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Page 1: Tenth Session of the OEWG on Ageing 15-18 April 2019, UN Headquarters, New York

Q1 Name of the organization:

Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment (CECAFE), United Methodist University, Liberia, West Africa

Q2 The purpose of the organization:

Information on CECAFE:

The Department of Social Work of the United Methodist University in March 2014 established the Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment (CECAFE) with the approval of the Administration of the United Methodist University (UMU) and the National Commission for Higher Education in Liberia. The Center is aimed at providing a facility to enable students of the Department of Social Work to apply the theoretical knowledge obtained in the classroom in a professional capacity to provide services to the Liberian community and to experience firsthand the science of social intervention.

CECAFE will also serve as a vehicle through which the UMU can engage diverse communities, families, and individuals (especially at-risk children, women, persons with disabilities, older people and youth), and develop partnerships with communities, government and non-governmental organizations to ameliorate social problems and challenges through service to families, individuals and communities that are vulnerable, oppressed or living in poverty. CECAFE also has been conceived to offer opportunities to enhance the core competencies of social work students through the science of social intervention, to promote best practices of the work profession, to identify and mobilize resources to address social problems facing individuals, families and communities through a collaborative approach with communities, government and non-governmental organizations, using the following pillars:

1. Training CECAFE will serve as a laboratory where students majoring in social work will receive practical experience through internships, which will enable them to engage in social work practice by working directly with individuals, families and communities, and by addressing contemporary social problems to help change adverse socio-economic conditions. It will also provide training for social work professionals through workshops to enable them to continually improve their knowledge on best practice in the profession and share knowledge to advance the professional nature of social work in Liberia. CECAFE will also explore the transfer of knowledge training concepts through international partnerships with institutions and organizations outside of Liberia, with emphasis on training-of-trainers capacity building.

2. Services and Programs:

The service philosophy of the CECAFE is grounded in the conviction that there is no substitute for strong families and communities to ensure that vulnerable people can reach their full potentials, and that the ability of individuals to succeed is often inextricably linked to conditions in their communities. The primary goal of CECAFE is to be service oriented and to provide culturally sensitive services regardless of the person's religious or ethnic group. It will work as an intermediary between clients, social service providers, educational institutions, government entities and within families themselves. It will strive to support its clients through providing family-based services, case management, advocacy, intensive community and home-based intervention services, bio-cultural/psycho-social service, strength-based assessment, mentoring, counseling, HIV awareness and education, pregnancy prevention and family/conflict mediation to vulnerable people and their families experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges such as parent/child conflict, peer conflict, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, loss and grief, school and academic difficulties, inadequate parenting resources, drug and alcohol issues, peer conflicts, HIV diagnosis, economic hardship, as well as juvenile delinquency.

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The services will be built on a family-strength based model within a community-strength based model. As stated earlier, most of these services will be provided through an intervention model, utilizing limited paid staff, student interns, volunteers, and existing social service providers – mostly through referrals and a collaborative approach. We will also strive for all of our staff – student interns, paid staff and volunteers – to be familiarized with the Sanctuary Model which incorporates the standards of trauma informed care in order to utilize the model as a cornerstone of service delivery and engagement with clients. Any successful service provision in Liberia must recognize and address issues in the context of the community wide trauma that affects each and every Liberian alive today.

The overriding theme of service delivery and programs of the CECAFE is: “Breaking the Cycle and Rebuilding Hope.”

Services being implemented:

- Provide social services to orphans residing at the United Methodist Church Orphanage in Margibi County (serve at least 25 clients- boys and girls).
- Provide social services to older people residing at the Charles E. Brit Old Folks Home operated by the United Methodist Church and located in Margibi County(10 residents in the home)
- Engaged the Ageing Unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to provide services to older people amid the Ebola crisis. This led to the establishment of the Coalition of Caregivers and Advocates for the Elderly in Liberia (COCAEL), the umbrella organization for provider agencies and advocates serving older people in Liberia. Presently CECAFE serves as Consultant to COCAEL, which is located in Montserrado County.
- Provide social services for students at the Bailey UMC High School located in Margibi County, which caters to orphans residing at the UMC Orphanage and children from surrounding communities where the Orphanage is located.
- Provide social service to older people residing at the Refuge Old Folks Home (the oldest old folk's home in Liberia) located in Monrovia, Montserrado Country.
- Participated in the consultation to enhance the social work capacity of the government with specific focus on Case Management program to be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare(program may be transferred to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) based on a new Act detaching social welfare component from the Ministry of Health.
- Presently engage in a partnership negotiation with Carlow University, Pennsylvania, USA, and Alpha International School, Liberia, to provide Special Education to special needs children in Liberia.
- Presently engage in partnership discussion with the Institute of African Studies in Russia, to engage in joint research of social problems and social policies in Liberia.

