

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BO

**SOCIAL MOBILIZATION
PROGRAMME ON
EBOLA**

**WORKSHOP ON INTERVENTIONS
FOR EBOLA PREVENTION FOR
PARISH PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS,
PPC CHAIRPERSONS AND LEADERS OF
DIOCESAN ORGANIZATIONS**

AT

DIOCESAN PASTORAL AND SOCIAL CENTER

DATE

AUGUST 19TH - 20TH AND 22ND - 23RD, 2014

Sponsored by: CARITAS/SL

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Report on
Workshop on interventions for Ebola prevention for Parish Priests and Religious, PPC
Chairpersons and Leaders of Diocesan Organizations

Venue: Pastoral and Social Center, Bo

Date: 19th – 20th and 22nd - 23th August

1.0 Training Participants

The participants for the training comprised Parish priests, PPC Chairpersons, CMA chairpersons, CWA chairpersons, CYO presidents, Catechists, and Leaders of Diocesan Organisations from all parishes under the Catholic Diocese of Bo. (See attached attendance registers).



Figure 1. Parish Priests in attendance 19th - 20th session



Figure 2. Parish Priests in attendance 22nd - 23rd session



Figure 3. Cross section of Parishioners in attendance

2.0 Content of Training:

Training sessions included:

1. History and facts about Ebola
2. Community sensitization
3. Advocacy skills
4. Focus group discussions
5. Helping skills
6. Monitoring and Reporting

3.0 Training Schedule:

3.1 Timetable:(See below)

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BO
SOCIAL MOBILIZATION PROGRAMME ON EBOLA
WORKSHOP ON INTERVENTIONS FOR EBOLA PREVENTION FOR PARISH PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS, PPC
CHAIRPERSONS AND LEADERS OF DIOCESAN ORGANIZATIONS AT DIOCESAN PASTORAL AND SOCIAL CENTER,
AUGUST 19TH - 20TH AND 22ND - 23RD ,2014

TIMETABLE

TIME	DURATION	SESSIONS	FACILITATOR(S)
9:00 – 9:30 am	30 mins	Arrival and Registration of Participants	All
9:30 – 9:45 am	15 mins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers • Welcome Address 	Mgr. S. T. Gbondo
9:45 – 10:45 am	1 hr.	Official Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants - Bishop of the Diocese of Bo - DMO • Statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - His Lordship, Bishop C.A.M Campbell - Chairman, Bo District Council - Director, Caritas/SL • Keynote Address – The DMO, Bo 	Mr. V. A. Dauda
10:45 – 11:00 am	15 mins	Tea Break	
11:00 – 11:15 am	15 mins	Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Workshop • Objectives of the workshop 	Mr. V. A. Dauda
11:15 – 11:45 am	30 mins	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Sharing 	Ms T. Songu
11:45 – 12:45 pm	1 hr	Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and Facts about EBOLA 	DHMT & MrA. Kargbou
12:45 – 1:30 pm	45 mins	Session 4 Community Sensitization:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy Skills • Focus group Discussion 	Mr. M. Massaquoi & Bo DHMT
1:30 pm – 2: 30 pm	1 hr	Session 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping Skills 	Ms. Songu
3:00 pm		L U N C H and Departure	

Day 2 – 20th August 2014

TIME	DURATION	SESSIONS	FACILITATOR(S)
9:00 – 9:30 am	30 mins	Arrival and Registration of Participants	All
9:30 – 9:45 am	15 mins.	Prayers	
9:45 – 10:15 am	30 mins	Recap of Day 1	

10:15 – 10:30 am	15 mins	Tea Break	
10:30 – 11:30 am	1 hr	Develop Plan of Action	Sr. Flo Bayo
11:30 – 12:45 pm	1hr, 15 mins	Practical Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Group Discussion • Community Sensitization 	DHMT and T. Songu
12:45 – 1:30 pm	45 mins	Monitoring and Reporting	Mr. V. A. Dauda and T. Songu
2 :00 pm		L U N C H and Departure	

3.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

By the end of the Training participants would have been able to:

1. Learn from the experiences on Ebola from those living in the midst of the crisis
2. Receive update on the Ebola situation in the country
3. Define Ebola
4. List out its causes
5. State some of its means of transmission
6. List signs and symptoms of the disease
7. Discuss ways they can help prevent the spread of the disease
8. Discuss some skills in community sensitization
9. Discuss some Helping Skills
10. Develop plan of action to implement Ebola prevention intervention in their congregation, health facilities and communities

