



RESILIENCE

ACTIONAID LIBERIA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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SAFEGUARDING IN EMERGENCIES

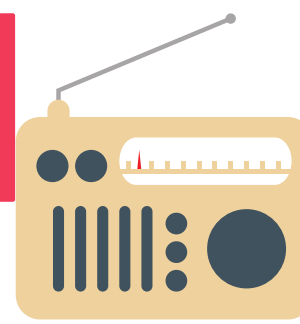
COVID-19 is largely seen as a public health concern. Socio-economic disparities such as poverty, literacy, access to gender responsive public services (health care, education, livelihood, and protection), cultural beliefs, gender and social norms, and access to information are not factored into analyses of the impact of the virus or within the lockdown measures. These factors not only increase exposure, but also exacerbate the challenges for women, girls, and marginalized populations in having to travel, sometimes long distance to access services, information, and means of sustaining their livelihood. Furthermore, the scale and severity of the pandemic, restrictions around certain rights, such as those imposed by quarantine or isolation, limiting freedom of movement, without any adequate and timely provisions of social protection, makes the adherence of the lockdown measures challenging for many, especially those that are vulnerable and marginalized.

At a time, where careful attention to human rights such as non-discrimination, transparency, and respect for human dignity is vital to fostering an effective response amidst the chaos and disruption that inevitably results in times of crisis, we have seen the opposite applied. The deployment of joint security forces inclusive of the military and the imposition of overly broad measures that do not meet the above criteria, have proven to be problematic. ActionAid has closely been following information and cases around security personnel interpreting lockdown penalties, though vague, into their own understanding, and enforcing them as they see fit, which often have resulted in the use of excessive force, violence, and exploitation of victims.

Furthermore, the public outcry in voicing their concerns regarding human rights violations and calling for investigations into cases of violations are gone unmet by the state, with no redress or accountability measures put in place to mitigate this. It is with this backdrop ActionAid Liberia secured a national radio talk show spot on one of the most acclaimed radio stations in Liberia to reinforce Safeguarding information, measures, and reporting for communities; specifically those vulnerable and most marginalized. Additionally, the talk show also aims to bring human rights issues and concerns at the front of the nation to encourage decision makers to include human rights and social protection services within the National COVID response efforts.

The Safeguarding and Human Rights radio talk show is implemented on a weekly basis, with content ranging from human rights protection and practices, sexual and gender based violence, children's rights and protection, among many others. Led by AAL's safeguarding focal point, Gloria Barloun, callers are asked to call in to engage in real time, interactive conversations as it pertains to their rights and reporting cases of violations. By utilizing the transmission apparatus of the radio station across the landscape of the country, we have been successfully able to reach over six counties and about 100, 000 listeners to date. The Safeguarding in emergencies radio show orchestrated by ActionAid Liberia has received rave reviews from the general public, with most notable callers being both the Solicitor General of Liberia and the Minister of Justice, positioning AAL has a key advocate within the human rights protection space in the country.

**CALL 3636 TO
REPORT
SAFEGUARDING
INCIDENTS**





Lakshmi Moore, Country Director
ActionAid Liberia

“

The Covid-19 outbreak has definitely reinforced existing socio-economic inequalities and exposed gaps in our current economic model and governance. It will have wide ranging impact on the education, people's livelihoods and their trust and confidence in the government. Loss of income and jobs especially in the informal sector mainly occupied by women and young people, and other issues such as hike in prices of imported food, essential commodities, and public transportation; supply chain disruptions and mental health needs connected to the lockdown will be critical issues to address during and post-outbreak. A comprehensive social protection and gender responsive economic relief program are needed to enable Liberians, especially women, young people and marginalized communities, already experiencing double fatigue from the 2014 Ebola Outbreak and the civil war to forge a strong recovery and build resilience to pandemic's impact on the country and the world.

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THE FORGOTTEN FRONTLINERS: THREE WAYS LIBERIAN YOUTH ARE LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

In a context where 60% of the population is under 35, young people are critical stakeholders for humanitarian response in Liberia. In crises, young people are specifically impacted due to their roles including caregiving, local trade, and transportation. In addition, many young people lack access to critical public services such as healthcare, WASH, and educational and social protection opportunities which are exacerbated during humanitarian crises. For young women in particular, existing vulnerabilities such as gender-based violence, exploitation, and abuse, and women's unpaid labor burden are further increased during crisis, especially when access to prevention services are lacking and or restrictions are placed on income generating activities they depend on. Many of Liberian youth depend heavily on the informal economy and occupy areas prone to community transmission, with inadequate access to social services and political influence.



