



Liberia Dujar Association-Sweden

Nyhetsbrevet

Nr 2, juni 2019

Glad sommar, alla Kära vänner!

Sommaren är äntligen här och det kommer bli bad, grill, grönt och umgänge.

Liberia Dujar Association vill tacka alla generösa vänner av Liberia som möjliggjort att ungdomar och unga kvinnor fått möjlighet till utbildning denna termin.

Vi önskar er alla en jättetrevlig och solig sommar. Vi vill också tacka alla som bidragit till lärarlöner och annan verksamhet i våra två skolor, Grassfield School och Technical College.

Ett stort tack till LDAs stora bidragsgivare som under många år står för en mycket stor del av TCs kostnader igen. Ett stort tack till en annan speciell bidragsgivare som har bidragit generöst till vår verksamhet.

*Lois Hemgren
Generalsekreterare*

Liberia Dujar Technical College

Den 15 maj examinerades 65 elever från Vårdlinjen, 48 kvinnor och 17 män.

God nyheter är att vi har fått ett jättestort bidrag från af Jochnick Foundation till vårt nya program på Nursing Department, Midwifery Program. Läs på engelska en artikel om programmet nedan.



Så här vackra var dräkterna denna gången.

Familjen Roström
Enskild partner

Anita Sundin
Enskild partner

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Liberia Dujar Technical College

Den 15 maj examinerades 65 elever från Vårdlinje, varav 48 kvinnor och 17 män.

Godanyheter är att vi har fått ett stort bidrag från af Jochnick Foundation till vårt nya program på Nursing Department, under namnet "Midwifery Program". Läs på engelska en artikel om programmet nedan.

Midwifery program in the Nursing Department of the Liberia Dujar Technical College

Midwifery is the health science and health profession that deals with pregnancy, child birth and the postpartum period including care of the unborn.

Background of the project(Midwifery Education)

The Midwifery Education is part of the Liberia Dujar Nursing School Department which started in 2011 while the Midwifery Program started in 2016 as a pilot project. Nearly all of the students who graduated from the Department of Nursing are in the employment of the Liberian Government or companies. Some of the graduates are supervisors in governmental clinics in the rural areas or with other private hospitals such as Redemption Hospital which is run by Doctors without Borders (Läkare Utan Gränser).

Information received from graduate students of the Nursing Department of Liberia Dujar Technical College shows that many women in the rural areas die in childbirth because of the lack of trained midwives in those areas. The students have several times appealed to the management of the college to make the Midwifery Division under the Nursing Department a genuine program to train more women and young girls in the area of Midwifery Education. They would like to help save lives and cut down the death rate in the rural area and in Liberia as a whole .

Liberia is currently one of the countries with the highest maternal mortality in the world (Ministry of Health 2016). The Ministry of Health of Liberia attributes this to low emergency obstetrics, high home deliveries by unskilled personnel and shortage of midwives. This trend has steadily been deteriorating from 578 per 100,000 live births by 2005 (LDHS 2008) to 990 per 100,000 live births in 2011 (Human Development Report 2011). Following the Ebola outbreak, maternal mortality in Liberia is approximated at around 1072 per 100,000 live births as of 2015. According United Nation Children Fund UNICEF Liberia 2012-2017 country programme document, the trends has worsened in spite of improvement in antenatal care (UNICEF 2017).

Improving the well-being of pregnant women, mothers and newborns is an important pillar of the 2011-2021 National Health Policy and Plan goal for Liberia (MOH 2011). However, despite several interventions, gaps still exist. These gaps range from infrastructure, access to services, out of pocket expenses, shortages of midwives tool kits (obstetric kits for midwives) and human resource needs for skilled attendants' at the primary level of care.

Even before the Ebola outbreak, the number of obstetrician-gynecologists in Liberia was very low. According to the Liberian Minister of Health, Bernice Dahn, today there may be fewer than five in the entire country. One major problem is that unfortunately, specialized midwives are not accessible to all expecting mothers. There are currently only 400 trained midwives in the Liberian healthcare system, a number too small to meet the needs of over four million people, and the majority of midwives reside in urbanized sectors.



The Liberia Dujar Midwifery Program

The key problem that LDA wants to address by operating the Midwifery Program under the Nursing Department of the Technical College (TC), is that in Liberia, 44 percent of women give birth with no medical attendant because they live in rural areas where care is too far away to obtain. One in every 138 live births results in a mother's death due to preventable complications requiring basic medical care. Today there are only six midwifery schools in Liberia.

