

2014

# OneFamilyPeople: Annual Report



one  
Family  
people

BREAKING BARRIERS  
FOR DISABILITY

## Note from the Director

Every year, I have the privilege to reflect on OneFamilyPeople projects. 2014 has been one of the most challenging years for the people of Sierra Leone since 2002, when the decade-long civil war ended. This year we experienced a deadly and highly contagious virus called Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), which spread rapidly and took thousands of lives. OneFamilyPeople was a victim of this catastrophe as we lost some persons with disabilities, who are key target beneficiaries, their parents, and members of the Men Support Groups. This particularly had a debilitating effect on the implementation of our Girl Power and Child Empowerment Programs. It continues to worsen their already deteriorating livelihoods situation.

This tragic virus that plagued the three Mano River Union countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea) hit Sierra Leone the hardest and suffered the highest death toll. As of December, 31st 2014 Sierra Leone recorded 2,758 deaths out of 7,905 deaths in the three countries. The outbreak disrupted the country's poor economic infrastructural development in the health, education, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism, construction and air transportation sectors. 2014 was characterized as a transformative year for OneFamilyPeople as the organization continued to expand substantially in scope and service delivery. We are very much grateful to ICDI for their continuous capacity building support to OneFamilyPeople including linking us with important partners. As a result, the organization became an official strategic partner to the Liliane Foundation headquartered in the Netherlands: a partnership that increased our operational districts from three to nine. In addition, our partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Ebola response has enabled us cover 52 homes and communities of persons with disabilities nationwide.

In February 2014, OneFamilyPeople underwent re-branding. We developed a professional set of communication materials such as a pitch and logo, inspirational videos and own official email addresses. We have also created social media channels (Twitter and Facebook) with trained staff to manage it. Also, OneFamilyPeople organized the OneBillionRising for Justice campaign in Freetown. This is an international campaign where women activists across the world rise and demand an end to violence against girls and young women including those with disabilities. In addition, 338 adolescent girls including those with disabilities were trained in sport, music and life skills guided by the Goal curriculum to improve their social position, resist FGM, early marriage and demand education. 2014 was also a year of advocacy for the promotion of social inclusion of Children and Youngsters with Disabilities (CYWDs) and non-acceptance of stigmatization. This was championed by the Great Walpoleans Musical Band, Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues (SLUDI) and our partner organizations.

These efforts are gradually changing society's perception on disability. Today persons with disabilities are gradually holding important positions in governance and making meaningful contribution in all spheres of life. For instance, one of our beneficiaries won the national essay competition organized by the American Embassy titled: "How can the empowerment of women and girls lead to positive nation building?" It is therefore clear from the above that even with the deadly Ebola epidemic, Sierra Leone can still move forward if government, donor partners, I/NGOs, civil society and service users continue to support one another and share resources and expertise towards the post-Ebola recovery programmes.

We use this opportunity to call on you all to offer special prayers for our dedicated Board chairman, Rev Moses Kanu who is presently in a sick bed. Let's pray that God gives him a speedy recovery to continue his mission to fight for the rights of persons with disabilities. Jamesina King

Edward Emmanuel  
Director

**Our Vision:**

The OneFamilyPeople has a dream of a transformed continent where persons with disabilities - from children to adults, men and women - participate equally in everyday life and given space to live up to their full potential.

**Our Mission:**

To empower persons with disabilities with skills and knowledge to break barriers and change mind-sets through sport, music and livelihood

**Values**

Disability is our purpose

Music is our core

Sport is our power

Team work is our strength

Innovation is our edge

Change is our promise

**Who We Are**

One Family People is a local human rights organization established in 2008 by a group of dedicated volunteers determined to positively change the lives of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone. Through this dedication, we are today locally and internationally recognized as a disability center of excellence designed to helping children with disabilities become tomorrow's leaders by providing impact oriented services for them, their families and communities. We reflect our belief in the importance and vitality of children with disabilities and their family's role in society. OneFamilyPeople provides educational, health, livelihood, protection and leadership mentoring services with dedicated

**Strategy**

Partnerships and networking are core elements to achieving our mission. Sustainability requires effective collaboration and coordination among governmental and non-governmental organizations for persons with disabilities. The complexity and scale of creating an enabling environment and inclusive society for persons with disabilities to develop and attain quality life can't be effectively addressed by one single organization. That is why we are proudly working with a broad range of committed local and international partners to provide individual support up to international lobby and advocacy. In all partnerships, we put an uncompromising emphasis on three principles:

1. Equity
2. Transparency
3. Mutual Benefit

partners to enable our beneficiaries to learn, grow, and successfully integrate into their communities.

OneFamilyPeople dedication to the promotion and protection of the rights of all persons with disabilities is clearly demonstrated by its effort in advancing disability inclusion in national and international development programming. OneFamilyPeople ensures that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Persons with Disability Act 2011 are accessible to all persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

**What We Do**

OneFamilyPeople uses sport, music and drama as a strategy to break barriers, change mind set and advance disability rights with a focus on four areas:

- Promoting access to education, health and livelihood
- Addressing gender-based violence
- Promoting access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Creating an enabling environment

We deliver on our mission through advocacy, awareness raising, infrastructural adjustment and capacity building. We invest in local partner organizations to provide direct, tailor-made and small scale assistance to children and youngsters with disabilities who live in poverty and lack access to services. We learn from best practices in the field with the aim of improving our services, identifying innovation, and catalyzing dialogue that advances OneFamilyPeople's ability to address disability issues through sport, music and drama. We deliver evidence-based monitoring and evaluation system and substantiated proof, and report with consistency, accuracy and efficiency.

