

KICKING EBOLA OUT OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

MIGRANT ORGANISATIONS CALL TO ACTION!

Centre For collective Learning and Action in collaboration with the Migrant Consortium Against Ebola

November 1st 2014, Amsterdam- The Netherlands

Bengoma



Sierra Leone Central Union - NL



As the Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) becomes an overwhelming human catastrophe affecting public health, social institutions and economic well-being in Africa, we stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens in the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries affected by this deadly disease. In the interest of our common humanity, the Migrants Consortium Against Ebola in the Netherlands has initiated this urgent petition: the Migrant Organisations Call for Action (MOCA) to be launched in Amsterdam on 1 November 2014. MOCA calls upon all respective Heads of African States and Governments and people of African descent and communities in the Diaspora, Heads of States and Governments in Europe and across the World, partners in the private sector and other political, religious and opinion leaders and media for more actions to find fast and sustainable solutions to stop the spread and eradicate EVD out of Sub-Saharan African countries.

BACKGROUND

As the Ebola viral Disease (EVD) becomes an overwhelming human catastrophe affecting public health, social institutions and economic well-being in Africa, we stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens in the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries victimized by this deadly disease. EVD threatens the social cohesion, international migration, the economic growth and the political stability in many SSA countries. EVD threatens international isolation and reinforce the stigmatization of the communities of this specific part of the world. If nothing is done, Ebola-affected communities will be victims of a “full- Embargo” from the international communities. A Human tragedy!

The EVD outbreak exposes the precariousness of the healthcare systems in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Hence it is imperative that the African communities in the Diaspora, all people of African descent, head of states and governments in Africa and across the world, private sector, opinion leaders and media, knowledge and researches institutes to be involved in collaborative frameworks that will ameliorate the quality of life of African communities by strengthening the healthcare systems in the most affected communities.

The Migrant Consortium Against Ebola (MCAE) acknowledges the efforts made by other initiatives using their leadership and influence to draw attention and increase awareness of the dramatic situation of the EVD outbreak in the affected communities in Africa. The consortium therefore

- Applaud the petitions already initiated by other organizations namely the Tilburg University and EPPA petition, Initiated by Prof. Mirjam van Reisen (International Colloquium on Women’s leadership and Peace Building), Prof. Ton Dietz and Gitty Petit (African Studies Centre Leiden) and supported by Hon. Julia Duncan Cassell (Minister of Gender & Development Liberia), H.E. Ibrahim Sorie (Ambassador Sierra Leone in Brussels), Hon. Sabine de Bethune (former Chair Belgian Senate), Joseph J. Seh (Centre for Collective Learning and Action/Migrant Consortium Against Ebola), Remco van der Veen (Cordaid), Ginny Mooy (Kick Ebola) with input from other participants at the Africa Works! Conference in Leiden on 17 October, 2014, USA Africa Network, Doctors without Borders, All Africa, USAID, CIDI, Kickebola.org,)] calling on the general public, and the pharmaceutical industry, and the new Dutch Envoy for Ebola for an immediate action!
- Thank and salute the local and international health workers, journalist and researchers who are risking their lives daily, intervening on the ground to eradicate the scourge of Ebola, often without access to gloves and other protective supplies.
- Thank and salute European and American Head of states and governments, specifically The Dutch government for the efforts made so far against this terrible disease.
- Thank and salute the AFRICAN UNION SUPPORT TO EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA (ASEOWA) to enhance the capacity of existing national and international response mechanisms through mobilisation of technical expertise, resources, political and financial support;

- Recognise and stand in solidarity with the Ebola- affected migrant's communities. There is no way for them to escape this humanitarian tragedy. In addition to their financial remittance estimated at USD 861 Billion by 2016, contribution that will – among others serve the affected communities, they are using their human, social and cultural capitals leading the mobilization of the necessary resources to assist the affected communities. We can assume that their contribution will be upgraded, as long as this terrifying virus will affect their communities of origin.

This call for action supports the earlier petitions mentioned above. It is designed from the perspective of the Ebola victims, and from the perspectives of African communities, people of African descent living abroad, and friends of African communities. Therefore, we have collectively joined hands to launch this urgent petition in Amsterdam on November 1st under "The Migrant Organisation Call to Action" (MOCA)

The MOCA calls on our:

- Respective Heads of African States and Governments, African and people of African descent and communities in the Diaspora to re-think their responsibilities to their people; and to remember their obligation to the Pan-African solidarity;
- Heads of States and Governments in Europe and across the World, the global community to combine their actions towards the stoppage of this outbreak, and to target its eradication as part of their commitment and responsibility to protect Human Life and Rights in times of emergency;
- Partners in the private sector and political sphere, religious and opinion leaders, and the media to positively add their voices on the need for mobilising the necessary resources to protect lives in the Ebola affected communities in Africa.

