



PRESS RELEASE

42 TRAINED IN BASIC DEAD BODY MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

Monrovia, Liberia, Tue., July 25, 2017: As part of ongoing capacity building initiative by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), 42 community residents and health workers from Western Liberia have been trained in basic dead body management protocols.

The three days training held in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, July 20 – 22, 2017, brought together community residents and Environmental Health Technicians from Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Montserrado, and Bomi Counties. The 42 participants were trained in dead body swabbing, proper personal protective equipment (PPE) management, solution mixture, dignify burial practice among others.



According to the Manager of the Dead Body Management Unit (DBM) at NPHIL, Mr. Mark Korvayan, the training is intended to prepare communities and health workers for emergency response. He said the ongoing training will cover all counties in the country and at the same time challenged participants to take seriously the knowledge gained.



Meanwhile, phases two and three of the ongoing training are expected to commence from 15th August 2017 to the end of the month. According to Mr. Korvayan, phase two will bring together Rivercess, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Maryland and Sinoe Counties in Greenville, Sinoe County; while phase three will see Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Margibi, Bong and Nimba Counties converge in Sanniquellie, Nimba County.

Recounting challenges faced by his team during the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Liberia, Mr. Korvayan said the lack of capacity and adequate knowledge was a contributing factor to the rapid spread of the virus among communities and health workers. He said the story has however changed due to communities' collaboration. Drawing from the recent meningitis outbreak in Sinoe, Mr. Korvayan said Liberia is now doing better than what it was during the Ebola hit.

The West African Ebola virus epidemic (2013–2016) was the most widespread outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in history—causing major loss of life and socioeconomic disruption in the region, mainly in the countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Liberia recorded over 4,000 deaths and more than 10,000 cases between 2014 and 2015 during the Ebola Disease Virus outbreak in the region.