Despite the risks and vulnerabilities young people face in humanitarian situations, it would be improvident to view youth only as victims or beneficiaries of assistance. Experiences during the 2014 Ebola (EVD) outbreak, demonstrates how young people in Liberia were at the frontlines volunteering their services, utilizing their skills, and knowledge to provide immediate and timely support to their peers and communities; making their contributions invaluable to the relief and recovery efforts of EVD. Building off lessons learned from EVD, It is with this backdrop, ActionAid Liberia is committed to working with young people, especially those further marginalized by engaging them in decision making processes for response, recovery, preparedness, and risk reduction amid Covid-19 response efforts. ActionAid recognizes young people as key stakeholders within this fight and their vital roles as activists, innovators, and humanitarian actors, thus making their involvement key to achieving healthier communities and gender inclusive solutions.



“As Liberia grapples with unparalleled challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a glimmer of hope, with Liberian youth leading the way to increase awareness, education, and resilience efforts within their communities and across the country—Patience Landford, Head of Programs and Policy, ActionAid”



SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

Recognizing young people's vital roles as first responders and agents of change within their communities and the best representatives of their needs during humanitarian crises, ACTIVISTA LIBERIA are working as a collective to address the needs of their communities through the distribution of vital information, food, and sanitary supplies to street vendors, kekeh drivers, and especially to the most vulnerable; giving their communities and peers the opportunity and necessary information and supplies needed to curtail the virus even amid the scarcity of essential resources within the country.

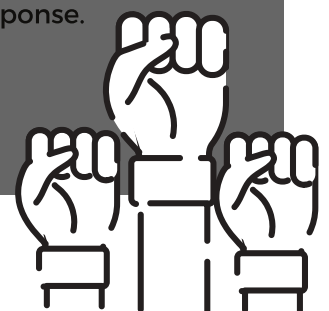
SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

With physical distancing and lockdown measures put in place by the Government of Liberia, youth leaders and activists through ACTIVISTA LIBERIA are using a series of social media messaging with support from ActionAid Liberia to increase awareness around COVID-19, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights to encourage their peers to take preventive, safety, and precautionary measures to safeguard themselves and their communities. With the ultimate goal of providing their peers a holistic picture of the changing COVID-19 context, and minimizing emerging culture of rumors, hoax and fear.



TRADITIONAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Recognizing that not everyone has access to the internet, ACTIVISTA LIBERIA are utilizing radio programming to ensure inclusion, gender sensitivity, and accountability; bringing youth voice and the impact of COVID-19 on young people at the center of the nation's attention. The radio segment aimed to amplify the need for making humanitarian systems work for young people by systematically including them in the process to address their risk factors and maximize the abilities to drive local response.



TARLEE DAHN



**#THURSDAYSINBLACK
CAMPAIGN**

*Standing in solidarity in resisting
attitudes and practices that
allows rape and violence against
women and girls in Liberia*

Digital Awareness



ACTIVISTA is a global platform for youth network to build the capacity of young people within their countries. With the objective of meaningfully engaging young people in discourses and decision making processes that affects their lives at the national and international levels.

THE NEW NORMAL: ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The coronavirus pandemic, coupled with restrictions around movements and curfew instituted by the Government, has brought the new need for embracing digital technologies. To this end, ActionAid Liberia has deployed a host of digital platforms to support around awareness building for mass mobilization and capacity development opportunities for staff, partners, and key stakeholders. While digital platforms have created new opportunities for engagement, it is also important to note that it does not replace traditional modes of awareness building and mobilization; given challenges with internet access and power shortage for most communities especially those rural, rather ActionAid Liberia is utilizing these digital spaces to complement existing efforts on the ground and across our communities of operations..



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT- SHIFTING THE DISCOURSE ONLINE FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

ActionAid Liberia has channeled significant investment and resources to optimize digital spaces for capacity building, connection, and opportunities to learn and share best practices. Utilizing online webinars and meeting tools has allowed us to find innovative ways amid the shutdown of the country to best strengthen the capacity of our staff, partners, and relevant stakeholders. This effort is based on a deeply held belief that response efforts lies on the backs of our local actors, and it is our duty despite any challenges to meet their capacity needs with creativity, innovation, timeliness, culturally relevant, scalable, and tech-savvy solutions.