## Why persons with disabilities?



OneFamilyPeople believes that persons with disabilities especially women and girls are powerful agents of change, and development can only be achieved by including them. When persons with disabilities are empowered and given an opportunity they will perceive themselves as actors in their development and grow into strong agents of change.

Despite the rights guaranteed to persons with disabilities in the UN Convention and the disability Act 2011, they are often excluded from participating meaningfully in their families and communities. It is estimated by the World Bank and World Health Organization that persons with disabilities make up 15 percent of the world population, of which 120-150 million are children under the age of 18. It is further estimated that 90 million children aged 0-14 experience a moderate or severe form of disability and 13 million of these children experience difficulties in life situations. Eighty percent of the total number of persons with disabilities is living in middle and low income countries like Sierra Leone.

These people often do not receive adequate technical, medical or social support with the potential to improve their living conditions. They are barely targeted by mainstream organizations and support is not often tailored to their need. They often lack equitable access to resources and services such as education, employment, health care, social and legal support systems compared to their non-disable peers. Girls and women with disabilities face double discrimination based on their disability and gender.

Thus, persons with disabilities are socially more vulnerable, at higher risk of social exclusion and therefore more prone to poverty, and physical/sexual abuse. OneFamilyPeople believe by improving the social protection and welfare of persons with disabilities we can achieve a measurable and positive impact which contribute to addressing some of the world most pressing problems in education, health and socio-economic development.

## Why sport, music and drama?

Sport, music and drama play an important role in our work. They are powerful tools in changing people's beliefs and ideas, and in enhancing dialogue for community development. Through **drama** we can observe ourselves in action; we can amend, adjust and alter our actions to have different impact and to change our world. Drama can make us better understand ourselves, our communities and our world. **Music** has the power to transform thinking and inspire people to act. While **sport** ensures equal participation, team work, develop life skills and unite people with disability and their communities. It can improve the social position of vulnerable groups, challenge socio-cultural norms, disability and gender stereotypes at community level, and society at large. Sport can be a therapeutic way to help the physical, social and mental well-being.

We use sport, music and drama to encourage and train persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to stand up and speak for themselves.

## The Year 2014 in Brief

Despite the catastrophic Ebola epidemic first reported in May 2014, which significantly disrupted our normal activities, we could still make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone. We are grateful to our partner organizations, donors, staff and volunteers for their various



contributions that enabled us achieve most of our benchmarks targeted for 2014. We remain committed to playing a leadership role in disability-inclusive development to empower PWDs to find conduits out of poverty and realise their full and possible potential...But what motivated us for these achievements?

Our driving force -**Breaking barriers for Persons with Disabilities**. This is the overriding motivating factor for these achievements. We have positioned ourselves to integrate persons with disabilities and their needs in all facets of society and to empower them realize their full potential. This requires that all interventions also fight to end discrimination and stigma, which every person with disability frequently face in their lives.

Against this backdrop, our staff are continuously trained in specific skills to work with PWDs directly. In all our interventions we ensure that the dignity of persons with disabilities is the guiding principle and should not be compromised. "Our ultimate goal is to ensure inclusive society fit for all, so that everyone can enjoy Sierra Leone's prosperity without discrimination," said Edward Emmanuel, Director of OneFamilyPeople. Through our various interventions persons with disabilities are now

engaged in sports, music and drama, which have to a large extent changed societal perception about disability. Parents, caregivers and communities as a whole are now more accepting children with disabilities who otherwise are regarded as a burden and not an asset.

Through the Girl Power Program, we continued to promote an inclusive community child protection systems in the 13 targeted communities in the Western Area and Moyamba. For instance:

1. 130 women including those with disabilities have been trained as SGBV monitors in 13 communities
2. 232 girls and young women including those with disabilities survivors of SGBV were supported to access justice in a form of transportation, shelter, medical and psycho-social counsel services
3. 500 parents or care givers of children with disabilities reached through parenthood counselling

In response to the Ebola crisis, which devastated the country's socio-economic livelihoods, through the Girl Power program OneFamilyPeople provided hygiene materials (soap, hand sanitizers, toiletries and buckets), food, and psycho-social counselling support to 500 girls and quarantined families in 13 communities in the Western Area and Moyamba district. Goal Champions were also supported to conduct community and radio programs sensitizing their peers on Ebola prevention and control practices reaching over 10,000 listeners. This effort was supported by ICDI, Plan Sierra Leone and Women Win.

Because I Am A Girl – complement the Girl Power Program in supporting girls including with disabilities and those without to get the education, skills and support they need to transform their lives and the world around them.

Significant achievement of our 2014 programs can be summarized as follows:



## Promoting mainstream sport and life skills for girls education

**2014 Highlights:** "Soccer for Girls" part of Girl Power

**Location:** Western Area and Moyamba Districts



With focus on sport and life skills education, OneFamilyPeople continued to empower adolescent girls with disabilities and those without. This is an initiative under the protection component of the Girl Power Program that offers hundreds of adolescent girls with and without disabilities (aged 12-17) the unique opportunity for a

better life through leadership mentoring and life skills education guided by the Goal Curriculum. The program combines social empowerment and life skills education modules that cover topics such as communication skills, financial literacy, health, and hygiene practices.

