGEMENT:**

We host monthly support network sessions for the survivors in the program, nurturing a safe space for dialogue and community engagement. We encourage women and young girls in the program to build trust and partnership in one another. We use this time to come together to access information, strengthen capacity, engage in dialogue about pressing issues and exchange ideas. In this space, women are encouraged to speak earnestly about progress in their personal lives and share their ideas for growth with one another.

#### **SUPPORTING EDUCATION, LIVELIHOODS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

Our program is split into two core areas of social development tailored to fit the development cycle of life for women and young girls. Our school-going girls in the program are provided with extra-curricular activities and education capacity support by partnering with other educational institutions in the country. Our petty traders (women) survivors are matched with a partner organization to gain entrepreneurial skills and are required to go through a set of training sessions which help to build business plans and models.

### **[Project II] - Sexual Rights & Innovation**

The program is rooted in creating 'safe spaces' for women, girls and young men in Sierra Leone. The initiative to establish this program was driven by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak that saw the loss of over 4,000 lives nation-wide. The development of Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) is a key strategic intervention for the protection and empowerment of women and girls who were disproportionately affected by the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. Over the last ten months, SDP has provided support-network sessions for a group of twenty young women and girls who survived Ebola as part of the WGSS program. SDP is committed to establishing 'Safe Spaces' in Sierra Leone's current context, and beyond, as the country emerges from a humanitarian and post-crisis context.

## **SPACE FOR ADVOCACY + POLICY - WHY DO WE NEED A RESOURCE GUIDE?**

Information is power and many of our women in the program are unaware of social and corporate sector opportunities and services available to them. Furthermore, many Ebola Survivors, both male and female are unaware of the networks and services available to assist them with their re-integration to their communities.

The Survivor Dream Project has developed two tool kits for women in the program:

**A resource guide** that outlines what is available to Ebola Survivors and how such services are accessed.

**Policy Briefs** that are a collection of their stories aimed to feed into wider lessons contributing to national policy. All the survivors have experienced the system in response to the Ebola outbreak, especially health workers. It is their experiences that must be placed in a comprehensive lessons learnt document that can be used to influence policy and decision making for future outbreaks that Sierra Leone and the rest of Africa may encounter.

**| This Document contains the Resource Guide of services available in Western Area (predominantly Freetown) for Ebola Survivors. |**

## **I. The Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors**

29 Dundas Street, Freetown Sierra Leone

Contact number: +232 79 048138

The Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors (SLAES) is a national voluntary organization which was established on the 7th of January 2015 by the initiative of some Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) survivors in response to the impact of the EVD outbreak in Sierra Leone that happened in 2014.

SLAES believes in life after Ebola. That is why they support EVD Survivors and people affected (widow, widowers, orphans, etc...) to make the best recovery they can. They also campaign for better recognition and care of Survivors.

**Mission:** to alleviate suffering of survivors and support people affected by Ebola and their families/caretakers on their journey to recovery

**Vision:** A Sierra Leone Ebola free where Survivors are recognized in a society that fosters a culture which respects and supports people who experience the consequences of Ebola with access to health services for the road to their recovery and well being.

### **Services:**

- Medical attention and psycho-social counselling
- Livelihood support
- Education / Research

### **Activities undergoing and/or planned to develop include:**

- Community sensitization on EVD related topics
- Farming production
- Technical training and psychosocial care
- Management skills trainings and Entrepreneurship
- Adult education
- Microfinance scheme

## **MEDICAL SERVICES**

### **I. The Survivor Clinic - Freetown**

#### **Doctors Without Borders / Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International**

Sir Samuel Lewis Road, Aberdeen, Freetown Sierra Leone

**Doctors Without Borders / Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** help people worldwide where the need is greatest, delivering emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from health care.

MSF played a key leading role in treating people who suffered from Ebola and continue to provide medical and psychosocial services to some of the country's 4,000 Ebola survivors in Freetown and Tonkolili district.

