

MIGRANTS PETITION ON EBOLA

OCTOBER 17, 2014, The Hague, Netherlands

By: The Migrants Consortium Against Ebola (MCAE)

1. The Sierra Leone Central Union, The Netherlands
2. The African Community Internship Placement Programme (ACIPP-West Africa)
3. Wanda Foundation
4. Shain Foundation
5. Movement Towards Peace and Development Agency (MoPada)
6. MOMOLU, Liberian Community
7. (Un-documented), African Migrant Collection (AMC)
8. Centre for Collective Learning and Action CCoLA (Process facilitator)

Introduction

As the Ebola virus Disease (EVD) becomes an overwhelming human catastrophe affecting public health, social institutions and economic well-being in Africa, we stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens in the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries victimized by this deadly disease. EVD threatens the social cohesion, international migration, the economic growth and the political stability in many SSA countries. EVD threatens international isolation and reinforce the stigmatization of the communities of this specific part of the world. If nothing is done, Ebola-affected communities will be victims of a “full- Embargo” from the international communities. A Human tragedy!

The Migrants Consortium Against Ebola went through several petitions. The consortium:

- Applaud the petitions of some organizations (USA Africa Network, Doctors without Borders, All Africa, USAID, CIDI, Kickebola.org) calling the general public, and the pharmaceutical industry for an immediate action!
- Thank and salute the local and international health workers, journalist and researchers who are risking their lives daily, intervening on the ground to eradicate the scourge of Ebola, often without access to gloves and other protective supplies.
- Thank and salute European Head of states and governments, specifically The Dutch government for the efforts made so far against this terrible disease.
- Thank and salute AFRICAN UNION SUPPORT TO EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA (ASEOWA) to enhance the capacity of existing national and international response mechanisms through mobilisation of technical expertise, resources, political and financial support;
- Applaud and recognise the Ebola- affected migrant’s communities, profoundly emotionally, physically, materially affected with this disease. There is no way for them to escape this humanitarian tragedy. They are the ones who have lost sisters, brothers, friends, cousins and parents; should they be alive, they would have contributed USD 861 Billion by 2016. Yet we have lost and continue to loose human,

social and intellectual capital since the outbreak of the EVD. It is for this that we need to kick Ebola out of the Sub-Saharan African societies.

This petition point out the specific views of the victims, migrant organizations and other private initiatives. Therefore in the name and interest of our common humanity, we have collectively launched this urgent migrant organizations' Call to Action.

We call on our:

- Respective Heads of African States and Governments of their responsibilities to their people; and remind them of their obligation to Pan-African solidarity;
- African and African descents and communities outside the African Continent and the global community to combine their forces and structure their actions towards this outbreak, and to act because of their humanitarian obligations in emergencies.
- Heads of States and Governments in Europe and across the World of their commitments and responsibilities to protect in times of emergencies
- Partners in the Private sector and other Political opinion leaders and media to positively add their voices to fighting this pandemic.

We urge the following immediate actions;

1. That help, funds and education are urgently needed. Now!
2. That fund by government institutions, International Non-Governmental institutions, the private sector are also made available to Diaspora organizations for immediate, quick access and focused assistance to the affected societies.
3. Diaspora institutions should be used as valuable resource in the Dutch governments' efforts in containing Ebola. Supporting migrant's organizations; strengthening, their financial, human and social capital so they can contribute towards the fight against this disease.
4. That mechanisms are created by governmental and international Non-governmental institutions to allow Ebola- Affected grassroots organizations to access support directly; while special attention should be given women and less abled -people;
5. We call on western media organisations to provide balanced, professional and quality information about Ebola. In the same view, we call on governmental and international non-governmental institutions and to provide small media grants to allow for the o develop educative programs to sensitize the populations in Ebola-affected countries and in Western countries;
6. We call on African Diaspora, African Descents; friends of Africa; opinion leaders – including artists, athletes, filmmakers, writers, journalists, academics – to initiate or to actively take part in public information campaigns on prevention and transmission of the Ebola.
7. We call on the broad private sector, the pharmaceutical industry, and knowledge institutes, in particular, to fund, facilitate and make immediately make available access to all known methods of prevention and treatment of this menacing threat to our global well-being.

8. We call on all European countries to immediately stop the framework of forced returned migrations policies in the Ebola- affected countries
9. Ensure that the flow of essential assistance can reach those in need, while maintaining economic activity necessary for sustaining life in cities and villages,
 - By Authorizing and implementing the local recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO)
 - Acknowledging the impossibility of quarantining entire nations and instead establish much-needed economic and humanitarian corridors of access - essential life-lines - both within the affected countries and between countries.
 - By providing a budget for research and development for Ebola and other Tropical Neglected diseases that affect more than 500 million of the population of this continent.

While containment is paramount, a more holistic approach to Ebola must be pursued. Holistic effort and multidisciplinary and multi sectoral approaches are recommended. Ebola is more than a health issue. Ebola has conflict, peace, economic, educational, access to resources, political and knowledge dimensions. It is important therefore that our efforts from the beginning must involve all the above.

For these reasons, we call for the endorsement of a post Ebola plan and fund to accelerate development in Ebola effected areas.

We hope you will help us to bring change, by signing this petition

Initiated By: The Migrants Consortium Against Ebola

Process facilitated by CCoLA