

## PROGRESS REPORT - 2014



### WHO WE ARE

ENGIM – **Ente Nazionale Giuseppini del Murialdo** (National Organization Josephites of Murialdo) - is a non profit organization established in Italy in 1977 to help young people to develop their personal, social and professional skills. Since its foundation, ENGIM is inspired by the teaching of Saint Leonardo Murialdo (1828-1900), the Founder of the Congregation of Saint Joseph. In 1987 ENGIM became also a Non Governmental Organization (extending its name as “ENGIM Internazionale” - “ENGIM International”- hereafter simply ENGIM). Supporting the missions of the St. Joseph Fathers worldwide, it starts to promote development cooperation all over the world. Today ENGIM works in 13 countries: Albania, Romania, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Ghana, Mexico, India, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Sierra Leone. In Sierra Leone, ENGIM arrives in 1987 to help the mission of the Saint Joseph Fathers (SJFs), who already had established the “Murialdo Secondary School” and the “Vocational Training Institute” in Lunsar, Northern Province. Since then ENGIM operates in the country to accomplish the goals of SJFs and support their work. The SJFs are indeed the preferential local partner with whom ENGIM carries out its projects and activities. ENGIM not only draws support from the SJFs and its partners in the Lunsar area, but also in Freetown with the “Missionaries’ Friends Association” and the “Hope of Kent”, important partners for projects concerning the development of the fishing community of Kent.

ENGIM's activities are supported and financed by private and public donors, such as the European Union, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Government, various Italian Regions and the “Conferenza Episcopale Italiana”. Since 2008 ENGIM is registered to SLANGO as an international NGO operating in the country.

### VISION

We imagine a world of dialogue and confrontation where every single man and woman has the consciousness to belong to one single community, emphasizing the inclusion and participation of young people. We imagine a world where everybody lives a dignified life based on an equal distribution of the earthly resources and where every single person can determine his/her values and priorities freely.

### MISSION

Our mission is to carry out educational initiatives addressed especially to those more exposed to the risks of professional and social exclusion.

Our aim is to promote activities and programs concerning vocational training and education, in order to improve the skills and human capacities of the young and less-advantaged people and to include them in the labour market.

Particular attention is paid to guarantee the interaction among all the involved actors: schools, local and national authorities, small and medium enterprises and civil society organizations.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

### Education and Social Protection

ENGIM supports training and educational activities not only in Lunsar at the Saint Joseph Vocational Institute and at the Murialdo Secondary School, but also at the Murialdo Vocational Institute in Kissy (Freetown). In particular, ENGIM works with the students and former students of the schools including them in current activities. For their benefit, programs are organized to establish connections with the private sector and local trade unions in order to boost the graduated students' integration in the labour market.

#### COMPUTER COURSES



ENGIM runs Computer courses at Murialdo Secondary School, Lunsar, to develop technical skills and make students and workers knowledgeable in the computer based Information Technology. In 2013 each course offered lasted 8 weeks (40 hours), during which Microsoft Office programs and the use of Internet Explorer were taught.

At the Murialdo Vocational Institute, Kissy (Freetown), ENGIM worked on the rehabilitation of the school's Computer Lab, through the provision of technological devices and didactic materials. For the coming years 2015-2016 ENGIM plans the renewal of the laboratories in Kissy and

Lunsar to improve the quality of the services offered. These activities were disrupted because of the Ebola outbreak and theft at the Murialdo Secondary school Lunsar.

#### CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS

S.A.D. - Italian acronym for "Sostegno a Distanza" (Distance Support) - is a program to help children who live in difficult conditions. Thanks to this program around 153 disadvantaged children in and around Kissy, Lunsar and Port Loko receive constant assistance by Italian private donors. Through S.A.D. they provide the children the payment of school fees, health care and needed treatments. Every month, a small financial support is also given to their families, in order to ensure a life in dignity for the child and also his/her siblings. With this program the donor actively participates in the realization of a comprehensive project targeting the children's entire life. S.A.D. acknowledges the ethical and social value of "help" as human cooperation aimed at the development of the person who experiences marginalization from the society. The



main goal is the respect of the most important human rights, the right to food, medical care, education, protection, the right to play. The program encourages an active relationship between the donor and the beneficiary. For instance, once per year the child writes a letter of thanks to his/her donor, who is periodically updated about the health conditions and the family situation of the child. ENGIM guarantees the full respect of the privacy in the treatment of the personal data of donors and beneficiaries. Presently, ENGIM supports 52 children in Kissy, 85 in Lunsar and 16 in Port Loko. In order to involve the children and their families in activities and personal developments which go beyond the mere payment of support, ENGIM organizes periodically workshops and reunions to sensitize them around important issues such as child feeding, care practices in households, hygienic conditions for living and health care in general. And because of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone the programme in Freetown has been temporally halted but will resume once the outbreak is halted.

#### **AMOS SCHOLARSHIPS**

Considering that illiteracy is still one of the worse problems haunting Sierra Leone, ENGIM is engaged in a scholarship program for students. The donor is an Italian ONLUS (non profit organization) called "Amici della Sierra Leone", providing the payment of school fees to disadvantaged students enrolled in 20 catholic schools situated in and around Lunsar, Malua, Kamasondo, Makabo, Rosint, Komrabai, Gbonsamba, Warebhana, Foreduku, Marampa, Masiaka, Mabora and Kontakuma. A total of 1850 students are currently supported, 1300 students in primary and 550 in secondary schools. This is an on-going program with support and strong collaboration from school-principals and teachers who help us to follow the performance in school of every single student beneficiary. Once the Ebola outbreak is halted the programme will resume full swing.



#### **Construction of the Parish HALL in Kissy (Freetown)**

The Parish Hall project (PHP) is a project implemented by the Holy Cross Parish in Kissy, Freetown and supervised by ENGIM *Internazionale* Sierra Leone. The congregation of the St. Joseph - Josephites of Murialdo takes care



of this Parish. These structures are providential in Africa, especially to face the hot sun of this latitude and the torrential rains of the wet season. These kind of

buildings are really necessary and very useful for various purposes: meetings, celebrations, etc. The project is financed by German donors ("Kirche in Not", Erzbischof von Köln and "Missio Aachen"), the total cost of the project is 67.000 Euros. It includes the construction of a Parish Hall for the Holy Cross Church in Kissy (Freetown). The land where the hall is constructed belongs to the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Freetown. The building will provide an important space for the community. It will be used not only for religious services, but also for secular meetings and recreational activities, in order to train and include young people spiritually and socially. The Parish hall is situated nearby the church. This work is very near completion and the PHP Committee is poised to carry on with the remaining job of fixing the interior part of the Parish Hall. The local contribution will see the project to the end and thanks to the parishioners who also want to see this project to completion. The last trench of money from the donor is exhausted.

### Agriculture, Community infrastructure ,Fishing and Water Sanitation

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF WATER WELLS**

Since the very beginning of its existence, ENGIM, in collaboration with the Saint Joseph Fathers Agricultural Project (SJFAP) in Lunsar, has been active in the construction of water wells. In 1987, the project "Water Wells in Lunsar-

Sierra Leone" had among its goals the creation of a plumbing course at the Murialdo Vocational Institute, the training of professional local staff for the realization of artesian wells and the involvement of the local communities for the sustainability of the activities set out by the project. Over the past 25 years around three hundred water wells have been built in collaboration with the SJFAP.. In the past year 2014, a total of eight water wells have been constructed in the chiefdoms of Marampa, Masimera, and Koya in the Portloko district. This year 2015 only four water wells will be constructed in the Chiefdoms of Marampa and Masimera.



