

Caritas Makeni

Making Life Better

Prepared By: Alfred Harun Thullah-Communication & Publicity Officer. 1st August, 2012.



THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICAL CENTRE IN MAKENI.

Caritas Makeni is the Relief and Development organization instituted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Makeni with support from both international and national donors to facilitate the sustainable development of people through participatory interventions which improve the quality of the life of the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone irrespective of creed, tribe, gender or race. Our Vision is inspired by the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church. **Caritas Makeni**, visualizes a society where poor and marginalized people are treated with dignity and equality and are free from poverty on a sustainable basis. The work of Caritas Makeni focuses mainly on Human Rights, Youth Empower-

ment, Livelihoods, Health and HIV/AIDS, Education, Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Gender mainstreaming, Life Skills and Mental Health.

The Orthopedic Technical Centre is part of the facilities set up by Caritas Makeni to improve living conditions and minimize difficulties faced by physically challenged people in Bombali District in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone. The official opening ceremony of the centre commence on the 27th June, 2012 by the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Makeni-Rev. Fr. Natalio Paganelli..... (page 2)



MORINGA OLEIFERA EXHIBITION AND DISTRIBUTION FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As part of our humanitarian support to the communities, we provide Moringa Oleifera Seedlings to household families so they may plant at their backyards as part of our health and environmental protection.

Moringa Oleifera is the most widely cultivated species. It is an exceptionally

nutritious vegetable tree with a variety of potential uses. Caritas Makeni distributed letters of invitation to different organizations/institutions/groups, stakeholders and line ministries in Makeni for the exhibition and

distribution. The programme was(page 2-3)



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Special points of interest:

- Increased opportunity for orthopedic services for the physically challenged in Bombali District by 75%.
- Distributed 4000 Moringa Oleifera seedlings to habitant of Makeni so they may plant at their backyards for medicinal and environmental protection.
- To increase youth knowledge about HIV/AIDS, good governance and peace building in several ways and further expose them to information, evidence and key comment of peace building and governance and highlight their roles and responsibilities in addressing HIV/AIDS and governance issues.
- To provide care and support and improve the capacity of families and communities to provide quality care and support for PLHIVs and OVCs.

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THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICAL CENTRE IN MAKENI.

The welcome address was delivered by Michael S Kamara Coordinator of the centre. In his welcome address, he thanked all present for the effort made in making it possible to attend the official opening of the orthopedic technical centre which is trying to address the needs of the physically challenged in the country.

Rev. Fr. Natalio Paganelli who is the Apostolic Administrator in the Diocese of Makeni thanked all present and admonishes staff and beneficiaries to use the centre effectively and the centre should not be used as a business place but a minimal sum will be paid for sustainability. Rev. Fr. Natalio Paganelli further went on to thank Joe Turay Director Caritas Makeni and team who took the bold step to reactivate the Orthopedic Technical Centre to help the physically challenged in our country and that he will do his utmost best in attracting funding for the centre. Rev. Fr. Natalio also thanked the

GLRA for their tremendous help in seeing the centre run since its inception.

Dr. Yvonne Harding—Director GLRA thanked all present in the official opening of the centre especially Caritas Makeni for seeing the centre in full swing with the staff in full commitment to help our brothers and sisters in the country.

The representative of the District Medical Officer Mr. Bundu Conteh express delight for the opening of the centre and recall his days with Plan – Sierra Leone when he use to refer leprosy patients to these centre for the production of special sandals and pray that the centre continues to flourish.

Mr. Joe Turay —Director Caritas Makeni in his remarks, highlighted the various department in the centre and their functions and that the staff should be ready to work despite all the struggles that they are facing now and hope to accomplish that in the shortest period of time and he

further went to thank Caritas Italiano for their timely intervention in the centre and GLRA for their technical support since the inception of the Orthopedic Technical Centre in Makeni.



MORINGA OLEIFERA EXHIBITION AND DISTRIBUTION FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

On the 27th June, 2012 (Wednesday), Caritas Makeni did the exhibition and distribution of Moringa. The process was held on the spot of the nursery bed. The entire program started 12:30pm prompt. Joe introduces the stake holders present and their role in the community and nation at large after giving the importance of caritas Makeni intervention on the environmental and medicinal protection of the people of the North since it's the operational area of the agency. These are;

- Tom Nyama-Director-TAP Foundation
- Fr. Nathaleo-Apostolic Administrator -Diocese of Makeni
- Dr. Yvonne Harding-Director-GLRA
- Dr. Bah-District Medical Officer, Bombali

On the statement of Tom Nyama, gave the origin of Moringa which he says; Moringa Oleifera, the word Moringa came from a Dravidian language Tamil and commonly referred to as "Shojne" in Bengali, "Munagakaya" in Telugu, "Shenano" in Rajasthani, "Shevaga" in Marathi, "Nuggekai" in Kannada, "Moringa". On his final statement, he said 30yrs ago, the issue of Moringa started in Sierra Leone but with very few peo-

ple. The message of Moringa passed on from one person to the other. He also thanks caritas Makeni for their relentless effort in spreading the message of Moringa.