Topics that have not traditionally been part of capacity development agendas, such as social media development and management, have grown in importance within our digital capacity trainings; presenting a rich opportunity to diversify capacity building opportunities.



"Through ActionAid capacity development opportunities utilizing telecommuting tools, it has allowed me to carry out my trainings on time, efficiently. My confidence has been boosts as I am able to host meetings on my own on zoom, allowing me to reach larger audience and participants"- Gloria Barloun- Program Coordinator; ActionAid Liberia



UPCOMING EVENTS! ACTIONAID COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES



Breaking the Silence and
Ending the Culture of
Violence Against Women
and Girls Amid Covid-19.

JUNE 12, 2020

Safeguarding Women and
Girls in Communities
Against Sexual Exploitation,
Abuse and Violence During
COVID-19

JUNE 19, 2020

Who cares for the future: Financing
Gender Responsive Public Services for
Sustainable Development

JUNE 23, 2020

SRHR Matters:
Ensuring a
Comprehensive
SRHR amid a Global
Pandemic

JUNE 26, 2020

Where are the Women?:
Gendering Covid-19 and
Harnessing Womens
leadership and Expertise
for a Gender Responsive
Humanitarian Plan

JULY 3, 2020

The Forgotten Frontliners: Putting Young
People at the Centered of Humanitarian
Response and Recovery

JULY 10, 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA

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FACT SHEET COVID-19

WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?

Coronavirus also known as COVID-19, which causes illness ranging from the common cold to more serious sicknesses.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

- Fever
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Running Nose
- Difficulty Breathing
- Sore Throat
- Severe headache

HOW CAN IT SPREAD?

Person to person contact; when you come in contact with an infected person through coughing, sneezing and touching.

The virus can fall on objects around you such as clothes, tables, door handles, and then passed on to other people who touch these surfaces, and then touch you.

When you breathe in the air that has the virus.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF?

- Use the inside of your elbows to cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and or use hand sanitizer
- Avoid shaking hands
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home and stay indoors if you can

IS THERE A VACCINE?

No there is no vaccine for the coronavirus yet

IS THERE TREATMENT?

There is no specific treatment for the virus, however, the disease can be treated based on the patient's signs and symptoms (fever, sneezing, coughing etc.)



This fact sheet is brought to you by The National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in partnership with ActionAid Liberia

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WHO IS AT RISK OF GETTING THE CORONAVIRUS?

Everyone is at risk of getting the corona virus, especially people who are in close contact with someone showing signs and symptoms. Also, people do not always have to show signs when carrying the virus, which is why social distancing is important.

actionaid



4 EASY WAYS TO AVOID INFECTION OR SPREADING OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Always Wash Your Hands

Regularly wash your hands with soap and water, and or use hand sanitizer.



Cover Your Mouth and Nose

Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbows when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching your face



No Hand Shaking

Avoid shaking hands with people, instead give a wave or nod when greeting.



Stay Home

Keep social distance, stay home if you are feeling sick, and call 4455.

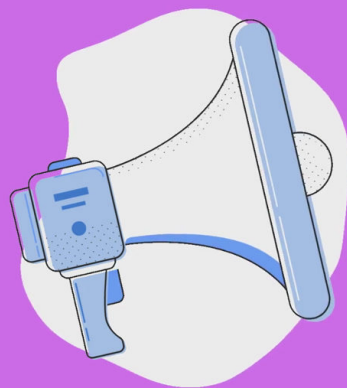


PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS. PREVENT THE SPREAD

If you or anyone is sick, go to the hospital or clinic, or dial 4455 for more information!

This Message is brought to you by The National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in partnership with ActionAid Liberia (AAL)

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 Website: www.liberia.actionaid.org
 Instagram: @AALiberia Facebook and Twitter: @ActionAidLiberia



Debunking 9 Myths of The Coronavirus (Covid-19)



“We recognize that these aren’t ordinary times that we are in, misinformation about the virus still abounds within our context, but has presented opportunities through social media for ActionAid Liberia to increase awareness, provide real time information, dispute rumors by providing factual and reassuring information”- Khulekani Sibindi-Communications Officer, ActionAid Liberia.