**SEED RICE RECOVERY PROJECT (SRRP)** – *this is done mainly by our partners SJFAP but we are also supporting this activity as ENGIM*

Since 1994, the SJFAP collaborated in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), promoting a Seed Rice Recovery Program (SRRP) around Lunsar to help vulnerable farmers who lacked access to agricultural inputs. The conflict arrived in Lunsar area in 1995, and by 1996 the SRRP had expanded into many of the surrounding chiefdoms in an effort to aid war-affected farmers. During 1997 and 1998, security in the area improved and the SRRP was so successful that CRS was able to purchase large amounts of rice seed from farmers in the area to distribute in other war-affected regions of the country. With immediate food needs of the local population



assured, the SJFAP began to concentrate on more long term projects which would help to revitalize the economy in the area. The SJFAP started promoting community farms, as well as small-scale food processing industries and micro finance activities for local farmers (SILC) Savings and Internal Lending Communities. Money generated by the schemes was used to purchase a truck for collecting farm produce for sale, and additional funds generated were being put aside to purchase a tractor for rice production.

To date, SJFAP has been operating in five chiefdoms of the Port Loko district namely Buya Romende, Koya, Maforkie, Marampa and Masimera

This year we have not monitored the recovery and redistribution but plans are underway to be part of the next redistribution activity in May/June 2015.

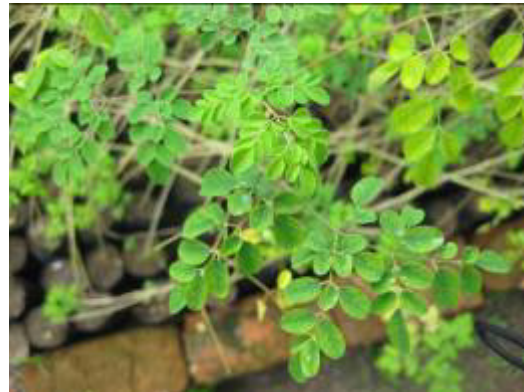
### **MORINGA TREE PILOT-PROJECT (Intensification)**

Considering that in Sierra Leone malnutrition in its various forms is a serious problem with negative impacts on infant mortality, considerable investments have been made by the Government of Sierra Leone and aid agencies to promote solutions for current nutritional shortcomings.



The Moringa Tree Pilot Project (MTPP) is an important initiative jointly implemented by the Saint Joseph Fathers Agricultural Project (SJFAP), ENGIM, Caritas Makeni and ten beneficiary communities in Buya Romende, Marampa, Masimera and Koya chiefdoms. The general aim of the project is to increase information about the several benefits of Moringa tree in these communities. *Moringa oleifera* leaves have proved to contain more protein than peas, more vitamin C than oranges, more calcium than milk, more potassium than bananas, more beta-carotene than carrots and more iron than spinach. Moreover, the human body can benefit from every single part of the tree, where not only

the leaves but also the pods, flowers and growing tips are edible and are highly nutritional. It is possible to dry the leaves of the plant and make a powder which can be a very nutritional supplement to add on the traditional *plasas* (sauce eaten with rice, the country's staplefood). Moreover, products of moringa trees are of medical use. Its seedlings can be used to purify water – an invaluable characteristic in a country with serious sanitation problems. Therefore, the MTPP can be considered to be a very innovative approach to tackle various problems currently haunting Sierra Leone. During the first phase of the project, 750 seedlings of Moringa donated by the Caritas of Makeni have been distributed to the beneficiary communities, where the focal point persons selected have been trained in the cultivation, utilization and consumption of the plant. Two workshops were done to complement this, the first one was on the cultivation and the other one with Charles Boyle from Bo, known in Sierra Leone as “Dr Moringa”, was on the utilisation and consumption and it has been organized to explain and especially to show the various nutritional and medical benefits of the tree. All the participants could taste food and beverages prepared with moringa and could also apply it for medical purposes. They were extremely interested and committed to explain to their communities what they learned during the workshops. At present the intensification of the project is carried out with communities raising nurseries and piloting other communities. A total of 23 communities are presently involved in this



project. This year 2015 has seen ENGIM only providing supervision .Funds are derived from the previous budget and community contribution

### **PILOT SWAMP DEVELOPMENT SRI AND VEGATABLE PROJECT AT MENDESORA VILLAGE:**

We have completed the training in SRI and The Mendesora is now an SRI Community and ENGIM should start its scaling up activities this 2015 in collaboration with WAAPP (West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme).

