

MEDICAL IMPACT SIERRA LEONE

Impacting Lives, Prescribing Hope

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SIERRA LEONE



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MONTHLY RESULTS REPORT

JUNE 2024

Introduction

Meeting held on 4th June, 2024 to review May MISL activities. Key resolutions include:

-Proposed date to sit with solicitor regarding signing the rent agreement with the Landlord/Landlady ahead of MISL occupancy at 2 Lower Dan Street, Freetown.

-Plans of sourcing funds to furnish and run the office. In a nutshell strategic plan was reviewed and commitment made in consent by all executive member.

In another development MISL team service volunteers find themselves working, to a large extent, not limited with youth groups in slum communities of Sea-side and Kanikay areas in East end of Freetown, Sierra Leone. This is not only because poor youths have monopoly on drug abuse, violence or child neglect, found as well, among the upper and middle classes. Nevertheless, poverty is associated with high rates of child abuse and neglect, homicide, substance abuse, physical and mental health problems and crimes. In addition, because drug abuse often starts in youth and once drug abuse has started; physical dependence caused which is the main reason for continuing drug abuse.

The purpose of the two- day engagement, campaign against drug/substance abuse is to show how MISL in its communities of operation creates impact through public lectures, school health clubs and one-on-one relationship in environs and campuses of senior secondary school pupils.

Notwithstanding limitations were inevitably faced and fixed.

In recognizing the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking MISL organized a two-day awareness raising program for young people living in the slums of Western Area Urban.

Day One Activity -25/6/24

This day involves one-on-one interface with students and teachers in senior secondary schools. Brief discussions and dialog on the day put aside raising awareness on drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking harnessing brochure content with scope that shed light on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug trafficking; the relevance of the day; meaning and perceptions of communities about persons abusing drugs, the sad effect of drug addiction, and how to deal with this social problem.

At the end of day one engagement participation is a major theme of one-on-one relax interaction with youth. Many of the contradictory pressures shaping youth perception about drug abuse is now a historic rationale for MISL humanitarian services-helping clients adjust to the realities of their lives, that is to hardship exclusion, and insecurity.



Photos during the One-on-One Interface campaign Against Drug Abuse

Day Two Activity-27th June, 2024

MISL engaged youth groups, school health clubs, teachers, press, CSOs, and other health actors) at Henry Fergusson Secondary School, Kennedy Street, Freetown on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking. On Theme: **“The Evidence is Clear Invest in Prevention”**

This day was climaxed with participatory discussions tailored to the issues on the agenda of the engagement.

The meeting commenced **with introduction of MISL** Team, Guest Speaker, and participants following individual silence prayers.

The purpose: To contribute to awareness raising and popularization of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking and popularization of the event.

Reasons behind hosting the event at Henry Fergusson is a blessing and considering the large size enrollment and the environment necessitate holding the event at the school.

The Guest Speaker Mr. Abubakarr Bai in his introductory statement, mentioned was made on how drug/substance abuse has increased over the past 5 years; had it not been the robust regulatory mechanisms and interventions by government. The issue of drug abuse is leaving our society in poverty and social menace and the rate of drug abuse especially by our youth is detrimentally alarming and it is a major cause for concern.

The central issues discussed include:

- Reasons people are in the habit of taking drugs, how drugs are abused, reasons, ways youth can avoid drug abuse, identify agencies working in collaboration with the police, the perceptions of the community about victims, the consequences of drug/substance abuse and illicit trafficking to individuals, schools, the communities and the role of society as a whole.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

To produce a lasting improvement on people's lives, social policy, as well as attempts to bring about more fundamental structural change, must strengthen families and high school students and informal social relationships and restore a deeper sense of community and of collective responsibility to all levels.

The consequences of Drug abuse and Illicit trafficking:-

- The practice affects the physical and mental well-being of youth and families in a number of ways. Involvement in drug abuse will lead to inadequate nutrition affecting the health of the family
- The psychological stress of living with drug misuse and abuse can lead to depression and increase violent responses to frustration (including child abuse, spouse abuse, murder and suicide). Poorer education and social isolation, in turn, can affect employability and access to jobs that would raise a family out of poverty.

The heightened international recognition on the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking 26th June, 1987, has induced cooperation to drive harder brains and until recently Government of Sierra Leone to seek the assistance of governmental authority in imposing discipline on drug/substance abuse and related crimes on beneficiaries of government programs and establish rehabilitation centers. Public policy has contributed to reduced youth involvement into drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

In the helping professions, there is a long standing belief in the necessity of engaging in preventive activity where possible including but not limited to this engagement, he continued. In addition in extending help to people in crisis, preventive action is sometimes referred to as “upstream work” from the metaphor of rescuing victims of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. In the US just as in Sierra Leone, the categorization of funding for different client groups and for specific problems, often based on different services or methods of help, leads to a picture of a row of blend of different high school students, teachers and community people lined up in the tent of meeting, (day 2) and on campuses of schools engaged with.

Categorical funding influences the nature of MISL and the people served. Linking funding to particular activities, values specific work and excludes other activities. With good teamwork it is possible to work both up and downstream. Currently, there is growing concern and action to overcome these problems including Sierra Leone, moves towards decategorize funding of social services, to promote collaboration of agencies, and to develop community-centered services, all of which may initiate upstream work without sacrificing those already in addiction.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Questions:

- Why do drug users seek your help?
- When to suspect drug abuse?
- Why do people use drugs?
- What does drug abuse does to the person

The second and third questions rose earlier related to the concentration of while the third and fifth question looks at.....

This was followed by responses to address questions, make clarifications.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Suggestions were made amidst solutions to combatting drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking including but not limited to:

- Increasing awareness
- Strengthen Law enforcement agencies
- Friendly collaboration families.

To produce a lasting improvement on people's lives, social policy, as well as attempts to bring about more fundamental structural change, must strengthen families and high school students and informal social relationships and restore a deeper sense of community and of collective responsibility to all levels.

In conclusion, ...Noted that a nation full of zest and vigor growing under values that emphasize “us” rather than “me” sacrifice over pleasure, and service over self, will provide for a much safer society than the one today.

Beneficiary to the two-day engagement activities with the community particularly the senior school-going youth directly contacted interfaced clock up to 300 and 70 respectively.



During the Engagement with Youth groups, School health clubs, Teachers, Press, CSOs, and other Health actors



Group photo at the end of the engagement

Activity	Direct Beneficiary	Indirect Beneficiary	Total Beneficiary	Location
One-on-One Interface	300	1,567	1,867	Community Schools (Freetown)
Engagement with Youth groups, School health clubs, Teachers, Press, CSOs, and other Health actors	70	573	573	Henry Ferguson School Hall (Freetown)
Total	370	2,140	2,440	

Direct Beneficiary: 370

Indirect Beneficiary: 2,140