Liberia Dujar Association intends to join hands with the Ministry of Health by educating and training young girls and women in order to have additional number of midwives who will be willing to help future mothers in Liberia. Liberia Dujar Association is prepared to elevate this program to a 5 year level Higher Degree program, but students can also graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in a 3 year program. LDA has been given the permission by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to carry out the new programs. LDA intends to approach the Danish Midwives Association for cooperation to give program instructors current and advanced training in order to ensure the program's success and sustainability.

Overall Goal

The Liberia Dujar Technical College operates as a three year tertiary school which offers an Associate Degree programme. The college was intended to start to offer Bachelor Degree beginning with the term for 2018/2019 to encourage students who are interested to earn a degree on this level before seeking employment. Unfortunately it was delayed until 2019/2020.

The overall goal is to educate and strengthen young girls and women to contribute to the reduction of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality in Liberia. Here are some long-term goals the Liberia Dujar Nursing Department would like to achieve :

- More midwives for increased maternal and newborn survival.
- Midwives are seen as a pillar of reproductive health programmes and the Ministry of Health gives priority to educate and support them.

All courses will be based on the Liberian national curriculum of the Midwifery program. In addition, the Liberia Dujar Association model used in our Technical College will be combining theoretical and practical education. This will prepare students for the job market and establish contacts with potential future employers. The Nursing Department at the Technical College has the capacity to enrol 50 students as a starter and the number will be increased successively on a yearly basis depending on its popularity.

Target group

The target group for this project is females the Townships of Gardnersville, Barnesville, Johnsonville, Dixville and Caldwell others from the age of 20-45 years, who have so far not had the opportunity to access job qualifying professional education.

Throughout the planning process, LDA-Liberia and LDA-Sweden have reflected on the risk that the entry requirement may cause for the disadvantages and less fortunate young girls and women. To reach this group, a scholarship program plan is being discussed with focus on talented but poor students who might, otherwise, will not get the opportunity to be trained.

*Rev. Nathan Mahneh
President, LDTC*

TC-kliniken



Kliniken där Midwifery Program ska hållas är förlagd till dels en tillbyggnad, dels några ombyggda skollokaler i huvudbyggnaden.



Ombyggda skollokaler



Vi har fått tre exklusiva belysningsarmaturer från Göran Molin. De kommer inom kort att skickas ner till Liberia.

**Stenvretens
Redovisnings AB**

Marco Helles AB



Några av eleverna som examinerades i maj i år. Det är inte lätt att samla alla ystra nyexaminerade för fotografering.

TACK FÖR BIDRAGEN

Vi vill tacka alla er som bidragit lite extra denna gång:

En person som vill vara anonym har bidragit med **30 200 kronor** till LDAs utbildningsprogram. Ett stort tack.

Vi vill även uppmärksamma några andra bidragsgivare: *Rickard Roström* med familj, *Anita Sundin* samt *IBM-Personalens U-Hjälpförening*.

Snart nytt läsår igen

Kära medlemmar,

I september börjar läsåret 2019/2020. Insamlingen är igång och det finns mycket att samla in för de två skolorna, ca: 2,5 miljoner för året. Eftersom vi driver skolorna med insamlade medel, är det viktigt att vi alla ger en slant som ger eleverna möjlighet att gå i skola.

Vår vision och vårt uppdrag är tydligt:

Utbildning är nyckeln till fred, frihet och utveckling.

VÄLKOMNA, alla nya medlemmar!

Medlemsskaran har ökat något och vi välkomnar alla nya medlemmar.

Government's Support to Education

The Government support to schools is limited to its own run schools and the mainstream religious schools such as the Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist Churches. Reason given is that these schools are considered influential as most of their members are in positions of trust and influence. Schools that are not getting support from the Government rely on school fees paid by students which can barely support a calendar year.

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NEWS ABOUT LIBERIA

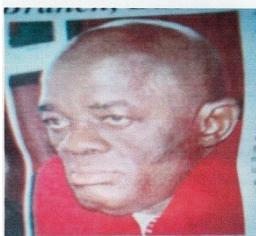
MAY 27, 2019

JUNE 7, 2019 Nation Wide Demonstration In Monrovia

The Nation Liberia is at the cross road since the announcement of June 7, 2019 Nation Wide Demonstration by people called themselves council of Patriots, have decided to demonstrate against the CDC led Government for what they termed among other things, the poor management of the economy of Liberia, rampant corruption in high places, employment of unqualified people in government, etc.

