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**Sierra Leone Humanitarian to Build New Hospital in Country,
Provides Free Health Services, Food, and Books for Nearly 30,000 People**
Kamara-Bangura Urges More Health and Education Facilities in Sierra Leone

Alexandria, VA – After an 11-year civil war in Sierra Leone, Bernadette Kamara-Bangura, founder and CEO of the Sierra Leone Relief & Development Outreach, Inc (SLRDO) launched a humanitarian advocacy group in 2003 that provides free health and education services for Sierra Leoneans in the country and in the United States. Kamara-Bangura made personal investments to jumpstart and operate a clinic in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone in the Western district. From her modest office in Alexandria, Virginia, she manages 14 health professionals at the clinic in Sierra Leone, which was launched in 2005. Her team of health professionals works weekly to examine and treat hundreds of people lined up weekly for care. Today, Kamara-Bangura, 64, wife, mother of three and Virginia resident decided to take on a new challenge, building a hospital to help more low-income Sierra Leoneans with a focus on maternal care.

“When I was eight years old, I would fundraise and work in my village of Magburaka to help the needy. Today, through God opening doors for me, I am able to start building a hospital for Sierra Leoneans who can’t afford health services, “ said Kamara-Bangura. “The vision is to have an entire hospital ward dedicated to women’s health, families, a laboratory, pharmacy, and other health resources to improve the living conditions of Sierra Leoneans.”

Kamara-Bangura also gets support by operating two businesses, Caring Companions, a home health and childcare services company and Swift Cleaning Services, which also helps fund SLRDO’s clinic and hospital. With the support of her daughter, Nanah Bangura, 30, University of Virginia alumna, four staff members, volunteers across Virginia, and her partnership with the Lighthouse Medical Mission team based in California, Kamara-Bangura has been able to help nearly 30,000 Sierra Leoneans.

“In addition to partnering with the Lighthouse Medical Mission team, SLRDO was compelled to donate food and sewing machines to the Polio Camp in Grafton, Freetown. We also transported children from the camp to our clinic to be examined by doctors and found out that many of them were suffering from malaria and dehydration,” said Nanah Bangura, who was born in the U.S. “For too long, many of us have become complacent because we are living in the U.S. and do not see first-hand the devastation that people in Sierra Leone endure everyday.”

In addition to the clinic, Kamara-Bangura collects and provides food and books for new Sierra Leonean immigrants who are financially insecure. She also hosts health fairs focused on disparities among the African community, manages a computer training class for Sierra Leoneans looking to improve job employability, and fundraises through small community activities. Her faith and good works are recognized by many who work with Kamara-Bangura and marvel at her perseverance.

“Mrs. Kamara-Bangura is taking on the challenge of improving her country’s health care system through the construction of a hospital, a project that she has been personally investing in with the help of her other business enterprises,” said Dr. Augustine A. Kamara, a long-time supporter of SLRDO and medical professional. “I commend her philanthropic work because she continues to answer the call to provide service for Sierra Leoneans in need.”

The clinic provides services on everything from malaria, physical injuries, maternal health issues, and conducts HIV/AIDS testing. Given the increasing needs of low-income Sierra Leoneans, the new hospital will help alleviate the load for doctors and bring in new support. Since the ground breaking, SLRDO launched a sponsorship campaign to garner additional funds, medical tools, and other health needs for the hospital.

In addition, to building a new hospital, SLRDO is providing job opportunities for young workers in Sierra Leone, who are currently building a cement fence around the hospital. The organization is getting support from in-kind and additional sponsorship but needs more support.

To learn more about SLRDO, please visit: www.slrdoinc.org

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