Ebola pocket Library Distribution campaign in the DRC

Mapping of Ebola Pocket Library Distribution Campaign in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**Widernet & PHOrg Joint** venture program

September 2019 - June 2020
Ebola pocket Library Distribution campaign in the DRC

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Abbreviations used
EVD : Ebola Virus Disease
DRC : Democratic Republic of Congo
PHOrg: Public Health Organization
WHO : World Health Organization

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Ebola pocket Library Distribution campaign in the DRC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work was not possible without the Ebola pocket library got from WiderNet, since we have in hand a lot of information needed by academia and researchers, policy makers and those working in grassroots level. We need secondly to thank our colleagues at PHOrg who are distributing the Ebola pocket Library and sensitize about besides their respective volunteers. We say to them, thank you again for your time, availability, will and effort to reach our target, researchers in universities and teaching facilities, health provincial division and health care professional working in public and private sectors.

At PHOrg main office, together with staff, volunteers and members, we give a high value of no leave people die by lack of reliable and relevant information. We use the force of health information system to strengthen WHO building blocks of health system to achieve our goal. By providing information, we promote health care delivery quality, enhance human resource for health capability, inform about vaccine and medicine, pledge for appropriate health financing mechanism, and make sustainable the governance and leadership in health.

As policy makers and researchers are informed about Ebola Virus Disease from its origin, management of outbreaks and public health interventions, PHOrg thinks to focus its efforts mainly in the COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM. Local health occupational; doctors, nurses, Community Health Workers, Community members, families, opinion leaders and individuals need to be involved in participative and inclusive framework for change. That is what we are doing and we appreciate WiderNet initiative to equip us the information tool, cheap to distribute because don’t require internet connection. Everywhere, we encourage beneficiaries to distribute to other and raise debate about, with an idea on how we can prevent new Ebola Virus Disease outbreak. Likewise, we say also thank to colleagues working at main office and associated volunteers to their contribution.

To end, as Ebola Virus Disease, COVID 19 pandemic is threatened all of us, in sub-Saharan africa and our country, we have unique path way, to promote barriers methods and to reinforce them (social distancing, handwashing, mask wearing). In addition, we need to fight against misinformation and reach hidden people, silent majority, living where radio and television don’t arrive, with reliable information. This is a new challenge, but horizontally, we are doing what we did with Ebola Pocket Library with each single individual, group, association, institution, committed to achieve the vision of no leave someone in ignorance. This is a call to our partner, Wider Net to provide to us, COVID 19 pocket library for similar Distribution, hope and outcome vision.

Andre SHONGO DIAMBA, MD MPH_Global health
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**INTRODUCTION**

*Ebola virus Disease is recurrent* in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the first outbreak was reported in 1973. The country is challenging since by several epidemics episodes, especially in the North West, in former great equator province, divided today to five provinces; Equator, North and south UBANGI, MONGALA and TSHUAPA. The EBOLA is the name of river of YAMBOUK village, the first outbreak had been attached to mysterious effects of those who bathing in the river, people thought that the sad effects was thrown from river, fever and hemorrhagic diarrhea was main symptoms. Deaths was reported in advanced stage of those suffering.

Nine of ten outbreaks are described in this area recognized as home of Ebola Virus Disease, main raison being the people dependency in natural resources, wild animals particularly as protein main source. Although, the bats are the primary host of Ebola virus, the disease is known as zoonosis, transmitted from animal to human, and from human to human each time where there is contact with biologic liquids of seek individual.

The Equator province has a rain forest and wide biodiversity, animals and vegetal. This ecosystem is found in the north of the country, in horse on equator line. Poverty is a strong determinant that explains why people who eat wild animals are vulnerable to be contaminated and get seek.

The knowledge on disease and culture of local population are very important to prevent and fight against Ebola virus Disease. We circumscribe the Ebola pocket Library Distribution in this setting, researchers and policy makers are informed and some documents are used directly to sensitize communities. We wish to see a development of Ebola education curriculum for health occupational, community members and a strengthened Ebola Health system able to ensure appropriate preparedness and cue, management of case and more effective prevention.

