

## **Post-Polio Organization in Sierra Leone: Summary of work and need**



### **Polio Challenge Association [POCA]**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone**

#### **List the services provided for polio survivors.**

- Provision of mobility/assistive devices [wheelchairs, calipers/braces, tricycles, crutches, etc.]
- Medical/health care services
- Vocational skills training
- Educational scholarships
- Shelter
- Employment - polio survivors are employed as teachers in the primary school and the polio children orphanage

#### **Of what accomplishment is your group most proud?**

We are most proud of the acquisition of a six acres land for the construction of make shift and permanent houses and structure to accommodate and provide shelter for the homeless polio survivors. Also, we are proud of the training of forty-five homeless polio survivors in various vocational skills and provision of shelter for them.

**Are polio survivors involved in the running of the organization? If so, what do they do?**

Yes, polio survivors are involved in the running of the organization as executive members and they hold administrative positions. In so doing, they implement projects and programs of the organization. Moreover the trainers and tutors are polio survivors and so are the teachers who teach and administrate the community primary school. They make decisions and make plans for the school. The general membership comprises of polio survivors. They attend general meetings to discuss reports, make plans and make decisions, and implements activity plans.

**What are the major *unmet* needs of polio survivors in your area, listing the most important first?**

- Lack of calipers/braces, wheelchairs, crutches, tricycles or personal energy transport. This also includes orthopedic materials, tools, machines or equipment.
- Training skills and capacity building in the areas of orthopedic appliances construction, repairing, advocacy and lobbying skills, project writing and planning, budgeting, financial activities reporting.
- Information on post-polio health care services knowledge and skill.
- Technical and technological expertise and equipment.
- Inadequate medical or health care services.

**Please include any other information you would like others to know about your organization and its needs. Photos are welcomed.**

**AIM/OBJECTIVES**

The ultimate aim of the Polio Challenge Association in Sierra Leone is to achieve social inclusion, participation and economic empowerment of people with disabilities. That is to make polio survivors useful and productive members of society through these ***objectives***.

- Public education and awareness raising
- Media campaign and sensitization
- Create employment opportunities
- Health care services and rehabilitation
- Inclusive education and vocational training
- Information, communication and technology
- Legislative policies and practices

## **ACTIVITIES**

- Radio panel discussion program, lobbying, representation
- Training and sensitization workshops
- Networking, monitoring and coordination
- Vocational training in tailoring, shoe making, animal rearing, vegetable gardening, etc.
- Primary school
- Health center
- Blacksmithery and tin smithery
- Wheelchair, crutches and caliper repairing

**Others may want to know more about your organization. Please list the name, position, mailing address, email, phone, and fax of at least two contact persons.**

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**List the names and contact persons of groups that are in partnership with your organization.**

- Patrick J. Taylor - Disability Watch Sierra Leone  
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- Abu Bakar Kamara -Progressive Handicap Development Association, 5 Watshon Street Kingsyard, Waterloo, Western Area Rural District, Sierra Leone, [bundukuyea@gmail.com](mailto:bundukuyea@gmail.com) +232-30-288-090

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