PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE REPORT

HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
DAYTON, OHIO
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Presented by

Zainab Juheh Bah
2015 Mandela Washington Fellow
The 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship program

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative. The program was launched in 2010 to support young African leaders as they work to strengthen democratic governance, spur growth and prosperity, and enhance peace and security across Africa. The Fellowship brings 500 leaders between the ages of 25-35 to the U.S. for academic coursework and leadership training and will create unique opportunities in Africa for Fellows to put new skills to practical use in their countries.

Highlights of the Program

- **Academic and Leadership Institutes:** Each Fellow participates in a six-week academic and leadership Institute at a U.S. university or college in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, or public management.
- **Presidential summit:** The Fellows visit Washington, D.C. for a Presidential summit featuring a town hall with President Obama. During this three-day event, Fellows participate in networking and panel discussions with U.S. leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- **Professional Development Experience (PDE):** 100 selected Fellows remained in the U.S. to participate in a six-week professional development experience with U.S. non-governmental organizations, private companies, and governmental agencies relating to their professional interests and goals.
Zainab Juheh Bah

- Masters in Public Health from Njala University in Sierra Leone.
- B.S. with Honors in the Nursing College of Medicine and Allied Health Science from the University of Sierra Leone.
- Internship program (clinical experience) at the University of Ibadan Nigeria.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant in the Ministry of Health and Sanitation Reproductive and Child Health Directorate.

CAREER GOALS

- Help reduce the infant and under 5 mortality and morbidity rate by monitoring and supervising health facilities.
- Work on methods to combat prostitution and teenage pregnancy.
- Provide mentoring for girls no longer involved in prostitution and assisting them in continuing their education.
- Continue to provide public health awareness and community sensitization during the Ebola outbreak.
Sierra Leone is a country in West Africa bordered by Guinea and Liberia.

Sierra Leone has a total area of 71,740 km² (27,699 sq. mi) and an estimated population of 6.09 million.

Freetown is the capital and its economic and political centre.

Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical provinces which are further divided into fourteen districts.

Sierra Leone has a tropical climate, with a diverse environment ranging from savannahs to rainforests with beautiful, natural beaches.

Although English is the official language, the Krio language is the most widely spoken language in the country.

Sierra Leone has an extremely low life expectancy of 47 years.
Freetown - capital city of Sierra Leone
Agriculture in Sierra Leone is a significant part of the economy accounting for 58 percent of the national GDP in 2010. Two-thirds of the population of Sierra Leone are involved in subsistence agriculture.

Sierra Leone relies on mining, especially diamonds, for its economic base. It is also one of the largest producers of titanium and bauxite and is a major producer of gold; it also has one of the world’s largest deposits of rutile. Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbor in the world.

Despite this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in poverty.
More recently, the 2014 Ebola outbreak has threatened to lead the country into a humanitarian crisis.

In Sierra Leone the last patient was discharged three weeks ago; however in the last week, there have been four new infections.

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<th>Effects of Ebola</th>
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<td>Has further weakened the fragile health system.</td>
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<td>Has increased prostitution as female survivors are stigmatized and ostracized by communities and resort to prostitution for survival.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has weakened the country’s economy.</td>
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<td>Schools were closed for eight months.</td>
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<td>Has increased teenage pregnancy.</td>
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The following meetings and events were attended:

- Introduction to County Commissioners
- Community Health Improvement Plan meetings
- Human Trafficking meetings at the University Of Dayton
- Voice for Ohio’s Children Regional Forum
- Montgomery County Prevention Learning Collaborative
- Public Health Board meeting and Community Review Team meetings
- Strategic Planning sessions
- Meeting with Be Free organization
- Mentoring Collaborative meetings
- Deterrent Subcommittee meeting for Prostitution Intervention.
- Service Brokers meeting
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING TOURS AND EVENTS (CONT.)

- Toured Wesley Community Center
- Toured Good Neighbor House
- Toured the Aullwood Audubon Farm and Center, Environmental Services Learning Center and the Job Center
- Toured the Sickle Cell Clinic and Dayton Children’s Hospital
- Toured the ex-offender reentry program and worked with reentry staff

- Attended a Mental Health Summit at Wright State University
- Met with the Dean of the College of Art and Sciences at the University of Dayton
- Presented information about Sierra Leone in an African History class at the University of Dayton
- Participated in lunch discussion with the Center for International Programs and the Women's Center at the University of Dayton
- Participated in Human Rights class at the University of Dayton
- Participated in data entry and analysis with the Wright State University
Activities during my PDE
Observations

• Discovered that some of the issues as it pertains to prostitution and teenage pregnancy are similar from one country to the next, but there are a number of different programs designed to address and reduce the problem in the U.S.

• Agencies in Montgomery County are attempting to work together in terms of how services are provided to the community.
Upon My Return

- Report to the U.S. embassy in Sierra Leone and to my supervisor on the details of my professional development experience.
- Improve methods of interacting and networking with other staff members in the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.
- Advocate to form a Public Health unit in my country to reduce some of the health problems that are preventable.
- Hold meetings to collaborate with other agencies to provide services for girls involved in prostitution and for those that are pregnant.
- Encourage meetings to review agency scope of services to ensure that staff are not duplicating services.
Thank You!