*Conducting a joint research with the Department of Gerontology John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies University of Massachusetts-Boston, USA to increase the participation of older people in the electoral process in Liberia titled: Enhancing Older People's Participation in the Electoral Process in Liberia. This project was supported, in part, from a grant through the International Research/ Education/Learning Initiative Seed Grants Program, Office of Global Programs, University of Massachusetts Boston.

*Serves as a country partner for the older activists project being implemented by GAROP

Note: Our services are being provided by our staff, committed volunteers and social work students of the Social Work Department of the United Methodist University through their Field Placement/Practicum to provide an opportunity for the students to engage in practical social work practice.

3. Research:

Another primary focus of CECAFE will be to engage in the research of social problems

Prevailing in Liberian society and to derive solutions through a multidisciplinary evidence based approach. It will seek to encourage social action based on research outcomes, including input from the community themselves, to ensure that all people have equal access to resources and opportunities that required meeting basic needs of individuals and families allowing them to reach their full potential. Overall it will seek to enhance the responsiveness of organizations, government, communities, and other social institutions to individual needs and social challenges. The research will inquire about the predictors for success as well as barriers for providing social services to address the needs of oppressed and vulnerable social groups, especially women, children, older people and persons with disabilities

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as well as displaced populations. It will also measure outcomes of social interventions, utilizing methodologies and strategies to objectively capture where they have succeeded and their shortcomings. These research projects will be undertaken either by CECAFE alone or through collaboration with the Liberian government, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions both within and outside of Liberia, to create a platform to understand both in quantitative and qualitative terms the impact of social service intervention in the post-war recovery of Liberia and to devise strategies to provide better social services to our vulnerable populations and to improve outcomes by enhancing the capacities of institutions providing social services in the country.

4. Operational Cost and Sustainability of CECAFE:

In order to make our service and programs accessible and affordable as well as to ensure that a larger portion of our funds is spent on service delivery, we will engage mostly in referral services and collaboration with other service providers for direct services. We will also seek grants, collect fees for services on a sliding scale, and solicit donations from the government, communities and non-governmental organizations. The staffing of CECAFE will be comprised of a limited paid staff, student interns, and volunteers and supported by partnerships with existing service providers. We will also encourage professional and student exchange programs with educational institutions and organizations outside of Liberia to provide an opportunity for cross cultural learning experiences and to enhance the capacity of our staff. The hallmark of our sustainability will be accountability and transparency in both the programmatic and financial operation of CECAFE, so as to enhance donor and grantor confidence and maintain the credibility of CECAFE. We will formulate and adhere to budgets and strategic plans.

We will apply energy, commitment, discipline, and first-rate managerial expertise. CECAFE will communicate continuously, promptly and reliably with all of our stakeholders. Further CECAFE will perform ongoing evaluation of programs and services to ensure that it is meeting outcomes effectively and impacting the lives of those target population in a meaningful way.

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Q3 Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the human rights of older persons:

Since the establishment of the CECAFE, the organization has been involved in activities to improving the quality of life of older people through advocacy, research and program implementation. Notably among these activities are:

1. Engaging the government of Liberia in August, 2014 during the ebola epidemic in Liberia to include the well being of older people in its national response to the epidemic. This action was prompted once it was realized that the government national response to the health crisis specifically targeted women and children. Based on the government limitation about deriving a clear plan to address this concern, the Center was asked to facilitate a meeting with service providers to derive a workable plan. After several meetings with over 20 service providers, including residential services and community-based organizations, the group resolved to form the Coalition of Caregivers and Advocates for the Elderly in Liberia(COCAEL), the organization exist today and remains the umbrella organization of those seeking the welfare of older people in Liberia. The Center through its Director serves as Consultant to the group. Since the formation of the group, it continues to hold events to create awareness about the plight of older people, including the UN International Day of Older People(IDOP), and engaging policy makers to develop policies to improve the quality of life of older people in the country, including the ratification of the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older People and the campaign for the adoption of a UN Convention for Older People.
 2. Serve as a founding member and Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Group on Ageing-Africa, a group that was established in November, 2018. Background:The Stakeholder Group on Ageing Africa (SGA – Africa) is an African regional coalition of organizations that brings together civil societies, professional bodies, private sector, human rights institutions, academia, individuals, older persons and organizations representing older persons who will engage the Africa Forum for Sustainable Development, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism. SGA Africa will also work in tandem with global older persons' movements such as Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA) engaging the New York High Level Political Forum, Major Groups and Other Stakeholder Coordination Mechanism; and the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP) engaging the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing leading the discussions on a new UN convention for the rights of older persons. The SGA-Africa will focus on combating age discrimination and promoting age-inclusion in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Union Agenda 2063. Its vision is an Africa for all ages in which older persons fully enjoy their rights and attain their full potentials.
 3. Conducting a joint research with the Department of Gerontology John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies University of Massachusetts-Boston, USA to increase the participation of older people in the electoral process in Liberia. This project is supported, in part, from a grant through the International Research/ Education/Learning Initiative Seed Grants Program, Office of Global Programs, University of Massachusetts Boston. The significance of the Study is to stimulate opportunities for other on-going activities, including strengthening the advocacy efforts of the advocates for the elderly in Liberia, using the data and findings obtained to engage stakeholders to develop a national policy for aging and make policy changes. These policy changes can include election policy and mechanism to enhance the participation of older people in the electoral politics in the country and social protection for the over 180, 000 older people in Liberia. However, in order to remain consistent in this approach of constructive engagement with policy makers and stakeholders, we are hoping to obtain additional funding to support the next steps which will emanate from the findings of this research. This collaborative research effort is not only expected to strengthen the professional relationship between the Social Work Department of the United Methodist University and Gerontology Department of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Public Policy and Global Studies, but also enhance the cultural knowledge and experiential learning of the both student groups of the respective ins
- 3.Participating as country partner for a Older Activists Project being implemented by GAROP as part of the global campaign to advocate for the UN to adopt a Convention for older people.

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Q4 Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level:

The following persons can confirm activities of the organization:

1. Dr. Emem Omokaro , Chair, SGA-Africa
 2. Ellen Graham-GAROP
 3. Jemma Stovall, Helpage International
 4. Roseline Kihumba-Helpage International, Africa Regional Office
 5. Susan B. Somers-President, International Network for the Prevention of Elderly Abuse (INPEA)
 6. Dr. Nina Silverstein-Gerontology Department, Umass, Boston, USA
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Q5 A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality:

The CECAFE is an extension of the Social Work Department of the United Methodist University in Liberia. Its governing body include:

1. Prof. Sam Togba Slewion, Director-Liberian
 2. Dr. George Weagba, Oversight Administrator, Vice President for Institutional Advancement-Liberian
 3. Mr. Matthew Saydee, Jr. Administrative Assistant-Liberian
 4. Ms. Madea Vah-Social Worker-Liberian
 5. Mr. Varney Koiblee-Social Worker-Liberian
 6. Ms. Marie Senesie-Liberian- Office Assistant
 7. Mr. Joseph Smith-Comptroller- Liberian
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Q6 List of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions:

The list of financial sources include:

1. Friends of Liberia, USA,
 2. Helpage International, Age Demand Action(ADA) Project
 3. GAROP-Older Activists Project
 4. International Research/ Education/Learning Initiative Seed Grants Program, Office of Global Programs, University of Massachusetts Boston.
 - 5, International Network for the Prevention of Elderly Abuse(INPEA)
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Q7 Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements (File size limit is 16MB):

CECAFE 2.0Final Report for COSEO Project.docx (840.7KB)

Q8 Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

Q10 A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution:

The CECAFE is being managed by an Administrative structure and supervise by a designated official of the United Methodist University. Our services are being provided by our staff, committed volunteers and social work students of the Social Work Department of the United Methodist University through their Field Placement/Practicum to provide an opportunity for the students to engage in practical social work practice. Besides the UMU, the Center is also a member of various civil society organizations both locally and internationally. However, most of the administrators, staff and volunteers are based in Liberia. The ages of our membership range from 18 years old to over 60 years old. This is necessary for intergenerational engagement and preparing the next leaders of advocates.,

Q11 A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization (File size limit is 16MB):

Brochure Information on CECAFE.docx (21.9KB)

Q12 Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

Q13 Please attach additional copies if needed (File size limit is 16MB):

Respondent skipped this question

Q14 Contact information:

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Q15 Website

Under construction.