Social empowerment is reinforced by sport (**football** and **table tennis**), and trainings are offered through Goal Champions<sup>1</sup> who in turn receive monthly stipend which enabled them to take care of their basic needs and pay for additional school charges.

From 2011 to 2014, OneFamilyPeople has supported over five thousand girls and young women including those with disabilities to get the education, skills and support they need to transform their lives and the world around them. More than 60 percent of these girls are better



equipped to counter violence and prevent teenage pregnancy; they can identify themselves as leaders, and have broken the stereotype that football is for only boys. For instance, parents and community stakeholders in project locations are now supportive towards girl's

participation in football and the life skills programme after seeing the results. Most parents said that their girls are contributing meaningfully to the home chores and focusing harder on their education.

A Goal Champion informed us that she invests her monthly stipend in her small-scale business, which helps pay school fees, buy text and exercise books, etc.

This achievement has been propelled by the sport and life skills education concept with the opinion that we cannot protect, prevent or end violence against girls, without investing in and empowering them: only then will girls have the chance to reach their full potential and gain back the ability to control their future.

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<sup>1</sup>Young girls who demonstrated interest and exhibited leadership qualities after graduation from 10-month training.

**2014 Highlights:** Goal Implementation Follow up training,  
**Location:** Moyamba District



With funding from Women Win, OneFamilyPeople in collaboration with the Rehabilitation and Development Agency in Sierra Leone (RADA-SL), organized a two-day follow-up training for 11 Goal Champions, 7 Facilitators, 5 Program staff from both partners on the 25th & 26th July 2014.

The idea was to assess successes and challenges partners face in implementing the Goal program. Goal Champions and facilitators were given the opportunity to share their facilitation experiences – best practices and obstacles.

The meeting was concluded with group work presentations and joint action plan to further strengthen the knowledge and skills acquired by

participants, reflecting on the last five days of the Goal Implementation training in Bo. The action plan was backed up with individual pledge to ensure effective implementation of the action plan developed and collaboration/networking among partners and other relevant stakeholders.

**2014 Highlights:** Engaging boys/men training workshop  
**Location:** Western Area

During a monitoring visit, the International Child Development Initiatives provided technical training to OneFamilyPeople staff on how to engage men and boys in the protection of girls and young women in the project locations. The training focused on:

1. Dominant social construction of boys and men – The Man Box. Tony Porter TedWoman Talk
2. Men Caring: Acknowledging hurt men experience as victims or witnesses to violence; breaking the silence of violence amongst men; Men as care givers, especially around fatherhood. MenCare video, Rutgers WPF Carlos
3. Developing Strategies for engaging and involving boys and young men.
4. Style as antidote to violence: Documentary about Sapeurs.

Engaging the Men's Support and boy's groups in the target communities added leverage to the lives of the girls that we serve. Boys who are known to be the drivers of violence were constantly been encouraged to be their sister's keepers. The Men Support Groups collectively with the boy's groups are now giving support to the Mother Led Protection Units that were established to ensure that girls and young women are safe in the project locations.

### *Mainstreaming disability in community child protection systems*

**2014 Highlights:** Accessibility training for Mother Lead Protection Unit (MLPU)

**Location:** Western Area, Moyamba



In April 2014, OneFamilyPeople offered training for 30 representatives from the Mother Led Protection Unit (MLPU), Men Support Groups and Family Support Unit (FSU) to provide accessible protection services to girls and young women with disabilities. Participants took part in experiential activities such as experiencing disability to further increase awareness on the needs to make their services accessible to adolescent girls and young women with disabilities.

However, their greatest challenge remained the high level of poverty that most times prevent them in effectively carrying out the skills and knowledge acquired. It was in a bid to overcome this bottleneck that the MLPUs use their weekly financial contributions to monitor and or refer reported cases to the responsible service provider as stated in the National Referral Protocol for victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Because of their skills and techniques in handling issues of disability and parental counselling, the MLPUs have continued to work closely with Service Providers Network, chiefs, child welfare committees, Local Court Chairpersons and FSUs, especially when an incidence involves a girl or young woman with disabilities.

In certain instances, the MLPUs have represented OneFamilyPeople at the community level, which is an important step in our effort to transform them into community-based organizations by end of 2015. The MLPUs in most of our

operational areas informed us during focus group discussions that wife battering has significantly reduced in their communities and that their relationship with men is now more cordial. Importantly, they have formed good relationships with the police and the local authorities, which allow them to jointly settle GBV cases.

Similarly, all the groups had numerous success stories. For instance, in Kissy Shell, the MLPU advocated successfully for the conviction of a man who raped and impregnated a 14-year-old girl. Through their assistance, she could return to school where she is producing good results. The MLPU also helped to reconcile a disabled woman with her husband who had abandoned her during pregnancy. But after they engaged the man and told him about his responsibility and implications if the matter is charged to court, the man apologized and started taking care of the woman and the baby.