EMMA P. WILLIAM
Potential Leaders For Sustainability
(Activista Liberia)

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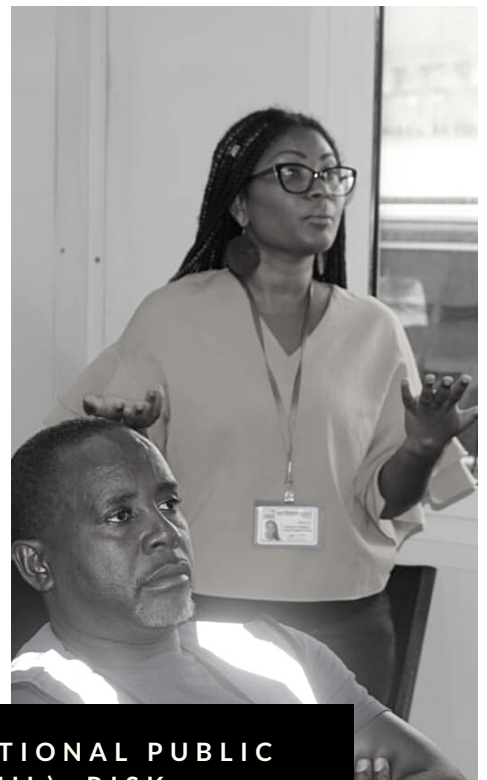
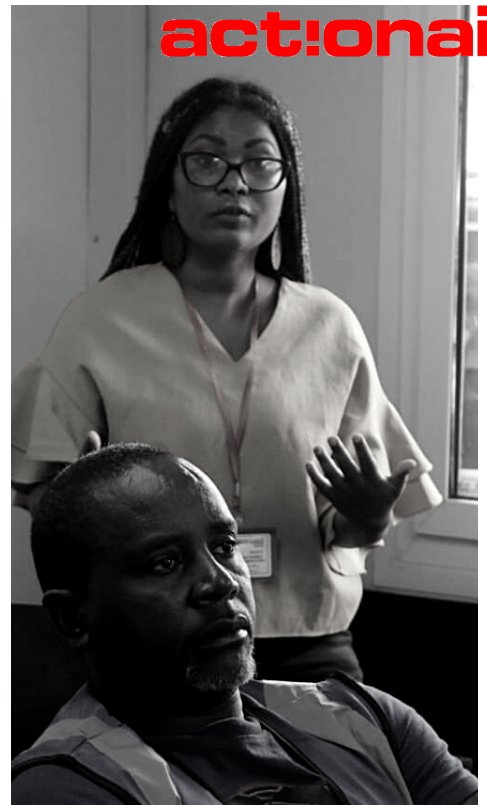
"WE LEARNED A LOT OF COVID-19 CONTENT FROM AAL FACEBOOK POST, THIS IS HOW WE WERE ABLE TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND ABLE TO DISSEMINATE IT FURTHER TO COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES. AAL FACEBOOK PAGE WAS A RESOURCE TOOL FOR US AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE LED ORGANIZATIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO READ FROM AAL'S FACEBOOK PAGE, IT HAS ALL WE WANT TO KNOW AND DO DURING THIS CRISIS PERIOD."

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COORDINATED HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS: PRESENCE WITHIN THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS) AND COORDINATION PILLARS IN LIBERIA

In the midst of shrinking spaces and politicization of response efforts within the country, ActionAid Liberia has been successful in securing participation within Liberia's IMS and Coordination pillars both at the national and sub-national levels. By building and strengthening partnerships with relevant government counterparts and stakeholders, it has allowed AAL to inform key decisions, advocate for the needs of marginalized groups, and address gaps that exists within the national response efforts. AAL has provided expertise in various spaces and coordinated partnerships to help inform implementation process of response efforts specifically targeting innovative solutions to curb the economic and social impacts of the virus on marginalized communities and increase capacity of national implementers even amidst limited resources. Such partnerships have proven to be effective in the fight against the outbreak in Liberia.



TELECOMMUTING TRAINING FOR THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF LIBERIA(NPHIL) RISK COMMUNICATIONS TEAM FACILITATED BY PATIENCE LANDFORD: HEAD OF PROGRAMS AND POLICY- ACTIONAID

ActionAid Liberia provided a wide range of technical support to the COVID-19 coordination pillars and team. A recent training focused on strengthening NPHIL Risk Communications collaborative efforts through virtual tools and technology. AAL successfully trained 15 Risk Communications staff in facilitating and collaborating with communities, partners, and stakeholders through digital communications utilizing both their computers and smart phones.