In early December, as health facilities in the country's capital, Freetown, became overwhelmed, MSF opened an Emergency Medical Centre (EMC). A new design was used which meant that the intensive care ward could be viewed through plexiglas and patients could therefore be better monitored by staff who did not have to wear protective gear.

**The Survivor Clinic** - in Freetown has been running since February 2015, providing primary healthcare and mental health support, with currently around 140 consultations per month. MSF also runs community sensitization and stigma reduction activities.

## **II. The Survivor Clinic- Funded by The University of Liverpool**

34 Military Hospital, Wilberforce, Freetown Sierra Leone

The University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom, is one of the greatest centres of research, knowledge and innovation. Their pioneering reputation attracts students, experts and partners from around the world. Through their research, teaching and collaborations they seek to be life changing and world shaping.

Researchers from the University of Liverpool's Institute of Translational Medicine, have conducted a study of Ebola survivors to describe the medical problems they continue to have after recovering from the acute disease. The results of which have been published in the journal "Emerging Infectious Diseases".

**The Survivor Clinic** - funded by the university provides free consultations and gives out free drugs to Ebola Survivors in Sierra Leone, upon proof (survivors certificate). The clinic is open from 8 am to 4 pm on weekdays.

### **III. Rainbo Centre Freetown**

#### **Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH)**

Fourah Bay Road, Freetown Sierra Leone

Contact Numbers: +232 76 668052, +232 79 630139

The Rainbo Centres, originally known as the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) were established in Freetown, in 2003. The centres are designed to provide consistent, appropriate, timely and accessible medical and psychosocial services to survivors of sexual violence from the town and its surrounding communities. The centres work very closely with the Family Support Units of the Sierra Leone Police, and with other local service providers addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues, to establish and maintain a comprehensive and holistic system for providing support to survivors of GBV in the areas of health care, legal protection, psychosocial support, and personal security.

For all survivors visiting the Rainbo Centre, services are provided as requested and on consent of the survivor. Medical care and examinations are conducted by midwives employed at the centre, while contracted doctors provide medical examinations and medical certificates for legal purposes, if a survivor wishes to pursue her case in court. Additional medical services provided as requested include pregnancy testing, STI treatment, HIV testing and counselling and post-exposure prophylaxis, treatment for wounds and injuries, and other basic care as needed. In addition to health care, survivors receive psychosocial and counselling support; assessment and information on options available; assistance in planning their next steps; and follow-up case management support as requested.

**Services are only available to girls and women.**

#### **IV. Partners in Health - Freetown**

Freetown, Sierra Leone

With invitations from local partners and ministries of health, Partners In Health began working in Liberia and Sierra Leone in September 2014.

Their response can be divided into two phases:

In the first phase, they trained and deployed roughly 200 expert doctors, nurses, and other professionals to provide care to patients. They hired approximately 2,000 locals, including Ebola survivors, as support staff, community health workers, and orphan caregivers.

In the second phase of their work, the organization focused on strengthening health systems with the immediate goal of ensuring safe births, treating illnesses like malaria, and tackling other primary health care problems. The immediate priority is screening all of the roughly 4,000 Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone for post-Ebola complications such as uveitis, an inflammation of the eye that can lead to blindness. As such, they partnered with a handful of organizations to operate a clinic and mobile clinics, and employ community health workers to reach out to the community.

**V. ESCC/CPES Project, DFID Funded Project**

**(Implementing Partners - GOAL, IMC, PIH, WHI, KSLP, Welbodi Partnership and MDM)**

All Districts in Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone

This Project focuses on improving access to health care facilities and services for EVD survivors to ensure they realize the maximum potential out of their lives and to reduce the chance of an EVD resurgence. The project will seek to provide, for free all basic drugs and make referrals to secondary and tertiary HF for any specialized medical services for survivors as may become necessary.