In Dwarzark, child labour has drastically reduced due to the numerous awareness-raising campaigns among parents by the FSU, MLPU, MSG, V-Girls, and V-boys. Parents are now more likely to agree that education for their girls comes first. Also in Calaba Town, the MLPU successfully protected a young woman who was accused of witchcraft by a 50-year-old man (witch doctor) after he had attempted to sexually abuse her. The MLPU together with the chairperson of the MSG entered agreement with the community chief and the FSU that settled the matter. Also in Moyamba the MLPUs have been settling family dispute and wife/intimate partner battering. Generally, the MLPUs are responding actively to issues affecting girls and young women in their communities.



## 2014 Highlights: One Billion Rising for Justice Campaign

**Location:** Western Area



The Walpoleans graced the event with their OneBillionRising song calling on their parents, leaders and the international community to rise against violence.

Over the past three years, OneFamilyPeople continued to support the V-girls in the Western Area and Moyamba Districts in their advocacy to end all forms of violence against girls and women with disabilities and those without. On February 14, 2014, the V-girls together with the Walpoleans and MLPUs staged a large protest and engaged local and national leaders including the Director of the Family Support Unit, the Director General of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation, the Ministers of Social Welfare, Health and Sanitation and the Attorney General urging them to sign pledge cards as a sign of their commitment to end violence against women and girls in Sierra Leone. The theme was **"Ending Impunity and Connecting Social Justice Issues with Violence against Women"**. The protest highlighted justice issues including rape, teenage pregnancy, early marriage and FGM/C. Following the protest march a concert was staged at the Milton Margai School for the Blind where the speech and hearing impaired performed a drama on violence against them and the lack of justice due to communication barrier.

The visually impaired performed a poem that gave courage to survivors with disability to be confident to come forward and report their ordeals in society.

Through this campaign, we have raised consciousness, supported access to services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence through advocacy and referrals. The FSU has created a special room to obtain statements from victims and complainants of SGBV cases to ensure privacy. To expedite SGBV cases, the Government has established a department at the Principal State Council to speedily verify all FSU files before charging them to court to minimize the number of cases lost for lack of evidence. The ministry of Social Welfare has established a counselling session for victims of SGBV to keep them abreast of the court proceedings. Victims often panic and become overwhelmed when they see the magistrate or judge or lawyers in their regalia for the first time in the court room so the preparations beforehand can decrease their anxiety. Government increased the 2014 budget allocated for the promotion of gender equability. A supplementary budget was also allocated to the ministry of social welfare to address teenage pregnancy and encourage teenage mothers to go back to school.

Despite this progress, there are still challenges within the High Court. For instance, some cases drag out for as many as six years; most victims are poor and cannot afford transportation to be attending court sessions on a daily or regular basis. Most victims prefer to stop attending their matters in court prematurely. From our findings from FSU, there has been improvement in their investigation and proffering charges against alleged perpetrators to the Magistrate court for preliminary hearing. Due to our intensive joint advocacy with various actors there is improvement with the Judiciary in expediting cases at magistrate court level. The greatest challenge however remains with the High Court where cases are delayed and lead to victims giving up.



Drama by the Hearing impaired



Poem by the visually impaired



Director of FSU and the head of the SLBC TV signing pledge cards



The Minister Of SWGCA addressing the movement



## *Breaking the silence on violence against girls and young women including those with disabilities*

### **2014 Highlights: "You and the Police"**

**Location:** Western Area, Moyamba



Since 2012 the concept of "You and the Police" has played an important role serving as a bridge that has fostered interaction between the Family Support Unit (FSU) and their communities. Under the laws of Sierra Leone, violent crimes

against girls and young women, especially sexual penetration, rape, child trafficking, child labour, early marriage, early pregnancy and female genital mutilation, are under the purview of FSU- a specialized unit within the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) responsible to investigate and prosecute all the crimes mentioned above. The concept is therefore complementing the effort of the SLP in protecting girls and young women in our operational areas.

However, we discovered in 2012 that there was a lack of community participation in their work, hence the birth of "You and the Police". Since then, this gap has been progressively closed in our operational areas. For instance, on 14 February, 2014, the Director of FSU interacted with children and youngsters with disabilities in Milton Margai School for the Blind in Freetown where she revealed that significant progress has been made with respect to better protection of girls and young women, including those with

Disabilities, against the prevalence of SGBV. In 2014, OneFamilyPeople provided financial support to FSU personnel to conduct "You and the Police" dialogue sessions reaching 2703 girls, young women and Community stakeholders in 7 secondary schools in the W/Area and 6 communities in Moyamba focusing on SGBV case management and social inclusion.

This effort has contributed to the increased community resilience to violence against girls especially those with disabilities in our programme areas. There are more SGBV reported cases in 2014 as compared to 2013. The FSU 2014 annual report indicated a high increase in sexual abuse, recording 2,201 cases in 2014 compared to 1,485 cases in 2013: a 32 percent reduction in number of cases. The report disclosed that, out of the 2,201 cases recorded in 2014, 2,124 were perpetrated against children while 77 were perpetrated against adults. She said, however, "Although these figures are on the increase, they could be



attributed to the high level of sensitisation by our partners in breaking the silence". Thus, most parents are becoming brave to report these cases to us, which before now was a taboo." The 'You and the Police' programmes in other communities were unfortunately disrupted because

of Ebola emergency regulations that prohibited all public gatherings in the country.