4.0 Trainers/Facilitators:

Facilitators were drawn from professional background including:

1. Mr. Mohamed Massaquoi – Health Education Officer, Bo DHMT
2. Mr. Alfred Y. Kargbou – Public Health Inspector and Lecturer, Njala University, Bo Campus
3. MSGR. Fr. Simeon T. Gbondo – Vicar General representing the Clergy
4. Md. T. Songu- Educationist
5. Md. Florence Baio – Public Health Sister
6. Mr. V. A. Dauda – Public Health Professional (Rtd)



Figure 4. Batch of Facilitators pose for photo

5.0 Workshop Proceedings:

5.1 Opening Courtesies

5.1.1 Daily Prayers and Welcome Address

Each of the workshops commenced at about 10:45am with prayers by The Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Bo – Rev. Fr. Simeon T. Gbondo, who also welcomed participants. In his address, he expressed delight for the presence of Parish Priests as a sign of their commitment to not only religious issues of their parishioners, but that their response showed a sign of their moral obligations to the welfare of their parishioners. He implored participants to pay attention to all facts and prepare to join in the fight against Ebola disease that is not only killing people, but also ravaging the socio-economy of the nation. A special prayer against Ebola was read by all participants as prepared by the Catholic Mission and previously distributed

5.1.2 Introduction

Self introduction was done by all participants, followed by introduction of His Lordship The Bishop of the Diocese of Bo, Bishop Charles A.M. Campbell and the District Medical Officer of the Bo District Health Management Team (DHMT) in person of Dr. S. Turay by Mr. Vandi A. Dauda.

5.1.3 Statements



Figure 6. His Lordship, Bishop CAM Campbell of the Bo Diocese

and has been discharged well. He called on participants to show commitment for all Sierra Leoneans in the fight against the disease, adding that our country is now being referred to with some form of stigma, especially with the cancellation of flights to the country.



In His statement, the Bishop expressed his concern for the welfare of the parishioners especially about the threat posed by the disease. He recalled the Diocesan representation in the Training of Trainers session conducted by the Inter-Religious Council in July 2014, in which 4 participants represented the Diocese, which has led to the present workshop.

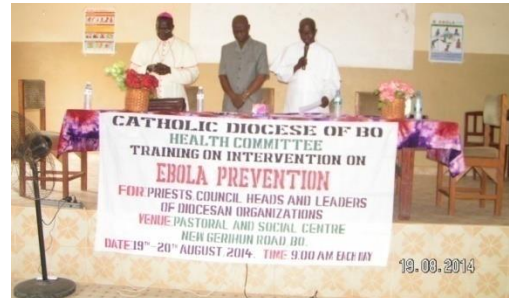
He expressed the denial syndrome and callousness of some people that is contributing to the spread of the disease. Fear, especially baseless fear, makes people restrictive and creates hopelessness about the disease he said.

He however expressed happiness for the priest who was taken to US

and expresses appreciation to CARITAS and the MOH&S for their support in organizing the workshop

In his opening statement for the second session, the Mayor of Bo City- His Worship Harold L. Tucker reiterated the route of Ebola into Sierra Leone from sister neighbouring country of Guinea, just like the past war entered Sierra Leone from sister Liberia.

Figure 5. His Lordship Bishop CAM Campbell (left), Dr. A. S. Turay, DMO of Bo District (Middle) and Vicar General, Rev. Fr. S. T. Gbondo of the Bo Diocese (Right) on the panel for the opening ceremony of 19th - 20th August 2014



However, he expressed that “Whatever your sister has you share” although disheartening. “Ebola is even worse than the war”

He said that we should not cast blame, but show commitment in the fight as the country has been overwhelmed. He said it is a lesson to Sierra Leoneans to learn our own experience especially when reaction to the outbreak was slow at all levels.

He however expressed his gratitude to people of Bo for their pro-activeness and prompt intervention, and appreciated the numerous prayers offered against Ebola, especially the one by the Catholic Mission, which he promised to take to the City Council for continuous reading/recital.

He also thanked the DHMT for public sensitization that has created so much awareness on positive behavioural change. He expressed similar sentiments to the 2 councils and other stakeholders who serve on the task force in the district.

He concluded by calling on all to accept Ebola and prepare to face the reality in stepping up prevention advice, upon which he declared the Workshop open, as Chairman of the Meeting.