Many Liberians fear that if this demonstration goes on, it might turn violent at the end by people who want to loot business houses for their selfish gain. As the result, many are calling on the Liberian Government to dialogue with the leaders of the council of patriots. First meeting held with the leaders of the council of patriots by the Liberian Government did not yield any positive results. There are calls for continued dialogue to diffuse the uncertainty hanging over Liberia on the planned demonstration.

Kabinah J'neh Impeaches



THE IMPEACHED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE KABINAH J' NEH

The long awaited impeachment of Associate Justice Kabinah J' neh has finally been carried out by the National Legislature of Liberia. After Justice Kabinah J' neh was being impeached by members of the Liberian Senate, his position was subsequently occupied by Circuit Court Judge Yussif Kaba upon his appointment by the President of Liberia and confirmed by the Liberian Senate. Since then Judge Yussif Kaba has taken his seat on the Supreme Court Bench as Associate Justice. However, the President of Liberia National Bar Association, Counselor Tiawon Gongloe, has insisted that the removal of Associate Justice Kabinah J' neh was unconstitutional, and frown on the Supreme Court of Liberia for its approval.

The rate at which the Liberian dollar is being depreciated is creating hardship for the ordinary Liberians. The prices of most basic food and other commodities in Liberian dollars have increased tremendously, thus making it very difficult for the ordinary Liberians to purchase food and other commodities. According to survey carried out at various banks and forex bureaus, the exchange rate between the Liberian dollar and United States dollar ranges from **1USD** to between **LD180 – LD195**. Citizens are still awaiting the Liberia Government to stabilize the Liberian currency so that the prices of basic food and other commodities could be reduced at affordable prices.

If nothing is being done by the Liberian Government to halt the speedy depreciation of the Liberian dollar, it may reach to **1USD to LD250** by July, 2019.

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By: Mr. Koisee,
Deputy Project Director
LDA-Liberia

Föreläsning i Immanuel International Church

LDA arrangerade nyligen en föreläsning om Liberia och Liberia Dujars verksamhet. Den hölls av Lois Hemgren i den internationella delen av Immanuelkyrkan. Hon berättade en hel del om Liberias historia, så att vi kunde förstå i vilket sammanhang vi nu befinner oss. Därefter gick hon in på LDAs verksamhet från starten i Danané, Elfenbenskusten, till idag. Det var en liten skara inbjudna personer som lyssnade upp-märksamt och hade många frågor efteråt.

Efter föreläsningen serverades en lätt lunch bestående av kyckling, sallad och hembakat bröd som Lois' svägerska Lisa Hemgren och hennes barnbarn bakat.

Medlemsmöte om stadgarna

En mycket liten medlemsskara slöt upp hemma hos ordföranden Tina Hagberg, då diskussion och beslut skulle tas kring *förslag till ändringar i stadgarna*. De punkter som diskuterades var följande:

- antal ledamöter i styrelsen föreslås minskas från sex till tre stycken;
- tillvägagångssättet för ändring i stadgarna. Förslaget var att ändring skulle ske med endast ett medlemsmöte, men detta avslogs. Nu gäller som tidigare att ändring bara kan ske genom två på varandra följande medlemsmöten, varav det ena är ordinarie årsmöte;
- kallelse till årsmöte föreslås ändras från nuvarande 14 dagar till 21 dagar;
- medlemsmotion till årsmötet behöver inte vara styrelsen tillhanda förrän 14 dagar för mötet. Nu gäller senast 1 september;
- dagordningen föreslogs utökas med punkten "Övriga frågor";
- mandatperioden föreslås ändras till ett år, men vi beslöt att ha kvar två år.



Vår förre praktikant Erik Alendal "rapporterar" från Liberia

Erik har vistats i Liberia i två månader för att göra en studie om hur individers sociala nätverk påverkar dem avseende välmående och mänskliga rättigheter.

Han tog sig också lite tid till att se sig om i landet.

Så här skriver han:

Mina två månader i Liberia

Efter att snart varit hemma i Lund i två månader, vilket är ungefär lika lång tid som jag spenderade i Liberia, har jag nu med denna distans kunnat få lite perspektiv på min vistelse där.