### *Policy on access to infrastructure and public buildings*

**2014 Highlights:** Halting the eviction order of PwDs by the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure

**Location:** Western Area



Access to adequate shelter remains a serious challenge for PwDs living in Sierra Leone especially those in the capital city, where nearly 80 percent of them live in dilapidated houses, market places, on the street, etc. This could be attributed to the high level of discrimination against them in rural areas hence their migration to the city where all sorts of opportunities are greater.

In Freetown, street begging is one of the key sources of income for PwDs, more so than those living in rural areas. In addition, donor attention and charities pay more attention to city-dwelling PwDs' wellbeing. Most PwDs who visit their peers in the rural areas are envied because of their socio-economic status. They are better dressed, some married with children, etc. This has seen an increase in migration from rural to the capital city, particularly since the end of the civil war in 2002.

Dishearteningly, adequate shelter after a day of street-begging is hard to come by. The most common complaint we receive from PwDs is that most house owners are reluctant to rent a house to them even when they have money to pay. This is because of the stereotypes earlier mentioned: PwDs are troublesome, or into witchcraft, etc. To overcome this challenge, they have always taken advantage of unused dilapidated buildings in the city centres. For instance, hundreds of PwDs are squatting at the House of Jesus for the Disabled by Wallace Johnson Street, ECOWAS Street and Pa Demba Road next to the Pa Demba Road Correctional Centre.

In March 2014, the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure moved to evict about 145 PwDs residing at the Pa Demba Road shelter. With awareness of their rights as shared by OneFamilyPeople, our beneficiaries and supporters successfully advocated to halt this exercise in collaboration with the Civil Society Universal Periodic Review



Monitoring Group, Amnesty International-SL and different media houses using press releases, press conference and TV programmes.

Ideally Sierra Leone is a signatory to the UNCRPD and has enacted the Persons with Disability Act 2011. The Government also accepted the UPR

recommendation to protect PwDs. Using all these international disability policies and instruments, we engaged the Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Housing and the eviction was halted. In fact, a policy is in progress to give PwDs access to adequate and available infrastructure and public buildings.

## *Promoting socio-economic empowerment for children and youngsters with disabilities*

### **2014 Highlights: Dignity Market Centre (DMC)**

**Location:** Western Area



with disabilities to develop and surpass their dreams as contributors, leaders, and decision makers. The program, which target 36 youth with disabilities is working to infuse the local economy.

Over the years, OneFamilyPeople learnt that there will high return of about 38% increase in national development when empowering persons with disabilities. After the 11 years civil war, many organizations invested on youngsters with disabilities including livelihood skill training.

Most of these trainings aim to promote employment opportunities for youngsters with disabilities and access to finance. However, empowering youngsters with disabilities requires knowledge and skills to develop and implement successful business plans.

Many youngsters with disabilities have missed an education due to the civil war and poverty. The Dignity Market Centre (DMC) provides possibilities for youth

### **2014 Highlights: Walpoleans Rock "N" Roll Band**

**Location:** Western Area



OneFamilyPeople has a strong belief that PWDs themselves have unique opportunity to advocate and change society's negative perception about them. In Sierra Leone and in most parts of the world PWDs are regarded as a liability to society or are half human. Over the years, OneFamilyPeople has proved this notion harmful and a thing of the

past. "This is proved by our music and drama group the Walpoleans Rock Band who have changed the perception that PwDs can better entertain the US President than abled persons," said Edward Emmanuel, Director of OneFamilyPeople. The Band comprises PwDs performing different roles: the visually impaired play the instruments and sing while

the speech and hearing impaired dance. OFP promotes this group as a key medium of advocacy messages that have thrilled policy makers including the President of the Republic and his Vice. On many occasion during the Walpoleans' performance all stakeholders present dance with them especially when singing their popular songs 'Breaking Barriers' and 'Give me my Right' in which they demand their rights to shelter, education, health, employment etc. as their fundamental human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The Walpoleans gained a national accolade when they released two video and audio songs on Ebola titled "All Rise against Ebola" targeting PWDs. Thanks to the swift response from UNDP for funding the Walpoleans, it was possible for the visually, speech and hearing impaired to break this barrier especially when the video song was translated into sign language. "This initiative really responded to global approach of 'Leave no one behind', said Hadiatou Diallo, Senior Programme Manager, OneFamilyPeople.



## *Creating a better enabling environment for children with disabilities*

**2014 Highlights:** Child Empowerment (CE)

**Location:** Bo, Kenema, Kono, Bombali, Koinadugu, Port Loko, Kambia, Western Area,



The Child Empowerment is the new name of what used to be called Direct Child Assistance, a demand driven strategy initiated by the Liliane Foundation to promote diversity and empower children and youngsters with disabilities to decide for themselves and become self-advocates, organizing themselves in groups, lobbying for their right, making informed decisions about their needs.

The Child Empowerment has two components: Child Development and Enabling Environment. The Child Development component addresses the child's impairment and improves the functioning of children with disabilities to make them resilient and self-aware allowing them to participate and stand up for themselves. The parents or guardians of these children play a key role. The Enabling Environment component focuses on reducing the barriers that hinder the participation of children with a disability in society taken into consideration the (social) infrastructure, communications, attitude and behaviour of people and the policies of the (local) government.

