

LIBERIA IN FOCUS

Healthcare is a Human Right Ambulances to the Rescue!

An IHI clinic health worker reported that a woman with a sick child walked over 6 hours to reach our facility, because most rural communities in Liberia lack access to medical care.

According to WHO, the country has only 51 doctors and 5,000 health care workers to serve a population of 3.8 million people. When the Ebola epidemic spread through the country, most health facilities shut down, as health workers abandoned their posts.

In response to the needs, we have mobilized two retired ambulances from New Jersey to enhance health services to remote areas. One will transport patients from our clinic area to distant hospitals, or allow other hospitals to transport patients when needed. The other will become a mobile health unit that will provide full service treatment to over 6,000 people residing in rural areas outside of Monrovia.

Introducing quality health care and education to rural areas will improve the quality of life of impoverished Liberians starting at the village level, which open opportunities for a better future for themselves and their children. Longer term we hope to create more mobile health units for expansion of our efforts.



**New Jersey Ambulances'
Reborn in Liberia**

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Imani House was founded in Liberia in 1986 by an African-American born in Brooklyn, NY
- In 1822, the first African-Americans landed on the shores of Liberia
- The Liberian flag and constitution are modeled after that of the United States
- Liberia was food sustainable and one of Africa's most stable independent nations prior to 1979
- With only 4 staff in 1992, the first Imani House Clinic opened to serve over 10,000 displaced Liberians using a donated tent
- Today, the Imani House Clinic's 3 facilities serve over 17,000 Liberians
- The Ebola epidemic claimed the lives of 4,808 Liberians, 287 health workers, two of whom were Imani House employees
- Malaria kills nearly a million people and sickens half a billion people each year in 109 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- In Liberia, 1 in 14 children die before their fifth birthday (WHO) – In the US, it's 1 in 143 children
- Average Liberian life expectancy is about 60.2 years old – In the US, it's 78.7 years
- About 67% of Liberian women are non-literate

Imani House Joins Ebola Surveillance

In collaboration with the Liberian Ministry of Health and CONCERN, an international NGO, Imani House is now an officially designated Ebola surveillance site. All Staff receive training and refresher workshops on disease surveillance, and delivery of safe and quality health services. In a joint project, two additional buildings were added to the Imani House Clinic. They will serve as a triage, isolation, and transfer center, in case of another Ebola or other highly infectious disease outbreak.

While WHO has declared Liberia and Sierra Leone Ebola-free, neighboring country Guinea reported 7 new cases of Ebola as of November 2015. Continuing vigilance and public education is required. Liberia must remain in a state of preparedness. It took only one case to start the epidemic that took the lives of over 11,000 West Africans.

DONATE now and become a partner in the efforts to build health care in Liberia.



**New Construction
Ebola Surveillance Station**

New Africanized Manuals

Imani House is partnering with ProLiteracy to launch a series of new Africanized health manuals and a training curriculum that would address many of the health needs of women and girls. Since 1982, IHI has collaborated with and received support from ProLiteracy.



IHI ED Presents at ProLiteracy

In October, the Imani House Executive Director, Bisi Ideraabdullah, was invited to the ProLiteracy Annual Conference, as an international guest panelist to discuss literacy, poverty, and health as tools for international development. She also led a workshop for literacy program directors. The theme of the workshop focused on creative writing as a means to improve literacy.

Decreases in Non-Literate Rate

Imani House's adult literacy classes were started in 1986 to address adult non-literate rates of nearly 72%. During the civil war, with the flight of the middle class, non-literate rates rose as high as 85% among women. Imani House believes that a non-literate population can never be governed; they can only be dictated to. In spite of the Ebola outbreak which closed all schools, we are now up and running.

Groups like Imani House have persevered and helped improve the statistics. The rate is improving and stands now at 67% among women. IHI's free literacy classes serve over 100 Liberian women in two Monrovia markets. We are in the process of opening a third location, in a semi-rural area adjacent to the IHI Clinic. In collaboration with a women's group from the Vonzon area, there are already 45 women on stand-by to begin classes.