This report focuses in distribution made in three provinces in the DRC, ITURI, HAUT KATANGA and EQUATOR. The Ebola Pocket Library was granted to PHOrg by WiderNet.
One month ago, WHO Director declared the end of EBOLA OUTBREAK in three eastern provinces of DRC; ITURI, North and south KIVU. The tenth outbreak reported, but the first in this part of the country. Persistent social insecurity and subsequent poverty explain low living conditions of the population pushed to dependent on natural resources for food consumption. Ebola is a zoonosis primarily from animal to human.
Meeting of representatives of NGOs working in Bunia, ITURI province:
Introduction on WIDERNET and PHOrg joint venture program to distribute Ebola Pocket Library.

The ongoing session was introduced by stop Ebola Africa song and mobilizing discourse of former America president Barack OBAMA during Ebola West Africa campaign in 2015.

In opening session, Stop Ebola Africa song video projected in screen. After that, the Ebola Pocket Library was distributed to participants with promise of making a wide distribution, especially to local Radios and televisions stations.
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One by one distribution of Ebola Pocket Library
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B. EQUATOR PROVINCE

[Image: Map of Equator province]

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE + COVID 19 PANDEMIC = WHAT TO DO?

Eleventh Ebola outbreak is reported in Equator province than that COVID 19 spreads and causes tremendous damage. In one time, two epidemics.

PHOrg team Equator province is using a double approaches, distributing Ebola Pocket Library, and sensitizing about COVID 19 barriers measures to be observed by everyone for self-protection and to protect other. The team encourages those who ascertain alerts signs to go to hospital.

Preparedness before descent on ground for community sensitization
Briefing session of team, guidelines on how to sensitize about handwashing, measures to be observed to prevent Ebola and COVID 19 diseases

Assistance to local partner health center with handwashing tool
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Ebola Pocket Library Distribution

Ready to sensitize

Sensitization’s walk: to Stop EBOLA & COVID 19, observe barriers measures
EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE
We keep hope after community sensitization, that everybody who has listened message is confident to change behavior himself and to avoid to touch any suspect suffering of Ebola, to wash hands and to observe hygienic anytime.

COVID 19
There is just one stage from Ebola to COVID 19.
The message given is related to observance of barriers measures:
1. Keep social distancing
2. Wash hands anytime or use hydroalcoholic desinfectant solution
3. Wear a mask (when you have cough, you sneeze)
4. Cough in the elbow to avoid microbe spreading
C. HAUT KATANGA PROVINCE

Haut Katanga province is rich in mineral resources, people come from elsewhere, including those who fled social insecurity in eastern part of country. In public health field, it is important to promote an awareness about how to prevent Ebola virus Disease and COVID 19 pandemic.
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Volunteers in preparedness

Introductive session explanation of Ebola Pocket Library and Distribution vision
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Easy to convict, students and faculties are very interested to have the Ebola pocket Library.
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CONCLUSION

There are in the DRC those among health professionals and other community members committed to promote health care and health system. Today our conviction is raised when we look at COVID 19 pandemic, we have one planet, we share air, water and ecosystem. When a disease outbreak is reported somewhere, everybody is called to pay attention. Beyond, we need to build a solidarity space to target reported issue timely in the hope of containing it and saving people close to disaster but also those living far.

As learned lesson, new outbreak as COVID 19 has challenged health systems in developed and developing countries, without solidarity, the threat stays permanent.

We believe to PHOrg, our movement and network, to do what we can, in sharing information and knowledge with those having in charge health care and wellbeing of local population, and to community members. We believe to the power of coalition and solidarity in hope of enhancing in country health system and move it from inability of offering primary health care and to call to emergency action whether the country need to take way in universal health coverage. Thank you for your interest to what we are doing.