The programme is designed:

- To promote quality rehabilitation services that increase the functionality of children and youngsters with disabilities (Child Development component);
- To ensure systematic removal of barriers and biases that children in the programme experience in their communities, and enable their participation and inclusion (Enabling Environment component).
- To increase the child personal, social, educational and economic strength to become agent of change in the community through stimulating local partner organizations to ensure that children with disabilities who live in poverty are given equal opportunity to develop and use their talents. Through strengthening the capacity of local partner organizations so that they are sufficiently knowledgeable and equipped to implement the core strategy and Lobbying/Advocacy to safeguard the interests of persons with disabilities in national development.

The Child Development focus on four CBR core areas: Health, Education, Livelihood and Social

**Educational support**

Persons with disabilities are disadvantaged by poor quality, inadequate, and inaccessible education. Our partner organizations encourage child empowerment through education at different levels by offering specific scholarships for children and youngsters in nine districts. It address the huge discrimination CYwDs face within their families to access equal opportunities in education. In some cases, "some of us who are willing to provide educational support for our children with disabilities cannot just afford it due to our poverty," said a parent of one of the beneficiaries.

From the 2014 archives of Child Empowerment, 299 CYwDs received school fees, learning materials including books, pens; uniforms, fees for extra classes and nutrition. The Ebola emergency regulations resulted in the closure of all educational institutions nationwide in which they were all provided food and hygiene items such as rice, hand sanitizers, tooth paste, soap, etc. that minimized or prevented the need for street begging, a key reason for zero Ebola infection among them.

**Health**

The health and healthy environment of CYwDs supported by the programme are crucial for their development and survival. Most lack assistive devices and physiotherapy treatments. This is a very serious concern for the programme. By end of 2014, the programme provided them with wheel chairs, pets and callipers/crutches. Three children were also provided with physiotherapy while 245 received general health care for ailments like the common cold, sore throat, head ache, Malaria, stomach ache, body pain, etc.

**Livelihood**

CYwDs not in formal institutions were supported in different livelihood projects. Partner Organisations including Polio Persons Development Association, St. Joseph School for Hearing Impaired, Polio Women & Girls Development Organization were supported to provide various livelihood education in sewing, hair dressing, tailoring, soap making, Gara-tie-dying and electronics. Another partner, Welfare Society for the Disable -Kambia is implementing an intensive livelihood Project called "Comot Na Gron" in Kambia.

**Enabling environment**

This provides policy advocacy and environmental adjustment CYwDs to move freely in schools and communities. They are provided with assistive devices and participate in games, sport, drama, debates, etc. just as non-disabled children and youngsters. We, therefore, participated in community awareness raising exercise educating stakeholders about these rights in the Convention and the Person with Disability Act of 2011.

**2014 Highlights:** Branding and Communication

**Location:** Western Area



young women with disabilities, which is key added value in the programme. With funding from UNDP, we succeeded in mainstreaming disability in the national response strategy to eradicate Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) resulting to the expansion of our coverage from three districts to 14 districts (nationwide). We are presently developing a sustainable livelihood project for persons with disabilities as part of the post-Ebola recovery strategy.

The continuation of our organizational re-branding process is highly needed to strengthen the promotion of our story both locally and internationally and become more professional. In order to complete our re-branding, we still need the following communication tools: website, posters, brochure, business cards, letterhead, banners, t-shirts, power point presentations, layout, etc.

When the above tools are developed, OneFamilyPeople will be able to reflect its story, touch the hearts of current and potential donors for fundraising and get its message across. The organization will also become more credible, independent and sustainable.

In February 2014, One Family People started working on its organizational re-branding with funding from Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through ICDI and co-founded by Liliane Foundation and BrandOutLoud Foundation. We have developed a professional set of communication materials such as an official pitch and logo, two inspiring short videos and official email addresses. Also, social media channels such as Tweeter and Facebook were stepped up and staff trained to manage the social media platforms.

The branding process unveiled our identity and strengths, and highlighted staff personal motivation, giving us a clearer picture of who we are, our identity and what we stand for. It helped us maintain focus on our mission and find our niche, while staying true to the values and culture of our organization. However, due to limited funding it was impossible to complete the re-branding process. Therefore, choices on the type of communication tools to be developed were made based on our most felt needs. In any case, the effect of the few branding materials developed so far on OneFamilyPeople is exceptional. For instance, the organization has gained more recognition and credibility at national and regional levels when it comes to disability issues. It has also helped OneFamilyPeople to find its niche in the Girl Power Programme (GPP), our focus now is on girls and

## *Closing the Gap in Ebola Response*

**2014 Highlights:** Ebola prevention and control measure among PWDs in 52 Communities/Camps,

**Location:** Bo, Kenema, Bombali, Moyamba, Koinadugu, Port Loko, Kambia, Western Area (Urban and Rural), Pujehun, Bonthe, Tonkolili, Kailahun, Kono

This initiative was in response to numerous concerns from persons with disability (PWDs) who consistently raised several media appeals that they have been discriminated against in all the Ebola response interventions. They explained to OneFamilyPeople that all Ebola interventions by government and other stakeholders did not specifically target persons with disabilities: giving such instances when the Ebola epidemic engulfed the entire country and the United Nations declared it

In the President's nationwide message, he declared the Public Emergency Regulation effective as of 14th August 2014, This regulation restricted movements of persons, goods and services in quarantined districts and homes. The obvious economic consequences of these restrictions were on PWDs who primarily rely on begging for their daily survival. Under this condition their ability to prevent themselves from the disease was a serious concern to OFF.