Den tid som jag spenderade i Monrovia var lika intensiv som den var lärorik och berikande. Trots de utmaningar som landet står inför med att bland annat få bukt med en sviktande ekonomi och utbyggandet av diverse infrastruktur, så har jag aldrig varit i ett land som bebos av människor som har så lite, men så mycket att ge. Konstanten under min hela vistelse var att jag varje dag träffade människor som aldrig tänkte två gånger när jag bad om hjälp, vare sig det handlade om min fältstudie, som jag var där för att genomföra, eller om det var vägvisningar.

När jag väl landade visste jag inte vad som väntade mig, men den liberianska gastfriheten fick mig att känna mig välkommen från dag ett. Denna gastfrihet, som jag blev visad, var nog även den största anledningen till att jag kunde genomföra så pass många intervjuer, som till slut blev underlaget till min kandidatuppsats.

Jag kommer bära med mig minnet av min vistelse i Liberia under lång tid, på samma sätt som bekantskaperna, vänskaperna, liksom den fina naturen och den vibrerande huvudstaden Monrovia. Jag vill även passa på att tacka Mrs. Lois Hemgren för all hjälp hon bistod mig med. Utan henne hade min vistelse i Liberia inte blivit så bra som den till slut blev.

Erik Alendal

Liberia's President George Weah Faces Protest as Economic Crisis Deepens.



On June 7, 2019 a protest was held in Liberia with the title "Save The State". Liberian President George Weah is facing wide discontent over high food and fuel prices and government corruption as his administration struggles to contain a deepening economic crisis.

Opposition supporters took to the streets Friday for the first time since the former AC Milan soccer star won elections 18 months ago. Protesters gathered from 8.a.m. near the presidency and presented their grievances later in the afternoon. They protested about the economy being in a bad shape. The IMF in March 2019 revised its economic growth forecast for the year to 0.4% from an earlier projection of 4.7% inflation peaked at 28.5% in December 2018. People are also frustrated about corruption.

Liberia's economy has yet to recover from the double blow of the worst-ever Ebola epidemic and a sharp drop in iron ore prices that resulted in zero growth between 2014 and 2016.

Last year's withdrawal of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, which at its height had 15,000 troops stationed in the country, didn't help. But President Weah has made some crucial mistakes. A decision to mop up excess Liberian dollars with \$25 million of reserves to curb inflation and stabilize the currency achieved the opposite. An investigation showed the Central Bank used only \$17 million for the purpose and can't account for all of

the funds. Foreign donors are certainly unhappy. Last month, ambassadors from the U.S. to Japan and the European Union warned Weah in a joint letter that "irregular withdrawals" by members of his government from accounts designated for aid projects was damaging donor confidence and could negatively impact assistance to the country. Aid has been crucial to Liberia since the end of the civil war. Donor funds already dropped to 15% of gross domestic product from 20% last year.

Having presenting their petition the protesters said they wanted an immediate response but it was not possible, hence, on Monday, June 10, 2019. Thanks for the maturity among the protesters for their calmness.

Lois Hemgren



NOTISER

<p>Bli månadsgivare!</p> <p>Genom att bidra med 100 kr i månaden kan du stödja LDAs verksamhet. På så sätt har vi säkrare pengar varje månad till verksamheten.</p> <p>Vi behöver bli fler!</p> <p>Hur många medlemmar kan du värvä idag? Eller i morgon?</p>	<p>Medlemsavgiften</p> <p>Medlemsavgiften för 2019 ändrades på årsmötet till 295 kr för enskild medlem 495 kr för familj 100 kr för student, högst 25 år.</p> <p>Kom ihåg att ange avsändare!</p> <p>Plusgiro 90 1847-4 Swish 9018474</p>
<p>Betala medlemsavgiften över autogiro</p> <p>Endast ett tiotal medlemmar betalar medlemsavgiften över autogiro.</p> <p>En stabil inkomst är mycket viktigt för en förening som bygger på insamlade medel.</p> <p>Därför uppmanar vi nu alla att ge LDA chansen till en stadig ekonomi genom att betala via autogiro.</p>	<p>(@)</p> <p>Skicka gärna in din e-postadress till oss, så kan du få Nyhetsbrevet och annan information snabbt och enkelt.</p>
<p>VARFÖR ÄR UTBILDNING SÅ VIKTIGT?</p> <p>Jo, därför att utbildade människor förmår bevaka sina rättigheter och ta makten över sin egen utveckling och försörjning — inte låta diktatorer eller ”systemet” avgöra vem som kan leva ett gott liv eller ej.</p>	

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