The MOCA urges the following immediate actions;

1. That all forms of help, funds and awareness creation are urgently needed. Now!
2. That concrete intervention mechanisms be created by government institutions, International Non-Governmental institutions, the private sector to maximize the contribution of migrant organisations and people of African descent and friend of Africa for focused assistance to the affected communities;
3. That Diaspora institutions are used as valuable resources in policy and implementation dialogue in the Dutch and other governmental' efforts in containing Ebola and strengthening the healthcare system in the African communities;
4. That migration host countries to immediately stop the deportation of failed asylum in the Ebola-affected regions because of their commitment and responsibilities to protect Human life's in emergency situation;

5. That mechanisms be created by governmental and international Non-governmental institutions to allow Ebola- Affected grassroots organizations to access support directly; while special attention should be given to women and less able – people’s organisations;
6. Those Western media organisations should provide balanced, professional and quality information about Ebola. EVD should not be a new means to strengthen the stigmatisation of the affected communities in the western media and societies. In the same view, incentive mechanisms should be created within governmental and international non-governmental institutions to strengthen grassroots media organisations to development educative and awareness programs to sensitize the populations in Ebola-affected countries and in Western countries;
7. That African Diaspora, all people of African descent; friends of Africa; opinion leaders – including artists, athletes, filmmakers, writers, journalists, academics – actively take part in public information campaigns on prevention of Ebola transmission and spread.
8. That the broad private sector, the pharmaceutical industry, and knowledge institutes, in particular, to create mechanisms that facilitate immediately access to all known methods of prevention and treatment of Ebola.
9. That mechanism are created by the decision makers to make sure that the flow of essential assistance reach those in need, while maintaining economic activity necessary for sustaining life in the affected cities and villages, and also authorizing the implementation of the recommendations and protocols issued by the World Health Organization (WHO)
10. To acknowledge the impossibility of quarantining entire nations and instead establish much-needed economic and humanitarian corridors of access - essential life-lines - both within the affected countries and between countries.
11. That African Head of States and leaders across the world to consider this Ebola outbreak as an “eyes opener “ that exposes the precariousness of the healthcare system that threatens the livelihood of African communities affecting therefore the economic growth of the continent by developing incentive mechanism that will strengthen the quality of the healthcare system like:
 - a. Stimulating research on Ebola and other Tropical diseases that affect more than 500 million people in Africa(WHO)
 - b. Improving access to primary health care by expanding access and improving system performance; with a greater role for non-profit and private and migrant organizations in service delivery, and the introduction of performance incentives to scale up delivery and quality;
 - c. Creating a better healthcare system in Africa, including increasing funding as agreed in March 2001 in Abuja Nigeria where, African Union countries,

- pledged to increase government funding for health to at least 15%, and urged donor countries and the private sector to scale up support;
- d. Encouraging better management of human capabilities and medical technologies, and expanding the workforce by encouraging initiatives aimed at strengthening the affected country's capacity to train health workers with the use of migrants medical workers;
 - e. Encouraging pay-for-performance bonuses and other incentive programs that would motivate local healthcare workers to provide high-quality care.
 - f. Encouraging food security and wash programs in the affected countries;
 - g. Encouraging organisations and movements that campaign for a better healthcare system in Africa and speciality in the Ebola affected communities;
12. That a mechanism be created to manage the balance between emergency and sustainable solutions for the entire healthcare system in the sub-Saharan African region including efforts to ameliorate the quality of life of women and children in the affected countries;
13. "The victims of this terrible disease are human beings who deserve the right to be assisted during humanitarian crises. MOCA urges the actors involved in this crisis to not support hurtful images that take away their dignity with the main intention of gaining sympathy and donations. At the same time assistance to the affected communities should take -as far as human life is not endangered- their local cultures and tradition; and finally,
14. That a strong partnership between the public, the private sector, the civil society (including migrant organisations) for a sustainable healthcare system in the sub-Saharan Africa be created. MOCA urges at the same time that the actors involved in this partnership to overcome and to go beyond their individual interests with respect to the VICTIMS of Ebola. The partners can be guided by the principle of Ubuntu philosophy meaning "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity". This philosophy is commonly shared in the most countries of the continent.

For this reason, the Centre for Collective Learning and Action and the Migrant Consortium Against Ebola need your endorsement.

By endorsing and supporting the MOCA you confirm your willingness to contribute to the eradication of Ebola and transformation of the healthcare system in Africa.

Amsterdam, November 1st 2014

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MIGRANT ORGANISATION CALL FOR ACTION

MOCA is Initiated By: The Migrant Consortium Against Ebola

The Migrant Consortium Against Ebola (MCAE) composed by

1. The Sierra Leone Central Union, The Netherlands: www.slcu.nl
2. The African Community Internship Placement Programme (ACIPP-West Africa)
3. Wanda Foundation: www.wandafoundation.nl
4. Shain Foundation: www.shainfoundation.nl
5. Movement Towards Peace and Development Agency (MoPada)
6. MOMOLU, Liberian Community.
7. (Un-documented), African Migrant Collection (AMC)
8. African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) www.adpc.nl
9. Community Building International Network Foundation (CBINN)
10. MEDx eHealthCenter
11. Data Integrated Solutions
12. Vereniging Bengoma Netherlands/ Liberian Mandigo in The Netherlands
13. National Consultative Organization for Africans in the Netherland
14. Centre for Collective Learning and Action CCoLA (Process facilitator)

The Process of the MOCA has being facilitated by the Centre for Collective Learning and Action (CCoLA).

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