

Mabum Kaepath & Iowa/ Minn District

VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

March / 2018





Mabum Kaepath | IOWA/ Minn District Population: 185 Households: 31

Introduction

The Iowa Minnesota District began a partnership with the people of Mabum Kaepah Village, Sierra Leone in August 2017. Facilitated by World Hope International, the Iowa Minnesota District's generosity has started Mabum Kaepath on a journey to promote community leadership development, and hygiene training in this rural village located in the Tonkolili District.

Sierra Leone was ranked one of the least developed countries in the world (177 out of 187 countries) by the 2012 Human Development Index.¹ This is a marked improvement from 2011's 180 out of 187 ranking, but is still indicative of overwhelming poverty. Unfortunately, Ebola has harmed many development initiatives in farming and livelihood development.

Islam is the predominant religion in the north-central part of the country, with more than 60% claiming to be Muslim. Less than 10% are Christian, while the remaining 30% adhere to traditional beliefs, also called animism. Subsistence farming is the primary means of livelihood in the region, and Temne is the most common language followed by Krio, English and various other tribal languages, including Limba, Loko, Koranko and Mandingo.²

¹UN Development Program. http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR2013_EN_Summary.pdf accessed August 5, 2013

²CIA World Fact Book. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>

Village Profile

Mabum Kaepath Village is a large rural village located in the Mayatha section, Kholife Rowala chiefdom, in the Tonkolili District. The village is located 19 miles from Makeni, the regional headquarters/capital. Mabum Kaepath is comprised of 31 houses with a population of approximately 185 people from Limba and Themne tribes. Primarily subsistence farmers growing rice, cassava sweet potatoes and peanuts, they have plenty of land, but lack seeds in order to make use of the land to the full extent. The farming season coincides with the rains from May through November.

Members of Mabum Kaepath are both Christian and Muslim. The village has a mosque for Muslim prayers. The Christians do not have a church building but lead their service in the local primary school and house meetings throughout the week. Even though there are two religions in this village, all members of the village live amicably and respect each other. They participate and collaborate in community development. This, they believe, is the only tool that will move them out of poverty.

The nearest primary school is just one mile away at Mabum Station for children in Grade 1 – 6. After Grade 6, children either stop going to school or go and live with a relative in a local city to attend a junior secondary or high school.

Mabum Kaepath does not have safe water available or proper toilet facilities. A few members of the community have built latrines but most people use the nearby bushes as toilets. Lack of safe water and sanitation facilities lead to a lot of sickness and disease in the community.

The partnership of the Iowa Minnesota District is beginning a transformation process which after three years aims to leave the community empowered to continue a cycle of development without continual outside assistance. The partnership began in August 2017.

Completed Activities: August 2017 – March 2018

Formation of Village Development Committee

A Village Development Committee (VDC) was formed in Mabum Kaepath with the community electing the members. It is required that some women be included in the membership to empower women in a male dominated society. Time is spent in the beginning of each Village Partnership investing in the foundation of an effective VDC because these leaders are key stakeholders in determining exactly which activities are undertaken during the course of the three-year development partnership. WHI acknowledges





the fact that sustainable development depends on local leadership.

The training started with the leaders reflecting on the power of dreams and identifying their values. Other topics included understanding of Child Rights, knowing their roles, addressing conflict, and learning about trust and commitment.

Hygiene and Sanitation Training

Twenty (20) community members participated in a three-day hygiene and sanitation training conducted by the representative from the Bombali District WASH engineer and coordinator and the School of Midwifery. The training covered the following topics: (1) Understand the cycle of fecal contamination through field visit; (2) Learn hand washing practices with soap, water safety techniques, including handling and treatment, and feces management; and (3) Identify small doable actions to move people toward total behavior change through sanitation clean-up campaigns.



Above and Right: Walk around the community to observe present hygiene and sanitation practices.



Above: Practical presentations on safe water handling and treatment. (A) Covered containers keeps water safe. (B) Uncovered water containers can be contaminated by animals and other elements.

Many, Many Thanks!

We are grateful for the compassion and support you are offering Mabum Kaepath!

World Hope International staff carefully balanced training and community infrastructure projects to achieve sustainable development. The Village Partnership program allows for a continuous process of improvement for a impoverished community delivering opportunity, dignity and hope. Even after the partnership, we will continue to periodically monitor the progress and needs of Mabum Kaepath.



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