

# CLUS Project Supports Solid Waste Actors of Greater Monrovia



Excited training participants @Cheesemanburg



Covid prevention training session to some residents in Fiamah community.



Mayor Koijee greets CBEs participants at waste management training workshop



Safety gears for solid waste actors



Project Coordinator Mr. Tolbert A. Kerkulah makes presentation to MCC on behalf of LRTF



Project Coordinator Mr. Tolbert A. Kerkulah showcase solid waste materials to PCC

The Cheesemanburg Landfill & Urban Sanitation (CLUS) project with funding from the Liberia Reconstruction Trust Fund of which the European Union is a major donor has been supporting Government's effort in ensuring increase access to solid waste collection and disposal in Greater Monrovia to include the City of Paynesville. The CLUS project which is largely aimed at closing the existing landfill site in Whein town and constructing a new landfill in Cheesemanburg as well as providing support to waste collection and disposal is Administered by the World Bank.

In a response aimed at supporting the two Cities (Monrovia & Paynesville) and key waste actors in the fight against COVID-19, initiatives including conducting of training workshops and the supply of waste collection tools and chemicals for fumigation of waste collection points in communities, transfer stations and landfill site.

These safety trainings and donations are part of the PIU/MCC- CLUS Project COVID-19 Response Plan that is aimed at supporting the Solid Waste Management (SWM) sector of Greater Monrovia in combating the deadly Corona Virus. The support is expected to strengthen the capacity of solid waste actors to ensure prevention and effective waste collection and disposal thereby, creating a clean, healthy, and safe environs for all.

The PIU/CLUS project has conducted thus far COVID Awareness and Preventive workshops for over 251 casual laborers, waste pickers and scavengers, and over 24 Community Based Enterprises (CBEs) and Small Medium Enterprises (SMES). These CBEs and SMEs are also benefiting from waste collection tools and safety gears.

COVID-19 Awareness & Prevention activities are being carried out in selected project communities such as Cheesemanburg, Fiamah Stockton Creek, and Whein town. Communities leaders praised the CLUS project as they received the gesture on behalf of community dwellers. They described the intervention as timely and meaningful in the fight against COVID-19 considering the danger associated with improper waste handling and disposal during this time of COVID.

During the training workshops, tips on prevention and waste handling and proper collection and disposal were stressed by the facilitators. The trainers pointed out the correlation between waste, and poor sanitation practices on COVID describing solid waste as a potential source of contamination if care/prevention is not taken. The training also entreated primary waste collectors to network and work in unison to be effective in their advocacy for support and policy attention as well as ensuring safety through the proper usage of protective gears supplied by the CLUS project. During the training workshop, participants also got a glimpse of scenarios from other countries on how to cope with the COVID 19 waste collection of small and medium enterprises.

There was also a demonstration session on how to use waste protective gears and other safety tools provided. Information sharing was also noted as

vital among SMEs and CBEs in dispelling community apprehension about waste collection and disposal. Participants provided insights on challenges they are contending with the increased waste load and economic challenges to households owing to the close economy in the state of emergency.

Distribution of IEC Materials were presented to beneficiaries and others, specially designed flyers and posters conveying key messages that are empowering to primary waste collection amid COVID 19

Donation of an assortment of waste collection and disposal materials. The materials donated included: Overall, safety booths, facemask with ventilators, helmets, gloves, shovels, tools and sanitary materials, hand sanitizer, chemicals, etc.

Handling over solid waste collection tools and protective gears to solid waste actors and the Cities of Monrovia, and the Paynesville to City government, Mr. Tolbert A. Kerkulah, Project Coordinator of the PIU CLUS project lauded the effort of the Cities in ensuring a effective waste collection and disposal as another mean of creating a healthy and conducive environment for an increased productivity/performance.

For his part, Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson T. Koijee lauded the efforts of primary waste collectors who gathered to receive the training and donations of materials toward the enhancement of a cleaner green city.

The Hon. Mayor of the City of Monrovia appreciated the efforts of donors especially during this time of global health crisis.

The Mayor averred that the training of solid waste actors was necessary and said the George Weah-led government fully supports their effort cognizant of the fact that they are pivotal to the waste collection and disposal process as evident in other countries.

The Mayor reminded the participants about the mutual benefit especially for who engaged in the effort of sanitation can earn from a clean environment in terms of public health promotion and reminded everyone to take precautionary measures as per the health Authority and stay safe, Hon. Koijee stressed the need for everyone to be tested as he himself has taken the lead in being tested for Covid-19.

Speaking on behalf of Paynesville City Mayor, Hon. Pam Belcher, Mr. Stanley Zahn, City Manager-PCC thanked the sponsors and PIU/CLUS project for such an initiative and expressed his appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the Hon. Mayor Pam Belcher Taylor.

With the long activities achieved there's an air of excitement among beneficiaries; (solid waste actors, community dwellers, CBE and SMEs) about the training and sanitary materials donated. It reflects renewed zest among primary waste collectors to work in the sector and ensure a cleaner and healthy environment.



Sanitary materials display for donation



Mayor Koijee turnover donated items to CBEs



Training in session