



Quarterly Newsletter



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Message from the Executive Director



Dear readers,

The year 2020 has been a very difficult year with the global COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, economic hardship and health challenges. At Rainbo we remain dynamic, dedicated and compassionate to excel in all that we do. Over the last couple of months, we have made tremendous advances and improvements at Rainbo Initiative, especially in our ability to build the Rainbo Centres of Excellence in Makeni and Bo that will offer a conducive place to continue providing free quality medical care and psychosocial services to SGBV survivors. Also, we have supported and care for dozens of

SGBV survivors to transform from their acute trauma of rape to reintegrate and rebuilding their lives in their communities. We launched our new and exciting **Strategic Plan 2020-2024**, strengthened and developed new Internal control systems, improved and maintained staff capacity and growth, acquired new funding opportunities and built donor confidence to work with us and finally completed the transition process from IRC with exceeding targets and competencies. Together we have grown in size and strength with 96 staff and interns to deliver on our work. These news are exciting but also offer new opportunities for collaboration, networking and support to improve our work.

During this quarter, we received donations from individuals and institutions to support the survivors who come to our Rainbo Centres after being sexually assaulted. Many thanks for your encouragement, assistance, and help. These donations are very important to us and our beneficiaries. We appreciate the confidence that all of our donors, partners and survivors have in us and our work. We will strive to be better each day and look forward to working with you in 2021.

The New Year 2021 brings a lot of prosperity and progress for Rainbo with hope and a brighter future - we will establish the new Centre of Excellence in Freetown and work with partners to continue supporting survivors to end SGBV in Sierra Leone. Please keep safe and may God bless you and your families in these challenging times.

Daniel F. H. Kettor

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

OPENS TWO NEW RAINBO CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR SGBV SURVIVORS IN MAKENI AND BO.



Makeni Rainbo Centre of Excellence

In November 2018 Rainbo Initiative started operations in Makeni and Bo Districts, where they opened the Rainbo Centres that provide free medical treatment and psychosocial support to survivors of SGBV. Since then the Centre has supported over 1750 SGBV survivors and has increased access to SGBV services for victims in and around both districts.

Giving an overview of the Rainbo Centres and its activities during the opening of the newly constructed Centre in Bo, the Executive Director of Rainbo Initiative, Daniel Kettor expressed his sincere gratitude to the partners for their timely intervention and unwavering support and commitment to the fight against rape in Sierra Leone. He assured participants that the Rainbo Centres will continue to provide free, confidential, and quality health care services, including medical treatment and psychosocial support to SGBV Survivors, and serve as a training hub that promotes best practices for clinical management of sexual assault in the Makeni and Bo districts.

Delivering the Keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Bo Rainbo Centre of Excellence, The First Lady of Sierra Leone, Mrs Fatima Jabbie Bio congratulated Rainbo Initiative and other organisations cushioning the burden of SGBV survivors for such a great achievement, which is a step in the right direction to protect women and girls in the country.



First Lady delivering the Keynote address

The First Lady disclosed that she is committed to working with Rainbo Initiative because they are selfless and spend all donor monies for the appropriate reasons and their impact on society cannot be overemphasised.

“The reason I’m so attached to Rainbo Initiative is that I believe in what they are doing and that they utilise monies given to them for the intended purpose.” Mrs Fatima Bio

Statements were also made by partners including the European Union, Irish Aid, OSIWA and Purposeful amongst others. The Centres are built within the Government Hospital of Makeni and Bo with funds from the European Union, OSIWA, and Purposeful.

IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN SIERRA LEONE



Rainbo Initiative is delivering a project to improve the Availability of Quality and Free Health Care services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Sierra Leone.

This project is aimed at making sure that women and girls are aware of, have access to, and utilise, quality and comprehensive free multi-sectoral treatment to survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the districts of Freetown, Kenema, Kono, Makeni and Bo to prevent further harm from the effects of GBV.