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS COVID-19 AWARENESS

COVID AWARENESS INITIATIVE IN
COLLABORATION WITH NPHIL & EOC
(MONSTERRADO & MARGIBI COUNTIES)

ABOUT ACTIONAID

ActionAid (AAL) is respected as a key human rights, development, and social justice organization in Liberia that works comprehensively to advance the rights of women, girls, young people, and excluded groups using our human rights-based approach (HRBA) and an intersectional feminist analysis across all programs, campaigns, policy, advocacy

In taking sides with the most excluded, this has meant that AAL is often present in rural and physically hard to reach communities. AAL's interventions and advocacy are aligned to our solidarity with the struggles of the communities and groups we work with. We are known for a non-negotiable stance on human rights, especially as it pertains to the rights of women and the most excluded in the Liberian society. AAL is part of ActionAid International Federation headquartered in Johannesburg with member organizations present in 45 countries around the world, sharing common values and efforts to drive social change towards a more just and sustainable world.

them here.



ACTIONAID COVID - 19 RESPONSE

Provision and Distribution of Infection and Prevention Controls (IPC) Supplies (soap, disinfectants, etc) for Immediate Prevention:

Focus will be on working with communities to reactivate community health structures and leverage existing resources

Support for Reproductive Health Facilities: AAL will focus on conducting refresher training on case management for county health teams to integrate SGBV response into their case management. This will also ensure the SRHR and related issues are addressed during the emergency period.

Direct emergency relief and assistance for quarantined families and high need communities:

Food and sanitation supplies, including specific needs of women and children, for homes affected by quarantines and low-income communities; and support groups for women living with HIV

Social mobilization (Risk Communications) for awareness and adherence: Real time exchange of information to promote awareness and counter misinformation that evokes fear and harmful behaviors

Community Preparedness for COVID-19 and related socio-economic impact: Increase support to women and youth structures (rural women, girls and boys forums etc.) to enhance community preparedness.

Policy Advocacy: AAL will also use policy advocacy to promote best practices and highlight success stories from communities

Community Recovery and Resilience:

Empowering communities' adaptive capacity to epidemics and other shocks and addressing development challenges.



Chue Roberts, LRP Program officer:
Grand Gedeh County
ActionAid Liberia

As a social justice organization, AAL recognizes the need to also enhance communities' access to quality, accessible and equitable health care and public services that reduce their vulnerability to socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and increase their ability to live healthy lives. As such, a comprehensive package of measures is needed to combat myths and misinformation to curtail further transmission, strengthen communities' prevention mechanisms and build resilience and sustainable communities.

ActionAid Liberia will work with community structures, youth and women groups and our allies to

Provide support to people living in poverty especially those most vulnerable, women and young people by enhancing their capacity to carryout localized response COVID-19 efforts and empower the to hold duty bear to account; while claiming their rights.

The Double Jeopardy of Inequality and Lockdown: Prioritizing an Intersectional Feminist Approach to COVID-19

By Webmaster Admin - April 17, 2020 823 views



Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender Based Violence During COVID-19

By Webmaster Admin - April 24, 2020 288 views



Joint statement by Kvinna till Kvinna, Oxfam, Plan International, Action Aid, Tearfund, Medica Liberia, and International Rescue Committee



YallaAfrica advertisement with Google AdSense interface.

FRESH OFF THE PRESS

ACTIONAID NEWS SIGHTINGS

Liberia: ActionAid Liberia's COVID-19 Donations to Boost Operations and Communications for Montserrado Eoc Call Center

Liberian Observer (Monrovia) 22 MAY 2020

Build on Lessons Learned from 2014 Ebola Outbreak
By Webmaster Admin - March 17, 2020 211 views



ActionAid Liberia Urges Strengthening National Plan for COVID-19 to be Comprehensive, Gender Responsive and Inclusive to Prevent Spread and Minimize Impact.

ActionAid Liberia's Covid-19 Donations to Boost Operations and Communications for Montserrado EOC Call



ActionAid Liberia makes donation to Montserrado County Health Team

act:onaid

Thank You!

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