Figure 7. His Worship, The Mayor of Bo City, Chairperson for second session of the trainings

In his statement, the DMO recalled the gradual spread of the disease to every part of the country, for which there has been different responses from national to international. He informed participants that quarantine was now in place for which Bo was no exception.

He gave updates on the present status of cases and deaths due to the disease both at national level and district levels.

Although the figures could be alarming, he expressed happiness for survivals which he attributed to early reporting and the availability of supportive treatment at the treatment centers and hospitals.

He emphasized that religious bodies and the councils have been very supportive of the DHMT and called on participants to rely on official data

Figure 8. Dr. A. S. Turay, DMO-Bo and Sanitation giving speech

On his part, the Director of CARITS/SL in person of Mr. John Bull recalled that from the onset of the incidence of Ebola in May, CARITAS/SL quickly met with the Bishops of the Catholic Mission in Sierra Leone on the church’s response to the crisis, from where he later sourced funds from International partners for emergency response. The Director posed questions on some myths about Ebola with regards the source of Ebola, stigma related to ambulance sirens and quarantine. He concluded by calling on participants to address issues of denial and conspiracy theory in their effort to dispel all fears about Ebola.



Figure 9. Bro. John Bull, Director, CARITAS/SL

5.2 Daily Sessions:

5.2.1 Administration proceedings

Each of the training sessions was preceded by Overview and objectives of the workshop as presented by Mr. V. A. Dauda. Included in the objectives were for participants to:

- Learn from their experiences on Ebola
- Review updates on the country situation of Ebola



- Understand key facts about Ebola including definition, causes, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms and prevention
- Learn and develop community sensitization skills
- Discuss helping skills amidst the trauma, fear and denial behind the Ebola outbreak
- Plan to implement Ebola sensitization and prevention interventions at congregational levels and communities.

Figure 10. Mr. Vandi A. Daudapresents objectives of workshop

5.2.2 Training Methodology

Experience sharing

Plenary sessions

Practical sessions of focus group discussion

Group work on work plans

Questions and Answers

Demonstrations

5.2.3 Recaps

A recap of the first days' sessions was led by Mr. Vandi A. Dauda, followed by contributions by participants. The recap of previous day's sessions was a reminder for participants about key/notable issues learnt. It was however interesting to note that participants were excited about issues focusing on their responsibilities in the fight against Ebola including;

- Basic facts about Ebola – cause, mode of transmission, signs & symptoms, risky practices and prevention
- Dispelling negative misconceptions that lead to denial, fear and complacency
- Community sensitization
- Correct Chlorine mixture for varying uses including disinfection and hand washing, with emphasis on regular hand washing with clean water and soap.
- Messages in the practical performance of drama groups depicting risky practices that lead to spread of Ebola



Figure 11. Participants take part in practical session on Focus Group Discussion

5.2.4 Extras of Training

Apart from the sessions, participants were entreated with drama and songs about Ebola transmission and prevention by:

1. Skits by UMC Gospel Group - First set of training
2. St. Theresa's Parish Youth group – Second set of training



Figure 12. Drama and Ebola song presentation

5.2.4 Training Outcomes/Recommendations and Resolutions

Development of work plan at parish level formed the climax of the trainings as parish priests are expected to continue with sensitization as a follow-up implementation strategy

- Among the tasks were parish level trainings
- Conducting focus group discussions in communities involving all other religious bodies, community elders, youths, women, health workers etc.



Figure 13. Participants receiving chlorine kits

6.0 Ebola Preparedness Kit

Distribution of hygiene kits including chlorine and buckets with taps, communiqué on Ebola as released by Council of Paramount Chiefs and Chlorine mixture guide marked the end of the training sessions to all Parish Priests.

7.0 Annexes: Other photos of the workshop

Photos of Group sessions (below) in progress at different points within the workshop venue



Plenary sessions and Group presentation (below)



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Temporal evolution of total cases and deaths									
Date of report	Guinea		Liberia		Sierra Leone		Nigeria		
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	
11 Aug 2014	1,975	1,069	510	377	670	355	783	334	12
9 Aug 2014	1,848	1,013	506	373	599	323	730	315	13
6 Aug 2014	1,779	961	495	367	554	294	217	298	13
4 Aug 2014	1,711	932	495	363	516	282	691	286	9
1 Aug 2014	1,603	887	485	358	468	255	646	273	