Survivors of SGBV will be supported with drugs and other supplies such as sanitary kits, food, and transportation for the most vulnerable, counselling visits to track and monitor the wellbeing of survivors, and also gather additional information needed to present to the Medical Doctors for court appearances. This will facilitate engagement between doctors and lawyers where issues associated with evidence provided by doctors in court as well as interpretations of medical reports are discussed for better collaboration amongst service providers. This project is being funded by Irish Aid through the Embassy of Ireland in Sierra Leone, from 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2021.

“This project will support women and girls to regain their health, heal their trauma and reduce stress. Through the support, they can get free medical treatment and restore their dignity. This project is a sign of hope for our women and girls to seek justices”. Rebecca, GBV Clinical Coordinator at Rainbo Initiative

UPDATES ON THE SURVIVORS SOLIDARITY FUND

The Survivors Solidarity Fund came into being out of a moment of collective grief and outrage in Sierra Leone, after the rape and subsequent death of 5-year-old Kadija.

Since receiving the fund in August, Rainbo has:

- ✚ Distributed 520 dignity kits to survivors of sexual violence who visit our 5 Rainbo Centres in Freetown, Bo, Makeni, Kenema and Kono.
- ✚ Treated and supported 910 SGBV survivors from across the five Rainbo Centres.
- ✚ Ten (10) serious illnesses and were referred for specialised care and treatment at various private and government hospitals.
- ✚ Hired two (2) additional medical doctors to handle the increased number of reported cases in Freetown, leading to a quick turnaround in signing the medical certificate.
- ✚ Procured drugs and equipment, including microscopes and examination lights for use in all the Centres.
- ✚ Hired a psychosocial support counsellor for staff, to improve the quality of services provided to survivors at the five Rainbo Centers.



A survivor with the Dignity Kit



THIS YEAR (2020) IN NUMBERS

3548 GBV and related cases were reported at our 5 Rainbo Centres in Freetown, Bo, Makeni, Kono and Kenema, with **3** months and **100** years old as our youngest and oldest survivors.

240 GBV community engagement sessions were held in **64** communities, reaching **6,558** people.

5,692 young people in schools received messages on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response.

Trained **34** Medical Doctors on Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors (CCSAS).

20 Prosecutors, **20** Investigators and **10** MGCA staff were trained on Rainbo Initiative's Medical certificate pictogram interpretation.

Trained **48** Focal Point Volunteers on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Referral Pathways and Disability issues.

60 Police (FSU), **16** PHU Health Workers, and **30** Community Stakeholders were trained on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response and Referral Services.

Trained **20** Medical staff on Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors (CCSAS) for the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs One Stop Centres.

5 Rainbo Initiative's Midwives were trained on HIV/AIDS treatment and care for GBV survivors by the National AIDS Secretariat (NAS).

COMING UP

ORIENTATION OF GBV FOCAL POINT VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS.

Rainbo Initiative will recruit, train and support 32 GBV Community Focal Point Volunteers and GBV Community Gender Support Groups in 32 communities who will be responsible for awareness-raising activities by strengthening community involvement in SGBV awareness-changing perceptions and attitudes towards survivors-support behaviours and the dissemination of key messages on Rainbo Centre services and referral pathways. This structure will work with the Outreach Interns to reach out to communities and link survivors to support services for sustainability.

LESSONS LEARNT WORKSHOP

This annual workshop will bring together 48 GBV Focal Point Volunteers and 8 Community Stakeholders from 8 communities within the districts of Freetown, Makeni and Bo who have been implementing the EU funded "Strengthening GBV Prevention and Inclusive Response Services in Sierra Leone Project" to share their experience and promotes learnings gained from implementing the first year of the project to a wider stakeholder audience. Participants will also be drawn from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Justice, FSU and the Local Councils to address the key problems faced by GBV actors and other partners in the fight against SGBV in Sierra Leone.

ROLLING OUT OF DATA MANAGEMENT TOOL

This is a software that we will be used to collect and analyse survivor's data including case studies to inform advocacy, policies and programme design. This software will replace manual data collection system to enhance accuracy, timeliness, and efficiency for quality programme implementation.

OUR PARTNERS



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