

## **A Report on OPODNE's "Conspiracy to end Coronavirus" Campaign**

At a meeting held on March 18, OPODNE leaders had the opportunity to reflect on the impending arrival of the Coronavirus in the Northeast where a theme surfaced: "Let us conspire to eradicate the virus from our country". All the participants agreed to provide whatever help is available to prevent people from catching and spreading the virus to others.

A day after the meeting, we learned that a man was left to die in the commune of Trou du Nord from Coronavirus. On April 2, another died in Fort- Liberte, and there were already other reports about the damage the virus was causing all over the world. It was then that OPODNE's leaders decided to take more action even if the government could not assume its proper role to protect. With the support of our Faith in Action International partners, we began to map out a plan to be shared with our local leaders with the hope to establish steps to inform the population about the disease. The following activities to fight the virus were planned to as part of our campaign:

1. Campaign in local media: We purchase spot announcements and did public education interviews on all local radio stations
2. Health education and awareness: We passed out fliers, posted banners, and did megaphone announcements at public markets
3. Communication: We trained leadership team's in 13 communities to check on families and share information
4. Distribution of health kit: We distributed facemasks, gloves, and washing stations
5. Organizing a day for prayer: Leadership teams gathered for prayer, assessment, reflection and designed new approaches as new information was discovered about the virus.

### **Media**

There are 393,967 people who live in the Northeast. To reach the population, OPODNE targeted popular radio stations that have a large audience base and are located in regions where people were already infected. We drafted a quick information spot that was played at regular intervals on the selected stations. A key to the broadcast was to touch on issues that were taboo about this new virus, minimize the apparent stress for vulnerable families, and leaving no stone untouched to reach every person who was infected.

### **Dr. Clonel Louis provided expert medical support for the OPODNE campaign**

Dr. Clonel Louis, member of OPODNE Phaeton leadership team provided multiple radio interviews to answer questions concerning the virus. He was also in charge of training six OPODNE leaders from each locality. Altogether, 78 newly trained leaders back to their communities to train about 600 other members. With this initiative, all OPODNE members had

the responsibility for our “**Conspiracy to eliminate Coronavirus,**” and take it to new groups throughout the Northeast.

### **OPODNE literacy campaign on Coronavirus**

To aid our effort, we developed graphics to maximize understanding the message about the spread and impact of the virus. We prepared and broadly distributed 5,700 flyers in all 13 localities where OPODNE organizes. We also prepared and mounted posters in strategic locations. We prepared and mounted 150 posters with the same design as our flier at public and private institutions where large number of people gather. Our posters were also placed under huge trees that serve as rest areas for local people and also where people normally gather to play dominoes, cockfight, and play soccer. We also posted the flyers at locations where people fetch water.

### **OPODNE Prayer Day on May 18 raised the theme of “Victory in the entire world over CORONA VIRUS”**

May 18 coincided with Haitian Flag Day. OPODNE encouraged four core leaders in each commune to meet in their area for a small group prayer. Each leader was issued telephone card to reach out to other members to form a chain of prayers by phone.

### **Documenting and evaluating the results of our mission**

During our travels to all the 13 localities, we collected pictures and testimonies of the work we undertook. We have videos of how effective the many initiatives engaged by OPODNE leaders were. We have interviews with radio personalities who then took further initiative to feature OPODNE’s radio spot beyond the timeframe that OPODNE had set with the station. They testified how the information about the coronavirus that OPODNE provided made them feel comfortable to talk about the Corona virus.

### **Next steps**

We have more demands to continue this effort than our means can offer. However, we are determined to continue the fight against the Coronavirus. We plan on multiplying our awareness campaign, distributing prevention kits (hand washing buckets, gloves, sanitizers, mask, detergents, soaps) to additional locations, continue to remain in contact with the localities by telephone to gather updated information about their community, sensitize key areas where people are infected, and seek ways to minimize the risk for others to catch it. We will continue to look for funds to multiply our outreach campaign

There was a great sense of solidarity among the leadership teams of OPODNE. Their local presidents stood with them throughout the campaign. It is for this reason we praise the Lord and ask for his divine intervention in this overall effort by OPODNE to achieve better health and spread hope for the Northeast Department of Haiti and for the world. May we all to return in peace in the face of this devastating virus.