GOAL Ireland is the lead partner for this project.

## **PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL)**

4B King Harman Road, Freetown Sierra Leone

Contact Numbers: +232 77 223734, +232 78526237

The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) is an umbrella organization of seventeen member churches and ten affiliates.

The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) is a member of the National Ebola Task force through which churches have the opportunity to influence the quantity, tone and impact of communications related to Ebola.

The council comprises of other religious bodies including Catholic mission, Pentecostal fellowship and different Muslim bodies, the CCSL is addressing the Ebola crisis with a “united perspective”. Through Religious Leaders Task Force on Ebola (RLTFE), anti-Ebola training sessions were conducted in local communities. Heads of the churches and mosques spoke to their congregations not only from the pulpit but on radio and television.

CCSL works with and through its members implementing programs. Members facilitate and coordinate projects at community level and play a crucial role in implementing the Council’s initiatives. CCSL focuses its efforts on these areas:

**CCSL provides psycho-social support to Ebola Survivors and provide referrals to UMC Eye Clinic and 34 Military Hospital, Wilberforce.**

**IsraAid, Sierra Leone**

13 Pipe Line, off Wilkinson Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Contact Numbers: +232 78 864031, +232 76 792403

IsraAID Sierra Leone, provides training on trauma and stress management for hundreds of government and non-profit service providers to help contain the spread of Ebola, and support affected communities. They've worked tirelessly to provide psycho-social support to vulnerable populations including Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) - affected children, survivors, and workers at the front-line of the fight against Ebola (mental health nurses, hotline operators and burial teams). They also raise awareness on the importance of hygiene in order to prevent the spread of EVD.

The organization provides psycho-social support training to local social workers dealing with the anxiety of communities affected by the world's worst outbreak of the disease, which has already claimed more than 2,600 lives in West Africa. IsraAID Sierra Leone partners with local and international NGOs to help foster sustainable programs and build the capacity of the people of Sierra Leone.

**The MSF Clinic and the Rainbow Centre, also provides psychosocial support services; including one on one counselling.**

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

### **AdvocAid International, Freetown**

39 Upper Brook Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Contact Numbers: +232 76 895370 / +232 79 193414

Founded in 2006, AdvocAid has been running for nearly 10 years and has now established partnerships and programmes that enable them to create real positive change for women in Sierra Leone. AdvocAid provides free, holistic and targeted legal aid for girls and women in conflict with the law in Sierra Leone, supporting them from police station to court. As well as ensuring women have access to justice, they also educate them on their legal rights, and provide detainee support, education and moving forward programmes to make women stronger and more empowered upon release.

Alongside legal interventions, they advocate for change in Sierra Leone's archaic legal system, highlight key issues and human rights abuses through reports and research and maintain a very visible presence that holds the police, correctional centres and courts accountable in their roles as keepers of justice. AdvocAID has an extensive experience in responding to Sierra Leone's legal, human rights and gender based challenges, designing programmes and campaigns that are targeted, innovative and impactful.

They believe change can only come about for women in Sierra Leone if they receive education and economic empowerment. They therefore deliver literacy classes, vocational training and business skills training to women in detention. Their programme provides incarcerated girls and women with welfare support when behind bars. Welfare packages are delivered every three months and include items such as sanitary towels and toiletries. In Sierra Leone, being detained and imprisoned leads to women being hugely ostracized and often shunned from their family, village and livelihood. Therefore they prepare women for release, and provide them with the skills and support to thrive in their communities.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

**A number of governmental and non-governmental organizations also provide funding and services Ebola Survivors as well as projects and organizations that support Survivors.**

**These Organizations include:-**

**The Ministry of Health and Sanitation**

**The World Health Organization (WHO)**

**The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**

**Organizations funded by The Development for International Development (DFID)  
and others.**

## **CONTACT US**

**If you loose one battle, don't give up. Get up again, you have a war to win.  
- SIRA MASETTI**

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