

The Healthy NURSING Collaborative Workshop

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By

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Outline

- Background of the Organisation
- The health of nursing workforce in Sierra Leone
- Barriers preventing nurses living a healthy in Sierra Leone
- Support/solution given by the Association

NEW MAP OF SIERRA LEONE SHOWING REGIONS AND DISTRICTS



0 20 40 80 120 160 Kilometers

- Legend**
- Map Towns
 - Main River
 - Major Roads
 - Regional Boundary
 - District Boundary
 - Chiefdom Boundary

Background of the Organisation

- The Sierra Leone Nurses Association (SLNA) founded in March 1961.
- Is a professional body that seeks the interest and welfare of nurses in both public and private sectors, and ensures that they deliver quality healthcare to the people of Sierra Leone.
- The Association is a registered member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF).
- SLNA is also linked with the Diaspora Sierra Leone Nurses Association Chapters in United States of America and the United Kingdom
- The Association runs meetings for general members and organises periodic conferences and workshops for members, work with relevant stakeholders primarily focusing on national issues that addresses the welfare of members.

One of the IPC training organised by the Association



The health of nursing workforce IN Sierra Leone

- Nursing is a unique services provided by Nurses. They render **indispensable services** to Society, Communities, Families including mothers and babies therefore, their health and wellbeing must be prioritized globally by all.
- Sierra Leone has no direct policy as of now to address welfare of nurses (using civil service structure)
- The Ebola Viral Disease outbreak in Sierra Leone took a toll on the lives of Health care workers as we lost over 150 Nurses
- Nurses are also succumbing to other diseases/health conditions that sadly could not be cured in the country and needs interventions and treatment abroad a cost for which they cannot afford.

Nurses during training



Barriers preventing nurses living a healthy in Sierra Leone

- Poor working environment, exposing nurses to diseases such as Ebola and Hepatitis and more
- Inadequate equipment's
- Poor conditions of service (eg. Salaries, inadequate staff, accommodation in rural settings, no health insurance scheme etc).
- No immunisation facility for nurses eg: hepatitis
- No proper policy on occupational health and safety
- Very old Nurses Act reviewed and awaiting Parliamentary approval

Nurses trained with support from Commonwealth in Bo



Nurses trained in Koinadugu district



Support/solutions given by the Association

- Working with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation through the Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery Services, the Registry and Human Resource for Health in providing policies that addresses nurses welfare including occupational health and safety.
- Organised trainings in collaboration with partners such as Commonwealth Nurses, Ministry of Health, Public Services International to increase members knowledge in relation to their health and patient safety
- Lobby together with other organisations to Government for Health Insurance Scheme (Act signed in December 2017 awaiting implementation).
- Still advocating Government/WHO for free Hepatitis vaccines for all nurses.

Support/solutions given by the Association-cont

- Ensure through Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery that all nurses were trained and continue in Infection Prevention and Control and other safety practices.
- Continue to lobby for overseas treatment as few nurses have benefitted
- Empower Nurses: planning to have orientation package for members informing them on what to do when ill, when to report, where to go, how to go about it, etc: Health is Wealth is the watch word – a Change in Behaviour –as education is key.

Future plan

- Strengthen district/hospital welfare committees to support each other.
- Support the Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery services for continue support for nurses at top management level within the Ministry.
- Empower Nurses: Orientation package for them on what to do when ill, where to go, how to go about it, when to report etc: Health is Wealth is the watch word – a Change in Behaviour –as education is key.

Training organised by Commonwealth Nurses – Making pregnancy safer



PSI Meeting in Monrovia/Liberia



MOHS/DNMS Policy Session



Greetings from Freetown



Thank you for your attention.