



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SIERRA LEONE (ELCSL)
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

REF: REPORT TO NT-NL SYNOD

DATE: 20th April, 2021

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone

ASSESSMENT & UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN SIERRA LEONE

ASSESSMENT

- The ELCSL has done her level best to meet the needs of covid-19 vulnerable groups during the high peak of the pandemic with support from its partners.
- The general populace are gradually returning to their socio economic livelihood to cater for their needs
- The church faced high impact of covid-19 as worship places were close which affected the spiritual life and socio economic life of the church members
- Worship places that were close has now been open and normal service has resumed but however been mindful of the government regulations
- The church and community members are stable and are currently engaged in their different socio economic livelihood activities.
- The congregations continue to observe Covid-19 protocols to ensure they are protected even though some measures has been relaxed by Government but warned citizens to protect themselves.
- Pastors, Evangelist are oriented to provide update on covid-19 during Sunday service.

1.

- With support from partners (LWF, ELCA and NTNLS) the church embark on rapid response during the high peak of Covid-19
- The church provided food and nonfood items to extreme vulnerable families during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period.
- Quarantined homes were supplied with food items (Rice, vegetable oil, drinking water, assorted cooking items and charcoal)
- The church also provided hand washing materials to public places (Check points, market, Worship Places and Community Barrie)

COPPING WITH COVID-19

- The church and the leaders are coping with the covid-19 shocked that almost cripple their livelihood.
- The children are going to school after a long closure of school
- Family lives are now returning to normalcy with economic challenges to care for their families.
- Women, men, boys and girls in the church faced different challenges during the heavy waves of covid-19.

THE NEEDS OF ELCSL

- The church have intervene in disaster response over the years with short term support to vulnerable families and children. This has stop due to funding challenges and weak phasing out

2.

- mechanisms on emergency project activities. The families have return to their old livelihood survival of life the church tried to take them from.
- There is a current fire disaster that occurs three weeks ago and has affected the lives of 1,500 families members and 1,000 household affected and displaced.
- The Church is desire to embark on sustainable livelihood through backyard garden and micro finance support to community and women's groups to enhance their Socio-economic livelihood.
- The church has been identified and placed by the National Disaster Management Agency as faith Based organization in three pillars.
 - Assessment & Psychosocial Support
 - Social Mobilization
 - Logistics
- The church is desired to continue with the assistance been provided to vulnerable families and communities to cope with their livelihood.
- There is huge challenges on water in both operational and non-operational communities. As such, women and children are affected due to the lack of adequate water in the homes. Both

sexual and gender Based violence occurred during the struggle to fetch water at water points.

3.

- There is huge gains in a community savings activities called Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). The church want to continue with the model as means of sustainable measure to encourage families save their resources.
- The church plans for the general Assembly is in place including all logistical arrangement for the events.
- The is also desire to continue human capital development to enhance human resource of the church.
- Develop project proposal to solicit funding to continue the church developmental activities.

IMPACT OF COVID -19

➤ Church and Congregational Level

- The church faced both religious and economic challenges to meet the needs of the church.
- Worship places were closed new ways of worship was introduced to congregation members.
- Project and church activities were interrupted and such was unable to achieve its desire result.

4.