SRI methodology has been systematically carried out, with the utilization of the cono weeder, which turns the weeds back into the soil, a good water management and the use of organic manure.

The community proved once more to be really engaged and willing to achieve good results. The next thing to



happen now is to see SRI farmers from this community."Achieving more with less".

This project is attracting other development agencies in agriculture as well as the MAFFS. Their fields have been used to train facilitators of SRI

In Mendesora village, the farmers have started harvesting the rice, produced for the first time with the System of Rice increase (SRI). To

assure the full

involvement of the farmers and a gradual and sustainable process of innovation, the seeds used were locally owned; this was also to confirm the notion that SRI is neither a new variety nor a hybrid, SRI is a method of rice cultivation and that any variety can be cultivated by method. This choice was fundamental to gain the trust of farmers, Demonstrating to them that, with the SRI method of Rice cultivation, the same variety of seeds they cultivated for years can be more productive, and better assuring them of food security.

The results are very encouraging considering the fact that, it's their first time to cultivate rice with the SRI methodology. To date as we write ,of the 45 plots cultivated with a total of 1.2 hectares, 28 have been harvested, processed and bagged with a production of 4,475 kilograms, with a seed input of 4 kilograms as compared to the 120 kilograms cultivated previously. This figure is far above the national average for lowland rice cultivation

As the wait, to demonstrate their skills fully in the SRI methodology for the next rice season, ENGIM has conducted one of the series of trainings for the members of the "Mendesora United" on vegetables cultivation. The Service Provider, Mr. Joseph Sandy, a teacher in the Agriculture department of the St Joseph Vocational Institute, Lunsar, and members of ENGIM staff assisted the farmers in the theoretical and mostly practical techniques of growing vegetables (cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelon, krain - krain, maize, lettuce...). The training did not only benefit the communities of Mendesora, but also representatives of other three close villages came to learn, assuring a multiplier effect in their own communities. Here also, we demonstrated the system of crop intensification (SCI) with the crops Listed above.



### **“Hope of Kent” Fishing project in the community of Kent (Freetown)**

Kent is a small village of fisherman situated in the southern part of the Freetown peninsula. A handful of houses between mango trees and white beaches in front of one of the most beautiful fishing places of the world. “Hope of Kent” is an association of 11 (fisher) men and 15 women (plus the chairwoman) who smoke and process the catch the men bring back from the Atlantic Ocean. The association was founded in 2006 in close collaboration with “The Missionaries' Friends Association”. Since 2011 the association runs a cool room and an ice-machine to stock the fish. These facilities have been financed by Regione Siciliana through ENGIM Sicilia. The biggest problem this community is currently facing is the lack of drinking water and the problem of transporting the fish to the nearby market for sale.



Funds were acquired from Italy through

ENGIM for the repairs of boat and other facilities so as to see the project functioning well.

### **CIVIL SERVICE**

The National Civil Service is a volunteering program designed and financed by the Italian Government for young Italian citizens aged between 18 and 28. They are given the opportunity to work for a period of twelve months in non profit organizations placed around the world. The program aims to develop solidarity and to promote tolerance between volunteers and people of hosting countries. It is a mutual opportunity to get in touch with different but enriching realities integrating in the new society, learning local languages and experiencing the importance of social service and volunteering. Every year ENGIM encourages the placement of four people in Sierra Leone: usually two of them are placed in Kissy and the other two in Lunsar. Four volunteers who have not completed their year of civil service in Lunsar and Freetown went back to Italy. They are Francesca Testa, Stefano, Erica and Veronica. They went back because of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone

### **Health**

#### **POULTRY PILOT PROJECT**



The ongoing Poultry Pilot Project is a project financed by the SJFs (Le 37,607,400) and partly by ENGIM (Le 7,650,000) is still ongoing as the poultry project runs itself and proceeds from the activity are directed to the malnourished children programme. The general object of this project is contributing to the improvement of children nutrition in the area of Lunsar with the realization of poultry for layers and broilers in the Saint Joseph Fathers compound. The beneficiaries of the project are 240 malnourished children and their families involved in the programme of nutritional assistance. Students from the



institute and schools around visit to learn about poultry rearing More specifically, the aims of the project are: increasing the permanent availability of products of animal origins in the diets of the beneficiaries and for the local market; increasing the availability of foodstuff for the local farms; sensitizing the community about the importance of a more rich and complete diet and about the importance of hygienic practices in the production.

### **Distribution of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Materials**

As an emergency response to the EVD outbreak in Sierra Leone ENGIM Internazionale and Rainbow for Africa in Italy donated the EVD Materials for distribution. The Project is titled **support to Sierra Leone Health System**. The packages contained Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) and Medical Supplies which included, Inflatable Mattresses. Sprayer, Pumps, Painkillers, Antibiotics, Gloves, Boots, etc. They are 11 pallets weighing 1.6 Metric tons. These are materials meant for the Ebola Emergency for St. John of God Catholic Hospital in Lunsar, Holy Spirit Hospital in Makeni, Kissy Low Cost-Western Area, and Kabala Hospital in Kabala. These Materials were air freighted to Sierra Leone looking at the urgent need to help in combating the Ebola situation in the Country. The materials arrived at the Lungi Airport on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Of October 2014 and were brought to the St. Joseph Fathers Compound in Lunsar on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Of October 2014 with Salcost *saline* truck through the help of the St. Joseph Fathers.



*Transportation of EVD Materials from Lungi international*



*EVD Materials been loaded for Lunsar at Lungi international Airport on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 Airport to Lunsar*



*EVD Materials been received at the St. Joseph Fathers House*

The Distribution of these items started on the 25<sup>th</sup>. October 2014 at the St. Joseph Fathers Compound at exactly 8:45am, in the presence of Media coverage representatives from IRN (Independent Radio Network) and Lunsar Community Radio Station 99.1FM. A representative



from the St. John of God Catholic Hospital and the Government Health Center including the Town Chief of Lunsar and the Ward Councilor who was also in attendance.



*From left to right is Sidique M Kabia(Ward Councilor), Alfred A Kumara(Lunsar Town Chief), Gerald D Aruna(ENGIM Country Director), Abass Koroma(Environmental Health Officer), Sheku Koroma(CHO-Government Health Center Lunsar) and Br. Augustine (Brother of St. John of God) standing in front of the St. Joseph Fathers House just before the commencement of the distribution exercise.*

The exercise started with a statement from the Country Director of ENGIM Sierra Leone (Mr. Gerald D Aruna) giving brief background information about ENGIM Internazionale and its areas of operation. He went further to announce that EGIM and Rainbow 4 Africa made the donations and facilitated the entire process of getting these materials from Italy to Sierra Leone. He emphasized the need for air freighting these materials to Sierra Leone due to the urgent need to support the Health system in Sierra Leone. He described the supply of materials as timely. He also said there is also a container of such items been prepared for shipment to Sierra Leone, and would get to them again as soon as it reaches here. He finally officially handed over the different consignments to St. John of God Catholic Hospital - Lunsar and the Government Health Center - Lunsar.

Below are photographs of the EVD Materials been displayed in front of the St. Joseph Fathers House in Lunsar.



*EVD Materials been displayed in front of Engim office awaiting distribution*



*Mario Zarantonello and Mr. Gerald D Aruna (ENGIM Country Director) Discussing pertinent issues as regards the Donation and Distribution of the EVD Materials*

Receiving the items, Bro. Augustine representing the St. John of God catholic Hospital thanked ENGIM and partners for such a laudable venture at a very crucial moment like this and promised that, the items donated will be handled correctly and used for the purpose for which they are meant. Mr. Abass Koroma (Environmental Health Officer) of Government Health Center in Lunsar, Town Chief of Lunsar in person of Mr. Alfred A Kumara and the Ward Councilor (Mr. Sidique M Kabia) also followed suit. Interviewing of the Country Director by IRN Reporter (Hassan Bruce) then commenced followed by the signing of documents (Distribution Forms), loading and transportation of items to the Beneficiary institutions.



