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PHOTO JOURNAL







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## **ADVANCING PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES**

Advancing Partners & Communities is implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., in collaboration with FHI 360. The project focuses on advancing and supporting community programs that seek to improve the overall health of communities and achieve other health-related impacts, especially in relationship to family planning. Advancing Partners & Communities provides global leadership for community-based programming, executes and manages small- and medium-sized sub-awards, supports procurement reform by preparing awards for execution by USAID, and builds technical capacity of organizations to implement effective programs. Learn more about Advancing Partners & Communities at [advancingpartners.org](http://advancingpartners.org).

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## **JSI RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE, INC.**

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., is a public health management consulting and research organization dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities. [JSI](#) collaborates with government agencies, the private sector, and local nonprofit and civil society organizations to improve quality, access and equity of health systems worldwide.

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**Photos:** Kate Litvin, APC

This publication was produced by Advancing Partners & Communities, a cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-12-00047 beginning October 1, 2012. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.







**T**wo years after the devastating Ebola epidemic in Guinea, the Flamboyants Community Health Center (CHC) in the capital city of Conakry continues to provide health services to Ebola survivors and their families. In Ratoma, the neighborhood served by Flamboyants CHC, 176<sup>1</sup> people contracted Ebola during the 2014–2015 outbreak, leaving behind 83 survivors.

Even after recovering from the virus, some Ebola survivors suffer ongoing medical issues as a result of the disease, including joint pain, vision problems, hearing loss, and mental health problems. These health problems often require specialized medical care, which is not widely available in Guinea. Stigma and a lack of knowledge about the aftereffects of Ebola among health care workers can also make it more difficult for survivors to access medical services.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mesvaccins.net/textes/epidemieEbolaCR.pdf>







**Dr. Mamadou Nouhou Dioum witnessed the Ebola outbreak while working at Flamboyants Community Health Center.**

**D**r. Mamadou Nouhou Dioum grew up in the Ratoma neighborhood and has served as a doctor at Flamboyants CHC for 12 years. He witnessed friends and colleagues contract the virus and understands the challenges survivors face.



**“Those who have survived Ebola may feel marginalized or isolated by their experience, especially from those who did not have the virus. When the community turns its back on a survivor, this is what we call stigmatization.”**

**Dr. Dioum**

**Dr. Dioum at his desk in Flamboyants Community Health Center.**





“I signal to my coworkers that if they have a patient who is a survivor of Ebola, they should let me know, since I am the focal person for Ebola survivors at the facility. It is my responsibility to apply what I have learned at the training... so I can provide appropriate care for Ebola survivors.”

Dr. Dioum

Dr. Dioum examines a patient with abdominal issues.

Of the 3,800 people infected with Ebola in Guinea, 2,544 people died. At the end of the outbreak, the government counted 1,270 officially registered Ebola survivors, although there are undoubtedly more who are not registered.

From 2016 to 2018, the USAID-funded Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) project's Ebola Transmission Prevention & Survivor Services (ETP&SS) program supported the Ministry of Health's national plan for survivors to reduce the risk of resurgence of Ebola in Guinea. Implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) with sub-grantee International Medical Corps, the project also supported the national surveillance of Ebola survivors and their contacts, and strengthened the health system by building capacity among health workers and improving health facilities that serve a high volume of Ebola survivors.

To meet the health care needs of survivors and reduce stigma, the project trained 166 health workers in survivor care and stigma reduction. Dr. Dioum was one of three health workers from Flamboyants CHC who were trained by APC. After completing the training, Dr. Dioum feels confident in his ability to provide treatment for Ebola survivors and their families. During the three-day training, he learned about the aftereffects of Ebola. He also learned when to refer a survivor to higher-level care and the importance of handwashing and sanitation for infection prevention and control.



**Aissatou Negue Bah, a nurse at Flamboyants CHC, learned to care for Ebola survivors through training provided by APC.**

**N**urse Aissatou Negue Bah, who also received training from APC, has worked at the health facility for the past two years. “At the training, I learned there are signs that could indicate if someone is an Ebola survivor. For example, someone with a headache or abdominal pain. I also learned that many survivors may have eye-related problems (red eyes). These could be signs that someone may be a survivor of Ebola, but it does not definitively mean they are.”

Since completing the training, Aissatou has shared what she learned with four other coworkers. She also feels prepared to refer a survivor with complications from the virus to higher-level care.





**APC provided six solar panels to Flamboyants CHC. The electricity generated by the solar panels powers the water pump and the slit lamp in the ophthalmology ward.**

**B**efore the project's interventions, doctors and nurses struggled to provide quality health services at Flamboyants CHC—there was no reliable source of water and electricity. With support from APC, the health facility has been renovated and is now better equipped to provide patient care.

