

Summary of the advocacy visit to the Executive Governor of Gombe State and Hospital supplementation to Kaltungo, Filiya, D/Dutsi Awark and Alkaleri in Bauchi state.

N_SRIC/BUK team members visited Gombe state on Monday 23rd November 2020 for advocacy visit to Gombe State Governor at the same time conducted Hospital Supplementation to the above-mentioned communities.

The following exercise were carried out on our arrival:

- 1) Cross checked lab records and strongly advised to have a back-up copy i.e. to have a duplicate record in case of any eventualities they can fall back on it.
- 2) Distribution of drugs to Kaltungo Snakebite Hospital, Filiya, D/Dutsi, Awark to the hospital secretary (Barde) and Dr Ballah as per the pictures attached.
- 3) Visited the renovated N_SRIC guest House and inspected the collapsed wall that need to be reconstructed.
- 4) As usual inspected the hospital and interact with victims / patients.

The following day (24th November) Dr Jalo Daudu (one of the board member of SRPNTS and Echitab group) lead our team to the office of the Executive Governor of Gombe State Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya, where Prof Habib briefed the Governor and the council / Bauchi state commissioners on the following:

- a) Started with introducing N_SRIC team members, the International collaborators (ASRG, SRPNTS amongst others), facility centres across the country and Kaltungo is among the 4 sites that we are conducting research
- b) N_SRIC main objective of reducing morbidity, mortality and economic burden with the support of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine as a result of snakebite envenoming.
- c) Prof Abdul draw the attention of the Governor and other policy makers to come to the aid of the voiceless, vulnerable and rural farmers from death, amputation, economic burden through increase in funding on the health care system especially snakebite related management i.e. to ensure the provision of efficient and effective antivenom.

However, He briefed them on the amount of support N_SRIC/BUK in Collaboration with LSTM have been supporting Kaltungo Snakebite Hospital and other research sites as follows:

- 1) Supporting Kaltungo Snakebite Hospital with capacity building & strengthening to Gombe State Health Care Workers through trainings and workshop.
- 2) Provision of reagents & consumables for the ongoing research activities in Kaltungo, how to manage cases, community engagement to sensitise and prevent snakebite envenoming.
- 3) Provided laboratory equipment and consumables such as Stago, INR metres, Solar AC to support the hospital laboratory etc.

4) Have procured 3 motorcycles ambulances for taking patients/victims to the treatment centre i.e. Kaltungo Snakebite Hospital.

5) Provision of stipend to some of the hospital staff that joined hand in the research activities.

Finally, Prof Abdul requested for the Governor's intervention on the following:

- i. Strengthening the Snakebite Centre Kaltungo specially to maintain regular supply of antivenom.
- ii. Improving the infrastructural development of Kaltungo Snakebite Hospital such as regular electricity and water supply.
- iii. Facilitating the hospital to attain its full potential as an international/regional clinical and research facility site with links to FTH-Gombe.
- iv. His Excellency to serve as a Champion on behalf of snakebite victims in the country and galvanize Governors of affected states, Honourable Minister for Health, parliamentarians, policy makers perhaps through the NGF, NEDC, other platforms to address the problem of snakebite envenoming.
- v. Encouraging affected states to establish and sustain treatment centres.
- vi. Liaising with FGN and affected MDAs towards creating a sustainable supply of antivenom.

Find below the Governor's response:

- a) HE the Governor of Gombe State thanked N_SRIC team members under the leadership of Prof Habib and also appreciates Dr Jalo's effort for leading the team to his office purposely to save the lives of the voiceless and malnourished indigenes of Gombe State and the neighbouring states.
- b) He accepted the challenge thrown by Prof Habib of taking the mantle of championship of snakebite envenoming as Gombe State which is the epicentre of the pandemic in Nigeria.
- c) He also updated all on the planned intervention on snakebite therapy and medication through NEDC, the discussion is ongoing and still waiting for federal government to redeem their promise on snakebite health care delivery.
- d) He promised to take it up to the NGF and parliamentarians with the aim of achieving more funding from federal government in that regard.
- e) He finally assured us of his usual cooperation and willing to lend support on the professional advices from N_SRIC, similarly to Dr Jalo Daudu that his door is open to advises on how to curtail snakebite in the country at large.

The meeting came to an end with a group pictures with Governor, His Commissioners and N_SRIC team members.

On 25th November 20, We passed through Alkaleri General Hospital in Bauchi State and delivered Hospital supplementation to them, which serve as a succour to the vulnerable and malnourished individuals from that community as part of SRPNTS hospital supplementation budgeted to the facility centre.

Thank you. Kabiru