*EVD Materials loaded in the St. John of God Catholic Hospital Truck before leaving for the Hospital*



*Br. Augustine signing the EVD Distribution Form*



*Mr. Sheku (CHO) signing the EVD Distribution Form*



*IRN Reporter (Hassan Bruce) interviewing ENGIM Country Director*



*Br. Augustine with Town Chief on his right thanking ENGIM.*

Towards the end of the exercise, representatives from the Lunsar Community Radio Station FM 99.1 also interviewed the Country Director.

In the afternoon hours of the same day, Dr. Patrick Turay (Medical Director) came to collect the items donated to the Holy Spirit Hospital in Makeni. Upon receiving these items, Dr. Turay thanked ENGIM and Rainbow for Africa for their good work in having the people of this country at heart and more especially for considering the Hospital with such a support at a time the Hospital and the country is in dyeing need of such items, in the fight to eradicate the Ebola Virus Disease from Sierra Leone and the sub regions as a whole. He hopes and prays for a continuation of the good relationship. He finally thanked the St. Joseph Fathers for making their dream a reality.

## **EMERGENCY ACTION IN FAVOUR OF VICTIMS OF THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC IN SIERRA LEONE**

### **SOCIAL MOBILIZATION ACTION IN 40 COMMUNITIES**

As a way of entering the Communities selected for the Social Mobilization action, ENGIM SL has organized meetings with Stakeholders in 40 Beneficiary Communities selected from 19 sections in five Chiefdoms. These meetings took place in four Centers with a total attendance of 55 participants including village headmen and Councilors. Contributions from these stakeholders during these meetings were positive and the facilitators were extremely good in passing on the

key EVD messages. It was done in the stakeholders local language and they fully understood what the EVD Virus is, how it can be transmitted, how it will quickly multiply in the Human body and how it can be prevented. Cultural believes were also discussed in the fight of the disease.



The village headmen are now getting their communities ready for the next stage, which will involve mobilizing the community as a whole.

Social mobilization action in 40 communities with the provision of veronica buckets soap, dettol, infra red thermometers and lunch during the mobilization meetings This action was quite in place as we discovered the communities knew very little about the EVD and that there were lots of misconceptions which also the Team addressed fully. And to date positive impact has been created in these communities as safe burial practices are now carried out

## **FUTURE INTERVENTIONS 2015-2016**

### **Construction of a Galenic Laboratory at the St John of God Hospital (Mabesseneh)**

Despite efforts by the national government and health organizations, counterfeit medicines currently easily find their way to the market in Sierra Leone, potentially affecting the country at health, economic and social level. This pilot project is willing to address such problems by the implementation of a galenic laboratory capable of supplying selected structures with affordable and quality-certified medicinal products. Italian "A.P.P.A". (Aid Progress Pharmacist Agreement) ONLUS and "Rainbow for Africa" ONLUS are the partners actively engaged in project together with ENGIM and the St. John of God Hospital of Mabesseneh. A.P.P.A ONLUS will provide technical and scientific support during the implementation phase. It will support the selection of all necessary equipment for the laboratory; it will provide the technical and scientific training of the local personnel; it will control the quality of medicinal products routinely prepared in the galenic laboratory. Rainbow for Africa ONLUS will contribute providing logistical and technical support for the construction of the laboratory, financial and project management support (particularly regarding monitoring and evaluation) and the provision of human resources. The St John of God Hospital will provide its own infrastructures and lands functional to the project; it will also provide support in the selection of local staff and it will give logistical and project-management support, particularly aimed at granting the necessary permissions.

The total cost of the project is 84.800 Euros and it is co-financed by Rainbow for Africa ONLUS. The search for funds is still going on in Italy with the involvement of universities and other organizations.