The project installed six solar panels that provide electricity to the health facility during power shortages and supply power for a pump to ensure a continuous supply of safe water. The solar panels also provide power for the state-of-the-art ophthalmological equipment provided by the project, which can be used to treat eye-related sequelae of Ebola virus.

**APC supported a total of 23 health facilities in six regions serving the vast majority of Ebola survivors:**

- **Renovation of 8 health facilities**
- **Equipment for 23 health facilities**
- **Medicines designated for Ebola survivors for 14 health facilities**

**D**r. Mamadou Sow, the ophthalmologist at Flamboyants CHC, sees 400 a patients a month in his department. The slit lamp provided by APC allows him to take very clear images of the interior of the eye, an invaluable tool for diagnosis of patients. The ophthalmology department also received a tonometer, a lens box, and other specialized equipment that allows Dr. Sow to provide appropriate care for his patients.

Given that some Ebola survivors experience eye-related problems, a functional ophthalmology unit is essential for survivor care. “Among all Ebola survivors, special attention must be paid to ophthalmological effects of the disease. Continued surveillance is key because the virus can persist in the aqueous humor and the vitreous body of the eye. These liquids of the eye can harbor the Ebola virus. All Ebola survivors would benefit from continued surveillance of the eyes,” explains Dr. Sow.

**“Thanks to the installation of the solar panels, my department has electricity. To give electricity is to give life. My consultation room has light now due to the solar panels and I am able to power my slit lamp to examine my patients.”**

**— Dr. Sow**



**With eye charts donated by APC, Dr. Sow can now examine his patients better.**



**Dr. Sow consults with a young patient for an eye exam.**



**Dr. Sow demonstrates the lenses that accompany the slit lamp, provided by APC.**



To further improve health services at Flamboyants CHC, APC supplied a delivery table and other essential medical equipment to the maternity ward. Dr. Fatimatou Diallo is the head of the maternity department, which receives approximately 135 women a month for services. She describes how the new equipment is helping her patients: “In the maternity department, we received a delivery table and a hospital bed [from the project]. This has greatly helped us. Now we are able to have two women deliver babies at the same time. Before, we only had the capacity for one woman to give birth at a time. The delivery table we received from APC is in perfect condition as well. Our old delivery table was in such bad condition that women were reluctant to use it and some even refused. With the new equipment, we have no problems providing place for women to give birth.”



Dr. Fatimatou Diallo (right) and Dr. Fatoumata Binta Diallo (left) at the maternity ward at Flamboyants CHC.



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Dr. Fatimatou Diallo

Dr. Fatimatou Diallo, the head of the maternity department at Flamboyants CHC sees a patient who has just delivered a baby. The new mother used the delivery table provided by APC.



**T**he project also distributed medicines for Ebola survivors to 14 health facilities, including Flamboyants CHC. Doctors will provide these medicines free of charge to survivors who need them.



**Dr. Dioum and Pharmacist Fatimata Bebe Camera review the medicines distributed by APC.**



**These USAID funded medicines, delivered by APC, will be used to treat Ebola survivors free of charge.**

**A**ccording to Dr. Fatoumata Binta Diallo, the director of Flamboyants CHC, some Ebola survivors may be reluctant to identify themselves due to fear of stigmatization. Therefore, it is hard to get an accurate count of survivors received at the center. However, Flamboyants receives an average of 1,676 patients a month.

“These supplies have arrived at an ideal time. I was really asking myself, how are we going to be able to find the equipment needed by the ophthalmology and maternity departments? For the past two years, we have been trying to find the money to buy one of [the slit] lamps and cutting back in certain areas to save money. Now that we have been provided one of these lamps [by APC], it is a relief for us,” says Dr. Diallo.



**Dr. Fatoumata Binta Diallo, director of Flamboyants CHC.**







**Dr. Fatoumata Binta Diallo (left), director of Flamboyants CHC, leads the daily staff meeting.**



**Nurse Aissatou Negue Bah washing her hands before consulting with a patient.**

**T**he Ebola Transmission Prevention & Survivor Services program, funded by USAID's Global Health Ebola Team and implemented by JSI's APC project, supports recovery from the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The program mitigates the risk of Ebola resurgence and improves access to and quality of health care services for Ebola survivors and the general population. In Guinea, targeted interventions include supporting the national active-ring surveillance system, renovating and equipping selected health facilities that see a high volume of survivors, training health care workers in clinical care of Ebola survivors, training community leaders and health care workers in stigma reduction, and supporting the National Network of Ebola Survivors in Guinea (RENASEG).





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