On the statement of Dr. Bah, he made mention on the medicinal value of Moringa which he confessed that he first heard of Moringa to his Boss in Freetown at Coughnut Hospital. He said;

Moringa leaves and pods are helpful in increasing breast milk in the breastfeeding months. One tablespoon of leaf powder provides 14% of the protein, 40% of the calcium, 23% of the iron and most of the vitamin "A" is good for children ages one to three. Six tablespoons of leaf powder will provide nearly all of the woman's daily iron and calcium needed during pregnancy and breastfeeding. He finally said, Moringa helps immensely in the development of the immune system in the body but that does mean when you feel sick, you should not go to the hospital. He advised strongly for people to go to the hospital when they get sick for medical advice.

On the statement of Dr. Yvonne Harding, to make statement, she first thanks and congratulate Caritas Makeni for their great effort in the Northern part of Sierra Leone. She also said; she felt honored for been part of this great occasion. On the area of Moringa, she said Dr. Bah has said most of the medicinal value of Moringa. She advised on the quantity of taking Moringa and one must use Moringa wisely. Joe Turay gives an addendum to all the speakers and called on Fr. Nathaleo to bless the trees. Fr. Nathaleo-Apostolic Administrator before blessing, he gave the reason why the Catholic Mission like to bless something. He said; 1) to thank God for the gift of life and knowledge and 2) for God to flourish our activities. He thanks Joe Turay for his great work and extends gratitude to the rest of the staff. He blessed the Nursery bed. . the Apostolic Administrator gives 2 Moringa seedlings to the RSLAF team leader, Tom Nyama gives 2 Moringa seedling to SLP team leader, Dr. Bah gives 2 Moringa Seedlings to Traders Union team leader and Dr. Yvonne Harding gives 2 Moringa Seedlings to SLTU team leader. Moringa Seedlings was distributed to

- Sierra Leone Police (SLP)-50 seedlings
- Republic of Sierra Leone Arm Force (RSLAF)-50 seedlings
- Sierra Leone Fire Force (SLFF)-50 seedlings
- Sierra Leone Prison-50 seedlings
- University of Makeni (UNIMAK)-50 seedlings
- Northern Polytechnic (NP)-50 seedlings
- Holy Spirit Hospital-50 seedlings
- Regional Government Hospital-50 seedlings
- Bike Riders Union-25 seedlings
- Drivers Union -25 seedlings
- Traders Union-25 seedlings
- Dollar Men Association-25 seedlings
- Sierra Leone Teachers Union (SLTU)-25 seedlings
- St. Joseph Secondary School-25 seedlings

• St. Francis Secondary School-25 seedlings.
The rest of the public where given 2 seedlings each. This event was covered by Sierra Leone Association of Journalist (SLAJ) SLBC-TV Freetown for public consumption.



LIFE SKILLS INTERVENTION FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

Global Fund through the Catholic Relief Services sub-contracted Caritas Makeni to implement the Life Skills project for youth and children in Makeni. To address the critical challenges facing the youth generation in Sierra Leone, in a bid to help eradicate HIV/AIDS amongst the youth generation in Sierra Leone.

The aim of the project is to enable Sierra Leonean youth to make positive life decisions that protect themselves and each other from HIV/AIDS. The project is in a bid to increase youth and children's knowledge about HIV/AIDS, good governance and peace building in several ways. This will further expose the youth to information, evidence and key comment of

peace building and governance and highlight their roles and responsibilities in addressing HIV/AIDS and governance issues.

Throughout the project implementation phase, Caritas Makeni has been undertaking indoor and outdoor activities in the Youth Friendly Centre at the Pastoral Centre and also in the schools and other communities in and around the Makeni Municipality. Free Computer Training was also organized for youth and children to have basic skills in computer, DSTV facility and finally, training of trainers on Life Skills and Behavioral Change Com-

munication was organized for link teachers and youth leaders.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTERVENTION IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The main objective of this project is to improve on the communities' understanding and implementation of sustainable environmental management and Agricultural practices that will reduce the target communities' vulnerability and hazards, improve food security, reduce hunger and ensure long term environmental sustainability (MDGs). The project goal is to improve on community understanding on land ownership, better land management

procedures, wild fire control, indiscriminate logging and economic tree planting as to maintain a sustainable environmental and agricultural practice that will reduce vulnerability and hazards among communities. Therefore Caritas Makeni has distributed up to 3000 Moringa seedlings to five DRR communities and also reforestate their arid environment. In the area of livelihood, Caritas Makeni is supporting up to 300 farmers with both

groundnuts seed and seed rice in Bombali and Makarie Gbanti chiefdoms.