By August 2014, OneFamilyPeople was alarmed by the exponential rate of spread of the disease across the whole country especially the district headquarters towns and cities including the capital Freetown. Considering the high level of socio-economic vulnerability among PwDs, OneFamilyPeople decided to swiftly respond to his Excellency's clarion call on all and sundry to join this national fight to eradicate the Ebola virus out of the country to enable us continue our normal activities. This call captivated us to engage UNDP to fund this closing-the-gap initiative. UNDP supported OneFamilyPeople to reach 52 PWD homes and communities in all 14 district where we reached about 250,000 PwDs and 700,000 persons with non-disability through the following interventions:

### **Translation of Ebola fact sheet into Braille and sign language**

Given that the most marginalized PWDs in the Ebola messages were persons with visual, speech and hearing impairments, 150 copies of Ebola prevention messages in Braille and 300 factsheets of sign language were produced and distributed among them. These materials were translated from MoHS and UNICEF factsheets on the EVD prevention and containment. They were also used during the outreach programmes conducted by the PWDs themselves after training them.

as a global catastrophe, all the IEC materials at the time were not friendly to visually, speech and hearing impaired: they could not see the posters, factsheets, TV shows, etc. Also, the speech and hearing impaired could not hear radio, TV programs, jingles or the President's messages to the nation about Ebola. This put them at a great disadvantage to protecting themselves against Ebola.



*Makeni: A visually-impaired man holds the Braille prevention pamphlet.*



### Production and airing of audio visual materials on Ebola prevention and containment

Using the expertise of its Walpoleans musical Band, OneFamilyPeople produced 50 copies of jingle, 150 audio music and 200 video clips with sign language interpretation titled All Rise against Ebola. Both audio and video clips were distributed to all the 52 disable homes while the rest distributed among community radios and national media which were aired nationwide to raise awareness among PWDs and their communities on Ebola prevention and control mechanism and show case their contributions in the fight to end Ebola.

### Community and Radio Outreach



Using the Braille and sign language fact sheets, OneFamilyPeople in collaboration with ONS, MSWGCA and NCPwD conducted outreach programmes in 52 disable homes/communities in the 14 districts in the country. Hygiene items were distributed to all the 52 communities. In each of these homes, we have established a five-member group called the Ebola Outreach Committees (EOC).

These committees now serve as focal points in all our interventions in the 14 districts through the supervision of the Ministry of Social welfare, SLUDI and our partner organisations. As a means of empowerment, they were given coordination support to work with District Ebola Task Forces in the 12 districts and the National Ebola Response Centre in Freetown.

We are grateful to the UNDP Country Director, Sudipto Mukerjee, his Deputy, Lionel Laurens, and their team for attending two of the outreach sessions in Makeni where they shared the concerns and impact of the epidemic on PWDs especially polio, visual, speech and hearing impaired. We are also grateful to

the Deputy CD and the Human Rights Advisor for visiting two of the homes in western area.

Each Partner Organisations including SLUDI was given support to coordinate weekly radio talk shows with members of EOCs and other stakeholders in 52 communities for a period of 6 months. The radio talk shows raised awareness on Ebola prevention and control practices among PwDs and the public. They also used it to advocate for their inclusion and participation in all Ebola interventions. The community radios were also supported to air PwDs jingle and music unto December 2014.



**2014 Highlights:** Solidarity Kits

**Location:** Western Area, Makeni, Kenema, Moyamba,

The solidarity kit concept was initiated after Closing-the-Gap Ebola intervention. It was a school package provided to CYwDs who were prevented to attend schools as a result of the Ebola Public Emergency Regulations. The package included food items, book, pens, black boards and stipends for volunteer teachers. It helped our beneficiaries catch up with government distant learning programme on the radio. This effort was supported by UNDP.





**2014 Highlights:** Ebola prevention and control measures among children and youngsters with disabilities (CYwDs) in 10 districts

**Location:** Bo, Kenema, Bombali, Koinadugu, Port Loko, Kambia, Western Area (Urban & Rural), Kailahun, Moyamba



With funding from Liliane Fonds, OneFamilyPeople provided technical and financial support to 20 partner organisations to complement the ongoing Ebola intervention supported by UNDP that broadly aimed at ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all Ebola response efforts. By improving the food security and hygiene condition of CYwDs and families and increase their awareness on appropriate Ebola prevention and control measures.

Over 1,500,000 children, their families and neighbours benefited from the radio talk shows. About 700 children and their families benefited from the food and hygiene supply and counselling sessions. During the food distribution representatives of the Ministry of Social Welfare, SLUDI and the National Commission for PwDs were invited to make statements. The POs informed us in their report that the support from Liliane Fonds has helped prevent the spreading of the disease among children and youngsters with disabilities in the Child Empowerment Program. The children also expressed their gratitude to Liliane Fonds and partners for giving them the chance to go to school and opportunity to take part in

radio programs and raise awareness on Ebola prevention and control practices. Their participation has giving them status and respect in the community.



**2014 Highlights:** Forum Theatre

**Location:** Grafton



Over the years there has been an increase of violence activities taking place in Grafton community. Land grabbing in Grafton was identified as a serious concern threatening the harmonious relationship between community members, causing negative impact on girls and women especially those with disabilities.

How communities cope with the situation? What are the effects? Who pays the price? What the community members want? What are their expectations from local authorities? What has been done by the local authorities?

