



National Public Health Institute of Liberia

Preventing and Controlling Public Health Threats

Press Release

Liberia and United States Break Ground on New Public Health Institute, National Reference and Regional Reference Laboratory Buildings

(Monrovia, October 5, 2017) – Today, the Ministry of Health, National Public Institute of Liberia and U.S. Department of Defense Biosafety and Biosecurity Program, broke ground on a new Public Health complex in Congo Town that will enable Liberian authorities to more readily diagnose and conduct research on infectious diseases.

Her Excellent, President of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Christine Elder, officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for the new facilities, which will be known as the National Public Health Institute/National Reference Laboratory building. Concurrently, the event covers the ground breaking of the Regional Reference Laboratory in Bong County in central Liberia.

The National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and United States Department of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency-Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (DTRA-CBEP) are the two lead agencies managing the project. Construction activities, led by prime contractor CH2M, a U.S. based firm, will continue through April 2019. Monrovia-based Architects, Engineers and Planners (AEP) Consultants, is the lead Architecture firm designing both projects. When completed, the facilities will give the Government of Liberia a platform to address issues of biosafety and biosecurity, through the performance of public health research and diagnostics of dangerous pathogens, epidemiology and disease surveillance.

This project reflects the commitment from the Liberian and U.S. governments to pursue the objectives outlined in the Global Health Security Agenda to ensure improved health outcomes for the Liberian people. Over the course of the next two years, Liberia and U.S. will work together to provide training, equipment and consumables, to further strengthen laboratory testing capabilities in Liberia, which will allow for more rapid detection of dangerous diseases, thereby, enabling quicker disease outbreak response.

The Director General of the National Public Health Institute, Tolbert G. Nyenswah, described the ground breaking ceremony as an incredible milestone towards preventing, detecting and responding to public health threats in Liberia and globally.

Signed by: _____

Hon. Tolbert G. Nyenswah, LLB, MPH
Director General, NPHIL