CARE GIVING AND NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR PLHIV AND OVCs

The National Aids Secretariat (NAS) in the area of primary Health Care promotion for vulnerable and marginalized people and communities. With support from Global Fund, Caritas Makeni is presently implementing objective 8 of Round 9 of the Global Fund AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria funded project on care and support for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) and Orphan Vulnerable Children (OVCs) including Children Affected and Infected By AIDS (CABAs) in Tonkolili District. The situation of these target groups is very appalling to the extent that they need urgent attention and supports to enable them lead a healthier life. They are less cared for and supported by their communities. Stigmatization and neglected are some of the contributing factors that are really affecting these PLHIVs and OVCs in various communities where they found themselves.

Furthermore, there is a rapid increase in the prevalence rate of HIV infection and

affection in Tonkolili District with particular reference to areas where active mining activities are taking place especially in Bumbuna. As a result of lack of support, care and protection, most of them died whilst others resorted to the use of other means to cure themselves. Some care givers also do take their children to some remote villages for cure or return them to other family members where the child may eventually die. Most of these target beneficiaries have been trained on self-care and positive living, basic principles and skills on Income Generating Activities (IGA), training on livelihood activities. Nutritional Support also provided for them to improve their nutritional status and to be taking their drugs so as to prolong their health status and lead a productive life.

Below are the activities accomplished for the last six months:

- Training of PLHIV on self care and Positive Living
- IGA start-up kits support provide for PLHIV
- Training of PLHIV on Income Generating Activities (IGA)
- Distribution of Nutritional supports to both PLHIVs and OVCs
- Training of OVC Care givers on Income Generating Activities (IGA)
- IGA start-up kits provided for OVCs Caregivers
- Training of PLHIV on livelihood activities of their choice
- Livelihood support – animal husbandry (Fowls and goats) provided to PLHIV
- Community sensitization on OVCs and HIV/AIDS issues



Caritas Makeni has been under the presidency and chairmanship of Bishop George Biguzzi. After long serving the Diocese of Makeni, he has to resign. Rome appointed Rev. Fr. Aruna who came from the Eastern Region of Sierra Leone to become the Bishop of the Diocese of Makeni that is situated at the Northern Region. Due to the agreement that the mission must be localize and that the Diocese of Makeni do have competent Rev. Fr that have all its takes to be the Bishop of the Diocese of Makeni. There was two weeks differences. Rome appointed Rev. Fr. Gabriel Koroma to be an administrator for three months. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Koroma was as well acting as the chairman for Caritas Makeni board until Rome appointed Rev. Fr. Nathaleo as the Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Makeni. He is the present chairman/president for the board of Caritas Makeni. He is indeed an administrator, very focus and developmental. He is the right replica of the then bishop (Bishop George Biguzzi).



REV. FR. NATHALEO

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTION-DROP IN CENTRE

Caritas Makeni is the diocesan relief and development office of the Makeni diocese and registered with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and children's Affairs and the Ministry of Health and has been working closely with these Ministries in the area of promoting and providing Care and support for orphans, and vulnerable children. Nutritional support has been a very good intervention to provide support for children affected and infected by HIV/AIDs. It is very rich in nutrient and protein that it improves the nutritional status and prolongs the health status of malnourished children to make them become healthy and active.

The establishment of the Drop-in Centre had been of great importance to the people of Makeni city for children that are found in difficult circumstances especially those children living on and in the street.

Over the years, Caritas Makeni had been working tremendously in the area of child protection and supporting these children to grow well and develop. Family Tracing and reunification had been one of the strong areas were Caritas Makeni had proven immense success. Since the inception of the Drop - in - Centre most of the children tracked from the street had been reunified to either their biological parents or their guardians as a way of strengthening family unity and community development. The essence of this exercise is to create a link between the institution, the child and their parents which create an enabling environment for a sustainable reunification. Before reunification, When these children are brought into the child protection drop -in centre and have gone through all the other processes like documentation, orientation, they are counseled by trained counselors, three times a week along side other activities like indoor games, outdoor games, numeracy classes etc.