To answer these questions OFP conducted a research in Grafton that involves community members by using the method of forum theatre. Talented members of the MLPUs, MSG, V-girls and boys came together to create a play that reveals the problems of land grabbing community members are facing and the impact on them.

According to the play, the high demand for land has caused owners to demand foreign currency in transaction instead of the country currency, the Leones. The land grabbers in their bid to get rich fake documents and pretend to be owners and it is most time difficult to authenticate as the syndicate itself is wide involving public servants and lawyers. The other problem is the insincerity of surveyors who connive with land grabbers in falsifying documents. They sell a piece of land to so many people with fake

document and leave them to fight and kill each. Women and children often pay the price. For instance, women lose their rights to property when they lose their husbands they become homeless. The children are traumatized and can't concentrate in school especially when their parents are in detention or our house is been demolished. They become homeless when they lose their parents through death over land dispute.

What has been done? The S/Leone police has established a Special Task Force against land grabbing. In many cases, it has led to fights, killings in extreme cases and clandestine illegal deals

When the audience was invited to analyse the situation and offer comments, they were concerned about losing their houses for good. They revealed that the first habitant of Grafton do not have documentation for their lands because land registration is very expensive, they cannot afford. Different people present land documents for the same piece of land; No consultation among the surveyors and most of them are not government surveyors.

They recommended the following: Government to set up land registration committee in the western rural area; Reduce the cost for land registration; the ministry to engage the Grafton community people to collaborate with their leaders; replicate the forum theatre in other communities where land grabbing is imminent and build a peace museum between Grafton and Kossoh town community.



**2014 Highlights:** Case story

**Name:** Aminata Mosema, Goal Champion

**Age:** 18 years

**Address:** Freetown, Sierra Leone

Thanks to the Girl Power Program and One Family People empowered me with knowledge and skills.



I live with my uncle, his wife and four male children. We all survive under the salary of my uncle. Things became difficult for the family when my uncle was retired from his job because of old age.

I joined a girls group called Elegant Women in Future (EWIF) member of the V-girls network, supported by One Family People and they were organizing a goal program which was sponsored by women win.

During the program I learnt so many things like to compote myself, take care of my hygiene as a girl, make wise and positive decisions, know about contraceptives, manage and save money etc. All this helps me to become a leader. After I gain this knowledge, I started saving money which I used as capital for selling sweets (Butter Scott). I used the profit to settle some of my basic school needs such as buying books, pens, sockets, etc. After I completed the program, I became a goal champion and I was selected to teach a set of V-girls in my community and at the end of the month I receive stipend.

The first month stipend I received, I used it to expand my business, I started preparing and selling rich cake and banana bread and I reinvest the profit to expend my business and support my family and friends. Now, my uncle is proud of me because I have been assisting in the home and I did not solely depend on him for my every need. Thanks to

One Family People and Women win for giving me such great knowledge.

## Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure

For the year ended 31st December 2014.

### Income

	Notes	2014 Le	2013 Le
Funds from Donor Grants	<b>5</b>	2,322,535,041	697,016,546
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2,322,535,041</b>	<b>697,016,546</b>

### Expenditure

International Child Dev. Initiative (ICDI)	<b>6(a)</b>	375,468,500	389,767,300
PLAN International	<b>6(b)</b>	62,543,478	77,211,260
Women Win	<b>6(c)</b>	29,720,000	51,650,000
Liliane Foundation	<b>6(d)</b>	1,129,893,800	-
UNDP	<b>6(e)</b>	287,893,420	-
Fundraising Contribution	<b>6(f)</b>	78,490,000	128,930,642
Bank Charges		8,777,525	4,352,644
Nassit/NRA		5,430,000	2,176,400
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,978,216,723</b>	<b>650,088,246</b>
<b>Excess Income over Expenditure (surplus)</b>		<b>344,318,318</b>	<b>22,031,300</b>

**Balance Sheet***For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.*

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2014 Le</b>	<b>2013 Le</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,710,000</b>	<b>6,705,000</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Account Receivables and Prepayments	<b>8</b>	27,150,000	28,500,000
Bank/cash and cash equivalent	<b>9</b>	335,535,967	22,258,594
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>362,685,967</b>	<b>50,758,594</b>
<b>Net worth/Total assets</b>		<b>367,395,967</b>	<b>57,463,594</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>			
<b>Accumulated funds</b>			
Reserves		364,945,967	51,713,594
<b>Amount falling due within one year</b>			
Account Payables	<b>10</b>	2,450,000	5,750,000
		<b>367,395,967</b>	<b>57,463,594</b>

## Funders / Partners

|Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs | International Child Development Initiatives |Women Win | Child Rights Alliance | Liliane Foundation | United Nations Development Program | United States National Office |Plan International Sierra Leone | Vital Voices | Australian High Commission in Ghana | Artemisszio Foundation| BrandOutLoud | Vital Voices |Mercury International |

## Contact Information

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### Staff

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hadiatou Diallo     | Senior Program Manager |
| 2. Feima Saidu         | Finance Manager        |
| 3. Sheku Kabba         | Program Manager        |
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| 12. Salamatu Laggah    | Social Worker          |
| 13. Osman Fatoma       | Office Assistant       |
| 14. Laura Tedesco      | Volunteer              |
| 15. Mohamed Tower      | Volunteer              |

### Contact One Family People

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